

South Florida History

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- One Hundred Years of History
- Remembering Marie Anderson
- Frost in Florida

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THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA • FORT MYERS HISTORICAL MUSEUM • COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM
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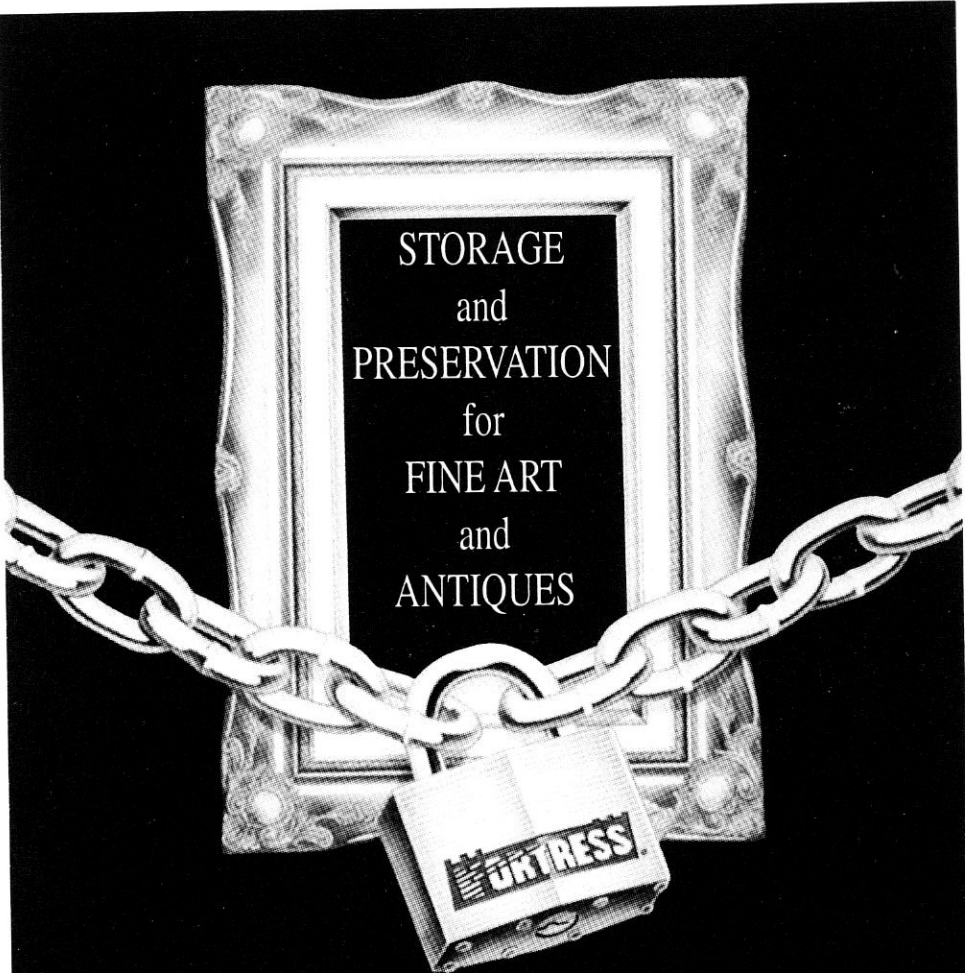
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On the cover: "First Train to Miami — 1896" by Phil Brinkman, 1968. Major funding for the restoration of this painting, which hangs at the Historical Museum's lobby entrance throughout 1996, was provided by the Florida East Coast Foundation, Inc. (HASF, 1993-52-1).

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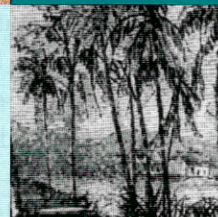
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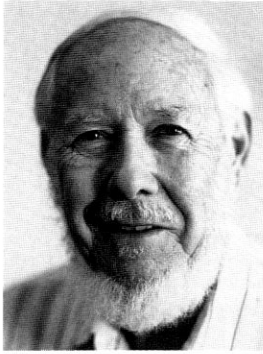
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Editor's Notes



Did you ever wonder what Miami was like to its founding fathers a century ago?

I got a chance to ask myself that question when I got a call from Sandy Coakley, producer of "Miami 1896" for WLRN-Channel 17. The format for the show, a four-part series which ran each Friday night in July, called for various locals to play the roles of important Floridians in the TV special.

Sandy said she would be Mary Barr Munroe, the colorful activist wife of novelist Kirk Munroe, who lived in Coconut Grove on Biscayne Bay. Two of my fellow historians, she said, would become historical figures from the Miami of 1896.

"Paul George will be Flagler and Howard Kleinberg will be Walter Graham, the first editor of the *Miami Metropolis*," she said.

For Howard, author of *Miami Beach*, this came close to type-casting. In real life he is a former editor of the *Miami News* and a syndicated columnist whose work appears regularly in *The Miami Herald*. Paul, a college professor and author of our Centennial issue's history of Miami, has developed a large following (no pun intended) for his historical walks in Dade and Broward Counties, but he faced the forbidding task of impersonating a man who did not deign to walk. Henry Morrison Flagler rode trains. Why not? He owned them.

He practically owned South Florida.

"Who would you like to be?" asked Sandy.

I hemmed and hawed for awhile, cleared the throat more often than usual, and finally came up with an answer.

"I'd like to be Commodore Ralph Munroe. He was a major figure here for fifty years, a boat designer, our first photographer and a philosopher. And I know enough about him to be comfortable with him, since I wrote *100 Years on Biscayne Bay*, a history of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club. He was their first commodore. Besides, he was one of the few people around with enough backbone to stand up to Flagler."

So, how do you transform yourself back into the great Ralph Middleton Munroe? I'm certainly not a method actor, although I once entered a Hemingway Look-alike Contest in Key West and failed badly in my efforts to convince a mellow crowd of imbibers in Sloppy Joe's that I was indeed the great writer.

I started by reading up on the subject so that I could express the thoughts he would have expressed. Next I had to think about what he looked like and what he wore. He had a white beard and so did I, so that was no problem. He wore glasses that looked somewhat like mine.

He had more hair, so I wore a straw hat that could have passed for the 1890s, if you downplay a flashy hat-band. A long-sleeved shirt and a high collar completed the costume. Part of your costume consists of subtraction. At the studio taping remember not to

wear a wrist watch – or a Dolphins cap.

Then came the hardest part – how to talk like Ralph. The Commodore came from Staten Island, New York. As a boy he spent summers in Concord, Massachusetts, with his grandfather, a member of the Concord "Social Circle," which included such eminent philosophers as Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

Somehow, I had to rein in a North Carolina accent, softened somewhat by 16 years in Baltimore and 34 in South Florida. You can't sound like a Staten Islander, I told myself, but at least try not to make a fool of yourself by sprinkling in phrases like "appreciate it" or "hot damn."

At the studio Sandy explained she would feed me eight subjects and I was to respond by talking about them as Ralph would have done. Basically, I had to become Ralph Munroe and transport myself back to an earlier time, just as reenactors do, say, at the Battle of Olustee.

You have to remember that Ralph and his fellow settlers had never heard a radio. Television would have been light years away from their comprehension; they would never have dreamed of getting their local news from Rick Sanchez. News came over the back fence, or from reading Howard Kleinberg's – oops! – Walter Grahams's *Metropolis*.

Ralph never got stuck at the Brickell Avenue Bridge. In 1896 there were virtually no cars this far south. People moved around on foot or by boat, and nobody knew more about boats than the Commodore, who designed,

EDITORS

Stuart McIver and Rebecca Eads

EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE

Roxanne Cappello, Dawn Hugh,
Rebecca A. Smith, and
Steve Stuempfle, Ph.D.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE

George Chillag

DESIGNER

Alison Gunn

ADVISOR

Paul S. George, Ph.D.

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The Historical Association
of Southern Florida

Metro-Dade Cultural Center

101 W. Flagler St., Miami, Fla. 33130

Tel: (305) 375-1492 Fax: (305)375-1609

E-mail: hasf@ix.netcom.com

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built and sold them to his fellow pioneers.

There were no franchised fast food restaurants. You ate at home or on a special occasion at Jolly Jack Peacock's Bay View House, the first hotel until Flagler built the Royal Palm a century ago.

Still, Ralph Munroe, steeped in the philosophy of Thoreau, understood the arrival of Flagler's railroad would mean the end of his primitive natural paradise in Coconut Grove. He knew a city would rise as did the 344 people who voted to create it on July 28, 1896.

What they couldn't visualize was the great international metropolis that would grow on the shores of Biscayne Bay, where the stylish sailboats of Ralph Munroe would soon be replaced by noisy powerboats and many years later by really noisy jet skis.

Would Ralph have liked the Miami of today? I don't think so, too bustling, too congested. But then you have to ask yourself how many of us today would really like to live in the Miami of 1896. ☼

Since our last issue Marie Anderson has died. She was a remarkable woman who swam laps with an iguana, but if you want to know more about that you'll have to turn to page 21 to read Randy Nimnicht's reminiscences of a trailblazer who served for nine years as editor of Update, the forerunner to *South Florida History Magazine*.

I knew her as a highly professional woman who turned a modest publication into a magazine. Marie knew stories and she knew pictures and she knew how to make them work together. And why not? Five times in her 12 years as women's editor for *The Miami Herald* she won best in the nation in the J.C. Penney-University of Missouri Women's Pages Competition.

She was a real pro and always a pleasure to work with. Marie, a native of Pensacola, died at 80 at a retirement home in Altamonte Springs. We'll miss her. ☼

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Around the Galleries



HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

Metro-Dade Cultural Center, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, (305) 375-1492

General Information: Open Monday through Saturday, 10 A.M.-5 P.M.;

Thursdays until 9 P.M.; Sundays, 12 noon-5 P.M. Closed on Thanksgiving,

Christmas and New Year's Day. Adults \$4; Children 6-12 \$2. Members Free.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Celebrating Florida's History:

Works of Art from the Vickers Collection

October 11, 1996 - January 26, 1997

The Vickers Collection is the most complete and comprehensive body of Florida art in the world. The exhibition features 65 of more than 200 important works by some of America's most acclaimed artists and spans the decades from 1823 to well into the 20th century. The paintings, drawings and prints depict the history, life and landscape of the state. This cultural and artistic record of historic Florida was amassed by Roberta and Sam Vickers, who said the collection captures Florida's "special beauty." This exhibit comes to the museum after touring some of America's premier showrooms, including New York, Philadelphia and Boston museums.

MAJOR MILESTONES

In the lobby throughout 1996.

This centennial exhibit -- displayed in the form of a time-

line -- features a mural of hand-painted ceramic tiles created by the students of Frederick Douglass Elementary. The mural visually depicts the history of Miami and highlights the regional plants and animals that represent the unique character of South Florida.

A Slave Ship Speaks: The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie

February 14, 1997 - May 4, 1997

This exhibit features the wreck of an early merchant-slave ship -- the *Henrietta Marie*. Visitors will experience the late 17th century first-hand while they come face-to-face with artifacts from the wreck, read a broad historical summary about the "triangular route" and trace the consequences of this grim trade into the present day. The exhibit will focus on Afro-European relations, and the influence of West African artistic, musical, oral and religious traditions on the evolution of modern America.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FOURTH ANNUAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM GOLF CLASSIC

October 30, 1996

A day of fun and golf at this "shot-gun" tournament at the historic Biltmore Hotel & Golf Course in Coral Gables, including greens fees, carts, gift bags, special team photos, putting contest, lunch, cocktail reception and silent auction. Prizes for best score, hole-in-one, closest to the pin, longest drive and more. All proceeds benefit the education programs of the Historical Museum. For more information, call Pat Helms (305) 375-1492.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

November 23-24, 1996

Dade County Youth Fair Grounds & Expo Center at Tamiami Park, Coral Way at 112th Ave. This annual South Florida favorite continues the tradition with food, crafts, folklife,

reenactors, entertainment and more. Admission for adults is \$5, children (5-12) \$2. Call (305) 375-1492 for information.

