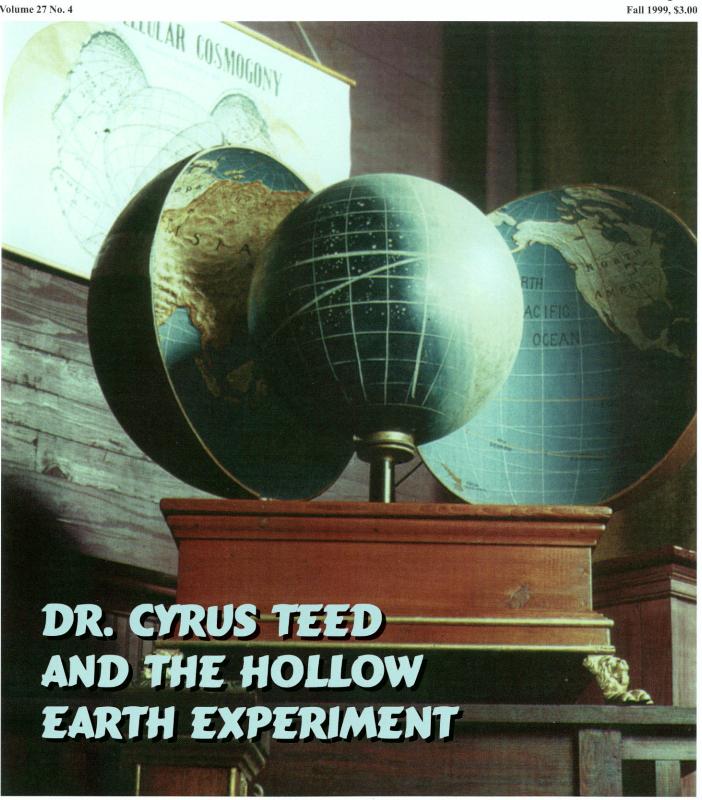
South Florida History

Volume 27 No. 4



FORT MYERS HISTORICAL MUSEUM • CLEWISTON MUSEUM • BOCA RATON HISTORICAL SOCIETY FLORIDA HISTORY CENTER & MUSEUM • HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PALM BEACH COUNTY • COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUM





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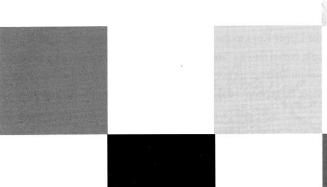
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editor's notes



By Stuart McIver

Let's pretend the year is 1899 and you're sitting out on your front porch, fanning yourself to keep cool, swatting mosquitoes, shooing flies and talking with a few of your close friends. Your topic is an interesting one. You are all musing about what might lie ahead when you reach the magic year, 1900,

and move into a new century.

Could you or any of your friends possibly have predicted: television; organ transplants; jet planes; computers; AIDS; sports utility vehicles; rock and roll; cell phones; AK-47s; chemotherapy; shopping centers; the atomic bomb; voice mail; crack cocaine; moon launches; Viagra or fast-food franchises?

Could you have predicted a World Series victory for the Florida Marlins? Not a chance. When the new century started there was no such entity as the Marlins. In fact, there wasn't a World Series either. Nor could you have foreseen two Super Bowl victories for the Miami Dolphins. The concept of pro football didn't even exist.

In 1899 Henry Flagler's railroad had operated in South Florida less than a decade, long enough for considerable impact but nothing to compare with what lay ahead. The latest census, 1890, counted 726 people living in a Dade

County that stretched from the Upper Keys to the St. Lucie River. Today some four million people crowd into an area known these days as the Gold Coast. In an important election in 1899 only 187 people voted in the entire county. More dead people than that vote just in Miami these days.

Could you and your friends have possibly foreseen the number of people who would come flocking into South Florida? Cars were rarely seen in 1899, and good roads were almost non-existent. No one had any reason to build a gas station, so how would you gas your car up? It was not until 1915 that the Dixie Highway Pathfinders, led by one of the road's major founders, Carl Fisher, completed their drive from Chicago to Miami, finally linking the southeast coast with the large population centers of the Midwest.

Unless you were struck with a vision, you could not have foreseen what followed — noisy automobiles, SUVs, motorcycles, pickup trucks and 18-wheelers racing swiftly along a network of interstates, state and county roads and city streets.

Travelers in 1899 came to South Florida mostly by train, but also by boat and to more remote areas by stagecoach, horseback or foot-power. In the 20th century the roar of jet planes heralded the arrival of more visitors.

People who came by a bone-jarring stagecoach could have had no idea how comfortable a fancy automobile would be by the end of the century ahead. Could you have foreseen that car drivers could enjoy cool air from an air-conditioner or

listening to the latest news on their radio or to music or an audio book on their auto's stereophonic cassette player? They might also be talking on a cell phone just before swerving into another car and creating a wreck which would in turn create a monster traffic jam.

But sitting there on your porch in 1899 you would have no idea of what a traffic jam might be.

As the 19th century drew to a close, Floridians were still savoring America's impressive military victory over Spain in the Spanish-American War of 1898. President William McKinley sat in the White House and the likelihood was strong that he would run again as the Republican nominee. Would his opponent once again be William Jennings Bryan, the reform minded Democrat?

It would have been easy to predict
McKinley would once again run against Bryan
and win a second time. It would have been
impossible for your front porch group to

foresee that in September of 1901 President McKinley would have been killed by an assassin's bullet and his office assumed by one of the great heroes of the war, Theodore Roosevelt. Nor could the group have foreseen that Bryan would retire to Miami and work as a spokesman for George Merrick's Coral Gables development. And to carry it one step farther how could your group guess that his daughter, Ruth Bryan Owen, would join her father here and become the first woman ever elected to Congress from the southeastern states? Her election would have been a tough call because in 1899 women could not even vote. Who in 1899 could have predicted how many women would sit in Congress, hold Cabinet positions or serve as governors all over the country a hundred years later? And who in 1999 can predict how many will hold high government and business positions by the end of the 21st century?

Teddy Roosevelt rode his success in Cuba into the presidency. Florida also

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President
Randy F. Nimnicht

EditorsStuart McIver and Jamie Welch

Editorial Assistance
Jodi Weitz, Becky Smith
Roxanne Cappello, Rita Perez

Advisor

Dr. Paul George

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produced a Spanish-American War hero in Napoleon Bonaparte Broward. Broward earned his popularity, not on the battlefield, but as a gun-runner smuggling firearms to Cubans rebelling against Spanish rule. And like Teddy, Broward used his fame to move into the governor's seat in Tallahassee in 1907.

Could you in 1899 have looked ahead to the Broward years and predicted their effect on the Florida Everglades? Broward believed draining the Glades would create thousands of acres of fertile farmland. Farmers would be able to make a decent living, he reasoned, and the state would quickly become America's winter vegetable capital. Drainage did create farmland, but look at the environmental problems it left behind. Not many predicted it.

The 1899 front porch gang would have had trouble with so many side effects from the war. But what about the impact of Cuba itself on Florida? A Spanish colony for centuries and now the island could look ahead to a future as a free country. Who could possibly have foreseen how events in Cuba would reach into the world of South Florida some six decades later? Not even Nostradamus predicted Castro.

When the 20th century started, Floridians could look back on a few bad storms, but how could you have forecast the after effects of such disasters as the 1928 hurricane? That deadly storm took more than 1,800 lives when its wind-swept waters covered the farmlands south of Lake Okeechobee. The federal government built the Hoover Dike, the first serious effort to control future weather catastrophes here. Then, an even bigger flood came in 1947, thus setting in motion a very large flood control program. But could all these precautions hold off the dreaded "hundred-years storm" which might or might not occur in the next century? Global warming? Who knows what it might do?

History magazines are at their best tracking down the past. We are not usually too adept at predicting the future, but then no one else is either. Our mythical front porch gang didn't do too good a job in 1899, but there's no reason to believe we can do any better in 1999. Still, we can come inside where the air-conditioner gives us a comfortable temperature, mosquitoes no longer bother us and we can watch while television gives us the latest horror predictions on — what else? Y2K. -SFH

Editor's Note: On pages 10 and 13 of the Summer, 1999 issue, Alfred Munroe, "Uncle Alfred," was incorrectly called "Uncle Ralph." We apologize for the mistake.



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SPECIAL EVENTS

HISTORIC PURSUIT LIMO RALLY

Saturday, October 9, 1999

This is the most outrageously fun way to learn history in the history of historic pursuit! Help the Tropees raise funds for the Historical Museum at this scavenger hunt/ progressive cocktail party. Don't get left behind! Call (305) 375-1492.

SEVENTH ANNUAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM GOLF CLASSIC AND SILENT AUCTION October 27, 1999

Historic Biltmore Golf Course and Hotel, 1210 Anastasia Avenue, Coral Gables. The Historical Museum's Golf Classic is a "Best Ball" tournament benefiting educational programs. Call Pat Helms at (305) 375-1492.

*"LINKING THE FUTURE WITH THE PAST"*SILENT AUCTION

October 27, 1999

Join us for a night of fun! Bid on fabulous and unique auction items, enjoy a scrumptious buffet dinner, open bar and entertainment. Walk away with one of many door prizes and one lucky winner will receive half of the money raised in the 50/50 Cash Drawing. For more information, contact Carolyn Gonzalez at (305) 375-1492.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

November 20-21, 1999, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition Center, Coral Way and SW 112 Avenue. If you've started shopping for that perfect holiday gift, you might want to stop by the 27th annual Harvest Festival presented by the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. Craft artists will display items ranging from wood crafts to toys and miniatures, quilts and much more. Admission: \$6 for adults, \$2 for children (5-12).

