

Update

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The Historical Association of Southern Florida is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to advancing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of South Florida history. The Association maintains a Museum, Archives, and Research Library for materials, publishes a journal and a bi-monthly magazine; sponsors a Historic Site Marker program; presents a Lecture Series; and carries on a broad educational program for all ages.

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A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

The thorough planning and hard work of our dedicated volunteers has produced yet another outstanding Harvest. The proceeds of this third annual country fair now constitutes our largest single source of private support. Additionally, it allows our community to know first hand the delights of an old-fashioned day at the fair and to better understand our area's heritage. We are deeply indebted to all of those who baked, planted and worked so hard to make this weekend a success, and especially the co-chairmen, Pat Molinari and Pat Graham.

Special mention should be given to the History Bee and Essay Contest which are a part of the Harvest festivities. Over 180 students entered these events this year and the competition was truly fierce. The Essay Contest produced several fine entries in both the senior high and junior high categories. We are pleased that the first place winners will appear in this edition of *Update*. Our congratulations to the winners and our special thanks to Barbara Skigen and Marcia Kanner, two of your hard working trustees who were in charge of these events.

In preparing for our move to the Downtown Cultural Center, your Association has recognized the need to expand our professional staff to meet the requirements of this new facility. We have recently acquired the services of Robert Burke as Curator of Exhibits

and Arnold Matteson as Director of Development. Both men have impressive professional credentials and outstanding backgrounds in their respective fields. We welcome them to the staff and look forward to working with them.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the importance to us of the recent state-wide election. Florida's new Secretary of State, George Firestone, is a member of the Association and the Harvest's reigning Conch shell blowing champion. George's new position is of special importance to us because of the Secretary's responsibilities for the humanities. We are pleased to have a Secretary of State of George's caliber and one who has an appreciation of history.

The gubernatorial election had not only historical significance but also personal significance to the Association. Robert Graham, our governor, is not only the first governor of Florida from South of Fort Pierce, but he and his wife, Adele, are long time members of our Association. We congratulate Bob on his election and wish him and his family much happiness in Tallahassee. It is with real pride that we look forward to sharing the Grahams with all of the people of Florida.

R. Layton Mank
 President

COVER: Standing outside the first Perrine Elementary School in this 1910 photo are (first row l to r) Alonzo Griffin, Eldon Dasher, Perry Douthit, Thelma Douthit, Edna Peters, Frank Alma Peters, Cecil Douthit, Zeppa Dasher, Mable Moody, Ruth Griffin, T.J. Peters, Cornelia Cuthbert, section foreman's child, Nellie Daughtery, section foreman's child, Ocar Dauval, (second row) Robert Douthit, Rufus Walker, Carl Gaulbranson, Elizabeth Daughtery, Sam Cooper, Mrs. Margaret Cooper, Rheta Daughtery and Lucille Sherwin.

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IMPACT OF THE HISPANIC MIGRATION ON MIAMI AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

by Eduardo A. Garcia

Hispanics account for nearly half of the county's population, and the overwhelming majority of them are Cuban. They have given South Florida a boisterous flavor that it never had before. Latins made up only five per cent of the county's population in 1960, a year after Castro's revolution. Now, 524,000 strong according to the latest Metro Planning Department estimate, Latins constitute thirty five per cent of the county's population. Of the 524,000, 430,000 or eighty two per cent, are Cubans. The rest, 94,000, are South and Central Americans, Mexicans or Puerto Ricans. Planners calculate that the Latin population could ascend to forty three per cent by 1985.

Cubans, who were initially welcomed with sympathy and federal relocation grants, have long since expanded from "Little Havana", a five square mile conclave in the center of Miami. It is in this section of Miami's southwest area, also referred to by its Spanish nickname of "La Saguesera", where the aromatic smell of "sofrito" (seasoning) permeates the air every evening, as its Cuban population begins to unwind. Here too, clusters of refugees chatter away in front of sidewalk stands, sipping the pungent "cafe cubano", while the pulsating rhythms of the cha-cha-cha filter into the colorful streets from neighboring bars. Young kids are everywhere, roaming the bustling streets of shops, fruit stands, and botanicas (exotic flower-shops), practicing jargon language referred to by many as "Spanglish", a mixture of Spanish and English. This is the Cuban community at its best.

Having been dubbed "Little Marianao" in remembrance of a Havana suburb where many of the blue-collar Cubans once lived, Hialeah is sixty six per cent Latin. Other areas with large concentrations of Latins include the city of Miami, which is fifty five per cent Latin, and Sweetwater, which is eighty per cent Latin. The Cubans have also moved to such exclusive areas as Coral Gables, Kendall, and Westchester. Puerto Ricans are living in the Wynwood area near the Miami garment district, and Mexican farm workers are found in the Homestead

area. In general, according to the March 1977 Strategy Research study, the average Dade Latin is 32.8 years old, has 3.6 family members living in his household, and receives an annual income of \$12,223.

Since 1959, a social revolution has gripped Dade County. In commerce, in government, in churches, in schools, the 430,000 Cuban exiles have become a part of the community. But in language, customs, and attitudes, they remain somewhat apart. Although for the most part Dade's Latins are becoming Americanized, tensions between the two cultures still exist. Non-Latins are usually tolerant of their new neighbors, but they generally agree with two negative stereotype statements about Cubans: they are too noisy and they literally want to take over the control of business and government in Dade. It is, therefore, correct to conclude that while Cubans and Anglos participate in every phase of life here they live, for the most part, in worlds apart—separated by culture, language, suspicion, and hostility.