FOURTH ANNUAL MIAMI INTERNATIONAL MAP FAIR

February 1 - 2, 1997

Antique map dealers and map experts from all over the globe join this fourth annual event geared for hobbyists, collectors and dealers of antique maps. The event includes lectures and workshops on conservation and care; discussion of what to look for when buying antique maps; expert opinions; and prominent dealers showing and selling their maps. Registration includes cocktail reception, all program sessions and lunch on Saturday. Call Marcia Kanner at (305) 375-1492 to receive a registration package.



COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM
3301 Tamiami Trail East, Naples
(941) 774-8476

General Information: The Collier County Museum explores the people, places and everyday events that have shaped Collier County's heritage. The museum and four-acre historical park are open Monday - Friday, 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. Free.

OCTOBER 1 - DECEMBER 23, 1996

OVERTOWN: MIAMI'S LITTLE BROADWAY

This temporary exhibition traces the rise of Miami's "Little Broadway" through photographs taken in the Knight Bear Restaurant, which showcased dozens of internationally known acts, such as Sam Cooke, Aretha Franklin and the Drifters during the 1950s and 1960s. The exhibit was developed by the Black Archives History and Research Foundation of South Florida. Funding for the exhibit was provided by the Florida Humanities Council.

NOVEMBER 9-10, 1996

3RD ANNUAL OLD FLORIDA FESTIVAL

Old Florida Festival is a two-day living history celebration of Florida's colorful past. Come spend the day with Spanish explorers, British redcoats, pirates, cracker cowboys, Seminole War soldiers, Union and Confederate soldiers, and pioneers. Watch expert craftspeople make clothes, dye fabric, cane chairs, make baskets, spin wool and much more. Dance to music of days gone by. Old Florida Festival brings Florida history to life.

DECEMBER 2, 1996 - JANUARY 31, 1997

FLORIDA'S LOST TRIBES:

THE ART OF THEODORE MORRIS

Theodore Morris is an artist whose work is a journey through time. Working closely with archaeologists and anthropologists throughout the state of Florida, Morris uses oil painting as a visual language to depict Florida's native cultures that have been lost in the mist of time. His realistic portrayal of these ancient people is not a romantic image, but a sensitive understanding of a way of life.



FORT MYERS
HISTORICAL MUSEUM
2300 Peck Street, Fort Myers
(941) 332-6879

General Information: Open Tuesday through Friday, 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. and Saturday, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. Closed Sundays and Mondays. Admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for children under 12.



FLORIDA HISTORY
CENTER & MUSEUM

Burt Reynolds Park
805 North U.S. Highway 1, Jupiter
(407) 747-6639

General Information: The Florida History Center & Museum is open all year. Examine artifacts from early Florida inhabitants in the permanent museum collection and view the traveling exhibits. Open Tuesday through Friday, 10 A.M.-5 P.M. and weekends 1-5 P.M. Closed on Mondays. \$4 adults; \$3 seniors; \$2 children.

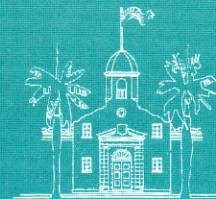
The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse is open Sunday - Wednesday, 10 A.M.-4 p.m. (Must be 48" tall to climb.) For information: (405) 747-8380. \$5.

The DuBois Pioneer Home is open Sunday and Wednesday, 1-5 P.M. \$2.

EXHIBITS AND EVENTS:

COLORS OF STATEHOOD: FLORIDA
FACES, FEBRUARY - JULY, 1996

In honor of Florida's 150th anniversary of Statehood, this exhibit illustrates the many ethnic groups who helped shape Florida through authentically costumed mannequins, historical photographs and documents and colorful displays. Featuring Seminole Indians, Women Florida "Crackers," and African American Slaves, Minorcans and children, these groups will come alive through a state-of-the-art interactive display comprised of five dioramas with life-like mannequins, eight-foot photomurals and artifacts.



BOCA RATON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Town Hall, 71 N. Federal Highway
Boca Raton, Florida 33432-3919
(407) 395-6766.

General Information: The Boca Raton Historical Society operates a Museum and Gift Shop at the old Town Hall, 71 North Federal Highway, Boca Raton. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

EXHIBITS AND EVENTS:

OCTOBER 1 - NOVEMBER 15

STRUGGLE FOR STATEHOOD

Follow Florida's long road to becoming a state and see interesting artifacts, including original letters from Zachary Taylor.

NOVEMBER 2-3, 1996, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Get a start on your holiday shopping. On Friday, November 1, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., the Boca Raton Historical Society is offering a preview party.

NOVEMBER 1996 - MARCH 1997

OLD FASHIONED FARMERS' MARKET

Every Saturday morning, 7 - 10 A.M., Get the best pick of fresh produce, locally produced cheese, honey and more at the Boca Raton Town Hall. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Boca Raton Historical Society.



CLEWISTON MUSEUM

112 South Comercio Street,
Clewiston
(813) 983-2870

General Information: The Clewiston Museum, founded in 1984, is a growing museum, collecting and displaying items, large and small, important and trivial, which reflect the past of Clewiston and its surrounding area.

The Clewiston Museum is open 1-5 P.M. Tuesday through Saturday, with seasonal adjustments. No admission fee is charged; however, donations are encouraged.

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors:

Just returned from Mexico and we were delighted to find the latest South Florida History Magazine and gratified to read the tribute to Thelma Peters by Stuart McIver. We were also fortunate to call her a friend. We visited Thelma in South Carolina in April 1994 and were pleased to find her working on an historical crossword puzzle about the Miami River. Sadly, it was never finished.

Besides the three historical books recommended by Stuart, interested persons would do well to read Thelma's only novel, cast in her beloved Bahamas, and a masterpiece in our view.

Years ago, when Thelma learned that we planned to visit Lancaster Garden in Costa Rica, she told us of her first visit there as a young woman. She took the train from San Jose to the ancient capital Cartago, then hired a horse to ride to the garden (no bus then). Entranced with the garden, she stayed until late afternoon when Mr. Lancaster insisted she take his umbrella for protection against the regular afternoon showers. Picture an American lady on horseback riding cross country in the rain with an umbrella! She arrived in Cartago too late for the last train back, so walked those many miles to her hotel.

Thelma Peters was indeed a most remarkable woman, and a friend to all. We miss her more than we can express. Will her last book ever be published?

Most sincerely,
Don and Elouise Gaby
Ormond Beach, Florida

Dear HASF Members:

Thanks to your support, the Historical Museum of Southern Florida is now a part of the Florida Heritage Travel Consortium. Eleven Florida museums have joined together to offer you just the type of travel experience we think you will enjoy.

Last year, we asked you to complete a questionnaire concerning travel and tours. You responded enthusiastically — Alaska topped the list of favorite domestic locations while Great Britain stood out among the five most favored international travel destinations.

The Historical Museum and the other members of the Florida Heritage Travel Consortium are now ready with the first travel offering. Join us for 15 wonderful days in England, May 10-24, 1997. This will shortly be followed by our second offering — a 7-day land and sea excursion through Alaska in late summer, 1997. As museum patrons you will be offered some very special opportunities and programs.

Look for more information in our upcoming issues and make plans to take advantage of one or both of these exciting museum travel opportunities.

Sincerely,

Randy F. Nimnicht

President, Historical Museum of Southern Florida



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Dr. George's 1996-97 TOUR SCHEDULE

tour schedule

SUN., OCT. 20, 10 A.M.	Miami River Boat Tour*	SUN., MAR. 16, 11 A.M.	Brickell Avenue Walking Tour
SUN., NOV. 10, 1 P.M.	Miami's Centennial Sacred Spaces: Historic Churches Metrorail Tour	SAT., MAR. 22, 10 A.M.	The Big Walk Relived
SAT., NOV. 16, 10 A.M.	Art Deco Walking Tour	SAT., APR. 5, 5:30 P.M.	Coconut Grove Twilight Walking Tour
SUN., DEC. 1, 11 A.M.	North by Northeast Bus Tour*	SUN., APR. 13, 10 A.M.	Stiltsville/Key Biscayne Boat Tour*
SUN., DEC. 8, 11 A.M.	City of Miami Cemetery Walking Tour	THU., APR. 17, 4 P.M.	Historic Gesu Church Tour
SAT., DEC. 14, 10 A.M.	Miami Shores Walking Tour	SUN., MAY 4, 5 P.M.	Coral Gables House Dinner*
SUN., JAN. 12, 10 A.M.	Historic South Dade Bus Tour*	THU., MAY 15, 5:30 P.M.	"Birds-Eye" Metromover Extension Tour
SAT., JAN. 18, 10 A.M.	Historic Hollywood Walking Tour	SUN., MAY 18, 10 A.M.	Miami River Boat Tour*
SUN., FEB. 2, 10 A.M.	Historic Biscayne Bay Boat Tour*	SUN., JUNE 8, 11 A.M.	Metrorail Tour of Greater Miami
SUN., FEB. 23, 11 A.M.	Downtown/Miami River Walking Tour	SUN., JUNE 22, 5 P.M.	Stiltsville/ Key Biscayne Twilight Boat Tour*
SAT., MAR. 1, 11 A.M.	The Many Faces of Little Havana Walking Tour		

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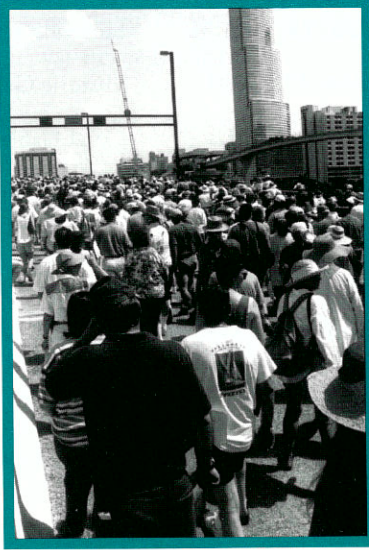
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HISTORICAL MUSEUM CELEBRATES MIAMI'S CENTENNIAL

You were prepared for this moment with attention riveted, ears trained and eyes alert (but shielded from the powerful glare of the Florida sun) to step back in time to July 28, 1896.

The occasion was the anniversary of the incorporation of Miami one hundred years ago and you were going to take the Big Walk to find out exactly what happened that day and afterward to lead up to the growth of the present metropolis you call home. You had comfortable clothing and shoes on, a cold drink, sunglasses and a fan to protect your body from the harsh conditions of time travel. You were fascinated, you were excited, and you were not alone.

Approximately 600 other explorers were prepared to undertake the same mission. They say there is safety in numbers, and it is a safe bet that all



who undertook the Big Walk came away with not only a sense of adventure, but a sense of place. Dr. Paul George led this horde from Tobacco Road across the massive South Miami Avenue bridge to the heart of downtown Miami and told them of the people and places that make Miami so special as a home to such a wide variety of cultures. From the visions of the founders of the area to the get-rich schemes of the early settlers, Miami's history revealed a new personality to the participants.

