

Update



THE SEASON



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Banyan Cottage at Camp Biscayne, Coconut Grove, Florida. (Photo courtesy of Patty Munroe Catlow.)

UPDATE

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

You can all feel justly proud of the fine museum gallery unveiled at our recent gala. Your support has made possible the first complete telling of man's life in Southern Florida. Moreover, the present exhibits are just the beginning of a finer story yet to be told.

The gallery renovation was designed to be "expandable," so that it could be augmented with additional exhibits to tell a more detailed story when additional space becomes available in the new museum building. Our renovated gallery well serves today's visitors but will also be the nucleus for tomorrow's gallery in the new Downtown Cultural Center.

Already our staff is at work cataloguing the collection and planning the research for new exhibits. We are indeed fortunate to have such fine professionals serving our Association. Each and every one of them has physically assisted in the construction of the present gallery exhibits. This experience will be invaluable as we move towards the new museum.

Our present gallery is the result of careful planning, dedicated work and the generous support of our member of the Public Relations Committee, has left the for our next big step is already underway. We look forward to the continued support of our members and staff in order to make it all possible.

We are sorry to learn of the departure from South Florida of three people who have been active supporters of the Association. Jonathon Thompson, a Director and member of the Public Relations Committee, has left the *Miami Herald* for a challenging position in New York. He will be joined shortly by his

wife Joan who has been active on the Harvest Committee and now serves as Co-Chairman of the Tequestans. Elsa Schwartz, Assistant to Bill Bird, Dade's Director of Parks and Recreation, has served as the County's liaison with the Association and as an ex officio member of our Board. Her efforts have substantially contributed to the fine relationship we enjoy with the County. She will be leaving shortly to live in the Bahamas. We shall miss all three and we hope they will visit us often.

R. LAYTON MANK
President

THE COLLECTION

Did you know that the Historical Museum has many interesting artifacts that aren't on exhibit in the gallery? We have spinning wheels, cannon balls, silver trophies and sewing machines. There are quilts, plaques, dolls and flags. And there are rifles, dresses, bottles and baskets. All of these items belong to HASF. Each is important to our museum even when it's not on display. Without its collection a museum can't exist.

The Historical Association of Southern Florida has a collection policy by which we can decide whether or not a prospective donation should be accepted or recommended to a more appropriate institution. It is very simple. The museum *collects items relating to South Florida or items that can help in the interpretation of the history of South Florida*. Remember that the next time you clean out the attic or garage. And remember your Historical Museum.

THE SEASON

When, historically, is "the season" in South Florida? If history can be defined as "what happens today is the history of tomorrow," we can assume that "the season" is in the mind of the definer. This is borne out by random questioning.

For example: "Historically, the season begins when the tourists arrive from the North to avoid the cold weather." As South Florida entertains tourists year-round these days, how will tomorrow's history define "the beginning of the season?"

As the question is posed in the community, there are a myriad of answers, many stated as questions: "The HASF Harvest? Vizcaya Ball? The Ramble?" A man in a clerical collar counters, "Advent or Lent?"

Others are more certain: "When I shop for my winter wardrobe." "Grace Bohne tells us." "There are really four here, as in the North, but they are more discernible to the natives." "When we go back to school." "The first cool spell after the little northers." "When only tourists are swimming." "When Hialeah opens." "When the Dolphins begin to practice." "With the flag raising at the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club." "At the opening of the Opera, the Philharmonic or the Theater of the Performing Arts."

In making history, there are ubiquitous answers, or, as in today's favorite means of obtaining answers, the polls, "None of the above." One can only assume that future history will record that South Florida is a place and has a time for the opening of all seasons.

—Alice Pitman-Willey

THE CROSS-BAY SWIMMING RACE

by Thelma Peters

On New Year's Day 1920 the city fathers of Miami and Miami Beach inaugurated an event which they hoped would attract tourists and be repeated annually on the first day of the year, a cross-bay swimming race. Merchants contributed prize money for the race and Pathe News Service sent a cameraman to film the event. The first race had nine swimmers and an armada of colorful small boats to accompany the swimmers. Aboard a yacht, the *Cricket*, were the judges: Miami Beach Mayor Thomas J. Pancoast, Carl G. Fisher, W. N. Urmev, and B. F. Tobin. An airplane patrolled the course.

In 1920 the bay was an open body of water with only two links between mainland and beach, the wooden Collins Bridge and the barren-looking very new County Causeway. The swimmers took off from a point just north of the Miami end of Collins Bridge or not far from today's Herald Building. Their goal was Purdy's Boat Yard on the west side of Miami Beach just north of Belle Isle. The distance was three miles straight east. Much of the bay at that time was shallow enough for a swimmer to stand down if he got tired — and didn't recoil from the grassy bottom.

Of the nine swimmers who entered the water at exactly 10 A.M. three were women. Two of the men developed cramps part way across and gave up. The winner was Miss Frances Bilsbarrow whose time was one hour and 36½ minutes. Second was a Miami Beach Baths lifeguard, Hugh Silas, one hour 54 minutes. Not in the money but number four was a twelve-year-old girl, Virginia Duckwall. Prizes for the top winners were medals valued at \$75, \$50 and



Contestants in the first Cross-Bay Swimming Race, January 1, 1920, head toward Miami Beach, three miles to the east. Nine swimmers began the race that was won by Miss Frances Bilsbarrow. The city fathers of Miami and Miami Beach hoped the race would be an annual event, but by 1922 islands were being developed in the bay and pollution was a concern. (Photo: HASF, The Matlack Collection. Claude Matlack, photographer.)

