

South Florida History

HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA VOLUME 33, NO 2, 2005 \$3.00





2 days of
Shopping, Music, Eating & Fun
for everyone!

Saturday, Nov 19 & Sunday, Nov 20
10 am to 5 pm

Fair & Expo Center Coral Way & SW 112 Ave, Miami
Admission Adults \$6, Children (5-12) \$2

Handmade Crafts & Food ♦ Artwork ♦ Plants
Living Historians ♦ Children's Activities ♦ Live Music
Antique Engines ♦ Vintage Automobiles

Early Bird Private Sale

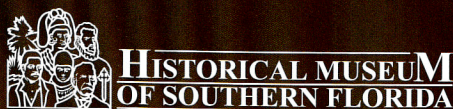
Saturday, Nov 19 8 to 10 am

Enjoy two hours of crowd-free shopping,
a complimentary continental breakfast and a Harvest Sunday Admission pass.
Only 1,600 tickets will be sold!

To order tickets, call the 24-hour Harvest order line by **November 15** at
305.375.1611 or e-mail membership@historical-museum.org

For a \$1 off coupon, visit www.historical-museum.org

Proceeds to benefit the Historical Museum



Your Story, Your Community... Your Museum

101 West Flagler St Downtown Miami 305.375.1492 historical-museum.org

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida is sponsored in part by the State of Fla., Dept. of State, Div. of Cultural Affairs, Fla. Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts & Div. of Historical Resources, the Miami-Dade County Dept. of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor & the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners; the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership and a lifetime of learning; and members of the Historical Association of Southern Florida.

4 Editor's Notes

Dr. Paul S. George

5 Spotlight on...Advancement

Harvest—It's that time of year again...the Historical Museum's famous annual Harvest festival is set for November 19 and 20.

Carrie Brumbaugh, Advancement Coordinator

Old Miami Luncheons—Throughout the summer, luncheon discussions led by Arva Moore Parks McCabe were held with some of the families that helped build South Florida to review, among other topics, upcoming plans for the museum.

Bud Park, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

8 Around the Galleries

Happenings at the Historical Museum & member museums

10 Exhibits— The South Florida Frontier

Step inside a 19th century trading post and compare and contrast artifacts from the American Southwest with artifacts from South Florida during this same time period.

Jorge Zamanillo, Curator of Object Collections

14 Exploring the South Florida Frontier

While for European settlers, the frontier of Florida meant opportunity, for African Americans and Native Americans, it often meant disregard, disrespect or destruction of their way of life or the lands where they had resided.

Dinizulu Gene Tinnie

18 The Ox-Woman of South Florida

The tale of the "Ox-Woman" illustrates the strength—both in body and in spirit—of South Florida's early pioneers.

Arthur E. Chapman and Dr. Paul S. George

20 Hammock Land

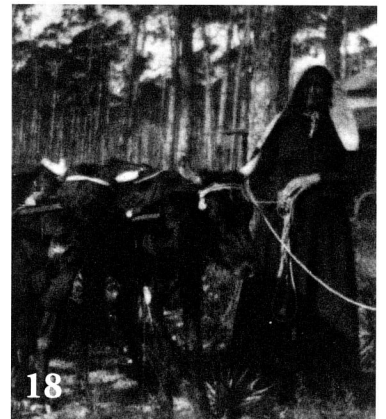
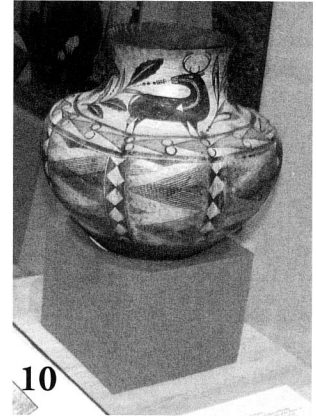
Discover the diverse architectural heritage of this island nation, as well as its built environment, history and urban centers.

Richard Irving Broughton

22 South Florida's Congressman: Dante Fascell

During his 38-year career as a U.S. congressman, Dante Fascell was an active proponent of human rights both on American soil and beyond and was instrumental in shaping our nation's foreign policy.

Anne Sherman



Cover—James Hutchinson, *Harney's Revenge*, 1977. Painting depicts white soldiers dressed as Seminoles. An informer leads them to Chekika's campsite.



This issue of *South Florida History* is tied closely to *The South Florida Frontier*, a special exhibition presently on display on the first floor of the Historical Museum. The exhibition is especially appropriate to our region because South Florida remained a frontier for some time after the United States Bureau of the Census declared, in 1890, the end of the frontier in the western United States. I enjoy making the case for our relatively recent frontier status by pointing out that the census taker in 1890 found no one living in the area that encompasses today's Fort Lauderdale (he missed the keeper of the House of Refuge and his family on today's Fort Lauderdale Beach!), while a Florida state census in 1895 revealed just nine people living along the Miami River.

Dinizulu Gene Tinnie, an artist, scholar, preservationist, civic activist and former member of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Museum, has contributed to this magazine, "From General Origins to Specific Reality: Exploring The South Florida Frontier," a sensitive, thoughtful essay on the South Florida frontier with emphasis on the many people, be they runaway slaves or Seminole Indians, who comprised its pre-Flagler population.

Arthur Chapman, a fourth generation Miamian now living and teaching history in Georgia, and I collaborated on "The Ox-Woman of South Florida," a study of the presence of Sarah McClain, a literally larger than life character, who lived in many parts of the South Florida frontier in the early 1900s. The colorful Ox-Woman's story underlines the uniqueness of this frontier and the people who braved it to carve out new lives for themselves, although her experience here was ultimately tragic.

Richard Irving "Irv" Broughton, a dear friend of mine since our college days at Florida State University, shares with our readers his wonderful "Hammock Land," a poem vivid in its description of a military mission by Colonel William H. Harney and the men under him who were stationed at Fort Dallas on the Miami River directed the giant Seminole leader, Chekika. The military expedition took Harney and his soldiers deep into the Everglades during the later stages of the Second Seminole War (1835-1842) where they found and killed Chekika. Broughton is an instructor in literature and film at Spokane Falls Community College, as well as an accomplished author, editor and filmmaker.

Anne Sherman, a longtime social studies teacher at Miami Central High School, was a recent student of mine in a Miami/South Florida history class at Miami Dade College, Wolfson. As part of her course requirements, she authored a brief but factual biography of the late Congressman Dante Fascell, for whom she worked as a volunteer. Sherman's study evoked vivid memories of a powerful member of the U.S. House of Representatives whom the *Miami Herald* characterized as more influential than any other leader who shaped South Florida in the second half of the 20th century. Despite his power and accomplishments, Fascell was refreshingly unassuming, and he never lost the common touch that endeared him to South Floridians for more than one half century.

Finally, Stuart McIver, one of my predecessors as editor of *South Florida History*, has reviewed for this magazine Gary Mormino's captivating *Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams: A Social History of Modern Florida*, which showcases the perspective of an eminent Florida historian on the massive growth and changes that have overtaken the Sunshine State since World War II.

We know you will enjoy this edition of *South Florida History*, and we encourage you to share your thoughts on its contents with us.

South Florida History

Editor

Dr. Paul S. George

Managing Editor

Sara Muñoz

Editorial Assistance

Laura Arango

Kelly Geisinger

Published three times a year by the
Historical Association of Southern Florida

Robert McCammon, President/CEO

Miami-Dade Cultural Center
101 W Flagler St, Miami, FL 33130
305.375.1492 • 305.375.1609 fax
publications@historical-museum.org
www.historical-museum.org
ISSN: 10773819

South Florida History is a journal of popular regional history published by the Historical Association of Southern Florida. Receipt of *South Florida History* is a privilege of membership in the Historical Museum, the Collier County Museum, the Clewiston Museum, the Boca Raton Historical Society and The Historical Society of Palm Beach County.

The Historical Association of Southern Florida is a nonprofit cultural, educational and humanistic institution dedicated to providing information about the history of southern Florida and the Caribbean, and to the collection and preservation of material relating to that history.

The contents of *South Florida History* magazine are copyrighted © 2005 by the Historical Association of Southern Florida. All rights are reserved. Reprint of material is encouraged; however, written permission from the Association is required. Inquiries and contributions are encouraged and should be addressed to the Editor, *South Florida History*, Historical Museum of Southern Florida, 101 W Flagler St, Miami, FL 33130. Phone: 305.375.1492; Fax: 305.375.1609; e-mail: marketing@historical-museum.org. The Historical Museum disclaims any responsibility for errors in factual material or statements of opinion expressed by contributors.

This publication has been sponsored in part by the Thomas B. Haggard Fund for Publications, the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, Florida Arts Council and Division of Historical Resources, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners and members of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. The contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views and opinion of the editors of *South Florida History* or the Florida Department of State, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of State.

Advancement

by Carrie Brumbaugh

What better way is there to celebrate the history of South Florida than to rejoice in the time-honored tradition of craft festivals in the American culture? Craft shows honor the skills and trades that we so often lack in our modern lives. The Historical Museum of Southern Florida's Harvest festival is a craft and cultural experience defined by its unique celebration of handmade arts and the rich history of the people who have made them.

Harvest has been an important South Florida event for 30 years. The festival, which will take place on November 19 and 20, ushers in the holiday spirit in a way only South Florida can. Always the weekend before Thanksgiving, the festival welcomes carefully juried crafters and exhibitors displaying objects of true artisanship, including high-quality arts and crafts, homemade food products, live plants and agricultural products.

Countless South Florida children have grown up attending Harvest and now have passed on the tradition to children



of their own. Local music and children's activities ensure that the event is fun and appropriate for all ages. Festival attendees may tour a living historic village and literally find themselves

surrounded by historical reenactors. These extraordinary lovers of the past communicate a taste of old South Floridian life by setting up a historical campground throughout the weekend at the site of the festival, on the grounds of the Fair & Expo Center. A wide array of delicious food and beverages are offered throughout the day, ensuring shoppers delicious snacks and lunches.

Serious shoppers may purchase special "Early Bird" tickets in order to enter the festival early and enjoy the best selection and smaller crowds. Over the years, this contingency has grown by leaps and bounds. They not only enjoy the privilege of special hours, but also a light breakfast, juice and hot coffee upon their arrival.

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida invites you, your family and friends to share with us on November 19 and 20 this unique and time-honored tradition.—SFH



See you at Harvest!