SCROOGE HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, December 9, 1999

Get Scrooged with the HMSF's young professionals group, the Tropees, at their annual holiday party fundraiser.

MIAMI: THE GATEWAY CITY FALL PROGRAM SERIES Fall, 1999

Turn to page 9, or call for information on this cultural series. 305-375-1492

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

CUBA: PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID ALAN HARVEY

October 1 - October 30, 1999

This exhibit will showcase 75-100 images from *National Geographic* photographer Dave Harvey, whose work is the result of a recent six-month stay in Cuba. The exhibit will include a film narrative of Harvey as he documents the streets of Havana. *National Geographic's Cuba* will also offer a rare look at images of pre-Castro Cuba from *National Geographic's* archives.

MYTHS AND DREAMS: EXPLORING THE CULTURAL LEGACIES OF FLORIDA AND THE CARIBBEAN

November 12, 1999 - January 23, 2000

The milestone of beginning a new millennium affords us the opportunity to contemplate our past and consider our future. Visitors will be able to compare and contrast a variety of American experiences as they explore the question, "What do we Americans share as our common heritage?" Focusing primarily on Florida, Yucatan and the Caribbean, *Myths and Dreams* will explore the broad range of cultures and foreign influences that comprise American culture in Florida.

GATEWAY OF THE AMERICAS

Preview the work-in-progress multimedia addition to the museum's permanent exhibit, *Tropical Dreams: A People's History of Southern Florida*. Using computers and audio and video components, explore the last fifty years of southern Florida's development, a burst of activity that produced more changes in the area than any other time period since its settlement.



The Historical Society of Palm Beach County, 400 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, FL 33401 561-832-4164. A nonprofit membership organization devoted to collecting and preserving archives and artifacts pertaining to the history of Palm Beach County and Florida. Make local history a part of your life and join as a member to help support this effort. You will enjoy lectures and special events, discounts on historical books and research fees. Office hours are Mon. - Fri. from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Research hours are by appointment Tues. - Thurs. from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Palm Beach Winter Antiques show, a major fund-raising event benefiting the Historical Society, will be held January 13th - 16th, 2000.



Collier County Museum 3301 Tamiami Trail East, Naples (941) 774-8476. 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.



Fort Myers Historical Museum 2300 Peck Street, Fort Myers (941) 332- 5955. Open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Sundays and Mondays and most holidays. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 3-12. Museum members are free.



Clewiston Museum 112 South Commercio Street, Clewiston (941) 983-2870. 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.



Boca Raton Historical Society Town Hall, 71 N. Federal Highway, Boca Raton (561) 395-6766.

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.



Florida History Center & Museum Burt Reynolds Park, 805 North U.S. Highway 1, Jupiter (561) 747-6639. 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 p.m. - 5 p.m. \$2.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT CUBA: PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID ALAN HARVEY



1999 David Alan Harvey

he Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF), in partnership with National Geographic Society, will host a special exhibition featuring 81 images of Cuba. The exhibit, entitled *Cuba: Photographs by David Alan Harvey*, will open to the public on October 1.

Harvey, an award-winning *National Geographic* photographer, recently spent six months in Cuba to capture the dynamic images presented in the exhibit.

HMSF will be the premier venue for "Cuba" and will also host the launching of the accompanying book, which contains 125 images and a photographic essay. The book signing is scheduled for October 7.

To offer further insight into Harvey's experience in

Cuba, the exhibit will include a film narrative of Harvey as he documents the streets of Havana. The exhibit will also offer a rare look at images of pre-Castro Cuba from National Geographic's archives.

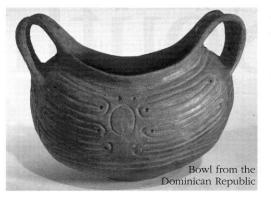
HMSF's presentation of *Cuba: Photographs by David Alan Harvey* and the accompanying program series will provide a unique opportunity to learn more about Cuban culture and will serve to both strengthen and broaden the public's knowledge and appreciation of a country which has had such a strong impact on the nation, and the South Florida community in particular.

"Cuba" will be on display at the Historical Museum through October 30 and it will travel to New York in December. -SFH

MYTHS AND DREAMS EXHIBIT OPENS NOVEMBER 1999

he Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF) will introduce a compelling new exhibit, the last of the millennium, titled Myths and Dreams: Exploring the Cultural Legacies of Florida and the Caribbean. This exhibit, full of cultural artifacts, will trace the evolution of American cultures in Florida and the Caribbean to the present day and beyond. The exhibit will run from November 12, 1999, through January 23, 2000.

"The juxtaposition of the images, words and artifacts, a sampling of the rare to the mundane from 500 years ago to the present, will hopefully make visitors see their own culture and



others in a new light," said Noelle Shuey, on of the curators of the exhibit said. The exhibit will examine selected cultural milestones that left a mark on our present day society in art, music, dress and architecture as well as the ideologies that have shaped our institutions.

Myths and Dreams: Exploring the Cultural Legacies of Florida and the Caribbean was produced by the Jay I. Kislak Foundation, Inc., in conjunction with the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and is sponsored in part by

the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Arts Council; and with the support of the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, and members of the Historical Association of Southern Florida. -SFH



MIAMI: THE GATEWAY CITY FALL PROGRAM SERIES

Saturday, October 2 Caribbean Percussion Concert and Jam Session, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. Historical Museum of Southern Florida Ground Floor Meeting Room. Featuring Marty Galagarza & Friends, Mundo Vibe and Launch of new Caribbean Percussion CD.

Saturday, October 30 Passing on a Sense of Place: Community Voices in Little Havana, 10:30 a.m -6:00 p.m. At the Conference and Concert at Manuel Artime Community Center, 970 SW 1 St., Room 200 (Second Floor Conference Room). Featuring community leaders, journalists, scholars, artists. Plus Oscar Salas & Friends in concert.

Caribbean Percussion Traditions in Miami



Thursday, November 11 Ethnic Relations in Miami: Panel Discussion, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. At the Historical Museum of Southern Florida Ground Floor Meeting Rooms. Featuring Max Castro, Marvin Dunn, Nadine Fernandez, Jim Howe, George Wilson.

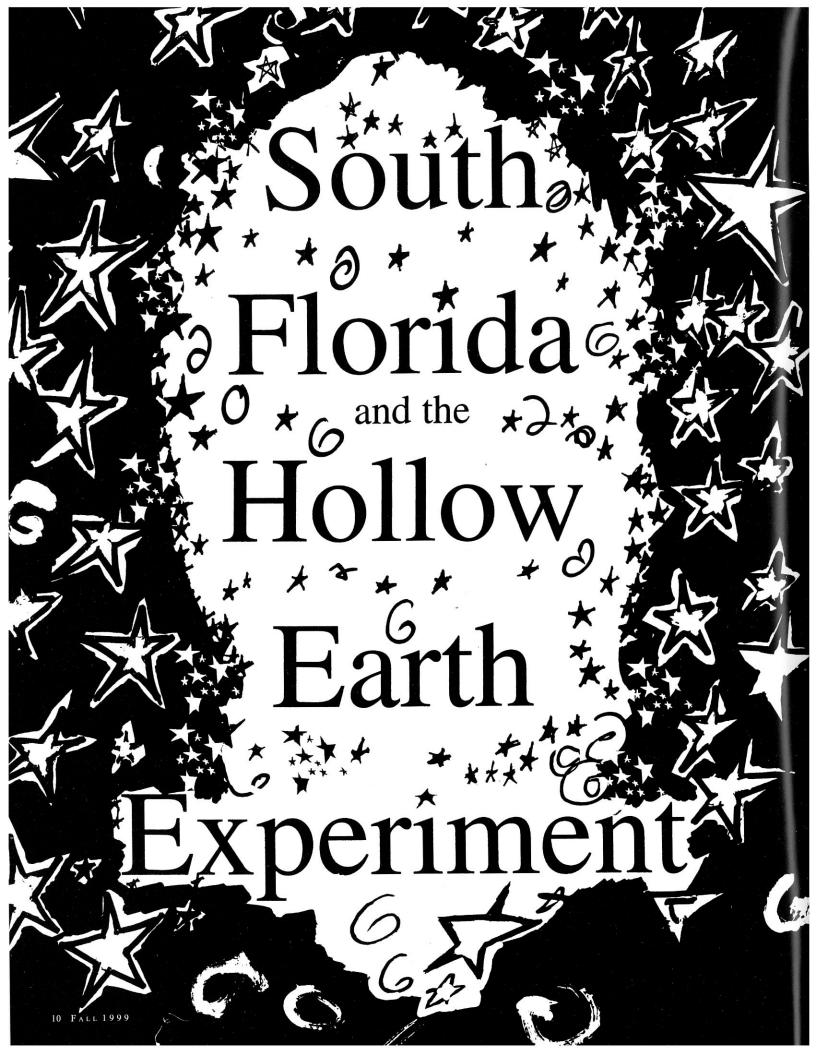
Thursday, December 16 New Moon Over Miami: Performances, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. At the Walkway on East Side of Miami-Dade Cultural Center & Sculpture Court on Cultural Center Plaza. Featuring Marilyn Gottlieb-Roberts, Alejandro Lopez, Gustavo Matamoros.



