

# Over The River And Through The Woods To Eastpoint And West We Go

**Carrabelle Times – December 5 1985**  
**Written By Roger Doherty**

“The road from Carrabelle to Eastpoint is muddy but passable.”

“The road from Carrabelle to Eastpoint is in pretty good condition, but the bridges are scary.”

“The road from Carrabelle to Eastpoint is long and boring, and I don’t feel like driving it.”

“The road from Carrabelle to Eastpoint is gone.”

The description of the road from Carrabelle to Eastpoint depends on who you are talking to and which route they prefer to drive. People are using various roads to get to the western part of the county. There is the “airport road”, Buck Siding Road and other dirt roads through Buckeye Cellulose’s property, the long route via State Roads 67 and 65 through Telogia and the regular route, U S Highway 98, which is open only to emergency vehicles.

The county is maintaining a dirt road mainly for use by school buses that begins at the Carrabelle Airport and comes out on State Road 65 near Eastpoint. The route is marked, but the red and blue flags along a portion of the route are part of a geological survey being done in the area, warns Buckeye District Manager Pat Barbaree. They were not put there to mark the road.

Barbaree said he would prefer that people use the state designated detour for safety reasons. There have already been cases of people being lost, he said.

Anyone planning to travel on one of the roads through Buckeye’s land should realize that they are only logging roads and are extremely rough in some places, Barbaree stated. They must realize also that they use the roads at their own risk, he added.

The dirt roads have provided Carrabelle residents who work in Eastpoint and Apalachicola with a much shorter route than the official state route. Les Albert, who works at the Piggly Wiggly in Apalachicola, said it only took him 25 minutes to get from Carrabelle to Eastpoint. The Telogia route takes about two hours.

“The airport road is not in bad shape,” said Albert. It’s wide enough in most spots for two cars to pass. It’s getting better with more traffic on it.

“The really bad spot was the road behind Eastpoint. Two people got stuck in front of me Monday.”

Ruth Millender, who works at the Department of Natural Resources lab in Apalachicola, used the airport route for the first time Tuesday. She thought it was well marked and the bumps were worth the time saved by using it.

The school buses are using a part of the airport road to get students from Eastpoint to Carrabelle, but they detour to Buck Siding Road at one point to avoid a sand bed.

School bus driver Wanda Whaley said most of the kids on her bus are finding the trip exciting right now because it's a change from the way they normally go. She added that one student called her the day before classes resumed to ask if he could bring his gun on the bus in case he spotted a deer.

The three buses that make the trip between Carrabelle and Eastpoint each day are being escorted by national guardsmen in jeeps.

Buck Siding Road appeared to be in better shape than the airport road, but it is longer and has some bad spots.

The trip through Telogia is the safest route available, but it is almost 100 miles and takes two hours to get to Eastpoint via that route.

Barbaree asks that people using roads through Buckeye use extreme caution with matches and cigarettes. Even though most of the woods is wet, there are some areas that could ignite if a cigarette is thrown from a passing vehicle, he warned.