

To Have and Have Not

A PAINTING BY CHRISTOPHER M. STILL

OIL ON LINEN, 126" BY 48"

A young woman is enjoying the Florida sun on a sandy beach. She holds out an orange, an offering reminiscent of Mrs. Julia Tuttle, who sent a fresh orange blossom to a railroad tycoon, encouraging him to extend his railway southward. Behind her is the Seven-Mile Bridge, the longest section of the Overseas Railway, and the emerald waters of the Florida Keys. Around her in the sand are more symbolic representations of this period from the late 1800s through the 1930s.

In this painting the artist recalls the men with millions and the millions of men and women who built the state around the turn of the century. Great developers and the Great Depression are among its major themes, and are reflected in the title, borrowed from the book by Ernest Hemingway. The tremendous amount of change that Floridians experienced during this time period is indicated by their changing modes of transportation: from the train to the automobile, and finally, to the airplane.

New and growing industries, such as those shown here by the cigar box, sponges, and orange crate, prompted construction of more railroads. Using state incentives for free or cheap land, wealthy developers like Henry Flagler and Henry Plant not only built extended railway systems to transport these products,

but also huge, lavish hotels catering to wealthy tourists. The availability of the automobile brought new kinds of tourists to the state from all financial strata, including younger, middle-class families on winter vacations. Many decided to stay.

As Florida's population and wealth grew rapidly, a land boom was on—particularly on the lower east coast, where housing subdivisions sprang up everywhere, on property that was formerly swamp or pineland. Vastly inflated land prices and profits peaked in 1925, then collapsed in 1926. Natural disasters, including two major hurricanes, depressed the economy even further, and Florida got a head start on the country's Great Depression of 1929.

Carved into the right side of the long oar resting on the painting's frame are the initials of federal programs that helped bring jobs and money back into Florida during the Depression, while also creating more roads, parks and bridges.

Though the state continued to attract tourists and residents, summer heat impeded a growth explosion. The ice tongs in the sand recall the invention of the ice machine which preceded the 1929 prototype of the air conditioner. More change was on the horizon.



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There is continuity purposefully designed into the murals—places where similar themes and elements tie them together. For instance, in this picture the deer's head is posed in the same position as the Key Marco deer sculpture seen across the room in *In Ages Past*. And a compositional element forming the deer eye motif can be found by following the girl's leg around the waving arm of the boy. Oranges are elements in this painting, as well as in those that precede and follow it.