\$25. Thousands crowded the east shore and the seawall along Belle Isle to watch the finish.

The second annual New Year's Swim, 1921, was organized by J. Newton Lummus, president of the Southern Bank and Trust Company in Miami and by Arthur Pancoast who operated a private swimming club, the Miami Beach Baths at Miami Beach. There were fourteen swimmers who signed up but two or three dropped out at the last because of the weather. A stiff east wind was blowing a strong ocean current into the bay. To swim from west to east meant battling this

current. Somewhat before 10 a.m. a new course was decided on, one from east to west, beginning at the docks of the Flamingo Hotel on Miami Beach and paralleling Collins Bridge somewhat to the south of the bridge. In the confusion and time it took to move across the bay to a new point of beginning three others decided to drop out. Finally the Pathe cameraman was ready to roll and the starting pistol was sounded. Pretty Miss Bilsbarrow, the 1920 winner, was not a contestant but she dived in with the others at the request of Pathe News.

The distance was called 3¼ miles and the first to get



Privately owned bathing casinos on Miami Beach entertained tourists by presenting water shows, swim races and diving exhibitions. On March 4, 1922, photographer Claude Matlack recorded a Seminole wrestling an alligator in the pool at one Beach casino as his partner carefully steadies their canoe.

across was J. P. Stone, a school teacher from Homestead. His time, with the help of the current, was 1 hour and 37 minutes. The only woman swimmer was Blanche Silas, who came in fourth but was given a prize for being the only professional in the race.

The third annual race? There is no record of it. By 1922 the bay was beginning to sprout a dozen islands and there was a growing concern for pollution since most of Miami's sewer outfalls went into the bay — a condition that was to get much worse before it was corrected.

But water sports became important tourist attractions. The several privately owned bathing casinos on Miami Beach (there were no public pools) plus the Royal Palm Hotel casino put in bleachers and had their own water shows, swim races, diving exhibitions and comedy high-jinks. Among the most popular local performers was four-year-old Jackie Ott whose high dives brought chills and thrills to the hundreds of spectators. One beach casino hired Seminoles to wrestle alligators in the pool and another advertised shark-fighting. In the shark-fighting one man armed with a knife confronted one shark agitating the water of the pool and keeping the spectators breathless with suspense. The shark was much less dangerous than he looked and the man carried a secret vial of "blood" which he discharged at a dramatic moment to give realism to the struggle.

Thanks to Claude Matlack, commercial photographer, the Historical Museum has dozens of action photos which record the water shows of the 1920's.

PUT YOURSELF IN TOUCH WITH FLORIDA'S PAST

by Jack Roberts

(This article first appeared on January 20, 1978, in The Miami News and is reprinted with their permission.)

For the last five years the Historical Association of Southern Florida has displayed such curiosities as an old cannon, huge chains, photos from the 19th Century and the huge lens from the Carysfort Lighthouse at the association's museum gallery, which is next door to the Museum of Science.

The display was interesting enough to attract 245,000 visitors last year, but Randy Nimnicht, museum director, felt the display fell far short of telling any meaningful story of this area's past. He felt the room was too small and the show lacked narrative.

Now the whole thing has been redesigned and will be open to the public this weekend. If you've ever had any interest in how this former swamp changed hands from Indians to real estate speculators you'll enjoy this free show.

When I dropped by for a preview yesterday, Nimnicht and his associates were putting the finishing touches on the gallery and he explained that the space problem had been eased by creation of a maze of winding wood walls 350 feet long.

Before you enter the maze, signs tell you to feel free to touch anything along the route. I like that. It'll put people with children at ease. Their kids can jump all over a seven ton cannon next to the sign.

In a few minutes of reading and pressing narration buttons along the way you learn that man came to Florida 10,000 years ago but civilization came with the early Spanish explorers. You learn the Spanish controlled the state twice, and that the French and British also had their turns.

The original Indians really took a beating, going from

Jack Roberts is a long-time columnist for the Miami News.



Silk screening a display for the newly designed Museum Gallery are Jennifer Old and Randy Gaitor. Visible in the background are additional components of a section on the Seminoles. Staff members designed and built much of the gallery behind the scenes, in cramped quarters.



With shop set up in the gallery proper, James Tobak and Tom Slingerland begin construction of the display cases for the period. Wood siding varies horizontally, vertically and on the diagonals depending on the period of South Florida history being explored. To the left are displays from the original gallery.



Association members and guests feted the newly completed Museum gallery at an evening party on January 21, 1978. Among those enjoying the festivities were Board members Stephen Lynch, III; Dr. Thelma Peters, Donald Gaby and Curator Linda Williams. (Photo: HASF Collection.)

100,000 population when exploration started to practically zero in 1760. But they were replaced by the Creeks, who under the name Seminole waged two wars against white settlers.

The Indian massacre of Maj. Francis Dade, for whom this county is named, and his men is depicted in one of four paintings by Ken Hughes. Another painting shows the Indians setting fire to the lighthouse on Key Biscayne. The pushbutton narrative for this happening is in the words of the lighthouse keeper.

"What we did was produce a story line to be read or listened to along the way and place artifacts there that fit the story," Nimnicht explained. "And when you see a re-creation of a pioneer home you can listen to the words of a pioneer woman on a recording."

I'm an incurable sightseer and I've stared at enough stuffed and very dusty owls in various state museums to know a good show when I see one. And you're just looking at the tip of the iceberg. In the storage area are 4,000 artifacts worthy of display, plus 25,000 photos, watercolors and other images of early Florida that the gallery will display in years to come.