While hundreds were walking their way through time, almost 1,000 people came to the Historical Museum and studied Miami's history up-close. Viewing the centennial exhibit, Miami: The First 100 Years, participating in the Faces of the Centennial documentary project and

recreating Henry Flagler's first train to Miami (for the younger visitors) South Florida's natives and visitors were truly caught up in the birthday spirit. The Research Center also enjoyed a steady stream of history seekers who made their way through the festive balloons adorning the museum, around the tables offering the museum's special centennial t-shirts and centennial prize drawings, to collect their own photographic souvenirs.

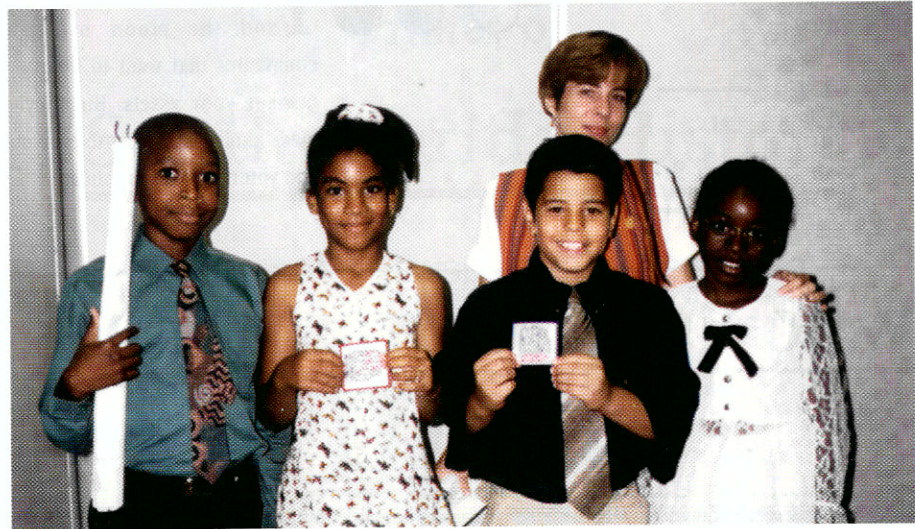
The Historical Museum Fellows and Tropees started the day off right with a special centennial brunch hosted by the Historical Museum and catered by Tropics Catering. They geared up for the Big Walk by loading up on carbs and caffeine and sharing an infectious



spirit of anticipation for the day's upcoming events.

It was truly a magical day for the Magic City.

THANK YOU! Four students from Dunbar Elementary School and their teacher, Brigid O'Hagan, came to a HASF board meeting to show off their quilts and thank the Goldsmith Foundation for sponsoring their camp-in at the Historical Museum.



HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF: TROPES LIMO RALLY IS A SUCCESS



More than 400 people gathered to cruise around South Beach in a parade of limousines for the Tropes' Second Annual Historic Pursuit Limo Rally. This eager crowd of history buffs diligently scoured historic hotels and trendy clubs for elusive answers to a series of history riddles with hopes of outsmarting the rest. Bringing in over \$50,000 to the Historical Museum, the successful Pursuit proved to be fun for all.

Special thanks to the Sponsors of the Historic Pursuit Limo Rally: Jack Daniels, Groove Jet, Allied Specialty, Moe's Cantina, Tobacco Road, New Times, Indian Creek Hotel, GrafX-4U, La Tradicion Cubana Cigars, South Pointe Seafood House, Precision Art Printing and Brown-Foreman Beverages Worldwide.



(Top Picture) left to right: Vim Stuebgen, Bob Dunbar, Alice Dreer, Jack Holly, Emerson Fales, Samantha Anna, Chris Nelson, Christine Welstead, and Karen Dowling.

(Second Picture from the Top) left to right: Kerrin Witkin, Edmund Parnes, Fred Witkin, Elizabeth Parnes, Carol Shapiro, Stan Shapiro, Diane Rosenberg, and Mike Rosenberg.

(Third Picture) left to right: Chris Wright, Joe Murphy, Deborah Gander, Pat Kohlman, Robert Kohlman, Alan Smith, Don Sadler, and Todd Smith.

(Fourth Picture) The winning team – Limo #25 left to right: Ernie Gonzalez, Bonnie Vernarelli, Cindy Kelly, Cynthia Pawley-Martin, Chris Burell, Neil Burell, Rick Goldsmith, and Marsha Goldsmith. Not pictured: Linda Stein Fraynd and Paul Fraynd.

(Bottom) Tobacco Road, one of four host sites.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

Founded 1940

AS PART OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOUNDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA. ESTABLISHED MORE THAN 50 YEARS AGO



WITH THE DESIRE TO PRESERVE HISTORY, THE ASSOCIATION HAS BECOME A RECOGNIZED INSTITUTION IN THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY. THE CHARTER MEMBERS ARE IMPORTANT, AND WE WANT TO REMEMBER THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR HISTORY.

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This list was compiled from the first edition of Tequesta, published in 1941.



HOW TO MAKE A MIAMI CENTENNIAL QUILT



by Ellen Kanner

Quilters as diverse as Miami itself tell the city's hundred years of history with Miami's Centennial Quilt. The quilt, unveiled on May 11, Family Day at the Historical Museum, is folk art of the people and by the people.

"It's like a story book," says Historical Museum curator Remko Jansonius, who doesn't even like quilting. At least he didn't until he got involved with the centennial quilt project. Jansonius credits Quilt Scene owner and manager Lucy Mansfield for coming up with the idea for the centennial competition. Together, they paved the way last fall with three days of quilting classes and workshops held at the Historical Museum. Quilting expert and author Elly Sienkowitz, the keynote speaker, talked about quilting techniques and symbolism so quilters would feel both able and inspired.

"We had to make everyone feel comfortable participating, make anyone feel they could make a block," says Mansfield. "We offered classes to give an idea. Photo transfer is one technique that can be done at any copy shop. There's also inking, writing on the quilt."

More than fifty people contributed, ranging from the experienced to tentative first time quilters, producing traditional blocks as well as post modern ones, employing quilting and embroidery and French knots as well as powerful images incorporated with only a photo transfer. The result

is no cuddly bed quilt. The Centennial Quilt's bold patterns and colors reflect the feel of the tropics. Not only are the quilt blocks beautiful and historical, they are personally resonant, encoding special significance into fabric and

design. "Everyone had a reason to make what they did," observes Mansfield.

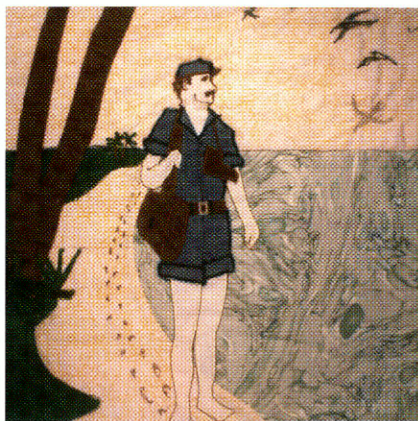
Julia Ifshin, creator of "The Barefoot Mailman" block, is married to a former postal worker. Toni Garcia, who has worked for Delta for over thirty years, made "The Pan Am Building," an homage to Miami's aviation history.

Quilters didn't have to be born here to feel connected to Miami. Judges chose two blocks depicting Cuban immigration, including Livia Lagomasino's "Land of Liberty," which shows the population shift from Cuba to Miami. "My family and I had to abandon our native land as did many hundreds of thousands of Cubans," explains the quilter. "Uprooted from all that has been our permanent existence, Miami became our refuge, the place that allowed us to be again."

Donna Kahlke lives in New Jersey but has family in Miami. Her quilt block, "Julia Tuttle's Orange Blossoms," symbolizes the impetus behind Miami's growth. "After a freeze destroyed most of the state's crops in 1895, one resident, Julia Tuttle, sent railroad magnate Henry Flagler some frost-free orange blossoms from Miami. He not only

"It's like a
story book,"

Historical Museum Curator
Remko Jansonius

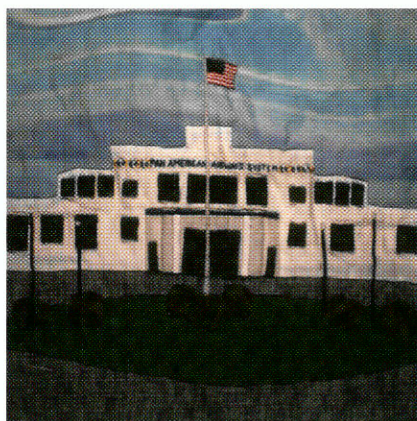


extended rail service to Miami but built the town as well.”

A little later in Miami’s history, Ruth Zion Dubbin was only four years old when she came here from New York with her parents in 1911. She posed with a friend in front of a stuffed alligator for a picture to send to her family back home. Eighty-five years later, Bonnie Askowitz, Ruth Dubbin’s daughter incorporated that treasured photograph into her quilt block, “Family With Stuffed Alligator.”

Equally compelling are some of the blocks not chosen for the quilt. Some didn’t make it because they failed to conform to size restrictions, others because they duplicated images — the judges had to choose among numerous scenes of the Everglades, several Cuban rafters and a handful of hurricanes. A few quilt squares, — like Liz Chifari’s “Paradise Stolen,” — failed to be politically correct. Made of piecing on muslin, it shows a tiny 3-D handgun surrounded by a ring of purses.

“I was mugged downtown several years ago,” says the quilter, “I needed to make ‘Paradise Stolen’ for therapeutic reasons. Until we acknowledge the scope of our crime problem,

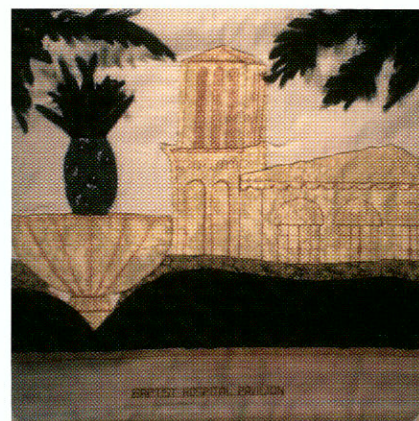


Miami can never be the paradise it once was.” Ms. Chifari knew her block would be risky, “but I was glad for the opportunity to say something important.”

An experienced quilter, Mansfield couldn’t help but be impressed by the blocks. “Some people used quilting techniques and ideas that never would have occurred to me.” She agrees with Jansonius, though, the real magic comes from “inspiration. The stories are what make it so fascinating.”

The panel of quilt block judges included Miami historian Dr. Paul George. “I just added the historical bent,” he says. “I know nothing about the technique. But it was an incredibly colorful display, really neat. Some were so striking. Each had its own merits and each revealed its own chapter of Greater Miami’s history. What I found so striking was that here our whole community came together and their blocks blended together so wonderfully.”

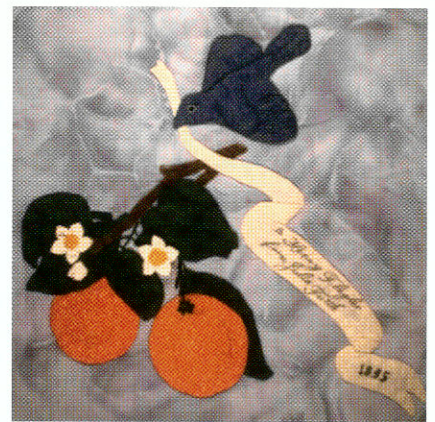
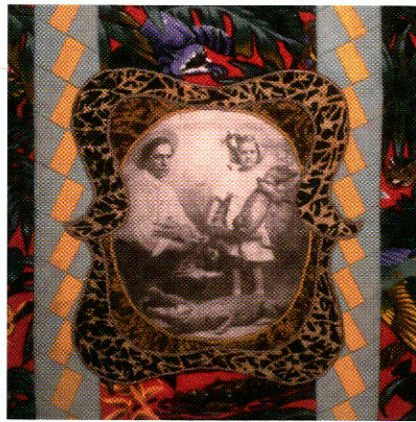
After the judges made their decision, Mansfield got to work piecing the winning squares together. She lay the blocks out in chronological order, the oldest at the top, starting in 1896 and continuing through the present.




