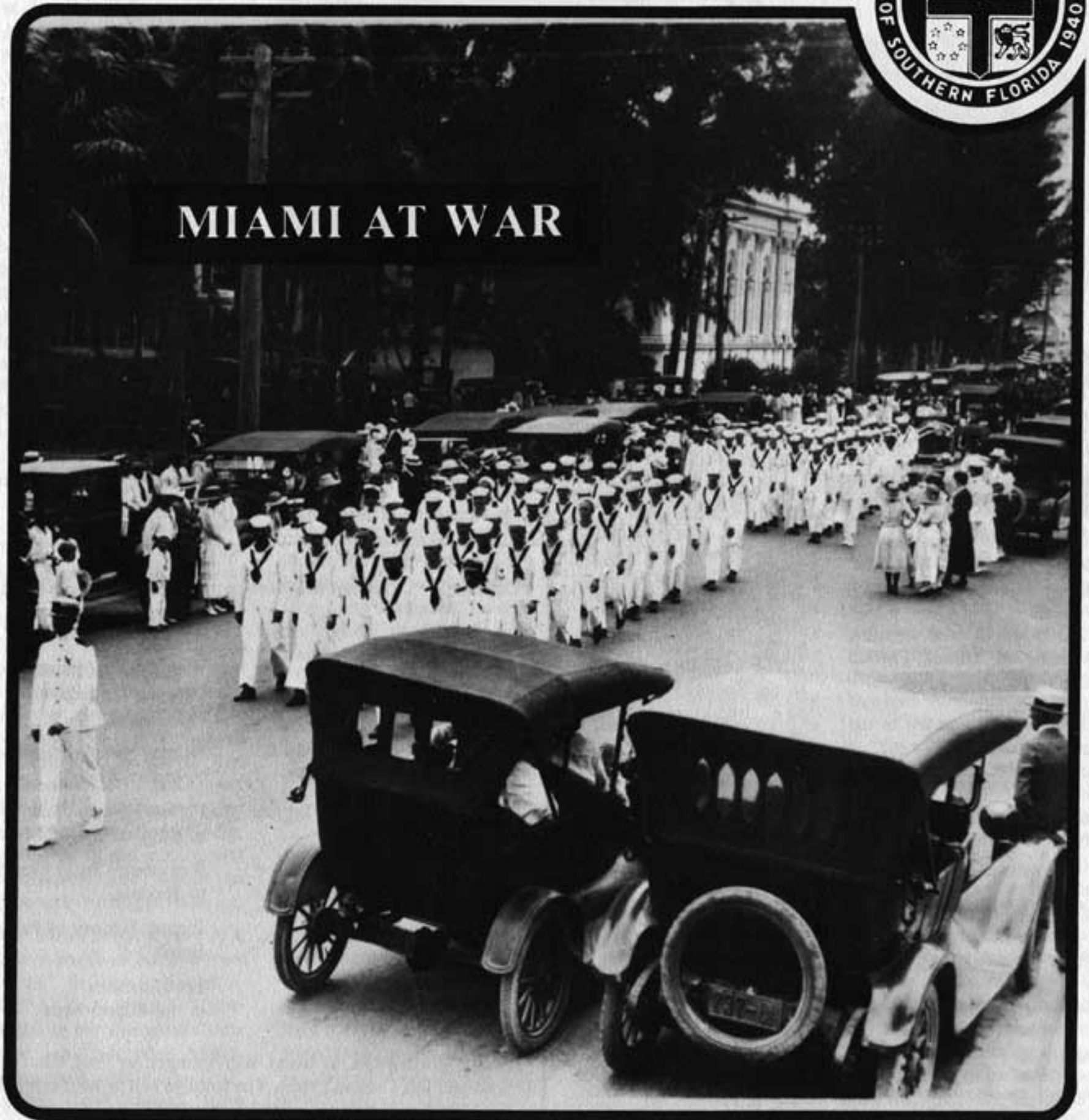


Update



MIAMI AT WAR

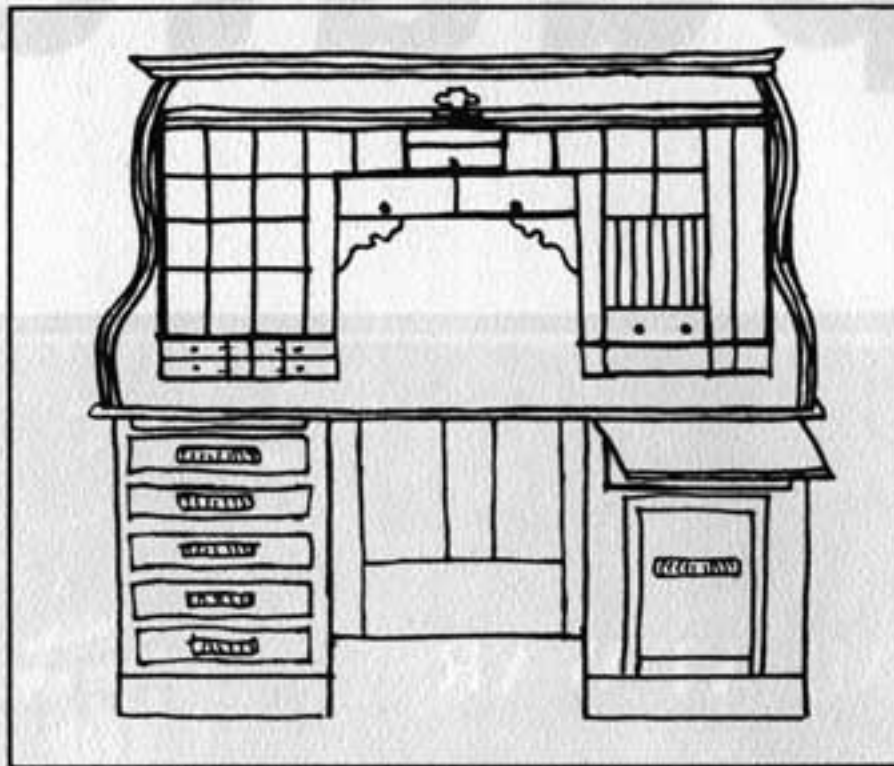


CONTENTS

- 2 Director's Desk
Program Series 1975-1976
- 3 This Happened at Fort Dallas,
1840
Col. Loomis L. Langdon
- 4 Fort Brickell And The Battle
of Miami
Arva Moore Parks
- 6 Dinner Key at War
Marie Anderson
History's No Longer a Mystery
- 7 Jubilation - The War's Over!
Thelma Peters
- 8 Reflections on Black History
Dorothy Jenkins Fields
- 9 Crossword Puzzle
- 10 Picturing Our Past
S. J. Boldrick
- 11 Education Notebook

DIRECTOR'S DESK

by Randy F. Nimnicht



Each year, the local host society tries to make the festivities a little more enjoyable than the previous year. HASF's President, George Hardie, has agreed to head the local Arrangements Committee to plan the festivities, and their work is well along. George has asked me to pass along a request to HASF members for volunteers to help on the committee. Please give the Museum a call if you can lend a hand.