And how will they find the room? Well, in 1980 the museum will move into a new building just west of the county courthouse. It will house the new central library, an art museum and a historical museum more than three times the size of the present gallery.

The new exhibit was put together on a shoestring budget of \$30,000. Nine employees were hired with CETA funds — the federal make-work program that often is criticized. But Nimnicht has high praise for his CETA people. "They came here to work," he said. "We taught them silk screening and carpentry and they took off and helped us build this exhibit."

(Continued on Page 9)

THE TEQUESTA MOUND EXCAVATION

Archaeologists have begun preparation for excavation on what will be the site of the multi-million dollar City of Miami / James L. Knight International Center in downtown Miami, at the mouth of the Miami River.

Object of the archaeological search is collection of data and samples of the lifestyle of Miami's first known inhabitants, the Tequesta Indians, who occupied South Florida long before the arrival of the Seminole tribes in the 19th century.

Experts from the Florida Division of Archives and History in Tallahassee are conducting the archaeological salvage excavations and the City of Miami is providing excavation and survey crews, and other backup services.

Mitigation of project impact studies such as the present excavation are required by federal statutes pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and presidential executive order #11593 dealing with the "protection and enhancement of the cultural environment." Since the proposed convention project is in part federally funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, archaeological studies are necessary for compliance with these statutes.

Tequesta, Tekesta or Chequesta, the Indian name of the village which once occupied the present site of Miami, possibly in the early first millenium B.C., is the earliest townsite of any U.S. city to be documented on a map (Freducci map, circa 1514).

According to records of Spanish explorers and

missionaries of the early 16th century, the site, containing a ceremonial mound complex approximately 100 feet long, 75 feet wide and eight to 10 feet high, was the capital of the Tequesta Indians who controlled most of Southeast

Florida when the Europeans first reached the area. tools, the Tequesta succeeded in building a fairly complex socio-political and religious system.

The Tequesta site, abandoned by the native American inhabitants in the middle of the 18th century, remained



Discussing the archaeological excavation presently underway at the site of the proposed City of Miami / James L. Knight International Center in downtown Miami are Project Director James J. Connolly, right, and Carlos A. Martinez, senior site archaeologist of the Florida Division of Archives and History. The excavation, which will continue until the end of April, is to collect data about the Tequesta Indians. (Photo courtesy of the Miami-Metro Department of Publicity and Tourism.)

virtually undisturbed until 1896 and construction of the Royal Palm Hotel which caused the complete destruction of the principal rock mound, as well as other site areas.

Construction of the Granada Apartment Hotel at the site in the 1920's followed, and the building was torn down in 1973. By the late forties and fifties, when few serious archaeological investigations

were initiated, most of what was left had disappeared under the parking lots and office buildings of the downtown area.

Although all that remains of Tequesta today is a small piece of land by the Miami River, limited archaeological research done in the past, and results of a recent solid core study of the subsurface, reveals that this area has remained largely undisturbed. Work now underway is expected to contribute a great store of knowledge concerning the origins of Miami.

The little excavation that has been done at the site has turned up a large assortment of significant artifacts including ceramics, adzes and other shell tools, hammers, awls as well as additional historic items. Delicately carved points, needles, hairpins and fishbone hooks also have been unearthed, together with fragments of olive containers and pieces of apinted china.

Approximately 15 per cent of the convention / conference / hotel complex will be preserved in its original state, according to Project Director James J. Connolly.

The big dig will continue under supervision of senior site archaeologist Carlos A. Martinez and project archaeologists David Swindell and Shawn Bonath, for 15 weeks in the field, to be followed by a year of analysis and report preparation. Also involved in the project are an excavation crew, soil scientists, geologists, chemists and botanists. The large amounts of artifacts which will almost surely be collected will be analyzed by zooarchaeologists, paleoethnobotanists and other related specialists.