community or just continue to breathe hot air? If you want the former, join the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF) with its second of three seasons of Miami: The Gateway City. This fall series features concerts, panel discussions, performances and conferences that deal with cultural diversity and "Making Miami Home." Coordinated by Dr. Stephen Stuempfle, Folklife Curator at HMSF, the series has drawn local media attention for promoting cultural diversity. Miami: The Gateway City is sponsored by the Dade

o you want to make a difference in the

Community Foundation, through a Community Partners for Arts & Culture Implementation Grant. Additional support from the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council and Board of County Commissioners. Little Havana program co-sponsored by the Urban Environment League, the University of Miami and the City of Miami. -SFH





A Century Ago In Estero Florida, Dr. Cyrus Teed Tried To Prove We Live In A Hollow Earth



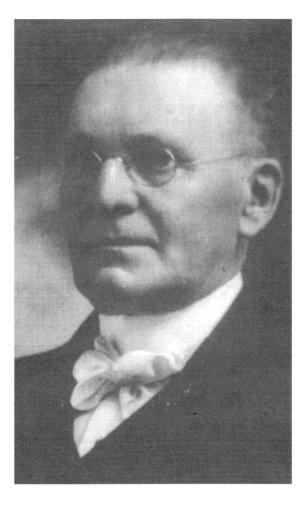
By: Dr. Irvin D. Solomon

n 1894, the charismatic religious leader, Dr. Cyrus Teed, began a utopian experiment of national significance in the back country of Lee County, Florida. Teed's community, the Koreshan Unity, occupied some 302 acres in Estero and eventually grew into one of the state's and nation's most significant and widely recognized utopian experiments. The story of the Koreshan's "scientific" effort to prove their hollow earth theory constitutes one of the most interesting and least known aspects of South Florida history.

Dr. Cyrus Reed Teed, known to his followers by the biblical name Koresh, was possibly the first notable American to express the idea of an inverted, or hollow earth. Teed's "cellular earth" theory placed all of the cosmos inside a hollow sphere. His version of the hollow earth located humanity on the inside of the concave sphere as well.

For Teed and his followers, "cosmogony," or the concave earth theory, gave a universal element of control back to humanity.

Under this paradigm of metaphysics, humanity now lived in a finite, decipherable universe rather than in the prevailing scientific model of an infinite, unknowable one. Teed's brand of cosmogony not only embraced the hollow earth concept but, unlike many earlier theories of a concave earth, also merged the pseudo-science of cosmogony with religious beliefs. In Teed's words: "To know of the earth's concavity and its relation to universal form, is to know God; while to believe in the earth's convexity is to deny him and all his works. All that is opposed to Koreshanity is Antichrist."



Dr. Cyrus R. Teed (Koresh). Photo courtesy of the Koreshan State Historical Site.

So thoroughly did Teed integrate the hollow orb theory into Koreshan theology and dogma, that he even rewrote "The Lord's Prayer" for the benefit of his followers:

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
In [Teed's new translation] earth
as it is in heaven.

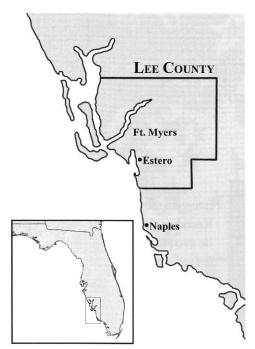
Thus, Dr. Cyrus Teed set in motion an idea which spawned a religion, fostered a community of followers, and sent the sciences of his era into new controversy.

In order to prove his
"scientific" cellular cosmogony,
Teed sought a means through
which the concavity of the earth
could be irrefutably demonstrated.
He felt certain that nonbelievers,
faced with some form of
indisputable evidence of the hollow
earth thesis, would rush to embrace
Koreshan doctrines. Thus, Teed
conceived the idea for a "hollowcell

authenticator" mechanical device, which could prove the veracity of cellular cosmogony. This movable authenticator lab would be called the "Geodesic Rectilineator."

Teed's Early Days

Cyrus Teed was born in 1839 in New York. He was raised in the western part of the state, an area once known as the "burned over district" for its recurring religious movements. In 1858 he married Miss Fidelia Rowe of Meredith, N.Y., to whom one son was born, Douglas Arthur Teed, who later attained distinction as an artist and portrait painter.



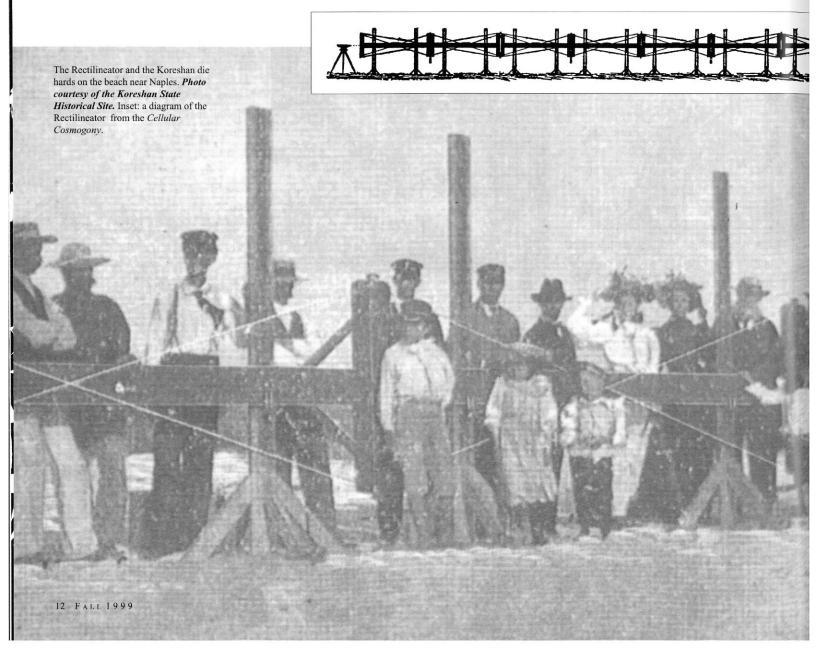
Following service in the Union Army Medical corps, Teed became interested in eclectical medicine, a field of medical endeavor in the 19th century that blended homeopathy, orthodox medicine and herbal remedies.

In 1868, Teed graduated from the Eclectical College in New York City and began to practice medicine in Utica, New York. The practice of medicine, however, quickly fell by the wayside, after Teed embraced millenarian theories so prevalent to the era and his background.

Teed displayed great interest in science and electricity. Late in 1869, he set up a laboratory to experiment with "electro-alchemy." Through his

subsequent experimentation, Teed thought he had stumbled upon a process of transmutation which exposed the secrets of immortality. Teed later recounted this discovery of the secrets of the cosmos in his proselytizing essay, "Illuminations of Koresh." Following his transmutation, Teed adopted the Biblical name Koresh, Hebrew for Cyrus.

It is interesting to note that Teed was a distant cousin of Joseph Smith, pioneer and founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly known as the Mormon church. Both Koreshan and Mormon doctrine called for a redefinition of the Christian faith. The need for redefinition, in both cases, grew from revelations through divine visions and called for a return to the "true nature of Christianity."



Perhaps it was through his ties with Smith that Teed developed his desire to begin a religious commune centered around his revolutionary teachings.

Teed first attempted to establish a commune in Chicago in 1888, but was met with resistance and ridicule from the local establishment. Finally he succeeded in placing his small band of devoted followers in an old mansion, which he called Beth-Ophrah. At this curious and improbable urban site, the new "Koreshan Unity" quickly grew to 126

widespread acceptance. They, like many other celibate communal groups, required converts as their lifeblood. The struggle to prove the earth's concavity became the driving force of Koreshanity from its inception.

> The first attempts to prove the cellular cosmogony theories took place in the Koreshan

> > community's home state of Illinois, where early experiments

focused on concavity

> of a body of water. At an old drainage canal on

July 25, 1896,

three Koreshan

"scientists" fixed a target disk 22 inches

in diameter to a post. They

drove the post into the bottom of the canal

leaving the center of the disc above the water. The team then rowed

their boat three miles up the canal. From this vantage point, an accurate view of the target could be obtained. Measurements and observations were taken at both the three and five mile marks. The observations of the team supported Koreshan doctrine and according to their mathematical calculations lent credibility to the concave earth theory.

The Koreshan faithful performed several additional experiments in Illinois and on the waters of Lake Michigan. Although the followers of Koreshan doctrine accepted these experiments as proof of cellular cosmogony, Teed still needed irrefutable evidence for the rest of civilization. Therefore, the success of the Geodesic Rectilineator became of paramount importance to Teed and his communal movement. The demonstration of the earth's concavity by this mechanical means would subsequently provide Teed with "irrefutable proof of the truth of Cellular Theory..."

