
Summer: See It Like a Native
Cigar Rolling – a craft fading into history

Counting Noses

Volunteers Bolster Museum's Staff

The Historical Association of Southern Florida

UPDATE

Volume 7, Number 3

August 1980



The Tequestans: The More, The Merrier!



In this issue you'll find an article spotlighting the work of volunteers in one particular area of support for the Association: Museum Services. They are part of the much larger volunteer organization, the Tequestans, who serve the Association in so many ways that it is impossible in any one article to devote the in-depth attention they deserve.

Initiated in 1975, the Tequestans was formed to provide for volunteers a sense of fellowship and belonging; but more importantly, to enable them to exchange ideas about the Association and its needs, and to give the Association the benefit of their suggestions.

The Tequestan structure has grown to provide a variety of activities offering something of interest for just about anyone.

In addition to the kinds of Museum Services outlined in this issue's article, there are positions on the Hospitality Committee, putting the warmth and charm in such museum functions as open houses. Volunteers working on the annual fund-raising Benefit are "producers" for an elegant party at such colorful and historic locations as The Kampong, La Santa Maria, and the Miami Beach Golf Club.

Those with a journalistic inclina-

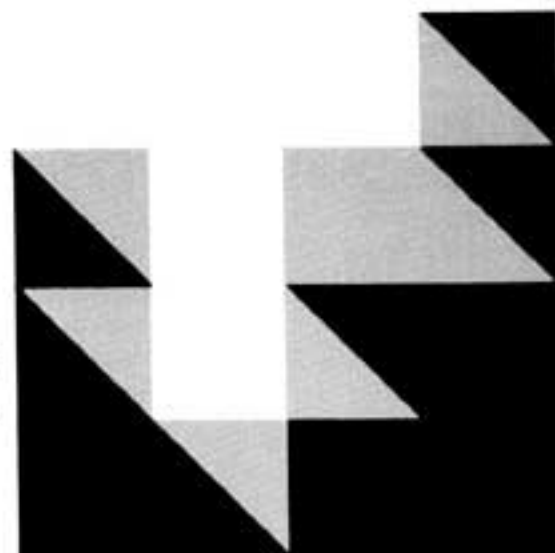
**Docent Orientation begins
Sept. 22! For details, call
854-3289.**

tion enjoy producing the Tequestans' Newsletter and Yearbook, while others find their calling on the Membership Committee, welcoming and working with new volunteers.

Certainly not the least of these is the Harvest Committee, whose collective efforts in a wide variety of areas result in the Association's biggest, brightest event each year.



The old "all work and no play" adage holds true for the Tequestans, who balance their service hours with social get-togethers over coffee and cake.



The Tequestans' logo reflects the traditional triangular motif common in Seminole patchwork.

Along with the satisfaction of making a tremendous contribution to the Association, Tequestans enjoy "fringe benefits" in their work. At least four general meetings are scheduled each year, and held at such historic locations as the Barnacle and the Cape Florida Lighthouse. There's fun, friendship, and an "insider's view" into the workings of the museum and

the story of South Florida history.

Membership applications are accepted throughout the year, and inquiries are always welcomed. The Tequestans plan their next general meeting for September at the fascinating Coral Gables House — and as the saying goes, the more, the merrier! For more information on your role in this vital organization, call Volunteer Coordinator Lucie Cogswell at the Historical Museum, 854-3289.



Tequestans meetings take place at such historic locations as the Barnacle.



The Historical Association of Southern Florida

UPDATE

Published quarterly by
**The Historical Association of
 Southern Florida**
 3280 S. Miami Avenue
 Miami, Florida 33129

Marie Anderson,
 EDITOR

Mrs. James S. Wooten,
 PUBLICATIONS CHAIRMAN

Amanda Ridings,
 MANAGING EDITOR

Laura Stearns,
 ASSISTANT

Jack Kassewitz
Arva Moore Parks

Thelma Peters
William Primus

Frank Soler
 ADVISERS

Update is the magazine of popular history published quarterly by the Historical Association of Southern Florida. Designed to appeal to a broad audience, it presents articles, illustrations, and photographs which help to capture the known and the little known aspects of South Florida's past in a lively, informative and attractive manner.

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

Categories of membership in the Association include individual, family, donor, sponsor, fellow, corporate. For information regarding membership fees and benefits, contact the Association at the address above.

The contents of Update are copyrighted © 1980 by the Historical Association of Southern Florida. All rights are reserved. Reprint of materials is encouraged; however, written permission from the Association is required. Inquiries, contributions and other communications are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, **Update**, Historical Association of Southern Florida, 3280 S. Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33129.