On the other hand, Miami's growing Latin population is more and more convinced it is here to stay. Yet, they have retained many aspects of their culture and probably will for a long time. One reason for this is their number, which has made it less important to assimilate. As a result, there is still emphasis on maintaining ethnic traditions and pride. Those who find the Cuban flavor in Dade unacceptable, who feel like strangers in their own neighborhoods, find a way out by moving away. It is due to this, that non-Latins, which had accounted for eighty three per cent of the total population in 1977.

Brief though their stay has been, the Cubans have considerably affected South Florida's culture. In 1973, Dade County declared itself to be a bilingual jurisdiction, and Spanish became the second official language for such things as election ballots, public signs, and local directories. They enjoy a large number of Spanish-language newspapers (*El Sol de Hialeah*, *Diario de las Americas*, *El Miami Herald en Espanol*), and a string of glossy magazines (*Buen Hogar*, *Replica*, *Patria*). There are also a Spanish-language television station (WLTV, Channel 23) and a multitude of radio stations, such as "La Cubanissima" (WQBA), to be enjoyed by old and middle-aged Cubans who seek the racy Latin beat and hourly newscasts these radio stations offer.

The Big Five Club, nestled in the grasslands of West Dade, the Versailles Restaurant, resembling the cafe society of Europe, and other elegant restaurants such as Les Follies and Les Violins, which once again recreate Havana's brassy night life, are but a few spots which seem to underscore the emptiness and nostalgia for our homeland that grips most Cuban-Americans. As if to cushion their sensations, they have built not just a Little Havana, but a Little Cuba around us, with urban and country folk sharing in the bitter-sweet experience of their new lives in South Florida.

The steady and large influx of Latins over the last nineteen years has affected the ethnic composition of Dade County's schools. The youngsters of the Hispanic community constitute one third of Dade's student population, and score impressively above the other non-Hispanic students on the English and Mathematics achievement tests each year. In 1976 alone, seventy two per cent went on to college. But the story is not always the same, for there are still large numbers of Latins who are kept behind as a result of the language barrier. Therefore, a large campaign has been started to facilitate the access of bilingual education.

Cuban enterprise has turned South Florida into a growing and veritable commercial center. The area contains some two hundred thirty Latin restaurants, twenty garment plants, a shoe factory employing some three thousand workers, thirty furniture factories, and about thirty sugar-producing factories. Latins are also eminent in land development, constituting about sixty per cent of the construction work force. Fourteen out of the sixty-seven local commercial banks are controlled by Latins. One such bank is the Continental National Bank, which saw its deposits grow from \$2 million in 1974 to \$29 million, as of today. Generating some \$1.8 billion in annual incomes, Hispanics create some 100,000 community jobs. This, according to many South Floridians, has prompted the rebirth of small entrepreneurship in South Florida.

South Florida today remains a mecca to which other Cuban exiles are attracted yearly. The phenomenon is widespread among Cuban exiles living in northern cities outside Miami. Some call it the "Miami mania," while others just say they were struck by "Miami fever."

Eduardo A. Garcia, a student at Christopher Columbus High School wrote this award winning essay for HASF's Harvest Festival Essay Contest. Garcia's essay won first prize in the Senior High School division.

THE REDLAND FARMLIFE SCHOOL

by Jean C. Taylor

When the school board announced that Redland Junior High School would be replaced with a new modern building community protests prompted an unusual move—the school plant planners met with interested citizens to discuss designs. The community's sentiment that they wanted to keep the

Drive, Princeton School on Coconut Palm and US 1, Goulds school built in 1911 on Bailes Rd. east of US 1, Murray Hill on Hainlin Mill opened in 1914 on the corner of Hainlin Rd. and Redland Rd. and Modello on the corner of Old Dixie and Empore Dr. Each of the seven districts wanted their area used

into class rooms in later years.

Redland Farmlife was dedicated by Governor Catts on July 4, 1916 with a big picnic for the whole area. The first principal was Mr. Ashbury who was followed by J.T. Pearson. There were separate teachers for each of the eight grades and a small high school and agricultural school. Ninety-eight percent of the students were bussed to



The Redland Farmlife School was formed by the consolidation of seven neighborhood schools in the area. It was considered a showplace and frequent out-of-town visitors made the long trip to South Dade to see the school firsthand.

old main building and renovate it along with new construction preserving the campus style which would not intrude upon the country atmosphere was at first rejected. But the continued vocal insistence of people proud of their heritage finally persuaded the architect to come up with new plans.

Redland School owes its origin to the tireless efforts of the homesteaders of the area and to Dr. Hiram Byrd, formerly Director of the Board of Health in Jacksonville, Florida.

He came to Dade County for his health and to experiment with the use of rattlesnake venom as an antidote to snake bite. It is singularly appropriate then that, until recent years, the black and orange diamond backed rattler climbed the stem of the big R as the symbol of the Redland Rattlers.

Redland Farmlife School was formed from the consolidation of seven small neighborhood schools: Silver Palm built in 1902 on the corner of Silver Palm and Newton, Eureka School established in 1907 at Naranja and Eureka, Redland also built in 1907 at the corner of Redland Rd. and Coconut Palm

Jean C. Taylor, a member of the Update Board, was formerly on the faculty of Redland Junior High School.

for the consolidated school and offered land. Finally to break the deadlock Redland voted with Silver Palm to accept the ten acres offered by Will Anderson at the corner of Farmlife Road and Coconut Palm Drive. Dr. Byrd secured an agricultural land grant under the Morrill Act of 1862 to help finance the project.

