

July 18, 1994

*To Canal Neighbors*

I am sending a copy of this letter to each member of our elected leadership and to our General Manager. I'm writing in my own behalf and in the interests of all the Continental residents and owners who live in the proximity of what is known to most as "The Canal."

Of course the condition of the canal most directly affects the 35 homes and families living on the water side of Seminole Path and Lazy Hollow. Most of us paid thousands more for our lots than many others because of our water front exposure. This seemed to be worth the extra money considering the various desirable possibilities. Because of these many of us paid for the construction of water front screened porches, which we furnished so as to enjoy the ripples of the water, the antics of aquatic creatures, etc. Furthermore, we purchased boats and motors which we moored to docks costing various sums. Fishing right off our back yards was common, but of more importance, the canal provided navigable access to Lake Okahumpka, which they say is now in the best fishing condition than for several years.

At present, the water at the lake entrance (the loop), is so shallow due to low water and silting that a 2½ HP motor must be lifted, and oars or poles resorted to. Dredging and deepening is called for. All along the canal, vegetation is steadily encroaching to the point that, at my house, 58 Seminole Path, the water surface is only about half the normal width. The rest is choked with vegetation which should be cleared soon or it will become a solid jungle.

It seems that the canal and its needs have been forgotten and/or ignored by the Corporation. If this is true, it would constitute a serious breach of faith by the leadership. We have seen no canal maintenance activity for many months, even though it would be much easier and less expensive to perform a bit of continuing maintenance work before the canal destroys itself and must be totally reclaimed.

It's easy to imagine that people who have primary interests in other things and activities may not take the canal and its navigability seriously. Such a narrow view surely would be mistaken. Personal experience tells me that the lake and its access by canal is a valuable asset to our community as a whole.

Each Continental owner should value all common Continental assets even though a certain activity cannot interest every person. Many things I don't participate in have a direct effect on the value of my property and yours.

Of course, the cost of everything must be considered and we learn that various activities are being squeezed in order to realize cost reductions. Much of this is laudable and needed, but far-seeing people will know that it is better to spend a bit more each month rather than to accept the neglect or reduction of necessary services or maintenance.

Those who live at or near the "Venice of Continental" know our conditions. Others should make an inspection tour to see for themselves. Any member of our leadership who happens to come near the Zimmers' house can depend on a tall, cool adult beverage such as iced tea and a welcoming smile.

RF "Bob" Zimmer