

South Florida History

HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

VOLUME 36, NO 2, 2008

\$4.00



MIAMI'S HISTORIC
NORTHEAST
NEIGHBORHOODS

SONNY CAPONE
AND HIS NOTORIOUS FATHER
BISCAYNE HOUSE OF REFUGE

HARRIET BEDELL
AND THE GLADE CROSS MISSION

Historical Museum of Southern Florida

08

ANNUAL SEASON KICK-OFF

Thursday, September 25

6-8 PM

Historical Museum of Southern Florida
101 West Flagler Street Downtown Miami

HMSF Members FREE Non-Members \$5

Join us as we kick-off the 2008-2009 exhibition season with live music, food, historic tours through our permanent gallery *Tropical Dreams* and our season exhibition opening of *Interama: Miami and the Pan-American Dream* and *Necropolis Cristobal Colon: Photographs by Raul Rodriguez A.I.A.*

Your Story, Your Community...Your Museum



HISTORICAL MUSEUM
OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

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101 West Flagler Street Downtown Miami



COLUMNS

- 4 From the Editor**
Paul S. George, Ph.D.
- 5 Contributors**
Those who have helped make this issue of *SFH* possible
- 6 From the President**
Robert H. McCammon
- 7 Calendar**
HMSF exhibitions, programs and events
- 9 Spotlight on ...**
Historic Sites Visit Program;
Anne Mergen: Florida Cartoons and Interama: Miami and the Pan-American Dream
- 28 Book Review**
Home on The River: The History of Miami River Residential Development
Written by Jim Broton and reviewed by James F. Donnelly
- 29 Members' Corner**
Members found antique treasures at the 15th Annual Miami International Map Fair and enjoyed sport and savories at the 8th Annual Croquet & Croquetas.

FEATURES

- 12 He Was Capone's Son**
Al Capone Jr., known to all as "Sonny," struggled throughout his life to get out from under his father's broad shadow.
Eliot Kleinberg
- 14 From Miramar to Magnolia Park: The City of Miami's Historic Northeast Neighborhoods**
Few recall today the beautiful neighborhoods lining Biscayne Bay in the area northeast of downtown Miami.
Eugene E. Threadgill, Dean Miller and Gibby Dey Wright
- 20 A Home in the Wilderness: The Biscayne House of Refuge**
The Biscayne House of Refuge represented one of the few facilities on the frontier that was southeast Florida little more than 100 years ago.
Paul S. George, Ph.D.
- 25 Deaconess Harriet Bedell and the Glade Cross Mission**
One woman's unique influence was felt in many places, including the wetlands of South Florida.
Robin E. Parker

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Originally called *Update*, *South Florida History* (*SFH*) magazine has been published since 1973. For most of its history, the magazine was under the editorship of Stuart McIver, a gifted writer and editor based in Lighthouse Point, who passed away as this number of the magazine was being prepared for print. The author of untold numbers of books, articles and screenplays, McIver will be missed for his prolific contributions to our understanding of the area's unique history and for the fact that he was a great guy.

This issue of *SFH* offers another article by Eugene E. Threadgill, entitled "From Miramar to Magnolia Park: The City of Miami's Historic Northeast Neighborhoods."

An attorney who resides in suburban Washington, D.C., Threadgill was raised in the Miami of yesteryear and brings a unique perspective to the topic.

Eliot Kleinberg, who writes for *The Palm Beach Post*, provides us with "He Was Capone's Son," a brief but insightful look into the troubled life of Al "Sonny" Capone Jr., who spent much of his youth on Palm Island in Biscayne Bay. Kleinberg, a prolific author, has contributed many articles to museum publications.

In a recent issue of *SFH*, I wrote of the life saving station on Fort Lauderdale Beach. In this issue, we explore the Biscayne House of Refuge, which was the life saving station on today's Miami Beach. The article benefits from the fact that we have access to the log of the facility's keeper, which provides superb insights into life on the "forgotten" frontier of pre-railroad southeast Florida.

Robin E. "Rob" Parker is a retired Miami-Dade County public school teacher who works at the Historical Museum. He is also a superb student of the history of the region. In the fall of 2007, Rob was a student of mine in a Miami/South Florida history class at Miami Dade College. Parker's research for the class focused on Deaconess Harriet Bedell, the Glade Cross Mission and her work with the Seminoles, Miccosukees and other disposed persons in the middle decades of the 20th century. Rob's article in this issue of *SFH* is the result of his fruitful research.

Historian Jeff Donnelly reviews Jim Broton's *Home On The River: The History of Miami River Residential Development*, a fascinating study of many obscure riverine communities and subdivisions dating to the beginning of Miami's corporate history.

The Historical Museum continues to deepen its involvement in the historical elements of our community. We are preparing to open the Miami Circle to the public by offering historic tours and other interpretations of this singular site. Members of the institution's Education Department will soon begin overseeing the unique history museum of the Whitman brothers, longtime Miamians who have enriched the life of their community in many ways. The museum is located in their world famous Bal Harbour Shops and offers a wonderful look at many elements of the area's maritime history. We know you will enjoy a visit to this museum.

We hope you will find time this summer to visit the museum and take advantage of its many offerings. Have a great summer!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul S. George".

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SOUTH FLORIDA HISTORY

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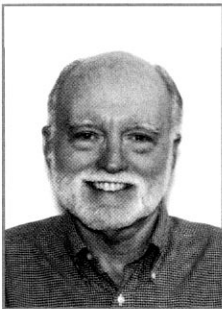
Paul S. George, Ph.D.

For two decades, Dr. George has toured his way to local, national and international acclaim with his continuing series of historic tours around South Florida. A Miami native, prolific author and Miami Dade College professor, he has gained fame for his uncanny ability to recall the most impressive details about the people and places that make the region so unique. He is also the editor-in-chief of *South Florida History*.



Eliot Kleinberg

A Florida native, Eliot has written nine books, all of them focusing on Florida. He is a member of the Florida and Palm Beach County historical societies and HMSF. He was born in Coral Gables in 1956, graduated from Miami-area public schools in 1974, and received two degrees from the University of Florida. His career as a radio and television reporter and editor from 1979 to 1984 included work in Miami and at the Cable News Network. He was a reporter for *The Dallas Morning News* from 1984 until 1987, when he returned to Florida. Since then, he has been a news and features writer for *The Palm Beach Post*. He lives at Casa Floridiana in Boca Raton with his wife and two sons.



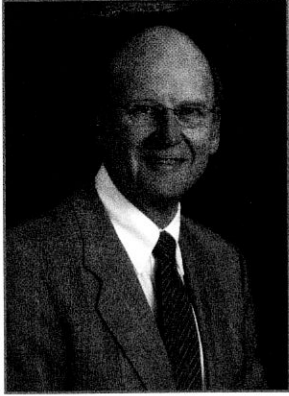
Robin E. Parker

A native son of Miami, Robin is a member of the first graduating class of Southwest Miami Senior High School. He holds a B.A. and M.A. from Florida State University. He retired after teaching for 39 years at South Miami Middle School. Today he is a part-time educator at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. He first learned of Deaconess Bedell, the subject of his article in this issue, from his mother, Marion Butler Parker, who knew the Deaconess when her family lived in Everglades City.



Eugene E. Threadgill

Eugene was born in Miami, graduated from Miami Senior High School and the University of Florida and is a member of the Miami Pioneers/Natives of Dade. He organized the 50th+ reunion of Miami High's classes of 1930-36. As a lawyer in Washington, D.C., he practiced mostly before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Postal Rate Commission. When the Florida Gas Transmission Company was built, he represented several local utility customers. He currently resides in Silver Spring, Maryland.



Celebrating 68 years

More than 75 members attended the 68th annual membership meeting of the Historical Association of Southern Florida on April 24. Outgoing Board of Trustees Chair Dennis Campbell delivered the annual report, citing the museum's accomplishments over the last two years. We've taken on large-scale projects, such as the 25,000 square-foot exhibit space at Museum Park, upgrading the permanent exhibit *Tropical Dreams* and improving our off-site warehouse space.

We thank our outgoing Board members for their dedication and service, including members Robert David, Alfredo Gonzalez, Dean Klevan, Larry Levine, Wirth Munroe, and Dr. Wallis Tinnie. We look forward to working with our 2008-09 Slate of Officers and Trustees (noted in adjacent column).

We welcome our newest Trustees: Sara M. Gutierrez-Hernandez, Phillip Hudson III, Leslie J. Lott, Francis X. Sexton Jr. and the Honorable Donald D. Slesnick II. We welcome our new 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society (11th JCHS) Chair Brian Tannebaum. With the formation of the 11th JCHS, we've added 150 prominent South Florida judges and lawyers to our membership. The Committee of One Hundred (C100) is energized about its growing membership. John Quick, our Tropees chair, is leading the effort to attract more young professionals to our membership.

At the annual meeting, Dr. Paul George moderated a talk on the Miami Circle with panelists Robert Carr of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc.; Ellen Ugucioni, Preservation Officer for the City of Miami; Mark Lewis of Biscayne National Park and our own Jorge Zamanillo, Curator of Objects. Robert said that the Circle provides us with a sense of pride in our ethnographic ancestry. Jorge spoke of the museum's plans for the Circle. First, we must respect the site's religious implications as well concerns for its susceptibility to environmental destruction. We will develop a master plan which will turn the site into a public access urban park. Ellen contrasted the Circle to new developments surrounding it. She hailed its substance over controversy of its significance, calling it "uniquely amazing." Mark recalled the "wow" moment back in 1998 when the Circle was discovered, and its pending national historic landmark designation.

Though the summertime is when a lot of us take vacation, it is also a time of great happenings at the museum. View our newest exhibition, *Interama: Miami and the Pan-American Dream*. Come see the initial vision for Miami as the international hub for the Western hemisphere. Also on display is *Anne Mergen: Florida Cartoons*. Anne was a trailblazer for women journalists, particularly in the field of cartoon art. Also, we've started a free Brown Bag Series every first Tuesday of the month on a variety of fun, history-related topics. And we're offering our free Family Fun Days on Second Saturdays year-round. So, be sure to make the museum part of your summer vacation plans!

PRESIDENT/CEO

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HMSF Mission

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida tells the stories of South Florida and the Caribbean. The museum promotes understanding of the past in order to inform the present and create a better quality of life.