The Historical Association disclaims responsibility for errors in factual material or statements of opinion expressed by contributors.

Photo Credits: p 4 (1898 bathers), Historical Association of Southern Florida (HASF), donated by Miami Pioneers; p 5 (pavilion at Smith's Casino), J. Mason; p 6 (bathing beauties), J. Mason; all others HASF

Contents

Summer: See It Like a Native 3

In the 20th Century's teens and 20s from South Beach to Baker's Haulover there were picnics, swimming and dancing; in town from the Punch Bowl to Arch Creek there were baseball games and concerts and Saturday shopping.

Cigar Rolling... a craft fading into history 7

Methods used today on Flagler Street differ very little from those used in the 19th Century.

Counting Noses 10

1840 census-taker recorded 43 heads of households; 1900 census names have just been released in 1980.

Volunteers Bolster Museum's Staff 13

More than 200 persons donate time and talent to keep the museum operations chugging along day by day.

Departments

Letters _____ 2

Around the Museum _____ 2

Out of the Trunk _____ 15

The Final Word _____ 16

On the Covers: Some local residents earned a little money posing for pictures like this to lure tourists during the season. Summer activities for most provided less hype and more enjoyment. See Jackie Mason's story page 3.

LETTERS

The 1940 Miami Directory lists Howard Johnson at 1631 Flagler Street. The 1939 directory lists Faunce's ice cream plant at that address. Henry J. Perner, who worked for Howard Johnson in New York, came to Miami in 1939 when the company expanded and took over this retail shop. He was in charge of all manufacturing for 14 states and then became plant manager. "We weren't in the motel business then. We began with ice cream, then added franks and pies and finally Sunday dinners," Perner said.



HOWARD JOHNSON

I believe that this building was the first Howard Johnson ice cream store which was opened in Miami.

My company was at that time managing the Sterling Apartments at 25 NW 16th Avenue, right around the corner. The time must have been around 1935.

The building was later remodeled into a warehouse or delivery facility and stopped serving the public retail there.

Thank you for the old pictures which you publish. It is great fun trying to identify them, especially since I have lived here 53 years.

Robert S. Kistler
1620 S. Bayshore Court

That picture was taken about 1937-38. My husband Henry retired in 1974 from the Howard Johnson ice cream plant at that location after 35 years manufacturing their ice cream. Prior to the H.J. takeover there, Faunce's ice cream plant was there.

As a native Miamian I'd love to see more of those 33,000 pictures.

Mary Frances (Phillips) Perner
(Mrs. Henry J.)
831 East 27 Street
Hialeah

Ice cream was made in the rear of the restaurant building. More interesting to us, as children, was the bottle capping machinery of Puritan Dairy on N.W. 17th Avenue just north of the Hassell-DuPree building at the Flagler Street intersection. Both places were stops on evening walks through the neighborhood in the mid-40s.

Janis Drybread Grove
11651 W. Biscayne Canal Rd.

...was on West Flagler St. - maybe near 17th Ave.?

Mary Warren Leary
Chapel Hill, NC

...was located on the north side of West Flagler Street, a block or so east of 17th Avenue. Somewhere in the back of my mind I recall that it became a Puritan Ice Cream Parlor and

a storage place for Howard Johnson products.

Kathryn M. Rodgers
4315 SW 13 Street

"Out of the Trunk" is no mystery to me! The Howard Johnson's pictured in last month's **Update** was on Flagler Street and about 15th Avenue NW. Across the street was a pet shop specializing in birds, I believe. The photo must date back to the late '30s or early '40s, because I recall that it later became a Puritan ice-cream store, where a teenager like me could get more (in quantity) for her money.

During long and hot summer vacations, my sister and I would **walk** (!) from our home at SW 9th Street and 8th Avenue to the public library for the latest Nancy Drew and Wizard of Oz

books, stopping at the H. Johnson's pictured if we could afford it. The nearest library at that time was located a block or two south of the Orange Bowl.

Thanks for publishing these old photos - they bring back a lot of good memories!

Lisa Koenitzer Grinter
(Miami High, class of '46)

CAR BUFFS

Only because you will accept an "educated guess" do I dare tackle this one, but having lived in Miami since 1918 (and, no, I wasn't born here) I've noted a lot of things, mostly automotive.

