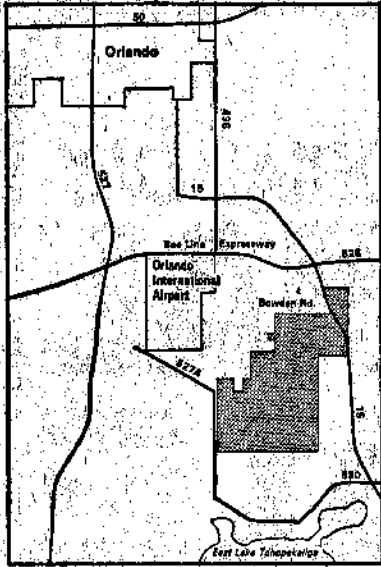


'Biggest' cash deal involves 7,000 acres

Taft Ranch sold for \$5 million



Taft Ranch
... southeast of airport

In what's believed to be the largest cash-acreage transaction in Orange County's history, the 7,000-acre Taft Ranch south of the Martin Andersen Bee Line Expressway has been sold for \$5 million.

Trevor W. Hall Jr. of Florida Ranch Lands Inc., which represented the seller, the T.F. Cousins estate, said the acreage was bought by Edward J. Poitras, a Massachusetts inventor and investor.

Poitras bought the land for an investment and has no immediate plans for it, Hall said. The acreage is currently leased for cattle raising, he added.

The property is south of the Bee Line and is bounded on the west by State Road 527A (Boggy Creek

Road). The tract has frontage on both sides of State Road 15 on the east and the extreme southeastern portion of Orlando International Airport property is close to the acreage.

Hall said Cousins came to the area on a visit from New York City in 1927 and associated with the late M.J. Moss, a well-known local real estate broker. Cousins, with Moss' assistance, acquired thousands of acres in Central Florida during the years.

Hall noted that the Walt Disney World land package was put together through a number of separate transactions.

Poitras was represented by Maury L. Carter Associates of Orlando.