JULY-OCTOBER 2008

JULY

Brown Bag Breaks:

Historic Herbs

Tuesday, July 1

12–1 PM

HMSF Members Free, Non-Members \$5

Information: 305.375.5356

Family Fun Days:

Early American Flags

Saturday, July 12

1–3 PM

Free

Information: 305.375.1629

AUGUST

Brown Bag Breaks:

Taking Care of Your Collection

Tuesday, August 5

12–1 PM

HMSF Members Free, Non-Members \$5

Information: 305.375.5356

Family Fun Days:

Hurricane Hunger

Saturday, August 9

1–3 PM

Free

Information: 305.375.1629

Interama Rama

Sunday, August 24

3–5 PM

Free

Information: 305.375.1492

SEPTEMBER

Brown Bag Breaks:

South Florida Gardening Then

Tuesday, September 2

12–1 PM

HMSF Members Free, Non-Members \$5

Information: 305.375.5356

Family Metromover Tour

Saturday, September 13

10 AM–12 PM

HMSF Members \$20,

Non-Members \$25, Children \$10

Information: 305.375.1621

Family Fun Days:

Florida's Women of Achievement

Saturday, September 13

1–3 PM

Free

Information: 305.375.1629

Looking South: Miami and the Pan-American Dream

Thursday, September 18

6:30–8:30 PM

Free

Information: 305.375.1492

Coconut Grove Historical

Doggie Dog Walk

Saturday, September 20

10 AM–12 PM

HMSF Members \$20,

Non-Members \$25, children \$10

Information: 305.375.1621

11th JCHS Symposium

Tuesday, September 23

6:30–8:30 PM

11th JCHS Members Free,

Non-Members \$10

Information and reservations:

305.375.1619

Tropical Dreams Gallery Walk

Thursday, September 25

6–8 PM

HMSF Members Free,

Non-Members \$5

Information: 305.375.1621

Freedom Tower Exploration Walking Tour

Saturday, September 27

10 AM–12 PM

HMSF members \$30,

Non-Members \$50

Information and reservations:

305.375.1621

Miami River Boat Tour

Sunday, September 29

10 AM–1 PM

HMSF Members \$39, Non-Members \$44

Information and reservations:

305.375.1621

Discovery Days:

Miami's Hurricane History

Tuesday, September 30

9 AM–5 PM

HMSF Members \$30, Non-Members \$35

Information and reservations:

305.375.1629

OCTOBER

Little Havana Walk and Lunch at Versailles

Saturday, October 4

9 AM–1 PM

HMSF Members Only \$20

(lunch not included)

Information: 305.375.1621

Brown Bag Breaks:

South Florida Gardening Now

Tuesday, October 7

12–1 PM

HMSF Members Free, Non-Members \$5

Information: 305.375.5356



Tropical Explorers Summer Camp

HMSF CALENDAR

Discovery Days:

Urban Environmentalists

Thursday, October 9

9 AM-5 PM

HMSF Members \$30, Non-Members \$35

Information and reservations:

305.375.1629

Family Fun Days:

Columbus Day Spectacular

Saturday, October 11

1-3 PM

Free

Information: 305.375.1629

Coral Gables Thematic

Villages Bike Tour

Sunday, October 12

9 AM-12 PM

Information: 305.375.1621

HMSF members \$20,

Non-Members \$25

Before Disney Arrived:

Florida's Ill-fated Attempt to Build Interama

Thursday, October 16

6:30-8:30 PM

Free

Information: 305.375.1492

Matheson Hammock

Eco-history Walking Tour

Sunday, October 19

9-11 AM

HMSF members \$20,

Non-Members \$25

Information: 305.375.1621

Discovery Days:

Latin American Vistas

Friday, October 24

9 AM-5 PM

HMSF Members \$30,

Non-Members \$35

Information and reservations:

305.375.1629

Stiltsville, Cape Florida Lighthouse & Key Biscayne Boat Tour

Saturday, October 25

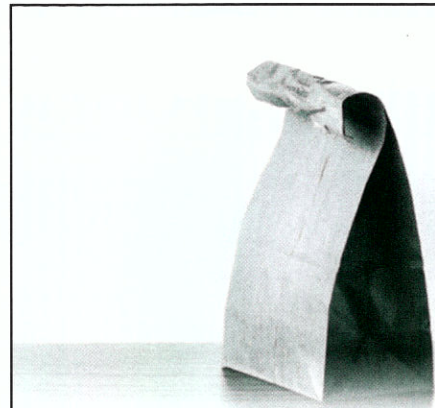
10 AM-1 PM

HMSF members \$39,

Non-Members \$44

Information and reservations:

305.375.1621



Grab your
**Lunch
& Learn**
something new

Introducing

Brown Bag Breaks

First Tuesday of
Each Month

12-1 PM

Historical Museum of Southern Florida
101 West Flagler Street Downtown Miami

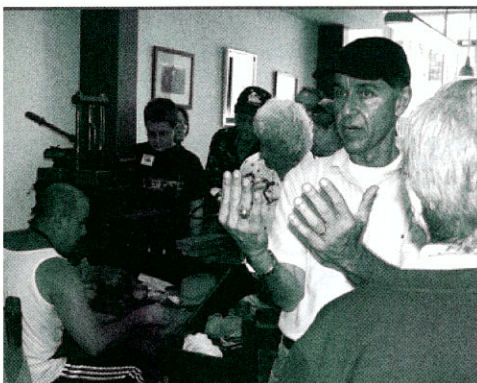
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Feed your mind with our new monthly lunch time series featuring local experts sharing unique facets of South Florida. Bring your own lunch and we'll provide coffee and dessert. Space is limited.

Visit www.hmsf.org for a schedule of upcoming breaks or call Member Services at 305.375.5356 for more information.

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between issues!*

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www.hmsf.org and receive
our E-Calendar and E-vites
all to your e-mail!



HISTORIC TOURS WITH DR. GEORGE

Mystery, Mayhem & Vice Crime Coach Tour

Saturday, October 18

1-4 PM

HMSF Members \$39,

Non-Members \$44

Information and reservations:

305.375.1621



Students visit Everglades National Park and make a stop at the Miccosukee Indian Village.

HISTORIC SITES VISIT PROGRAM



Students visit Cape Florida Lighthouse.

For over 24 years, the Historical Museum of Southern Florida's Education Department has been producing creative programs for students and teachers in our community. History is brought to life through the use of artifacts, stories and field trips. The core techniques in fulfilling the museum's mission as it relates to public programs and tours.

This April we kicked-off a new program titled, "The Historic Site Visit Program (HSVP)," made possible through generous funding from the Children's Trust and Miami-Dade County Division of Cultural Affairs. Provided free of charge to public schools, more than 22 high schools and middle schools from the local area took advantage of the program. The first stage of the program has the students visit the museum to learn about documentation techniques such as digital photography, note taking and sketching. They conclude their visit with a tour of the *Tropical Dreams* gallery. The second phase of the program has the students visit and explore various local historical sites such as the Cape Florida Lighthouse or Everglades National Park. Using the documentation skills they learned during their museum visit, the students record their historic site visit using digital cameras, sketch pads and notebooks provided by HMSF. The final stage of the program brings the students back to the museum where, by using the photographs, drawings and notes they collected as resources from their off-site expedition, they put together books and create art pieces related to the historical site.

This program was originally inspired by the work of Frank Schena, our outreach

coordinator, who has been using historic sites as an inspiration for art and project-based curriculum in all HMSF camps for the past few years. "This is a good expansion of what I have been doing," he said, "and because it is an older audience I can make the experience more in depth."

Public school teachers from all over Miami-Dade County registered their classes for the program, and the 22 spots filled quickly. Education Programs Coordinator Jenna Vaisman was flooded with calls from interested teachers. "We had to start a waiting list for the program because so many teachers were interested in exposing their students to the museum and the historic sites the program offers," she said.

Over the next few months, students poured into the museum for the program and had a brilliant time exploring, discovering and creating.

After an overwhelming response from teachers, the museum has decided to seek funding for the program to continue after the grant ends on September 30, 2008. As budgets continue to be cut at Miami-Dade County Public Schools, it is up to HMSF to seek funds to secure high quality, free educational programs to school groups for years to come. We also hope to expand HSVP to include summer groups next year. If you are interested in learning more about the Historic Sites Visit Program or any other educational program at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, please visit us on the web at www.hmsf.org/education.htm. For sponsorship opportunities, please contact 305.375.1614 or development@hmsf.org.

- SFH

The Editorial Cartoons of Anne Mergen

by Dr. Paul S. George

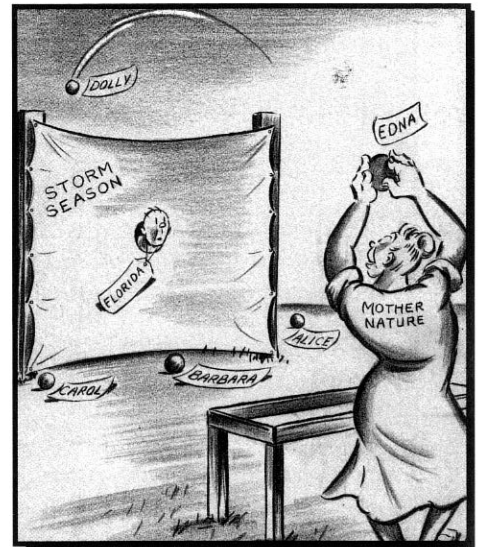
In the lobby of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida through August, visitors can see the cartoons of Anne Mergen, America's first woman editorial cartoonist. Her cartoons for the *Miami Daily News*, the city's first newspaper, and other Cox newspapers, appeared from 1933 until her retirement in 1956. Born in Omaha, Nebraska in 1906, Anne Briardy Mergen studied commercial art in Chicago before moving to Miami in the mid-1920s, which marked the peak period of a great real estate boom that radically changed the city and surrounding area. Mergen drew fashion ads with Burdines before creating a fashion story centering around two cartoon characters.

Impressed with her work, the *Miami Daily News* hired Anne as its editorial cartoonist in 1933. Five years later, the *News* won its first Pulitzer Prize for its campaign against Miami's notorious "termite administration," a corrupt mayor and city commission. Scores of Anne's cartoons played an important role in a campaign that ultimately forced three commissioners from office following a recall election. During that time, her cartoons frequently appeared on the front page of the newspaper accompanied by an editorial. Mergen's cartoons received national attention at that time. After an editor of the *Miami Daily News* accepted the Pulitzer Prize in New York City for his newspaper, he wired Mergen: "Don't

let anybody ever tell you it wasn't Mergen cartoons that won the Pulitzer today."

Mergen was a well-rounded person. A devoted wife and mother of two, she worked out of her home in the Roads section of the City of Miami. She drew seven cartoons weekly for more than 20 years. After preparing dinner and helping her children with their schoolwork, Anne retired to the second floor of her home to begin drawing her cartoon for the next day. Often, her husband, Frank, assisted her by serving as a sounding board for ideas for the next day's cartoon. After completing her cartoon for the next edition of the afternoon newspaper, Mergen handed it to Frank who drove to the nearby *Miami News* Tower with it.

Anne Mergen drew more than 7,000 cartoons. More than 1,400 of her original cartoons remain. These drawings are now in the Library of Congress, the Ohio State University Cartoon Research Library and the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. The museum's collection centers on Mergen's cartoons treating local and statewide topics. Anne Mergen was an inspiration for many younger cartoonists, including Don Wright, a successor with the *News*. Wright won two Pulitzer Prizes for his political cartoons.



HMSF 2005-507-094

This exhibit highlights Mergen's cartoons and the major issues confronting Miami and the state of Florida in the decade following World War II. The cartoons in the exhibit focus on 14 areas in post-World War II Miami and Florida. They include the future of the Florida East Coast Railway in Miami; creation of a metropolitan form of government for Dade County; the woes of malapportionment for Dade County; the path of the proposed Florida Turnpike; weather and tourism; political corruption; and the presence of organized crime in the area. While some of these topics are irrelevant today, others, like political corruption or the seemingly endless rounds of electioneering, remain timely.

Anne Mergen passed away in 1994, but her cartoons remain, reminding us of the vivid issues and events she explained in a stellar, path breaking career spanning a quarter of a century. The Historical Museum is proud to serve as a repository for hundreds of Anne Mergen's cartoons spotlighting Miami and Florida in the middle decades of the twentieth century. The museum is eager to share her insightful work with the public.

- SFH

BEFORE EPCOT[®], THERE WAS INTERAMA

For the first time ever, visitors to the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF) will have the rare opportunity to view the plans and drawings for Interama, the permanent Inter-American trade and cultural center that state and city planners dreamed of building in Miami from 1951 to 1975. *Interama: Miami and the Pan-American Dream* is on display through January 25, 2009.

Defined by the theme, 'Progress with Freedom,' Interama was to position Miami as a permanent meeting ground of the Americas. Part World Trade Center, part Epcot[®], INTERAMA would have four distinct areas—International, Industrial, Cultural and Festival. The project was slated to be built in North Miami where Florida International University's Biscayne Campus and Oleta River State Park stand today.

