

Hands Across the Sea: Five Caribbean Connections

Dade County's First Newspaper

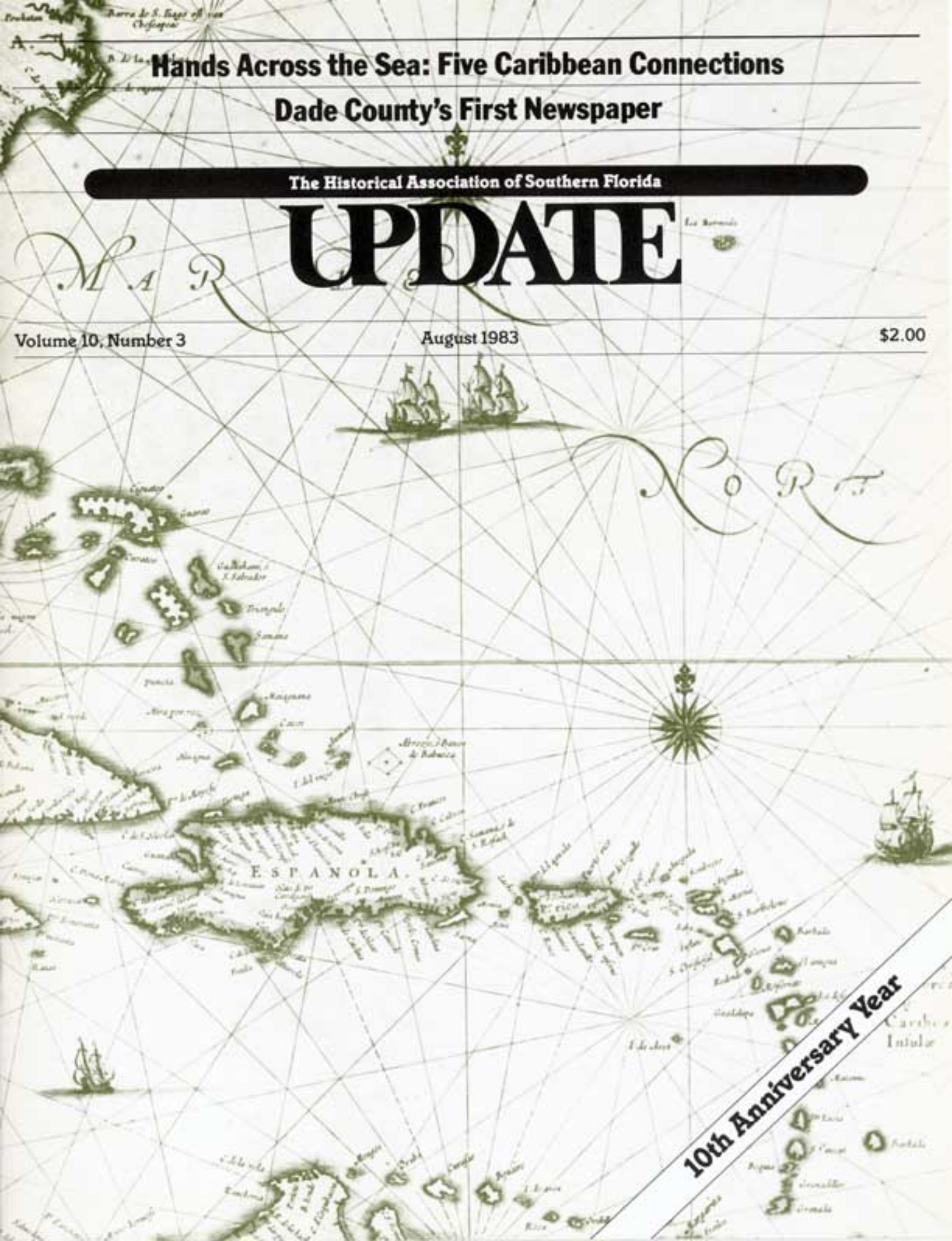
The Historical Association of Southern Florida

UPDATE

Volume 10, Number 3

August 1983

\$2.00



10th Anniversary Year



AGROUND.

Aground!
1893

So Are We!
1983

Above picture comes from a magazine collection of George Deedmeyer, given to HASF in 1974 by Mrs. Deedmeyer. It illustrated a story in the June 1893 issue of Century Magazine by William Henn, "Caught on the Lee Shore."

Picture below is from a collection given HASF in May 1983 by Charles Rothstein. In the collection were a number of articles by Kirk Munroe, author of boys' books. This picture is from a serial novel **Wakulla**, which ran in Harper's **Young People** magazine in 1884-5.

**"Armed with
long poles
they pushed
off"
1884**

**We're
pushing
1983**



"ARMED WITH LONG POLES, THEY PUSHED OFF."

To all those who have telephoned or written their concern over the delay in the opening of the museum, our grateful thanks for your support from the board of trustees and staff of the

Historical Association of Southern Florida

101 West Flagler Street
Miami, FL 33130

The Historical Association of Southern Florida

UPDATE

Published quarterly by
**The Historical Association of
 Southern Florida**
 101 West Flagler Street
 Miami, Florida 33130

PUBLICATIONS CHAIRMAN

Dr. Thelma Peters

EDITOR

Marie Anderson

MANAGING EDITOR

Linda Williams

ADVISERS

Lee Aberman

Dorothy Fields

Valerie Korth

Arva Moore Parks

Yvonne Santa-Maria

Update is the magazine of popular history published quarterly by the Historical Association of Southern Florida.

Receipt of Update is a privilege of membership in the Historical Association, a non-profit cultural, educational and humanistic organization dedicated to providing information about the history of South Florida and the Caribbean and to the collection and preservation of material relating to that history. Association programs and publications are made possible by membership dues, gifts from private sources and grants from federal, state, and local government agencies.

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Typography by Supertype, Inc.; mechanical preparation by Peggy S. Fisher; printing by Haff-Daugherty Graphics, Inc.

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Lee Aberman continues her trip through ten years of **Update** with "A Miniature Palimpsest of History," which begins on page 15.

On the cover: Florida stretches over to New Orleans on this 1665 map. Approximate sites of the Caribbean Connection articles – Cuba, New Providence, Abaco, Haiti, and Barbados – can be located, however.

Photo credits: pp. 3-5, Cuban Museum of Art and Culture; pp. 6-8, Sir Etienne Dupuch; all others, HASF.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

Before exact-change-MTA, I-95 or Metrorail, anyone who wished public transportation could for five cents arrive at a destination by trolley car. Anyone who finds this mode of transportation fascinating can get a wonderful *deja vu* by reading Edward Ridolph's book *Biscayne Bay Trolley Cars* or by visiting the Historical Museum to see car No. 231.

Back in 1977 when Big Five developers approached HASF to inquire if there was an interest in an old street car that was on their property a group from the museum responded with immediate enthusiasm. The old car was trucked to a spot behind the South Miami Avenue museum building and covered with a tarpaulin. The adventure of its restoration had begun.

Dr. Eugene Provenzo, who co-authored *St. Louis Car Company*, established the fact that the car was a Birney that ran in the area in 1925. Jean Pitts came from the Historic Pensacola Preservation board to examine it and recommended procedures for restoring it. It was found that the task called for an expertise that was not locally available.

From as far away as Oregon bids were received and it was finally decided that Mr. Ed Blossom from Tipton PA had not only the expertise but the personality and interest to be the right man for the job. His inventory of parts needed sent Bob Burke, then curator of exhibits at the museum, as far as Mexico to locate proper seats and engines. After that the trolley departed on its trip to Tipton.

As time went on the car became an entity, resumed its name of No. 231, and with much correspondence, telephoning and visits among humans developed a personality. Stock in the Historical Museum Trolley Car Company was issued at \$2.31 a share and many people who were bullish on HASF and trolley cars took advantage of the tax-deductible investment to help defray the estimated restoration cost of \$54,000.

As the cultural center took shape and Metrorail crept closer, the excitement focused around a gaping gangway in the side of the new museum that was to welcome No. 231 home. Early this year after months of waiting, unavoidable postponements and uncooperative weather, No. 231 arrived in Miami. As TV cameras, reporters and HASF staff watched anxiously, No. 231 with

all its tonnage was carefully lifted three floors by crane to the aperture and guided into the building. The stockholders and HASF staff take great pride and joy in knowing that at last No. 231 is home to stay.

Moving day to most people encompasses cartons, tissue and newspaper and tape. But how does one move a stuffed alligator?

A new location was waiting at the museum downtown. The animal waited tranquilly in the old museum shop. The once fearsome tail defied the custom-made crate. The dimensions were not easy to plan for in the regulation moving van.