Spotlight continues on next page.

A Taste of Old Miami

at Historical Museum Luncheons

by Bud Park

As the Historical Museum looks forward to new exhibition space in Museum Park, we are also looking back to the families that built South Florida through a series of “Taste of Old Miami” luncheons. Families that have been in Miami for many years (some of them even back to the pioneer days before Flagler’s railroad came in) have been invited to a series of luncheon discussions guided by Miami historian Arva Moore Parks McCabe.

“Engaging these families is a great thing for the museum to do,” says Moore Parks McCabe, “because people whose families have been here for a long time and have contributed to building this community have a vested interest not only in the place, but also in preserving its history.”

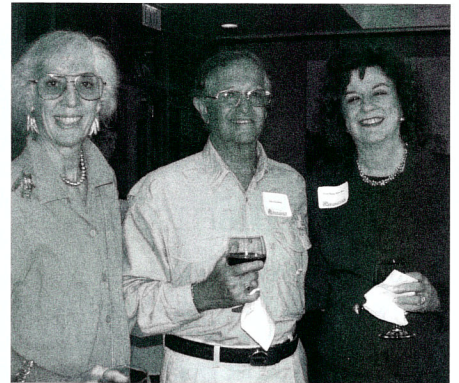
Four “Old-Timer” luncheons have been held this summer, and several more are scheduled for the coming year. Families invited have included some well-known Miami names: Munroe, Matheson, Gibson, Kendall, Fuchs, Kanner, Daniel, Batchelor, Admire, Battle, Hutson, Lynch, Hector, McKinney, Ferguson, Williams, Baldwin, Cesarano, Goodman and many others.

During the luncheons, Historical Museum President/CEO Bob McCammon describes plans for 25,000 square feet of exhibit space in Museum Park with the Museum of Science. He also updates the participants on activities and developments within the museum. Bud Park, Vice President for Advancement, explains the upcoming capital campaign and the feasibility study that will be the first step.

Museum Park (formerly Bicentennial Park) will offer 25,000 square feet of exhibition and education space to the Historical Museum, contiguous to the Miami Museum of Science & Planetarium. This space will permit us to develop world-class exhibitions, educational programs and events and to expand our offerings, scope and impact on the South Florida community. The county has committed \$25 million in construction funds for the Historical Museum in Museum Park.

Future luncheons will feature the “new pioneer” families of Latin and Caribbean descent who came to Miami in the 1960s and later.

If your family has been in Miami a long time, or if yours is one of the “new pioneer” families, please contact Bud Park at 305.375.1615 or advancement@historical-museum.org.—*SFH*



Clockwise from left—

Robert McKinney; Erica McKinney; Bud Park,
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Jane Goodman, Jerry Goodman,
Arva Moore Parks McCabe

Adrian Vilaraos, Marika Lynch, Mary Lynch

Bob McCammon, Historical Museum
President/CEO; Arva Moore Parks McCabe;
Peter Bermont

Marty Grafton; Faith Mesnekoff, Board of
Trustees; Marcia Kanner, Endowment Officer;
David Mesnekoff

Historical Museum of Southern Florida

Miami-Dade Cultural Center, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, 305.375.1492, www.historical-museum.org. Open seven days a week, Monday–Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday noon to 5 pm. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Discounted parking available at 50 NW 2nd Ave. Adults \$5; Children 6-12 \$2; HMSF members and children (5 and under) FREE.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

The South Florida Frontier

On display at the Historical Museum through January 22, 2006

Explore 19th-century frontier life in South Florida and examine the lives of the diverse groups of people who interacted with each other in the region, including Seminole Indians, Anglo-Americans, African-Americans and African-Bahamians. Walk into a full-scale trading post, where settlers and Seminoles exchanged goods and supplies. See more than 200 artifacts, photomurals, oil paintings, prints, photographs, maps and books, that tell the stories of some of the major events of the period, such as the Seminole Wars, the development of settlements and the emergence of tourism.

The Spanish Colonization of Florida

Lobby Exhibition

On display at the Historical Museum through January 15, 2006

Discover "La Florida" through the eyes of 16th century explorers Juan Ponce de Leon and others, and understand how they transformed it into a Spanish colony. View rare books, maps, prints and documents from the collections of the Historical Museum and the Kislak Foundation. An exhibition in collaboration with the Jay I. Kislak Foundation and the Office of the Governor of Florida.

SPECIAL EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Live On The Plaza

Thursday Evenings 6 to 9 pm FREE

Join the Historical Museum and other curious downtowners for FREE live music, lectures, panel discussions and delicious cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

November 17

6 pm LIVE MUSIC Valerie C. Wisecracker
7 pm PANEL DISCUSSION Women on the South Florida Frontier
Panelists Dr. Arva Moore Parks, Christine Ardalan and Sandra H. Thurlow

December 1

6 pm LIVE MUSIC
7 pm LECTURE A History of the Miami River
Co-presented by Dr. Elliot William Salloway and the Historical Museum's Dr. Paul George.

January 5

7 pm LECTURE Writing the South Florida Frontier
Presented by Peter Matthiessen

Family Fun Days

Every Saturday 1 to 3 pm FREE

Join the Historical Museum every Saturday morning for FREE family programming. Imagine, create and explore through hands-on activities, art, music, drama, dance and storytelling.

November 19

1–3 pm Gobble – Gobble
Create colorful hand cutout turkeys.

December 3

1–3 pm Reenact The Past
Dress up and act out various roles of early pioneer life in Florida.

Harvest

Saturday & Sunday, November 19 & 20 10 am to 5 pm

Miami-Dade County Fair Expo Center, Coral Way & SW 112th Ave.

Join the Historical Museum at HARVEST, a major indoor festival featuring homemade crafts and food products, artwork, live plants and agricultural products. Enjoy historical reenactments, live music, children's activities and displays of antique automobiles.

Thirteenth Annual Miami International Map Fair

Saturday & Sunday, February 4 & 5, 2006 10 am to 5 pm

Enjoy a weekend of browsing and buying antique maps of every size, shape and color, alongside map dealers, collectors and aficionados from the four corners of the world. Map Fair includes lectures by experts in the field (special registration required) and sales by top international dealers.

CAMPS

Tropical Explorers Winter Camp

Monday, December 19 through Friday, December 30.

See page 31 for our winter camp ad.

HISTORIC TOURS, ECO-HISTORY TOURS AND PROGRAMS

See page 33 for a listing.



Collier County Museums, 3301 Tamiami Trail East, Naples—239.774.8476. Journey back over 10,000 years of Southwest Florida's unique past at our four museum locations. Visit the Collier County Museum at 3301 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, the Naples Depot Museum (opening soon) at 1051 5th Ave South, Downtown Naples, the Museum of the Everglades at 105 West Broadway, Everglades City, and the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch at 1215 Roberts Ave, Immokalee. Admission is free for all museums, donations appreciated. For information and operating hours, please call: 239.774.8476.



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. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 10 am–4 pm.



Clewiston Museum, 112 South Commercio Street, Clewiston—863.983.2870. 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 pm Tuesday through Saturday, with seasonal adjustments. No admission fee is charged; however, donations are encouraged.



The Historical Society of Palm Beach County, 139 North County Road, Suite 25, Palm Beach—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 Monday through Friday, from 9 am–5 pm. Research hours are by appointment Tuesday through Thursday from 10 am–3 pm.

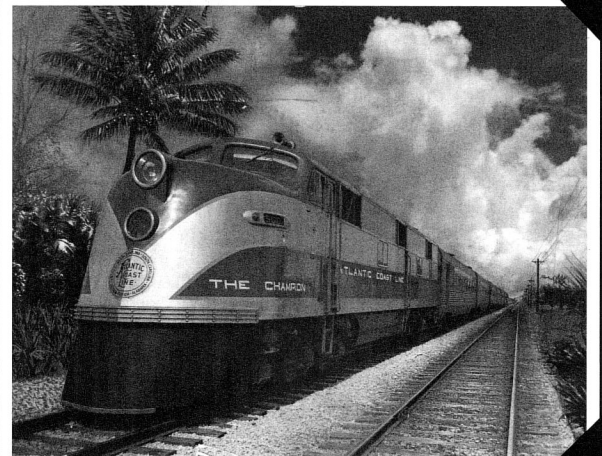
The above institutions subscribe to South Florida History as a benefit for their members.

Yesterday's Visions for Sale at the Historical Museum

A treasure trove of revealing, dramatic and scenic photographs of South Florida's past are available to adorn the walls of your home or place of business.

With more than one million photographs and postcards, there's something for everyone.

Call 305.375.1492, or stop by the Historical Museum's Research Center for further details.





THE SOUTH FLORIDA FRONTIER

◆ An **EXHIBITION** on display through **JANUARY 22, 2006** ◆

by Jorge Zamanillo

WHILE THE AMERICAN WEST IS INSTILLED IN OUR history lessons as the last American frontier, the South Florida frontier is less often documented but as important in the development of U.S. history. During the 19th century, the dream of starting over in unknown territories, the gold rush and evading the law were all reasons for moving west. During this same period, South Florida was already occupied by Seminole Indians, Euro-American settlers, African American freed persons and escapees from slavery and African Bahamians. *The South Florida Frontier*, an exhibition currently at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, explores this lesser-known southern frontier and the interaction between the diverse people that migrated into the region. The exhibition will remain on display through January 22, 2006.

In developing this exhibition, the Collections and Exhibitions Department faced the challenge of placing its theme in a broader national context. Since the American West was so well known, we decided to compare and contrast the two frontiers. Exhibiting material from areas outside the museum's collection enhanced the storyline and provided an opportunity for the visitors to view objects not usually displayed in relation to South Florida history. For example, visitors can see a Navajo blanket from the American Southwest next to a long shirt from South Florida.