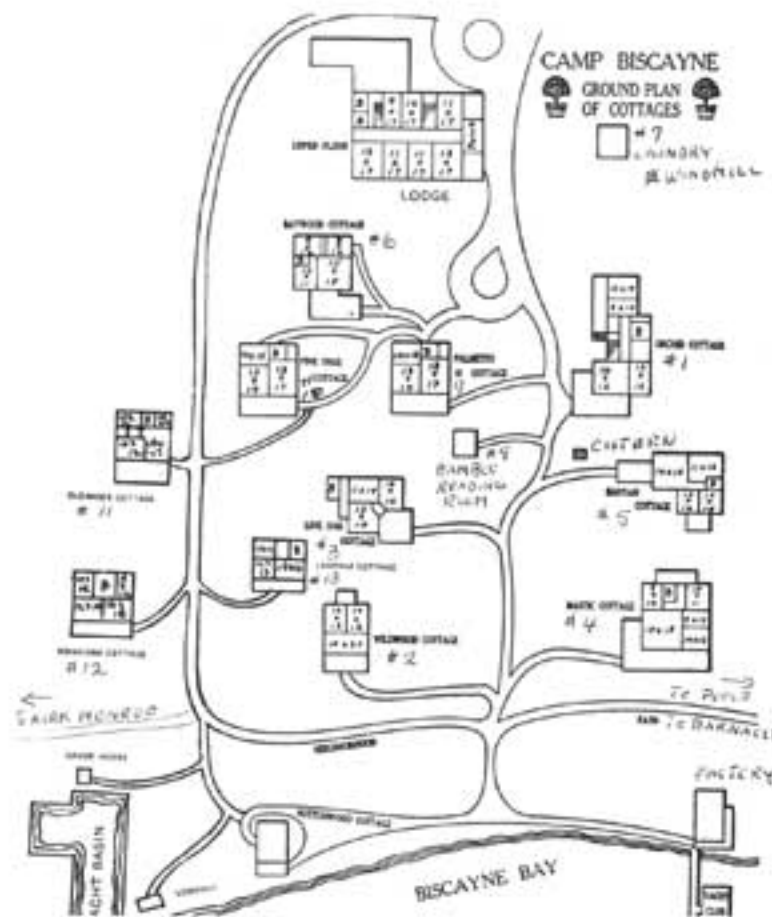
CAMP BISCAYNE

by Jean C. Taylor

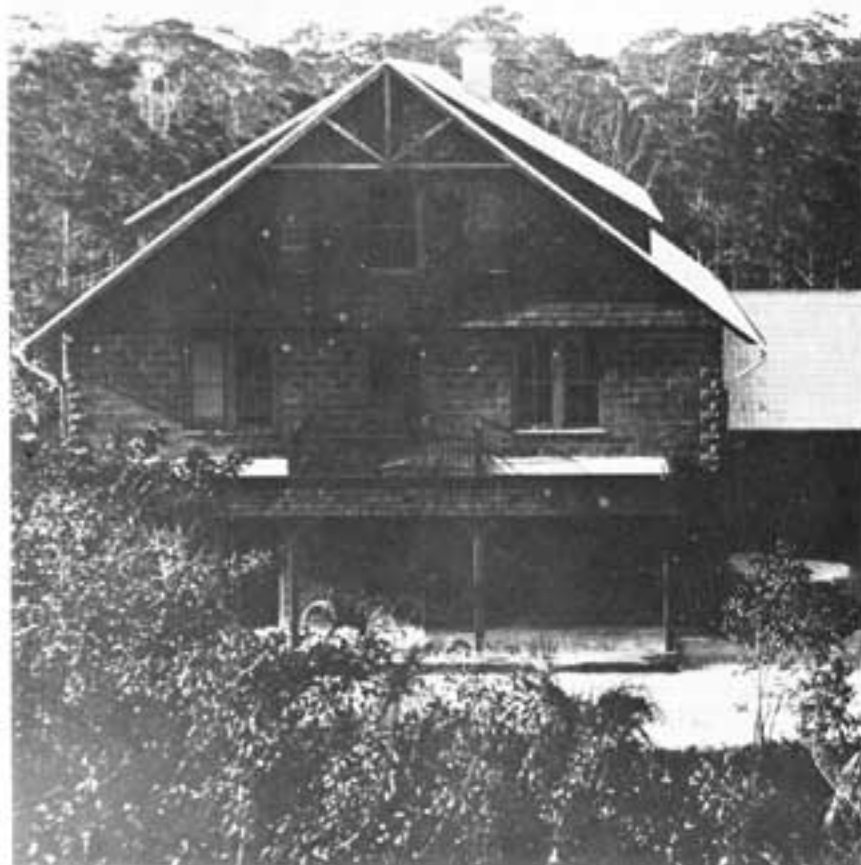
The number one tourist of the Coconut Grove area, Ralph Middleton Munroe, felt that other congenial souls would be encouraged to enjoy the pleasures of a winter on Biscayne Bay if they had a quiet, comfortable place to stay. In 1882 he wrote Charles and Isabella Peacock asking them to build a winter guest house on the waterfront. With the Commodore's help and advice, this establishment became the Peacock Inn which was soon the heart of the social life of the community as well as the only place for paying guests to stay in South Dade County.

About 1900 the illness of both Mr. and Mrs. Peacock made them decide to give up their Inn. Thus Coconut Grove was left without a permanent stopping place. Something had to be done, and Ralph Munroe realized that if he did not wish to lose many of his most delightful personal contacts, he was the one who must do it. So in the fall of 1903 a sort of cooperative kitchen was established in the old House of the Three Sisters behind the Barnacle, with Miss Josephine Wirth, sister of Mrs. Munroe, in charge. There assembled for meals the Strongs, Crocketts and Hines, eight in all besides the Munroes. Of these only the Strongs were housed in what was to be Camp Biscayne. The Crocketts lived in the McCormick cottage next to the former Peacock Inn, and the Hines lived in the small waterfront house on their property, north of the Barnacle.

Jean C. Taylor is a historian specializing in South Dade County and a frequent contributor to Update.



A map of Camp Biscayne shows the location of cottages, the lodge, reading room and bayfront. The handwritten notations show directions to The Barnacle, the Poole's home and Kirk Munroe's. (Courtesy Patty Munroe Catlow.)



The Lodge was the main building at Camp Biscayne. In addition to a dining room with a seating capacity of 75, there were a number of single and double bedrooms on the second and third floors. Cottages were "scattered among the trees in picturesque irregularity" surrounding the main building. (Photo courtesy of Patty Munroe Catlow.)

The next year on adjoining property a dining room, kitchen and rooms for the managers were built and the Misses Baxter took charge. A few extra guests were housed in tents. The summer of 1905 saw four cottages added under the superintendance of Ned Hine and in the fall Camp Biscayne opened with six buildings for a busy and successful year. Soon the Bamboo House — a separate reading room and library and a laundry, was built. Patty Munroe Catlow remembers spending many, many hours running the mangle in the latter. By 1912 the Camp included a new Lodge with ample kitchens, a dining room that seated seventy-five people at one sitting, offices and a number of guest rooms on the second floor. There were finally eleven cottages beside the Lodge, reading room and laundry.