The move was easily accomplished, however, in the back of a station wagon. It also provided motorists who waited beside the car at a stoplight a number of opportunities. It could have been a conversational gem at the office water cooler. It could have suggested a thoughtful alternative to a three-martini lunch, or a refreshingly different answer to "How was your day, dear?"

In its new home the alligator is not saying a word about the experience.

— ALICE P. WILLEY

LETTERS

I read with great interest the February issue of UPDATE. May I extend my congratulations to writer Zannie May Shipley and Dr. Thelma P. Peters for their outstanding reviews of the history of our museum from its opening in 1962 through the "great move" of 1972. It was heart-warming for me to read their detailed chronicles of those pivotal years in which so many people gave such a great deal of time and talent to what seemed an impossible goal: a secure and accessible museum to preserve our region's history.

As an old editor, I would point out that our HMS Winchester cannon was donated as early as 1940 or 1941 through the good offices of Charles Brookfield; member Wade Stiles was among those whose pioneer dive recovered a number of guns from this wreck. As I recall, Stiles also stored the iron gun for decades before it was placed on the lawn at 2010 North Bayshore Drive.

Among the hardest workers of all in the 1966-72 era were our volunteer librarians, Jacqueline Cravers and Mary Ross, whose professional efforts transformed an assemblage of books just out of storage into a modern and functioning library of a degree of advancement startling in such a facility as we then had.

Finally, Mrs. Eleanor Gibson, later Mrs. Luceton Rast, was without a doubt the most remarkable of our stalwarts. Coming to Miami for the first time in 1899, she pitched in at the old building while in her 70s, and a more dedicated and enthusiastic worker would be hard to find. I understand she left this world last year; one of the last of the Charter members. Perhaps some memorial might be created in her honor in the new new building.

It was 20 years ago June 15 that I began my association with the museum. Many thanks for this splendid history of all our efforts.

David Thomason Alexander
Danbury, CN

David Alexander was director of the museum for a little over a decade. He has been living in Connecticut and active with numismatic groups but says he is considering a move further west.

STAR SENIORS

June Rosengarten, membership coordinator, has shared a couple of notes from longtime members of HASF who have included the notes with their membership payment (or refusal to pay twice in one instance).

Sorry I am late sending my check. I have been ill for a few months but feel much better now.

I am the last member of my family, whose name was Thiggin. We moved to Miami [in] September 1904. I was ten at the time.

I hope to see the new museum some time. I moved to Jacksonville, where my daughter lives, in January 1981. I have enjoyed the Update and Tequesta. They remind me of the early days.

Leila Thiggin Zeller
Jacksonville, FL

On December 2 I sent a check for \$15 [for] my membership dues. I was glad that I obeyed my frugal sense when I received my tax bill! A two-bedroom, one-bath house on a lot 85' x 85' has a tax of \$1,246.90 this year.

I'm 95 years old, blind in one eye, [have] lived in the same area some 50 years!

I'm a charter member of the Historical Society. Dr. [John] Gifford was a past president so [I] am very interested in the society's growth and usefulness, but cannot be of service to the extent of paying dues twice! Two bad!

Martha Gifford
2641 Abaco
Miami, FL 33133

LETTERS POLICY

Letters relevant to previous issues as well as appropriate historical topics should be addressed to: Update Editor, Historical Association of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130. Letters should be signed. Letters may be edited to meet space restrictions.



Opening exhibit in the new museum featured the paintings of Victor Manuel Garcia, born in 1897. Once he developed his distinctive technique he never added any new perspective.



A Home for Cuban Roots

BY CRISTINA LAMADRIZ

It is a quiet residential section of Little Havana, only blocks away from the bustle on S.W. Eighth Street. The last twenty years have transformed the face of Miami, yet little has disturbed the semblance of this old neighborhood. But at 1300 S.W. Twelfth Avenue, once the home of Fire Station No. 15 a metamorphosis has occurred.

There now stands an unimposing but dignified white walled structure crowned by tiles of royal blue. A bold emblem emblazons the entrance. On the emblem a Spanish colonial window encases four massive letters which draw the onlooker to peer in and explore what lies inside.

The letter C stares from the left half of the window. An "AC" sits next to the C's lower arch and an M is perched atop the "AC" — "MCAC" or "CMAC," whichever way you choose to read it stands for Museo Cubano de Arte y Cultura or Cuban Museum of Art and Culture.

The interiors are cool and

serene. Light, temperature, and humidity are controlled to perfection. Inside the five exhibit rooms a simple elegance that soothes the spirit does not betray the years of struggle that preceded the museum's inauguration a year ago in October.

Ten years ago in 1973 disturbing news had reached the exiled Cuban community in Miami. The Communist government of Fidel Castro was auctioning historical relics and works of art which spoke of the past — a past that the 1959 revolutionists were trying to reshape to suit their Marxist ideology.

The Cuban community here despaired over the news. For Mignon Perez de Medrano despair gave way to a sense of urgency which thrust her into action. She mobilized a group of friends and within a few hours a meeting was being held in her house. If Castro was determined to destroy a proud heritage these people were determined to salvage it. More meetings were held, and on January 28, 1974,

on the birthday of Cuban patriot Jose Marti, they announced before a press conference the birth of the Cuban Museum of Art and Culture. From its birth Mignon Perez de Medrano has been and still is the guiding spirit of this enterprise.

During the early years it became known as the "museum without walls." The City of Miami gave the museum office space at the Little Havana Community Center, and from there supporters and members of the board launched a series of cultural activities held wherever space permitted.

In 1976 the Cuban museum gained much recognition when it brought to Miami the valuable collection of Cuban paintings from the Cuban Museum in Daytona Beach. Two years of untiring activity followed. Invitations poured in for the museum to participate in events such as Hispanic Heritage Week. But the museum continued to generate

► Continues on page 4

many activities of its own — a comprehensive look at the African cultures of Cuba through conferences, concerts and exhibits; an exhibit of Cuban rare books; a traveling exhibit of Cuban coins. These are only highlights.

In 1980 internal strife nearly destroyed the accomplishments of years past, but the board and Friends of the Museum reorganized and emerged stronger and more resolute to give the museum a permanent home. By the following year they had a building. The City of Miami had donated its Fire Station No. 15.

Members of the board and Friends of the Museum must have sighed with relief, but in reality their labor had just begun. The building had to be refurbished and brought to the climatological standards required by a museum. Professional help was needed to assist with the task, and, of course, money. The Friends organized a fund-raiser that brought in \$53,000. Soon after, Firehouse No. 15 was being transformed into a museum under the professional guidance of Dr. Ricardo Viera, who for six months served as the museum's interim director.

I visited Dr. Viera one week before he returned to his post at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA, where he teaches museology and also directs the university's museum. He managed to interrupt a hectic schedule to see me on a Saturday afternoon in January. I asked him what were the priorities of the museum now that concrete and plaster had given it walls.

"The important thing at the moment is to survive. First we need to achieve economic stability. If we can arrive at that, we can work without any problem."

Mrs. Medrano, now president of the board, said that the museum operates on an annual budget of \$150,000, a modest amount by today's standards, but not so easy to

raise during an economic recession.

Dr. Viera added, "Raising the consciousness is what's most important, so that our people are conscious and proud of what we have." He also pointed out that the museum must make a critical decision in the near future. It had to decide who its next director would be.

With Dr. Viera gone a small army of volunteers working under various committees made certain that both the consciousness and the money were raised. They also saw to it that the right director was selected.

Mrs. Medrano explained that the group known as Friends of the Museum and, more recently, the Development Committee have been responsible for the museum's economic survival. The Friends seek membership subscriptions and organize fund-raisers such as the successful ball held in May 1982 at the Fontainebleau Hilton. And in July 1982 the Spanish Repertory Theater Company performed at the Players State Theater to raise funds for the museum. Jose Ferrer, artistic director of the theater, offered the facilities hoping in return to attract more Hispanics to Players State.

Dr. Ofelia Fernandez de Tabares, treasurer of the Cuban Museum, said that the Development Committee was formed in an effort to create a permanent financial base for the museum. Headed by banker Raul Masvidal, the committee concentrates on getting corporate contributions and pledges for future support.

Since admission to the museum is free, sources of revenue other than contributions must be tapped. Plans are underway for a gift shop which according to Dr. Tabares could bring a considerable amount.

Ultimately, the museum must develop programs which generate public interest and participation. Dr. Guillermo de Zendegui, the director, and Dr. Rosita Abella, who chairs the program committee, have been in-

strumental in attracting the public to the museum.