COVER

Cover Photo: Sailors march in the Victory Day Parade, May 11, 1919. (Matlack photo, HASF Collection).

UPDATE

UPDATE, Bi-Monthly Publication of the Historical Association of Southern Florida.

3280 South Miami Avenue, Building B, Miami, Florida 33129. Phone: 854-3289

UPDATE BOARD:

- RAdm. Irvin J. Stephens**
President
Historical Association
- Mrs. Thomas T. Shiverick**
Samuel J. Boldrick
Chairpersons
Publication Committee
- Leonard G. (Jerry) Pardue**
Editor
- Mrs. Jack Skigen**
Managing Editor
- Edward H. Thompson**
Photo Editor
- Patsy West**
Staff Artist
- Randy F. Nimnicht**
Dr. Thelma Peters
Dr. Charlton Tebeau
Editorial Consultants

Among many exciting events in the upcoming bicentennial year, HASF will have the opportunity to play host to the Florida Historical Society's annual meeting, May 7-8, 1976.

Our state historical society traces its beginning to 1857, somewhat before HASF's 1940 start. However, both organizations exist to promote interest in the fascinating history of our state and region, and many of HASF's members also belong to the Society, thus enjoying the benefits of both organizations.

The outstanding benefit of FSH membership, in my opinion, is the excellent *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The *Quarterly* offered over 500 pages of highly informative, scholarly articles, book reviews, and history news in the four issues published last year. People who belong to both HASF and FSH truly receive a wealth of reading material in the course of a year from *Tequesta*, *Update*, and the *Quarterly*.

The FSH annual meeting will offer you the opportunity to

hear numerous papers presented on Florida history during the two-day meeting. You do not need to be a member of the Society to attend the annual meeting and enjoy the activities.

PROGRAM SERIES 1975 - 1976

October 7	Duncan Mathewson	Underwater Archaeological Procedures Used in the Salvage of the <i>Atocha</i>
November 4	Paul Albury	Historical Relations Between the Bahamas and Florida
December 2	Mike Schene & Henry Baker	History and Archaeology of Indian Key
January 6	Charlton Tebeau	Picture History of the Origin of the University of Miami
February 3	Edward Mueller	Steamboats from Florida to Havana
March 2	Stuart McIver	Picture History of Palm Beach
April 6	Arva Parks	Fortifications in the Miami Area

The program series, as usual, was arranged by Prof. Charlton Tebeau and Dr. Thelma Peters. The lectures will be held at 8 p.m. at the Museum of Science auditorium and will be followed by a social hour in the HASF museum.

THIS HAPPENED AT FORT DALLAS, 1840

as told by Col. Loomis Langdon

In one of the companies stationed at our post was a young Irishman by the name of Murray. He had been in our country only two or three months when he enlisted and sailed with us on the *Ravenswood*, from Fort Monroe to Fort Dallas. He was a universal favorite. Hardly more than a boy in years, yet he was so intelligent and enthusiastic in learning his duties that he soon deserved and received the respect and confidence of his superiors, while lightening his own and his comrades' tasks by his ready wit and unfailing humor. As soon as he had mastered one detail of his profession he was eager to learn another. His example and wonderful personality had become an inspiration to the other men, and by his kind and gentle ways we came to know that under the blouse of that youth there beat the heart of as "true a private soldier as ever wore a uniform." He was one of those individuals so favored by nature as to attract from the first; so handsome too, with his rosy cheeks, dark hair and soft eyes sparkling with merriment. The officers and their families soon took all the deeper interest in Murray when they accidentally learned through the paymaster that he saved every dollar of his pay and sent it to his poor widowed mother who lived in the eastern part of Galway and whom he proposed to bring to America.

The above story, a part of a longer article or book written by Col. Loomis L. Langdon, U.S.A. and entitled "Campaigning the Everglades" was reprinted in the Miami Metropolis May 26, 1899, having been copied from another publication called The Helping Hand.



Fort Dallas during the Second Seminole War, from an old print in *Harper's*.

During the first few weeks of our occupation of Ft. Dallas there had been no draught animals at the fort to do the necessary hauling. This inconvenience had been remedied by attaching long, thick ropes to the wagon, parties of soldiers laying hold of the ropes and dragging the hewn timber and firewood from long distances through the heavy sand and pine woods to the garrison.

But after awhile the U.S. transport steamer *Planter*, commanded by Captain Baker, brought in horses and mules around Cape Sable all the way from New Orleans and Tampa.

Now whatever experience little Murray had had in the old country with horses, he had never laid eyes on a mule till after he landed on the banks of the Miami. The quartermaster sergeant was quoted as saying that the first time the braying of a mule was heard in our garrison, Murray nearly had a fit. to him this hybrid animal was an object of all-absorbing interest. When the day's work was over

and the harness was taken off the mules it was their habit to lie down and roll from side to side on the grass for a few minutes before being led to the water trough and stables. At such times it was a study to see Murray stand motionless and fascinated, watching the antics of the fat, chubby little brutes in their clumsy efforts to roll from one side to the other, and when, after many attempts, one after another accomplished the feat, with much display of legs vibrating in the air, it was very hard to tell which was more pleased, Murray or the mules.

The boy's love for animals was strong and noticeable, and it was soon discovered that he desired to be a teamster. This desire was strengthened when he learned that he would draw extra pay for caring for the animals and driving a team, and then he could nearly double the amount of money he sent every two months to his mother and thus hasten their reunion. He was soon detailed as a teamster, and at the time this story opens was in charge,

much to his delight, of six mules and a wagon with corrugated iron body suitable to be used as a float in crossing streams. One morning a horse was missed from the corral, and during the hours of boat drill it was discovered grazing amongst the rich Bermuda grass that crested the low bank opposite the post. The animal had gotten loose during the night and straying down the bank only two or three hundred yards to the bay had wandered across the bar at the mouth of the river to "fresh fields and pastures new." Murray volunteered to cross the river and swim the horse back. Now swimming a horse is a dangerous thing for an inexperienced man to undertake. An untrained animal, unused to swimming, will attempt to rest his forelegs on any object floating near him. So if his keeper is near the horse's chest he will be struck and forced under the water. A horse can be ridden over a stream or guided by the man who grabs the horse near the root of the tail and swims