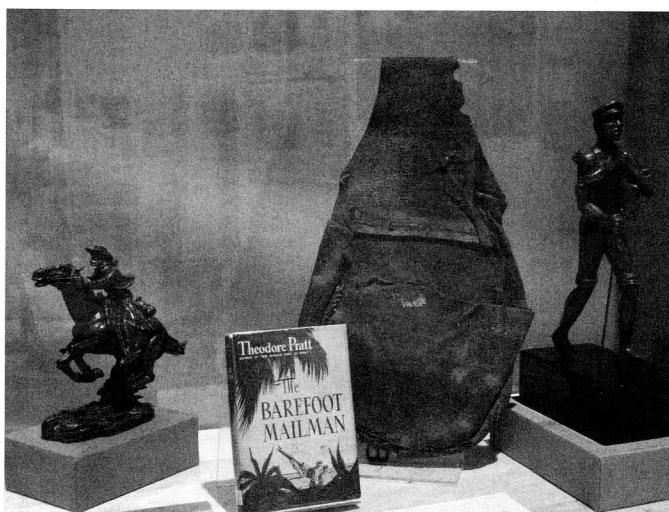
In South Florida, whites and people of color lived along the coasts and on islands while Seminoles lived inland and avoided contact with non-Indians. All, however, met at trading posts and general stores, where they obtained the supplies they could not produce for themselves. At the trading posts, they also learned about each other's experiences and cultural traditions. For the exhibition, we built a full-scale trading post from pine and cedar boards in the traditional cracker-style architecture popular in South Florida. The visitor can step inside and see fully-stocked shelves with canned goods, fabric, sewing materials, beads and rifles. Animal hides, egret plumes and other items that

would have been brought in for trade by the Seminole Indians are also on display.

Artifact cases contain the actual goods recovered from trading posts and general stores in South Florida: glass beads and documents from the Brickell Store on the south bank of the Miami River, ledgers and receipts from the Stranahan Store in Ft. Lauderdale, and letters, checks and a postal cancel stamp from the Smallwood Store in Chokoloskee. Also on display are the original post office box from the Brickell Store and the post office window from Lemon City, just north of Miami.

The museum has made an effort to improve the design and production of its exhibitions over the past few years by including interactive components, multimedia displays and exhibition areas targeted at children. Inside the trading post, kids can write a letter home about their frontier experience and then hand-cancel the letter with a stamp from either the Miami Post Office from 1850 or the Cocoanut Grove Post Office from 1873. Visitors can also attempt to identify animal hides and furs of commonly traded animals in South Florida and the American West. Visitors can also discover frontier novels, bead necklaces and other period objects.

Along with the trading post, *The South Florida Frontier* contains three other sections, rich with artifacts, maps, photographs and prints from the Historical Museum's collection and on loan from other institutions. In the "Seminole Wars" section, visitors will learn about the Battle of Okeechobee, fought on December 25, 1837, and one of the most decisive fights of the Second Seminole War, and the Seminole Indian attack on the small settlement of Indian Key on the night of August 7, 1840. Objects borrowed from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum are on display in this area, including a rare 1837 map issued to a soldier heading to fight the Seminole Indians near Lake Okeechobee. Also on display are ceramics and glass beads recovered from an archaeological site on Cape Florida



Opposite page, clockwise from left—Frontiersman by Fred Hand, HASF 2001-399-1. Photos by Ralph Munroe: Seminole Indian Matlo, X-109; Parson Jones at Davis' Cape Florida, 11D; Mrs. Keitz, 400E. Top—Isabella Peacock's rocker and china from the Peacock Inn. Above—Comparison of Barefoot Mailman and Pony Express mail routes.



believed to have been a campsite used by Black Seminoles prior to leaving Florida to settle in the Bahamas.

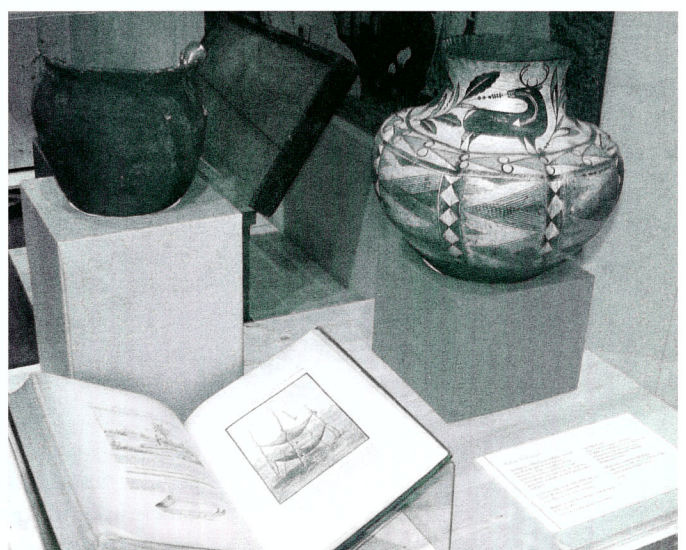
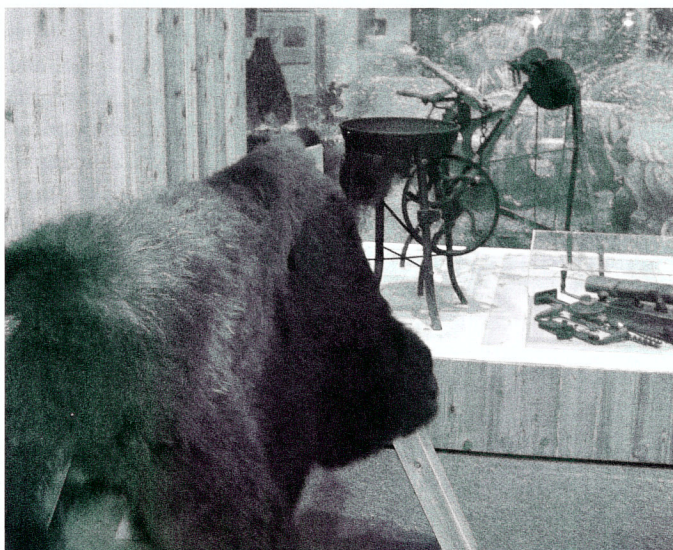
The “Life in the Frontier” section explores the people who inhabited South Florida during the 19th century: Seminole Indians, Euro-Americans, African Americans and African Bahamians. A Pueblo ceramic jar from the American Southwest is displayed adjacent to a rare Seminole ceramic pot from Florida, allowing the visitor to compare forms and styles of Native American pottery. The Pueblo vessel, along with a Navajo blanket and silver and turquoise bracelet, are items on loan from the Lowe Art Museum. Visitors can also view artifacts uncovered during excavations at the Mariah Brown House in the Cooan Grove, an area settled by Bahamians in the 19th century.

The “Mythology of the Frontier” section examines representations of the frontier in the American imagination. Paintings, photographs, books, periodicals and movies portrayed the American West and South Florida as lands of opportunity and adventure. Original paintings by James Hutchinson capture the image of the Native American on horseback and the frontier woman by the thatched roof cabin, typical images of frontier life. Meanwhile, books and movies romanticized the Barefoot Mailman in South Florida and the Pony Express riders out west, both of whom carried mail across great distances. Lobby cards for movies based on stories from South Florida include *The Barefoot Mailman* with Jerome Courtland, *Reap the Wild Wind* starring John Wayne as a shipwrecked captain rescued by female wrecker Paulette Goddard, *Wind Across the Everglades* with Christopher Plummer taking on plume hunter Burl Ives and *Distant Drums* featuring Gary Cooper fighting the “fierce” Seminole Indians in the Everglades.

The mythology of the South Florida frontier encouraged tourism in the region, leading to hotels opening in Palm Beach and Cooan Grove. One of South Florida’s first photographers, Ralph Munroe, captured the people and places of the Biscayne Bay region during its last years as a frontier with his large format photographs. The original wooden sign from the Cooan Grove train station hangs appropriately over the last section of the exhibition. Henry Flagler’s Florida East Coast Railway reached Palm Beach in 1893 and Miami in 1896, allowing tourists from up north a first-hand experience of the last American frontier. Their arrival marked the end of the region’s isolation.—SFH

Top left—Navajo Eye Dazzler blanket and Seminole long shirt made from materials acquired at trading posts. Left—Interior view of the trading post and the Lemon City Post Office window.

Opposite page. Top—Visitors can travel back in time as they walk through a full-scale trading post. Bottom left—Buffalo robe and early 20th century carpenter and blacksmith tools. Bottom right—Rare Seminole ceramic pot and Pueblo ceramic jar.



From General Origins to Specific Reality:

EXPLORING THE SOUTH FLORIDA FRONTIER

by Dinizulu Gene Tinnie

While in other languages and cultures, the word "frontier" and its various linguistic equivalents has generally come to denote the official boundary, or border that separates nations, in the United States the word retains much more of its older, original meaning. Its root word is "front" (derived, interestingly enough, from the Latin *frons/frontis*, meaning "forehead"), as in "cold front" or "battlefront," signifying the leading edge of an advancing force. The frontier, in familiar American usage, refers, as one dictionary definition puts it, to "the farthest part of a settled country, where the wilds begin." From this definition, we also get figurative meanings, like the "frontiers of scientific knowledge," beyond which lies the yet unknown. Thus, the very word "frontier" is imbued with a vigorous dynamism and the notion of endless possibilities, promise and progress. Certainly, this was the spirit behind John F. Kennedy's energetic 1960 presidential campaign slogan of a "New Frontier," and which would make space itself "the last frontier," a concept which has become an integral part of modern American culture and thinking.

This fascination with ever-advancing frontiers is, of course, as old as "America" itself, that bold experiment in European transatlantic expansion and its colonization of newly "discovered" lands, generically named for Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci. The frontier is the very definition, in physical terms, of advancement and expansion, and therefore the concept became embodied as the very identity and purpose of the ever-expanding newly established settlements in the western hemisphere, carried out with varying results according to geographical, historical, economic, political and military factors. In the United States, where, from the settlers' point of view, expansion has been most successful (eventually pushing all the way from coast to coast), "the frontier" is forever linked in the popular imagination to such coonskin-capped heroes as Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett, or to "pioneers" in their convoys of "prairie schooner" covered wagons moving ever westward.



Gopher John, Seminole Interpreter. HASF 1976-96-2.

It is often not even recognized, however, that during this same historical period of westward expansion the nation also had a southern frontier, on the peninsula of Florida, with its own set of adventures and fascinating stories to tell. Here, actual schooners and other sailing craft were the vehicles that moved American settlers southward, mostly to coastal settlements around the peninsula, skirting the less hospitable interior. Here too, there was a marked difference from the westward frontier in that expansion also occurred northward from the long-established settlement of Key West. (Indeed, it is often overlooked that it was Florida, not Jamestown in Virginia, where the first European settlements in the United States took root.) As in the west, the drama of the frontier here would include European, Native and African descendants whose interwoven fates would comprise a tapestry of extremes from conflict to cooperation and nearly everything between, in ways unique to Florida.