Barely seen in the left margin is a
▶ Continues on page 16

AROUND THE MUSEUM

If you missed the gala groundbreaking for the future Dade County Cultural Complex on May 9, there is no way to recreate for you the joyful bluegrass music, Cindy Snodgrass' splashy, flashy, colorful wind sculpture, Architect Phil Johnson's delightful commentary with its blending of humor-and-pride, or that contagious mood of happy anticipation that rippled through the crowd of 500 as the actual moment of groundbreaking drew near. Of course you may be sure that highlight of the preliminaries for the occasion was the address by our own President, Joe Fitzgerald! Under skies that threatened (but never delivered) buckets of rain, everyone did what was expected: the crowd crowded around, the officials officiated, their green shovels shoveled, and the Cultural Complex got off to a pleasing and long-awaited start that will culminate in a grand opening anticipated in 1982. For the many friends and members of the Association who had worked so long to bring

the future museum from the drawing board to West Flagler Street, it was, to say the least, a milestone - and one worthy of a jubilant celebration which members and guests enjoyed later that day at the existing Historical Museum.

After months of planning, research at such facilities as the Association's Tebeau Library, and just-plain-hard-work, the Junior League of Miami has produced its sequel to the popular film, "Ours is a Tropic Land." Their new product continues the story of South Florida's development, resuming at the point of the 1926 hurricane and bringing the viewer up to the present. Our sources indicate that the title will be, "Miami: The Magic City."

The League's Communications Committee and its Chairman, Arva Moore Parks, capped off their major project with an equally major coup: they persuaded former Miamian

▶ Continues on page 14

SUMMER: SEE IT LIKE A NATIVE

BY JAQUELIN MASON



From the time the Royal Palm Hotel opened Jan. 15, 1897 Miami's were always conscious of the "winter season" even if they were not part of it. Summer was their season. School was out; the children were home. So were the tourists; at least, they weren't in Miami.

Those fortunate enough to have boats took to them and usually took a boatful of friends. The Cape Florida lighthouse, built in 1825, was a favorite spot in South Biscayne Bay. Smoke-blackened bricks in its interior remained evidence of the fire built by the Indians when they attacked the lighthouse in 1836 during the Second Seminole War. I was always glad that lighthouse keeper John Thompson was still alive when a Navy boat came to help but sorry that black helper Henry had succumbed to his wounds.

In North Bay, the Biscayne House of Refuge, built 50 years after the Cape Florida lighthouse in the area of present Surfside, provided picnic facilities on its veranda facing the beach. To the north was Baker's Haulover where fishing boats were hauled over the narrow strip of land before the cut was made between the bay and the ocean. The Biscayne House of Refuge fell victim to the 1926 hurricane. By then the Coast Guard had taken over the services of the U.S. Life Saving Service and the refuge was no longer needed.

If you did not have a boat, you still could get to the beach after the ferry boats started running in 1904 with four round trips a day from the ferry slip alongside the Fair Building that jutted into Biscayne Bay south of Twelfth Street to the west side of South Beach. You could board in the morning and return in the afternoon for a charge of 10 cents.

Disembarking at South Beach you were faced with the walk across



1898 picnic says it all. Photographer was P.J. Coates and the setting is said to be the Biscayne House of Refuge, but architectural details don't jibe. More information is welcome.

the peninsula to Ocean Beach. Dick Smith had built a casino with dressing facilities, a pool, an open air second-story dance floor and picnic huts. We girls wore long cotton dresses of gingham or voile in all shades. We either wore a big shade hat or carried an umbrella and when we changed

into our bathing suits, they were long, too. They were made of black or blue cotton with a collar and sleeves trimmed in white braid. Black stockings and slippers completed the costume.

The more venturesome tackled the jetties that line the entrance to the channel leading to mainland Miami.

The huge granite blocks extended some 300 feet into the water.

I still have vivid memories of the stickiness of the sand and salt water, the sweatiness of all those clothes in the broiling sun and the biteyness of the sand flies and mosquitoes. Yet who would have missed a Sunday School picnic in midsummer?

When Collins Bridge was completed in 1913 (where the Venetian Causeway is located) the beach was accessible to automobiles and buses. The Young Women's Christian Association, organized in 1919, offered weekends for a small amount of money. They included a bus ride on the Collins Bridge to the Breakers Hotel on the ocean at Miami Beach. I remember the pillow slips that were blown up and used as water wings for beginning swimmers but the memory that stands out was the all-too-narrow wooden bridge to be crossed. Nerves were suddenly part of my being. In 1920 when street cars began crossing the County Causeway (McArthur Causeway) the trip was still scary but convenient for going to either South or North Beach for swimming.

North Beach had Hardie's, Fisher's (later renamed the Roman Pools) and the Deauville casinos. The weekly watersports attracted par-



Again it is 1898 and the information is scantier than the bathing suits. Edith Mercier is third adult from right.

LEAVING FOR...



The ferry boats started running in 1904 with four round trips daily.