(Continued on Page 5)

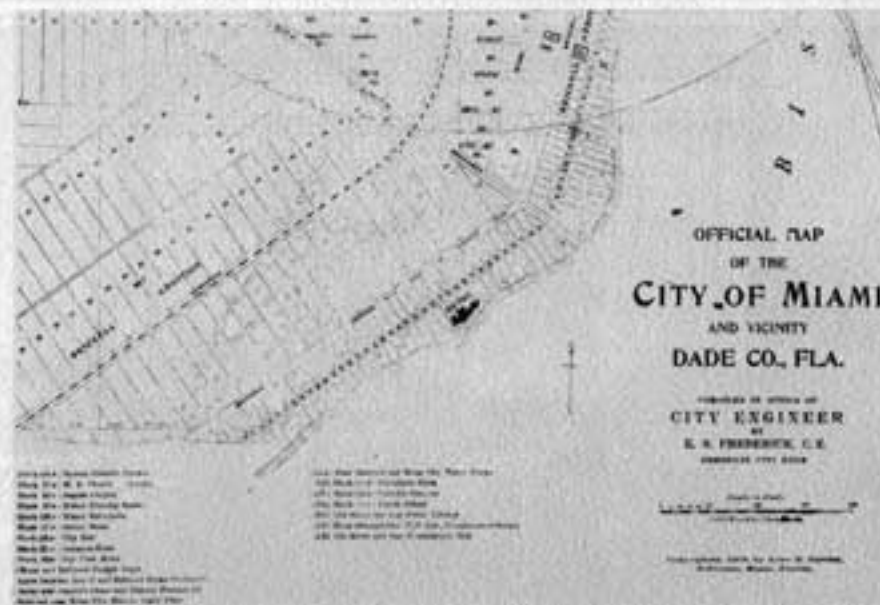
FORT BRICKELL AND THE BATTLE

by Arva Moore Parks

Many pioneer Miamians remember the old "Fort" that was built on the bluff in Brickell Hammock during the Spanish-American War. For years afterward this fortification was visible from Biscayne Bay and was a favorite hideout for boys playing soldier. By 1975, the fort was gone and the bayfront had changed so drastically that no one was sure where it had been located. Even the Federal Government, that considered it merely a temporary fortification, had difficulty finding any mention of it. But while it was of no great moment to the rest of the United States, to Miamians it was part of the incredible summer of 1898 when disgruntled soldiers and local residents lived through what they sarcastically called "The Battle of Miami". It may have been a "Splendid Little War" for the rest of the nation, but for Miami it was a nightmare.

Until the Battleship *Maine* was blown up in Havana harbor in February 1898, there was little mention in the *Miami Metropolis* of Cuba and the problems there. But once the *Maine* went down, this nonchalance turned into panic. Because of an accident of geography, Miamians feared invasion by the Spanish. The city fathers launched a campaign to persuade the Federal Government to install a battery of guns to protect the harbor. Ironically, although recently deepened to twelve feet, the harbor was still too shallow to permit entry by the type of warships envisioned by the frightened people.

Our author, a former President of HASF, is currently at work on a book about Coconut Grove.



On April 5, 1898, the U.S. Corps of Engineers reported that a site had been selected for the fortification, and the owners of the property, William and Mary Brickell, had given their permission for a temporary defense. It was located at the "Tripod" on the high bluffs about a mile and a half south of Brickell Point, just north of the present CTA Towers. A four-gun battery was planned, with two ten-inch guns and two eight inch guns.

On April 18 it was reported in the *Metropolis* that work was underway. Superintendent Ranson had arrived from Washington to push to speedy completion the clearing of the 200-foot site. Employment of fifty to sixty mechanics was predicted to complete the work.

Henry Flagler offered the use of two of his dredges to throw in the necessary amount of sand from the bed to make the earth works practically impregnable. When finished it would "command the bay channel and Norris Cut, thus giving to Miami ample protection against possible privateers and torpedo boats, destroyers, and such other vessels of the enemy as may try to force an entrance here."

By the time the war was actually declared on April 25, 1898, the fort was almost finished. On April 29 it was reported in the *Metropolis* that the size had been reduced to 100 feet and would be finished by the end of the week. "Guards both night and day still pace backward and forward over their beats in solemn silence, turning back the inquisitive."

At about this same time Henry Flagler decided to try to attract U.S. troops to his new town. This, he believed would help take up the slack of the usual tourist-free summer months. On April 30 he wrote to Senator Platt, promoting Miami as the best site in Florida for a large troop encampment. He pointed out that the government was now constructing a battery of heavy guns at this point. He spoke of fresh water and sea breezes which made Miami "the most pleasant place south of Bar Harbor to spend the summer."

As a result of Flagler's letter, General Wade was ordered to Miami on May 19. Even though he was entertained by no less than Julia Tuttle and Henry Flagler, he turned in an adverse report as far as a camp at Miami was concerned.

This did not stop the F.E.C. On May 25 they sent a supervisor to Miami who hired a hundred men to work removing palmettos over a large area that they thought would be suitable for a camp. By early June roads were paved and water pipes laid. These rather ambitious improvements had occurred without any official announcement that troops would be sent.

Once the war had been declared, things could not move fast enough for the nervous Miamians. They decided that a home guard was needed in case troops were not sent. A unit of 200 men was formed in Miami with B.E. Hambleton as Captain. A petition was sent to Tallahassee requesting supplies and rifles. The supplies arrived May 18 and drilling began in earnest. Not to be outdone, Coconut Grove, under Captain Haden, formed a similar unit. With both groups drilling and armed, the city started to relax.

At about the same time the ammunition had arrived for the Home Guards the heavy guns arrived for the fort. They had shrunk both in size and in number from the original plan. Superintendent Ranson began placing one 5" and one 2½" gun on mounts in front of the fortification that was now complete.