In rather simplistic terms, it might be said that if for the first of these three groups the idea of the frontier was an emboldening concept, fraught with grand notions of "Manifest Destiny," missionary zeal and the "spread of civilization" over supposed "savagery," it had no such romantic appeal to the latter two groups. This is the "other history" of Florida, so to speak. If the "frontier" had any meaning at all for Native and African Americans, it would have been in its more common definition as a highly significant national boundary: the line which, until 1821, divided the burgeoning, oppressive slave-owning United States from "Freedom Land" to the south, the Spanish territory of Florida that lay beyond the reach of encroaching settlers and would-be "slave catchers." It can hardly be surprising that the two groups together would inherit the term "cimarrones" in Spanish, meaning "wild" or "runaway," originally referring to livestock, a term that would give rise to two words in English: "maroons," as successful "runaway slaves" were known, and, by way of the Creek language variant Siminoli, "Seminoles." Red and Black, Black and Red, some intermarried, some independent, some

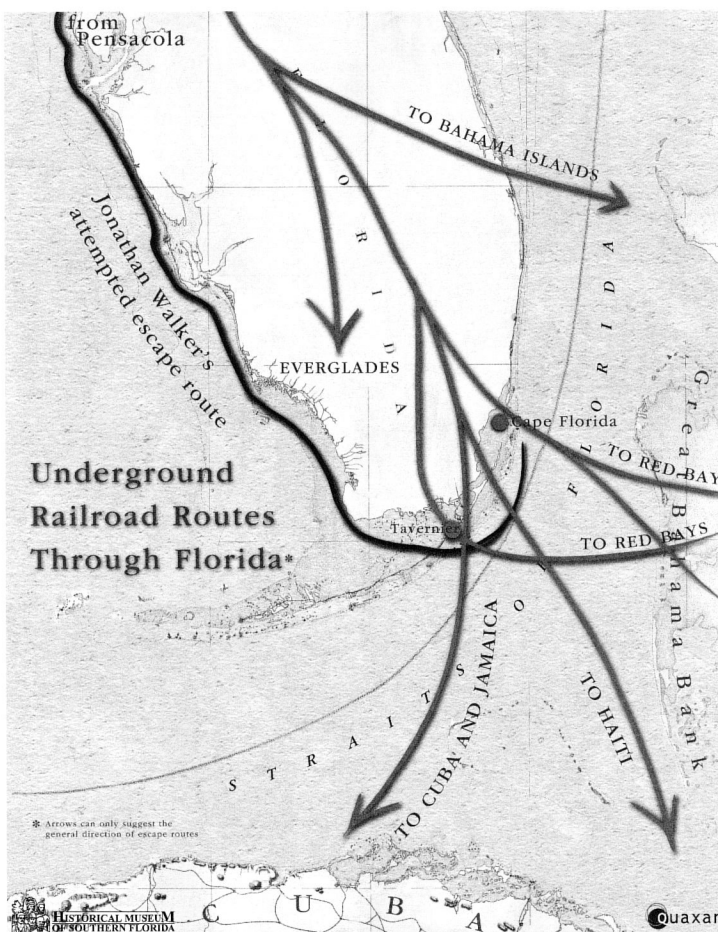
together, some apart, the Seminoles began as "a people, not a tribe," linked by a common cause and, in many cases, a common fate.

That commonality would be nowhere more manifest than in their shared response to the advancing frontier of European settlement into the Florida peninsula. And nowhere would their common fate be sealed so finally as at the Battle of Loxahatchee in present-day Palm Beach County, where, captured (dishonorably) by U.S. forces under a flag of truce, the survivors were force-marched across the state to Tampa, packed onto ships to east Texas and marched again ultimately to Oklahoma, where descendants of those Trail of Tears survivors still reside. In addition, the two groups formed natural alliances based on shared cultural and spiritual values, understandings of medicinal plants and other such practical matters.

Of course, as there were commonalities and similarities, so were there differences. The archaeological discovery of the remains of the Black Seminole town of Peliklakaha, near Gainesville, attests to the fact that there were exclusively (or predominantly) African maroon settlements, as there were those that were mainly Native, while still others had mixed populations. (Among descendants there are serious doubts raised regarding claims by outside observers that the

Native Seminoles actually kept Africans as their "slaves.") Further evidence of differences in the way the Blacks and Natives fit separately into the Florida drama can be drawn from the stories of Fort Mose, the early Black fortified community near St. Augustine, where the Spanish government of Florida welcomed Africans escaping from slavery in the English colonies to the north, and from the Negro Fort on the Appalachicola River, where Black resistance ended when a "lucky" shot from a U.S. gunship on the river struck a powder magazine inside the fort, causing a devastating explosion.

A particularly interesting twist on these separate yet connected fates emerges from Gail Swanson's fascinating story of the survivors from the wreck of the Spanish slave ship *Guerrero* off Key Largo in 1827. Florida by then had become part of the



Underground railroad routes through Florida. Artwork by Quaxar.

United States, and the portion of the surviving Africans who had made it to Key West were shipped north to St. Augustine, for their own protection from possible recapture by slaving interests in Cuba. In northern Florida, with no financial means to care for them, U.S. Marshal Waters Smith rented the captives out to local plantations. From there, several of the Africans escaped, and Smith had to hire Natives, who knew the territory, to recapture them, but this time so that they could be successfully repatriated to Africa.

The main difference between Africans and Natives was that for the Blacks, a group of people whose presence in this country began mainly against their will and for no purpose of their own, the “Freedom Land” of Florida was a place to escape to, and escape through. While many joined existing maroon settlements, many others, following the Underground Railroad escape route through the peninsula, and with the aid of the Seminoles, reached destinations as far south as Key Biscayne and Tavernier, where they could board vessels bound to freedom in the Bahamas and elsewhere. A Seminole settlement of their descendants still exists at Red Bay on Andros Island. In this sense, it could perhaps be said that there was a Black frontier in Florida, but clearly its purpose and intent were different from that of European settlers. For the Native population on the other hand, as with Native populations everywhere, the move into Florida was, if anything, only a retreat and retrenchment in another part of their own land, their only homeland from which they were being systematically displaced. The “odious frontier mentality,” as it has been called, was their worst enemy.

Indeed, one of the greatest benefits of this exhibition, *The South Florida Frontier*, is precisely its ability to foster a greater understanding of this problematical relationship between colonial settlers, for whom the “frontier” is always a battlefield, and Native populations. (Curiously, anthropologists and other scholars have a long record of studying the behaviors of far-flung populations around the globe, and yet seem to have given little or no attention to the understanding of their own settler foreparents’ motives and actions, a gross oversight in our academic institutions.) While settlers almost universally see their encroachment as somehow being a divinely ordained advancement of “civilization” and “freedom” (but for whom?), and see national history as beginning with their arrival, they also know that, should things turn out badly, they have possible options of going elsewhere or sometimes even returning home. The Native population, on the other hand, knows themselves not to be “on” the land, but of the land. It is the place of all their ancestors; its place in the cosmos is well understood and celebrated, where often millennia of cultural rituals and protocols have established a harmony that is, and must be, deeply revered. When things turn out badly, there is no place else for the Native to go, or to which one might escape. So it is, and has been, worldwide. So it is, and has been in Florida, where, for the indigenous population, the peninsula was not so much a place of escape as a place to take a last stand against the ever-advancing “frontier.”

In exploring the fascinating, little-known story of the “South Florida frontier,” and of the “frontier” phenomenon in general, we embark on a project that is, in its own way, quintessentially American. Frontiers of land, frontiers of knowledge, frontiers of true human freedom—these are the themes that this exhibition will necessarily evoke, and invite us to examine, coming away with a better understanding of who we are and of what we can and hope to become. With the resources, technological advances and opportunities of our time, we can revisit the conflicts, tensions and mutual contributions that first linked settlers—both willing and unwilling—with Native populations and with the land itself, all of which have become part of our national and local personality and character, in the light of a new day and indeed a new millennium. (This is why so many quotation marks, around the terminology of bygone concepts, appear in this article.) These themes are as relevant today, in our gateway city of bright lights and a rapidly changing landscape that receives new immigrants and refugees daily, as they were in the 1800s, when intrepid “frontiersmen” confronted a “wilderness” of mangroves, alligators and other wildlife, all but oblivious to the human presence that shadowed their movements.

Shall we, for example, virtually alone among humans in our very belief in such a thing as a “frontier,” continue unapologetically in the brash practices associated with that belief—disregard, disrespect and destruction of the Native peoples and cultures we encounter in an unending series of invasions, or shall we, better informed in this new day than our foreparents were, seek more cooperation than conflict and foster a society that respects the land that nurtures us and benefits mutually and equally from the contributions of many cultures? Nothing less than questions like this fulfill the real potential of exploring the “South Florida frontier.” Florida was in fact the first frontier of European settlement in North America (well before Jamestown or Plymouth), and, in the case of South Florida, it was one of the last frontiers to be settled. It is only appropriate that such a bold exploration into our past and our future should be launched here as well.—*SFH*

Dinizulu Gene Tinnie is an artist, scholar, preservationist, civic activist and former member of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Museum.



Sarah McClain, known by many as the "Ox-Woman," was a celebrated character of the 1900s. HASF x-342-x.

The Ox-Woman of South Florida

by Arthur E. Chapman and Paul S. George

As members of multi-generational Miami families, we were raised on numerous "Cracker Tales," some of which were designed to modify or correct our behavior and others designed to illustrate the independence and strength of Florida's pioneers. A favorite story, illustrating the chestnut that the truth is sometimes stranger than fiction, surrounds the saga of Sarah E. McClain, aka the "Ox-Woman," so-named for the oxen with which she traveled. In some quarters she was known as the "Female Giant." As much as anyone, McClain appeared to personify the pioneer spirit from which our area developed.

Born in the late 19th century, Sarah E. McClain hailed from South Georgia around the Okefenokee Swamp. Daughter of a man reportedly the largest in the state, Sarah stood six feet four inches tall yet was shorter than her three sisters! Muscular and full-figured, Sarah always wore a plain sack-like dress and a man's heavy work shoes. And the Ox-Woman did a man's work.

In Georgia, she operated a cross tie business, cutting and hewing the logs herself. What brought her to the Sunshine State, according to one newspaper account, was the fact that the Ox-Woman's husband killed a man in Georgia, prompting them to flee to the wilds of southwest Florida in the early 1900s.