Despite nearly a quarter century of planning and political backing from U.S. presidents and Florida governors and senators, failure to secure financing for the project prevented Interama from being built. Its ideals were ultimately realized by the end of the 20th century as new migrations and increasing business ties to Latin America and the Caribbean transformed Miami into a real-life Inter-American mecca.

"Miami is well-recognized today as an international hub for the Western hemisphere. Visitors to this exhibit will learn how far back this vision for the city actually dates and how Miami almost became the home to a park that would have been bigger and grander than Epcot[®]," says HMSF Chief Curator Dr. Joanne Hyppolite. The exhibition is guest curated by Allan Shulman and Jean-François Lejeune, professors of architecture at the University of Miami.

Both local and world-class architects contributed to the design plans for Interama. Six of them—Marcel Breuer, Louis Kahn, Paul Randolph, José Luis Sert, Edward Durrell Stone and Harry Weese—were hired to design the massive complex to be known as the International Area. The centerpiece, a 1,000-foot "Tower of Freedom," was designed by Minoru Yamasaki, best known for his design of the World Trade Center.

On display are more than 60 original color and black and white architectural and thematic renderings, most from the State Archives of Florida, and original film footage on the project from the Lynn and Louis II Florida Wolfson Moving Image Archives. Also on display are an Interama timeline, brochures, pamphlets and photographs. Visitors will walk through a replica of the underwater tunnel that would have led fairgoers to the Tower of Freedom. Other exhibit features include digital animations, computer stations and visitor interactives.

- SFH

BLACK AND WHITE DRAWING OF UNDERWATER TUNNEL AND TOWER OF FREEDOM, 1962. INTERAMA PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE. HMSF 1982-195-1.

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HE WAS CAPONE'S SON

**THE MAN CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST RUTHLESS GANGSTERS
IN AMERICAN HISTORY HAD A SOFT SPOT FOR HIS SON
BY ELIOT KLEINBERG**

When Albert Francis Jr., died at 85 in July 2004 in the small northern California town of Auburn Lake Trails, his obituary in the local newspaper mentioned his years in the area, his education in South Florida, funeral arrangements and surviving relatives.

What it did not mention was Albert had changed his name and lived most of his life in obscurity to escape his family shame. He had, to most of the outside world, carried his secret to his grave: he was born Albert Francis Capone Jr.

“Al Capone has been dead a long, long time,” widow America Francis said by telephone in June 2005. “His son had nothing to do with him. Let him [Albert Francis, Jr.] rest in peace, for crying out loud. He suffered enough in his life for being who he was.”

Alphonse Capone was more than a sometime snowbird in Palm Beach County and South Florida. The gangster nicknamed “Scarface” reportedly bought a large ranch in

Jupiter Farms in 1923 that was later bought by Burt Reynolds. He bought a palatial home in Palm Island, an exclusive community near downtown Miami, but reportedly was considering property in Boca Raton after Miami authorities and community leaders let him know he wasn't welcome. He reportedly had an option on a 56-acre island in the Hillsboro Canal, south of Boca Raton on the Broward County side. Long called “Capone Island,” it's now Deerfield Island Park. The state took it over in 1934 when Capone went bankrupt.

The man considered one of the most ruthless gangsters in American history had a soft spot for his son.

“I don't want to die shot in the street,” he once said. “There's business enough for all of us without killing each other like animals. I've got a boy. I love that kid.”

Sonny

“Sonny” was born December 4, 1918, in Brooklyn, the son

TOP PHOTO: AL CAPONE'S CHILDREN'S PARTY, MAY 16, 1930, HMSF MATLACK COLLECTION 24-42.

of Capone's Irish wife, Mae Coughlin.

At seven, he developed an infection in his mastoid, the bone behind his ear. The family consulted specialists in New York. Sonny survived the radical surgery, but was left partially deaf and had to wear a hearing aid.

His deafness, coupled with his infamous surname, caused him no end of trouble with classmates, and he bounced from one school to another. He attended St. Patrick School in Miami Beach, where he was good friends with a young Cuban named Desi Arnaz. Sonny attended Notre Dame University from 1937 to 1938, then returned to South Florida and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Miami in 1941.

Sonny had married Ruth Casey in Miami in 1941. The two had four daughters. They later divorced and Sonny remarried. A brother-in-law was a Miami police detective, and Sonny met other officers. He was an expert marksman and joined the department's pistol team, becoming a member of the National Pistol Association of America and the Florida Peace Officer's Association.

His father, meanwhile, had been sentenced in 1932 to an 11-year term for tax evasion that would include stints in Atlanta and Los Angeles and at the infamous Alcatraz prison. Capone served only seven years before he was released, his body racked with syphilis.

In 1942, when applying for an aviation school, Sonny listed his father's occupation as "retired."

And he was there when Scarface died at his Palm Island home at age 48 on January 19, 1947.

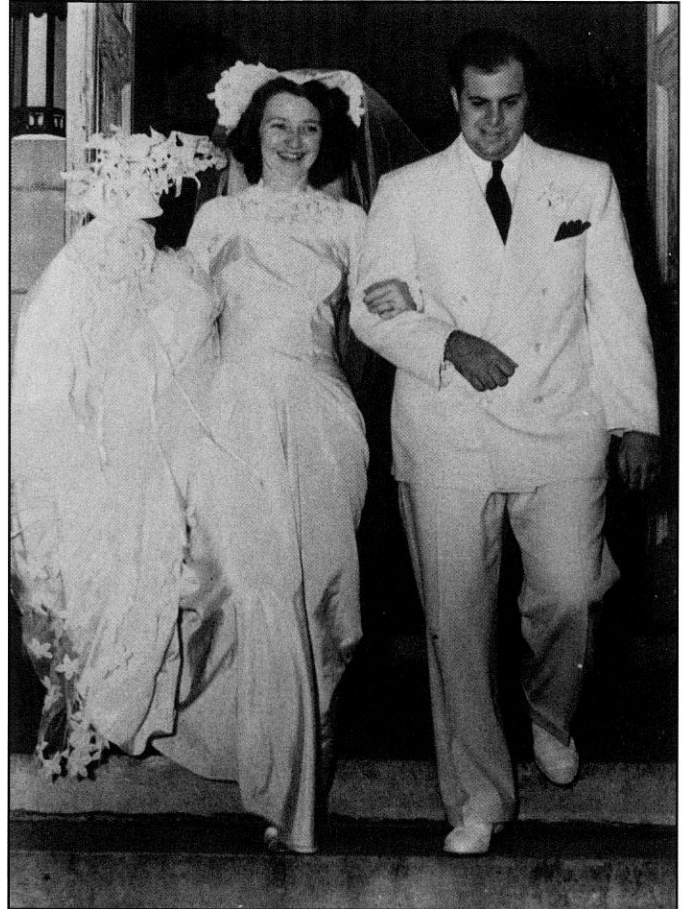
Sonny's first job after World War II had been as a used car salesman. But the son of an underworld legend had quit after learning his boss was turning back the odometers on the cars. He became an apprentice printer and hoped to buy into the business but his mother declined to back him. For a while, the two ran a Miami restaurant called the Grotto, with Sonny as head waiter, but it eventually closed.

He and his mother lived quietly until 1959, when they filed a \$1 million lawsuit against the producers of "The Untouchables." The TV series detailed the exploits of 1930s Chicago cop Eliot Ness and was groundbreaking and controversial for what was then considered excessive violence. The family claimed the show was using Capone's image for profit. The Federal Communications Commission reprimanded television network ABC, but the family eventually lost the suit. The show's producer: Sonny's childhood friend, Desi Arnaz.

"... SICK AND TIRED OF FIGHTING THE NAME"

On August 7, 1965, the son of the great mob boss found himself picked up like a common criminal. Police said he'd pocketed two bottles of aspirin and flashlight batteries, totaling \$3.50, from a North Miami Beach supermarket. He reportedly said, "Everyone has a little larceny in them."

Sonny, then living in Hollywood and working as a tire distributor, pleaded no contest and was sentenced to two years



MR. AND MRS. ALBERT FRANCIS CAPONE ON THEIR WEDDING DAY EMERGING FROM ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH (3716 GARDEN AVE.). SHE IS THE FORMER DIANA RUTH CASEY OF MIAMI BEACH. DECEMBER 31, 1941, MIAMI NEWS COLLECTION, HMSF 1989-011-19515.

probation. When it was lifted in 1967, his probation officer said he'd been exemplary and the store manager said he'd been a steady—and paying—customer.

One thing he no longer was: Albert Francis Capone Jr. The previous year, he had gone to court in Fort Lauderdale and had his name legally changed to just Albert Francis. His lawyer said he was "just getting sick and tired of fighting the name." Sonny was 47, about the same age his father had been when he died.

By then, all four daughters were living in California. Some time in the 1980s, records show that Sonny moved from South Florida to California, living in Los Altos, between San Francisco and San Jose, and later in Cool, a small community northeast of Sacramento. In 1988, at 70, he took a three-week African safari with friends.

At his death, on July 8, 2004, he left his four daughters and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Well-wishers were asked to donate to the Alzheimer's Association. Services were private.

- SFH



FROM MIRAMAR TO MAGNOLIA THE CITY OF MIAMI'S HISTORY

Many of the families that settled in Miami in the early 1900s built or bought homes in the area bounded by what is now Northeast 12th Street, Northeast 2nd Avenue, Northeast 40th Street and Biscayne Bay. These areas include Miramar, Broadmoor and Magnolia Park.

Miramar

Frederick Rand Jr. developed the residential area, Miramar, in the early 1900s. The neighborhood's amenities included the Hotel Miramar on 17th Terrace and a concrete dock for use by the residents. One of the early public buildings was the Miami Public Library, in the Miami Woman's Club building at 1737 N. Bayshore Drive. Students did research there, and the building served as the meeting place for the Miami Pioneers, an

organization comprised of pioneer Miamians and their descendants, for many years.

Schools

As the population of Miami increased, the Miami Central School became overcrowded, and Miami constructed additional elementary schools around the city. Northside Elementary School was built between Northeast 14th and 15th Streets, facing 2nd Avenue. Northside was a striking building—like a fortress, with the classrooms and offices around the perimeter, a patio in the center for school activities and concrete steps leading to the second floor. On cold days, since the school was unheated, a teacher would sometimes take a class out to sit in the sun on the steps.

TOP: DOCK AT NORTHEAST 38TH STREET, C. 1915, FRANK STEARNS COLLECTION, HMSF 1974-033-5.



PARK: HISTORIC NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOODS

BY EUGENE E. THREADGILL, DEAN MILLER AND GIBBY DEY WRIGHT

Around 1930, the school system was divided into elementary, junior and senior high schools. A new elementary school, Miramar Elementary School, opened.

For many years, across 2nd Avenue from Northside Elementary, stood a 15-story, unfinished building. Eventually completed, it became the Lindsey Hopkins Vocational School, where students could obtain vocational training and experience in arts and crafts.

Several private schools were established in the area. In the early 1900s, Mrs. Bobst operated a nursery school for boys in her home, around 19th Street. The Miami Conservatory of Music was located at a home with a porch on all four sides, on

Northeast 21st Street, near 2nd Avenue. The head of that school, Bertha Foster, became chairwoman of the music department at the University of Miami. The students gave their recitals at the auditorium in the Woman's Club.

Miami City Cemetery

One of the earliest historical places established in the area, on the north side of 2nd Avenue between 17th and 19th Streets, is the Miami City Cemetery, which received its first burial in 1897. Julia Tuttle, known as the "Mother of Miami," is buried there.