“Everything just fell in place. It starts here,” she explains, pointing to “The Barefoot Mailman” at the upper left. “This top row goes from 1896 to 1910, the center panel shows Miami during World War I and the 1930s, and here at the bottom are the sixties and on up the present.” It was as though each quilter knew where and how the blocks would fit. They compliment, never clash and the graphic techniques, while very different evoke a sense of unity, Miami’s unity.

Jansonius, if not quite a quilting convert looks forward to his next project with Mansfield — a quilt of the future. To be done in the year 1999, it will “predict Miami in the coming century.” In the meantime, Miami’s Centennial Quilt will circulate among public spaces in Miami throughout the centennial year and return to the Historical Museum as part of its permanent collection.

“When people come to look at the Centennial Quilt, I hope they will view it as more than a collection of unique techniques or fine skills,” says Pamela Pampe, who contributed the “Baptist Hospital” block. “I hope they will see it as a collective memory from



people who have lived in this community and nurtured its development.”

Miami's Centennial Quilt blends art with history but mostly, it's a loving tribute from the many different people who call Miami home. 

Page 13 - The Miami Centennial Quilt in its entirety.

Page 15 -(left) "The Barefoot Mailman" by Julia Ilfshin

(center) "The Pan Am Building" by Toni Decamp Garcia

(right) "Baptist Hospital" by Pamela Pampe

This Page -(left) "Land of Liberty" by Livia H. Lagomasino

(center) "Family with Stuffed Alligator" by Bonnie Dubbin Askowitz

(right) "Julia Tuttle's Orange Blossoms" by Donna M. Kahlke

Ellen Kanner is a nationally published writer and regular contributor to the Miami Herald, the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, Publishers Weekly, Florida Living, the Washington Blade, Bookpage and many others. She lives in Miami with her husband, Benjamin Bohlmann.

Full-size color posters of the Miami Centennial Quilt are available at the Indies Company Museum Store for \$8.95.

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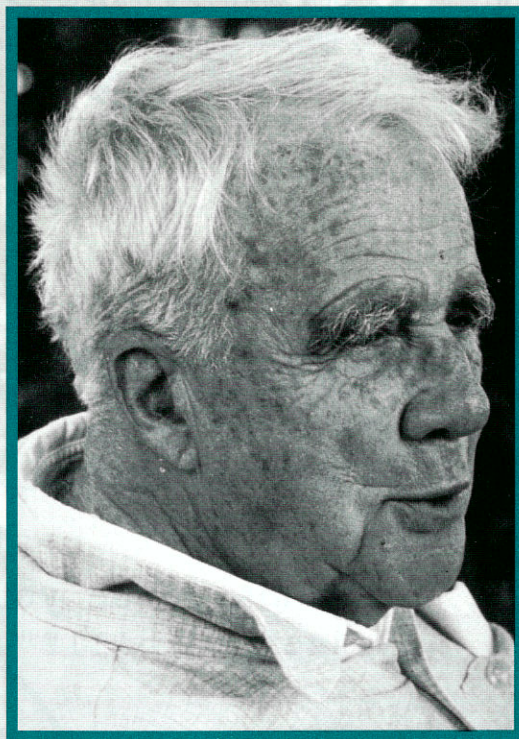
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MIAMI'S POETIC FARMER

By Helen Muir

An excerpt from her book, *Frost in Florida: A Memoir*



Robert Frost, the New England bard, took the road more traveled when he set out for Miami in 1934 in search of a winter home. The road led eventually to a five-acre compound in South Miami, which he called Pencil Pines. There the poet came

Even before the deed was signed, Robert Frost was telling his friend Hervey Allen [author of the best-selling historical novel, *Anthony Adverse*] that from now on he would call himself “a cross between a Florida farmer and a Vermont farmer” while Hervey was a “Maryland-Florida farmer. . . .”

Frost took it beyond that, and his plans for acquiring trees and shrubs for Pencil Pines were formulating in his head.

every winter until his death in 1963.

Author Helen Muir, a Miami friend of the poet, has written *Frost in Florida, a Memoir*. We are pleased to present to you, with the permission of the publisher, Valiant Press, an excerpt from Helen Muir's book.

If you did not gather it from his poetry, you would know by observing his daily life that Frost was most at home with nature. Botanizing and bird watching, studying the stars, and digging in the earth were all part of his inner rhythms. Besides the pencil, he considered the ax and scythe his favorite tools.

His interest in the various sub-tropical plants was not superficial, although his annual stays at Pencil Pines

amounted to only about two months, usually beginning in January after wandering down the East Coast, stopping to lecture at the University of North Carolina before hitting the Florida colleges. A favorite school was Agnes Scott in Decatur, Georgia, where a spare overcoat was kept in readiness should the weather turn cold and where the welcome was always warm.

The plant life in South Florida intrigued Frost and before long he was deep in talk with Dr. David Fairchild, the world renowned plant explorer.

Fairchild and his wife, Marian, had purchased eight acres of bayfront land in Coconut Grove in 1916 with twenty-five thousand dollars borrowed from her illustrious father, Alexander Graham Bell, who, as everybody knows, invented the telephone. They named their place The Kampong and proceeded to turn it into their own private plant introduction center, traveling the world gathering seeds.

Fairchild was a likely authority with whom to consult about plantings for the Frost five acres. But the plants without the people would not have been enough, not nearly enough. Once Frost said: "Men are the important factors to remember. They are the soil that brings forth the fruit."

Calling himself a Florida farmer was a kind of mockery at which Frost was expert, but how fortunate he was to be officiating at fresh planting with such compatible next door neighbors as the Elmer Hjort family.

Hjort had left his faculty post at the University of Pittsburgh and with his wife, Nettie, and their daughters, Nettie Belle and Edith, set out in 1936 for South Florida, seeking a climate change for daughter Edith for reasons of health. . . .

Hjort joined the faculty of the struggling University of Miami teaching chemistry and in off hours set about building a small dwelling for all five members of the family. . . .

At the University, Hjort was elevated from professor of

chemistry eventually to dean of the college and the man who established the South campus.

By the time Frost appeared, Hjort had expanded the housing on his land and his mother-in-law was residing in the original house.

Mail was R.F.D. out of Coconut Grove and the Hjorts, the Allens and now Robert Frost picked it up from oversized boxes at the corner of School House and Davis Roads.

The country atmosphere, the neighborliness and competency were the right ingredients for Frost and in the weeks before Kathleen Morrison appeared each winter, he spent many an evening reading poetry aloud at the Allens and the Hjorts.

Reading aloud was obligatory, part of his whole history with both his mother and wife. Over at the Allens, daughters Marcia and Mary Ann recall that often Frost would be considered a rare treat in many circles but at the Allen menage it took Father Hervey to explain that "one day they would be glad they listened."

One daughter asked plaintively why Frost "sometimes read the poem twice?"

Clearly, they had other evening pursuits in mind than listening to a poem being born.

Still, Mary Ann, after her marriage to the geographer Dr. Melvin Marcus, remembers bicycling her firstborn over to Frost's house in a basket to request a favor.

Would he please autograph one of his poems for Andrew, the babe in the bicycle basket? More than that, Mary Ann wanted the poem hand written.

"Which one?"

"Something about history," she told him.

Carefully, the poet wrote out *The Gift Outright*, the poem he would read at the Presidential inauguration of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, a televised scene the nation would share years later in a burst of emotion on a snowy day in Washington, DC. 🌲

Calling himself a Florida farmer was a kind of mockery at which Frost was expert...



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Swims With Iguanas — Memories of Marie

BY RANDY F. NIMNIGHT

President, Historical Museum of Southern Florida

Some years ago a movie was released with the intriguing title of "Dances With Wolves." This was the Indian name for the lead character, who performed what could be construed as a dance with wolves during the Indian wars in the late nineteenth century.

Marie Anderson a century later could have qualified for the Indian name "Swims With Iguanas."

I will always have an image of her swimming with her iguana. She had a swimming pool in her backyard in the Grove, and had gotten in the habit of trying to do her laps first thing in the morning. She once told me that as she was swimming the length of the pool one morning, she realized something was beside her and looked to see what it was.

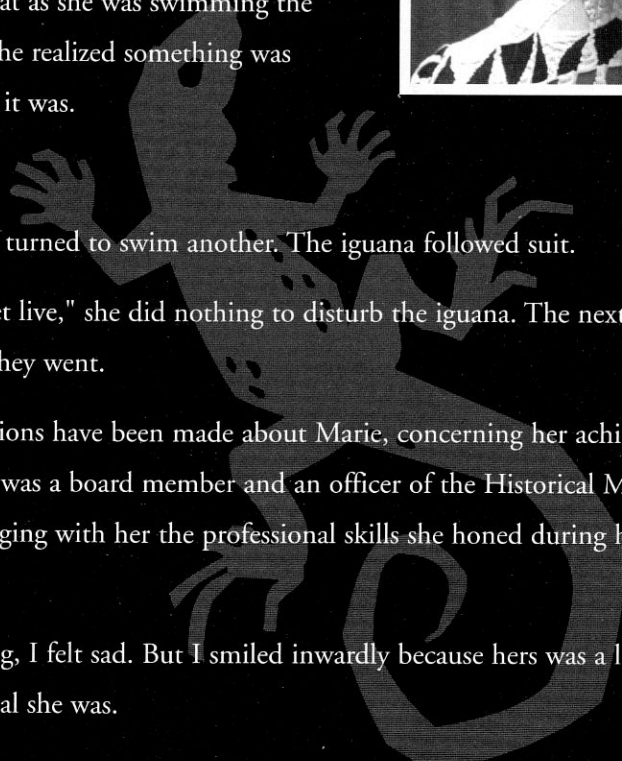
It was an iguana!

She finished the lap, then turned to swim another. The iguana followed suit.

Always one to "live and let live," she did nothing to disturb the iguana. The next morning her swimming partner reappeared and off they went.

Many wonderful observations have been made about Marie, concerning her achievements and contributions to our community. She was a board member and an officer of the Historical Museum. She worked tirelessly on our publications, bringing with her the professional skills she honed during her years at The Miami Herald.

When I read of her passing, I felt sad. But I smiled inwardly because hers was a life truly well-lived. Even the iguanas sensed how special she was.



Miami



Inset Photo Above: Entrance to the Royal Palm Hotel (*HASF, 1983-17-5*)
Opposite Page Inset Photo: Today's Brickell Avenue (*HASF, 1995-277-1581*)
Background Photo: The Royal Palm Hotel, view from the south side of the Miami River (*HASF*)

● The First ● Hundred Years

PAUL S. GEORGE, PH.D.

Few cities of such youth can claim a history as eventful, significant, and tumultuous as that of Miami. From its beginnings as a tiny settlement along the Miami River to the robust international city of today, Miami has represented for multitudes of new residents a place to begin anew, a gateway to a better tomorrow. And at no time has this been more true than the present.