Dr. de Zendegui joined the museum in January 1983. A retired museologist of international renown, he now offers his expertise to the museum gratis. Dr. de Zendegui was director of the National Museum of Culture in Cuba. When he fled the island, he joined the Organization of American States (OAS) and eventually became technical director of its department of cultural affairs and general inspector of publications. At the OAS he developed a talent for establishing museums on a shoestring.

Dr. de Zendegui wants the museum to be a vital force in the Miami community, not a mere repository of artifacts and relics. To that end, he has developed a master plan which focuses on the different aspects of Cuban history. The first phase dedicates an exhibit room to the period of discovery, conquest and colonization. This exhibit is scheduled to be ready by 1984. Modern technology will serve to reconstruct the historical circumstances surrounding relics and artifacts salvaged from the past. Other phases of the plan will focus on the wars of independence, the exodus, the arts, architecture, environment, and way of life.

In retrospect it has been an exciting and fruitful first year for the Cuban Museum of Art and Culture. The inauguration brought seventy-nine paintings by Victor Manuel, who in the early part of the century revolutionized Cuban art yet captured the essence of its culture.

This first year comes to a close with the works of a new generation whose Cuban roots have been firmly planted on American soil. And in between, more exhibits, conferences, and concerts spoke of Jose Marti, dealt with the influence of the Cuban scenery upon the artist, and showed the evolving geographic image of the island through the science (or art) of cartography. And history was made when hundreds gathered to hear poet and former political prisoner Armando Valladares on his first visit to Miami after being released from the Cuban gulag through pressure from the government of France.

It is impossible to tell what lies ahead for the Cuban Museum of Art and Culture, impossible to measure what impact this institution will have on our community. Whether or not it soars to the heights of worldwide recognition is irrelevant. As Ricardo Viera concluded my visit with him, he said "The fact that our community has such a museum is a great achievement."

"So that our children and youth discover their roots; so that adults and the old can delight in their memories; so that our people, filled with pride, can share with friends and neighbors the greatness of their culture — to this endeavor we have given ourselves. These are our aspirations and for those we struggle."

Ricardo Viera
Interim Director
Cuban Museum of Art & Culture



Museo Cubano de Arte y Cultura at 1300 S.W. Twelfth Avenue bears little resemblance to Fire Station No. 15.



Entire gallery was devoted to Manuel's work. A new exhibit, "Cuba: A Panoramic View," opened July 1, 1983.



An Exile from Nassau

BY JEANNE BELLAMY



As plain Etienne Dupuch, he spent a lifetime battling racism in the Bahamas. Now, in his eighty-fifth year, he fights the same war from self-imposed exile as Sir Etienne Dupuch, Knight Bachelor of Great Britain, Knight of the British Association of the Military Order of Malta and Knight Commander of the Ancient Order of St. Gregory the Great.

The difference is that he is fighting black racism instead of white.

His sword is his pen. It often blazes.

For instance, he writes of "influences that have turned a formerly happy and law-abiding people into a vicious and crime-ridden society during the sixteen years of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in the Bahamas."

He flings down the gauntlet to the PLP prime minister, Sir Lynden Pindling:

"In discussing goon squads organized by his party and the guard men engaged by other politicians to protect them from vicious attacks by PLP goons, Sir Lynden tried to make a fine distinction between the two groups. He said that whereas PLP goons were all volunteer members of the party, the men engaged by other politicians were all hired toughs.

"Pray tell me, Sir Lynden: What is the difference in the sight of the law

between a PLP goon and other toughs engaged to protect the victims of PLP goons?"

That is a passage from the daily column which Sir Etienne writes for **The Nassau Daily Tribune**. The newspaper was founded on a shoestring in 1903 by his father, Leon E. H. Dupuch, whose first Bahamian forebear arrived from France in 1840. The masthead shows that Sir Etienne was publisher/ editor from 1919 to 1972, and continues as contributing editor. It was in 1972 that he handed over the reins to his oldest child, Mrs. Eileen Dupuch Carron.

I met him for the first time in August 1940 when I went to Nassau to write about the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. The Duke served as governor of the Bahamas during World War II.

I remember this Bahamian newsman well. His bronze complexion stood out among the pale faces of reporters from the United States. He has written that "for several years I had a twenty-two-hour working day with rest on Sundays." I believe it. Besides writing for his own paper, he was correspondent for **The New York Times**, Associated Press, United Press International, Reuters, the Canadian Press, and a number of newspapers in the U.S., Canada, and England, in-



A conversational man, Sir Etienne Dupuch is shown in action in his office in **THE NASSAU DAILY TRIBUNE**. He continues writing for the paper from his home in Coral Gables.



Present building of THE TRIBUNE, operated since 1972 by Dupuch's oldest child, Eileen Dupuch Carron. Modern machinery includes a Goss offset press and an up-to-date computer system.

cluding *The Times* of London.

The "Old Guard" or "Bay Street Boys" considered him a dangerous radical. That's because he had been crusading for civil rights for everyone long before Gandhi, before the cause became fashionable. He was the most vocal champion of the "colored people" of the Bahamas, as he still calls them.

In his first book, *The Tribune Story*, Sir Etienne defines the rigid class system which prevailed in the Bahamas at the turn of the century. He says that colored people were at the bottom, the white people (largely descendants of Loyalists who left the U.S. during the American War for Independence) in the middle, and the British officials, white also, at the top. He adds that the government group accepted some of the other whites, but they were colonials, one cut below Englishmen.

"The colored people were split in groups, determined entirely by degree of color, starting with the black at the bottom, through to off-black, dark brown, brown, light brown, 'high yaller' and near-white."

There was no upward mobility, he says. His goal was "the finest mixed society in the world," and he thought Bahamians had attained it between 1956 and 1967 after racial barriers were wiped out. That happened because of a resolution which he sponsored as a member of the House of Assembly in 1956.

"Their bodies had been freed in 1833 by a vote of the House of Commons in London. I was instrumental in freeing their minds and their spirits through a vote in the Legislature of the Bahamas 124 years later."

After the PLP took over in 1967

► Continues on page 6



First press of THE TRIBUNE. Paper was founded in 1903 by Dupuch's father, Leon E. H. Dupuch.



In 1916 Private Etienne Dupuch poses in his Bahamas War Contingent uniform with his stepmother Louisa (?), seated, and his sister Naomi.

he wrote, "Government in the Bahamas has moved from a white extreme to a black extreme, both of which are equally unhealthy and undesirable."

His long life has spanned other changes which would have seemed unbelievable a century ago: the dismantling of the British Empire, largest in history; the rise of the Communist empire; the shift from oil-burning street lights and public wells to electrified cities with air-conditioning, jet planes, and spaceships overhead.

Sir Etienne has broadened his viewpoint by travel. He and his wife have circled the globe six times since 1955 and criss-crossed it often. They are legal residents of the Cayman Islands. They have an apartment in Coral Gables overlooking a golf course. They usually spend a fortnight each spring at their villa in southern Portugal.

Lady Dupuch was a twenty-two-year-old school teacher in Pennsylvania at the time of her marriage. The pair celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in June 1978 with a special private Mass at the Holy Family Catholic Church in Nassau. The same year marked the seventy-fifth anniversary of *The Nassau Daily*

Tribune. Tributes came from long-time friends around the world, including Admiral of the Fleet the Earl Mountbatten of Burma and the Right Honorable Lord Beaverbrook.

Sir Etienne and Lady Dupuch have six children and fourteen grandchildren.

Why did they leave the Bahamas? Sir Etienne is forthright: "I was satisfied that the PLP government would eventually destroy the country. They are certainly doing a good job of it. I wanted to protect my family and my estate. I have been able to secure myself financially outside the Bahamas... I am grateful for the foresight to have left in time."

His second book, *A Salute to Friend and Foe*, was published last year. He is working on two more books — an extension of *The Tribune Story*, and a book about ghosts and obeah (West Indian witchcraft). Plus, of course, his daily column for *The Tribune*.

From his books and columns a reader may discern that he holds several strong beliefs:

Duty. He fired both barrels when King Edward VIII abdicated to wed "the woman I love." Under the heading "Duty or Love?" as editor he wrote

that "history must deal with him severely" and "had she been worth the sacrifice, she would not have allowed her lover to make it."

Christianity. "The Negro was fortunate to have endured slavery in a Christian society, thereby making it possible, without any effort on his part, to be one of the fastest-developing slave peoples in recorded history. A century from slavery to first-class citizenship is a truly remarkable achievement."

British rule. "With all its faults, British administration is still the best thing in the human social order." "The one great gift that Britain has given to the world is a recognition of the fact that human freedom can survive and thrive only under the rule of law."