Redland Farmlife was the largest consolidated school in the world when it was built and had more palm trees on its campus. It had ten rooms to start with and four more soon added. R. E. Hall, Superintendent of Schools in Dade County, considered it such a show place that he brought important out-of-town visitors in his own car from Miami, a considerable journey in those days. When the visitors arrived, the students would gather in the auditorium to listen to their words of wisdom. Redland had a most beautiful and unusual auditorium. The stage had a velvet curtain hand painted with scenes of the Queen of Sheba at King Solomon's court. In addition to the conventional stage and seating facilities, the back wall of the stage overlooking the patio could be pulled out converting it to an open air theater. Unfortunately, due to a need for space, this was remodeled



A TEXAS RANGER SCHOOL BUS

school. The busses consisted of a slat roofed cattle car type of trailer with seats for eighty-five children hauled by a separate tractor. A senior high boy was responsible for keeping order on the bus and seeing that the children crossed the road safely. A teacher was required to live at the end of each bus line and usually drove his own bus. The Reverend Harley Core drove the bus for the Goulds-Silver Palm area the first two years. Later these were replaced by regular busses called "Texas Rangers." Other teachers were required to live at the "Teacherage" to protect the school from vandalism. Mr. Nash Cook's family was the last to occupy the teacherage before it was converted to a Home Economics building in 1957. Others were housed in the old Princeton school building as a "Teacherage."

J. W. Asbury in his first year as principal formed the Redland Improvement Association from a group of men patrons. The grounds were in their original wild state and the buildings had the most meager furnishings. The wild trees were considered dangerous so they were cut down and the stumps removed. Gradually the Association planted other trees and shrubs. Pictures were placed on the classroom walls and flags in each room. The Association cooperated in establishing a library and in operating a cafeteria. A baseball

diamond was built and the road across Davis Glade was filled as the busses often stalled there during high water. The Association continued until 1920 when a PTA was formed and the work turned over to the women. M. W. O.

the individual groups forgot their partisanship and a terrific school spirit was developed. The local object of their greatest rivalry was Homestead High and no Redland girl would think of dating a Homestead boy—it would be

fountain and pool were placed in the center of the patio as a gift of the graduating class of 1938 and coconut palms and shrubs planted near the patio main entrance. A cafetorium was added to the east of the high school in 1951. An air conditioned band room was added in the 60s and portables brought in one after another to house the expanding student population.

Redland continued as a kindergarten through twelfth grade agricultural school until South Dade High was finished in 1953. At that time grades nine through twelve and the agricultural school moved from Redland. It continued as an elementary and junior high under one principal until 1957 when the Homestead Air Force Base was reactivated and the influx of pupils made a great deal of building expansion necessary. In 1958 it became two separate schools and the ninth grade returned from South Dade. The



The two-story Spanish style Redland High School was built in 1927 to handle the expanding student population. The school became a junior high facility in 1953 and is presently being enlarged and remodeled.

Talbott served one term as the first president and announced that it was a woman's job. Mrs. Onie Cauley was president for two years followed by Mrs. A. L. Chandler and Mrs. Margaret Behrens for two each.

In the early years Redland Farmlife had the reputation of being the most difficult school in the county. The seven communities were merged in name but not in spirit and the children's groups taunted each other, the parents took up the fight and soon the teachers and principal were blamed for everything. Mr. Pearson had a very traumatic experience while he was principal. His own son who was a student was fighting with another boy so he took both into his office. While he was whipping his own son the other boy jumped out the window, ran home and told his parents that he had been whipped but not the principal's son. That night the irate father appeared at Mr. Pearson's home and started a fight. The principal did not return the blow but in the melee his finger was so severely bitten that he lost part of it and had to be hospitalized. The other classic Redland escapade was when Walter Mac Vicar and Thomas Theus decided to do a little private after school experimenting in the chemistry lab. In the resulting explosion Thomas Theus lost an eye.

The PTA under Mrs. Chandler played a leading role in promoting mutual understanding between parents, children and faculty. As time went on



The 1929 Redland High School girls' basketball team poses in the school courtyard with Principal Leon Gray. The school's team was State Champion for three years in a row.

disloyal! Many have never ceased to marvel how they merged into South Dade High without any upheaval. Redland rose into prominence when the girl's basketball team won the state championship for three years in a row and the Redland Rattlers boys' team played teams as far away as Knoxville, Tennessee.

In 1927 the two story Spanish style high school was built around a central patio and all the classrooms in the original building were occupied by the elementary grades. The patio was used for basketball games until the gymnasium was built in the early 30s. A

Student Council voted to change the school symbol from the Redland Rattler to the Redland Royal and the colors from orange and black to blue and gold to mark the transition to a separate junior high school.

Many old timers recall with nostalgia the school traditions which were also dropped at this time. After the 1926 hurricane destroyed the Redland Episcopal Church the celebration of the winding of the maypole on May 1 which had been a Redland District Festival since 1912 was taken over by the school and a Fall Festival at the school

Continued on Page 9

AGGIE HIGH REMEMBERED

by Thelma Peters

Another old building has bit the dust after sixty-three years as a Dade County public school. In recent years it was known as Edison Middle School and though, admittedly, its time had come, for many generations of pupils, teachers and patrons the demise came as a shock, rousing a swarm of memories and a look-back at history.