To know of the earth's

concavity and its relation

to universal form, is to know

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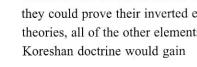


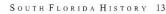
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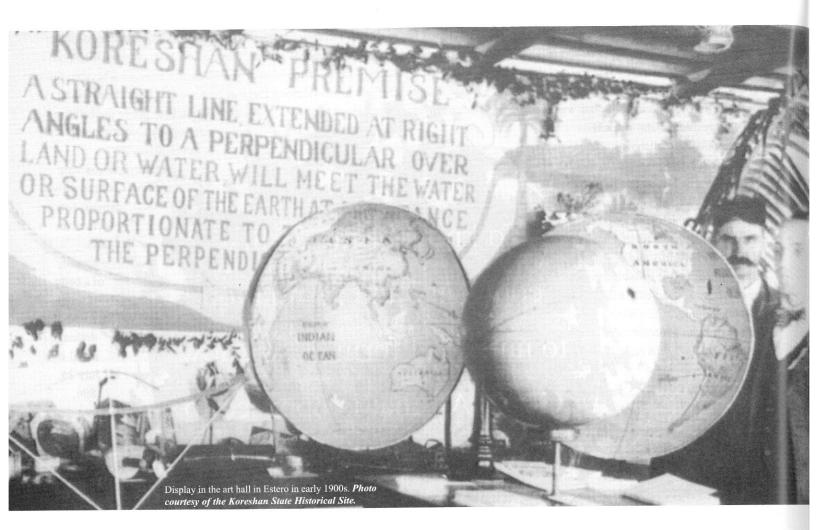
The Dream

The hollow earth theory emerged from an "illumination" at Beth Ophrah which once overtook Teed as he meditated. In this experience Teed presumably went into a trance and encountered a beautiful woman, who revealed several "cosmic truths" to him. The theory of cellular cosmogony, or a hollow earth, sprung from this experience. He soon set out to create a large following to promote this new understanding of "our place" within the hollow earth.

"The earth is the great womb of natural development" Teed professed, "hence we all are living within it." Teed convinced his Koreshan followers that if they could prove their inverted earth theories, all of the other elements of Koreshan doctrine would gain







The "New Jerusalem" in Florida

Teed understood that his movement needed room to grow, and the membership needed to be away from the ridicule and prejudice of his Chicago neighbors. Through yet another mystical experience, Teed told his followers that he had been ordained by God to build a "New Jerusalem," a thriving community of more than ten million inhabitants. In order to escape the critical eye of the more populated north, Teed eventually selected a location in the "wilds" of South Florida near present-day Estero Bay. Upon close inspection, Teed considered the site ideal because of its size and remote location some fifteen miles south of the county seat, the frontier town of Fort Myers. With plans for such a large number of citizens, the schematics for the layout of the New Jerusalem were, indeed,

revolutionary. The shape of the city was to be octagonal and at the center of the city was to be a 36-square mile series of grid-like streets and avenues. The central feature of the square was to be a temple celebrating "the great fame of the Koreshans." New Jerusalem's expansion would follow the development of worldwide networks of maritime commerce and industry, centered at the Gulfshore waters of Estero Bay. Teed's vision included a trans-Florida ship canal to promote worldwide shipping and trade to and through his New Jerusalem. Utilizing these networks of trade, the New Jerusalem would surely prosper and become the center of a new world order, or so Teed persuaded his hundreds of followers who relocated with him to Estero.

The critical event for the attraction

of converts to the New Jerusalem would be the Koreshans' ability to "scientifically" prove their theory of cellular cosmogony, or hollow earth. Teed, ever the master orator and promoter of Koreshan propaganda, convinced his followers in Estero that the Rectilineator experiments would provide the undeniable evidence that would bring "Northern brothers and sisters" flocking to the city of New Jerusalem. The Koreshan leader trumpeted: "For sometime past there has been developing ... a desire that the fundamentals of our system — be demonstrated naturally and in such a way that rational minds would be forced to acknowledge their truth and its source." Thus, Teed conceived a new geodesic survey in South Florida, one that would prove the earth's concavity through mechanical means.

The "Airline" Experiment

In late 1896, Teed confidant Professor Ulysses G. Morrow supervised the construction of the Geodesic Rectilineator. It would conduct "airline" experiments (the goal of the experiments was to demonstrate that a projected straight time line within a hollow sphere would intersect at two points) that were to redefine the sciences of the day. The Rectilineator was built to Koreshan specifications by the Pullman Palace Car Co. in Pullman, Illinois. The apparatus consisted of a horizontal bar at both ends of twelvefoot cross members. Each of the three sections was braced from corner to corner with steel tension rods: the mahogany used for the general construction of the Rectilineator had been seasoned for twelve years. The use of seasoned mahogany coupled with the meticulous plans for construction and assembly were to ensure accuracy. Each piece of lumber was checked and rechecked, confirmed to be straight and true.

Upon the successful completion of the Rectilineator experiments, the Koreshans were to begin a campaign of propaganda against modern science. "It is expected that several months will be required to satisfactorily make the demonstrations after which most of the party will ... take part in the campaign against modern science," stated expedition supervisor, Ulysius G. Morrow.

All of the surveying equipment, as well as the cumbersome Rectilineator itself, had to be transported from Chicago to the survey site on a beach in remote Naples. Teed selected this South Florida site because of its proximity to the Koreshan compound in Estero and its relatively straight, extended waterfront line. On January 2, 1897, the geodetic staff completed the final 21-mile leg from Fort Myers to the survey site in remote Naples aboard the sloop Ada. The sea voyage often proved hazardous. During inclement weather the Ada was often forced to anchor just beyond the outer sandbar of south Naples and "ride out" the storms. In one instance, Captain Gilbert of the Ada was "knocked senseless" by the mainsail boom which suddenly swung around and nearly carried him overboard. During favorable conditions, the Ada moored at a long dock owned by

General W. N. Haldeman, a former publisher of the

Louisville Courier Journal and a prominent Naples landowner. Haldeman provided a campsite just below his house for the use of the geodesic survey team.

> The Koreshan encampment consisted of "several tents ... for sleeping quarters and a palm-thatched shack to serve as a dining room and general meeting place." The geodesic survey team found Haldeman a willing supporter but the people of Naples shy and nervous

about the

After several weeks of preparation and deliveries of supplies via the Ada, the work of proving cellular cosmogony and,

thus, Koreshan doctrine itself, commenced in January, 1897. To the amazement and sometimes bewilderment of locals, the Rectilineator moved "in caterpillar" style, section by section down the beach of Naples, across Gordons Pass, and finally after four and one-eighth miles, terminated in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Morrow took great pains to ensure the accuracy of his measurements. Careful preparations were made before the experiment commenced and copious notes were compiled documenting the numerous measurements taken.

There could not be any doubts concerning the validity of the survey team's findings. The Rectilineator experiment had to hold up under scrutiny of the public eye.

Thy will be done IN earth as it is in heaven.

> "newfangled" Rectilineator.

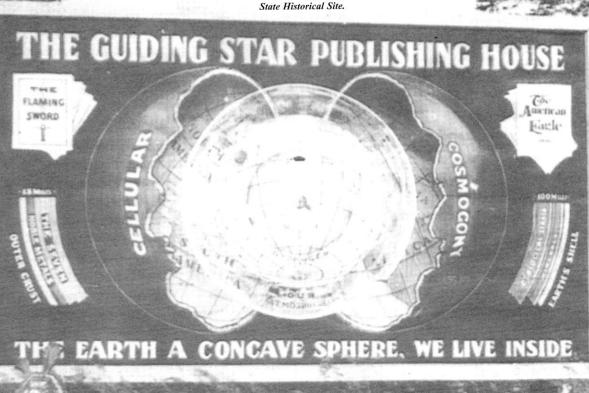
An advertisement of Koreshanity. Photo courtesy of the Koreshan State Historical Site. Above: The sloop Ada. Photo courtesy of the Koreshan

A Success?

After five months of maneuvering the Rectilineator up and down the beaches of Naples, the geodesic survey staff declared its work a success. Even though the airline projections proved faulty, Morrow and his staff simply reasoned that a "mistake" in their calculations actually verified the concavity of the earth.

Koreshan logic interpreted the geodesic survey's results as "irrefutable proof" that the earth was, indeed, a hollow shell on whose inner surface reposed all of humanity. If the planet were convex, the "airline" created by the Rectilineator device would have terminated in space rather than beneath the Gulf's waters. Armed with this "proof," Teed envisioned new mass conversions to Koreshanity. "A large class who cannot accept through analogy or by statement of the laws of optics the basis of Koreshan doctrines would be reached by a proof of this kind," the Koreshan leader stated to his flock at the New Jerusalem in Estero.

To Teed's satisfaction, the team had proved through scientific information that the earth was, indeed, concave and that humanity reposed on the inner shell. So thoroughly did Teed and his followers come to embrace the pseudoscience of the Rectilineator, that they incorporated detailed reports of Morrow's results in their new proselytizing handbook, *The Cellular Cosmogony*, released in



1899 by the Koreshan Guiding Star Publishing Company. Major newspapers around the county reported both popular and scientific interest in the "peculiarity" of this experiment, but the historical record reflects that only the Koreshans took the results seriously.