Frugality in government. "Before the pre-inflationary period that started after the first World War, a man could have a fine home, raise a family and maintain a car and a motorboat on an income of 500 pounds (\$2,500) a year. Then money had real value and it was possible to plan with a sense of security." He denounces "the reckless borrowing and spending policies of the present government in Nassau who have saddled the Bahamas with a colossal debt."



At a testimonial dinner about ten years ago in the British Colonial Hotel Sir Etienne poses with his wife, a Pennsylvania school teacher he married in 1928.



Uniform of the world's oldest chivalric order, Knights of Malta, which dates from the Crusades, is a dazzling part of Sir Etienne's wardrobe.



BOOK REVIEW

A Leap from Isolation To Instant Modernization

BY DANIEL O. MARKUS

Dodge, Steve. **Abaco, The History of an Out Island and Its Cays.** North Miami, Florida: Tropic Isle Publications, Inc., 1983. Preface, bibliographic essay, list of maps and illustrations, index, 172 pp. \$12.50

In his preface to *Abaco, The History of An Out Island and Its Cays*, Steve Dodge succinctly describes his book and its two major themes. The book is "the first general comprehensive history of Abaco." And the story's two themes are the area's extreme isolation and the compressed modernization of the area after World War II.

In his first chapter the author describes the origin of the Bahama islands, their natural setting, their ecology, and their geographic isolation. This is important to explain why these islands have been all but overlooked by most men until very recently.

The second chapter recounts Abaco's early history from its discovery by Europeans until the end of the American Revolution. Very little happened during this period. The native Indians were either wiped out by disease or carried off into slavery. For the rest of the period only "pirates, transient wreckers and visiting fishermen" inhabited Abaco. This statement by Dodge contradicts earlier histories of the Bahamas, but his arguments are supported by in-depth research, which should supersede the earlier works.

His third chapter lays the foundation for the rest of the work. The chapter describes the arrival of the Loyalists from Florida and New York. These arrivals had to adapt to a new way of life. They succeeded and estab-

lished a society which would have to maintain its flexibility over the next 200 years.



Unspoiled Abaco has steered its own course through history.

That flexibility was necessary to adapt to changes in the economy over the years. At various times boat building, sponging, rum running, fishing, wrecking, lumbering, and agriculture dominated the island's economy. Each venture was important at one time but soon declined in importance because of factors beyond the control of the Abaconians.

This rise and fall of economic fortunes is covered in the next three chapters. One covers the period from 1850 to 1900 and another the Twentieth Century. The third of these chap-

ters is devoted entirely to boat building. The amount of space devoted to this subject is out of proportion to the rest of the book. Granted it was an important local industry, but only one other chapter, the one on contemporary Abaco, is longer.

Dodge brings Abaco into the present with chapters on "Independence and Separatism" and "Contemporary Abaco." The story of the Bahamas' move toward independence from England and Abaco's simultaneous efforts to separate from the Bahamas and maintain its ties to England is well written. All of the events, negotiations, moves and counter-moves during this episode are simply laid out and explained by the author. "Contemporary Abaco" shows how Abaco's history led to its present situation and leaves the reader satisfied that this unique area will continue to survive as it has in the past.

This book is well written and researched. The end notes after each chapter and the bibliography attest to the research required to complete this work. Dodge claims that he wrote the book "to fill some voids in our knowledge of the Bahamas." He has done an extraordinary job.

Another recent work dealing with Abaco and the Bahamas up to 1850 is Sandra Riley's *Homeward Bound*. Unavailable for review in time for this issue of *Update*, it should be a welcome answer to Dodge's wish for "others to produce new historical works, so that we may all learn more about the history of one of the beautiful and unspoiled places of the world," the Bahamas.

— DANIEL O. MARKUS



It was an eerie setting for a celebration on April Fools' Day, 1983. In one visible corner of a large hall the facade of an 1800s-era, Key West warehouse stood, with the guard tower of a seventeenth century Spanish fort opposite. The rest of the hall was shrouded in darkness. Two large cannons near the buildings were the center of attention for the few people present: Randy Nimnicht, executive director of HASF; R. Layton Mank, former president of HASF's Board of Trustees and a partner in the law firm of Blackwell, Walker, Gray, Powers, Flick & Hoehl; John C. Seipp, Jr., also a partner for the same firm; James Apthorp, president of HASF's 1982-1983 Board of Trustees; other guests, and one reporter.

The room was ill lit and everything in it was covered with a grey coating of dust. An air of excitement and anticipation hovered because the guest of honor was not yet there and her arrival would mark the end of an epic struggle in which many of those already in attendance had played a part. The story of that struggle revolves around the two cannons—who owned them and who had the right to possess them.

The cannons' early histories are sketchy. Some time between 1740 and 1760 a bronze cannon eleven feet six inches long, with a bore of seven and a half inches in diameter, was produced in France. It was known as a sixteen pounder because it fired that size cannon ball. The cannon weighed 4,135 pounds and was elaborately decorated with the crest of King Louis XIV, the face of Bacchus, and stylized dolphins.

J. Berenger manufactured the second cannon in 1763. It was a twenty-four pounder, eleven feet five inches long, with a bore seven and a half inches in diameter. It weighed

Complaint in Replevin, Case #78-11098

BY DANIEL MARCUS

6,075 pounds. Berenger inscribed the cannon's name, L'Orateur, on its barrel and his own name and the date of production on the breech. He also decorated the cannon with stylized dolphins and the seal of King Louis XV.

No record of these cannons' uses or travels has been found until their current history begins, over two hundred years later.

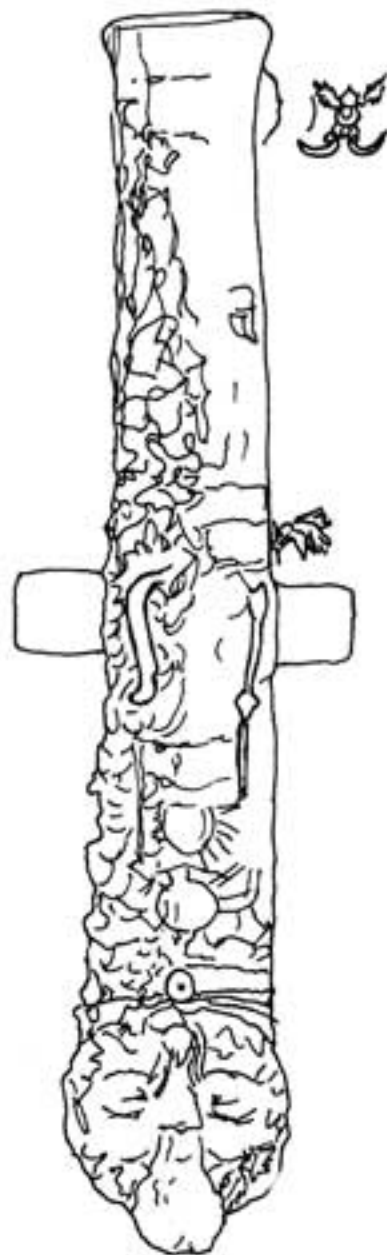
In 1970 the Marine Exploration Company, Inc. (MEC) contracted with the Haitian Government to search for

"THE GREAT GOLDEN GUN"

NAME - UNKNOWN
LENGTH OVERALL - 11' 6"
BORE - 7-1/2"
FRENCH, BRONZE
MARKINGS:

Severely damaged by fire, until very few markings are visible. From chase to breach field is either pitted in deep swirls or reduced to smoothness, covering over 3/4 of the cannon. The Dolphin handles are extant, but are 1/2 melted away.

1. Behind the muzzle, in between reinforcement bands, is a running motif (pictured) of which only five inches remain (4" high).
2. The end of the "name-ribbon" is visible on the chase, along with some indistinguishable lines which may have formed the crest (incised).
3. There are remnants on the breach field in very high relief, of what appear to be sun orbs, which have incised rays protruding from them; there are other ornaments surrounding, but they are indistinguishable.
5. The touch-hole is in the center of a hollowed out area cir. 2"; which is of a clear coppery finish unlike any other area.
6. The butt-end and cascabel knob are sculpted into a head of a mythological being, with the cascabel knob protruding from his mouth... possibly representing the North Wind and Air Grape leaves are visible, and acanthus leaves form the manelike hair. Eyes, ears, nose and high cheekbones are accented. This area is, for the most part, untouched by the fire.
7. On the right trunnion: 383/. The last digit being illegible.
8. The left trunnion: N 9.
9. Due to the intense heat, the barrel of this gun bends noticeably.
10. A leaf pattern decorates the reinforcement band in front of the trunnion.



sunken treasure in Haitian waters. For that privilege MEC agreed that twenty-five percent of whatever they found belonged to Haiti. Apparently others were given shares in the cannons by MEC from time to time for their work on this project. Within two months of searching MEC had discovered twenty wrecks and began salvage operations. By April 1971 they had recovered twenty-one cannons, some silver coins, and a multitude of other cultural artifacts.