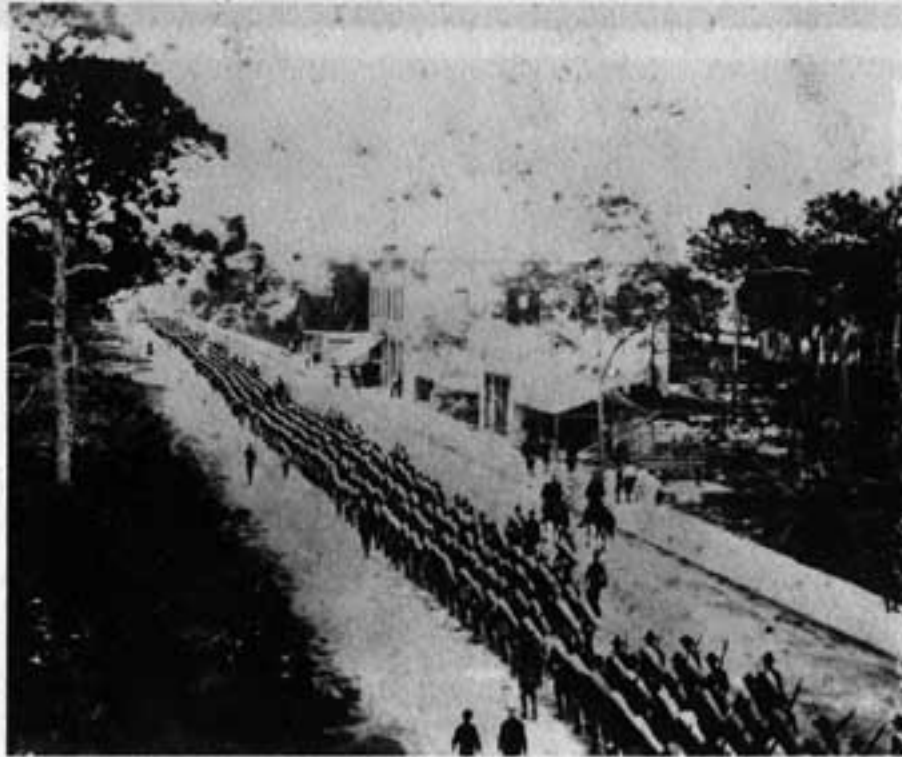
It stood high on the bluff behind a high wall of breastwork that extended in a semicircle for about a hundred feet. The two heavy guns were mounted behind this outside fortification. Behind the guns was an earth mound about forty feet in diameter, and twenty feet high. A squared, wooded "room" was in the center of the mound which housed the magazine.

With the fort finished and the Home Guard drilling,

things began to return to normal for the young city. This was soon to come to an abrupt halt. On June 20, over the objections of the Army's investigator, the government decided that Miami would be a perfect camp site with ground already cleared and health conditions favorable for the troops.

On June 24 the first of 7000 troops began to arrive in Miami. They included the First and Second Volunteer Regiments of Alabama, Texas and Louisiana | soon to be christened the First Division of the Seventh Army Corps. At first the troops were given a hero's welcome by the townspeople. But even with this greeting, disillusionment was swift. On the way down, the Florida East Coast Railroad had given the men brochures on the Royal Palm that depicted Miami as a tropical paradise. One look at the small town shattered all illusions. The Royal Palm was closed for the summer and the tourists were gone. What was left was twelve to fifteen hundred permanent residents and a raw frontier settlement.

One soldier wrote that There was a most magnificent and gorgeously appointed hotel right in the



Soldiers stationed in Miami in 1898 march thru the downtown area of the present Flagler Street and Miami Avenue. Men from Alabama, Texas and Louisiana were among the 7,000 stationed here during the Spanish-American War. (Photo from the HASF Collection.)

midst of a perfect paradise of tropical trees and bushes. But one had to walk scarce a quarter of a mile until one came to such a waste wilderness as can be conceived of only in rare nightmares.

Miami was just not the place for 7000 restless soldiers to live in tents in the middle of the summer. Even permanent residents used every excuse to leave Miami during the summer months. The heat and mosquitoes were problem

enough for the troops, and the exposed water pipes that were hastily constructed made the drinking water too hot to drink. Primitive sanitary facilities consisted of bucket and barrel. A soldier wrote that even dynamite failed to produce a decent latrine. Even more serious was the complete lack of recreation facilities for the bored soldiers. Their feeling was best summed up by the comment: "If I owned both Miami

and Hell, I'd rent out Miami and live in Hell."

The soldiers' misery could only be topped by the feelings of the residents of Miami. Cases of rowdiness were common. The soldiers constantly harassed the black population of Miami. Once the whole black community had to flee to Coconut Grove for safety. One black man was almost lynched by the unruly crowd. Before long no residents of Miami should venture out after dark.

By late July things had become very difficult. Fortunately the war was nearing conclusion so the troops could be returned to their home states. The city and the soldiers heaved a sigh of relief. By August 13 they were gone. The "Battle of Miami" was over.

By the end of August the war was over and peace again descended on the small town. By September the government removed the guns from "Fort Brickell", the name Miamians had given the small fortification. The whole experience had lasted only six months but for the two-year-old city, it had been the most exciting and difficult period of its short life.

(Continued from Page 3)

along on the downstream side of the horse's flank while heading the animal somewhat obliquely to the current, and keeping his eyes fixed on a definite point for exit on the opposite shore. No one seems to have explained all this to the brave but heedless soldier. One of the canoes was ordered in to take him across the river; soon he was seen leading the horse down the bank and entering the water. The boat drill went on and the men's

attention was attracted by the upsetting of one of the canoes and the spilling of the occupants into the river. The men in these drills were not required to keep silence all the time and were allowed much freedom of behavior so that the merriment caused by each other's mishaps was unrestrained. It was in the midst of loud laughter at the canoe's upsetting that some one called out in alarm, "Where's Murray?" In an instant all was silence. The situation was understood at once. There stood the horse on the gar-

ri-son side of the stream shaking the dripping water from his drenched skin, but no Murray in sight. All the canoes were instantly headed to the crossing and under direction of the officers, all the men who could swim, stripping shoes and outer clothing, dove for Murray. But it was not until part of the bay had been dragged that his body was found; the current had carried it across the bar.

That was the first death in our little garrison. Everyone turned out to the funeral. On the north side of the garrison

grounds, close to the shore of the bay, was a grassy knoll, supposed to be an Indian mound, as bones and pottery were found there by some of the men. There it was that Murray was laid to rest the next evening at sunset, and after the burial service was read by one of the officers, three volleys of musketry were fired over the open grave. Then as the bugle sounded the soft, long-drawn notes of "taps" every bystander sorrowed for the poor mother across the seas in her cabin on the Shannon.

DINNER KEY AT WAR

by Marie Anderson

In the clippings file on Dinner Key at the museum of the Historical Association of Southern Florida there is very little mention of wartime activity on this site, which displays an Association marker.

That doesn't mean that Dinner Key has not been the site of a number of battles. Clippings record that not only it has been, it still is.

In 1946 Wilson McGee had occasion to recount some of the history of Dinner Key because the Navy and the City of Miami were battling over \$136,000. Wrote McGee:

"Dinner Key remained peaceful until World War I war drums sounded and the Navy stepped in. The narrow, shallow tidal flat that cut it off from the mainland was filled, the Navy constructed hangars and laid concrete for the crued flying boats of that era. The drone of the mosquito was drowned by the sharp sputters and the rude hammering of primitive engines, but the mosquito bite was real to the bluejackets housed there in barracks, sometimes as many as 1,400 at a time. Then came the peace and the Navy of the early 20's, made economy-conscious by the 'back to normalcy' of Harding and the complacency of Coolidge, stripped away the wartime installations and retired to the gold and glitter of Washington drawing rooms to await Pearl Harbor. When Pearl Harbor came, Dinner Key was again ready."