Broadmoor

In 1912, the Broadmoor subdivision was planned for the

TOP RIGHT: MIRAMAR PUBLIC SCHOOL, NORTHEAST 19TH STREET, MIAMI NEWS COLLECTION, HMSF 1989-011-14580.

north of 22nd Street by developers from Colorado Springs, who gave the streets Colorado Springs' names. In 1919, the Ashby family moved to a new home on Colorado Avenue, later 334 Northeast. Many other families lived in the area from 20th to 30th Street, including those with the surnames of Ballard, Cromer, Daniel, Goddard, Kellum, Mills, Parker, Plumer, Singleton, Shackelford, Silver and Yeager.

This area still contains many historic structures, and Dade Heritage Trust plans to lobby for it as a City of Miami Historic District.

Banyan Place

In the land to the north of Miramar and Broadmoor, the lush vegetation included two immense ficus trees. Around 1902, Julius Smith, his wife Luella, and their children, R. Earl and Amy, sold their citrus grove that had been destroyed by the great 1895-96 freeze and moved from Eustis to Miami. Julius Smith opened Smith's Bookstore at 238 12th Street (present day Flagler Street). The Smith family purchased a tract of land extending from Biscayne Bay to what became Northeast 2nd Avenue. The tract included a small frame house and the two enormous trees. Mr. Smith constructed a large, two-story, poured concrete house with a gabled roof, facing the bay, with one ficus tree in the front yard and the other tree a distance to the rear. That home became known as Banyan Place.

On Friday evening, December 1, 1916, Amy Smith, who had graduated from Miami Senior High School in 1909 and married Harold Threadgill in 1914, hosted a party with her classmate Ida Hull at Banyan Place. The affair honored Sarah Bayne, an outstanding Miami High teacher who gave public readings of Shakespeare. All graduates of Miami High, from the classes of 1904 through 1911, were invited to attend with spouses, dates and friends. Marjory Stoneman Douglas, a writer for the Society section of *The Miami Herald*, captured the elegance and mood of the evening. "Jolly red lanterns bobbing from the trees make Banyan Place worthy of the name. ... Scraps of reminiscences echoed from every nook and corner." she wrote. "There was a spelling bee that left the contestants limp with laughter ... music and more music and then the toasted marshmallows and refreshments." The article listed more than 100 guests who attended the party.

When the Miami streets were platted and paved, the entrance to Banyan Place became Northeast 26th Street. The new street curved around the ficus tree behind Banyan Place, which had stood in the middle of the road. In the 1930s, a hurricane blew down the ficus tree in front of the house, but the tree in the middle of 26th Street survived, and an effort was made to move it to another location, where it could continue to grow.

After Julius Smith died in 1919, Amy and Harold Threadgill moved into Banyan Place with Luella Smith. Harold, an aviator, used the dock in front of the house to fly a couple of pontoon airplanes around the area. In the early 1920s, six apartment buildings were built on 26th Street between Biscayne Boulevard and the bay, and a few decades later, a large apartment building replaced Banyan Place.



DALE MILLER AND FRIENDS. FROM LEFT: DALE MILLER JR., JAMES HIGH, MARSHALL CLOW, MARSHALL SCOTT, GEORGE SMATHERS AND DEAN MILLER, HMSF 1976-051-17.

Trolleys

In 1914, the Tatum brothers secured a franchise from the City of Miami for a trolley line to be operated by electricity. The Tatums constructed the trolley line along Flagler Street and operated a battery-powered system for several years, until a fire destroyed their car barn and much of their equipment. In 1922, the city took over the trolley system and extended a line out Northeast 2nd Avenue, along the northeast neighborhood's western boundary. The residents could then take a trolley into the business area, and boys and girls in the area could ride the trolley into town and to Miami High.



MAGNOLIA PARK (NORTHEAST 38TH AND 39TH STREET AT BAY), ALSO CALLED 3 B'S, FRANK STEARNS COLLECTION, HMSF 1974-033-1.

Biscayne Boulevard

The 1920s real estate boom prompted developers to push for a broad street, running from Flagler Street to areas to the north. In 1925, Northeast 4th Avenue became Biscayne Boulevard. Real estate developers Roy Wright and Hugh Anderson

and 1920, the 40-acre Bliss grove, between 2nd Avenue and the bay and 40th and 50th Streets, was the largest mango grove in the area. After Biscayne Boulevard plowed through it, it became a densely populated residential area.

“Before the 29th Street Bonecrushers team started, Frank and George Smathers arranged for football games to be played in the Smathers’ front yard or sometimes on a sandy portion of the Deering property.”

extended Biscayne Boulevard north from 13th to 52nd Streets. Everything in the path of the boulevard had to be moved or destroyed—many homes, a Jewish synagogue and the first Cushman School.

The rural, residential grove area was transformed. A home Percy Threadgill had built for his family was in the path of the boulevard. Rather than tear it down, Percy moved the house to a lot in the northwest area, where it still stands. Between 1910

The Boys Growing Up – The Bonecrushers

In 1932, a group of boys and young men who lived in the general area and had played together for several years formed the “29th Street Bonecrushers.” The Bonecrushers included Bob, Ben and Tom McGahey; John, Claude and Bill Mercer; Dale and Dean Miller; M. R. and John Harrison; Alex Ellis; Harry Fry; Bob Hector; John C. Hickson; Jerry Hogsett; Bob Levin; Henry Moorman; Dick Murphy; Jack Murphy; John



GAR WOOD'S BOAT, READY TO RACE TRAIN TO NEW JERSEY. MARCH 21, 1921, HMSF MATLACK 31-22.

Shutt; George Smathers; Clyde Taylor; Gene Threadgill; Harold Vann; Bernard Wall; Pete Williams; Arthur Wood and Jack Wright. These men went on to become bankers, businessmen, a dentist, a doctor, lawyers, a judge, mayors and a United States senator.

Before the 29th Street Bonecrushers team started, Frank and George Smathers arranged for football games to be played in the Smathers' front yard or sometimes on a sandy portion of the Deering property. They played football on an empty tract of land at the end of 29th Street. (After Biscayne Bay was dredged and an enhanced shoreline resulted, there was much empty land along the bay.) Once, the Bonecrushers played a game at the foot of 46th Street, at the old Charles Deering property and mango grove, now Bay Point.

The 50th anniversary reunion of the Bonecrushers took place in 1982, and 22 of the surviving 40-plus members attended. The *Beach and Town* reported that the Bonecrushers all grew up together in the Northeast section of Miami, between 15th and 40th Streets, Northeast 2nd Avenue and the Bay."

Magnolia Park

Magnolia Park, an area adjacent to and south of the Charles Deering Estate, extended from the bay to the place where the Dixie Highway intersected the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway, centered around 38th and 39th Streets, to the east of Buena Vista. It was the home of the original Cushman School, started by Laura Cushman in 1924, before the extension of Biscayne Boulevard forced the school's relocation to the north. Adjacent to that school was the residence of Paul Scott, president of the New Miami Shores Company. Scott later moved north to Morningside.

In 1922, H. Dale Miller's family moved into a home in Magnolia Park, a beautiful two-story masonry structure facing Biscayne Bay between Northeast 38th and 39th Streets. Just north of the Miller residence was the large, green-tiled Flanders home, named for its owner, a businessman, but later was rumored to have been built by William Randolph Hearst for his mistress, Marian Davies. Immediately to the north was the estate of the boat racer Gar Wood, on which he had built a

large swimming pool, a ramp for his amphibious aircraft and a poured concrete, pagoda-style dock for the “*Gar Junior*.” The *Gar Junior*, a 44-foot yacht with a speed of 44 miles per hour, beat the fastest train time in a race to New York.

The wall of the Gar Wood property abutted the Deering Estate. Undeveloped and full of raccoons, possums and rabbits amid a subtropical jungle, the Deering Estate was a place where the children in the area frequently went hunting.

The home of Gaston Drake was to the west of Gar Wood’s property. Lumberman Drake had played baseball at Princeton, so he named his South Dade mill site, Princeton.

The Smathers family lived next to the Drakes. On one occasion, George Smathers’ father caught George climbing over the wall around the Deering Estate, carrying a bag of mangos. George’s father made George return the bag of mangos to the caretaker.

Lon Worth Crow lived on 38th Street. His father had a mortgage business, which Lon Crow took over and developed into a national company. Lon Crow served as president of the Miami Chamber of Commerce and head of Miami’s realty board.

Bootleggers

In the 1920s, the bayfronts, at many locations along Biscayne Bay, were places where, on moonless nights, rumrunners would unload their cargo to be picked up by collaborating bootleggers. Abandoned bottles frequently were found.

Boating

Many residents adjacent to the bay had docks for their sailboats, powerboats and rowboats. The Hoeffle brothers, Don and Dick, owned a cabined catboat titled *Imalone*, which was popular because it was the largest of the young folks’ fleet in North Bay. (Mr. Hoeffle was an engineer on the FEC Railway. As the train passed through the area, headed for the Miami terminal, he would send out a special train whistle, telling his family, “I’ll be home soon.”) The Millers owned an oversized “moth” sailboat, which had the Indian name *Hiepus*, meaning “get up and go.” When the Millers and their friends went sailing, they challenged themselves by heeling the boat over until it capsized and then struggling in the water to put it

upright. The bay was pretty filthy in those days because many sewer lines emptied into it, but the Millers and their friends never got infected.

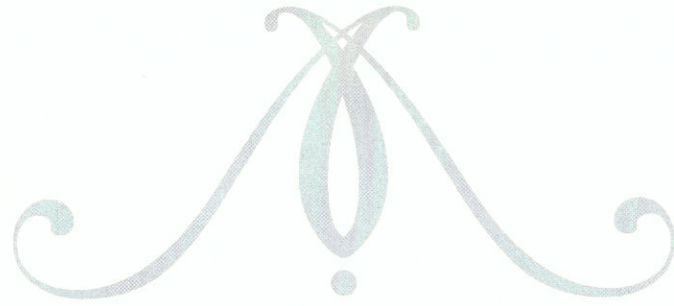
After the bayfront was extended, Harold Threadgill had a roofed slip built at the foot of 26th Street for his Sea Sled, and the family zoomed around the bay in that Sea Sled for several years.

Many of the historic homes in the area have been torn down and replaced by commercial or residential structures. This rich area may be unbeknownst to Miamians and others who came to this slice of the subtropics long after those portrayed in this account of the historic neighborhoods of northeast Miami.

- SFH



DALE MILLER, HMSF 1976-051-103.



A HOME IN THE WILDERNESS

THE BISCAYNE HOUSE OF REFUGE

BY PAUL S. GEORGE, PH.D.



The most southern of southeast Florida's five life-saving stations, Life Saving Station Number Five, more commonly known as the Biscayne House of Refuge, opened in 1876. Created by order of President Ulysses Grant in the same year and administered by the United States Life Saving Service, it stood east of today's Collins Avenue near 72nd Street on Miami Beach. Standing amid a 10-acre site, the wood frame home consisted of one floor, a wide veranda on three sides, a cistern, and a brick chimney in the kitchen. The facility's administrator was a keeper, who, along with his family, lived on the first floor, below a loft containing cots for visitors. It was similar in style and scale to the other lifesaving facilities north of it.

The house rested on a sandy ridge overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. West of the ridge was a dense mangrove swamp beyond which lie the broad waters of upper Biscayne Bay. The keeper, or attendant, moored his boat along the edge of Biscayne Bay, thereby providing him contact with the land mass on the west bank of the waterway, and even, occasionally, the opportunity to rescue a person in a capsized boat or one that had run aground in the shallow waterway. The keeper, who earned \$400 per year for his work (later this salary rose to \$600 per year), obtained food and supplies from ships sailing out of Key West or, more commonly, from the Brickell trading post seven miles south at the mouth of the Miami River.