Botany was of great interest to the visitors as many specimens strange to their northern eyes grew in the hammock around the buildings. Fifty-three species were labeled by Dr. John Gifford and a pamphlet describing them made available to the guests. Each cottage was named for some especially fine nearby tree — Orchid, Wildwood, Live Oak, Mastic, Banyan, Baywood, Palmetto, Pine-tree, Buttonwood, Oleander, Poinciana and Lantana. Wildwood Cottage, the first on the grounds, was built for Mr. and Mrs. John R. Strong and after several years went to Mr. Addison Van Name, former librarian at Yale — a most widely read and delightful gentleman. Mastic was built in 1905 for A. B. Gardner of Dowagiac, Michigan, and brought to the Grove by the Ransom



The Bayfront of Camp Biscayne shows (from left to right) the yacht basin, the lookout, Buttonwood Cottage and the Yacht Club. Visitors were told bathing and boating were particularly good and "the lookout across the water will keep the possessor of that picture happy for many a winter's night to come." Waters in this area of Biscayne Bay were protected by outlying shoals and offered ideal anchorage to all types of boats.

School, in which his two boys were students. After a few years they took over the Hine property north of the Barnacle and built a home there. A picturesque figure in the early days of the Camp was John Hunter of New York, friend of Pierre Lorillard, F. W. Griswold and other noted men of sporting tastes. He had been a great horseman, but devoted his later years almost exclusively to bone fishing. He was somewhat a recluse and insisted on a small table alone in the dining room, but could be an interesting conversationalist when so disposed. After the addition of the Walter Browne property to Camp Biscayne, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Gilpin lived in the Browne cottage on the waterfront which was renamed Buttonwood.

Another favorite pastime was joining the group that spent their days at the Commodore's boathouse listening to the never ending flow of talk, jokes, tales, memories and speculations. William Meigs of Philadelphia was introduced to Biscayne Bay in 1891 when he cruised the coast in Strobhar's schooner, Rambler. He spent his winters on a houseboat on the Kissimmee River shooting



Orchid Cottage at Camp Biscayne was advertised as "a large, rambling cottage with four rooms and bath on the lower floor and three rooms on the second floor. Especially adapted for a large family." The original main dining room and kitchen for the Camp were located in the cottage. (Photo courtesy of Patty Munroe Catlow.)

and fishing until he visited Camp Biscayne and thereafter spent his winters in the Commodore's boathouse with Thomas Hine and other contemporaries. This group became known as the "Safeblower's Union" and surely no "Local" ever held jollier sessions.

Most prized of all amusements were the boating excursions in the "Melody" — a swimming party to Cocoplum Beach, a sail to Fowey Rocks, or most fun of all, a banking party which explored the flats between Cape Florida and the Ragged Keys finding all sorts of interesting specimens. An appropriate nautical tone was given to the Camp by the

families of Admiral Delano, Admiral Albert Ross and Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Mallory, former business manager of the Mallory Steamship Lines.

Fishing trips were a masculine favorite. After an unusual expedition this "pome" was circulated among the guests:

*The Commodore sure had a
mixed up crew,
A Yale professor and an
Admiral too.
Then came a wholesale paper
man,
And a Captain who worked for
Uncle Sam.
Each had a lunch and a fishing
line,
And vowed and declared if the
day was fine
That there'd be less fish in the
seething brine!*

*But the day was rough, and one
by one the company
surrendered until:
We sailed away 'round
Fowey Rocks.
The Melody got some terrible
knocks.
And the Admiral — well, he
threw up his socks!
But in spite of all this, not a
fish in the box!*

Although not living at the Camp, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Poole and daughter Lois were an active part of the group. They bought the land south of the Barnacle from De Hedouville, planted it with fruit and ornamental trees and built a second small cottage. This property lay between the Barnacle and Camp Biscayne.

No profits were ever taken out of the business by the promoters, all being returned to the property in improvements and maintenance, as it was intended that Camp Biscayne should be a permanent institution. The Camp area had been increased by the addition of the Walter Browne property to the southwest, which Ned Hine took in exchange for the lot north of the Barnacle. Along with its simplicity of equipment, food

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Camp Biscayne

(Continued from Page 7)



The Bamboo House was built as a reading room and library for Camp Biscayne visitors. An advertising brochure stated that the Bay was "the place for the pleasure seeker or sportsman" and that "Camp Biscayne stands at the head of those places calculated to furnish accommodation for the more quiet class." Children were welcome if they were "properly controlled." (Photo and brochure courtesy of Patty Munroe Catlow.)

and service, one basic principle was moderate rates, and \$17.00 was adopted and maintained for many years as the maximum weekly rate.

The increasingly rapid growth of Miami and the shortages of war times made charges at last go up and \$4.00 and \$5.00 per day marks were passed without decreasing the popularity of Camp Biscayne. However, with post-war surge of the great Florida boom, expenses increased and hotel guests became less content with the simple life at the Camp. The Commodore received an offer he could not turn down and regretfully closed the Camp. For nearly a quarter of a century Camp Biscayne had played an important part in many lives — a winter home of unique simplicity and comfort, with the most delightful personal associations. It was deeply missed by all.

In a few months, the cottages were removed, the Factory and the old Browne boathouse were torn down and the Yacht Club house lightered away to Coral Gables. The hammock growth which the Commodore had preserved with



Vincent Gilpin, co-author and friend of Commodore Munroe walks the main trail of Camp Biscayne, which went from the road to Biscayne Bay. Gilpin and his wife lived in Buttonwood Cottage at the Camp. (Photo courtesy of Patty Munroe Catlow.)

such care was cleared away and a boulevard cut through from the County road to the bay. The bay front was filled in by a dredge to a point fifty feet or so beyond the end of the old wharf. Before any of the houses in the proposed new development could be built, the Florida boom broke and fortunately "progress" was stopped.