This dock and boardwalk led fun-seekers to Smith's Casino.



ticipants and spectators to the Roman Pools and if you could swim the qualifying number of laps you could become a member of the Shark Club. The Deauville casino had an Olympic-size pool and a young French Canadian teenager practiced his diving there to the delight of many spectators. His name was Pete DesJardins and his diving skill earned him two gold medals at the Olympic games in the 1920s.

Summer wasn't all swimming and picnics, however. There were visits to the Devil's Punch Bowl (in present Wainwright Park), Coconut Grove to the south, Natural Bridge at Arch Creek to the north and Musa Isle up the Miami River. A favorite spot just west of the Miami River where it turns north was a grassy knoll that was leveled to build Ada Merritt Junior High School and a baseball field.

Baseball games were part of our

► Continues on page 6

In this 1908 scene picnickers relax in their open air carriage, as Charles Mozier steers his boat under the natural bridge at Arch Creek.

NATURAL BRIDGE

This view of the sandy stretch along Smith's Casino was taken in 1914 by Claude Matlack.



SMITH'S CASINO



Dick Smith's casino featured dressing facilities, a pool, an open air second-story dance floor and picnic huts.



John V. Duggan, standing, and his wife Sadie, seated right, parents of Jackie Duggan Mason, entertain friends from Denver, their former home, at Smith's Casino



Ladies' long swim suits were made of black or blue cotton with collar and sleeves trimmed in white.

summer activities as were the concerts in Royal Palm Park and the dances at the casinos on the beach and at the Fair Building, clothed in its FEC yellow paint, and Elser's Pier facing Flagler Street.

July was a big month since the whole town celebrated two events with parades. One was the country's birth on July 4 and the other was the city's birth on July 28. Cars were decorated with tropical flowers, crepe paper and ferns. The festivities also always included a baseball game and a concert in Royal Palm Park.

Other than these two dates, Saturday was everybody's day in town. Shopping caused a real traffic jam on Avenue D and Twelfth Street (Miami Avenue and Flagler Street). Among the department stores: Burdine's, Burdine and Quarterman's, and E.B. Douglas'; the drug stores: Red Cross and Ericson; the grocery stores: Brady's, Gardner's, Quigg's and Miami; Seybold Bakery and Ullendorf's meat market you could see everybody in town. For one day you had a real sense of belonging, visiting on the sidewalks and in the stores. Even the Seminoles were on the streets with the women wearing their multicolored long skirts, wide-collared blouses and strings of beads.

In contrast, Sunday was church day for the faithful and the opposite of busy.

Summertime was also vacation time and camp time, which meant fewer people in town. The YMCA had a camp in the mountains of Mentone,

PUNCH BOWL



The Devil's Punch Bowl, a natural spring, remained a popular summertime retreat for decades.

AL with a two-month program. Some parents who saw their sons off on the train in mid-June didn't recognize them at the FEC station in mid-August. They had grown as much as a foot in height.

Vacation-bound families frequently went back to former home-

towns for visits but those who didn't went to the mountains of North Carolina, becoming "summer tourists" to the Tarheel locals.

The "season" has disappeared from tourism and with it has gone the "off-season" when the locals enjoyed their surroundings and themselves. ●

ROMAN POOL



Swimmers who could qualify became members of the Roman Pools' Shark Club.

Jackie Duggan (Mason), left, and Florence Brownell (Thomas) at Fisher's Casino, later renamed Roman Pools.



Tabacos Maribel

MIAMI



Cigar Rolling

... a craft fading into history.

BY EUGENE F. PROVENZO, JR. and CONCEPCION N. GARCIA

Immigrant groups have always brought with them occupations and crafts that were an important part of the cultures that they have left. In doing so, they have enriched American culture with the skills and traditions associated with their crafts.

In our own era, the introduction of a new craft by immigrants continues and can be seen in the revival of the cigar industry that has taken place in Southern Florida since the arrival of the Cuban exiles in Miami beginning in the early 1960s.

The tradition of cigar making in Southern Florida goes back to the late nineteenth century when Cuban political exiles set up cigar factories in places such as Key West, Ybor City and Tampa.

The manufacture of cigars in Miami, however, is a relatively recent phenomenon. Using tools and equipment manufactured in Southern Florida, exile and immigrant craftsmen now living in Miami continue the tradition and craft of making

hand-rolled cigars in much the same way they did in their former lives in Cuba.

The methods used today in making hand-rolled cigars differ very little from the nineteenth century. Essentially the same methods and tools are used as those employed a century ago. These basic methods and procedures used in making a hand-rolled cigar can be seen in a place like the Maribel Cigar Factory in Miami.