E. V. W. Jones, writing for the Miami Herald in 1962, refers to that war also:

"With World War I the

Our author is a dean at Florida International Univeristy and previously a long-time staffer at the Miami Herald. She is a director of HASF.



Planes rest ready on the concrete beach at Dinner Key in 1919. (Photo from the HASF Collection.)

U.S. Navy established an air base there, filling in the shallow water that made it a 'key' or island. The 1926 hurricane wrecked the installation and in 1930 Pan American bought the site as a base for the flying boats it planned to use in serving Cuba."

The principal thrust of Jones' article is the activity of Pan American at Dinner Key, recounting how an elaborate houseboat was towed from Cuba to serve as a terminal until the present building was built in 1934. Its focal point at that time was the huge revolving globe that presently is in the lobby of the Museum of Science.

Amid all the drama and excitement of those flying boat days, sprinkled with names like Charles A. Lindbergh, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Juan Trippe and Harmon trophy winner Capt. Edwin C. Musick, a period of 15 years during which Pan American carried 366,562 passengers in and out of the country from Dinner Key, there is only a brief mention that "with the start of World War II the Navy returned."

So much for the military ac-

tivity at Dinner Key as recounted in the local press. Political battles were something else. The 1946 battle between the city and the Navy had ended by 1954 when City Hall moved to Dinner Key, but the battle over the site was still going on ten years later when Margery Keasler traced the history of city hall, beginning with the 502 voters who incorporated Miami July 28, 1896. That was two years before the Spanish American War and while the city mustered up some activity during that war, Dinner Key apparently wasn't part of it.

But City Hall is still battling over the hangars the Navy built, two of which were combined years ago to make a makeshift convention hall and exhibition area. The current controversy is whether to spend \$2.5 million on a facelift for the auditorium or convert the site into a park as recommended in a Dinner Key master plan. Cost would be about the same.

Even returning the steel, mortar and asphalt to park won't return Dinner Key to the condition Ralph Munroe describes in *The Com-*

modore's Story:

"At this time, besides the Pents and Frows mentioned as residents in 1877, George Roberts and family had settled near Dinner Key, and the home of Sam Rhoads and his small son Walter was a short distance northeasterly. Dinner Key, by the way, was probably named as a convenient noon stopping place between Miami River and Snapper Creek, on the Hunting Grounds, since there were few chances to land elsewhere without encountering wet marsh.

"On the whole waterfront at this time there were no buildings or other landmarks, and in making for home after dark, Coconut Grove was exceedingly difficult to locate. Had it not been for occasional glimpses of Aunt Tilly's outdoor cooking fire, we should have gone astray many times."

Ninety-eight years later we could still use Aunt Tilly's beacon if we could only see it.

HISTORY'S NO LONGER A MYSTERY

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1) CUBA | 1) CRATE |
| 5) CARP | 2) USO |
| 9) ARSON | 3) BOSS |
| 10) NAVAL | 4) AN |
| 11) LAOS | 5) CALM |
| 12) POLITER | 6) AVIATOR |
| 14) LT | 7) RATION |
| 15) SKI | 8) PLENTEOUS |
| 17) MAINE | 9) ALLY |
| 18) YET | 10) NO |
| 20) PEN | 12) PIER |
| 22) TOT | 13) RE |
| 23) RI | 16) KP |
| 25) RETONED | 19) TRAINEE |
| 28) BANK | 21) NEWT |
| 30) WAR | 24) INBOARDS |
| 31) OE | 26) TAYLOR |
| 32) LIBERTY | 27) DEBT |
| 33) SUB | 28) BLITZ |
| 34) PINON | 29) KEN |
| 35) LEAST | 33) SAILORS |
| 37) ITEA | 34) PI |
| 38) TONI | 36) ENATE |
| 39) ZERO | 38) TOKEN |
| 41) ORALS | 40) OUT |
| 43) DUCK | 42) SARI |
| 45) TOAD | 44) CEE |
| 47) OLUSTEE | 46) DSC |
| 50) ERRS | 47) OD |
| 51) DIP | 48) LI |
| 52) END | 49) UP |
| 53) SIC | |

JUBILATION - THE WAR'S OVER!

by Thelma Peters

No day in Miami's brief history was as exuberant and free-wheeling as Armistice Day, November 11, 1918. People paraded, banged washtubs, shouted themselves hoarse, danced in the street, bear-hugged strangers, and wept for joy. Schools closed, business was suspended, prisoners in jail for minor offenses were released, cars and people choked the downtown streets all day and victory dances extended far into the night. Though Chief of Police R.M. Dillon issued orders to his men not to arrest anyone short of murder the day was remarkably free from serious mischief.

In 1918 less than half the people had phones and no one had a radio but the good news of the cease fire spread on a cacophony of sound which the Miami Fire Department started off at 3 a.m. with a continuous blowing of a siren and multiple firings of a small cannon. Boat whistles, church bells, car horns and backfires spread the word out to the suburbs and to the neighboring communities.

Shortly after daylight the parades began - impromptu floats, private cars and trucks draped with flags or flowers, some dragging old garbage cans, pretty girls in big topless limousines, military bands, marching units. As early as 7:30 a black band from the central black community across the railroad track marched down Twelfth Street (now Flagler) and returned at ten o'clock leading most of the blacks in town, wearing their best clothes, prancing, sashaying, beating on dish pans, blowing horns, singing. A black float bore a dummy in a striped convict suit hanging from a gallows and labeled

"Kaiser." Before the float retired from the parade it stopped in front of the courthouse long enough to burn the dummy.



One of Miami's largest war parades was the Victory Day Parade, May 11, 1919, celebrating Miami's one-million-dollar sale of victory bonds. A military band (above) joined in the celebration as did a float sponsored by the Red Cross (below). During World War I, one activity of the Red Cross was collecting nut shells and peach and prune pits for making the high-grade charcoal used in gas masks. (Photos from Matlack Collection, Anshaugh Collection, HASF)



The *Miami Metropolis* with its offices on the parade route managed to publish in spite of the excitement of the day. "Miami will go to bed with a headache tonight," the editor wrote. "But nobody cares - the great world war is over." The *Metropolis* called Miami's spontaneous response to the Armistice "the world's greatest party." One reporter noted a group of deaf and dumb people excitedly discussing the news on their fingers. And then there was

E.G. Sewell, president of the Chamber of Commerce, wearing an Uncle Sam costume and gladhanding everyone in reach.

that day was known. The naval air base at Dinner Key sent a stunt flier to draw attendance for the meeting and overdid his assignment. He swooped so low that the plane almost nicked the flagstaff on the bandshell and was forced to land in the bay. No real harm done.