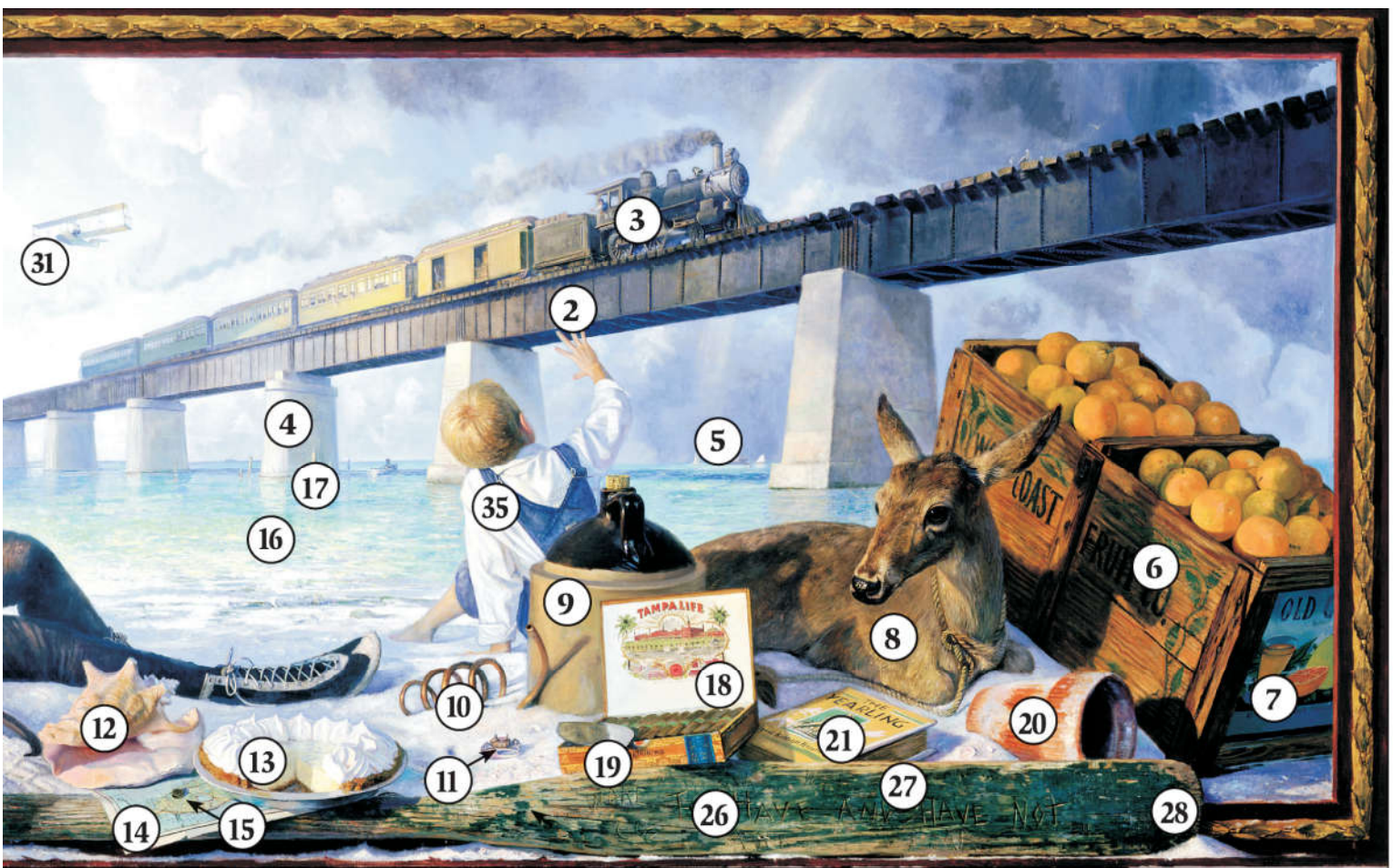
- 1) **Young Woman on the Beach.** The wool bathing suit was a fashion of the early 1900s. The girl holds a fresh orange—a reminder of Julia Tuttle, who sent an orange blossom undamaged by the freeze of 1895 to Henry Flagler, encouraging him to extend the East Coast Railway to the village of Miami. She also symbolizes the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920, giving women the right to vote.
- 2) **The Seven-Mile Bridge.** In 1905, Henry Flagler began a massive project to link Miami with Key West by rail. The Seven-Mile Bridge spans the widest passage of water—between Marathon and Bahia Honda keys. This single section required 546 concrete piers for support.
- 3) **Steam Locomotive.** Small locomotives moved materials and provided rail service as each portion of the bridge was completed. The train depicted here is believed to be the first to arrive in Key West, preceding the historic arrival of Henry Flagler on January 22, 1912.
- 4) **Concrete Pier.** The size and shape of the piers was changed due to water depth, and arches were used in many shallow sections. Here the steel span and pier change in shape as the bridge crosses Pigeon Key.
- 5) **Ship Wrecking.** The industry of salvage or ship wrecking was disappearing during this period, thanks to the construction of lighthouses.
- 6) **Citrus Crate.** The citrus industry boomed, but damaging freezes from 1894-1899 moved it southward. Henry Flagler distributed free seed and tools, hoping to encourage growers. A loss of fruit meant a loss in shipping and profits for his railroad.
- 7) **Citrus Label.** Stock labels like this one could be ordered with a company name to be imprinted on it.



- 8) **Key Deer.** This rare variety of white-tailed deer is found only on Big Pine Key. The deer's small size is a result of its harsh sub-tropical environment. The rope symbolizes human encroachment on this species, and is also reference to the book "The Yearling."
- 9) **Demijohn.** These large bottles were popular containers for "moonshine," illegal home-brewed alcohol. Prohibition, which forbade the transportation, sale and use of alcoholic beverages, went into effect nationally in 1920. With Florida's nearly 4,000 miles of coastline, smuggling was widespread, and enforcement nearly impossible.
- 10) **Copper Tubing.** This tubing was a component of a "moonshine still." Officers known as "revenueurs" sought to find and destroy the small distilleries hidden throughout the state.
- 11) **Fiddler Crab.** This small colorful crab lives in a series of tunnels it digs into Florida shores.
- 12) **Queen Conch.** Key West residents became known as "Conchs" because they commonly dined on this tasty sea mollusk.
- 13) **Key Lime Pie.** The juice of key limes, condensed milk, and a graham cracker crust make this a favorite dessert treat for natives and tourists. This element of the painting is also a symbol of the

ongoing economic struggle “to get a piece of the pie.”

- 14) Florida Map.** *National Geographic* magazine published this map in 1930. Automobile owners became more numerous and adventurous, resulting in new and longer highways such as the Tamiami Trail, which opened in 1928.
- 15) CCC Pin.** The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created to provide jobs for young men during the Depression. Also known as the “tree army,” the CCC planted millions of trees and built roads and parks. The pin shown here was presented to a CCC camp working in the Apalachicola Forest.
- 16) Coral Reefs.** The clear, warm waters of the nearby Gulf Stream nourish beautiful reefs built by corals along the keys. This diverse habitat, the only coral reef ecosystem in the country, attracts tourists from all over the world to state and national parks here.
- 17) Wood Pilings.** Large wood pilings from Florida and Georgia were used to hold forms during the construction of concrete piers of the Overseas Railway.
- 18) Cigar Box.** This label pictures the Tampa Bay Hotel, built in 1891 by railroad magnate Henry Plant. It briefly served as the staging area for troops shipping out to the Spanish American War in 1898.