When it opened in 1915, a substantial poured-concrete fire-proof building designed by a well known local architect, George Pfeiffer, complete with modern lighting and plumbing, it was known as the Lemon City School for it had merely replaced a dilapidated building of the same name. The school had eight grades and a budding high school. One high school grade was added each year and in 1919 at the first commencement there was one graduate, Miss Una Henson (Mrs. John Phillips).

The new building was the third to house a Lemon City school. The first building was a rough unpainted shell, one room, where the pupils sat on benches and a piece of black roofing paper served as blackboard. When the railroad was built the tracks passed so close to the school as to rattle the windows. In 1888 the teacher was a Coconut Grove lad, eighteen-year-old Harlan Trapp. He was succeeded in 1889 by Miss Alice Brickell, later Miami's post mistress. In 1890 the school got a real pro, Miss Ada Merritt, who came from Kentucky. Miss Merritt was there during most of the 1890's and set the school on the road to excellence.

In 1897 a larger and better frame building was built at about today's N.E. 59th Street and a bit farther east of the railroad track. Now there were four rooms, two upstairs and two down with a porch on each level. The students cleared the rocks and palmettoes to make a ball diamond, hung their lunch buckets by strings from trees to foil the ants, pumped their drinking water from a pitcher pump in the yard and used the sanitary facilities out back which were

Thelma Peters, former president of the Florida Historical Society, was on the faculty of Miami Edison High School for 27 years.

designated "Girls" and "Boys". An old timer has recently confessed that he and two other boys burned down one of the outhouses to see what would happen and has conveniently forgotten what

in the pine woods along a sliver of road called Avenue G which did not go any place. But the school had an adamant trustee, Dr. John G DuPuis, who had moved to Lemon City in 1898 and had



The Lemon City School in 1915 which was recently bulldozed (above). Lemon City's first commencement had one graduate. Below is the Aggie High gymnasium which was built in 1924 and completely destroyed in the hurricane of 1926.



did. The same boys put the principal's cow on the second story porch as a Halloween trick, back when tricks were more common than treats.

Fortunately the third Lemon City School was under construction, for in 1915 the second one collapsed in a storm. The Lemon City community however did not take kindly to the location of the new school. Most of the people lived near the bay and they complained at a location so far out west

been a teacher before he became a medical doctor. DuPuis insisted that the only way to get a large tract was to move west and that the school would act as a magnet and pull the town toward it which indeed is what happened.

Dr. DuPuis wanted a large tract for he knew a high school would need it and he had been promoting a high school for years. He wanted the high school to be vocational with emphasis on agriculture. He himself was running the

White Belt dairy and a fruit grove on the side as he practiced medicine.

In 1917 he saw his dream come true and the Dade County Agricultural High School was created. Charles Deering, who had a large estate near Buena Vista let the school use twenty vacant acres of his land at the northwest corner of his estate for experimental farming. Today a large housing complex, Sabal Palm Apartments, covers the old experimental farm.

Eventually the School Board purchased a large tract of land as a school farm on N.W. 95th Street and agricultural pupils were bussed back and forth. Today Miami Central High School occupies a part of that land but a portion of it along N.W. 103rd Street is still a school farm. In the Aggie High days many students made money from their farm projects, selling eggs, milk and vegetables. The principal of Aggie High, 1922-23, J.N. McArthur, was so impressed by what the dairy class accomplished that he resigned his job, bought six cows and founded today's McArthur Dairy.

The new school when it opened in 1915 had only five classrooms but some unfinished space in the basement and attic for future expansion. It also had a good auditorium with a stage, orchestra pit, sloping floor and balcony like a real theater which proved instantly popular. School plays, concerts and community events were held there. One of the early speakers was William Jennings Bryan, the famed silver-tongued orator who thrice ran for the presidency and lost, and who had become a resident of Miami.

Nor were sports neglected. A great Thanksgiving Day football classic developed from the early annual meetings between Aggie High and Miami High. The Aggies were also quick to take up basketball, especially when the principal, Jesse G. Fisher, and the coach, Carl Wagner, came from Indiana, a state which pioneered the game. To help promote basketball a gym was built in 1924 between the school and N.E. 62nd Street, a building that is all but forgotten today for it was destroyed in the 1926 hurricane.

Though large wings were added to the building, the pupil population increased so fast during the boom of the Twenties that a new high school was



The glamorous new Miami Edison High School at N.W. 62nd Street is visible from I-95. Classes in the windowless, air-conditioned school began in September, 1978. (Photo courtesy of Miami Edison Senior High School.)

built across the street (the east side of N.W. Second Avenue.) Soon a large gymnasium, auditorium and cafeteria were added. Now came a shift in school philosophy. Agriculture declined and there was more demand for college preparatory courses. With a change of policy came a change of name. On October 21, 1931, the day of Thomas A. Edison's funeral, the school became Miami Edison High School. The yearbook now changed from **Seigga** (Aggies backward) to **Beacon**, the newspaper from **Aggie Herald** to **Miami**

Edison Herald, and the sports teams from Aggies to Cardinals to Red Raiders. A girls precision drill team, the Edison Cadettes, in West Point uniforms, added luster to the school at all local parades and games.

Today Miami Edison High School has a fine new building near I-95 and N.W. 62nd Street. Edison Elementary has its own building nearby and the Edison Middle School is now spaciouly housed in the recently vacated high school building. Edison's traditions and pride continue.

In The Collection

by Linda K. Williams

Many interesting items have been donated to the Historical Association of Southern Florida during the past few months. The City of Miami trolley car which Mr. Mank mentioned in a previous issue is now sitting behind our museum. The next step is to plan for its restoration. Two models of trolley cars have been donated by Dr. George Rahilly.