At the present time, the Camp Biscayne property is being developed into homesites for private residences. The area is to be known as Biscayne Camp and the private roads leading into and through the acreage will be named for the original Camp Biscayne cabins.

UPDATE'S ADVERTISING

All-Expense Tour to MIAMI

ITINERARY
 Leave New York City 10:00 P.M. on the Commodore
 Arrive Miami 10:00 A.M.
 Breakfast at the Commodore
 11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. - Visit the Commodore
 12:00 P.M. - Lunch at the Commodore
 1:00 P.M. - Visit the Commodore
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 9:00 P.M. - Visit the Commodore
 10:00 P.M. - Visit the Commodore
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Throughout this issue of Update, we have scattered a number of advertisements offering a variety of ways to travel to and from Miami for "the season."

The advertisements originally appeared in such publications as *The New York Times* and *The Illustrated Daily Tab* in the 1920's.

In addition to steamship and train travel, companies offered "a new transportation service" where cars could be rented in Miami and left at stations in other Florida cities.

Go any week you wish
 —but go the *glorious* way

SAIL out to the open sea on this lovely ocean liner—along the balmy gulf stream. Swiftly, smoothly she glides with yacht-like precision—only 45 hours to New York.

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How could you think of going any other way? A courteous crew of 200 to serve you. Great decks, open and glassed ones, to tramp. Exquisitely furnished lounges, reading, writing and music rooms. Every known convenience and comfort. Staterooms that will charm you. Why it's just like a wonderful hotel afloat.

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Go—go any week you wish but be sure to go the *glorious* way. Illustration booklet, sailing data card at any ticket agent's, travel bureau or write

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 New York Office 604 Fifth Avenue



Take your car, hand car or motor cycle check it into an extra truck.

Sailings every 5 days from Miami and New York



S.S. H.F. ALEXANDER

REFLECTIONS ON BLACK HISTORY: The Season by Dorothy Fields

Through the years, "the season" in Miami's black community occurred December through April, with the population increasing as the resort hotels opened for the tourist season. In the publication, *Florida: A Guide to the Southernmost State*, writers of the WPA project estimated that by 1940, an average of 1,000 black chauffeurs, domestic workers and hotel employees came here from other parts of the nation. Some transient employees accompanied their white employers to this area. In addition, a large number of black railroad men from across the country vacationed here.

Cultural activities and entertainment peaked for both black residents and visitors during this period. Avenue G, renamed Second Avenue, was known as "Little Broadway." It was the place to go to see big name entertainers. The Lyric Theater, opened in 1919 by Geder Walker, a successful black businessman, was the center of Colored Town's legitimate theater.

Because of segregation blacks were not allowed to live on Miami Beach or in any of the white hotels.

Black entertainers and celebrities as well as the working class people were forced to live with friends, relatives or even strangers during their visits.

By 1925 there were several hotels, owned and operated by blacks, which provided comfortable facilities. The Mary Elizabeth Hotel is one

Dorothy Fields is a Dade County school teacher and researcher for the Black Archives / Dade County Public Schools.

example. Located on N.W. 7th Street, the Mary Elizabeth provided swank accommodations to both visitors and residents. Later several other hotels opened in that area, including the Sir John and the Lord Calvert.



The late Eleanor "Billie" Holiday of stage, screen, radio and television is shown in the Hospitality Room at Georgette's Tea Room in Brownsville, a Miami suburb. Miss Holiday is holding her rare albino Mexican chihuahua dog and conversing with local residents. Seated left to right are Ruth North Polite, Willie Mae Murray, Gussie Dobbs, Frances Trapp Gause and Naomi Grant. Standing are M. Counts, Doretha Payne and an unidentified waitress. (Photo courtesy Black Archives, Dade County Public Schools.)



Former welterweight champion Sugar Ray Robinson is shown greeting Mrs. Leroy La Flem and Walter Winchell. Standing left to right: Larry Steel, Dr. I. P. Davis, Charles North, Eddie Cantor and former Police Chief Walter Headley. (Photo: Courtesy Georgette Campbell Memorial Collection, Black Archives / Dade County Public Schools.)

In the March, 1942, edition of *Crisis Magazine*, the official publication of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, newspaper columnist Stanley Sweeting candidly described "the season". According to this journalist, "during the winter months business and adventure were at their highest peak. The theaters were sold out with hundreds of spectators standing in the doorways. In Sepia-ville money flowed freely and

jobs of every description were available. From various parts of the city, handsomely-groomed men and gorgeously-groomed women trekked the lonely pavements or jolted unevenly through the rugged boulevards converging into

celebrities. Highlighted was Georgette's Tea Room, a building specifically designed to accommodate out-of-town dignitaries. Located north of the Central Negro District, this spacious structure provided elaborate lodging for black entertainers who were booked to perform in the hotels across town but were not allowed to live on the premises because of their race.

In Touch With Florida's Past

(Continued from Page 4)

The new exhibit paid off before it was ever opened to the public. The directors of the National Endowment for Humanities were impressed enough to give the museum a \$375,000 grant to start working toward the 1980 exhibit, when the museum moves downtown.

The Historical Association always has been self-sufficient, raising money among members and at various events such as the Harvest Festival. It seems fitting that the group should receive what is allegedly the largest grant of its kind made by the National Endowment for Humanities.