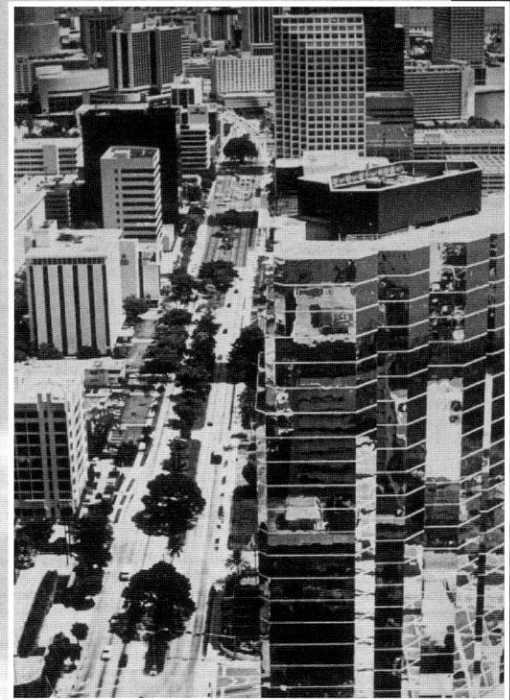
THE BEGINNING

The story of Miami begins more than 10,000 years ago with a settlement of Paleo-Indians along the edge of south Biscayne Bay near today's Charles Deering Estate. Many millennia later, Tequesta Indians, so named by the Spanish Explorer, Juan Ponce de Leon (who also gave Florida its name), entered the lush, subtropical area and built settlements stretching from the Florida Keys to Broward County, with the largest concentrations along the north bank of the Miami River and on Key Biscayne.

Like Florida's other native inhabitants, who numbered more than 350,000 at the time of the Spanish entrada in 1513, the lifestyle of the Tequestas changed radically, and for the worse, following the Spanish arrival. Victims of disease, war and other dislocations, the Tequestas, along with Florida's other native populations, had virtually vanished 250 years after the entry of the Spanish.

Beginning in 1565, Spain exercised control over Florida for nearly 250 years. Spain's colonization effort is divided into two eras separated by a twenty-year British interregnum in the late eighteenth century.

During the Second Spanish Period, which stretched from 1784 to 1821, Spain liberalized her settlement policies in an effort to develop her colony, encouraging, in addition to her own countrymen, residents of other lands and faiths to settle in Florida. In the



early 1800s, a few Bahamian families accepted Spanish land offers along the Miami River and on Biscayne Bay, and farmed in those lush areas.

In 1821, Spain sold Florida to the United States for five million dollars in Spanish damage claims against the American government. One year later, Florida became a territory, marking the beginning of its march toward statehood. In 1830, Richard Fitzpatrick, a prominent figure in the politics of Territorial Florida, purchased the Bahamian-held lands on the Miami River, and established a slave plantation over a portion of them. Sixty slaves cultivated Fitzpatrick's land. Fitzpatrick, however, abandoned his plantation soon after the commencement of the Second Seminole War.

THE SEMINOLE WARS

The Second Seminole War, fought between 1835 and 1842, was the longest, bloodiest Indian war in American history (The First Seminole War was waged in several parts of northern Florida in 1818). The conflict erupted following efforts by the United States to relocate Seminole Indians west of the Mississippi River in Indian Country (today's Oklahoma and a portion of Arkansas). The Seminoles were renegade members of the Creek nation who had left their ancestral home in Georgia in the previous century for Florida.

The Second Seminole War led to the rapid depopulation of Miami and other parts of southeast Florida. A small military force replaced the civilian population near the end of the 1830s, as the United States Army established Fort Dallas on a portion of Fitzpatrick's abandoned slave plantation

on the north bank of the stream. Soldiers from Fort Dallas periodically paddled upriver and into the nearby Everglades in an effort to engage the elusive Seminoles in combat.

The Second Seminole War ended in 1842. Shortly thereafter, Fitzpatrick's nephew, William English, acquired the former's Miami River possessions and reconstituted the slave plantation, adding new buildings to the complex. A man of large ambitions and vision, English platted the "Village of Miami" on the south bank of the river. He sold several lots in that development before leaving the area, at the beginning of the 1850s, for California and the gold rush.

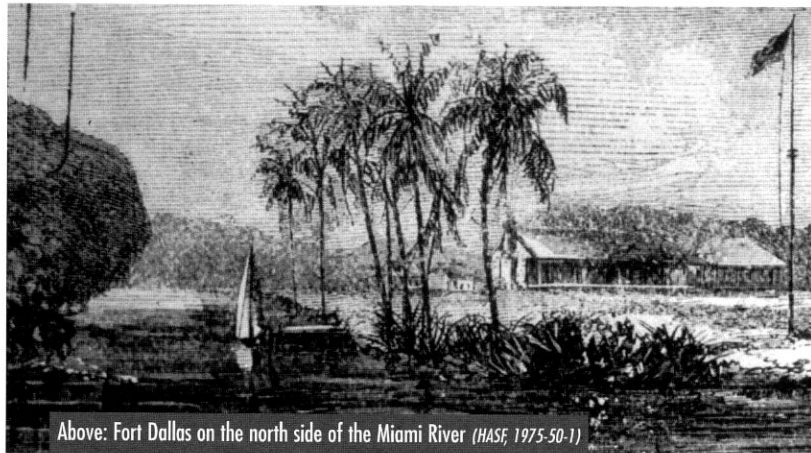
The Third Seminole War (1855-1858) prompted the United States Army to reestablish Fort Dallas on the English property. Although it was fought on a far smaller scale than the previous conflict, this final Seminole War further discouraged settlement in Miami.

While the Indian problem had receded by the latter decades of the nineteenth century,

the site of today's Miami consisted of only a few families as late as the 1890s. Dade County, stretching from Indian Key to the Jupiter Inlet, contained less than 1,000 persons by the beginning of the century's last decade. Undoubtedly, the area was among America's last frontiers.

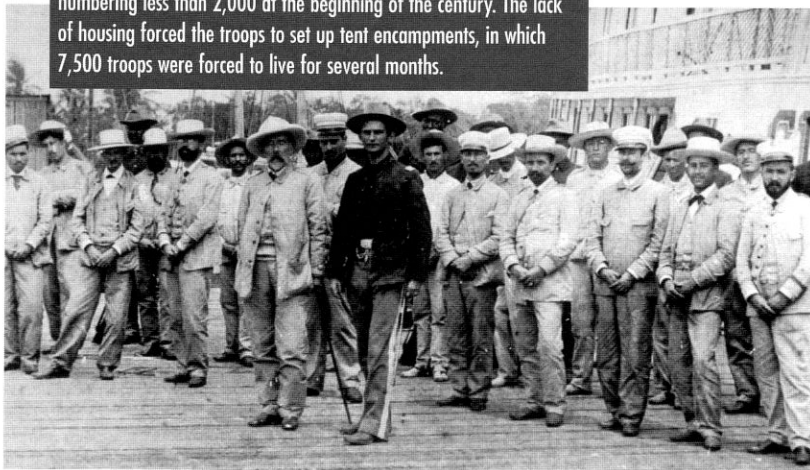
MIAMI IS BORN

But change was in the air. Small homesteading communities were arising along Biscayne Bay and many influential pioneers were among the incoming residents. Julia Tuttle moved to the area in 1891 and purchased the Fort Dallas land to build her home. A woman of great foresight, Tut-



Above: Fort Dallas on the north side of the Miami River (HASF, 1975-50-1)

Below: Spanish-American War soldiers and prisoners. (HASF, X-275-1). The flood of soldiers in 1898 greatly affected the young Miami population, numbering less than 2,000 at the beginning of the century. The lack of housing forced the troops to set up tent encampments, in which 7,500 troops were forced to live for several months.



tle prophesied that a great city would someday arise in the area, one that would become a center of trade with South America and a gateway to the Americas.

Across the river from Tuttle lived William and Mary Brickell and their large family. The Brickells arrived in Miami at the outset of the 1870s, and quickly established themselves as successful Indian traders as well as shrewd real estate investors.

Meanwhile, Henry M. Flagler, a multi-millionaire from his partnership with John D. Rockefeller in Standard Oil, was extending his railroad south along Florida's east coast, and developing cities and resorts along the way. In 1894, Flagler's railway entered West Palm Beach.

During the following year, in the wake of two devastating freezes that wreaked havoc on Florida's farm crops but failed to reach Miami, Flagler met with Julia Tuttle. He agreed to extend his railway to Miami in exchange for hundreds of acres of prime real estate from Tuttle and the Brickells.

Additionally, the great industrialist agreed to lay the foundations for a city on both sides of the Miami River and build a magnificent hotel near the confluence of the river and Biscayne Bay. Flagler had been quietly planning this extension long before his fateful meeting with Tuttle, since he wanted to bring his railroad all the way to Key West and

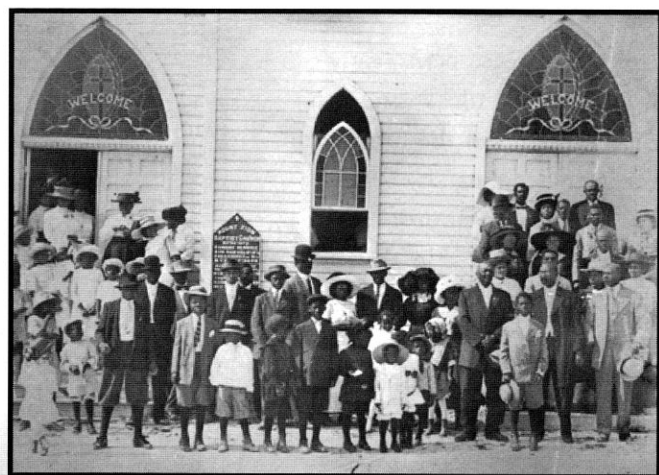
link it with other parts of his vast system, which included a steamboat line and a resort in the Bahamas.

The first train entered Miami on April 13, 1896. By then a city was arising on both sides of the Miami River. The heart of the community was a retail district along Avenue D (today's Miami Avenue) emerging north of the river, in an area of piney woods.

On July 28, 1896, 344 registered voters, a sizable percentage of whom were black laborers, packed into the Lobby, a wood frame building on Avenue D standing near the Miami River. They voted for the incorporation of the City of Miami, along with the Flagler slate of candidates.

By then, the trappings and institutions that accompany developing communities everywhere, such as a newspaper, bank, stores, and churches, had appeared. What separated Miami from other frontier communities was Henry M. Flagler's magnificent Royal Palm Hotel.

Standing five stories tall (its rotunda in the center added another story to the structure), the yellow frame building was topped by a red mansard roof and counted among



Mt. Zion church on NW 3rd Avenue and NW 9th Street, ca. 1920. This church still stands in Overtown at the same location. (HASF, 1988-102-5)

Seminole Indian woman, ca. 1925 (HASF, 5-30 Matlack)

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many prominent features a 578-foot long verandah. The building contained more than 400 rooms.

Soon after it opened in January 1897, the Royal Palm became a popular resort for America's Gilded Age princes, including John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie and the Vanderbilt family.

Miami endured a series of traumas during its first years as a city. A fire destroyed much of the business district on the morning after Christmas 1896. Restless, troublesome and even violent troops among the 7,500 men bivouacked in Camp Miami during the Spanish-American War of 1898 threatened the residents of the small community. The following year a fearsome yellow fever epidemic forced many families out of their homes to seek temporary, safe housing until the disease subsided.

In spite of these perils, early Miami grew quickly and by the beginning of the new century, the fledgling city contained 1,681 residents. Tourism and agriculture represented its chief economic endeavors. New neighborhoods appeared on both sides of the river. Miami had shed its frontier ambiance for that of a small southern town.

Significant projects in the century's first decade dictated future directions. Henry Flagler succeeded in securing federal funds for the construction of a deep water channel as well as for the dredging of the Government Cut, connecting Miami's new bayfront port with the Atlantic Ocean lying several miles east of it. Flagler was also instrumental in connecting the Keys through the extension of the Florida East Coast Railway to Key West, some 120 miles south of Miami.