Thus, by the early 20th century, the eyes of the nation focused on South Florida as Dr. Teed and his followers campaigned in the popular media for a new concept of the concavity of the earth. Though not met without ridicule and scorn, this new Koreshan proselytizing tactic based on the unique Rectilineator experiment on the beaches of South Florida did serve to solidify Koreshan loyalty to Teed and to attract modest numbers of new followers to his South Florida

Both the Koreshans and their theory of a hollow earth waned rapidly in the early 20th century, yet their unique experiment with the Rectilineator in South Florida would continue to intrigue people from throughout the nation for decades to come, as reflected in a 1949 Newsweek article. titled "The Hollow World." Even today thousands of curious travelers annually visit the Koreshan State Historical Site in Estero to marvel at Teed's mock-ups of the hollow earth and the intricate model of the Geodesic Rectilineator that at one time so sensationally focused the popular and scientific eye on the wild frontier of South Florida. -SFH

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with hundreds of out-of-state streets of Miami are a mess. what automobiles, whose drivers are either smart alecks trying to pass everything on the road or timid old gentlemen who never signal you what they're going to do because they don't know themselves, an York in white flannel pants — and why must tou from New York City be so dammed arrogant? — wa

You get several accounts of just how good papers rave. "Best Tourist Season Himmi Has Ev stuff. The merchants and hotel men and real es thusiastic, but they do believe it is "g oing time, I heard about one woman spending the winter there, who had eight stores before she could buy a beach unbrella and was unable to get any beach sandals at all — they were all sold out. I imagine to tell just how good a season it is going to be, as a matter of The heavy months are supposed to be February and March.

The notels, I should say, are not creased, but just confor There were no single rooms with baths left by 7 o'clock last nig cavar -- medium price, Biscayne boulevard -- where I was staying still possible, hotel men told me, to get a single room with bat or \$6 class, almost any night in Mismi without making a reservat and without having to wander about much. An elevator boy at the that, while there frequently are no cheaper rooms left, "you can of the \$14. suites here -- they aren't occupied." That tall heard about other hotels. They say the \$150-a-day suites at the for instance area! the Missai Biltmo for instance, aren't selling any too well.

One thing has happened. The tourist homes --private houses where they take 'em in-- the automobile camps, and apartments renting at \$50 or \$60 a m ARE full. Real estate men differ in their opinions as to the value of this

o much of it, whereas, if the big hotels got it, it would go North w to mortance holders.

it's spent with the little people, if it stays here in Minmi," l estate man told me, "there will be painting and repairing next which will provide a little employment when it's going to be badly and taxes will be coming in."

s had better start coming in, I should imagine. The CWA administrad me he wouldn't be surprised to see Miami go on script within the

real estate man told up that business so far this year, with everything cheaper class filled up, isn't really any better, from standpoint of than it was last year.

was just like this in January last year," he said. "Then the banks o close, and people began lighting out for home. After the bank holi-declared, they simply fled. In a few days they were all gone."

i undoubtedly leads in the musber of tourists. I've heard that around te, and judging by the crowds on the streets, I should say it was true. ities say they are doing "just a good business" this year. Tourists tell ts are extremely high— '5 or 40 par cent higher than they were last year, tate men say they aren't more than 10 per cent higher than they were last ad that apartments that used to bring in between \$200 and \$300 a month the contact of the con rates about 50 cents a night. rates about 50 cents a night. re is little evidence of thier re apt to have the same waitress el coffee she D.81

e", a girl in one coffee shop observed, under the supposed to

- that they haven't taken on any tores

roe, in Tmans, told me that, although the Tmans stores, largely because had done the best Christmas business they'd done in years, they didn't extra help, even temporarily, and that the matter was discussed at in a meeting of the COA normittee. It's a pretty picture, isn't it? The ent buts a lot of money in there and helps those bussards out, and they must be taking on more help to keep the ball rolling, but gleefully hemselves.

Missi business sen seem to this: that the hope for at least a partial solution of Miss's unemployment problem lies in a project they are trying to put through for the enlargement and improvement of Chapman field, anay to put through for the enlargement and improvement of Chapman field by air corps base. It would cost \$11,500,000, would enlarge the field by air corps base. It would cost \$11,500,000, would enlarge the field by some 2,500 acres, to be purchased by the city on certificates of indebtedness some 2,500 acres, to be purchased, but on certificates of indebtedness and turned over to the Making Department, and, R. V. Waters, one of the leading real estate men estimated, would take care of all Mismi's able bodied unemployed for the next two years. They tried to put it through as a PMA project but failed, Mow, however, it's before Congress for a special appropriation, as I understand it, as a measure of Mathonal defence. There is also a project for building an oversean highway from Mismi to Key West, but it doesn't seem to be so highly thought of. There is also

One thing pointed out to me in Miami was this:

While it's true that picking and packing in the tomato and been gardens is going full tilt down around there now, the labor is largely algratory, for its ready highly skilled work. Grading and packing tomatoes, for instance, is a delicate job. They leave to be bandled with great skill and care, or they will get bruised. So with oteking. It's all work that skill and care, or they will get bruised. So with oteking. It's all work that requires a lot of experience. Many these it's hended down from father to be required as the area what are known as "tomato frailies." Towards growers and packers won't nire insepartences usen. They can't afford to. These highly skilled quoteens fullow the towaknes, they say, from the tim of Florida and There are in the area what are known as "towato fruities." Yosato grower packers won't hire insepartences sen. They can't afford to. These highly shilled sorkers follow the towatoes, they say, from the tip of Florida on they for the towatoes, they say from the tip of Florida on the few Jersey! Another meas for them commonly used in "towato because "S even a good towato senson, doesn't help out binaits memployment attaction with much.

Cot a little more dope on the digrate with the west with lit a sunt fruit stealing is one of the biggetre and in hords. The go a said clean out shole grover, take the fruit out in trucks, and sair it arrower me shall and as far North as washington and Balthaore, at prices many below shat the grocers would have to charge for florida fruit. I talked to a weak sho used that her five-acre grove was completely cleaned out in one night last winter.

All this stolen fruit goes out in trucks - and yet the growers won't get together and stop truck shipments. They won't even back up the AAA in an effort to keep low grade fruit from being shipmed out by truck.

All this is shetchy, I'm straid, and mutiled. Well, so is Fiorid: -

18 FALCO-12009 Green in Blast, I think, was a little bit worvied about what I might pass on about what he said about politics in GuA in Florida. He told me yesterday that, so far, he was having no alreat interference from Tallahassee. He repeated, however, his statement that he had had pienty of troughnessee. He repeated, however, his statement that he had had pienty of troughnessee.

was that mobody get the impression that he had may personal gradge ast Murous Tagg.

"I like him personally," he said. "I think he's absolutely honest "I like his personally," he said. "I think he's absolutely honest above-board and certainly trying to keep politics and graft out of in Florida, but he's out of his element. He can't handle the situation, tower attack, although he might be able to, if the Governor and his divers removed from the picture, and if he were given good strong backfrom Washin ton.

Lard, I'm tired! I'm taking a look about here tomorrow, then moving o Jacksonville. Heading for South Carolina Sanday.

Lorena Hickolt.

McIVEI

Orsen in Minmi seemed to think the stores and hotels there had been more coperative. He estimated that between 1,000 and 1,500 Minmi unemployed had been put to work in the hotels, although many of the larger hotels bring most of their help down from the Morth, and that the stores had taken on at least 600, fust now, with the season not yest at its height, stores and hotels are hirting about 150 a week.

One business can, NOT a merchant, who asked that his m One business can, NOT a merchant, who asked that is HRA ought to send someone down to investigate the de-store, he said, one of the biggest stores in Mismi, of the clerks "junior executives," to that they could hours as they liked.

#I KNOW this is true, # he told me.

"One thing that CMA started and that a good tour merchant told me, "is a great improvement in the mand people generally."

He said that at the cosmetics counter in his stabeen sold this year than in several years. A promincidentally, complained that people on CWA at Chris

At the moment, this would seem to be the "state of

CITRUS: Low prices. Much laggling about cooperat cirrus: Low prices. Much haggling about cooperathey succeeded in getting that decision they wanted constitutional. One fairly prominent Citras man to it, on the ground that he had a lot of third grader would be ruined if he couldn't ship it out, was out the temporary injunction was granted! Wages low much less than normal employment in the groves durantly do some cultivating, priming, and so on. much less than horner employment in the gardes and dinarily do some cultivating, pruning, and so on

TRUCK GARDKHING: Low prices. Plenty of work Induce dargoning: how prices. Flenty of work:
Little likelihood of farmers being able to cary
summer as they would normally do. Frirly gener
due in some sections to drouth and in others to
been so yet that where they usually get three c getting only one this year.

CICAR MARNIFACTURING: Bad. Little demand taking place of hand work. Lots of unsaylow and little prospect of its being much decreases

MURIST: Promising year, especially in Mich whom March vill tell the story. Tourist business very li employment problem.

At present, during the busy season, there is a lot of unemployment in

Plorida. I'll get the figures when I see that state receptoyment direct-er, in Jacksonville, this week end. This summer, according to present in Jacksonville, this week end. This summer, according to present and the belief problem will be just as tough as it was last year,

the summer -- the truck gardens around Miani will be water by June, and up where it's higher and drier, the un and hot sun mearly every day simply scalds everything.

mesople you talk to are scared stiff that we are going sout this spring -- both GAA and relief. Even as they go rates, they don't want GAA taken out.

what we're going to do with these people if you don't we heard over and over. "They're earning a little now, to be enough to carry these through the summer, and as employers -- truck gardeners and citrus growers --are enough this winter to carry these over."

amny memployment problem. Mostly in the South, the to be agricultural. But 40 percent of the unemployments in the building trades. And a lugs percentage of people, retired, mashle to work.