The two cannons in question were found together along with another smaller cannon inscribed with the date 1795. This date led to speculation that all three of the cannons had been on a ship that sailed to Haiti as a result of Haiti's war for independence from France, 1801-1804.

(Subsequent research has yet to verify this.)

MEC had the cannons' composition analyzed by Wintergerter Laboratories, Inc., in North Miami. L'Orateur, tested for gold and platinum, contained 0.502% gold but no platinum. The other cannon, dubbed the "Great Golden Gun" for its color, contained 0.12% platinum but no gold.

Sometime between 1740 and 1971 the Great Golden Gun was severely damaged. It is bent and much of its decoration has been destroyed. Opinions have varied on the cause of the damage, but it was probably the result of some combination of the cannon's ship burning and sinking on top of it and the effects of almost two hundred years of exposure in

the ocean.

On October 17, 1972, MEC loaned L'Orateur and the Great Golden Gun, referred to collectively as the "Haitian cannons," to HASF for "an indefinite period of time."

The legal battle for control of the cannons began on December 20, 1977. At that time Victor Gruman, MEC's attorney, wrote Randy Nimnicht that MEC wished to pick up the cannons and display them in January 1978 at their corporate headquarters and then lend them to the Tampa Bay Art Center for a month. R. Layton Mank, acting as HASF's attorney, wrote back that since the Haitian government had an interest in the cannons, MEC would have to establish clear title to them before HASF could release them.

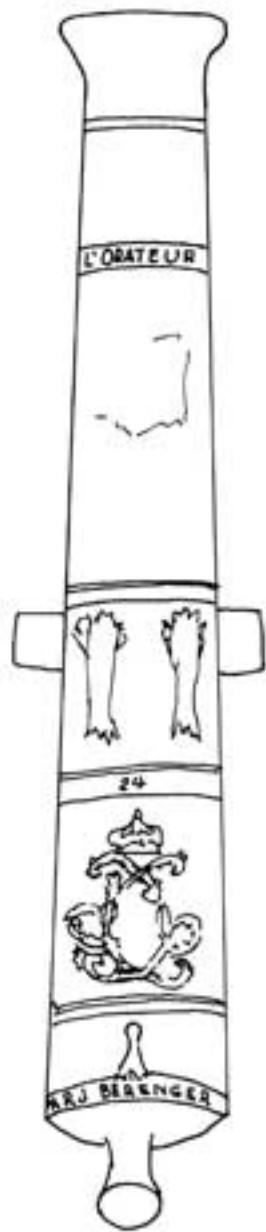
MEC pressed its claim on March 3, 1978, sending HASF a copy of the original loan agreement, which stated that HASF "must return these artifacts and cannons to Marine Exploration's premises within a reasonable length of time" at MEC's request. HASF still refused to return them, citing a phrase in the document which stated that the artifacts had been loaned "on behalf of Marine Exploration Co., Inc., and the Haitian Government."

On April 25, 1978, MEC and its president, Michael E. Zapetis, sold the cannons to Leonard E. Wisniewski. Wisniewski then began to demand possession of the cannons and filed a "complaint of replevin" suit against HASF on June 6, 1978.

On May 23, 1978, Paul K. Nixon, a former secretary-treasurer of MEC, wrote Layton Mank that Haitian Ventures, Inc., a defunct Florida corporation, had had a partnership agreement with MEC in 1971. By that agreement Haitian Ventures received sixty percent of the recoveries from the salvage expedition around Haiti and MEC only forty percent. Those percentages did not include the twenty-five percent controlled by Haiti. The plot was thickening.

On July 11, 1978, HASF received an "order to show cause" from the 11th Judicial Circuit Court in Miami. The order required HASF to explain why it had not turned over the cannons to Mr. Wisniewski. HASF responded, citing the Haitian government's interest in the cannons and offering to file a suit of "interpleader" in a federal court to determine the true ownership of the cannons with HASF acting as the stakeholder. It was clear that there were many claimants, and HASF did not want to be sued for releasing the cannons to the "wrong" claimant. HASF only wanted to pro-

► Continues on page 12



L'ORATEUR

NAME - L'ORATEUR

LENGTH OVERALL - 11'5"

BORE - 7-1/2"

FRENCH, BRONZE

MARKINGS:

1. Name "L'ORATEUR" in relief on chase.
2. There may have been an incised crest on the chase behind the name.
3. Two stylized Dolphin "handles."
4. The poundage no. "24" incised in the reinforcement band in back of the Dolphins.
5. A large, incised crest on the breach field; two intertwined "L's" of ribbon, covered with acanthus tendrils and a crown at the top, also decorated with acanthus.
6. The base ring is inscribed with: A DOUAI PAR J BERENGER '63. (Which we wish to have confirmed).
7. The right trunnion is inscribed: P 5630
8. The left trunnion: V'19 or V'19.

fect the cannons and never claimed to own them. In October of 1978 a letter from Layton Mank cited the possible destruction of the cannons as another reason for HASF's unwillingness to release them.

On November 29, 1979, the court decided that Wisniewski was entitled to possession of the cannons, but it did not rule on the ownership of them. HASF immediately filed an appeal. Meanwhile, Wisniewski picked up the cannons and placed them in a warehouse near the Miami River.

In April of 1980 the Haitian government finally agreed to let HASF represent it and "assert the claim of Haiti in the cannons." On February 10, 1981, Judge Ellen Morphonius Gable ruled that since the ownership of the cannons was being disputed, HASF should act "as custodians for the various owners." With the help of John Seipp, a court order, a locksmith, a county sheriff, and a heavy hauling company, HASF retrieved the cannons from the warehouse on April 1, 1981.

To honor John Seipp and his efforts in HASF's behalf HASF created the Royal Order of the Cannon, selecting Seipp as its first member in recognition of his work above and beyond the call of duty in the legal war over the cannons.

In January 1982 Wisniewski's appeal of Judge Gable's decision was granted. The appeals court ruled that Haiti held a claim to only twenty-five percent of the cannons' sale price.

The court's decision also stated that HASF was justified in proceeding cautiously. A month later HASF's appeal for a rehearing was denied.

When local papers reported that HASF was losing the cannons, some of the stockholders from Haitian Ventures, Inc., and some divers involved in the salvage operation began donating their interests in the cannons to Dade County. They did that in order to keep the cannons in the Miami area. The County filed a motion for a "temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction" against the cannons to keep Wisniewski from moving them. HASF and Haiti filed responses to intervene as interested parties in that action. The County also filed an "admiralty action" in federal court to determine who owned the cannons. Teresa Mussetto, a county attorney, represented the County in both cases.

To further complicate matters, on February 18, 1982, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida attached the cannons as part of a debt owed since 1977 by MEC to the Pan American Bank, N.A. Later in 1982 the T.H.E. Investment Co. (THE) acquired the bank's interest in the cannons.

With the loss of its case to Wisniewski, HASF suggested that he donate his interest in the cannons to the Association for tax purposes. Faced with the County's suit and the bad publicity for him associated with the case, he agreed to HASF's proposal and donated "any and all right, in-

terest, and title which I have" in the cannons to HASF on May 28, 1982.

The law firm of Blackwell, Walker, Gray, Powers, Flick & Hoehl, in a great show of support, had represented HASF in the cannon cases from 1977 to 1983 as part of its **pro bono** work. The lawyers from that firm most closely associated with the case were R. Layton Mank, John C. Seipp, Jr., Todd A. Cowart, Rodd R. Buell, Francis A. Anania, and Diane H. Tutt.

On February 14, 1983, Judge Eugene P. Spellman ruled on the County's "admiralty action." His final judgement declared "that the cannons are unique" and therefore they cannot be sold to divide up the various interests in them claimed by HASF, the County, Haiti, and THE. The effect of this ruling, in the words of John Seipp, "is that the cannons will remain with the Historical Association of Southern Florida in perpetuity."

Back in the ill lit dusty hall, destined to house HASF's exhibits in Dade County's new cultural center, a bell rang. It heralded the arrival of the elevator carrying the party's guest of honor, county attorney Teresa Mussetto, accompanied by Connie Jones, assistant county manager and coconspirator in the surprise celebration. Somewhat taken aback, Ms. Mussetto quickly regained her composure and was inducted into The Royal Order of the Cannon, thus sharing the honor with John Seipp.