Life was lonely for the keeper of Station Number Five, just as it was for his counterparts along the desolate coastline. Sprawling Dade County contained just 257 residents in 1880, and 861 ten years later.

Each keeper was required to keep a daily log. Located in the National Archives near Washington, D.C., these documents contain a wealth of information on the weather, wrecked vessels and a dizzying array of other maritime-related subjects for an area on the cusp of its first developmental boom. Accordingly, they represent one of the most important sources of information on the frontier that is today's southeast Florida megalopolis.

No logs for the Biscayne House of Refuge have been located for the years 1876-1882. The researcher, however, has access, for this period, to the reports of the superintendent for the Seventh District of the United States Life Saving Service to which Florida belonged. The superintendent made regular inspections of each house in his district and compiled reports on these visits. William H. Hunt, a controversial Reconstruction-era political figure, served as superintendent of District Seven during the early years of the Biscayne House of Refuge. On May 3, 1880, Hunt reported on the facility. "Government property well cared for, house clean and orderly," he wrote. "No cause to complain." Hunt also noted that its 22 foot lifeboat, which he tried out, "works splendidly."

A complete set of logs exists for the years 1883-1927, when



BISCAYNE HOUSE OF REFUGE, MIAMI BEACH, 1899, HMSF 1991-460-28.

the station was abandoned. Although he saw few people in the course of his duties, the keeper did observe a steady procession of ships passing on the great waterway east of him, as indicated in the logs. In the year 1892, the keeper observed more than 2,000 vessels that passed by the facility. This figure included 1,323 steamers, 357 sloops, 338 schooners, 52 barks and 13 brigs.

An entry for June 23, 1889, points to the essence of the keeper's job: assisting mariners in distress. "Two small 20 foot sloops in sight of station 2 days," the log noted, "had drifted with Gulf Stream from the Bahamas unable to make head way with light baffling winds. I gave them, 5 coloured (sic) men, bread, water and tobacco. They took the shore down towards Key West." Temporary keeper Ludwig H. Hovilsrud's notes on April 4, 1902, indicated that he had provided assistance for a young Miamian who became ill after "surf bathing." The keeper brought him to the facility. That night he "heard him struggling" and went to his room and found him "with an epileptic fit. I applied the usual remedies and brought him around all right. He went back to Miami today." In December 1902, the keeper wrote, "a party of fishermen came to the house from the bay side at midnight and said they were about frozen. I gave them lodging and they went away Sunday morning." He added that "temperature at sunrise 38."

A more dramatic example of a keeper providing succor to distressed mariners is gleaned from the entry of Captain William H. Fulford, a onetime ship captain of British heritage



BISCAYNE HOUSE OF REFUGE, HMSF 1976-010-1.

who homesteaded in today's North Miami Beach. Fulford recorded in the log for November 2, 1891, that the "Sloop yacht *Bijou* capsized somewhere south of New River station. The Capt. and one man clung to the wreck till she drifted ashore about 6 miles north of this station where I discovered them. One man walked to the station, the other was so lame I had to go up as far as Bakers Haulover and get him in my boat. Brought him to the station and cared for them, both men being weather beaten and sore." On May 25, 1899, the keeper noted, "Heavy hail storm capsized sch. [schooner] *Two Brothers* about eight miles north of station. Two men came to station from abreast of her where they landed in their boat after the squall had subsided. Gave them dry clothes, supplied bed and breakfast and took them over to Lemon City in my supply boat."

it had been low tide she would have struck. Set the danger signal as soon as she was near enough to see it, when she hauled off in deep water. Had she continued the course five minutes longer she would have taken the bottom and with the sea that is running today she would have stayed there."

Captain Fulford's record for April 22, 1891, revealed that the "Yacht *Attala* ran ashore about 5 or 6 miles north of the station. Went with mail carrier, found the boat and made toward the shore. Bailed out and went back to station." On the following day "at 4 p.m. one of the crew of yacht *Attala* came to the station for help reporting a man aboard very lame and wanting (indecipherable). I immediately left for Lemon City [a flourishing homesteading community centered at the Bay and today's Northeast 61st Street] procured assistance and went to the wreck, found her high on the Beach and out of danger. The

Caption Fulford wrote, "Boat dragged both anchors and went into mangroves. Boats gone, wharf gone and a most terrific wind raging bursting in both boat house doors."

Another key element of the keeper's task was apparent when, on October 18, 1883, Assistant Keeper Charles Pierce "patrolled [the] Beach from Inlet [at Norris Cut which, at the time, separated Miami Beach from Virginia Key] to six miles north. Found nothing to indicate any wrecks from the violent wind of last night."

One month later, Pierce reported, "A large brig-rigged steamer under all sail steering south at 2 p.m. ran so close in that if

wreckers made a contract to get the yacht off and I went back to the station."

Sometimes the keeper recorded what was for that time and place an event of "cosmic" nature. The keeper's log for October 23, 1886, recalls one of the most celebrated events of that era. It observed that the beach was "packed with wreckage and pipes of wine more or less for 60 miles ... The vessel or vessels broke up somewhere and the current bought the drift here. Have notified the collector of customs at Key West of the



facts.” The keeper was referring to the “Great Wine Wreck” — when a Spanish ship broke up and dumped a vast cargo of wine and brandy that floated ashore all along the southeast coast of Florida. The event drew settlers from many parts of the region to the Atlantic shoreline.

The keeper's records indicate his working relationship with wreckers, or salvagers. The keeper came into contact with the crews of disabled vessels and often required the work of licensed wreckers to remove them from the Great Florida Reef, a series of reefs extending from Key West to Key Biscayne. According to the entry of May 18, 1889, a Spanish steamer “ran aground on outer reef 8 miles south of Station.” Afterwards, Keeper Jack Peacock “started to give information to a licensed wrecking schooner 12 miles south but soon perceived them making straight for the steamer. The Capt. of steamer declined their assistance and lightened up by throwing overboard barrels of cement and fence wire. He got her off in 12 hours and proceeded.”

Peacock's entry for May 14, 1890, again provides additional insight into the collaboration between the keeper and wreckers. “At half past 2 a.m. steamer ‘City of Alexander’ of New York bound for Havana run aground abreast of station. Gave news at once to licensed wreckers on Biscayne Bay. They was (sic) soon alongside to render assistance and at once proceeded to lighten her.” But the log entry for May 15, 1890, noted, “Steamer still aground. Weather becoming bad towards sundown the wrecker left to make harbour for the night in Biscayne Bay.”

Several hours later, a storm blew over the area. According to the account for May 16, 1890, the storm “blew very hard from the S.E. with frequent rain squalls, surf very heavy, “forcing the steamer” to throw over cargo consisting of provisions etc. A company of twenty went into partnership to save goods that

drifted into (sic) beach and saved a considerable pile which they will ship the first opportunity to Key West for salvage. During the (indecipherable) the steamer floated off.” On the following day, the goods that reached the beach were placed on a wrecking schooner and consigned to the U.S. Marshall in Key West.

Many entries dealt with mundane activities on the part of the keeper. Charles Pierce, an early keeper, noted, on July 28, 1883, that he had “repainted signs on guideposts on Beach from Virginia Key to (Life Saving) Station.” C.J. Yates, a temporary keeper, wrote in a February 1902 entry, that he “was sunning all the blankets and mattresses and cleaning up the house generally.” In May 1902, the keeper was “putting new screens on some of the doors and cleaning house inside.” Further, he was “cleaning up the yard around the house.”

The keeper was expected to perform many duties around the station. Captain Fulford's notes for August 6, 1890, addressed the tasks. “Arrived at the station yesterday and this morning received from the outgoing keeper Mr. J. T. Peacock the House of Refuge at this place with all of its belongings and find things in a poor condition, he wrote, “two boats neither of which are fit for use, the House partly painted, most of the bedding old and worn out.” Three days later, Fulford added that he was “employed during the day in overhauling the large life boat. Find several holes in her but will make the attempt to mend her as soon as I procure some rosin. The whole of her bottom seems rusted out.” Temporary keeper, Ludwig H. Hovilsrud, who replaced an ill Captain Fulford in 1900, noted in several entries in October 1901 that he had moved the house on rollers along the beach to a new, nearby location. As part of the move, he visited Lemon City for supplies.



BISCAYNE HOUSE OF REFUGE, MIAMI BEACH (1918-1920?), HMSF 1996-697-11.

Keepers of the houses on Miami Beach and Fort Lauderdale (Life Saving Station Number Four, just south of today's Las Olas Boulevard and east of A1A), 25 miles apart, occasionally visited one another. Captain Fulford's notes for August 11, 1890, detailed "Dennis O'Neil [O'Neill] keeper of the Ft. Lauderdale House of Refuge in co (company) with a Mr. Nugent [James Nugent, a denizen of Coconut Grove who also possessed property in Fort Lauderdale] came to the station. Loaned them a boat that was loaned me to cross to Miami." O'Neill returned the favor on June 3, 1898, when he took control of Station Number Five in the absence of Fulford, who did not return until June 26, 1898.

Storms were frequent and often presented the keeper with his greatest challenges. Several were mentioned in the keeper's accounts for the last 15 years of the 19th century. A severe storm hit the area in September 1894. Captain Fulford prepared for it as it approached on September 24. "Barometer 29.95. At 8 a.m. moved my boat with two anchors and a good line out to a tree. At noon moved line from tree to corner of wharf." On the following day, the storm hit. "At 9," Fulford wrote, "boat dragged both anchors and went into mangroves. At sundown the water from the Bay halfway to the House from the landing. Boats gone, wharf gone and a most terrific wind raging bursting in both boat house doors. Rain water flooding the station. A solid breaker comber ten feet of steps."

The next day Fulford prepared to reconnoiter the lonely coastline but found that he "could not walk much against the wind. Turned back." Finally on September 27, he "took a five mile walk to the north in the morning. At noon went south to Narrows Cut [Norris Cut]. Saw nothing, no boats from the mainland ... Found my supply boat up in the mangrove trees, bowsprit gone, aftermast gone broken off, stern stove, foresail and gib badly torn and badly used generally."

Miami's "transformational" year was 1896, when Henry M. Flagler's FEC Railway entered the isolated settlement. Miami and the surrounding area grew quickly in the aftermath of its entry. In that era, the House of Refuge became a curiosity and even something of a recreational venue for residents of the new city who visited the house before entering the nearby waters of the Atlantic Ocean. By 1902, the keeper was record-

ing the names of his visitors in the logbook. The log for April 24, 1902, lists the names of 11 who visited the facility. "All went in the surf" afterward. On April 26, 1902, 41 visitors from Miami as well as from many other locales throughout the United States stopped in the house. The roster of names included the merchant William Burdine and Ethan V. Blackman, another influential Miamian, who bestowed upon the nascent municipality its enduring nickname: "The Magic City." One week later, however, "a party of 30 was prevented from visiting the station...on account of low water." On May 13, 1902, "a picnic party of col. People (sic) [a reference to black visitors in a deeply segregated community] numbering about 200 came to station today and got water."

The explosive growth of Miami and all of southeast Florida in the early 20th century marginalized the role, and even the importance, of the houses of refuge. In 1915, the United States Coast Guard assumed administration of the houses. The facility continued to employ its mantra "Always Ready." The killer hurricane of September 1926 wreaked great damage on Life Saving Station Number Five, which was not repaired, effectively ending its long existence. In 1941, the federal government awarded the site of the life saving facility to the City of Miami Beach with the stipulation that the land be used exclusively as a public park. In return, the city agreed to construct a new island and station for a United States Coast Guard base on the southern edge of the County Causeway (later called the MacArthur Causeway) near the Government Cut. The island, known as Causeway Island, remains an active Coast Guard facility. Only the Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge on Jupiter Beach remains standing among the five facilities dating to 1876, reminding residents of southeast Florida of its recent, pristine past.