Tequestans' ATTIC AUCTION

Saturday, May 13th
at
The Museum

MIAMI'S FIRST BOWLING ALLEY



Miami's first bowling alley dates to 1905. Located outside the Royal Palm Hotel, bowlers enjoyed a "season" as the alley was closed during the summer. An attendant stands at the far end to return balls and reset pins. (Photo: HASF Postcard Collection.)

WASHINGTON BIRTHDAY DINNER

Why you never go hungry until we meet again! O Dorset

I want what I want when I want it. George A. Lynn 131 W. W. Ave. St. Washington

Have met me in Washington and I will come over 928 Wisconsin Ave. Washington D.C.

The Royal Palm
Miami, Fla.
H. W. MORRILL, MGR

Dinner

Artichokes Vinaigrette
Oysters on Shell -

Mock Turtle aux Quindelles
Chicken Consommé, Belle Helene -

Queen Olives - Celery -

Planked Savannah Shad, Cucumbers -
Potatoes Julienne -

- Roast Virginia Ham, Timbale Spinach -
Candied Sweet Potatoes -

Broiled Squab with Corn Fritters
French Peas

Sweetbreads Glacé en Cocotte
Asparagus Tips

Pondue of Cheese on Toast

Ribs of Beef - Turkey, Cranberry Sauce -

Boiled and Mashed Potatoes - New String Beans -
Onions in Cream Baked Tomatoes -

Celery and Pineapple Salad -

- Steamed Fruit Pudding - Hard and Brandy Sauce -
Apple Pie Custard Pie

Rum Jelly - Coconut Kisses - Assorted Cake

Pistachio Ice Cream -

Fruit Mixed Nuts Figs Layer Raisins

- Roquefort, American and Swiss Cheese -

Bent's Crackers Saltines - Toasted Crackers

Coffee -

FRIDAY, February 22, 1907

The best time I had in Miami

The social climax of the winter season at Miami's Royal Palm Hotel was the Washington Birthday Dinner. Held annually on February 22nd, the menu for the dinner in 1907 included artichokes vinaigrette, broiled squab with corn fritters and apple pie among other choices. Four dinner companions signed this copy of the menu adding comments such as Mattie Aldrich's, "The best time I had in Miami." (Menu from HASF Collection.)

BELVEDERES UPDATED

Several persons responded to the story about the Belvedere house in last August's UPDATE. Jeanne Bellamy Bills, president of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, told us of a good example of this type of architecture at 1349 West Flagler Street. This Belvedere, one of Miami's largest and most ornate, is now the Plummer-Ahern Funeral Home. It is worth a drive-by for its roof alone which is reminiscent of a flock of coolie hats. There is a more modest Belvedere at 1504 West Flagler.

George E. Davis, Jr. and his wife, Christine, live in a well-preserved Belvedere at 49 N.W. 27th Avenue — the very house in which George was born. The house was built in 1916 and has withstood all the hurricanes without damage. The Davises like the high ceilings, the deep

overhangs and the one huge upstairs bedroom with its ten windows.

Frank Davis, an electrical contractor, stopped by the Museum to give us the locations of four Belvederes. The prime example of a Belvedere in pink condition, according to Davis, is at 138 N.W. 16th Avenue. The one at 41 N.W. 16th Avenue is good too.

It is gratifying to know that Miami's unique pre-Boom architecture still has admirers.

SPANISH MOSS

In the early days there was much more Spanish moss on Miami's oak trees, enough to sustain a small factory on old Avenue D. The factory used 100 tons of moss a year for stuffing boat and buggy cushions.

the **FLORIDA SPECIAL**

for **1934**

47th CONSECUTIVE SEASON begins JANUARY 2nd from NEW YORK

2.30 P. M. PENNSYLVANIA STATION

A clean ride on a Double Track, Rock Ballasted Railroad; Protected by automatic train Control and Signals

Time	Station	Time	Station
11:00 A.M.	New York	10:00 P.M.	Miami
11:30 A.M.	Philadelphia	10:30 P.M.	Fort Lauderdale
12:00 P.M.	Baltimore	11:00 P.M.	West Palm Beach
12:30 P.M.	Washington	11:30 P.M.	Palm Beach
1:00 P.M.	Richmond	12:00 A.M.	Daytona Beach
1:30 P.M.	York	12:30 A.M.	Orlando
2:00 P.M.	Philadelphia	1:00 A.M.	Jacksonville
2:30 P.M.	Baltimore	1:30 A.M.	St. Augustine
3:00 P.M.	Washington	2:00 A.M.	Titusville
3:30 P.M.	Richmond	2:30 A.M.	Deerfield Beach
4:00 P.M.	York	3:00 A.M.	W. Palm Beach
4:30 P.M.	Philadelphia	3:30 A.M.	Palm Beach
5:00 P.M.	Baltimore	4:00 A.M.	Miami

BOSTON TO MIAMI 33¹/₂ HOURS

FLORIDA SPECIAL SONG

ATLANTIC COAST LINE
The Standard Railroad of the South

"FLORIDA SPECIAL" advertisement for 1934-35 winter season, the year "The Florida Special" song was introduced.

BOOK REVIEW

The Hispanic Presence in Florida Yesterday and Today, 1513 — 1976. Edited by Jose Agustin Balseiro. E. A. Seemann Publishing, Inc., Miami, Florida. 1976. 160 pages.

Reviewed by Dr. Ione S. Wright

This attractive small book is one of the more unusual contributions made to the celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial celebration in 1976 and has particular interests for those of us living in Southern Florida. It is almost wholly a local product: inspired, edited and compiled, written (for the most part), designed, and published by persons in this area.