The factory, located in an old storefront on Flagler Street in the center of Little Havana, is open from six in the morning until five at night six days a week. The 15 or 16 men and women who are usually found working at the factory emanate an unusual intensity. Although friendly and easy-going with visitors and with their fellow workers, these artisans work almost continuously — rarely stopping for a break or even for lunch.

The intensity with which they work is understandable since the workers' salaries are not based on an

hourly wage, but on the number of individual cigars they make.

Normally working in pairs, the cigar rollers aim for a maximum of about 800 cigars per day. A bad day or a slow team might see only half that number produced. At 10 cents a cigar, the salaries are moderately good for a skilled team. Men and women are equally dexterous and many of the teams of workers are made up of husbands and wives.

There are four procedures involved in the production of a hand-made cigar:

1. selecting and preparing the leaf;
2. rolling and molding the leaf in order to make the inside of the cigar;
3. wrapping the cigar;
4. packaging it.

Each procedure normally requires the work of a different individual, although in some instances all of the procedures except the final packing will be done by a single worker.

► Continues on page 8



Mariel cigar factory on Flagler Street has a baker's dozen employees who may be among the last to hand-roll cigars.

At the Maribel Factory, the selection and preparation of the leaf is done mainly by Roberto Vizcaino. The title for Roberto's job is "despalillador," which literally means "the one who pulls out the middle vein of the leaf." Originally trained as a cigar roller in the town of Vinales in the Cuban province of Pinar del Rio, Roberto is responsible for the tobacco when it comes into the factory.

The tobacco arrives in two different forms. The first is shredded and packed in large bales and is used for the filler in the cigar. The second comes in bundles of tobacco leaves, which traditionally include 38 leaves. It is these leaves that are used to finish and wrap the outside of the cigar.

Grading the tobacco and preparing it to be used in the cigars is the most important part of Roberto's job. Both the bales and the bundles of tobacco are separated according to the color and texture of the tobacco. Not all of the tobacco can be used to make cigars. By sight and feel Roberto eliminates the tobacco which will not burn that is known as "tabaco jorro." This tobacco cannot be used and must be discarded. Leaves that lack natural oil and moisture have a stiff plastic quality and do not burn well. With quality cigars, these leaves are normally thrown away. Besides judging the quality of the tobacco that

comes in the bundles and bales, Roberto keeps the tobacco moist so that it is pliable and can be easily molded into cigars.



Each leaf is divided in half along the middle vein. This procedure is known as



stripping the vein or "despalilla" and includes the removal of the central stem or vein from the leaf. The leaf is then stacked in a pile according to whether it was from the left or the right-hand side of the leaf. Right-hand leaves are only used to wrap and finish cigars that have been made

with right-hand leaves; the same with left-hand leaves.

2

Roberto Vizcaino is responsible for keeping the workers supplied with a continu-



ous flow of materials. Besides preparing the shredded tobacco and leaf, Roberto also prepares a special glue made from the sap of a tree called "tragacanto" which is used to stick together the very top of the cigar. Pedro Magan, taking leaves from Roberto, and his wife Edelmira, who

work as a team, have spent their entire lives making cigars. Pedro takes either the "tripa" or "gut" leaves, or "picadura" or "shredded" leaves, and rolls them with a piece of canvas.

3 With a single quick motion of his wrist and hand Pedro draws the piece of canvas



back and rolls the inside of the cigar.

4 Once the inside is rolled the cigar is placed inside a wooden mold called a "tabla



de molde." Each mold holds 10 cigars. The tools Pedro uses are the same as when he was a young man. These include a "tabla de rolar" or "rolling table," a "maquina de cortar" or "cutting machine" and a "chaveta" or knife. When Pedro was 14 he sat beside a master cigarmaker, Eduardo Teyes, with a rolling board on his lap and imitated Teyes as he worked.

5 When a mold is full it is placed in a press, which forces the cigars together



and makes them the same shape and size. The cigars then must sit in the mold for at least 20 minutes. When they are removed Edelmira finishes working on them. A pile of leaves is stacked in front of Edelmira's workbench. Each of the leaves has been divided down the middle by Roberto. Looking at the cigars in the molds Edelmira determines which are right-hand side leaves and which left-hand. She takes a same-side leaf from her pile to wrap a cigar from the mold. This leaf is known as the "capa" or the cape (below).



6 When the cigar has been wrapped in its leaf, it must be finished. This is done by



carefully shaping the "perilla" or the "head" of the cigar by twisting the

cigar's tip to form a "rabito" or "little tail." Often the cigars are left this way. However, they can be further finished by taking the "chaveta" and cutting off the tail and rounding the end of the cigar (below).