- SFH

DEACONESS HARRIET BEDELL, HMSF X-187-18.



DEACONESS HARRIET BEDELL AND THE GLADE CROSS MISSION

BY ROBIN E. PARKER

"In co shopie" was the name given to Episcopal Deaconess Harriet Bedell by the beloved Seminole and Miccosukee people. This name is one any Christian woman would cherish, as it translates to "Woman of God."

This strong, energetic, dedicated and sometimes forceful woman was born in Buffalo, New York, on March 19, 1875, to parents of Swiss and English backgrounds. When she was 10 years old, her father drowned when he fell from a ship while on a business trip. Her mother was left alone to raise Harriet and her younger brother and sister.

Harriet served for 11 years as a teacher and assistant principal at the Doyle School in the Polish immigrant section of Buffalo. For four years during this time, Harriet, a devoted young Christian, conducted Sunday school services among the Seneca Indians in a remote part of the Cattaraugus Reservation.

In 1905, while attending services she listened as Reverend Arthur Sherman, a missionary on furlough from China, spoke of his mission experiences. Spellbound, she became convinced that God wanted her to dedicate her life to mission activity.

In 1906, Harriet's strong-willed mother did not want her daughter to become a missionary to China, but agreed to let her enter the New York Training School for Deaconesses in New York City. While there, Harriet visited missions in the Lower East Side and witnessed first hand the needs of struggling, poverty stricken

people. These experiences strengthened her desire to enter mission work. After graduating from the Training School in 1907, she began working at the Central Hospital of Buffalo. She realized that she would need medical training in mission work.

Harriet secretly began studying Chinese at home against her mother's strong objections to her daughter's plans to go to China. Finally, mother and daughter compromised; she would work on the home mission fields in the United States while her mother got used to her being away from the family for long periods of time.

After securing an appointment as a mission teacher in Oklahoma, she left in December 1907 for the Whirlwind Mission in Oklahoma where she would work in an isolated and wild area with the Cheyenne Indians, gaining their trust while being adopted into the tribe and given the name Vicsehia (Bird Woman). During her years in the Oklahoma mission, she contracted tuberculosis and was sent to Denver for treatment. While in Denver, she attended a healing service at Saint Marks Episcopal Church and eight days later, doctors pronounced her completely cured. Harriet was positive that the cure had been a miracle of God.

In 1919, because of her training and experience with Native Americans and the tremendous need for qualified teachers,



DEACONESS HARRIET BEDELL, HARRIET BEDELL COLLECTION, HMSF 1975-001-68.

Harriet was reassigned to Alaska, where she worked in Nenana and Tanana, close to the Arctic Circle. She learned to drive a dogsled into territory that even the Athabascan people felt was too difficult to reach. Deaconess Bedell was often seen visiting the camps along the Yukon River, caring for the ill, encouraging

sanitary conditions and conducting Christian work of all kinds. In the throes of the Great Depression in 1932, the mission closed. There was no church funding to continue the ministry to Alaskan Native Americans.

While waiting to be reassigned to Alaska, the Deaconess came to Florida to lecture to congregations on her work in Alaska, visiting Jacksonville, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Palm Beach and Miami. During her time in Miami, Harriet began asking questions and completing research relating to the Seminoles and Miccosukees who lived near Tamiami Trail (US 41). Their history both amazed and saddened her. These tribes were a challenge to work with. They didn't trust most white people — and they had good reason not to. Their ancestors had fought three long wars against the United States, many of them had been forcibly removed to Indian Territory during the 19th century, and as a people they were still being treated as second-class citizens.

Very few of the Seminoles and hardly any of the Miccosukees had become Christians and the Episcopal Mission work had been inactive since 1914. How could one bring Christianity to a people who wouldn't talk to or listen to you, who ignored your presence entirely? But, they *existed*, and Harriet began thinking that she could work among these tribes until she was reassigned to Alaska.

In August 1933, after receiving approval from the Diocese of South Florida and the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Field Service, she began working out of her rented home in Everglades City, Florida. She was 58 years old and would remain living and working among the Seminoles and Miccosukees for the next 27 years. At Everglades City, she prepared a mission village where visiting Indians could stay when they came to shop or to visit the doctor, and also established a credit account in the Manhattan Mercantile, which was near the mission, "to assist the Indians."

Harriet hated the commercial villages such as Coppinger's Seminole Indian Village and Musa Isle that she had visited in Miami. The villages exhibited arts and crafts, not people. Following the practice she had established during her work in Alaska and in Oklahoma, she always rejected any attempt to demean, exploit or belittle indigenous peoples. She quickly found a market for the arts and crafts — patchwork shirts and dresses, dolls, baskets and miniature items — but always insisting that the items be made of the highest quality and in authentic traditional styles. The handicrafts provided an income for the tribes, helping the Indians keep their self-respect and dignity while keeping their arts vibrant, desirable and in the public eye. Sometimes she would load up her old, secondhand car and drive to New York to sell the handicrafts there in the fall.

The Deaconess preferred to introduce Christian teachings in a one-on-one, low-key method. She was patient with her ministry; seven years would pass before she was able to bring the



GLADES CROSS MISSION, HARRIET BEDELL COLLECTION, HMSF 1975-001-129.

Indian people together for a religious service.

Although Indians visited the Glade Cross Mission headquarters almost daily, Deaconess Bedell carried on other work too — services for county jail prisoners, visits to the segregated “colored” school in Everglades City, ministry to commercial fishermen in the Ten Thousand Islands, devotional programs in the Community Church of Everglades City and work among isolated Christians in Ochopee, Marco Island, Bonita Springs and Immokalee.

Loved and respected by almost everyone, she was very understanding and tried to help anyone, but would become blunt and demanding when someone questioned why she was committed to her Indian friends and other people in trouble.

On December 6, 1947, Deaconess Harriet Bedell stood on the podium in front of thousands of people and delivered the

In 1960, Hurricane Donna swept through Florida and destroyed the Glade Cross Mission, forcing the Deaconess at age 85 to move to the Bishop Crane Episcopal Home in Davenport, Florida. Still, she didn’t “retire,” continuing to speak to various civic groups, teaching Sunday school lessons and visiting the sick. “I want to die while I’m still working,” she said. Harriet believed “there is no retirement in the service of the Master.” At the time of her death, January 8, 1969, she had devoted 63 years of her life in service to her Lord and Savior and to the Indians of North America.

Deaconess Harriet Bedell loved her Miccosukees and Seminoles. Although many people treated them as outcasts of society, in their eyes (and hers) they were (and are) the full-blooded aristocrats of Florida.

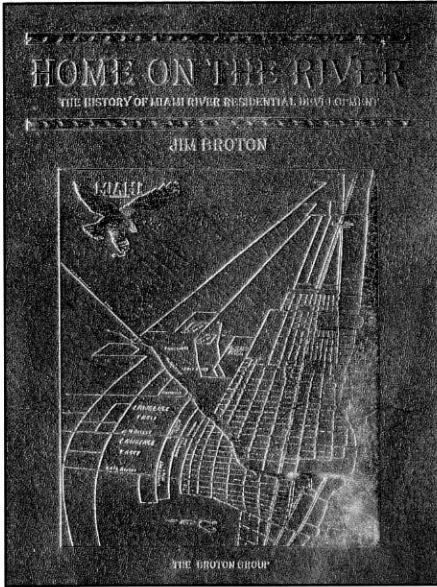
“Lord I do give Thee thanks for the abundance that is mine.”

Deaconess Harriet Bedell lived by these words.

invocation for the dedication of Everglades National Park, held in Everglades City. Later she shared a wonderful lunch with President Harry Truman and other dignitaries at the Rod and Gun Club, but there was important work to tend to back at the mission headquarters on Camilla Street, so she slipped out as soon as possible. She was now a volunteer, having been forced to retire in 1943 at age 68.

In 2000, Deaconess Harriet Bedell was awarded the title, “Great Floridian of Florida” by the Department of State of the State of Florida. At Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Coral Gables, the room dedicated to Women’s Auxiliary Work has been named in her honor.

- SFH



Jim Broton, *Home on the River: The History of Miami River Residential Development*

Miami, FL: The Broton Group, 2007, 117 pages of text with photographs and illustrations, plus an introduction, table of figures, references and index. \$25.00

Reviewed by James F. Donnelly

The great strength of Jim Broton's *Home on the River* is the large amount of primary source material first published or reprinted here and not otherwise available outside the nooks and crannies of local archives and depositories. Perhaps the most intriguing of these leads off the text. In a 1921 advertisement placed in *The Miami Herald*, the Tatum Brothers caution prospective buyers, "Don't be a Bolshevist," and urge them to prove it by buying a home in Grove Park on the Miami River. According to the Tatums' ad, "You never hear the man who owns his own home raving the doctrines of anarchy." Bolton documents the "mishmash of irregularly and sometimes irrationally placed developments" on both sides of the river with enough aerial photos, maps, advertisements and contemporary news articles to satisfy the most diligent researcher.

After introductory material in the first two chapters, Broton dedicates a separate chapter to each of nine sections with early development either immediately adjacent or quite close to the north or south banks of the Miami River. Among the introductory materials is a striking pull-out 1925 aerial photograph of properties along the Miami River and a fine pull-out map with more than 60 subdivisions identified by name in alphabetical order, color-coded by area and catalogued by number to match the specific descriptions in the text. While some of the names are still alive in local speech today – Riverside, Highland Park, Spring Garden, Grapeland – others live only in the memories of Miami natives of a certain age and local historians: Musa Isle, Johnson Street, Fordham. Among the useful additions to *Home on the River* are a list of the 134 figures in the book and a list of the 650 references to the primary sources published or reprinted here, many for the first time.

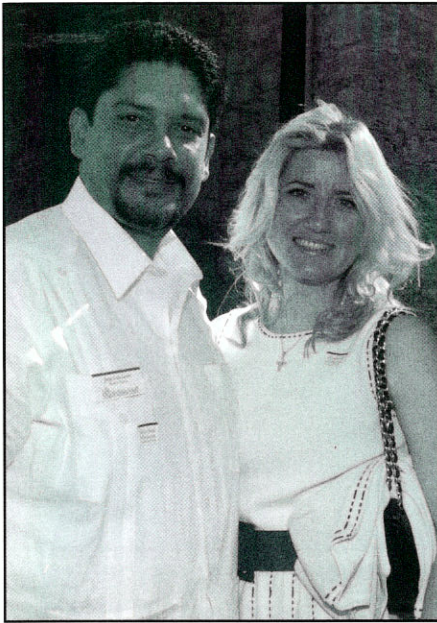
Broton highlights the central role played by alligators in Miami River history. While the Musa Isle attraction

closed in 1964, several photos of Seminoles wrestling alligators at the location are in common circulation. Broton adds another less well-known gator wrestling photo by Claude Matlack, but goes further in pointing out that Allapattah is named for the alligator.

Another highlight of Broton's compendium is the large number of photographs of the people who pioneered and later developed the Miami River. One purpose of Broton's book is to honor these entrepreneurs and their determination and energy emerges from the photos, even those posed formally.

Broton's hope is to provide "the tools here to those wishing to find more information" about the Miami River. Broton's own background as a scientist and researcher with the University of Miami's Miami Project to Cure Paralysis shows in the careful documentation of the material presented in *Home on the River* and in the report-like format of its presentation. While some historians might prefer to read more narrated stories, Broton's contribution to popular appreciation of the complexity of residential development along the Miami River will be fully realized in the continued explorations of Miami River history that his hard work and this book inspire.