Beach Called Bathsheba —A Painting Come to Life



"BASH-ib-uh, she go down?"

The litting query came from the driver of the car in which I was riding. He was questioning a man on horseback. Our car had stopped at the juncture of two unpaved roads leading downhill toward a beach named Bathsheba, pronounced BASH-ib-uh. The horse rider nodded and pointed. We went down.

We had crossed the tiny island of Barbados that morning. We started from the west coast, which is favored by tourists because its sandy beach slopes gently into the smooth sea. The road ascended to a sort of low plateau covered with fields of sugar-cane. At several corners, children in pressed shorts or starched pinafores waited for the school bus.

On the ridge forming the highest point of the island, my kinsman who had arranged this sightseeing trip showed me an old church. The churchyard contains the grave of Ferdinando Paleologus, a descendant of the last emperor of Greece. Then we began the descent to the east coast.

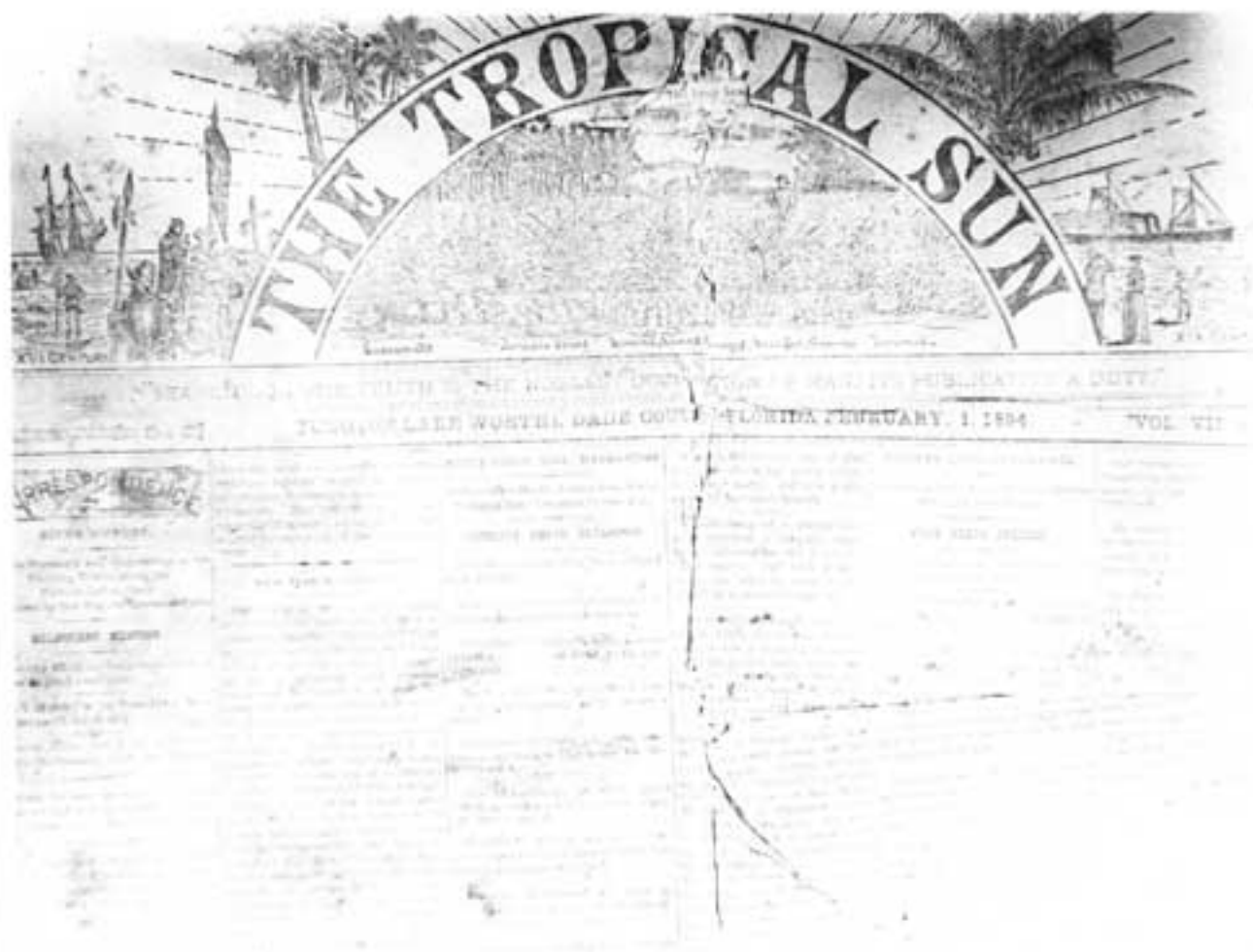
The beach called Bathsheba seems wild and rugged. In the water stand black monoliths whose seaward sides

have been gnawed away by waves. The sight gave me a feeling of déjà vu, for that very scene was the subject of a painting by my Barbadian grandfather, Thomas V. Bellamy. The picture was part of my childhood. It came to the United States with members of the Bellamy family, led by my father, who was born in 1874 and who started the migration out of Barbados. I recall gazing at those painted rocks and pondering the power of Bathsheba's waves with nothing to obstruct them between the beach and the bulge of Africa nearly 3,000 miles away.

The relative who took me on the tour of Barbados had written from England, urging me to attend a celebration of the sixtieth wedding anniversary of my last surviving uncle in Barbados and his second wife. Queen Elizabeth cabled a greeting to the couple. I agreed the occasion justified the journey.

Barbados is said to be among the more densely populated spots on earth. Yet outside Bridgetown, the capital, there is plenty of open space. Among "Bajan" delights are tasty flying fish and the fearless sparrows that fly right onto your breakfast table to beg for a lump of sugar.

—JEANNE BELLAMY



"Juno (on Lake Worth), Dade County, Florida, February 1, 1894, Vol. VII" is the dateline on THE TROPICAL SUN. Above it is a quotation: "Search for the truth is the noblest occupation of man; its publication a duty."

The First Dade County Newspaper

BY THELMA PETERS

Dade County's first newspaper the **Tropical Sun** began in March 1891, a growth year, for the county was also in the process of getting its first public courthouse and first public road. Dade County then sprawled from the Keys to Jupiter and west to Lake Okeechobee, a vast area for a population of only one thousand, but much of it was wet and uninhabitable. Pioneer settlers had clustered at the two main bodies of water, Biscayne Bay and Lake Worth. The clusters were like two incompatible bedfellows in a king-size bed with sixty miles of no-man's land between them and few bonds of kinship.

An election in 1889 set one settlement against the other: in that year the Lake outvoted the Bay to gain the county seat. The Bay folks were left stunned, sullen, and set on reversing

the vote, which was achieved in 1899 and the county seat returned to Miami. The two areas continued to have political and ideological differences, not without trace today, but largely resolved when the Lakers broke away from Dade and created Palm Beach County, in 1909.

When Guy I. Metcalf moved from Melbourne, where he had been editing the **Indian River News**, to Juno, the town on the upper end of Lake Worth that had been designated the new county seat, he began to edit the **Tropical Sun** and was more interested in selling papers than in fanning a feud. He not only gave the Bay folks space in the paper but he became an active promoter for a road to link the two areas. When the road opened in 1892 it was a mere two tracks through the palmettos, the

tenuous beginning of U.S. 1 now connecting Key West to Maine. But it had a hack line, again promoted by Metcalf, who became agent for the service and its chief publicist. In his paper he called the hack line "an epoch of transportation" though it was only a springless wagon drawn by two mules and required two days to go the sixty miles from Lantana at the south end of Lake Worth to Lemon City at the north end of Biscayne Bay. He traveled on one of the hack's first trips and described his adventure with enthusiasm and hyperbole, saying he had passed through "the most romantically wild and beautiful scenery in the world."

The **Tropical Sun** was an eight-page weekly, subscription two dollars a year. It carried all public notices.

► Continues on page 14

including minutes of the county commission, general news, farm and shipping news, as many ads as he could sell, and household advice such as how to get rid of roaches. "Mix cornmeal," he wrote, "with white lead and syrup and spread around on the floor ... next morning pick up the corpses." And he had this advice for new mothers: "If you want your baby weighed take him to the butcher shop."

Where Metcalf scored heaviest was with local columns that he gave such fanciful names as Biscayne Bilin's, Coconut Grove Gleanings, Palm Beach Breezes, Jupiter Jottings, and Hypoluxo Happenings. He found a willing scribe in each little community to keep the information pouring in, some of it trivial by today's standards. But those old columns sold papers and today they are the delight of historians.