Dade County's goal for the United War Fund was \$95,000. Students, organized as Victory Boys and Victory Girls, each pledged \$5, the money to be earned not solicited. The students had their own kick-off parade down Twelfth Street on November 15, led by the naval air station band. The entire War Fund goal was reached within the three-month deadline.

The War Fund was a gift. But the Armistice touched off another campaign - the Victory Bond Drive. Earlier drives were for "Liberty" bonds. By buying bonds the people were lending money to the United States and also involving themselves patriotically supporting the "War to end war" and "the war to make the world safe for democracy", two popular slogans of the day. (Thrift stamps were sold in school for 25c with twenty such stamps being convertible to a Victory Stamp, a minor denomination of bond.)

Dade County's goal for the Victory Bond Drive was just over one million dollars. One of the last-minute stunts for bond selling, as the deadline approached, was the staged spectacle of a Whippet tank destroying one of Miami's earlier churches, the Methodist Episcopal, located at today's N.E. First Street and First Avenue, scheduled

But the Armistice was only a cease fire. There was still much international negotiation to be done before the "boys" came home. Simultaneous with the Armistice there was organized in Miami and elsewhere the United War Fund campaign to raise money to make the soldiers more comfortable during the long months ahead that they would remain in Europe. The kick-off for the campaign was in Royal Palm Park - as the bayfront park of

(Continued on Page 11)

REFLECTIONS ON BLACK HISTORY

by Dorothy Jenkins Fields

A single act - the shooting of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary in the capital of the Austrian province of Bosnia - signalled the start of World War I. On July 28, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. The news of the outbreak of the war astonished most Americans. When President Woodrow Wilson declared that the United States would remain neutral, he spoke for a unanimous nation. However, in January 1917 the British intercepted a German message to Mexico that helped persuade the United States to enter the war.

On Good Friday, April 6, 1917, the United States went to war.

Life in America changed from leisure to a feverish pace to win the war. The government adopted a selective-service act. Its committee on public information sought to make the Allied cause known in every city, town and village.

Overtown: 1917 and 1918

The selective-service act required all men between the ages of 21 and 30 to register for the draft. As in communities throughout the country, many black male residents living in the Overtown section of Miami complied. Those registrants who volunteered and the draftees were sent to Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, to boot camp for preliminary training.

Usually the evening before a group was scheduled to leave for camp, enthusiastic activities were hosted by various community groups; receptions were held at the black Masonic hall, members

Mrs. Fields, a Dade County school teacher, is also a historical researcher.

of the Home Defense Service offered assistance, and school children paraded in their honor.

The Home Defense Service was composed of thirty or forty black men, service age and older, who remained at home. Led by Attorney R. E. S. Toomey, a black lieutenant in the Spanish-American war, the Home Defense members sold Liberty bonds and organized and drilled their ranks to protect Overtown in case war came to these shores.



Mrs. Florence Gaskins organized the Junior Red Cross in the Overtown section of Miami circa 1917. (Photo courtesy of the Black Pioneer Photographic and Oral History Archives - Dade County Schools, Florida).

School children were also encouraged to help the war effort. Mrs. Florence Gaskins organized the children into a Junior Red Cross group. One of their most memorable activities was parading down Avenue G, now N.W. 2nd Avenue, the evening before the men were scheduled to leave for boot camp.

The children assembled in front of the Gaskins Building, situated on the corner of Avenue G and 5th Street. The girls wore white dresses; around their heads they wore white bands each with a red cross sewn in it. Boys wore white shirts with dark pants. Each child wore a red sash across the chest. Before the parade began, two children were selected by Mrs. Gaskins to lead the march with her; other children were positioned around a full-size American flag, and the remainder of the group walked behind the flag.

As the Magic City Cornet Band played, Drum Major Dean signaled the start of the parade. The streets were lined with people. They threw money, cigarettes, chewing gum and pencils into the flag as the children paraded north on Avenue G to 1st Street, then Avenue H, 6th Street, and Avenue G, thence back to 5th Street, where the group disbanded.

The goodies which the children collected were divided and given to the men as they departed on the train the following day.

Many activities were organized to aid the war savings stamp drive. R. A. Powers, president of the black Board of Trade, interviewed every black pastor and urged each to impress upon his congregation the absolute necessity of doing their part in buying stamps, so as to help the government finance the war to a successful termination.

Free movies were shown at the Lyric Theater, thanks to the courtesy of Geder Walker, one of the most successful black business men. Every child attending the movie had to have twenty-five cents to purchase a savings stamp to

gain admission to the theater.⁵

Another important event was the patriotic musical. This entertainment was usually given in the Masonic hall under the auspices of the Mt. Zion Baptist Youth Group. On Sunday, July 26, 1918, such a program was rendered:

