

RUDOLPH TOMASELLO – COMMISSIONER 1925-1928, 1930-1931

Rudolph Tomasello was born in Austria in around 1884 per US census records. According to Rudolph's son Theron in "The Loxahatchee Lament", (Vol. 1, © 1978 **The Stuart News Company, © 1978 Cary Publications, Inc., All Rights Reserved,**) Rudolph built a sawmill in what is now Jonathan Dickinson Park, and then moved to Jupiter that same year and bought a house from Jupiter pioneer Henry Pennock. Theron recounted that the home was on the river just west of the railroad bridge. He said he enjoyed growing up in Jupiter, even with the "mosquitos, sand flies. and hard times." He said he and his brother (also named Rudolph) spent most of their time on the river, and they did a lot of trapping also where Tequesta is now.

Mr. Tomasello (Sr.) signed the Town of Jupiter's Articles of Incorporation in 1925, and was one of the original aldermen voted into office.

The year 1928 was a difficult one in Jupiter with various political issues, some relating to Prohibition. Mr. Tomasello was a contractor who was building a road for the Town in 1928. This was a concern that was mentioned in the Commission minutes, and may be why he resigned in April 1928. Jupiter was very small back then, and the Commissioners were also Town pioneers with businesses that were vital to citizens of the Town, and were important for the growth of the Town. It was very difficult to be a Commissioner without also supplying some service to the Town, because often that Commissioner was the only source of what was needed!! Mr. Tomasello was re-elected to the Town Commission in 1930.

Minutes of the Commission show sample issues of the day:

4/19/1927 – "Attorney Malony gave his opinion on an Ordinance regulating automobile driving in the Town. After hearing the Attorney on this Ordinance the Commission decided to not take steps in this line at present."

1/27/1931 – "The Clerk read a letter from the Florida Outboard Motor Ass'n, in which they asked the Town to hold an outboard contest."

Some things never change – minutes of 11/22/1927:

Mr. Albe tson stated that Mr. Wilson representing the Flagler System w s present and wished to speak with them. Motion by Com. Bowers, seconded by Com Reeves that Mr. Wilson be heard, Carried. Mr. Wilson said that he just came to get acquainted with the board and spoke regarding the public utility companies in which he was interested. Mr. Reeves spoke regarding the excessive whistling of locomotives and asked if there was not something that could be done to stop it. Mr. Wilson sugges ed that he keep this thng in mind and would get after it some other time. Mr. Malony then introduced Mr. Wilson to the members of the Board, individually.