Is and bricklayers and so on case down, of course, dur-tuo or three years they made lots of money. Many of pald for homes. Now there's no building going on down passander.

e constitute a more serious problem, though, a said all of a and relief administrator. Amost of them come title nest egg — enough to have kept them comfortably if it had to the for the boom and the definition of the some and have they are too old to work. It their money, and here they are, too old to work their money, and here they are, too old to work their, even if they could do it.

of them out. The great majority have lived here long by me bone fide residents of Missai. And there would be no to go if you did put them out. " They'll just be on relief, the rest of their lives."

auggestion is a contralization of all charitable organizations and runds, together with whatever money the city and county can furnish, with Faderal Government aid, on one matching basis, and under federal direction. It would be a temporary thing, of course — the great majorif of them won't live more than 10 years longer. - the great majority

On January 31, 1934, a woman named Lorena Hickok mailed a letter from Daytona Beach to a "Mr. Hopkins." She led off with some wicked observations about Miami.

"I am not fond of Miami. Principally because I do not like tourists. But Miami likes them. And, by all accounts, Miami should!"



"The streets of Miami are a mess, what with hundreds of out-of-state automobiles, whose drivers are either smart alecks trying to pass everything on the road or timid old gentlemen who never signal you what they're going to do because they don't know themselves, and what with tourists from New York in white flannel pants — and why must tourists, especially tourists from New York City be so damned arrogant? — walking all over you."



Whew! Lighten up, Lorena. Why are you writing these things about the Magic City? Well, it turns out there was a reason.

The "Mr. Hopkins" to whom the letter was directed was Harry L. Hopkins, one of the most powerful men in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal administration. As head of the newly created Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), Hopkins faced an all but impossible task. In the early years of the Great Depression, banks failed, businesses went bankrupt, unemployment soared, families faced starvation — a calamity without precedent, calling for solutions without precedent.

His job was to make the country's first nationwide public welfare program work. But how would he know if FERA funds in this vast nation were reaching the right people? He needed someone to tell it like it was.

"... helping the helpless had traditionally been overseen by county poor-commissioners, who were often allied with local political bosses," wrote Doris Faber in her *The Life of Lorena Hickok: E.R.'s Friend.* Could Hopkins count on local politicians to send

back to him unbiased

information?

The "E.R." who was her friend was Eleanor Roosevelt, the wife of President Roosevelt. She helped Hickok, one of the country's best reporters, find a job with FERA at \$6,000 a year.

"What I want you to do," said Hopkins to his new reporter, "is to go out around the country and look this thing over. I don't want statistics from you. I don't want the social worker angle. I just want your own reaction ... and don't pull your punches."

Lorena Hickok was one tough journalist, a round-faced, 200-pounder who stood five feet eight. *Time* magazine once described her as "a rotund lady with a husky voice, a peremptory manner, baggy clothes ... in her day one of the country's best female newshawks."

Hickok toured the country in a second-hand Chevrolet convertible she called "Bluette." Describing her as a demon for work, Faber wrote: "She would turn up in a town at nightfall and before the next sundown have the whole scene in her head. And then a couple of days later the whole state picture, clear as if he

Lorena Hickok was one tough journalist, a round-faced, 200pounder who stood five feet eight.



Hotel Alcazar in 1934. Hasf Postcard Collection 1986-144-19.

(Hopkins) had been there, would flutter onto his desk."

Miami, which she
apparently covered in two days,
actually fared reasonably well in
her hard-hitting reports, better than
the rest of the state and much better than
Tampa — and better than New York City.

"I am sorry to report, Sir, that Florida seems to be something of a mess ... So far as CWA (Civil Works Administration) and relief are concerned, this state seems to be chock full of politics and petty graft. It seems to be worst in Tampa, which, I am told, could teach even New York City something about political control. But

"The newspapers rave.
'Best Tourist Season
Miami Has Ever Seen'
and all that sort of
stuff."

I'm told it's pretty bad all over the state ...

"The governor
(David Sholtz) has a bad
reputation around the state,
and it's getting worse ... It seems
to me that I've seen more greed in this
state than anywhere else I've been. The
whole attitude, both of communities and
individuals, seems to be: 'It's government money.
Come on, let's get our share."

The Lone Star State came in for a hammering too:

Workers at the first grapefruit canning factory in Miami in 1928 fared better than workers in the building trades. Hasf 1994-348. PAN-AMERICAN. CANNING CORFORATION. MIAMI.FLA.

"At no time previously since taking this job, have I been quite so discouraged as I am tonight. Texas is a Godawful mess."

Hickok made some interesting observations about Miami's 1934 tourist season:

"You get several accounts of just how good the season is. The newspapers rave. 'Best Tourist Season Miami Has Ever Seen' and all that sort of stuff. The merchants and hotel men and real estate men are not quite so enthusiastic, but they do believe it is 'going to be' a good year ... I imagine it's a little early to tell just how good a season it is going to be, as a matter of fact. The heavy months are supposed to be February and March.

"The hotels, I should say, are not crammed, but just comfortably filled. There were no single rooms with baths left by 7 o'clock last night at the Alcazar — medium price, Biscayne Boulevard — where I am staying. But it's still possible, hotel men tell me, to get a single room with bath, in the \$5 or \$6 class, almost any night in Miami without making a reservation in advance and without having to wander about too much. An elevator boy at the

Alcazar told me that, while there frequently are no cheaper rooms left 'you can always get one of the \$14 suites here — they aren't occupied.' That tallied with what I heard about other hotels. They say the \$150-a-day suites at the Miami Biltmore, for instance, aren't selling any too well."

In rooting around Miami, she came up with information on other types of accommodation:

"The tourist homes — private houses where they take 'em in - the automobile camps, and apartments renting at \$50 or \$60 a month ARE full. Real estate men differ in their opinions as to the value of this business. The general feeling seems to be that it's better for Miami that these places should be filled up than for the big winter hotels to be doing a capacity business, because this means that the money will stay in Miami, even though there isn't so much of it, whereas, if the big hotels got it, it would go North — just now to mortgage holders.

"'If it's spent with the little people, if it stays here in Miami,' one real estate man told me, 'there will be painting and repairing next summer, which will provide a little employment when it's going to be badly needed.""

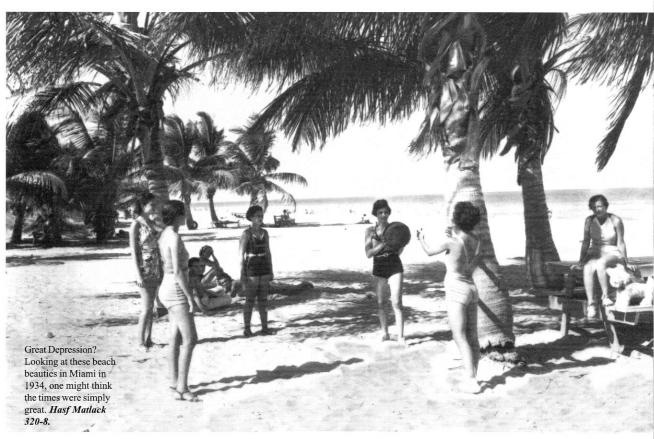
To a woman who had grown up in smalltown South Dakota, Miami - and the rest of Florida — must have seemed a totally new world:

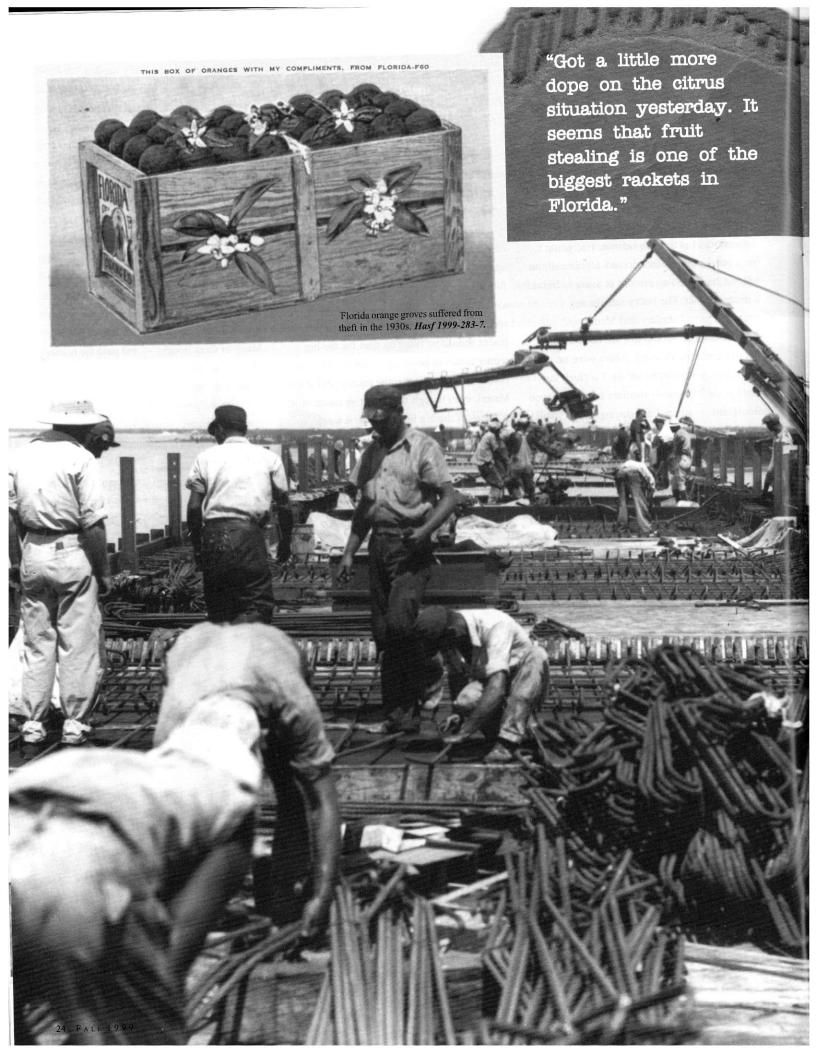
"Miami has a funny unemployment problem. Mostly in the South, the labor surplus seems to be agricultural. But 40 percent of the unemployed in Miami are workers in the building trades. And a large percentage of the rest are old people, retired, unable to work.

