

THIS IS WHAT THEY RETAINED OF THE STORY: I SENT A CARBON
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RESORT HOTEL AQUIRED
FOR OBLATE SEMINARY

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BELLEVILLE, ILL. June 2 (NC) - - The Oblate Fathers have purchased a 180 - room resort hotel on the Gulf of Mexico to be converted into a major seminary for the Oblate students.

Announcement of the purchase was made at the headquarters here of the St. Henry (Midwest) province of the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate.

The hotel, called Pine Hills, is near Pass Christian, Miss., and lies in the Diocese of Natchez. It has 20 acres of beach frontage. The 27-year old building, out of use for some time, will be remodeled this summer. It will be opened to some 80 students for the priesthood in August.

Mr. Beech (check the spelling and for first name)

Worked here from the beginning of the construction of the hotel 1925 to 1949.

1) Before Pine Hills Inc. bought the land most of it was owned by the Edwards Lumbering Company which land had much Virgin Yellow Pine which they lumbered from Kiln. The hotel grounds, consisting of around 1,900 acres was sold to Pine Hills Inc. 1925 and the Hibernia Bank which had over 50% investment foreclosed on Pine Hills in 1929 (it and another bank broke with the crash; 1 other didn't) When Hibernia Bank closed it's doors the Pine Hills Bondholder Protection Committee (with a 7% serial gold bond) headed by Mr. Palmer Smith and Mr. Baudean, took over. Next to buy it was Mr. Smart & Mr. Owen for the price of \$100,000 for the hotel and 19 acres. Later he bought the Golf Club's 222 acres but soon sold this to Crosby. Smart bought this place before the hurricane I think - I didn't jot it down - 1943 or 44. From Smart we bought this place.

2) The yacht club house or more known as Shell Pile House, date of building I don't know but would surmise it to be close to the time of the hotel was built on the old Indian Shell pile which when Mr. Beech first saw it was 300 feet long, 60 feet wide and 9 feet deep in the middle - storms washed much away. In 1947 hurricane this house was washed ½ away between the hotel and McGuirks (sp?) with only a bed and other debris to mark its former spot.

3) When Mr. Beech got there the foundation of the plantation home was still complete and intact with no structure though. Storms broke it up and washed etc, He verified the

position in accurate accord to Mr. Nicaise.

4) Graveyard - 7 -10 buried there. The bodies where buried over in Rotten Bayou (Cemetery) and the stones where piled up in swampy area off to the right between Club House and Baudean's in the briar patch. Said they were Frenchmen as he couldn't read the language.

5) Golf Course - 1923-1942 - had about 7 rooms in which people from New Orleans would come and stay; gave the idea for the hotel; was included as property of the hotel from the beginning of the hotel till Smart first bought it - the hotel. And then later bought the course and sold it. Was made out of Cedar logs - termites ate themselves silly - in other words gradual decay.