Before the Dallas Park Hotel was leveled in January, the museum received two sets of flatware and the wall plaque from the hotel. Jim Connolly, Project Director of Convention Center, City of Miami, secured these items for us.

Jean Taylor and Alice Pitman-Willey have continued to support the museum

with donations of clothing, furniture, toys and souvenirs. Mrs. Elden L. Howe gave us a candle mold which is now being shown to children touring the gallery. Mrs. Florence Harper brought in two cameras which have been taking pictures of South Florida for decades. Other recent donations include a cross-cut saw by Bob Stribling, a Lemon City library sign by Walter Kinney, World War II ration stamps by Charles Brookfield and cookbooks, a Bible and a dress by Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Bussey. Gloria Millar has given her bottle collection to the museum, along with volunteer help in determining their historic value. The Historical Association of Southern Florida sincerely thanks all of these people for their generous donations.

PERRINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

by Jean C. Taylor



Over 700 invited guests came to the reunion held at Perrine Elementary School (left) before the building was vacated and students and faculty moved to the new building (right) in December, 1978. The old two-story school on U.S. 1 and 189th Street will be demolished and the land sold. Many of the students at the reunion attended the one-room school (cover) that was built in 1909 and was the first Perrine School.

"Before the walls come tumbling down," said the P.T.A., "let's give a party." "Wonderful idea," said the faculty. And so they did—a "Thanks For The Memories" reunion that drew over seven hundred invited guests including 350 former students, twenty five of whom attended Perrine Elementary before 1929. Gloria Gray, principal and Ann Lockhard, librarian, were joined by Paula Cowan and Sharon Gwynn of the P.T.A. on the reunion committee that attended to the thousand and one details necessary for such a successful party.

The oldest student present was Carl Gulbrandson, age 81, whose children and grandchildren brought him down from Hialeah. Carl started his school career at Cutler, in 1905, and transferred to the Perrine school after Cutler closed in 1908. The youngest student was five-year-old Stephanie Martin who currently attends the Perrine kindergarten.

Frank Alma Peters Cartee and Cornelia Cuthbert Deas who were first grade classmates reminisced about the Gypsy camp near the school and how frightened Frank Alma was in passing it.

J. Norton Peters, who married the girl across the street, Gladys Douthit, came from Zephyrhills, Florida, to renew old acquaintances while Thelma Elholm Downey arrived from Micanopy, Dennis F. Dasher from Hollywood and Julia Peters Maxwell from Tampa. Laura Conrad Patton,

James and Bascomb Thagard, Fred Flipse and Elizabeth Flipse Cridlin were other early students in attendance.

Mary Kay Harris Williams from Rockdale who was both student and teacher at Perrine and Hazel Forsythe Collins, whose mother was postmaster at Aventina, chatted with Pete Douthit whose father farmed with Tom Peters. Other members of pioneer families were Catherine Inez Bigles, John Wesley Tyre, Lamar A. Perry and Edgar M. Green Jr. William Wagner Carmichael did not attend Perrine, but his mother was the first P.T.A. president in 1926. Mrs. E. L. Knight, P.T.A. president in 1933 arrived in a wheel chair and enjoyed herself so much she thanked the committee for one of the happiest days of her life.

Each decade of students was assigned to a different room so that old friends could more easily find one another. Refreshments were served to all in the cafeteria. John M. Fredericks of Homestead, manned a sign-in booth for pioneer families in the area while several other booths took registrations from all comers. Other early pupils to register were Randall and Evadene Payne Penny, Jessie Moore Huntley, LaBelle Moore Phillips, Alma Rogers Whitehouse, Kermit T. Gibbs and Lula Hayes Dowling. Margaret Zachry Haizlip and Ethel C. Pell sent their children to Perrine although they did

not themselves attend. Another visitor was W. H. Hayes, son of Braden Hayes who was principal in 1920.

Edna Critchley Chapman decided to come to the party although she had never attended Perrine Elementary as she lived in Perrine in 1906 and 1908. Board of Education minutes state that the Perrine school was opened in 1905 with seven pupils. If that is so it lasted only that year as Edna Critchley and her brother Austin walked to school in Cutler three miles away with Gladys Sullivan, whose father George J. Sullivan was Superintendent of Dade County Schools at the time, because there was no school in Perrine for them to attend. In 1907, these three were joined by the Booth children who had moved to Perrine. In 1908, the Critchley family moved to Cutler to the old Fuzzard home and the children attended school in Cutler that year also. Carl Gulbrandson was in the same class as Edna.

The Cutler school was opened December 1, 1897, on the Rockdale-Cutler Road. The names Addison School and Perrine School were considered but Cutler was the name finally chosen. Only two families lived in the area which is now Perrine—the Sullivan family with daughter Gladys and the John Mann family with children Levia and Robert. All walked to Cutler to school. When Flagler extended his railroad south, supplies were brought in by boat through Cutler until the tracks were laid as far as the

present Perrine. A supply depot for railroad construction was established there and a town started to grow around it. Brown and Moody moved a small building and stock for a store there in 1903 and in 1905 a post office was opened.