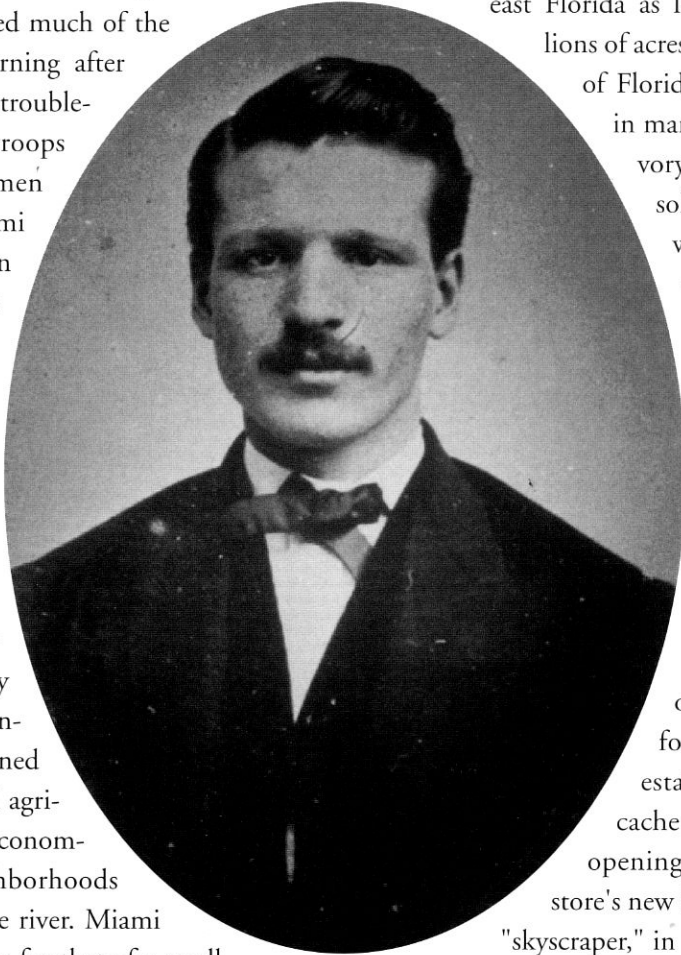
"LAND BY THE GALLON"

The State of Florida embarked on an ambitious program of Everglades drainage in 1906. Its goal was to provide fertile

new lands for agriculture. Two years later, a dredge started digging a drainage ditch near the headwaters of the Miami River, and by 1913, the Miami Canal connected the river with Lake Okeechobee, while the water from the swamp-land was carried out to sea along connecting waterways.

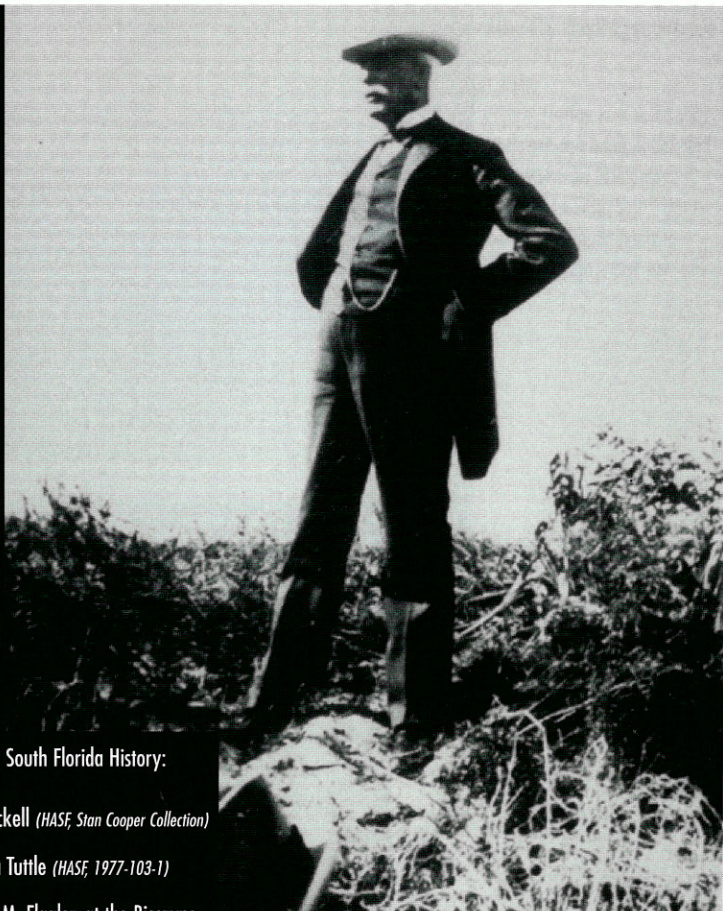
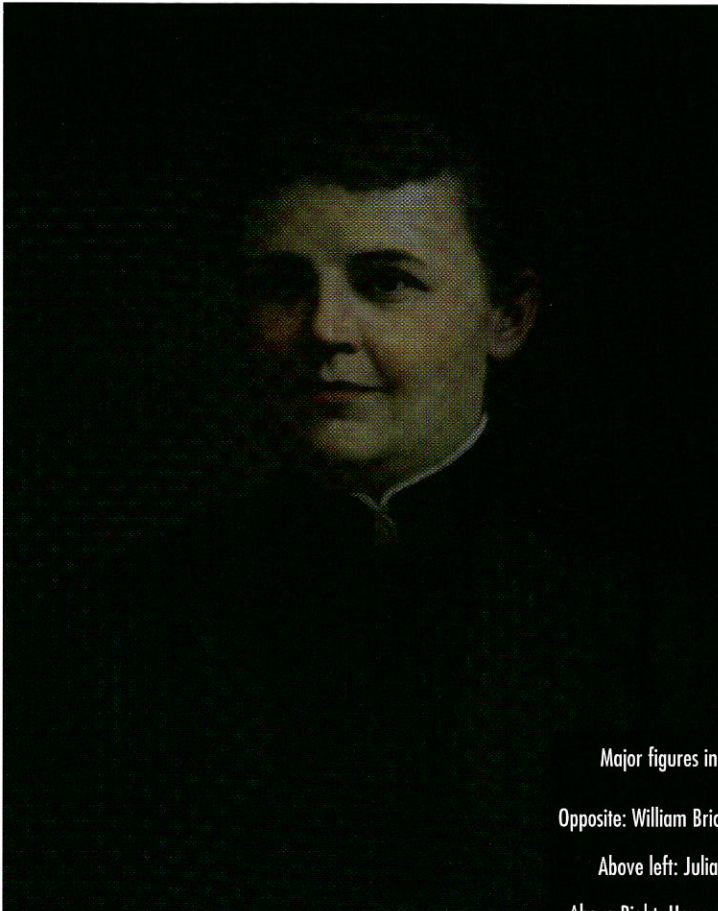
Everglades Reclamation (or drainage) led to the birth of a feverish real estate industry for Miami and much of southeast Florida as large speculators purchased millions of acres of reclaimed land from the State of Florida, then marketed it aggressively in many parts of the nation. The unsavory sales tactics of promoters who sold unwitting investors land that was underwater earned for Miami an enduring reputation for marketing "land by the gallon."

By 1910, Miami's population had soared to nearly 5,500, while the number of tourists and new business establishments rose sharply. Twelfth Street, today's Flagler Street, had eclipsed Avenue D as Miami's most important thoroughfare becoming the address for the city's leading business establishments. Twelfth Street's cachet continued to rise with the opening of the Burdine department store's new five-story building, the city's first "skyscraper," in 1912.



COLORED TOWN

Colored Town arose in the immediate aftermath of the city's incorporation when land deeds to property within the municipal limits prohibited its sale to blacks everywhere except for that quarter. Despite deep pockets of poverty and a glaring absence of municipal amenities found elsewhere, this "suburb" hosted a rich array of enterprises, institutions and activities. The quarter's main thoroughfare was Avenue G (Northwest Second Avenue), known as Little Broadway for its nightclubs and dance halls, as well as the sparkling roster of nationally renowned black entertainers who visited and performed in those attractions.



Major figures in South Florida History:

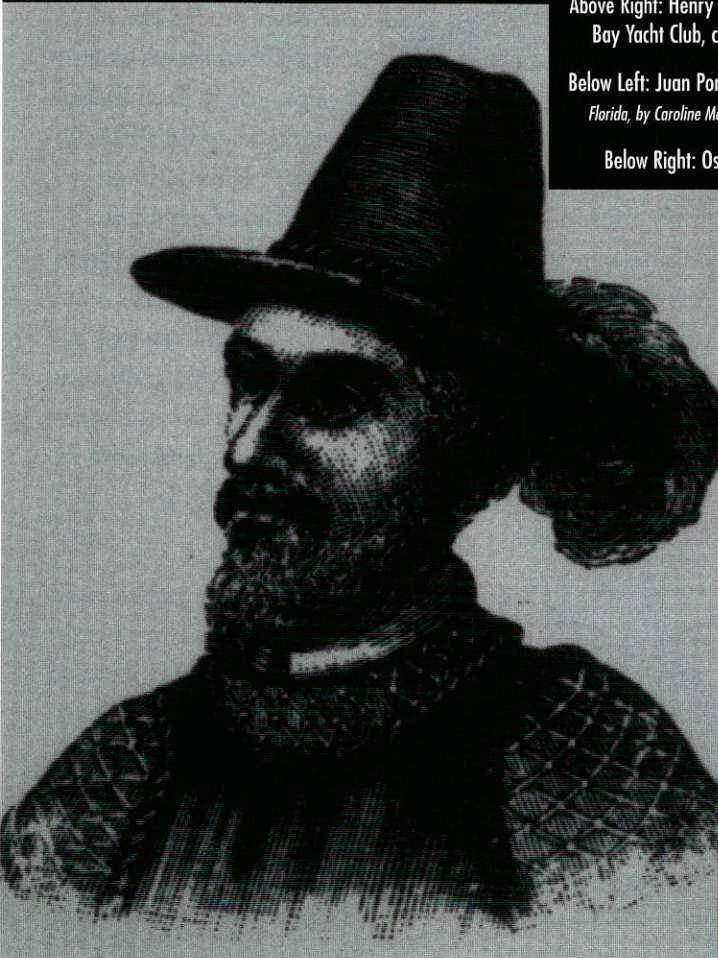
Opposite: William Brickell (*HASF, Stan Cooper Collection*)

Above left: Julia Tuttle (*HASF, 1977-103-1*)

Above Right: Henry M. Flagler, at the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club, ca. 1900 (*HASF, 1987-5-43*)

Below Left: Juan Ponce de Leon (*From A History of Florida, by Caroline Mays Brevard, HASF, 1981-93-3*)

Below Right: Osceola (*HASF, 1989-023-4*)



Right: Howard Gill standing by his plane during Miami's 15th anniversary celebration (HASF, 1976-51-7)



Below: John and E.V. Sewell in front of their store, ca. 1920 (HASF, X-645-1)



Black Miami grew quickly, comprising twenty-five to forty percent of Miami's population in its first generation of existence. Later called Overtown, this region would grow rapidly before experiencing a period of steep decline beginning in the 1960s for a host of reasons, including the construction of an extensive expressway system that ripped through the heart of the quarter and led to the displacement of 20,000 residents (about one-half of its population).

MIAMI'S FIRST FLIGHT

Miami's boisterous 15th birthday celebration in 1911 featured an aerialist soaring in a Wright Brothers airplane over a Flagler-built golf course west of Colored Town. For most Miamians this event marked their first glimpse of an airplane. The experience served as a harbinger for the city's emergence as one of the nation's early aviation centers, since Miami's climate, level topography, and close proximity to water made it ideally suited for aviation activity.