Pedro and Edelmira care very much about their work. Pedro sees cigar rolling as a special occupation. As he explains: "To be a cigar roller is an art... It is not inborn... The requirements to be a good roller are gusto, vista and nervios fuertes." In other words, gusto, good sight and strong nerves. Edelmira feels that it is her gusto that keeps her making fine cigars.

7 The finished cigars are stacked and held together with bright red strings. One

of the teams of workers is made up of Orestes Lorenzo and Maria Tomasa Balido. Orestes and Maria's families both used to work in small factories in Cuba. Typically employing four or five people, mostly from the same family, these factories were known as "chincales," which literally means "a place so small that only fleas could live there."

8 In the front of the factory the cigars are packed and sent out for sale. A small re-



tail shop is included in the front office. Nearly all of the cigarmakers at the Maribel Factory are older people. Most are planning to retire soon and none plans to train someone to replace him or her. The handmade cigar will become increasingly rare in years to come. Before this important Cuban tradition and craft completely dies out it should be recognized as an important transitional occupation for some of the more recently arrived immigrants to the United States and as a craft tradition that has enriched American culture. ●

Early Census-Takers Covered a Wide Area



Counting Noses

BY SAM BOLDRICK AND MARIE ANDERSON

When R.R. Fletcher set out in 1840 as an enumerator of people living in Dade County, the U.S. Marshals had been charged with collecting the following information:

Name of head of family; address; number of free white males and females in 5-year age groups to 20, 10-year age groups from 20 to 100, and 100 years old and over; number of slaves and free colored persons in six broad age groups; number of deaf and dumb; number of blind; number of insane and idiotic in public or private charge; number of persons in each family employed in each of seven classes of occupations; number of schools and number of scholars; number of white persons over 20 who could not read and write; number of pensioners for revolutionary or military service.

What Fletcher collected was a list of 43 heads of households and the number of males and females in the prescribed age groups. None lived in the present Dade County area. Dade had been created four years earlier, its boundaries reaching from the west end of Bahia Honda Key to Lake Okeechobee and the Hillsborough River. Indian Key was the county seat, and in 1840 most of the residents of Dade County had fled to the keys to escape attack of Indians resisting western migration.

Henry Perrine is listed in the male, 40-50 age group. Chekika, chief

of the "Spanish Indians," killed Perrine and six others in his massacre on Indian Key in 1840, destroying the community. Subsequently, in 1844, the county seat was moved to Miami.

Among the keys residents listed in the 1840 census was Temple Pent, with a household of six males and five females ranging from under 5 to 60. Pent had come from the Bahamas and lived on Biscayne Bay until the Seminole uprisings, when he fled with his family to Key Vaca.

In 1850 Temple Pent, 58, is listed as a mariner, as are Pents David H., 23; Anthony I., 19; and Edward C., 17. Mary Pent, 50, Alonzo, 15 and John, 13, make up the rest of the Pent household, one of 22 in the 1850 census, which enumerated 96 people. It also listed the garrison of the U.S. Army stationed at the Miami River, numbering 51. A 32-year-old major from Vermont headed the garrison, assisted by two lieutenants from New Jersey and New Hampshire and a Delaware surgeon. Of the 47 soldiers, 25 were Irish, five German, two Scottish and one English. There were seven New Yorkers, two Pennsylvanians, and one each from North Carolina, Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont.

By 1860 the Pents on Key Vaca comprised five households with 18 people. Excluding the John Skelton family of seven and Ernest (Edmund?) Beasley, Key Vaca was popu-

lated by Pents. The census also lists two households in The Settlement of Indian City (Key?), three at Matecumbe Key and 10 at Fort Dallas, a total of 73 people. Unlike the 54 residents of the keys, who, except for New Yorker Beasley, were all born in Florida or the Bahamas, the 19 Fort Dallas residents had only two Floridians, George Lewis and Thomas Addison, who was a mulatto. Except for four from other states, the Bay area people had been born in Europe: Prussia, Norway, Denmark, England, France, Hanover, Baden, Ireland, Isle of Jersey and Darmstadt.

William S. Allen, assistant marshal, took the 1870 census July 30, listing his address as P.O. Biscayne, which was the name W.H. Gleason and W.H. Hunt used when they moved the Miami post office to Hunt's home in what is now Miami Shores. It was four years before the post office reverted to Miami. Gleason and Hunt, both New Yorkers, are two of the 21 listed as head of household. Others had come from Georgia, South Carolina, Mississippi, some with teenage children who had been born elsewhere in Florida. Edward C. Pent had moved from Key Vaca to Miami. William Wagner, whose birthplace was listed as Baden in 1860, is now listed as a New Yorker. He had been joined by Evaline Wagner, 55, William, 20, and Elizabeth, 17, all from South Carolina.