The Perrine school was opened in a one room frame building on what is now U.S. 1 between Guava and Hibiscus Streets around 1909. Mrs. Margaret Cabot was the principal and teacher. Her husband, Cornelius (Neal) Cabot was the station master and her sister was Dr. Mary Freeman. Perhaps through Dr. Freeman's influence, Mrs. Cabot was very conscious of germs. Frank Alma Peters remembers her as keeping herself and the school immaculate and lecturing the students on the necessity of washing their hands often. Each student had a collapsible aluminum drinking cup which was filled at the outside pump and no community cup was available. (Oddly enough Edna Critchley said that her mother insisted that she carry such a cup to the Cutler school, but since she was the only child owning one she never used it because she didn't want to be teased for being different.) Mrs. Cabot was a strict disciplinarian and often stood the younger children in the corner with their backs to the room as a punishment. While others were reciting, the older boys' main delight was catching a horse fly and tying a thread around its body so it would buzz in a distracting way while trying to get free. All grades studied in one room with classes including reading, writing, geography, oral and written arithmetic, English grammar and United States history.

In 1914 when Albert Isaacs was principal, a second room was added to the school and an extra teacher, Floyd Bolton, was hired to teach the twenty six students in grades one through seven. A library with 150 volumes was established. Mr. M. C. Padgett was principal in 1915, the enrollment increased to forty five students and Miss Gertrude Williams was the teacher. June 13, 1916, School Board minutes show that a \$10,000 bond issue for the Perrine school was sold to the First National Bank of Miami. In October, 1916, a petition of fourteen patrons was granted requesting that the permanent school be located at the corner of

Holcomb and Perrine Aves. Block B. The concrete building was completed with two classrooms downstairs and an auditorium upstairs, two bathrooms and two cloak rooms. The flag was raised and lowered through a hatch in room eleven.

In the mid-twenties the auditorium became two large class rooms and two new class rooms and a principal's office were added. Classes went from one through ten with algebra, general history, Latin and rhetoric being added for the two upper grades. In 1926 the first P.T.A. was organized with Mrs. J. B. Carmichael as president. The P.T.A.'s first project was landscaping the west playground with flowers and trees. On February 4th, the new junior high and auditorium were dedicated. By the 1950s, the school population had increased to 214 students and the grade levels reduced to one through six. A cafeteria manager was hired and, assisted by P.T.A. volunteers, made sandwiches to serve to the pupils until the new kitchen was finished and a tile floor laid in the cafetorium.

The school grounds were fenced in 1957-58 and the next year a new wing containing four classrooms, administrative offices, clinic, teacher's lounge and library were added. A large ficus tree contributed by the Dr. Perrine Garden Club was planted in the east patio and playground equipment renovated. A total of 426 children were enrolled with about one quarter being non-English speaking. An orientation program with three teachers was established to help them adjust.

During the 60s, the part of the school grounds facing US 1 was given over to several district buildings and the school entrance changed to 189th street. In the past decade the school has become crowded and the buildings inadequate although the school was paired with R. R. Morton Elementary and reduced to kindergarten through four and portables added. The old building's door and entrances do not meet state criteria and roof leaks are a continual problem. The location on US 1 is a traffic hazard for the children. All in all the old Perrine school has become expensive and difficult to operate. In December 1978, Gloria Gray transferred her current 400 plus students to a new multi-million dollar,

60,020 sq. ft. Perrine Elementary School with a student capacity of 920 located at Richmond Rd. and 189th St. The old school will be demolished and the property put up for sale.

THE REDLAND FARMLIFE SCHOOL

Continued from Page 5

combined a carnival with a beautiful coronation ceremony and extravagant musical entertainment program for the Queen and her Court at the end of the evening.

Almost the only recognizable structure left at Redland Junior High is the facade and shell of the main building. What buildings were not torn down have been expanded and incorporated into a luxurious labyrinth. The old gym is there but with extra storage and locker rooms until it joins the other classrooms and it no longer sits alone on the playing field. The cafetorium was torn down and a new cafeteria with a huge gourmet-style stainless steel kitchen is completed. A new auditorium is in the works and the band room has been remodeled and a piano lab and chorus room added. The old Teacherage - home economics building was demolished and a new building houses the cooking and sewing classes with the latest modern equipment. Another new structure contains the mechanical lab, the manufacturing shop, electronics lab and agricultural lab. There are six new social studies rooms, a big double art room and several foreign language rooms. The library will be remodeled and expanded.

All the buildings facing Coconut Drive will be two story as is the old facade, while the ones to the rear are one story. When completed, the complex will house fourteen hundred pupils—almost double the present attendance. Boundaries will be adjusted to provide for the increase. The luxury and spaciousness of the new rooms and their equipment is almost unbelievable to those who taught or studied in the old 1927 building. The 1916 elementary school has not as yet been remodeled but it has a high priority number for replacement.

THE LAST COMPLETE STYLE - Art Deco by Alexander Feinberg

Several months ago, my family and I went to Miami Beach. While my father was in a business meeting, the rest of the family walked around the neighborhood. I noticed a lot of buildings which looked totally different from the architecture I had seen in Miami before. There were buildings with richly ornamented facades, unusual lines, curves, circles, waves, and patterns, many in geometric shapes, with particularly interesting designs and motifs on doors and windows. My father later explained to me that these buildings were in the style of "Art Deco". Ever since, I have wanted to know more about this style of art.

The more I studied about "Art Deco", the more I've grown to like it, but have also realized that the survival of this unique area is threatened. I also found out that many concerned lay and professional people, and one group in particular, the M.D.P.L. (Miami Design Preservation League) are working very hard toward preserving this era's heritage. I, for one, do hope they will be successful.