Soon after the inaugural aerial display, Glenn Curtiss, a famed aviator, arrived and established a flight school. By the time America entered World War I in 1917, Miami and the surrounding area hosted several flying schools, including a facility near the Miami Canal that Curtiss operated for future combat pilots in the Great War.

BEAUTY OF MIAMI

Tourism boomed before and after World War I primarily through the efforts of Everest G. Sewell, a self-taught public relations whiz who headed the Miami Chamber of Commerce's tourist promotional campaign. Many prominent

visitors built large, stately homes along beautiful Brickell Avenue, creating a "Millionaire's Row." The thoroughfare's most prominent resident was William Jennings Bryan, presidential candidate and a sterling orator, who regaled crowds in Miami's Royal Palm Park with his Sunday Bible addresses. Bryan's beautiful Villa Serena was overshadowed, however, by James Deering's Villa Vizcaya, a multi-million dollar Renaissance-era palazzo with extensive gardens overlooking Biscayne Bay. Built between 1914 and 1916, Vizcaya employed ten percent of Miami's population in its construction.

Miami was already booming when the Roaring Twenties began. The city's population had climbed to nearly 30,000, a 440 percent increase over the figure for 1910. It represented the largest per capita increase of any municipality in the nation. Its expanding borders now extended several miles in each direction beyond the original parameters. At the outset of the 1920s, *The Miami Herald* marveled at the "astounding growth of Miami as a tourist center." Increasing numbers of tourists remained in the area



Left: The first train arriving in Miami by Ken Hughes (HASF, 1980-40-5)

Below: Florida East Coast souvenir playing card, back featuring orange blossoms and the Florida State Seal, front portraying speed boats in 1930s regatta. (HASF, 1981-28-11)

after the winter season had ended, many becoming permanent residents. But this growth would pale by comparison with what lay ahead — the onset of the great real estate boom of the mid-1920s.

THE LAND BOOM

Speculation brought people from all parts of the nation to Florida in quest of quick wealth in the overheated Florida real estate market and Miami was its storm center. In the late summer of 1925, as the boom neared its zenith, nearly 1,000 subdivisions were under construction in Miami and its environs. Speculators were selling lots several miles from the city's center for fantastic profits. Beautiful developments bearing a Spanish eclectic or Mediterranean Revival style of architecture arose in areas that had only recently been farms or woodland. Most prominent here were the sparkling new municipalities of Coral Gables and Miami Shores.

The annexation of Lemon City, Coconut Grove, and other historic communities and neighborhoods in 1925 led to the expansion of the city of Miami from 13 to 43 square miles. This event, together with a population that unofficially stood in excess of 100,000 by 1925, was indicative of Miami's emerging status as a metropolitan area.

The boom was accompanied by a breakdown in law and order. Bootleggers sold liquor obtained from the nearby Bahama Islands or from local moonshine stills to thirsty "boomers" and natives oblivious to Prohibition and its enforcement. Owing in part to the wrenching changes that accompanied the boom, the rate of violent deaths (homicides, suicides, and accidents) for Miami and Dade County in the middle years of the 1920s, was greater than at anytime since the state of Florida began record keeping.

AND THE BUST

The boom began dissipating in 1926. Wary speculators backed off from further investment in light of inflation, and a series of setbacks brought construction to a standstill. The spring and summer of 1926 witnessed a mass exodus of speculators. The boom was over.



In September, a hurricane with winds of 125 miles per hour smashed into the Miami area, with a portion of the eye passing over downtown. More than 100 Miamians and Dade County residents lost their lives in the storm. Thousands of homes were destroyed. Unfinished subdivisions were leveled. The entire region was plunged into a severe economic depression three years before the rest of the nation.

Miami weathered the Great Depression of the 1930s better than many other communities. This was due in part to the advent of commercial aviation; — Pan American Airways and Eastern Airlines established headquarters in the Magic City — and a resurgent tourism in the second half of the decade.

Tourism was pegged to special events and activities such as the Orange Bowl Festival, which began in the mid-1930s, and became a popular tourist draw.

New Deal programs put more than 16,000 Miamians to work, building fire stations, schools, and post offices.

The federal government was also responsible, in this era for the creation of Liberty Square, one of the nation's first black public housing projects. It arose in Liberty City, a new African-American community in the city's northwest sector.

WORLD WAR II

America's entry into World War II in 1941, led to a radical shift in Miami's fortunes, as the city and other parts of Dade County became a huge training base for hundreds of thousands of members of the armed services. Dimouts and blackouts were the rule in the early part of the conflict due to the German submarines in nearby waters.

The United States Navy operated a submarine chaser



Above: Flagler street during the 1920s boom (HASF, 1978-68-281)

Below: Prinz Valdemar run aground in Biscayne Bay (HASF, X-244-X)



school, also known as the "Donald Duck Navy," from the busy port of Miami. The headquarters for the Navy's Gulf Sea Frontier, which oversaw naval operations in this region, was located in the Alfred I. DuPont Building.

The Army Air Force Transport Command took control of the municipal airport at NW 36th Street.

Local businesses, such as shipbuilding and upholstering, worked double shifts on government contracted projects. Miami enthusiastically met its war bond quotas helped by weekly patriotic parades along downtown's Flagler Street.

The Magic City was even involved in the Japanese surrender. Paul Tibbitts, a Miamian, commanded the Enola Gay, a B-29 airplane named for his mother, herself a resident of Miami's Riverside neighborhood. The Enola Gay dropped the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima in August 1945. One week later the Japanese surrendered, ending the most destructive war in the history of humankind.

"SAND IN THEIR SHOES"

Postwar Miami bustled as never before. Many veterans who had trained here during the war had acquired "sand in their shoes," and returned as permanent residents. The new Miamians represented one ingredient in a new boom whose impact was evidenced by soaring enrollments at the University of Miami, a suburban building explosion, and



Left: Port of Miami ribbon cutting ceremony, June 7, 1967
(HASF, 1981-99-110)
Background: Miami Vice actors - Don Johnson and Philip
Michael Thomas (HASF, MNC 1989-011-21639)

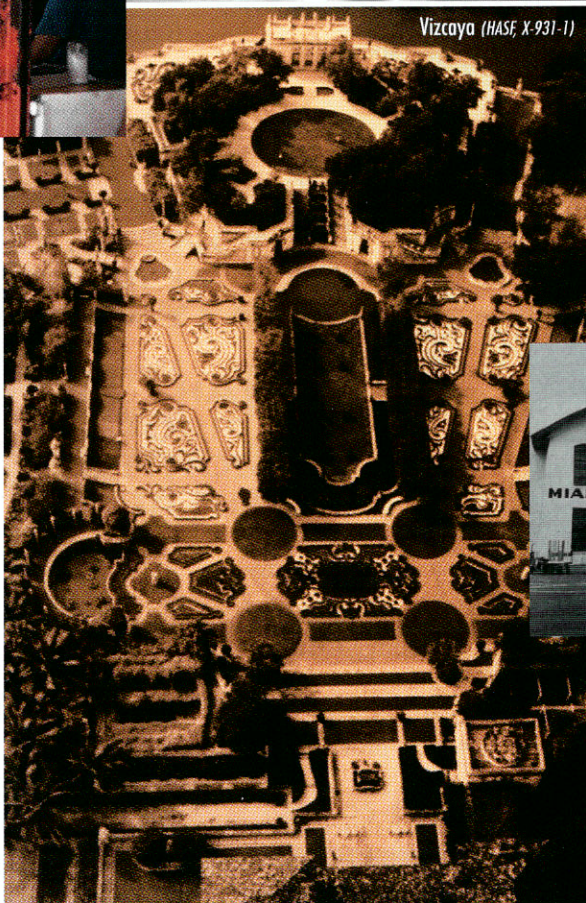
Cafeteria in Little Havana (HASF, 1989-75-11a)



Gloria Estefan (HASF, MNC 1989-011-26507)



Vizcaya (HASF, X-931-1)



Little Haiti
(HASF, 1989-115-30)



Miami International Airport, 1930s
(HASF, 1981-99-76)

Tank in downtown Miami during WW II. The Du Pont Building is in the background.
(HASF, MNC 1989-011-18456)



record numbers of winter visitors, especially on Miami Beach.

Change was everywhere, most notably in such vital sectors of the economy as aviation. The creation of the Dade County Port Authority resulted in the purchase of Pan Am Field, and its merger with the Army Air Transport Field led to the creation of Miami International Airport.

Increasingly, Dade county was assuming a more important role over the destiny of its citizens. Miami delegated some of its powers to that entity, as in the case of city-operated Jackson Memorial Hospital, which became a county facility in this period. At the beginning of the 1950s, the Port of Miami came under the joint management of the governments of Dade County and the City of Miami, preparatory to the construction of a new port on Dodge Island.

The county's growing powers culminated in the creation of a Metropolitan form of government, which provided for the consolidation of many of the functions and services, formerly provided by Dade's separate municipalities, within one entity.

By 1950, the City of Miami contained 172,000 residents, or little more than one-third of the county's population. Miami remained a Southern city but one with a prominent Jewish community and a large annual tourist population. The races were segregated, and would remain so until desegregation brought vast changes in society in the 1960s. Miamians called their city "Miamah," as earlier residents had, with more than a trace of a Southern accent.

A NEW ELLIS ISLAND

One of the city's most defining moments came in 1959 with Fidel Castro's takeover of Cuba. Castro's transformation of the island nation into a Marxist state led to a vast exodus of Cubans to Miami. Many of the first wave of refugees were highly educated persons who left behind successful careers and businesses.

Their presence in older Miami neighborhoods helped revitalize areas that had been suffering from an exodus of middle class residents to the new suburbs ringing the city. Moreover, the business acumen of many exiles was a boon to the city and region's economy, while their vibrant culture brought new life to their new home.

At the same time, Miami and South Florida became a center for intrigue as America's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) prepared a force of exiles for an armed overthrow of Castro's government. But the failure of the CIA-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, and an agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, providing that the former would refrain from invading Cuba, left a bitter taste in the mouths of many Cubans toward the government of their adopted country.

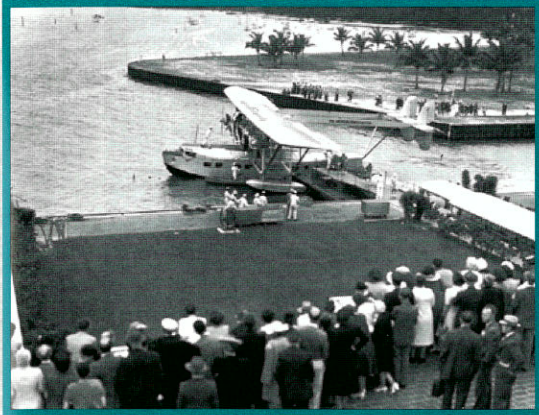
Nineteen sixty-five marked the beginning of the U.S. sponsored "Freedom Flights," a massive airlift of Cubans to Miami. By the time of their termination in 1973, more than 3,000 "Freedom Flights" had delivered 150,000 Cubans to America, primarily to Miami and its environs, and in the process had instituted the radical transformation of the city into a Latin American capital.

By the 1980s, the large Cuban refugee population, whose countywide numbers by the end of the decade exceeded 600,000, was actively engaged in the political process, dominating the government of the City of Miami, as well as those of neighboring communities. Through its fervent anti-Communism stance it added a more conservative bent

Below: Pan Am clipper ship at today's Miami City Hall (HASF, 1985-136-3)
Background Photo (HASF, X-491-96)

to the city's politics. Little Havana, the initial entry point for early waves of Cubans, had additionally become, by the 1980s, the destination for refugees from other countries in the hemisphere, especially Nicaragua.