The 1880 census, which still included Palm Beach and Broward counties in Dade County, was taken June 1 by Adam C. Richards. Richards had married William and Evaline Wagner's daughter Elizabeth during the decennial and they had a son John, 3, and daughter Sarah, 1. Richards, from Ohio, was a starch maker and Elizabeth is listed as "keeping house." Edward Pent, boat builder, was still around. Edward, who was probably one of two Temple Pent children between five and 10 listed in 1840, is listed as 14 in 1850, 30 in

1860, 35 in 1870 and 44 in 1880. Though the decennials are erratic, they average out about right. Poor Evaline Wagner, however, leaped from 55 in 1870 to 73 in 1880, with her son-in-law as enumerator.

Since the 1890 census taken in Florida is one of the 11 state censuses totally lost in the 1921 fire, there is no documentation available until the 1900 census, which has just been released.

Counts were taken in Lake Worth (243 households), Jupiter (47), St. Lucie (27), Fort Lauderdale (the mi-

crofilm showed only 27 households), Coconut Grove (272), Miami (828) and Lemon City (192).

W.A.H. Hobbs was the enumerator and among his listings is 1880's enumerator Adam Richards and wife Elizabeth, who now have five sons and two daughters, and Elizabeth's father, William Wagner, in the household.

Kirk and Mary Munroe are among Coconut Grove names, as are Charles and Isabella Peacock, whose household includes son Robert, daughter-in-law Lillian and granddaughter Eunice. Edward Pent, age 32, wife Anita, 28, daughter Alethia, 3, and son Paul 1, are there, but Edward Pent who was 44 in 1880 doesn't appear. Katie B. Sturup, 5, is listed as the daughter of Ebenezer and Charlott Sturup.

In the Miami precinct are Henry Tuttle, 30 and wife Corrie, 23, but Julia Tuttle is missing; she had died in 1898. Everest Sewell, 25, has his mother Mary, 56, in his household; brother John, 30, wife Jessie, 25, and daughter Jacqueline, 1, have their own household. John Reilly, his wife Mary and their children Joseph and Eleanor are living with Mary's parents, Joseph and Elizabeth McDonald, he from Canada, she from Scotland.

In Lemon City are the Merritts, Peter 56, Zachary 46 and Ada 42, from Kentucky. Fred and Mary Matthaus, from Germany, have four sons and three daughters. John DePuis is a 24-year-old physician, born in Florida.

Enumerator Hobbs had some difficulties in his listings as there are many crossouts in the figures. The Romfh family is listed as Rumph and the Stirrups as Sturup. Hobbs's handwriting is legible, however, and seeing it brings the whole process alive 80 years later. ●

The Census and How It Grew

B.C. – Romans, Chinese and Hebrews counted people for conscription or tax purposes.

1086 – William the Conqueror counted the landed gentry and the size and type of their holdings as final authority for property litigation. Called the **Domesday Book**.

1449 – Nuremberg took first complete count of man, woman, child to help estimate amount of food needed in a siege.

1624 – Virginia took the first of 38 censuses carried out within the colonies, most by request of the British Board of Trade.

1665 – French Canada started a census.

1749 – Swedish census started.

1760 – Norway began taking a census.

1770 – Italian states census started.

1790 – United States takes first decennial census required by the Constitution. Four million people counted. Census conducted in 16 states but no material received from DE, GA, KY, NJ, TN. Ninety-five percent people on farms. Count took 18 months with one clerk processing about 30 items per minute.

1825 – Territorial census in Florida taken. Incomplete, unreliable. Gave South Florida 317 inhabitants.

1830 – First Federal census. West Florida: 9,478; Middle Florida: 15,779; East Florida 8,956; South Florida: 517.

1845 – Florida population: 70,000 (state census).

1850 – Florida population: 87,445.

1860 – Florida population: 140,424.

1870 – Florida population: 187,748. U.S.: 40 million, 25% in 663 towns and cities over 2,500, less than 50% on farms.

1880 – Florida population: 269,493. U.S. marshals could not handle census. Congress created a civilian office. Swamped by record number of census questions, it published 21,203 pages of reports through 1888, then stopped even though there was more data to be tabulated and published.

1890 – More than 99% of census destroyed by fire in 1921. Connecticut is only state available except fragments in 10 states and some schedules for Union veterans and widows. Florida one of 11 states with no information available. First census using Herman Hollerith's punch card system of electrical-mechanical tabulations, estimated to have saved \$5 million and 2 years in processing time.