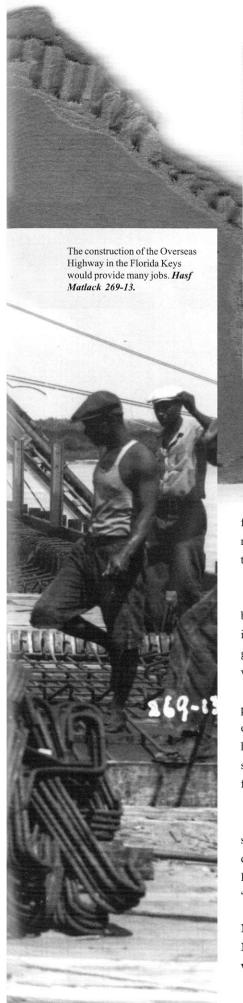
"The carpenters and bricklayers and so on came down, of course, during the boom. For two or three years they made lots of money. Many of them bought — and paid for homes. Now there's no building going on down there, and they're stranded.

"The old people constitute a more serious problem, though," said Commander Green, the CWA and relief administrator. 'Most of them came down here with a little nest egg - enough to have kept them comfortably for the rest of their lives, if it hadn't been for the boom and the depression.









Destruction caused by hurricanes in 1926 (shown here), 1928, and the Crash of 1929 gave a one-two-three punch to the economy in Southern Florida.

Hasf 1988-15-24.

They lost their money, and here they are, too old to work and no work for them, even if they could do it.

ROAD TO COCONUT GROVE AFTER HARRIONNE SED 18-1926 ON AMERICA

"'You can't put them out. The great majority have lived here long enough to qualify as bona fide residents of Miami. And there would be no place for them to go if you did put them out. They'll just be on relief of some sort, the rest of their lives."

Hickok revealed that the commander favored a centralization of all charitable organizations and funds combined with additional funding from city, county and the federal government. She then reached a callous conclusion: "It would be a temporary thing, of course, — the greatest majority of them won't live more than 10 years longer."

The FERA's ace reporter talked to people involved in many activities, including the citrus business: "Got a little more dope on the citrus situation yesterday. It seems that fruit stealing is one of the biggest rackets in Florida. They go in and clean out whole groves, take the fruit out in trucks, and sell it all over the South, and as far North as Washington and Baltimore, at prices away below what the grocers would have to charge for Florida fruit. I talked to a woman who said that her five-acre grove was completely cleaned out in one night last winter."

Hickok's reports were considered so perceptive Hopkins regularly routed them to FDR, who pressed for them if too many days went by without one crossing his desk. It was, however, an exhausting job for her. She talked — and sympathized — with people who had lost their jobs and their homes, people whose long, productive lives were suddenly plunged into poverty, some facing even the spectre of starvation for themselves and their children. She dealt with bureaucratic bumbling and two-faced politicians using the funds from Washington for their own purposes.

And in time she burnt out.

Her letter on Miami ends with the sad remark, "Lord, I'm tired!" In 1936 she left government service for a quieter career in public relations and life on Long Island. She returned to the political life during World War II and in later years wrote a number of books on the Roosevelts and also one on Helen Keller. She died on May 1, 1968, leaving behind a Florida which is still in many ways "something of a mess." -SFH

Note: The Editors of South Florida History would like to thank Dr. Gary Mormino, longtime friend of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, who found these letters at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library.

MIAMI REGUE

BY SUZANNE JONES



hat does the word "mission" mean? "An organization for doing religious and charitable work among the needy, outcast, etc.," according to Webster.

Different generations bestow the current politically correct names on these organizations. In the 1930s those names were "clothes barrels" and "bread lines." In the 1990s they are "half-way houses" and "soup kitchens."

The Rescue Mission was founded within the first 25 years of the City of Miami's incorporation. The story of the Miami Mission in the early days was intertwined with personal family history. In Chicago John and Zada Schleucher had become interested in the work of the Pacific Garden Mission. They had enrolled in Moody Bible Institute to study mission work with an internship at the Pacific Garden Mission. John finished the course and was ordained. Their mission interest was on the volunteer level. Schleucher was an employee of the telephone company in Chicago.



BECAUSE OF
THE NAME
"CITY MISSION,"
MANY PEOPLE
WERE LED TO
BELIEVE THAT
THE MISSION
WAS SUPPORTED
BY CITY FUNDS

The Schleucher family looked around the New River area in Ft. Lauderdale before deciding to make a permanent move to Florida. They found the Ft. Lauderdale area to be too isolated for a young family accustomed to city life. At this time the family consisted of John and Zada, son Glenn and two daughters Bettye and Jane.

In 1918 John decided to transfer to

Miami with the South Atlantic Telephone
Company. Soon after their arrivals in Miami
their fourth child Peggy arrived. All this
while the mission concept was active in their
mind, but as John was fond of saying, "It
(volunteer mission work) doesn't put pork
chops on the table." So to support his young
family he continued his day job.

Women on this board were: Mrs. W. M.

McDonald, chairman, Mrs. W. L. LaVigne, M.

L. B. Boyd, Mrs. O. S. Albritton, Virginia Brant
Berg, Mrs. A. G. Biehl, Mrs. A. G. McGrego
Mrs. R. B. Wolfe, and Mrs. Charles Kinnon.

In August 1929 the Miami City Mission
opened at 538 N. Miami Avenue. This period
American history is known as "The Great

In 1920 the population of Miami was estimated by the census to be 29,571. The Grace Mission was founded soon after in 1922, and was located at 19 S.W. Eighth Street. The mission held its meetings in a tent, with the programs including services "every night of the year." The congregation and all the programs continued to prosper through the 1920s.

A group of local church women had founded an organization called the Gospel Mission in the late 1920s. The church women and the Schleuchers decided that their work would benefit by the merger of the Grace Mission and the Gospel Mission. Rev. and Mrs. Schleucher would operate the Miami City Mission and the church women would act as an advisory board. The women on this board were: Mrs. W. M. McDonald, chairman, Mrs. W. L. LaVigne, Mrs. L. B. Boyd, Mrs. H. P. Branning, Mrs. W. A. Haggard, Mrs. O. S. Albritton, Virginia Brant Berg, Mrs. A. G. Biehl, Mrs. A. G. McGregor, Mrs. R. B. Wolfe, and Mrs. Charles Kinnon.

In August 1929 the Miami City Mission opened at 538 N. Miami Avenue. This period in American history is known as "The Great Depression." Miami began to feel the effects of the depression as early as 1926 when a hurricane "busted the Boom." Bank closings were at an all time high all over the U.S., including Miami, and especially in 1929. The Community Chest and Welfare Board funds in the Bank of Bay Biscayne were lost when it failed, leaving local charitable organizations without funds.

The population of Miami in 1930 was estimated to be 110,637. The Miami City Mission was caring for the needs of a significant percentage of the city's population. "1226 at City Mission Cared For Each Day," a headline in the *Miami News* read. In August, 1930 a newspaper account stated the Miami Mission had sustained 248 families with food and clothing during the month.

As the 1930-31 winter approached more and more homeless men arrived in Miami to avoid the cold in the northern United States. The Mission had beds for 190 men but needed more.

Donated food was running low.

Appeals appeared in the newspapers for merchants to give anything. Seventy-one food barrels were placed in local grocery stores, and housewives were asked to help bear the burden of charity. "Just put one staple item in the barrel," one advertisement asked.

The City
Mission was called,
"the new center of

much of Miami's welfare work," by the *Miami Daily News*. There were large crowds of people in evening services. Some of the local churches that supported the Mission during this period were Riverside Baptist and Trinity Methodist.

In 1935 the Mission's name was changing again. The reason for this was to avoid the confusion about the funding of The Miami City Mission. It was pointed out that because of the name "City Mission," many people were led to believe that the mission was supported by city funds. So the board approved a name change to "Miami Rescue Mission."

The Miami Herald reported the Miami Rescue Mission was Miami's fastest growing independent charitable organization. In the mid 1930s suppliers included: Seybold Baking Company, American Baking Company, Goldstrom Bakeries, Southern Dairies, Home Milk, Banana Supply Co., Everglades Paper Co., Southern Nut Products, Jarrett Coffee, Shaw Bros. Oil, Orange State Oil, Florida Power and Light and Miami Daily News.

The churches that supported the Miami Rescue Mission were Riverside Baptist, Temple Baptist, University Baptist, Riverside Methodist, Trinity Methodist, Shenandoah Presbyterian, First Presbyterian and First Christian.

Financially things were still tough in Miami as well as the rest of the country. According to the 1940 census Miami had 172,172 inhabitants. This mission volunteer group was caring for a large percentage of the Miami population.