The cigar industry initially moved into Key West as Cubans sought freedom from Spanish colonial rule, but later moved to Tampa following a fire and labor disputes.

19) Chaveta. This is a small curved blade used for shaping tobacco leaves when wrapping a cigar. The workers, often Cuban, Greek, or Italian immigrants, tapped their chavetas on cutting boards to applaud the lectors who read stories to entertain them during hours of repetitive labor.

20) Turpentine Pot. This pot is symbolic of the hardships and injustices imposed on minorities and the poor during this era. The turpentine industry was one which mainly employed African Americans, charging them fees for food and transport that exceeded their earnings—essentially returning them to slavery through never-ending debt.

Discrimination and prejudice toward the black and ethnic population became commonplace in these times—fed by fear, stereotyping, and misconceptions. Poll taxes were created to keep African Americans and other poor people from voting, and the revived Ku Klux Klan (KKK) resorted to violence and intimidation to keep segregation and southern white mores enforced. Black citizens found they had no real legal or political

representation, and little recourse in the face of attacks like vigilante-led lynchings and the killing and destruction in the village of Rosewood in 1923.

21) "The Yearling." This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, a heartwarming story about the difficult life of a pioneer family in central Florida, was written by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and published in 1938. A young boy and his pet deer, "Flag," are the subjects in this tale about coming of age.

22) Sponges. The sponge industry initially prospered in Key West, at one time employing up to 1,400 men. Prized sponges such as these yellow and grass sponges were retrieved by hooks on long wooden poles in shallow waters. Around 1905, the "Conchs'" monopoly ended when Greek immigrants who settled in Tarpon Springs started their own sponge business using a similar method, but also employing hard-hat divers to search deeper waters.

23) Sizing Ring. Concern over depletion of sponge beds helped lead to strict laws regulating the size of sponges collected. This ring determined if a sponge was at least the required five inches in diameter.

24) Oar. This "brosing" oar was used to row a Greek sponge hook boat. The Greek fishermen used two oars to maneuver

their boat so a man with a viewing glass could spot and hook a sponge. Key West spongers stood, using one oar in a method called "sculling." The lead weight on this oar balanced its long length, making it easier to row.

25) Diving Helmet. The diving suit eventually led to Greek domination of the sponge industry. Hard hat divers were also used in the construction of the Overseas Railway.

26) "To Have and Have Not." The painting borrows this title from a book set in Key West by author Ernest Hemingway. It represents the vast changes and difficulties experienced by Floridians of all economic strata during this era of land boom and bust, fire, hurricane, disease, and depression.

27) FERA, NYA, PWA, WPA, CCC. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration, National Youth Administration, Public Works Administration, Works Progress Administration, and Civilian Conservation Corps were all government programs established to provide jobs during the Depression.

28) Burnt Wood. Wooden structures in Florida's new towns were subject to devastating fires like that in Jacksonville in 1901. The city's downtown burnt to the ground in just hours.

(Continued on the next page)

- 29) Zora.** The name carved into the handle of the oar is a tribute to anthropologist, author and folklorist Zora Neale Hurston, born in Eatonville, the first city incorporated by African Americans.
- 30) Barometer.** Before advances in weather technology, the barometer and its rising and falling needle gave the only clue of a coming storm. Rapidly falling pressure means atmospheric changes that produce severe weather.
- 31) The Benoist Airboat.** Tony Jannus piloted this seaplane on the nation's first scheduled commercial airline flight in 1914, flying from St. Petersburg to Tampa, a distance of 18 miles. Aviation had a great influence on Florida's economy into the future.
- 32) WWI Helmet.** The first World War in 1917-18 stimulated the Florida economy through the industry of ship building and the effects of training camps here. Many of those who trained here returned later as tourists or to retire.
- 33) The Automobile.** Henry Ford's assembly line made the automobile affordable for much of the population. Cars were packed up with tents and people who came to sunny Florida on extended camping vacations. In the 1920s, camp sites formed for these travelers of modest income. Wealthier tourists expressed disdain for their overstuffed cars and tin cans of food and extra fuel by referring to them as "tin can tourists." The campers liked the name however, and proudly displayed tin cans as hood ornaments.
- 34) Head Light.** A reflection of the barracks and tents of Pigeon Key during the railway extension can be seen in this light. Both the car and light are reminders of famed winter residents Henry Ford and Thomas Edison, who were neighbors in Fort Myers.
- 35) Boy Waving at Train.** The young boy was inspired by historic pictures of children waving from Pigeon Key at the passing trains.
- 36) Ice Tongs.** The invention of the ice machine by Dr. John Gorrie in 1848 eventually led to the 1929 prototype of the modern air conditioner by Willis Carrier. Early air conditioners were found mainly in movie theaters and restaurants. It was many years before they became common in homes, contributing to Florida's greatest surge in population.

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