The *Sun* provides a rich and largely unmined source about people and events at Biscayne Bay between 1891 and 1896. "Biscayne Bilin's," or "Biscayne Bubbles" (a whim of the moment with Metcalf?) gave a full account of the Washington Birthday regatta and ball of the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club (March 17, 1892), a profile of the Brickell family (April 21, 1892) and described an archeological dig at "the eastern margin of the Everglades" from which some of the prehistoric artifacts found were sent to the Columbia Exposition (January 21, 1892).

When Metcalf saw that Juno was dying on the vine he followed the shift in population and moved to West Palm Beach. After the *Miami Metropolis* was established in May 1896 the *Sun* not only lost subscribers but lost the exclusive "public-notice" contract. It became less regional but it survived.

Many but not all of the editions of the *Sun* between 1891 and the onset of the *Metropolis* are now on microfilm. When microfilming became common the Wisconsin State Historical Society which had long held a fifteen-month run of the *Sun* put the run on microfilm and offered it for sale. It was purchased by our historical association in 1953, at a time the museum was only a dream, and so it joined other treasures in a warehouse. The University of Florida has rounded up other editions, not always solid runs, and these too are on microfilm and owned by our museum.

If you would like a fascinating journey into the past our librarian Becky Smith will set up the machine for your comfortable viewing. You may find reading this early newspaper as addictive as Pac-Man.



OUT OF THE TRUNK

In the bottomless trunk of HASF pictures is this one of a downtown street in Miami. The picture is taken from the north side of Flagler Street, looking west. An FEC Railway watchtower in the distance indicates where the train tracks were and on the far side of the tracks, to the north and not visible, is the site of HASF's new downtown museum.

The chunky black object strewn along the street are wooden blocks with which the street was paved. In rainy weather they popped up. The picture was taken about 1915.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Keith Root, Metro/Communications director, re-

ferring to Vivian Smith's comment about the inlaid tile sidewalks that had bordered the downtown culture center block before construction was begun [February 1983 *Update*] said that the design was not an old one but was one of the many efforts to rejuvenate downtown in the late 1970s. All the sidewalks but the one around the center, then under construction, were replaced with their present bricks, however. The reason? The tiles kept popping up.

More information on the wood street or the tile sidewalks is welcome. Send it to *Update*, Historical Association of Southern Florida, 101 West Flagler, Miami, FL 33130.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Jeanne Bellamy, who met Etienne Dupuch in 1940 when the Duke and Duchess of Windsor arrived to take up residence, watched the citizenry practice their welcoming roles, wrote and cabled a report in advance, called to update apparel of the principals while worldwide reporters were collecting their notes and had scooped everybody by the time the rest jammed the cables. Jeanne gives readers two stories in this issue.

Cristina Lamadriz is public information officer for North American Bank. She has worked with public television's WLRN and the Chamber of Commerce and is active in the Miami chapter of Women in Communication.

Daniel O. Markus, who has grown a beard and lengthened his name, is the same Dan Markus, curator of artifacts, and book reviewer for *Update*. Besides a review of a history of Abaco, Dan leads us through the legal intricacies of the cannons and makes it downright dramatic.

Dr. Thelma Peters, who wrote about "Miami's First Plane" in the August 1974 issue of *Update*, tells about Dade County's first newspaper in this August 1983 issue. In between she had done 21 stories for *Update* besides being co-editor of *Tequesta*, producing two books, and researching more.



Vol. 1, No. 6

Stormy Weather

— or the Good Old Summertime

BY LEE ABERMAN



Vol. 10, No. 3

The August 1974 issue opened with a small announcement of the appointment of Randy E. Nimnicht as museum director. In the light of the dramatic changes that have occurred under Randy's direction, it's hard to believe it all happened in less than a decade.

The same issue featured a group of stories about pioneer aviation days in South Florida, with a cover photograph of the biplane and crew that on July 20, 1911, furnished Miami's fifteenth birthday party with the almost unbearable excitement of "an actual flight of an actual aeroplane." The event took place at Miami Golf Links, out in the country and up the river where the Civic Center is now located. The plane was built by the famous Wright brothers of Dayton, Ohio. Thus, in the infancy of aviation (the plane's wings, for instance, were covered with cloth) the scarcely older city launched its career as an innovator and leader in air transportation.

In another article Karl E. Voelter reported that it was also the year 1911 when Glen Curtiss opened a flying school in the area, and that in World War I Hialeah already had an airport which was commandeered by the army. The round-trip, transatlantic crossings of the legendary Dick Merrill in his ship *Lady Peace* were the subject of a suspenseful article for those who preferred to read about daring exploits from the comfort of their armchairs. Rounding out a fine quartet of articles, Gordon Dunn wrote about the brave men who fly into the vortices of hurricanes to keep the rest of us safe at home.

In reading South Florida history one is constantly reminded of the critical importance of the 1926 hurricane in Dade County's evolution. It may aptly be called a watershed. Thelma Peters's experience with the hurricane that year occurred offshore at Bimini where she was honeymooning with her husband Thomas. Spunky Thelma, a novice in the kitchen, cooked for twelve and coped with an elderly woman who had a heart attack at the height of the storm. Marriage must have seemed easy after that.

Thelma's article in the August 1975 issue is one of several devoted to South Florida hurricanes. Less well-known perhaps than the '26 hurricane but more devastating in its toll of lives was the disastrous 1928 Lake Okeechobee hurricane, recounted by Patsy West. When the levees on the southeastern shore of the lake broke, flood waters swept through Pahokee, Belle Glade, and South Bay, killing an estimated 2,500 people, many of them Bahamian itinerant workers.

Another hurricane with tragic consequences, the September 1935 storm that destroyed the railroad to Key West and claimed hundreds of lives, is treated from a lighter angle by Jerry Pardue, who wrote about the peregrinations of the passengers that were on the last train to Key West, stranded there when the tracks were washed out. Bedraggled and hungry, the refugees finally made it back to Miami three days later, via Tampa and Sanford, by boat and special train.

The drama inherent in these savage storms has of course attracted the attention of novelists. Stuart McIver provides an interesting survey, beginning with a boys' book written in 1850 and going over novels by writers as diverse as Zora Neale Hurston, Hemingway, John D. MacDonald, and Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, to mention just a few.

The August 1976 issue dealt with the attempts of early Dade County settlers to establish industries. The milling of Dade County pine, the processing of wild zamia roots into "coontie" starch, the quarrying of limestone and gravel, and the manufacture of ocher paint from the yellow marl found along the river banks were at one time promising industries, as was the extraction of tannin for processing leather. Most of these hopeful ventures failed in the course of time. Dependent on a plentiful supply of native and in many cases uncultivated raw materials, they fell victim to the population expansion engulfing wilderness areas that had provided their raw materials.

These accounts though brief are nevertheless fascinating and worth further study, as is Dorothy Fields's story on the incorporation of Miami on July 28, 1896. Among the 370 registered voters gathered at the meeting of incorporation that day, fully 162 were black, surely one of the least known facts of Dade County history. Only five months earlier twelve black men had formed the work gang accompanying the Sewell brothers when they landed at the dock to begin the making of the city.

Summer was the subject in the August issues of 1977 and 1978. The rainy season brought mosquitos, and life for the early settlers was a constant battle to foil these persistent pests, as Jean C. Taylor relates in blood-curdling detail in the 1977 issue. In the early years of the century smudge fires and netting were almost the only defenses against swarms of insects so dense they darkened the sun. Even worse than the mosquitos for the settlers' indispensa-

► Continues on page 16

ble horses and mules were the horse flies and deer flies that could leave the poor animals' bodies covered with bloody sores.

Although life wasn't all mosquitos, rain, and heat in the summer those who could left town. Those who lacked the money to leave consoled themselves with ferry boat rides to Miami Beach, sailing and fishing, swimming in the pool at the Royal Palm Hotel, and cooling off with 10c ice cream sodas. But, as Thelma Peters told us, most Miamians managed to take a train to somewhere during the summer. Key West, Palatka, and Kissimmee were places to visit kin. Daytona Beach and Silver Springs were popular, as were the medicinal springs where people took the "cure." White Springs and Green Cove Springs and as far north as Indian Springs, Georgia. Travel by riverboat or coastal steam was also popular.