The couple obtained land along the Gulf Coast of southwest Florida and began to farm. But it was there that her husband was apprehended by the law and returned to Georgia where he was convicted of homicide and hanged. In subsequent years, the Ox-Woman roamed throughout South Florida, spending inordinate amounts of time in the Everglades in her ox cart, possibly in hopes of finding a sister, Hannah, who lived in the tiny settlement of Everglades in southwest Florida. After emerging from the swamp, the Ox-Woman became a familiar, if unusual, sight in South Florida. Miamians of that era remember her passing through the nascent city with a pair of young oxen hitched to a carriage en route to points south and west.



In quest for her sister, the Ox-Woman's journey led her through the Big Cypress Swamp with its dense cypress strands between open glades. Photographed in May 1917. Photo courtesy of the Florida State Archives.

Crossing the Everglades was no easy task. Author and journalist Nixon Smiley, in *Florida—Land of Images*, described the Ox-Woman's journey in quest of her sister, and, in the process, provides us with a striking look at that raw, one-of-a kind wilderness. Smiley wrote that the Ox-Woman:

...probably left from the vicinity of Paradise Key, now the site of the Royal Palm Ranger Station in the Everglades National Park. She had camped at Paradise Key, and one of the oxen she brought from Georgia died there. The other died in a farmer's backyard in south Dade. So she had two young oxen, which she had broken herself, when she started her journey. Leaving from Paradise Key, she would have had to cross only

about twenty miles of open glades, including the Shark River Slough which in the dry season held a foot or so of water. But there would have been no deep streams to cross, and cloven-footed oxen could have made it through the deepest muck without bogging down. After crossing the Everglades, the Ox-Woman entered a twenty-mile-wide stretch of pine islands interspersed with glades and thin cypress. But after that she had to cross Big Cypress Swamp with its dense cypress strands between open glades. There may have been times when the Ox-Woman had to chop her way for long distances, but she was handy with an ax and this would have been no undue hardship. But wide Indian trails crossed the cypress strands long before the white man came; and after the earliest pioneers arrived they explored much of the cypress, always looking for greener pastures beyond. So the Ox-Woman might have been able to follow old wagon roads through the swamps north of Turner River. Although she could have had no accurate charts, she undoubtedly had talked to local Crackers, hunters, and possibly to Seminole Indians who knew this country. In subsequent years, she moved from place to place in south Florida.

Ultimately, she found her sister.

The Ox-Woman was known to be a fine shot, frequently killing and dressing her own deer, then selling the meat directly from her cart. A customer would simply point out the desired cut and she would take up her hatchet and cut it to suit. A thin slice would then become a steak, a thick cut a roast and everything else stew. Asking for no help, aid or assistance, she was entirely self-supporting, and some claim that she even butchered a beef on the floor of the Homestead FEC depot shed. McClain was also a successful truck farmer in the area of today's Homestead.

Around the beginning of 1911, Sarah sold her farm on southwest Florida's Gulf Coast. When the buyer fell behind on his mortgage payments, she traveled across the peninsula to collect. According to the *Miami Daily Metropolis* for June 12, 1911, "She was shot (and killed) by

the man who owed her money. The murderer was later shot by the sheriff's deputies after the man had opened fire on the sheriff."

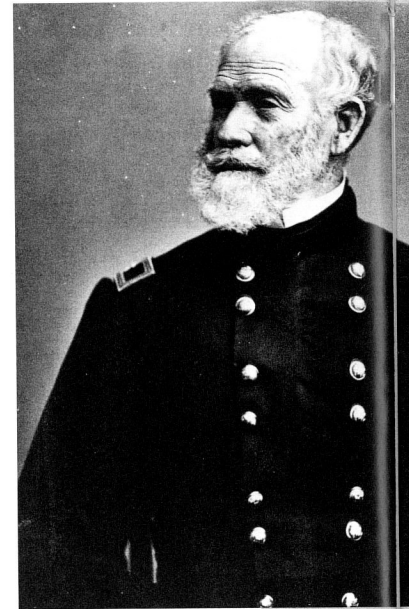
In our rush to urbanize an area that was but a frontier one century earlier, we have forgotten many of the fascinating stories involving those who were here before us. Stories of the Ox-Woman and other pioneers remind us of the earlier color and even pageantry of an area still so young in terms of development. These "Cracker Tales" help us remember and reflect on a time when our area was among America's last frontiers.—SFH

Arthur E. Chapman is a fourth generation Miamian now living and teaching history in Georgia.

To suffer the gold river gladly
 That leads you, patient.
 Col. Harney and two companies
 Of infantry and Negro John
 Will show in bright Seminole garb,
 Call loudly out of the dark,
 Their dugouts sliding on fluid gold,
 To the animals, plants, people
 Of the Everglades, to awaken
 The natural sleep of lookouts
 To the ordinariness of day
 Or night, as it lies there
 Loud as the drunken
 Recruits out of Fort Dallas,
 Whom death drives still—
 Outlandish voices, calling
 In time to the dap of paddles
 To alert the moccasins
 Or death-dealing monsters
 In the improbable fields of themselves.

If you arrive in time
 In the thinly thatched camp—
 Beyond the notice of dreams,
 You find the warriors
 Forging the weapons of sleep,
 So they do not scurry
 Into the closing throat.
 Of the great freshwater swamp.

But now in Hammock Land,
 Finally reaching Chaikaika,
 Harney's dugouts edge
 Into the tannin-stained banks,
 Brothers, in bright feathers
 Of green, red, yellow, going
 To mingle blood with blood.



Colonel William S. Harney.
 HASE Miami News Collection 1989-
 011-9360.



Enraged by the attacks on
 Indian Key, the Army sent
 Colonel Harney to find
 Chekika. James Hutchinson,
Harney's Revenge, 1977. HASE.

Hammock Land

by Richard Irving Broughton

The festival of mimicry burns
Softer in concert behind
The elaboration of guns—
Chaikaika and his surprised band,
Attacked in the changing surfaces
Of gumbo limbo trees,
Which peel away red skin
Like a New York settler's
Sunburn—amid ficus, mahogany,
Palms—the military storms
The high battleground
In the kingdom of a moment.
Bullets rip into trees,
Shred palmetto, like an insane
Gardener, the scorn outside of
Nature. Chaikaika's life passed
With another into the limbs
Of a legendary oak.

Now you are the only witness
For Chaikaika, the chief,
Seven feet tall
Who ends up like St. Peter
Hung, face down for murder,
Gaping at the faded horizon of sand,
The blue sky of water,
And the footsteps of his offenders
In the sand of Hammock Land.

Harney's name and Chaikaika's
Live where the warriors paid
In green and yellow and red
For one-hundred settlers
Killed in Hammock Land,
And for Perrine, the botanist,
Whose Indian Key murder
Chased them into the swamp's
Green throat where the plants
Whose history he wrote
Grow green thatch on
The past's ever-present eyes.

Richard Irving "Irv" Broughton is an instructor in literature and film at Spokane Falls Community College, as well as an accomplished author, editor and filmmaker.



Chief Chekika is believed to be responsible for the attack on Indian Key on August 7, 1840. James Hutchinson, *Chekika*, 1977. This painting depicts the Seminole chief and a burning Indian Key behind him. HASE.



The Congressman riding the Democratic Party's icon, a donkey, as part of a voters' registration campaign, 1964. HASF 1989-011-20583.

South Florida's Congressman **DANTE FASCELL**

Over the years, millions of South Floridians watching the evening news on Labor Day saw film footage of Congressman Dante B. Fascell enjoying his traditional picnic at Crandon Park, and, later, Tropical Park. He was easily recognizable in his plaid shorts as he entered waving and smiling behind the bagpipers. A real politician!

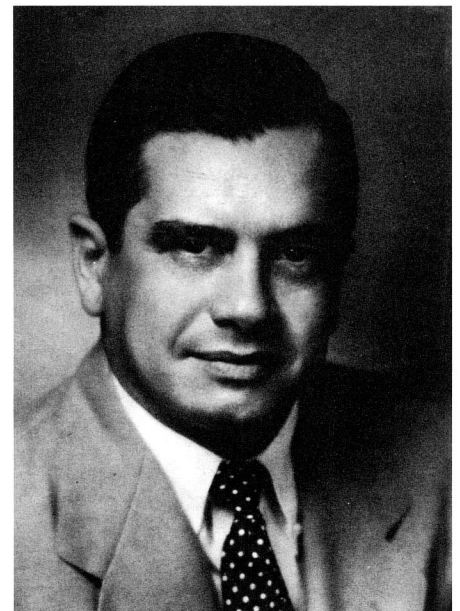
Fascell was not the only politician there. Democrats from all over the county and state were also at these gatherings, especially in election years. They could count on a large crowd to listen to their campaign rhetoric. One of the politicians in attendance was Florida's former governor and U.S. senator, Bob Graham. In fact, Graham began his political service by interning, at an early age, in Congressman Fascell's Washington, D.C., office.

Not many in attendance knew that their Labor Day gathering was an outgrowth of an annual Fascell family picnic, which saw increasing numbers of families attend as the years unfolded. Gradually, it became a Dade County tradition. That was the way the Congressman was. You were not a stranger to him for long, as you quickly became a member of his extended family.

Even though Dante Bruno Fascell was born in Bridgehampton, Long Island, Suffolk County, New York on March 9, 1917, he was raised and educated locally. His parents, both Italian immigrants, had purchased the Miller Dairy in South Dade. The dairy had gone into receivership "about 1929 when the 'boom busted'"...and it was sold "on the front courthouse steps to Dante Fascell's dad and Dante Fascell's uncle," according to Dade pioneer Tom Mitchell, who added that they "bought it on credit." Dante delivered milk as part of his chores on the farm.

In 1933, Dante graduated from Ponce de Leon High School. Five years later, he had successfully completed his course of study at the University of Miami's School of Law. He was also inducted into Iron Arrow, the school's most prestigious organization. Dante met his future wife, Jeanne-Marie Pelot, in college when the former music major was attempting to arrange a dance between his fraternity and her girls' club. In fact, Dante earned his tuition for college by performing with Depression-era dance bands as a violinist and clarinetist.

by Anne Sherman



Dante B. Fascell, 1957. HASE, Miami News Collection
1989-011-20625.