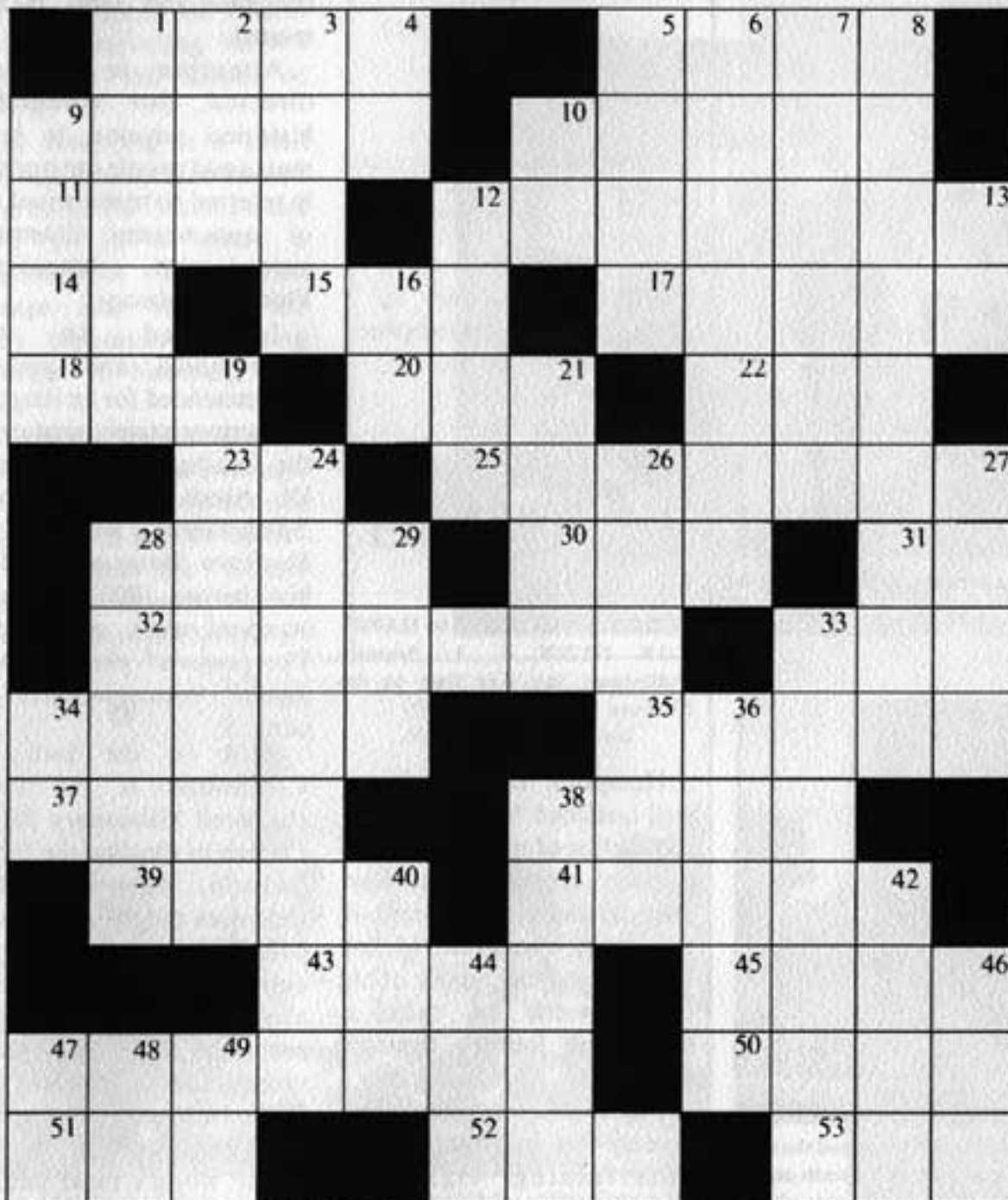
The Star Spangled Banner - Orchestra and Band
 Cornet Solo - Harry Roberts
 Duet - Misses Robinson and Platt
 Reading - Miller Collins
 Instrumental solo - Miss Ida Knowles
 Vocal solo - Prof. Gibson
 Recitation - Miss Stella Grant
 Duet - Misses Wilhelmina Shine and Watson
 Address - Mrs. Janie Morris
 Quartette - Messrs. Pharr and Dansby,
 Misses Roberts and Dingle
 Instrumental solo - Miss Leila Roberts
 Solo - Miss Mamie Moore
 Vocal solo - "Capt." Belle
 Reading - Lieutenant Toomey
 Vocal solo - Miss Lillian Truly
 Reading - Sam H. Johnson
 Solo - Miss Zipporah Mathews
 Closing address - Dr. A. P. Holly

The principal event that day was the grand parade in which children of all the black churches took part. The procession started from the church of Rev. Sampson on Pennsylvania Avenue, near Waddell Street, headed by the brass bands, and gathering in the other Sunday schools, successively, on their march through the black section, until they reached the Lyric Theater on Avenue G. The promise was made by E. W. F. Stirrup that if possible the brass band from Coconut Grove would also take part in the demonstration.

"Four-Minute" Speakers

Still another group was organized to aid the war effort. As part of a nationwide campaign, men volunteered in each community to speak at local churches and in theaters for four minutes, promoting the sale of Liberty bonds and supporting the draft. At the black churches of the county, both the pastors and the four-minute men spoke, thus giving each congregation two four-minute addresses.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS Continued

- 37. Willow
- 38. "Which twin has the ----?"
- 39. "H" hour
- 41. Unwritten tests
- 43. Amphibian army truck
- 45. Frog relative
- 47. Florida battle - Civil War
- 50. Makes a mistake
- 51. Lower flag in salute
- 52. Goal
- 53. Urge on to attack

DOWN

- 1. Slang for early plane
- 2. Serviceman's center
- 3. Manage
- 4. Article
- 5. Found in hurricane's eye
- 6. See photo
- 7. Shopper's wartime "book"
- 8. Abundant
- 9. Wartime friend
- 10. Sev. or Elev.
- 12. Miami Beach site of 2 Down
- 13. Concerning
- 16. Army job
- 19. Dinner Key man 1918
- 21. --- Lummus, Miami pioneer
- 24. Boat engines
- 26. Fort at Key West
- 27. Unpaid war costs
- 28. Air raid
- 29. --- Hughs, Miami artist
- 33. Gobs or tars
- 34. Philippine Islands
- 36. Growing outward
- 38. Symbol
- 40. Black or strike
- 42. Mrs. Gandhi wears one
- 44. Letter
- 46. Distinguished Service Cross
- 47. Officer of the day
- 48. Chinese lineal measure
- 49. Double or ante

ACROSS

- 1. Where 17 across sank
- 5. Nag
- 9. Crime
- 10. WW I base - Dinner Key
- 11. Vietnam's neighbor
- 12. More courteous
- 14. Com. officer
- 15. Lodge or lift
- 17. Ship to remember
- 18. Thus far
- 20. Turtle crawl is one
- 22. Wee one
- 23. Rhode Island
- 25. Retinted
- 28. For blood or money
- 30. Current *Update* topic
- 31. Old English
- 32. Bonds for WW I
- 33. Caused scare at Miami Beach
- 34. Pine nut
- 35. Smallest



Officer and plane at Dinner Key Naval Base during World War I. Look for this man in the crossword puzzle. (Photo from HASF Collection.)

Answers on page 6



PICTURING OUR PAST S. J. Boldrick



Christening the bomber "City of Miami, Fla." on January 5, 1933, during the fifth annual Miami All-American Air Show.



Blowing winds combined with exploding "flour-filled sacks" produced the spectacle of the bombing of Miami on January 11, 1934, as part of the sixth annual Miami All-American Air Show. The following night, while searchlights played, real explosives were used on the miniature city constructed at the far side of the air field.



Planes flying in formation over DiLido Island as part of the 1940 Army Day activities. (All photos: Romer Collection, Miami-Dade Public Library)

BOOK REVIEW

Florida Sketches

a delightful tour in text and pictures of some of the most fascinating sights and landmarks of Florida



FLORIDA SKETCHES by HAMP-
TON DUNN E. A. Seeman
Publishing, Inc. For Sale at the
Museum Gift Shop for \$6.95.

