

C. & G. SURVEY
L & A
JAN 3 1918
AS. No.

State: _____

11-5613

Sheet No. 3701

LOCALITY:

191

CHIEF OF PARTY:

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT

TO ACCOMPANY TOPOGRAPHIC SHEET NO....3701....

The general character of the shore line from the western limits of the sheet to the Lighthouse at Biloxi is sand beach paralleled by the track of the Mississippi Co., and the public highway. Further inland the L. & N. R.R. is parallel to the general line of the coast with the exception of a strip within the limits of the city of Gulfport where the traction line runs inland to pass through the center of the city. As indicated on the sheet, the traction line is located between the road and the beach except as last noted. Inland and also paralleling the beach there extends a considerable growth of Southern Yellow pine which is almost continuous and forms the general forest-like appearance of the coast line on making land from the water. Below the pines cottages are scattered along the whole beach from Henderson's Point to Biloxi. Another feature of the shore line is the numerous wooden piers all of which are located on the sheet.

The beach at Biloxi, besides having a great many of these piers some of which are very substantially built, has a few small artificial promontories at the eastern end caused by the deposit of shells from the Oyster canning factories.

The shore at Ocean Springs, Miss. from the L. & N. R.R. bridge as far to the southeast as Davis Bayou rises sharply from a shell beach to form the general rolling character of this particular locality--rather an unusual feature in Gulf Coast topography. It appears as local reports say, that these shore here has been markedly inundated by the tropical storms.

The shore line of Cat Island and Deer island are both similar to that of the mainland. The topography of Cat Island is peculiar in having sand hills, the most prominent of which is toward the eastern end, the site of signal Cat Id. 1917.

TOWNS.

Gulfport, Biloxi and Ocean Springs are the principal towns. Gulfport is the terminus of the Gulf and Ship Island R.R. and exports long leaf yellow pine lumber mostly in sailing ships. Half a dozen square rigged vessels and as many sea going schooners in the harbor at one time is not unusual. Lumber on barges is sometimes towed out and loaded on sailing

vessels anchored near Ship Island Lighthouse.

Some Oysters are shipped inland from Gulfport but Biloxi is the principal fishing and Oyster dredging town on Mississippi Sound. Ocean Springs is a tourist or health resort town as are the larger towns on this part of the Gulf Coast. There are numerous cottages occupied during the hot months by people from New Orleans and other southern cities. During the winter months there are many transient residents mostly from the upper Mississippi Valley. This topography was done from Gulfport. A plan of the city was obtained from the City Engineer, but found to be much larger than the city. The streets shown are the ones actually improved and in use. The street work was done at odd times on bad days. Biloxi is about the size of Gulfport but on account of the distance from base its streets are not shown on the sheet.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. Heran

Chief of Party

applied to Chart 876 3-48 M.M.R.