- SFH



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EVENT CO-CHAIR RICARDO TAÑO FEIJOÓ AND ARTIST CARLOS NAVARRO

8th Annual Croquet & Croquetas

On Sunday, April 13, more than 200 guests enjoyed breathtaking views of Biscayne Bay at the 8th Annual Croquet & Croquetas at the historic Deering Estate at Cutler. Proceeds from this exquisite event benefited the Historical Museum of Southern Florida's exhibitions and education programs.

The VIP reception included a private tour of the Stone House with renowned local historian Dr. Paul George, a tour of the grounds with eco-historian Frank Schena, special wine tasting with Henry Barrow of Cefalo's Wine Cellar, preview and purchase of auction items, croquet lessons with the pros from the Palm Beach-based United States Croquet Association, champagne and passed hors d'oeuvres.

Miami-based pop artist Carlos Navarro opened the silent auction with the unveiling of his one-of-a-kind painting titled "Through the Wickets." The main event also featured friendly croquet matches, croqueta tastings, live Jazz music from Suman Entertainment Group, a cigar roller, an international buffet, and a martini bar sponsored by Ketel One.

Event co-chairs for this year's Croquet & Croquetas were Pete and Nory Fernandez and Ricardo Taño Feijoó and Lourdes Bellas-Taño. The event emcee was Mark Trowbridge, HMSF board member and president of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. The 'People's Choice Award' for Best Croqueta went to the spinach croqueta from Tinta y Café. The award for 'Best All-Around Player' went to husband and wife team Cathy and David Prentice.

Event sponsors included Lead Sponsor Mellon Bank; Supporting Sponsor Keen Battle Mean and Company; Underwriters Kaufman, Rossin and Company and the Tropees Executive Committee of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida. VIP Sponsors include Peter & Kerrin Bermont; Baptist Hospital; Business Centers International, LLC; Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Campbell; Pete and Nory Fernandez; Flagstone Property Group; Kendall Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery; Mr. & Mrs. Robert McCammon; Bob & Lyn Parks; Dr. & Mrs. Michael Rosenberg; Ryder Systems, Inc.; Ms. Libby Smith; and Wachovia Securities, LLC.

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The 15th Annual Miami International Map Fair

by Marcia Kanner

"Since its inception the Miami International Map Fair has gone from strength to strength, and is now the largest map fair in the world ..." reported *MapForum* magazine. The Map Fair held February 1-3 featured 56 international map dealers – some of the finest in the world. Since dealer attendance is by invitation only, booths at the fair are highly prized, and there is a waiting list of dealers desiring to be exhibitors. More maps are sold at the Miami fair than at any other fair.

"We started it to have fun, and we're still having fun," said founder and chairman, Dr. Joseph H. Fitzgerald, "but we never thought it would become such an important event. We're just glad that people come here from all over the world for the fair and seem to enjoy it."

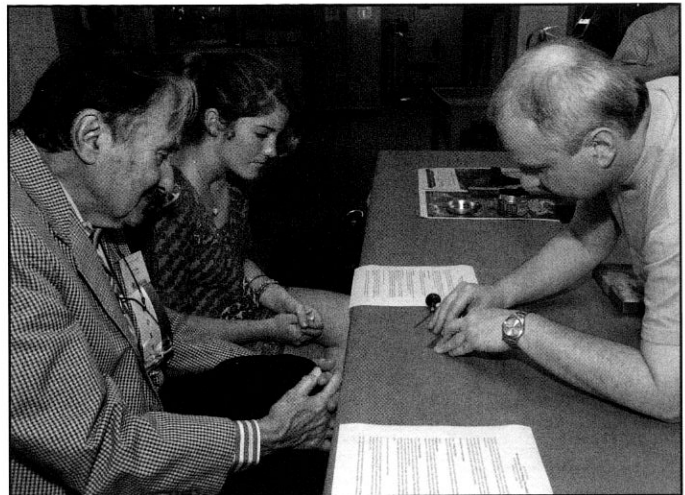
Held over two days, the fair affords the serious collector or casual buyer a weekend of browsing and buying antique maps of every size, shape, color and age. Visitors also have the opportunity to receive an expert opinion from a professional map dealer on the origin and historical value of their maps.

This year we were honored to have Dr. Zsolt Török, a university professor from Budapest, Hungary, deliver his lecture, "Introduction to Renaissance Map Printing" followed by a workshop where Dr. Török assisted Map Fair attendees in printing their own maps. Dr. Richard and Penelope Betz, map dealers and authors from Stoddard, New Hampshire, gave the keynote address, "The Mapping of Africa to 1700" based on their latest book. Prominent London map dealer Jonathan Potter attracted new collectors and old with his talk, "Why Collect Old Maps and How." The Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from the Library of Congress, New York Public Library, map dealers and collectors, plans the programs and lectures.

As in past years, there was an atmosphere of "old-home" week as Map Fair regulars from around the world greeted one another at the cocktail reception and dinner held at the Hilton Hotel on Friday evening. The reception on Saturday, following the keynote address, was a magical evening under the stars. Our European friends and those from the cold Northeast couldn't get enough of our wonderful Miami weather and stayed until the security guards said it was time to lock the gates!

Plans are already underway for the 16th Annual Miami International Map Fair, which will be held February 6-8, 2009. Save the date!

- SFH



SPONSOR JAY I. KISLAK AND GRANDDAUGHTER JANE CAROL PRINT THEIR OWN MAP WITH DR. ZSOLT TÖRÖK

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History is the story of change and growth. As of January 1, 2008, the Historical Museum made a change to our membership program that created several new membership categories and ended others. Our membership rates also went up for the first time in over 20 years. We truly appreciate all the members who chose to stand with us during this time of transition.

The following is not a complete list of our membership. In the listing below we wish to acknowledge and thank those individuals who began their membership or rejoined the Historical Museum during the dates of January 24 to April 30, 2008.

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



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.



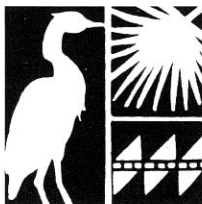
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Historical Society of Palm Beach County and the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum, 300 North Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach—561.832.4164. The Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum is located in the historic 1916 Courthouse in downtown West Palm Beach. The Museum, operated by the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, contains permanent and temporary exhibit spaces, each reflecting the influence of the many cultures of Palm Beach County's diverse history from the earliest Native American inhabitants to present day. Opening temporary exhibit (through August 2008): Early Contact: The Beginning of History in Palm Beach County. Open Tuesday—Saturday 10 am–5 pm, Sunday 1–5 pm. Admission is free. www.historicalsocietypbc.org. Mailing address: P.O. Box 4364, West Palm Beach, FL 33402-4364.

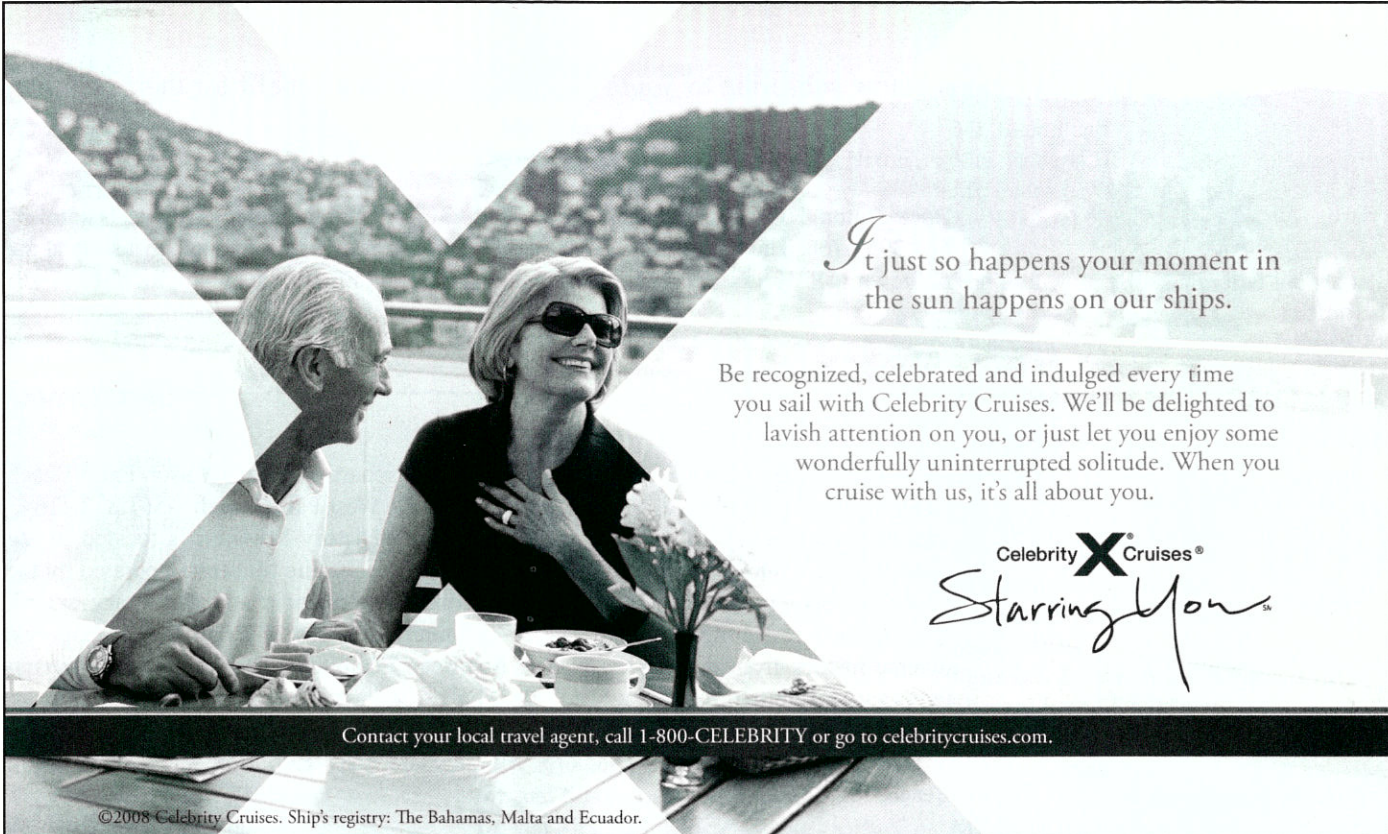


109 Central Avenue, Clewiston, FL 33440

Clewiston Museum, 109 Central Avenue, Clewiston—863.983.2870. The Clewiston Museum, founded in 1986, reflects the history and heritage of Clewiston and eastern Hendry County. The museum includes a 60-seat theater with historical video presentations and exhibits depicting artifacts and narratives about the area's development from 1915. Research hours are by appointment. The Clewiston Museum is open 9 am until 4 pm, Monday through Friday (closed on major holidays) and arrangements can be made for weekend visits by groups. Admission is \$4 (adults), \$3 (seniors), and \$2 (students). Group rates are available.



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 Fifth 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.



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berta@theguayaberalady.com
www.TheGuayaberaLady.com

Historical Museum of Southern Florida

**please take me to
Bark Brunch**

Luna: American Bulldog/Owner: Maritza Valle

BRING YOUR FAITHFUL, FUZZY FRIEND TO THE OASIS IN THE RALEIGH HOTEL FOR BRUNCH, MIMOSAS, CANINE COMPETITIONS AND, OF COURSE, REAL DOGGIE BAGS!