After America entered World War II, the Florida National Guard unit Fascell had joined was activated and eventually shipped out from Galveston, Texas, to action in the African, Sicilian and Italian campaigns. Before he left, Dante and Jeanne-Marie married. The Fascells later became the proud parents of three children. Fascell returned home in 1946 with the rank of captain and an understanding of what government could do. He became the legal attaché to the Dade County legislative delegation and won election to the state legislature serving in the Florida House from 1950 till 1954.

When Fascell was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1954, no one could imagine he would serve 38 years, beginning with the 84th Congress. One of the first issues to be confronted was the South's reaction to the United States Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* landmark decision calling for the integration of public schools, thereby challenging the revered Jim Crow laws maintaining segregation. One hundred and one Southern members of the House of Representatives and nearly the entire Southern membership in the United States Senate signed the 1956 Southern Manifesto, which argued for the "right" of Southern states to defy the Court's desegregation ruling. However, Congressman Fascell was a notable exception.

Fascell argued that it was a futile gesture that would accomplish nothing. In the following years, Congressman Fascell took similar stands based on high principles. In 1960, he again bolted from the vast majority of Southerners over the Civil Rights Act. Fascell supported that portion of the bill providing for acceptance of federal referees in elections where there was a charge that a particular group had been denied the ballot.

In 1973, Fascell drafted the bill that became the War Powers Act, forcing a president to seek congressional approval before committing U.S. forces abroad. Fascell wrote the legislation that created the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Closer to home, his legislative efforts in 1957 led to the expansion of the boundaries of Everglades National Park. He sponsored the legislation in the late 1960s that led to the creation of Biscayne National Park, known initially as the Biscayne National Monument. He led the effort in the Congress to protect the Florida Keys and Florida Bay from oil drilling. Through his efforts, the Congress provided the revenue to rebuild the Overseas Highway. Congressman Fascell was also in the forefront of the battle that kept \$3.8 million in an appropriations bill for Miami's new seaport at the outset of the 1960s. In 1980, at the time of the influx of 125,000 Cuban refugees from the port of Mariel, Congressman Fascell sponsored an amendment (the Fascell-Stone Amendment) to provide Cuban, as well as Haitian, entrants with domestic assistance under the 1980 Refugees Act.

Congressman Fascell served 14 years as chairman of the powerful House Committee on Foreign Affairs until his retirement from the Congress in 1992. The committee had a major hand in determining the nation's foreign policy. Congressman Louis Stokes has observed that Fascell was recognized for his "bipartisan leadership for the INF Treaty...the



Top—Bob Graham began his political service by interning at an early age in Congressman Fascell's Washington, D.C., office. Photo courtesy of the Florida State Archives. Above—Fascell and family, 1957. HASE, Miami News Collection 1989-011-20590.



Fascell enjoying his traditional Labor Day picnic, 1966. HASE, Miami News Collection 1989-011-20617.



A triumphant Dante Fascell thanking supporters and campaign workers at his Miami campaign headquarters on election night, November 1962. HASF Miami News Collection 1989-0011-20611. Top—Congressman Fascell popping the cork on a bottle of Champagne after another re-election victory, November 1962. HASF Miami News Collection, 1989-011-20613.

Inter-American Foundation...the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe which monitors compliance with the Helsinki accords...and his dedication, leadership, and hard work" in his capacity as the vice chairman of the Iran Contra Panel. "Dante has played a key role in the development of some of the most important legislation enacted by the Congress," he noted.

Fascell's fellow Florida Representatives Larry Smith and William Lehman observed "with fierce belief that the Congress has an integral role to play in this Nation's foreign policy decisions...Dante has extended and defined Congress' foreign policy role."

In a 1997 interview with The Associated Press, the former chairman reflected that his human rights work for overseas nations "especially with the 'refuseniks' who, were denied permission to leave the former Soviet bloc," was among the accomplishments of which he was most proud. "Ultimately, our human rights effort helped lead to the disintegration of the entire eastern empires," he explained. Former Foreign Affairs Committee member Lee Hamilton posited that "Fascell had a hand in almost every significant foreign policy move made by the United States from the 1960s into the 1990s...When he left here, we had quite a gap to fill."

This modest leader was widely recognized for his accomplishments on behalf of his constituents and his country. At the urging of Florida Senators Graham and Connie Mack, the Biscayne National Park visitors center was named for him in 1998. The Dante B. Fascell Port of Miami, a section of the Overseas Highway, a local elementary school and park all bear his name in recognition of his work.

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell was a walking civics book to the thousands of students who had the privilege of meeting and listening to him as a part of CloseUp and the Washington Workshops. President William Jefferson Clinton recognized Fascell's attributes and accomplishments when he awarded him the rarely bestowed Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. The president called Fascell a "man of reason and conscience who was courageous in public service." On the occasion of his retirement from the Congress, a reflective Representative Fascell stated that "we all should be proud of whatever part we have done to promote the American dream." And though he remained humble till the moment of his passing in 1998, few Americans could be more proud of their accomplishments for their country than Dante Fascell.—*SFH*



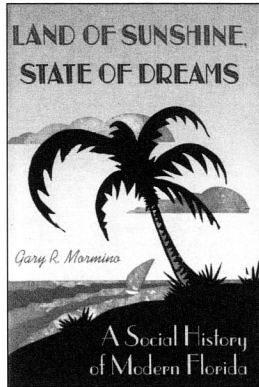
Top—Fascell and wife, Jeanne-Marie, 1951. HASE Miami News Collection 1989-011-20624. Middle—Dante Fascell participating in a get-out-the vote talkathon, 1953. HASE Miami News Collection 1989-011-20626. Above—U.S. President John F. Kennedy attended a dinner at the Fontainebleau Hotel on March 10, 1962, at which Fascell was present. HASE Miami News Collection 1989-011-20583.

Anne Sherman is a social studies teacher at Miami Central High School. She worked as a volunteer for the late Congressman Fascell.

Book Review

LAND OF SUNSHINE, STATE OF DREAMS: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF MODERN FLORIDA

by Gary Mormino: University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 2005. 457 pages—**hardcover**. \$34.95



by Stuart McIver

South Floridians gaze up at massive rows of condominiums or honk their horns at endless lines of cars blocking the road ahead. Even though most of us came from somewhere else, we have long ago figured out that today's Sunshine State is one of the biggest, busiest and liveliest states in the US

of A. In fact, Florida has become the fourth largest state in the country and is well on its way to claiming third place.

What is so surprising is that only a little over a half century ago the United States Census showed that Florida, now the largest of all southern states, was actually the smallest.

Writes author Gary Mormino in his introduction to *Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams*: "Florida's Big Bang, 1950-2000, is a story of astonishing growth, a state swelling from 2.7 million to 15.9 million inhabitants...From its founding as an imperial outpost to its modern identity as a tourist attraction, Florida has evoked contrasting and compelling images of the sacred and profane: a Fountain of Youth and a Garden of Earthly Delights, a miasmatic hellhole and skuzzy wasteland...A powerful symbol of renewal and regeneration, Florida's dreamscape constantly shifts. Where once the land and climate were sufficiently inspiring to bewitch artists and travelers, now gated condominiums, age-restricted communities, and theme parks constitute that firmament."

What brought about this boom that keeps on booming? After the end of World War II in 1945, pent-up demand and a long run of prosperity unleashed forces—and people—that transformed the Sunshine State.

The author explores people and events that created today's Gold Coast, Space Coast, Tampa Bay, Redneck Riviera and, of course, Disney World. His book addresses waves of migration from Cuba and from the streets of New York, the troubles and triumphs of Floridians who grow citrus or vegetables or sell their land to make way for massive retirement developments—or maybe even a new world, Disney World, the most successful tourist attraction on the globe.

"We stopped picking oranges and started picking tourists," observed an Orlando banker, as Disney World transformed Central Florida.

Mormino describes Miami, Los Angeles and New York as "great American cities" and also as "the great immigrant cities."

He points out also that Miami has now emerged as "the capital of Latin America."

But it is not just the capital of Latin America. He writes: "Miami has emerged as one of America's great cities, a hemispheric capital of immigrants, banking and capital. By 2000 Miami's significance was as unquestioned as it was compelling. The magnitude and speed of change strain the word metropolis. Miami is the capital of Florida's first megalopolis."

At the start of the 1950s Broward County's 1,200 square-mile landscape housed only 89,933 people. By decade's end the county's population had quadrupled, then nearly doubled during the '60s. By 1980, the county reached a million people.

"A refuge from the racial, urban, and ethnic turbulence buffeting Dade County," writes Mormino, "Broward County attracted young and old white ethnics and many upwardly mobile Hispanics and African Americans anxious to flee Opa-Locka and Hialeah...Once I-95 and the Florida Turnpike served as Broward's distant western boundaries, but frenzied development has pushed the suburbs inexorably westward so that today more people live west of the turnpike than live east of it. The Everglades retreats and recedes each day."

Land developers played a major role in Florida's boom, or as the author put it: "The future belonged to an eclectic collection of hucksters and boosters, risk takers and fortune makers who saw retirement communities and instant cities where others saw sand and swamps."

The developer whose projects impacted the state most powerfully was the Mackle Company, whose Key Biscayne project housed an American president, Richard Nixon. Rolling long before the '50s boom, the Mackles continued with such varied projects as Port Charlotte, Port St. Lucie, Marco Island and Deltona, all the while pioneering with imaginative sales techniques that kept increasing the state's population.

On November 22, 1963, Walt Disney took his first flight over Central Florida—and a dream was born. But first Disney, ever the business tycoon, assembled five dummy corporations run by clandestine real estate agents to acquire for him 43 square miles of Central Florida ranchland, groves and swamp. Disney World opened in 1971 and Florida has never been the same.

"The opening of Walt Disney World was the equivalent of a ten-point earthquake; the aftershock still reverberates today," writes Mormino. The boom was still booming but the aftershocks doomed many smaller roadside attractions that had delighted tourists in earlier times. Disney World brought to the Orlando

area so many other attractions that by the late 1990s five of America's top seven mega-theme parks were located in Orlando.

Fortunately for the reader, Dr. Mormino, the Duckwall professor of history at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, makes the complex Florida boom into a good and enlightening story. His previous books are two prize-winning volumes of Italian migration to America, in addition to numerous articles in major Florida newspapers and in *Forum* magazine, published by the Florida Humanities Council.