When Dorothy Fields interviewed Dr. S.H. Johnson, the first black medical doctor in South Florida, he talked about a parallel life in the black community during the summers. Fishing, hunting, and baseball were favorite activities of black youngsters. Picnics were community affairs organized by the black churches. In the early days finding a place to swim was not a problem, but by the boom days the beach front was severely restricted. In the 1940s a group of black men under the leadership of Attorney L.E. Thomas made a determined attempt to get the use of the beach at Baker's Haulover. As a result of their stand the beach at Virginia Key was opened to blacks. Not until 1977 was integrated fully.

The 1977 issue also included an article on the revival of the cigar industry in Miami, an outgrowth of the arrival of Cuban exiles beginning in the early 1960s. Although cigar making has a long history in such places as Key West, Ybor City, and Tampa, it is relatively new to Miami. At the Maribel Cigar Factory on Flagler Street men and women working in pairs made handrolled cigars, using the same tools and techniques their forebears did a century ago. Because the cigarmakers are growing old and retiring, and because apprentices are not being trained, the handmade cigar will become increasingly rare. Non-smokers may be pleased, but the importance of the craft tradition in South Florida culture should be recognized. The article by Gene Provenzo and Concepcion Garcia was written before the arrival of the "Mariel" refugees. One wonders if that great influx has provided the industry with a new source of trained cigarmakers. Perhaps we could have an Update.



From top left: Vol. 2, No. 6, August '75, Hurricane!; Vol. 3, No. 6, August '76, Early Industry; Vol. 4, No. 6, August '77, Summertime; Vol. 5, No. 6, August, was combined with October '78; Vol. 6 had no August issue in '79; Vol. 7, No. 3, August '80, Summer; Vol. 8, No. 3, August '81, Hurricane; Vol. 9, No. 3, August '82, FIU.

Our obsessive interest in hurricanes in South Florida surfaced again in the August 1981 issue. The cover photo of red hurricane flags flying over windswept palm trees, rain-slicked streets, and quaint old cars set the tone. The lead story is a beautifully written account of the 1926

hurricane in a letter to his mother by the 23-year-old George Hubert Cooper, who had come to Goulds to make his fortune shortly before the storm hit. "At about four o'clock, a wind-drive pine limb was sent through the roof. The splintered butt lay quiet a few feet from our heads," he wrote. Although the crops he had planted were a total loss he ended his letter: "I'm not worrying at all. . . . Life is very much worth living, but last night opened my eyes to the fact that death approaching holds no great terrors if one is calm. . . . I think I will make money yet."

The first hurricane recorded in print in Key West occurred in 1835, Michael Kesselman wrote in an article on hurricanes of the 1941-1950 decade, illustrated by remarkable photographs. One of these shows the wreckage at Homestead AFB from 1945's third hurricane, which pounded a 70-ton Honduras schooner to pieces near Miami Beach. The year 1947 saw three storms along the southeast coastline, the worst of which reached sustained winds of 155 mph at Hillsborough Light. Miami was spared the brunt of the terrible hurricane that devastated the coast from Pompano to Fort Pierce in 1949, "a real pumpnickel," according to meteorologist Grady Norton. But in 1950 we were hit by the worst storm since 1926, with sustained winds of 122 mph and gusts to 150. It was the first year hurricanes were named alphabetically, and this 11th storm of the year was called "King." Hurricanes tend to come in cycles and we've had a long reprieve, so batten the hatches and stock up on canned beans.

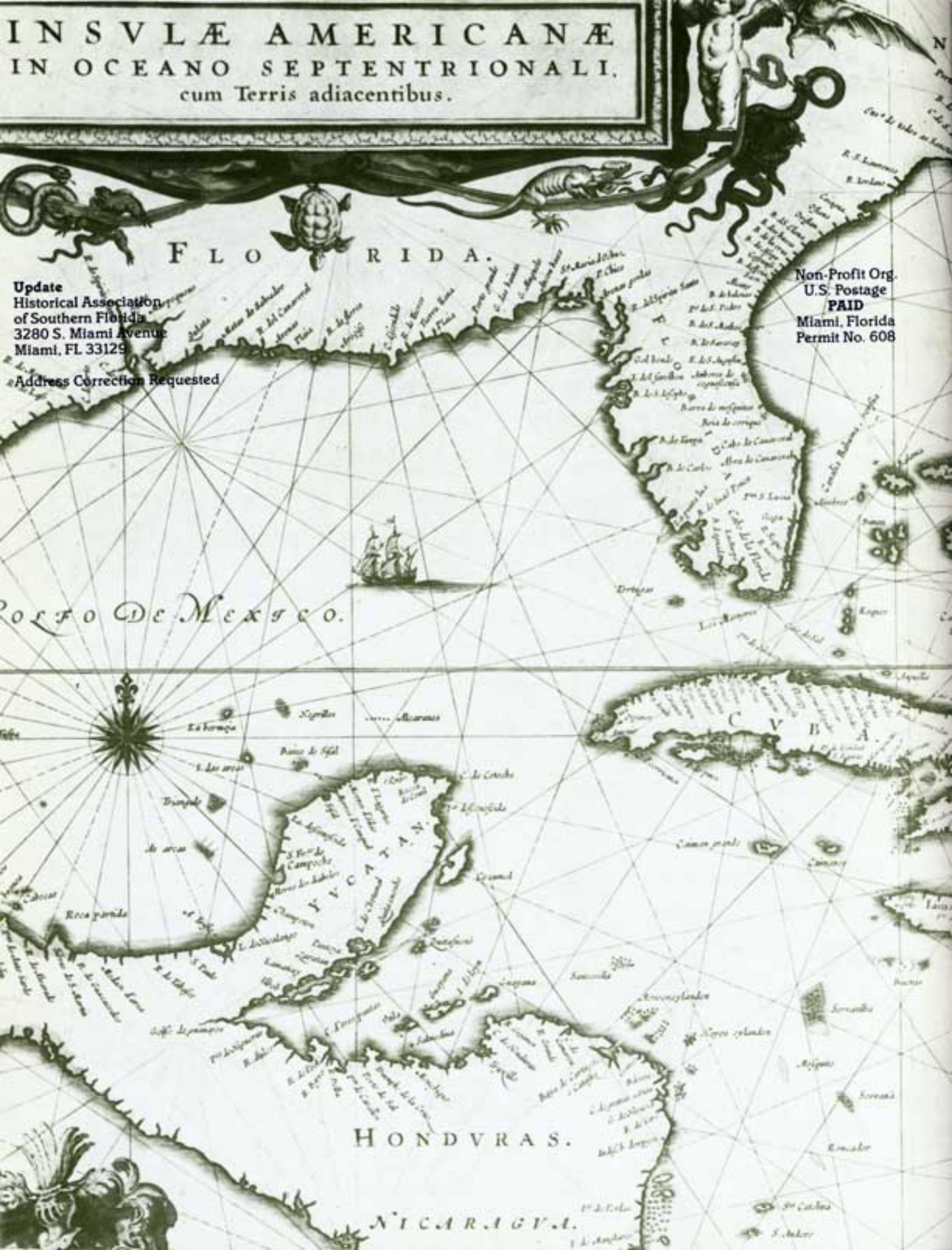
Our state and national treasure the Everglades, of which we are the sometimes puzzled stewards, is the subject of the August 1982 issue. "The Florida Everglades is a natural phenomenon so complex in all of its relationships that a century of increasingly intensive and extensive effort has failed to comprehend it in terms of controlling and using it effectively," Dr. Charlton Tebeau is quoted as writing. Interest in our unique area is international in scope. Pam Lowell wrote an article for this issue describing a seven-day trip through the Everglades by thirty Smithsonians, organized by the Smithsonian Institution and led by Wit Ostrenko. The issue also featured a quiz about twentieth century environmentalists associated with the Everglades, on which your correspondent scored an inglorious three out of thirteen.

Not all of the controversial projects for using the Everglades have produced ambiguous results or failure. One that seems to grow more successful all the time is the establishment of Florida International University. An abandoned airport surrounded by Everglades in 1969, it now has over 21,000 graduates (more since the article was written), and recently became a four-year college. It is the realization of a dream of Sen. Ernest R. Graham, who first introduced a bill to establish a state university in Dade County in 1943. In an article entitled "'FIU in '72' Comes True," Phyllis Spinelli leads the reader through the long, tortuous, and often frustrating chain of events that preceded the accomplishment of the goal. M. W. Anderson, whom we suspect of being our old friend Marie, rounds out the issue with an interesting article about Senator Graham and his distinguished family, which includes Bob, Florida's current governor, Bill, who developed and still guides Miami Lakes Community, and his wife Pat, who continues to take an active part in HASE.

THE FINAL WORD

The space normally occupied by The Final Word will be given throughout the year to Lee Aberman's perusal of past Updates in commemoration of the publication's Tenth Anniversary.

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