BARK BRUNCH AT THE OASIS
SEPTEMBER 6
10 AM - 12 PM
RALEIGH HOTEL, SOUTH BEACH

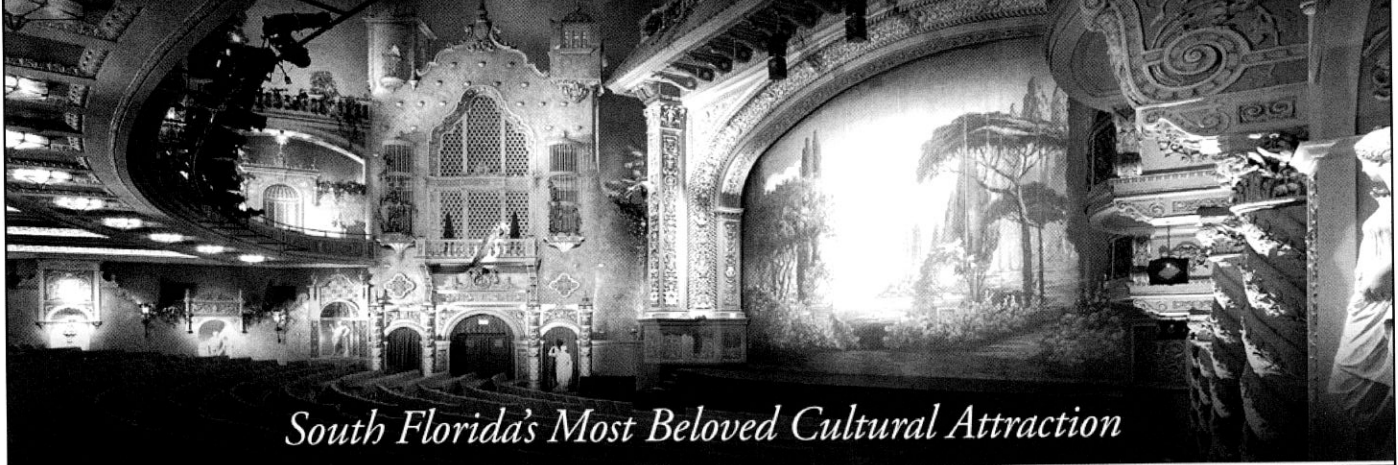
HMSF MEMBERS \$45
NON-MEMBERS \$55
DOGS FREE

ADMISSION INCLUDES A CHANCE TO WIN A TWO-NIGHT STAY FOR TWO (PETS ALLOWED) IN A LUXURIOUS OCEANFRONT KING ROOM AT THE RALEIGH.

INFORMATION AT 305.375.5356 OR membership@hmsf.org

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101 West Flagler Street Downtown Miami

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Historical Museum of Southern Florida



Looking for a special place to host your group?

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

Seat your guests through 12,000 years of history. Offer cocktails from an authentic 1923 trolley 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 305.375.1625 or e-mail specialevents@hmsf.org



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Historical Museum of Southern Florida

Tropical Explorers Summer Camp

The Historical Museum's Tropical Explorers camps are held during Winter, Spring and Summer breaks. Students from 6 to 12 years of age blast into the past to discover native people, prehistoric sites and have wild adventures. Guided by museum educators, historians and artists, campers will discover the treasures of South Florida's history through gallery games, music, arts and crafts, field trips to historical sites and much more!

Visit our website at www.hmsf.org or call 305.375.1629 for registration and information

 **HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA** *Your Story. Your Community... Your Museum*
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Historical Museum of Southern Florida



You are invited to join us
November 3–8, 2008
on a 5-night cruise with the
Historical Museum of Southern Florida
Turks & Caicos Cruise

portion of proceeds benefit exhibitions and educational programs at the museum

Carnival Cruise Lines M/S DESTINY sailing to
GRAND TURK, HALF MOON CAY AND NASSAU

Interior Stateroom **\$295** ppdo* museum members, \$325 non-members
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Balcony Stateroom \$465 members
including these exclusive additional activities

Reserve now LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE AT THESE PRICES

Come see the unique cactus that is on the islands' coat of arms, and explore the historic old town, and the National History Museum of the Turks and Caicos, which houses the oldest known European shipwreck in the New World. Swim in the clear turquoise water by white sand beaches and enjoy a unique combination of history and relaxation.

305.385.3191 Kendale Lakes Travel kendalakestravel@fdn.com
3rd/4th person rate upon request; *additional taxes, fuel surcharge & fees \$202.27 per person

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The Fun Ships.

Historical Museum of Southern Florida



Get Involved!

Join the *Tropees*, the young professionals group of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

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

Become an HMSF Tropees member and receive a year's worth of outstanding benefits.

For more information, call Kara Sincich at 305.375.1619 or e-mail tropees@hmsf.org



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Historical Museum of Southern Florida



Private Group Tours

Historic Tours are ideal for

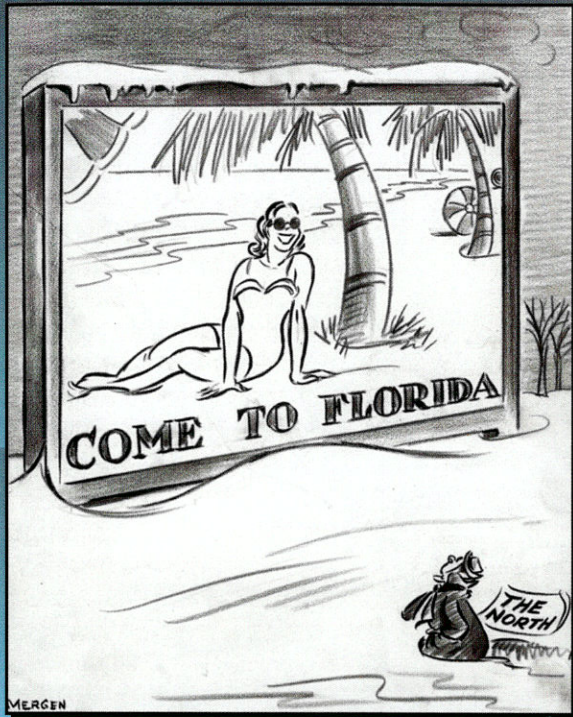
- Senior groups
- Corporate executive groups
- College reunions
- Student groups

For more information, call 305.375.1621, e-mail historictours@hmsf.org, or visit www.hmsf.org



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Historical Museum of Southern Florida



MERGEN

HMSF 2005-507-116

ANNE MERGEN

FLORIDA CARTOONS

On display through September 4

Anne Mergen was one of the first women in the United States to break into the male-dominated field of cartoon art. Published in the *Miami News*, her work brought critical awareness to issues that affected Miami and all of Florida and eventually garnered national attention. On display are more than two dozen of Mergen's original cartoon renderings from the 1940s and 1950s.



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Historical Museum of Southern Florida

NECROPOLIS CRISTOBAL COLON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RAUL L. RODRIGUEZ, A.I.A.

ON DISPLAY SEPTEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 25, 2009



AVENIDO OBISCO FRAY JACINTO / PHOTOGRAPHER: RAUL RODRIGUEZ

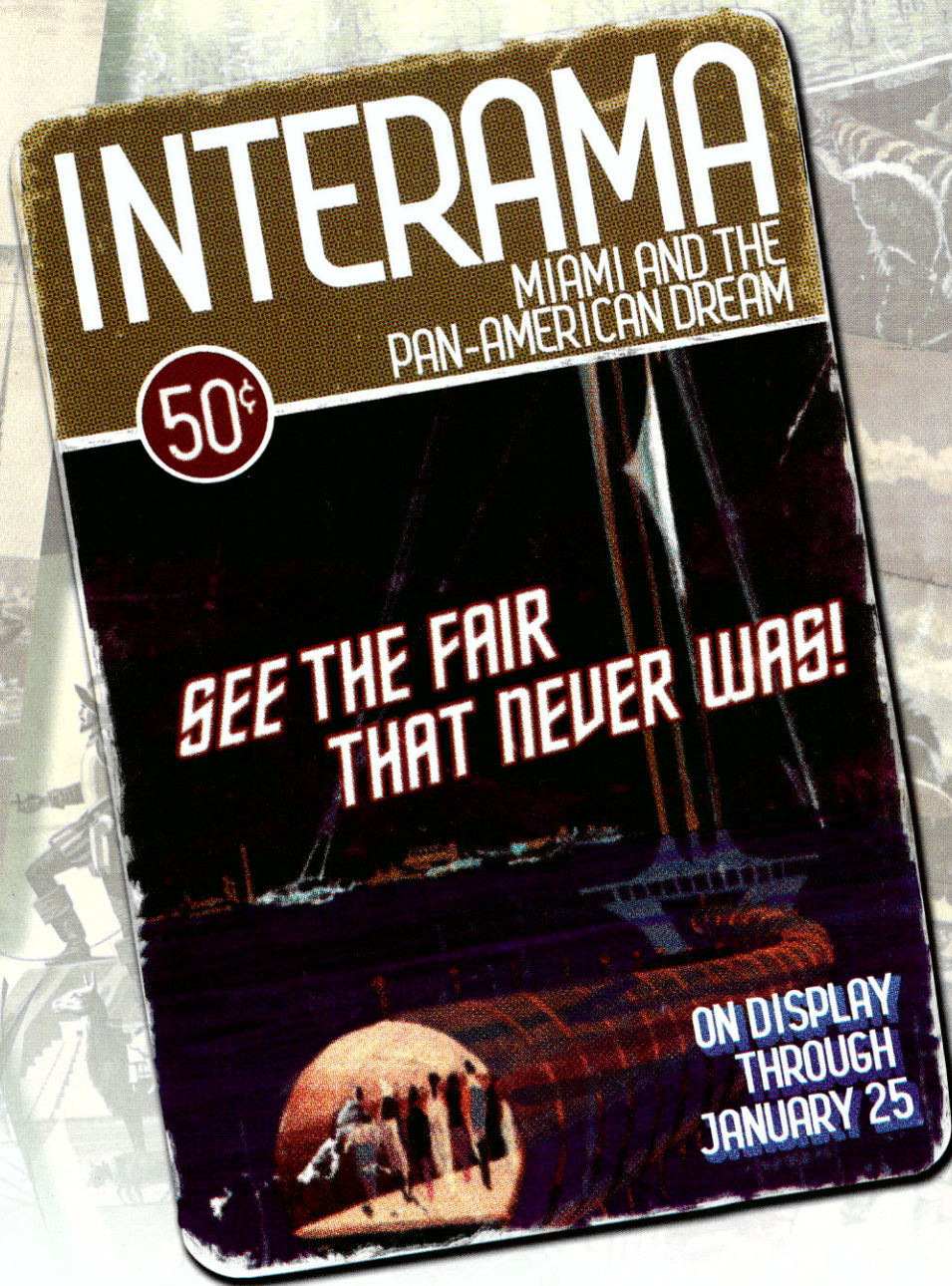
SINCE 1980 MIAMI ARCHITECT RAUL L. RODRIGUEZ HAS BEEN PHOTOGRAPHING HAVANA'S NECROPOLIS CRISTOBAL COLON, A CEMETERY FEATURING SOME OF THE FINEST FUNERARY ART IN THE WORLD. RODRIGUEZ HAS FOCUSED ON THE CEMETERY'S MAUSOLEUMS, WHICH REPRESENT A WIDE RANGE OF NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURY ARCHITECTURAL STYLES.

WITH ITS EXTENSIVE GRID OF STREETS AND ITS TOMBS FOR EVERYONE FROM LEADING INDUSTRIALISTS TO LABOR UNIONS, NECROPOLIS CRISTOBAL COLON IS TRULY A "CITY OF THE DEAD" THAT REFLECTS THE BROADER PATTERNS OF HAVANA'S DEVELOPMENT.



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