"Art Deco" which has sometimes been known as "The Last Complete Style" was preceded by Art Nouveau. Art Nouveau was a false attempt to copy Renaissance and Gothic Art because in Art Nouveau men used machines to do the work of carving and painting that was originally done with care by hand. This form of art took place from 1880 to the 1st World War. After the 1st World War, there were great changes that altered the lifestyle of the Western World, some of them were brought about when inventions such as the airplane, bright electric lights, telephone, automobile, movies, and trains became a part of the common man's life. There was a new sense of freedom in the young people involved in "Art Deco". The "Deco" style helped produce a more lively form of art than the gloomy expressions of art in the Victorian World.

The new style of art was defined, to a large extent, by the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts held in 1925 in Paris. The name of this important exhibition

Alexander Feinberg, age 12, is a student at Cutler Ridge Junior High School. His essay was the first place winner in the Junior High division.

was well chosen as there was a lot of industrial design there and it was considered quite modern at that time. In Chicago, there was another large exhibition, called "Century of Progress". It ran from 1933 to 1934 and had a lot to say about the style of U.S. consumption. This was the time of the "Great Depression", but while the depression in the rest of the country was getting worse, in Miami Beach, Florida, "Art Deco" was blooming.

Thinking about the 20s and early 30s, Scott Fitzgerald had written "It was an age of miracles, it was an age of art, it was an age of excess. . ." This applied very well to Miami Beach of the later 30s, which through some miracles had recovered from the heavy blows of hurricanes, like the one in 1926, real estate busts, and stock market crashes.

In the month of February, in the year 1930, Florida saw 52,000 people a day coming in to Miami Beach to take care of and support the over 180 hotels in the Greater Miami area. The population on Miami Beach soared from only 6,500 people in 1930, to an amazing high of 28,000 people in the year 1940. Hotels in the Deco style seemed to be popping up by the hundreds. So many hotels were built from 1935 to 1941, it was amazing. Twenty-three hotels in 1937, fifteen hotels in 1938, twenty-six hotels in 1939, forty-two hotels in 1940, and fifteen hotels in 1941. All of the construction on Miami Beach added up to an amount of \$75,000,000 of crazy spending activity during the "Great Depression". Many of these hotels still remain on the Beach, in a condition and location which make their preservation highly desirable, logical, possible, and economically advantageous. The preservation of the area would be of major cultural and economic importance for South Florida. While there are some monuments of greater importance than other, the entire community is what counts. Miami Beach is the only "Deco District" left in America, and if it is not preserved, it will be the end of "Deco". Preservation of the Deco district is a major priority and the foremost goal of the recently formed "M.D.P.L." (Miami Design Preservation League). Someone once

said, "Architecture properly understood is civilization itself". Therefore,

SAVE DECO NOW

Two years ago, spurred on by the Bicentennial interest in the past, a new historic discovery was made. It came as a great surprise to the inhabitants of the area and the thousands of tourists who visit it yearly. It was "Old Miami Beach", the area between 6th and 21st streets, filled with row after row of Art Deco hotels and residences.

Since then, a score of articles have appeared in national publications and in the local press. Although architects are coming here to take their own photographs, and designers and preservation leaders have heard about "the find" with great enthusiasm and interest, many Miami residents and city officials are still unaware that this city contains the largest number of Art Deco structures in one place and of homogenous design in the country and probably in the world, a fact of great significance to the growing number of people who consider themselves "Art Deco Buffs."

It can be easily understood that many people are unaware of the movement to save the Art Deco district on Old Miami Beach from demolition for "redevelopment" or "urban renewal". It has been only the last few years that this nation has become enraptured with its recent past and with nostalgia for the 30s in particular.

The term "Art Deco" describing the fashions of the 30s, the art, architecture, music, apparel, and furniture was never used as widely as it is today in its "revival". It is almost a new word in the language and many find the adjustment of thinking of the buildings on Miami Beach, which was usually scorned as a place of the "vulgar and the tacky", as beautiful, quite difficult.

Actually, the Art Deco buildings are the focus of citizens' groups in many places besides Miami. In Houston, tens of thousands of interior designers attended seminars on restoration and on Art Deco in particular at their National Convention, and the **Houston Chronicle** carried news of a victory to save the Art Deco style, City Hall. In Omaha, Nebraska, and Providence,

Rhode Island, old hotels and railroad stations are saved. In New York, an Art Deco antique fair is held each year at Radio City, with thousands of people attending. Earlier this year, there was a threat that Radio City Music Hall, an Art Deco "shrine", would be closed and torn down, but an enormous public outcry prevented this.

MIAMI IS DECO

Miami's particular claim to fame is the number of Art Deco buildings to be seen throughout the city, as well as in the intensively "decoed" Beach. In most cities, Art Deco styles remain mainly in public buildings, such as post offices, city halls, and schools. In Miami, the style seems to be almost everywhere you go or look, once the eye is trained to recognize it. At 17th Street and Coral Way, there is a particular gas station of special interest, which has a mission style barrel tile roof with Deco swirling pillars and scalloped trim design. Quite different in style, quite severe and international, is the Van Orsdel funeral home on North East 2nd Avenue. The Sears building and the Castro showrooms on opposite sides of Biscayne Boulevard have many admirers, too. They are of the neo-classic Deco style. Throughout the exclusive areas of Coral Gables and Miami Beach, homes have Deco lines, flat roofs, curving wings and towers. Deco ornamental wrought iron, coral rock (which looks like marble), and a love for large windows throughout the houses are characteristics of the Deco style. Interest is also focused on the old Miami-Edison High School Auditorium in North Miami. It was built in the 20s and needs much modern equipment, which many consider to costly to justify compared to the cost of new construction. However, the wealth of this building in cast iron, decorative tiles, and stylized floral decorations in the Art Deco style is being recognized.