Reviewed by Nate Ellis.

Hampton Dunn, with a well-qualified background as the author of many historical books, recipient of top awards, and vice president of the AAA Peninsula Motor Club, invites the reader of his latest work to take a fascinating journey through Florida.

Florida Sketches comprises seventy-five informative and entertaining vignettes, wherein pictures and text span the time from the prehistoric period to present-day Florida, bringing to light some noteworthy influences of our ancestors and covering all sections of the Sunshine State from Valparaiso to Key West, from New Smyrna Beach to Naples.

The value of Mr. Dunn's reflective travelogue is enhanced by a balance between unusual, out-of-the-way places, the better-known Florida attractions, and fresh

Our reviewer a tropical meteorologist at National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables, has previously reviewed for Update.

thoughts and facts thereto related.

Attention is especially directed, for compelling historical reasons, to landmarks and people not normally referred to in the usual run of commercial illustrated guides and conventional Florida roadmaps.

Included in the memorabilia and perhaps recommended for an itinerary and appreciative visitations is the weather-beaten house of Dr. Alvah W. Chapman in Apalachicola. *Flora of the Southern States* compiled by him before 1900 remains a standard work even today. The genus of plants "Chapmania" commemorates his name.

Still in use today in Campellton is the oldest chartered Missionary Baptist Church in Florida, the Palace Saloon, built in 1878, welcomes thirsty visitors with old-fashioned swinging doors. It has changed little in almost 100 years. Brass cuspidors and hand-painted murals add to its decor and bring back memories of the good old days.

The world's most unusual monument is at Lakefront Park in Kissimmee. The "Monument of States", sponsored by the Kissimmee All-States Tourist Club, is an irregular quadrilateral step pyramid of twenty-one varying tiers, fifty feet high with a flagpole extending farther upward. Designed and built entirely by volunteer tourist labor, this unusual structure contains more than 1500 stones brought or sent from every state in the Union and twenty-one foreign countries. Stones were contributed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt from his Hyde Park estate, by Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie

(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued from Page 10)

King and by Governor Rexford G. Tugwell of Puerto Rico. An encircling Victory Walk cites the names of donors.

The foregoing is a small sampling of what is contained in the book. Mr. Dunn's latest work is in a sense a testimonial to Florida's rich heritage and sustains the state's reputation as being abundant in historical surprises.

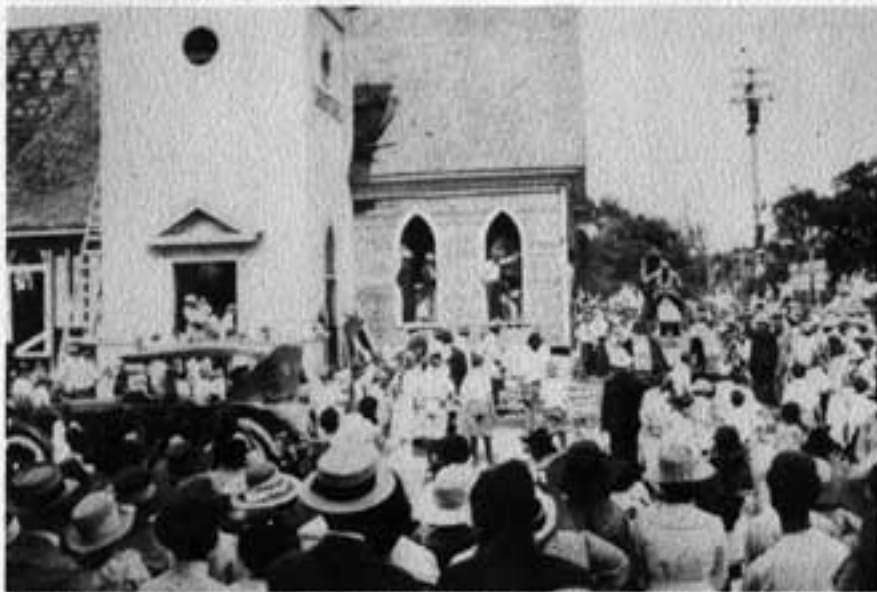
The arm-chair traveler can look forward to an evening's pleasurable and provocative reading which may be followed by plans for further historical investigation and a motor trip across Florida.

EDUCATION NOTEBOOK



Students in the fifth grade at Sabal Palm Elementary School (left and below) were recipients of a traveling lesson when Education Coordinator Dorothy Fields visited the school with artifacts and the history of the Indians of South Florida. The students and teacher Lester Mintz were encouraged to handle and closely examine the artifacts.

Docent Ginny Marx (center, rear) explains Dade County's development to a tour group of Girl Scouts from Troup 356. (bottom) The fifth and sixth graders visited with Leader, Mrs. Spear. (Photos from the HASF Collection.)



Tank demolition of Methodist Church was a gimmick for selling Victory Bonds, May 1919. (Photo: United Methodist Church)

(Continued from Page 7)

for demolition anyway, for the congregation was about to build the White Temple, which also became a Miami landmark. Purchasers of a \$500 bond had the privilege of riding in the tank while it made one of its passes at the church. Thousands of people came to watch a tank destroy a church, not realizing they were seeing the birth of a concept - bulldozing. Boy Scouts circulated among the crowd taking orders for bonds while the tank had its first go at the church. The church, made of Dade County pine, resisted,

and the tank "walked" up the wall until it was almost on end. On its third try the tank broke through the wall, climbed piles of debris and entered the building with wild applause from some, plus a few tears from long-time church members.

The drive went over the top, the *Metropolis* triumphantly announced. On deadline day, May 11, 1919, Miami celebrated one of its largest war parades - the Victory Day parade. Fortunately for us, Claude Matlack was there with his camera.





HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA
INCORPORATED
3280 SOUTH MIAMI AVENUE - BUILDING B
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33129

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIAMI, FLORIDA
PERMIT No. 608

Discover the treasures of South Florida History! Join the Historical Association, enjoy our on going programs.

You will receive invitations to Association special events, meetings and Lecture Series.

You will receive our highly respected Annual Journal, Tequesta, our bi-monthly publication, Update, and have the use of our Research Library and Archives located in the Historical Museum.

Please consider one of the higher classifications of Association Membership which benefits our public service and educational programs and projects.

The following memberships are offered:

\$1,000.00 Life \$100.00 Sponsor \$25.00 Donor \$10.00 Sustaining
 \$ 250.00 Benefactor \$ 50.00 Contributor \$15.00 Patron (Single)

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____

Join us today by returning this invitation with your check to: The Historical Association of Southern Florida
3280 South Miami Avenue, Building B
Miami, Florida 33129