In Miami's northern sector, refugees from Haiti, the poorest nation in the hemisphere, were pouring into Lemon City and transforming that bastion of old Miami into a vibrant black Caribbean community. By the 1980s, that neighborhood had come to be known as Little Haiti.



Clearly, Miami could claim for itself in the century's final decades the persona of a new Ellis Island for persons fleeing troubled countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. Miami's place as a refugee haven, however, placed tremen-

dous financial burdens upon it, and left it one of the poorest cities in the United States by the 1990s.

RIOTS AND VICE

The influx of refugees who vied with blacks for many entry level jobs, and were perceived by the latter as receiving special governmental benefits denied them, led to simmering tensions between them and resentful residents of Liberty City, Brownsville and other native black communities.

Black Miamians were also instrumental in affecting another major transformation of the city, as they began, in the 1960s, to spread beyond their cramped confines into adjacent white neighborhoods in Miami's northern sectors, dramatically changing their demographics.

Despite gains realized by Miami's African Americans in the aftermath of desegregation, poverty and crime remained disproportionately high among the race, while black anger over the perceived inequities and biases of the criminal justice system led to a series of searing riots, beginning in the summer of 1968, at the time of the Republican Party's Presidential nominating convention on Miami Beach.

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Another riot in May 1980, following the acquittal of several white policemen by an all white jury in the brutal killing of Arthur McDuffie, a black businessman, resulted in the loss of eighteen lives and property damages in excess of \$50 million. It was the worst race riot up to that time in American history.

Adding to Miami's woes in recent decades has been the city's notoriety as a haven for drugs, especially cocaine, brought in from Latin America, and the pervasive problem of crime. Drugs, along with its propensity for political intrigue, has given Miami an image of a subtropical Casablanca. This image was burnished by "Miami Vice," a popular television program of the 1980s, well as numerous



movies playing to this theme.

PROGRESS AND DIVERSITY

For all of its problems, Miami could point to a lengthy list of accomplishments. In 1960, Dade County Junior College, today's Miami Dade Community College, opened its doors for the first time in the Magic City. The largest community college in the world, Miami-Dade was, by the mid-1990s, preparing nearly 125,000 full and part-time students for more productive, fulfilling lives.

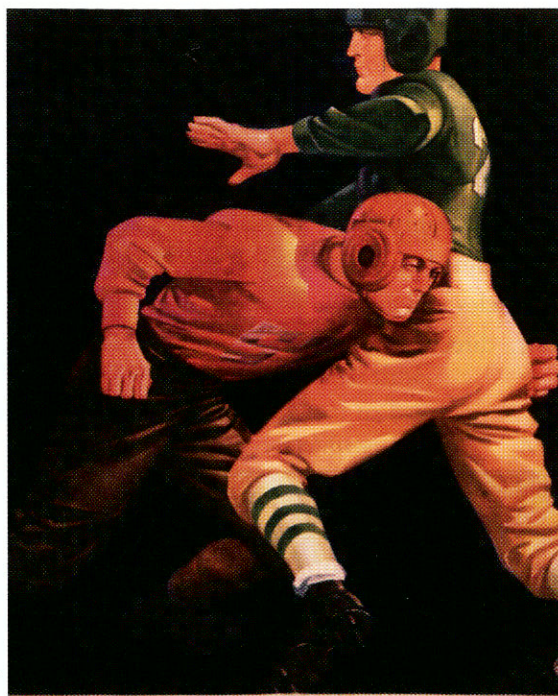
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Since
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Florida International University, which opened in 1972, has already carved an enviable place for itself among America's institutions of higher learning. Since the 1960s, Miami has become one of the nation's most important centers for high school, college and professional athletics, with championship teams represented at each level. This achievement has knitted together periodically—and temporarily—the disparate denizens of Greater Miami.

The passage, in the early 1970s, of the county's "Decade of Progress" bond issue led to the opening of several important cultural and educational institutions in downtown Miami. Downtown underwent a significant renaissance in the century's final decades with the appearance of glistening new downtown skyscrapers, scenic retail facilities, and a vital educational complex within close proximity to the Port of Miami, home to the greatest collection of cruise ships and the largest number of



4TH Annual Orange Bowl Classic
AUBURN vs. MICHIGAN STATE
New Year's Day, 1938 PRICE 20¢ Miami, Florida
 Above: 4th Annual Orange Bowl Classic program, 1938
 Opposite Page: (inset photo) Haitian refugees (HASF, X-1098-1)
 Disturbance in Opa Locka, 1971 (HASF, MNC 1989-011-4813)

vacationers of any port in the world.

Nearby Brickell Avenue has emerged as a center of commerce, with its shimmering glass skyscrapers, home to untold numbers of foreign banks and other financial institutions. Coconut Grove remains one of the city's most picturesque and exciting neighborhoods.

Today Miami contains approximately 375,000 residents. One hundred fifty-thousand of them are Cuban; other Hispanics number about 100,000. More than one-half of Dade County's two million residents are Hispanic, making it the largest county in the nation with a Hispanic majority.

With their wide array of cultures, languages, lifestyles, and festivals, multicultural Miami and Dade County represent one of America's most vibrant, colorful communities.

Miami has made extraordinary progress in its brief century

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as an incorporated entity. All indicators point to its growing importance as a nexus of trade and finance for the Americas, and as a hallowed sanctuary for peoples fleeing tyranny in our hemisphere in the twenty-first century. A major ingredient for its continued success over unprecedented challenges and obstacles will come from its willingness to draw comfort, direction and inspiration from its proud past. 🍊

Paul S. George has been a teacher, author and student of his hometown's history for two decades. He obtained his doctorate in history from Florida State University and is currently historian for the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and assistant professor in Social Sciences at the Wolfson Campus of Miami-Dade Community College. One of Miami's most popular historians, hundreds know Dr. George from his historic neighborhood walking, boat, bus and Metrorail tours conducted throughout the year. He lives in Miami with his wife, Laura, and two sons.

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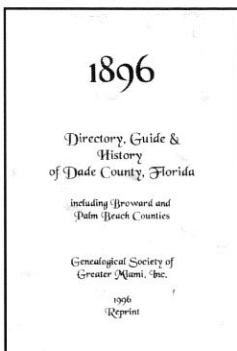
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1896 DIRECTORY, GUIDE & HISTORY OF DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA. MIAMI: GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER MIAMI, 1996. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1995. 240 pages. \$49.95.

Book review by Rebecca A. Smith,

Old city directories are glorified telephone books, offering peeks into the minutiae of yesteryear with lists of residents and businesses. They go telephone books one better, however, by adding essays about the region, photographs, advertisements and sections arranged by street address, a blessing for those researching the history of a particular location. Sometimes, they even include telephone numbers.



It is no wonder then, that many issues of the Miami City Directory in the museum's archives and at the Florida Collection of Miami-Dade Public Library are tattered and worn from decades of loving use by researchers. Recognizing their popularity, the Historical Association reprinted the 1904 City Directory in the 1970s, enabling one to browse that year in the comfort of one's home.

Until recently, only a few intrepid researchers knew that the earliest directory dates to 1896, not 1904.

This incredibly rare, slender volume has been hidden away, in the securest areas of a few Floridiana collections, on the shelves reserved for the frailest and rarest of volumes. At this time, only three copies are known to have survived. The Historical Museum is fortunate to have one of these original volumes, on display until September 29 in the centennial exhibition, Miami: the First 100 Years.

For the centennial, the Genealogical Society of Greater Miami has reprinted this little known treasure, from the Historical Museum's copy. Now, at last, it is available to all.

The 1896 directory covers all of Dade County, which at that time included present-day Palm Beach and Broward counties. It contains directories of merchants, advertisements, a chronology of events from 1894-early 1896, a short history, and descriptions of various settlements, agriculture, Indians, and businesses. Unlike the later directories, it does not list individual residents. Never-the-less, it provides a detailed portrait of southeast Florida one hundred years ago, from the perspective of the businessmen of the time. The 1896 directory will delight the casual browser and the serious scholar alike.

Copies of the reprinted 1896 directory can be perused in the Historical Museum's Research Center and at the public library. To purchase a copy for your personal library, contact the Genealogical Society of Greater Miami, P.O. Box 162905, Miami, Florida 33116-2905.

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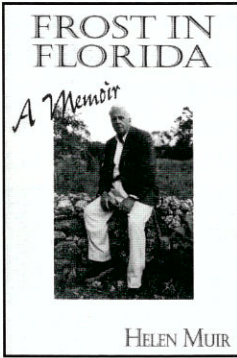
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FROST IN FLORIDA: A MEMOIR

by Helen Muir, Miami: Valiant Press Inc., 1995. 187 pages. \$19.95

Book review by Martha L. Reiner

Helen Muir closes *Frost in Florida: A Memoir* with the idea that “setting forth several sides of a question and thereby encouraging people to think for themselves” was part of what Robert Frost did best.



Publicist, reporter and historian Muir follows Frost’s example as she reflects on what it meant to be the poet’s friend. She tells of the shock friends felt as the publication of Lawrence Thompson’s official biography of Frost; according to a *New York Times* review, the poet was “a monster.”

Muir conveys Lesley Frost Ballantine’s conviction that poetry, not ambition, drove her father. Ballantine suggested that Frost thought he was like Job, someone God planned to give a hard time. Frost did face adversity and several tragedies.

Yet Frost was very generous. When Muir brought him insect repellent, Frost bought her chocolates. He gave children from Brewster Village milk and cookies. Frost created communities of intelligent conversation. Many of these were in South Florida — in Coconut Grove, Key West, South Miami and the University of Miami.

The poet who brought us stark New England landscapes and sometimes introspective character formation became a “Florida farmer.” On five acres at Davis Road, Southwest 80th

Street, Frost built a prefabricated cottage. Part of Frost’s social life was cultivating luxuriant foliage with David Fairchild and with University of Miami chemist Elmer Hjort. Frost also enjoyed the flurries of travel that accompanied being here for “the season.”

Muir first interviewed Frost on her fifth wedding anniversary, January 23, 1941, after novelist-poet Hervey Allen gave her Frost’s address. Frost was renting a house on Ohio Street in Coconut Grove while he got ready to build the cottage he would call Pencil Pines. “Robert Frost was charming to me,” Muir wrote in her journal afterward. She did not answer Frost’s note about the interview. She was busy taking on Philip Wylie’s former role as publicist for the Commit-

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tee to Defend America by Giving Aid to the Allies and was starting a Women in Defense radio show. Still, Muir and Frost became friends.


Robert and his wife Elinor first visited Miami in 1934. They stayed at the McAllister Hotel. Their doctor had ordered them south, and Frost gave the final address for the University of Miami Winter Institute of Literature. It was extremely cold that December. Even though the McAllister had steam heat, the Frosts went down to Key West. In later visits there, Frost would play tennis with Pauline, Ernest Hemingway's second wife, and talk with Wallace Stevens.

Elinor died of a heart attack in 1938, in Gainesville. As Frost restructured his life, he chose Miami for his winters. He built two cottages. He bought prefabricated parts, as Allen had.

In her memoir of a friendship lasting more than two decades, Muir does more than show the private Frost at home with his friends in Florida. She also examines the public Frost.

In his later years, Frost was "positioning himself toward Washington." As a child, he had participated in local Democratic politics and likely was marked by his father's grave disappointment at losing a race to become tax assessor of San Francisco.

Testifying to a Senate subcommittee in 1960, Frost called for institutions to give culture the kind of support that science has in the United States. He read his "The Gift Outright" at President Kennedy's inauguration.



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