THE PROMISE OF OLD MIAMI BEACH

While Art Deco may be found almost everywhere in Miami and Miami Beach, the great hope now lies in the neighborhood of the older hotels and residences on Old Miami Beach. Many people are trying to make it an official historic preservation district. They want to stop any further inroads in the way of

demolishing and building new structures.

For people who like modern art, Art Deco is perfect. Just as the Colonial period student can visit samples of this period by visiting Williamsburg in Virginia, or Nantucket in Massachusetts, the student of the late 20s and 30s can find in Old Miami Beach what preservationists call a "Sense of Place". Not just one building but street after street, Ocean Drive, Collins, Jefferson, Euclid, Meridian Avenues, even Lincoln Mall, recapture the atmosphere of the sophisticated, happy resort of four decades ago.

THE THREAT

This is the world that the Miami

Design Preservation League wants to save and bring back, with special attention to the oceanfront promenades and Riviera-like beaches of the past. But, not only is it a world seriously in decay, with one hotel after another boarded up for summer and dark for half the year, or, even worse, closing doors forever, but it is gravely threatened world. New gas stations, banks, graceless undistinguished apartment houses, are continuously put up in place of the older buildings. Storefronts all have careless signs that hide or obliterate Art Deco molding. Many dedicated people feel that there is little time to reverse the trend. Therefore, while it is still possible,

SAVE MIAMI BEACH ART DECO



As the Blue Angels soared overhead, community leaders, invited guests, interested spectators and representatives from the Armed Forces gathered for the dedication of the Richmond Naval Air Station Historic Marker on Friday afternoon, November 17, 1978 at 3:00 p.m. The marker was the 46th placed by the Historical Association of Southern Florida and the first sponsored by the Association of Naval Aviation. Richmond Naval Air Station was established as a Lighter-Than-Air facility on September 15, 1942. Blimps from this station engaged in submarine patrol over the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and nearby Atlantic Ocean. The three hangars at Richmond, each 16.5 stories high and over 1,000 feet in length, were among the largest wooden structures in the world. On September 15, 1945 a severe hurricane and fire destroyed the hangars along with 368 military and civilian aircraft and 25 blimps placed inside. Richmond Naval Air Station was deactivated soon afterwards. R. Layton Mank, President of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, opened the marker dedication program with words of welcome and introductions of special guests. Donald C. Gaby, Chairman of the Historical Association's Marker Committee, spoke on the selection of Richmond Naval Air Station as a historic marker. Guest speakers were Rear Admiral Carl J. Seiberlich, Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel and Nelson G. Grills. Admiral Seiberlich pointed out the role airships (or blimps) can play today for transporting heavy objects short distances. Mr. Grills was blimp pilot at Richmond during World War II and conveyed some of his experiences. Captain Jack E. Davis, Executive Secretary of the Association of Naval Aviation, presented the marker to Mrs. Clara Osterle, Dade County Commissioner, who graciously accepted it on behalf of the community. Mrs. Osterle, Admiral Seiberlich and Captain Davis closed the marker dedication by unveiling the Richmond Naval Air Station Historic Marker. Presently all that remains at the site are four small brick buildings, four rows of concrete foundation that stand about 20 feet high and nearly a quarter of a mile long on each side, half of one hangar door over 100 feet tall and an Administration Building, which is used today. Pictured with the newly dedicated marker are (left to right) R. Layton Mank, Nelson G. Grills, Rear Admiral Carl J. Seiberlich and Donald C. Gaby.



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A REQUEST FROM THE UPDATE BOARD

The publications program of the Historical Association of Southern Florida is an important factor in filling its purpose to conserve, interpret, and make known the continuing historical heritage of this area. The role of the bimonthly *UPDATE* differs from that of the older, more scholarly annual *TEQUESTA* in that it is less formal, more flexible, and more readily responsive to community needs and interests. Its pages invite wider, more varied public participation.

During the past five years, its format has varied little from the current 12-page, generously illustrated one, but its contents show great variety from issue to issue; sometimes a single theme, such as aviation or newspapers, has been stressed; upon occasion, it has contributed to the significance of a local celebration, such as the Diamond Jubilee of Miami Senior High School

(April, 1978 issue); at times it reports on special events or projects of the Historical Museum; and other issues simply make use of articles of unrelated, but individually important, historical interest.

UPDATE'S value can only be measured by its success in attracting the widest possible cooperation and contributions from members of every segment of our society. We want and need from all of you articles about oldtimers and past events; original photographs; stories about old communities whose names have almost been lost from the map (Buena Vista, Allapattah, Riverside, Franjo, for example); origins of place names throughout South Florida; titles of books that should be reviewed (or reviews of those books) or out of print items to be considered for our reprinting program; suggestions for

articles that should be written or for which you can supply the materials to our editorial staff; proposed new features of historical interest that might be included.

South Florida—always subtropical and Caribbean, so lately one of our nation's last frontiers and so recently become one of its most exciting cosmopolitan communities—has had a unique and colorful history. Help us preserve that record for all of our own children and grandchildren, as well as for the welcome newcomers to our area, even as we move together into the new and exciting days that will draw their meaning, direction, and vitality from these historical roots.

Write to the Historical Museum or call me at 759-5831.

Ione Stuessy Wright
Chairman, Publications Committee