In itself this work represents a peculiarly appropriate example of the contemporary Hispanic presence in South Florida. Both its sponsor, Maurice A. Ferre, Mayor of Miami, and compiler, Jose Agustin Balseiro, professor emeritus of University of Miami and internationally known scholar and writer in Hispanic culture and history, were born in Puerto Rico, the island on which the project for the discovery of Florida was originated and, like Juan Ponce de Leon, both have come to this area to make their own continuing contribution to it in furthering their own personal careers.

As its title indicates, this book is concerned with describing and evaluating the events and historical roles involving people of Spanish or Spanish American blood and background throughout Florida's history from discovery to the present. It is not a narrative history. Instead, Dr. Balseiro has compiled selections from the writings of seven distinguished specialists in various areas and arranged these in chronological order. The effect is that of making several samplings of the subject in depth rather than a more superficial, general survey. These diverse essays are skillfully tied together by Dr. Balseiro in his excellent introduction and careful selection of materials. A unifying theme runs throughout the book as each specific manifestation of Hispanic presence in Florida is placed in wide perspective and

Dr. Ione S. Wright is a member of the Board of Trustees of HASF and Chairperson of the Publication Committee.

clearly related to other historical events and movements in the Old and New Worlds during the same period.

In his opening remarks Dr. Balseiro also calls attention to the fascination that the "theme" of Florida held for the first Spaniards, and that it continues to have today. He also reminisces on the rich cultural and intellectual relationships that he himself has enjoyed as a result of Hispanic ties with South Florida while he has been living here.

Quite properly the first essay deals with the discovery of Florida. "Florida," so named by Ponce de Leon, is taken from writings of the late Monsignor Vicente Murga, Spanish-born co-founder and first president of Catholic University of Puerto Rico, based on years of research into the life and career of Florida's discoverer. A more general study follows, written by Ralph S. Boggs, internationally known folklorist and Spanish scholar, professor emeritus of University of Miami. In his "Mosaic of Traditional Culture" Dr. Boggs describes the multiple influxes of diverse populations that have peopled an almost empty, semitropical Florida during the past five hundred years — Indians, French, Spanish, English, Minnorcan Europeans, blacks, southerners, northerners, special groups like Jews in Miami and Greeks in Tarpon Springs; and makes an analysis of the "traditional" Florida culture that is evolving from all these parts, stressing relationship of Hispanic elements to the whole. He also calls attention to folkloric elements such as language modifications, legends, and ballads that speak for this Florida traditional culture.

Contrasting with this is Dr. William M. Straight's detailed description of problems and practice of medicine in Spanish Florida during the first two centuries. Beloved and highly respected as physician in Miami, Dr. Straight has also won repute as Florida's medical historian. In this somewhat brief, but tightly-written contribution "Medicine in Spanish Florida," the reader will delight in the details of the lives and personalities of early medical men, the problems when none were available, diseases most

common, epidemics, the establishment of hospitals, pharmacies, etc. Florida made its own contribution with its native sassafras, "the miracle drug" of its day.

The fourth article is one of the longest and also the one most directly related to the U.S. Bicentennial. Moving along in time to the close of the eighteenth century, it is "Florida during the American Revolutionary War" by Charles W. Arnade, Florida historian and director of International Studies Programs at University of South Florida at Tampa. Dr. Arnade draws on his extensive research in this field to present a vivid, documented account of events that took place in Britain's colonies of East and West Florida while their thirteen colonies to the north were fighting for their independence, successfully refuting the myth — if any of it still remains — that Florida was untouched by the Revolution. An extensive, carefully selected bibliography adds to the usefulness of this article.

The inclusion of "Jose Marti and the American Founding Fathers" by Carlos Ripoll, of Queens College of the City University of New York, comes as a surprise at first. Unlike the other selections chosen, this is a general article and not specifically related to Florida but is an evaluation of the writings of the Cuban Liberator Jose Marti about the United States in which he spent most of his exile from Cuba during latter part of nineteenth century. Dr. Ripoll calls new attention to Marti's writings, in which the latter highly praises Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, and others of the U.S. Founding Fathers, and deplors that these have been overlooked too often in favor of his critical writings against certain conditions that he disliked in the United States a century later. Marti's stature among all Latin

American lovers of freedom and his praise of our own independence heroes, written about the time of the first U.S. centennial, secure its place in this book.

The last two articles deal primarily with Dade County since the massive Cuban immigration following Castro's takeover of Cuba in 1959. They represent serious attempts on the part of expert scholars to evaluate the effect of this overwhelming influx on the Miami community, and the extent and ways in which Cubans have changed or simply continued and accelerated tendencies and contributions made by previous and increasing other, non-Cuban Hispanic elements here. In "The Cultural Presence of the Cuban Exile in Miami," Dr. Rosa Abella, librarian on staff of Richter Library, University of Miami, emphasizes cultural aspects and changes that affected both earlier Miamian residents and the newer Cuban ones. In the final essay, good old U.S. materialism rears its head for recognition as Antonio Jorge, of the U.M. Center for Advanced International Studies, devotes fifteen pages to a carefully researched economic interpretation and statistical analysis entitled "Characteristics and Consequences of the Hispanic Economy in Miami before and after the Cuban Communist Revolution," ending the volume on a practical and contemporary note. Dr. Jorge also dares to prophesy (page 153) "Dade County will become more and more a bilingual and bicultural area. This will be brought about by the huge local Hispanic American population, but also by the establishment and strengthening of the economic ties between Hispanic America and Southern Florida."

Symbolically and appropriately this book appears in both English and Spanish editions.





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