The hungry men were still being fed in bread lines and the families were being given food. At the Rescue Mission 1775 meals were being given to women and children, 3077 meals were served to men and they were sleeping 404 men in January 1940. The distribution list included:



10,448 loaves of bread, 1557 gallons of milk, 651 pounds of cottage cheese, 626 articles of clothing, 36 bunches of bananas and 30 pounds of nuts. In December 1941 the United States entered World War II. The economy picked up and many were

working in defense or in the military. Store space was at a premium and rents were out of control, if one could find a place at all. So the Miami Rescue Mission moved again, this time to N.W. Fifth Street and Second Avenue. There were still homeless, but their numbers were smaller.

The Miami Rescue Mission returned to South Miami Avenue in 1949. Grace Mission had started there 27 years previous to this. The rent on this storefront was \$65.00 per month, a high price for the organization to pay. John Schleucher was 71 years old, he still held a regular job, "to buy my pork chop," and was at the Rescue Mission preaching every evening.

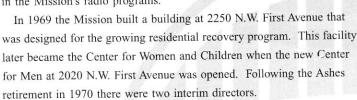
In March 1950 the Miami Rescue Mission closed. John Schleucher died in June, 1952. Zada lived on to work with other mission groups in Miami and died in 1969.

Others have picked up the cause of the homeless in Miami. The Miami Rescue Mission of the first half of the 20^{th} century had its triumphs and defeats, but it did a great service to the Miami community when other resources were unavailable. The Miami Rescue Mission was not only a physical enterprise but more importantly a spiritual enterprise. *-SFH*

MIAMI RESCUE MISSION: 1950 to Present

By: Dr. Franklin M. Jacobs, Executive Director, Miami Rescue Mission

In 1947 Rev. and Mrs. McKinley Ash brought about the formal incorporation of the organization located at 150 W. Flagler. In 1954 the Miami Rescue Mission again relocated to 140 N.W. First Street where they had beds for 140 men with a later addition of 60 beds. A thrift store was opened and broader services were added. A program from the time states: "Besides getting clean clothing and a place to sleep, the men also receive help in finding jobs, medical attention and a chance to take part in the Mission's radio programs."



Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Jacobs came to serve the Mission as volunteers and then, in 1975, they took over the leadership. These were years of change and rapid expansion. The Mission had moved to 716 N. Miami Avenue, only to have the city claim the property to build the arena. A major capital campaign was undertaken to raise funds for a new Center for Men that was dedicated in 1989. For the first time, the Mission had a facility designed specifically for homeless care. With the new facility in place, the Program designed to regenerate the homeless individuals to productive members of society was increased from eight months to twelve months.

To better meet the educational needs of clients in the Mission's Regeneration Program, the Mission opened the Jeffrey A. Tew Education Center in 1997. The Center is named in honor of board member Jeffrey A. Tew, who has faithfully served the Mission for 23 years as secretary of the Board of Directors and given countless hours of *pro bono* legal services. Located adjacent to the Center for Men, the Jeffrey A. Tew Education Center boasts 26 individual computer stations, four video stations, a library and a traditional classroom. All clients of the Mission Regeneration Program attend classes at the Jeffrey A. Tew Education Center. Clients benefit from the individualized, computer- and video-based adult learning program that addresses the needs of those who have typically failed in a traditional school system.

The Miami Rescue Mission reached across county lines in 1997, to



open the Broward Outreach Center (BOC) to meet the needs of the increasing numbers of homeless men, women and children in South Florida. The facility is located at 2056 Scott Street in Hollywood and has a capacity for 90 people. The BOC has plans of expanding their facilities by building a Center for Women and Children. The Center will be located directly across from the BOC on Scott Street, providing shelter for homeless women, children and families in Broward County.

To meet the educational needs of the homeless clients at the BOC they are also modifying a classroom, and turning it into an Education Center. The facility will house seven computers, with the same computer-based learning program available at the Jeffrey A. Tew Education Center in Miami. The Education Center will allow clients to address their individual educational needs.

In 1999 an anonymous donor walked into the office of Dr. Jacobs and asked him what plans he had for the future. Dr. Jacobs mentioned the need for a Community Activity Center for the Miami neighborhood, and this individual offered to donated one million dollars to make this dream a reality. The plans for the Community Activity Center are under way for the 2025 NW First Avenue facility. The Center will include a full gym, weight room, arts and crafts rooms, a classroom, a study hall and much more to help the children live "drug free" and crime free lives. The Community Activity Center will begin construction in the year 2000. As we enter the new millennium, the Miami Rescue Mission continues its focus on the needs of the poor and homeless, and to reach out into our communities to aid those who suffer needlessly.

The character and needs of the poor and homeless are vastly different today. In the early years, most clients were middle-aged, white, male alcoholics. Today, the span of ages is much greater in scope; perhaps 25% are women and children, and includes many races and minorities coming from many nationalities.

The only thing that has not changed is the need: There are many who are still "the least, the last and the lost," and the Miami Rescue Mission is still here to help and give hope for a better life. *-SFH*

book review

BEYOND THE THEME PARKS: Exploring Central Florida by Benjamin D. Brotemarkle. University Press of Florida, 1999. 232 pages. \$24.95.

Review by Stuart McIver

Benjamin D. Brotemarkle's first book reveals a great but simple human truth. There is more to Central Florida than a neon-lighted drive along the Irlo Bronson Highway and into the land where the theme parks grow.

Central Florida, as defined by the author, is basically the Orlando area east to Cape Canaveral and north to Daytona Beach. Within that area a traveler can find Disney World, Universal Studios Florida and Sea World. With a boost from Brotemarkle's volume, Floridians, who will find this short travel book particularly valuable, can also find many cultural and historical treasures beyond the reach of a roller coaster.

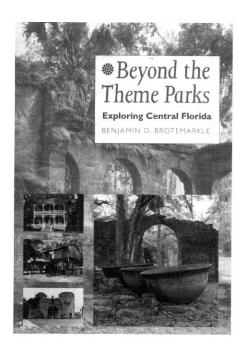
"Many tourists are happy to limit their vacations to the experiences that they can have at Disney World, Sea World and Universal Studios," writes the author, "but others would enjoy expanding their Central Florida visits to include outings of historical and cultural significance. While few people would expect a family trip to Mount Dora or Cocoa to eclipse a visit to Disney World. an afternoon in either town could provide a relaxing yet stimulating day trip to augment a theme park vacation."

Among the area's historic landmarks

Brotemarkle includes are such locales as Eatonville, childhood home of Zora Neale Hurston; Fort Christmas, a door into the Second Seminole war; Cassadaga, a Spiritualist colony dating back more than a century, and the Space Coast, birthplace of America's journey to the moon.

Saving historic towns anywhere in Florida is a difficult task. Eatonville, writes Brotemarkle, "has earned a place in history by being the oldest town in the United States founded and governed by African Americans." That place in history was further strengthened by books Hurston wrote about her hometown, most notably Their Eyes Were Watching God.

In 1987 Orange County made plans to expand Kennedy Boulevard, Eatonville's main street, from a two-lane road into a five-lane highway.



"Many tourists are happy to limit their vacations to ... Disney World ... others would enjoy ... outings of historical & cultural significance"

The Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, founded by N.Y. Nathiri and populated with local residents, persuaded the county not to cut their historic town in

Many of the older buildings are gone but the sense of Eatonville as a community remains, strongly justifying its place on the National Register of Historic Places. The annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival makes it a particularly appealing town to visit.

In western Volusia County, far from the roar of the Daytona International Speedway, lies the village of Cassadaga, "the oldest active religious community in the southeastern United States." Cassadaga, founded in 1894, is the home of a community of Spiritualists who still refer to the village as a "Spiritualist camp."

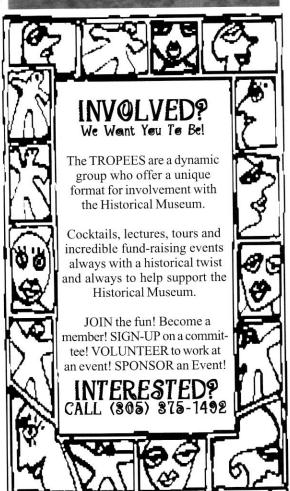
In his chapter on Orlando the author discusses where the city got its name. The answer: Nobody is really sure. Still, one theory he advances is that a Judge J.G. Speer, who helped form Orange County after he moved to Florida from South Carolina in 1854, named the city after a character in Shakespeare's As You Like It. It seems the judge was a fan of the bard. Shoring up this theory is the fact that one of Orlando's major downtown streets is named Rosalind, who just happens to be a

character from the same play.

Because Beyond the Theme Parks is essentially a travel book, the author includes lists of historic sites in Central Florida, as well as cultural and preservation organizations and cultural festivals in the area. The book also contains a bibliography, index and a goodly number of black and white photos of the historic and cultural sites.

Brotemarkle, host and producer of The Arts Connection, a radio show on an Orlando station, is heard regularly on National Public Radio, Florida Public Radio and the Voice of America Radio. His mother is Anna Flowers, the author of three books on crime in Florida. -SFH







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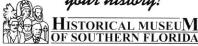
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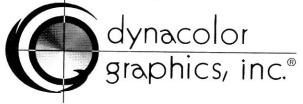


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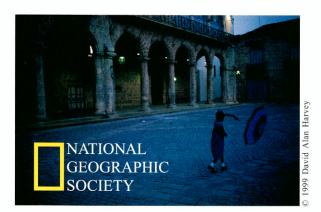


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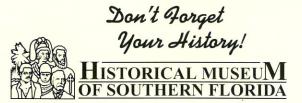


Bowl, Dominican Republic.



Seminole Turban.

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