Stuart McIver is a Broward County author and a former editor of South Florida History.



Make a donation to the Historical Museum and receive a year's worth of outstanding benefits.

Call 305.375.1492 to find out how!

Missed the Historical Museum's exhibition VISIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN?



Stop by the museum store today and pick up your copy of the *Visions of the Caribbean* Exhibition Guide.

Special price \$1

VISIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN

Towns and Cities

European colonization of the Caribbean involved not only the development of plantations but the establishment of towns for administration and commerce. Early town plans drawn by artists and mapmakers illustrate main plazas or squares surrounded by layouts of streets, typically in a grid pattern. Artists also drew perspective views of port towns and cities, often with ship-filled harbors in the foreground. Such views suggest the economic significance of towns and cities as centers for trade in agricultural products and other goods. This section contains drawings and photographs that focus on the architecture of colonial towns, such as forts, walls, churches, administrative buildings and schools.

Illustrations of Caribbean towns and cities were fascinated by the region's vibrant street life. Drawings and photographs capture the various social classes and classes groups that inhabited Caribbean urban centers and portray their interactions in public spaces. Diverse styles of dress are meticulously documented. In addition, images of carnivals and other festivals depict the temporary transformation of the urban environment into a setting for revelry and artistic expression through masquerades and other performances.

Maps, Prints and Photographs from the Collection of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida

It's All Yours!

You, our members, are the catalyst that makes things happen at the Historical Museum. We want to thank you for keeping our heritage vibrantly alive. The following list welcomes new members and thanks past members who have rejoined the museum from June 7 to October 10, 2005. This is not a complete list of our membership; it merely reflects the gifts of individuals and corporations who gave to the Historical Museum during that time period. The complete listing of all our members will appear in *Tequesta* 2005.

In this issue, we are introducing three new categories, Corporate Tropee, Corporate Family Plus and Corporate Family. These categories are offered to the employees of our corporate contributors. It is our way of thanking our sponsors and their employees for supporting the Historical Museum.

Corporate Donors & Sponsors

50 State Security
Able Sanitation Services
Bank of America
Cabrera Photography
Celebrity Cruises
Daniel Electrical Contractors, Inc.
Mr. Len Dinter
Esslinger, Wooten Maxwell, Inc.
Fisher Island Club
Food by Chef Lars, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. George Harper
Mellon United National Bank
Miami Transformers, Inc.
Northern Trust Bank of Florida
Portobello Ristorante
Richman, Greer, Weil, Brumbaugh,
Mirabito & Christensen
Thomas D. Wood & Co.
Waronker & Rosen, Inc.
Windjammer Barefoot Cruises

Fellow Member

Mr. & Mrs. Wirth T. Munroe

Benefactor

Aquarius Press, Inc.
Sony Latin America, Inc.

Sponsor

Mr. & Mrs. Henry B. Bush
Mr. Christopher Coppola &
Mrs. Denise Corbitt-Coppola
Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Gallagher, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Donald C. Lutton

Donor

Mr. Thomas David
Dr. & Mrs. Maurice Downs
Ms. Jo Wilder

Individual

Mrs. Eugenia D. Allen
Mr. Ed Bell
Mr. Richard Besola
Mr. Brian D. Bjorklund
Ms. Maria Bracale
Mr. William B. Carter
Mr. Paul Feehan
Mr. Mel Fox
Ms. Maray Gonzalez
Ms. Jean Leibert
Mr. Scott P. Lewis
Dr. Raymond A. Mohl, Jr.
Mrs. Shirley L. Nagy
Ms. Catherine Nobel
Ms. Elaine Roemer

Ms. Maureen Romano
Mr. Robert Rosenberg
Dr. Richard A. Whittington
Ms. Ann Winset
Ms. Bridget Wong
Ms. Carolyn Woodyer
Ms. Barbara Yaeger

Family

Ms. Carol Clothier
Ms. Kathy Davila
Mr. Frank de Varona &
Mrs. Haydee Prado de Varona
Mr. & Mrs. Francisco L. del Valle
Ms. Patricia Delgado
Mr. Miguel A. Germain
Mr. James Gersing
Mr. Warren Gill &
Mrs. Muffy Clark Gill
Dr. & Mrs. Marshall Glasser
Mr. & Mrs. Rex Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Hart
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Hefty
Mrs. Cami Hofstadter &
Mr. Donald Hofstadter
Mrs. Charles R. Horton
Dr. Sue Ireland & Dr. Scott Crawford
Mr. & Mrs. Scott R. Jay
Ms. Natalee L. Jenks
Mr. & Mrs. Francis T. Kain
Ms. Diane Kramer &
Mr. Michael Kramer
Ms. Vilma Llerena
Ms. SuLin MacLafferty &
Mr. Stephen Joseph
Mr. & Mrs. Lazaros Mavrides
Mr. Joel Maxwell &
Ms. Theresa Maxwell
Mr. & Mrs. Kelley McCammon
Ms. Patricia Mehas
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Nadler
Ms. Jessica Novak
Ms. Lynda Petit
Ms. Pepper Prigal
Dr. & Mrs. Philip J. Reckford
Mr. & Mrs. Charles O. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. David Rosen
Mr. Edwin Scharlau &
Mr. Victor Gimenez
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Scorteccia
Mr. & Mrs. Jose F. Semper
Ms. Magdalena Sequeira
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Tilson
Mr. & Mrs. Edgardo Umpierrez
Mr. & Mr. Jeffrey B. Williamson
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Worley

Tropee Family

Ms. Agnes Aleobua
Ms. Christine Amill
Ms. Kelli Baker
Ms. Voncia Barno
Mr. Julian Davenport
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence J. Denmark
Mr. Alvaro Drevon
Mr. David Galarce
Ms. Kathryn Givens
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Henzerling
Mr. Carlos L. Hernandez
Ms. Paula Jenkins
Ms. Elizabeth Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Klaus
Ms. Jessica Leavitt
Ms. Nancy Levine
Ms. Marilyn Lopez
Mr. Daniel Martinez
Ms. Carrie Meier
Ms. Ashley Miller
Ms. Faheemah Mustafa
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Muterko
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Myer
Ms. Jocelyn Oberdick
Mr. Justin Paige
Mr. Marc Parrino &
Ms. Eugenia Gonzalez
Ms. Jennifer Pratt
Ms. Carolina Rangel
Mr. Jon Robertson
Dr. & Mrs. Howard A. Rubinson
Ms. Veronica Ruelas
Mr. John Paul Semper
Mr. Jose H. Semper
Mr. Rafael Semper &
Ms. Giannina Camplani
Ms. Ahnna Smith
Ms. Gemma Torcivia
Ms. Allegra Towns
Ms. Maxeme Tuchman
Mr. & Mrs. Juan Werner
Mr. Chazz Woodson

Tropee Individual

Mr. Nathaniel Allen
Ms. Bridget Becker
Mr. Eric Berg
Mr. John Bozek
Ms. Kimberly Buehring
Ms. Lauren Cartwright
Ms. Shree Chauhan
Ms. Amanda Davenport
Ms. Kathleen Davis
Ms. Lana DeAngelis

Ms. Erin Dukeshire
Ms. Emily Fernandez
Ms. Sarah Giblin
Mr. Julian Gibson
Ms. Susana Gomez
Ms. Catherine Harris
Ms. Shara Hegde
Ms. Joanne Lerman
Ms. Allison Malcolm
Ms. Maryl Kim McCammon
Ms. Stephanie Millar
Mr. Oreon Montaque
Mr. Nicolas Montes
Mr. John Moore
Mr. Arturo Neto, Jr.
Ms. Ashley Parker
Mr. Sadiq Patel
Ms. Allison Requejo
Mr. Mike Trebilcock
Ms. Grace Tse
Mr. Jesse Uggla
Ms. Briony Varda
Ms. Ryan Winger

Corporate Family Plus

Mr. David Bowen
Mr. & Mrs. Humberto H. Gonzalez

Corporate Tropee

Mr. Alberto Borges &
Mrs. Teresita Acosta-Borges

Corporate Family

Mr. John Apgar & Ms. Linda Bernal
Mr. Ed Barralaga & Ms. Maria Obregon
Mr. & Mrs. Emanuel L. Bryant
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Collins
Mr. & Mrs. Fernando A. Curiel
Ms. Mailyn Fernandez
Mr. & Mrs. Ruben Jorge
Ms. Ana Marrero & Mr. Jose Diaz
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Master
Mr. & Mrs. William Peeler
Mr. Valerio Quintanilla
Mr. Rudy Ramos &
Mrs. Maria C. Ramos
Ms. Randee S. Rogers
Mr. & Mrs. Jorge E. Roque
Mr. & Mrs. David Seigle
Mr. & Mrs. Luciano Senger
Mr. Gene C. Sulzberger
Mr. & Mrs. Rafael Varela
Mr. & Mrs. Antonio Villasuso

Institution

Wilton Manors Public Library

Historical Museum of Southern Florida

Tropical Explorers Winter Break Camp

It's time to cool off since winter is here!

Tropical Explorers will learn the roles of those who they hold dear.

To our history, our city and our sense of who we are.

South Florida became home to those from afar.

So as the clock ticks towards 2006, we will make sure that the knowledge does stick.

With pictures, stories and tales galore, the Historical Museum this season is what we explore.

Happy Holidays!

December 19–23 *Cooling Off*

HMSF Members \$110 per week

December 26–30 *Historic Celebrations*

Non-Members \$120 per week

For more information or to register, call **305.375.1625**.



children ages 6–12
9 am to 5 pm

Historical Museum of Southern Florida

*South Florida has seen some historic events.
Make your next event one of them!*



Looking for a special place to host your group?

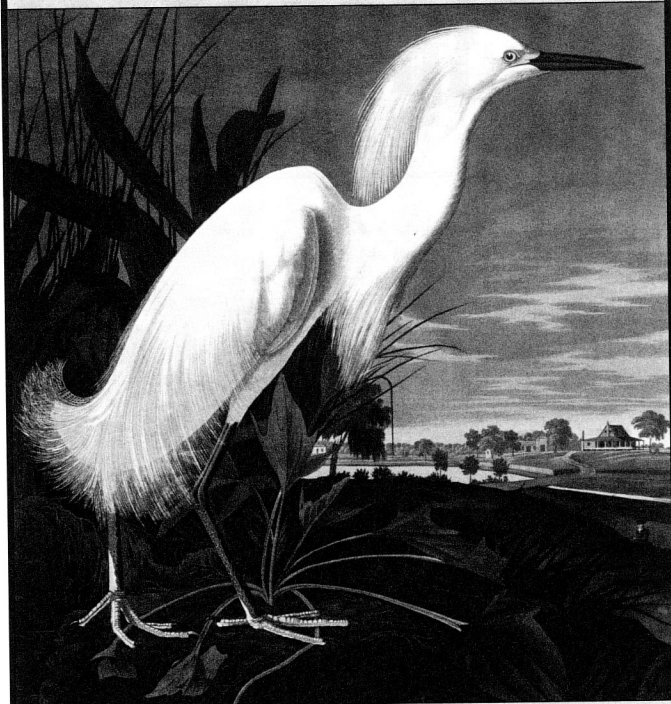
For business or social functions, the Historical Museum can become yours for an evening. The museum can accommodate groups of 70 to 700. The museum provides an elegant & unique alternative for receptions, dinners, seminars & business meetings.

Seat your guests through 10,000 years of history. Offer cocktails from an authentic 1923 trolley car or from the front porch of a pioneer home. Serve your buffet under an Indian chickee or in front of a real lighthouse lens. The possibilities are endless.

Separate meeting rooms are also available.

For more information on planning your special event at the Historical Museum, call 305.375.1492 or e-mail tropes@historical-museum.org

The Legacy Continues



**You can make history by
sponsoring an Audubon bird.**

All proceeds go to
the Historical Museum's endowment.

For information,
call Marcia Kanner, Endowment Officer
at 305.375.1492

Historical Museum of Southern Florida

**Involved?
We want you to be!**



Join the **Tropees**,
a dynamic group of
young professionals who
offer a unique format
for involvement with the
Historical Museum.

Join in on the fun.

Enjoy cocktails, special lectures and tours, and incredible fundraising events, always with a historical twist.

Sign-up on a committee or volunteer to work at an event.

Become a Historical Museum Tropees member and receive a year's worth of outstanding benefits.

Interested in more information or finding out about Tropees sponsorship opportunities?

Call 305.375.1492 or
e-mail tropees@historical-museum.org

HISTORIC TOURS with DR. GEORGE ECO TOURS & LECTURES

Sunday, Nov 20 10 am
**Frontier Fort Lauderdale: Stranahan House
Walking Tour**
Led by Dr. Paul George.

Sunday, Nov 27 10 am
Miami River Boat Tour
Led by Dr. Paul George. Advance reservations required.

Thursday, Dec 1 7 pm FREE
A History of the Miami River
Presentation by Dr. Elliot Salloway and Dr. Paul George.

Saturday, Dec 3 10 am
**Arch Creek & Enchanted Forest
Eco-History Walk**
Led by Frank Schena.

Saturday, Jan 14 9:30 am
**Chokoloskee, Everglades City &
Smallwood Store Coach Tour**
Led by Frank Schena. Advance reservations and payment required.

Sunday, Jan 15 10 am
Miami's Brickell Hammock Eco-History Walk
Led by Frank Schena.

Saturday, Jan 21 9:30 am
Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Seminole Museum Coach Tour
Led by Frank Schena. Advance reservations and payment required.

Saturday, Jan 21 10 am
Little Havana Bike Tour
Led by Dr. Paul George.

Sunday, Jan 22 10 am
Roaming the Roads Walking Tour
Led by Dr. Paul George.

Saturday, Jan 28 2 pm FREE
South Florida History Challenge
Hosted by Dr. Paul George.

Sunday, Jan 29 10 am
North Bay to South Beach Boat Tour
*Led by Dr. Paul George. Advance reservations and
payment required.*

Sunday, Feb 5 10 am
Miami River Boat Tour
Led by Dr. Paul George. Advance reservations required.

Sunday, Feb 12 5 pm
Coral Gables Twilight Walking Tour
Led by Dr. Paul George.

Saturday, Feb 25 10 am
Sewell Park & Lummis Park Eco-History Walk
Led by Frank Schena.

Sunday, Feb 26 10 am
Stiltsville & Key Biscayne Boat Tour
Led by Dr. Paul George. Advance reservations required.

Sunday, Mar 5 9 am
Biscayne to Bacardi Bike & Skateboard Tour
Led by Dr. Paul George.

Sunday, Mar 12 10 am
Miami River Boat Tour
Led by Dr. Paul George. Advance reservations required.

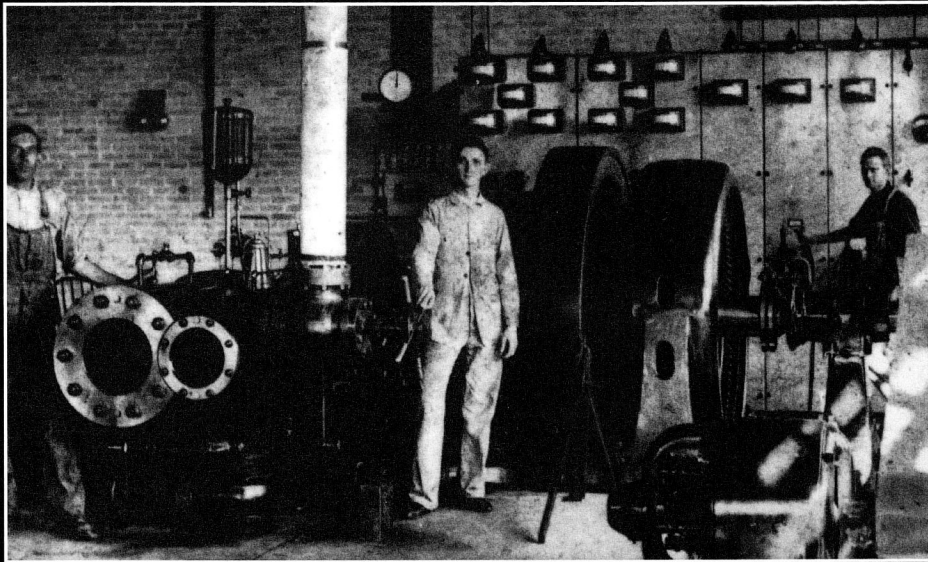
Sunday, Mar 12 5 pm
Hollywood Twilight Walking Tour
Led by Dr. Paul George.

Saturday, Mar 18 10 am
**Early Miami Beach Boardwalk
Eco-History Walking Tour**
Led by Frank Schena.

Sunday, Mar 19 10 am
Coral Gables Bike Tour
Led by Dr. Paul George.

For a *Historic Tours* catalog, reservations and prices, call the museum at **305.375.1621**.

For more information, visit **www.historical-museum.org**.



An oiler, engineer and superintendent show off the the Daytona Power Plant. In addition to power, the plant provided the town with ice, drinking water and later, a few street lights. It became part of the FPL system in 1925.

*For 79 years,
Florida Power & Light
has been brightening
the lives of Floridians.*

*Our unique history
has paralleled and,
in many ways,
contributed to
the extraordinary
development of
Florida itself.*

For more information about the history of FPL or other community programs we support, visit us at www.FPL.com





**PROUD SPONSOR OF THE
HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

Symphony
Jewelers



**LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN
4 N.E. 1ST ST. MIAMI, FLORIDA 33132
TEL: 305-539-8500**

Historical Museum of Southern Florida

Writing the South Florida Frontier

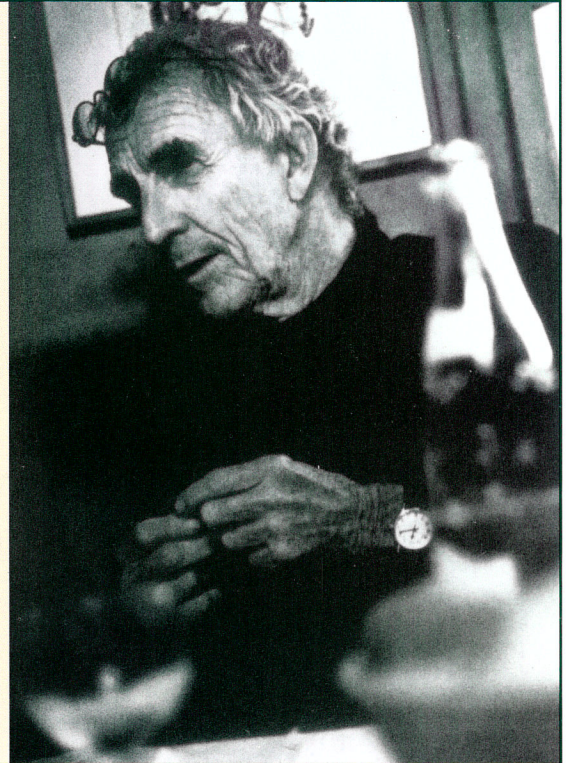
A Lecture by
Peter Matthiessen

Thursday, January 5, 2006 7:30 pm FREE Admission
101 West Flagler Street Downtown Miami

Peter Matthiessen, widely acclaimed author of *Killing Mr. Watson* and *Bone by Bone* discusses his research into the Florida Everglades and Edgar Watson, and how both reflect on the American frontier and the growth of capitalism.

For more information, call 305.375.1492

In collaboration with **Books & Books** and the
Miami-Dade Public Library System



Historical Museum of Southern Florida

Thirteenth Annual



SAVE THE DATE!
February 4–5, 2006

10 am to 5 pm
101 West Flagler Street

Enjoy a weekend of browsing and buying antique maps of every size, shape and color, alongside map dealers, collectors and aficionados from the four corners of the world. Bring in your own map for an expert opinion!

Admission to Dealers Marketplace
\$10 Adults, \$2 Children 6–12, free for
HMSF members and children under 6

Register for the full Map Fair weekend and enjoy a cocktail reception, lunch, lectures by experts in the field and admission to the Dealers Marketplace. Special program registration required.

Information
305.375.1492 historical-museum.org

Historical Museum of Southern Florida



HASF, 1989-165-1.

The Spanish Colonization of Florida

An exhibition presented in collaboration with **First Lady Columba Bush** and the **Jay I. Kislak Foundation**

In Celebration of Hispanic Heritage

Also on display at the Historical Museum
The South Florida Frontier



**HISTORICAL MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA**

Your Story, Your Community...Your Museum
101 West Flagler St Miami, FL 33130

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 608
MIAMI, FL