1900 – Latest census available. Officially, names cannot be released for 72 years; in reality the release time is even longer.

1902 – Congress established Bureau of the Census which conducts decennial and interim censuses and surveys.

1929 – Congress set up standards of confidentiality although U.S. marshals had since 1840 treated census information as "confidentially imparted."

1940 – Prototype of modern census. New Deal programs demanded information on employment, hours worked, wages, age and sex distribution of population, employment experience, etc.

1950 – Data gathered and kept until April 1951 when UNIVAC I, an electronic digital computing system, was installed. For the next 14 months it worked 24 hours a day, 7 days a week tabulating data, and continued to work until it was retired in 1963 and sent to Smithsonian Institution.

1981 – January 1 the first 1980 population report must be ready for the President for Congressional apportionment. Three months later governors will receive counts for counties, cities and other political subdivisions. The data processing system will tabulate 45 million characters a minute on 3 billion answers about 222 million individuals and 80 million households.

The downtown Miami-Dade Public Library has the only complete set of the U.S. Census south of Atlanta. The 1790 census is available in printed form. The censuses from 1800 to 1900 are available on microfilm.

Florida produced state censuses in 1885, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935, and 1945. These censuses are also available on microfilm at the Miami-Dade Public Library. They are statistical, providing information on population, age, sex, and employment but they do not list individual names.

Any questions? Call the Miami-Dade Public Library, 579-5001, and ask for the Genealogy Room.

No Experience
Necessary

Volunteers Bolster Museum's Staff

BY SUZANNE CURRY JONES



Martha Oswald not only sells wares in the gift shop, she sees that it is staffed during the week.

It was a normal day in the museum of the Historical Association of Southern Florida (HASF). The library tables were covered with reference books, stacks of photographs and a pile of scrapbooks as Dan Markus, Octavio Perez and Rosemary Hubbell Wirkus worked under the watchful eye of Librarian Becky Smith.

Rosemary shattered the silence. "Wow, that's the signature of Rose O'Neill, the originator of the Kewpie Doll." Young Dan, Octavio and Becky blinked; they had never heard of Rose O'Neill. But Rosemary, going through a scrapbook in a recently donated collection of Darthea McKibben Ayars, remembered that when she was a child Rose O'Neill had visited the Hubbell family in Miami. A bond of similar first names was formed by Rose and Rosemary.

Upstairs, Doris Useden was cataloging items of the late Dr. and Mrs. Julian Corrington, donated by survivors who now live out of state. Dr. Corrington was a professor of zoology at the University of Miami;

the items covered a period in Miami from the '20s to the '50s. Doris held up Mrs. Corrington's wedding dress from the '20s. What was the name of this girl before she became Mrs. Corrington? The answer would have to be researched.

"This (collection) room is the most restful place in the world but at the same time it (cataloging) really stimulates my mind. I'm receiving a most valuable education," Doris said to Linda Williams, collections curator who presides over the chairs, sewing machines, what-have-yous and plastic bags containing bones from the latest archeological dig on the south side of the Miami River.

Downstairs in the back workshop Saul and Lois Eig were working on models of the exhibit being planned for the new museum in the downtown cultural center, which had recently celebrated its groundbreaking. Shop Foreman Jason Rose was supervising this three-dimensional translation of the designs created by Bob Burke, the museum's

curator of exhibits. Jason was updating a part of the present gallery exhibit.

The gallery itself was a beehive of activity as Docent Laurine Atherton, a retired teacher who came to Miami when she herself was in the fourth grade, took a group of school children through the pictorial display of Miami's history.

Rosemary Wirkus, Doris Useden, Saul and Lois Eig and Laurine Atherton are volunteers, five of more than 200 volunteers who donate their time and talents on a regular basis. On an average there are a minimum of 30 volunteers a week working in the museum. The Tequestans is the organization within HASF which represents the volunteers.

Library researchers sort through and catalog photographic and book collections, sort new acquisitions, keep newspaper and magazine files current. Boxes of photographs need to be identified.

Collections Curator Linda Williams needs someone to photograph



Doris Useden finds cataloging artifacts stimulating while the collection room itself is restful.



Laurine Atherton, a retired teacher, finds herself right at home with grade-schoolers she takes through the museum as a docent.

artifacts. No cataloging has been done since August 1979. The 1979 inventory is still not completed nor the 1980 started.

Job orders pile up on Jason Rose's desk. He needs someone with expertise in repairing steam engines and clocks. Jason needs people who are willing to work independently and have the ability to do it. They also need some knowledge of hand and power tools.

Wit Ostrenko, education director, needs volunteers to form a speakers bureau to provide the community with information about HASF. He also needs help with writing background material for educational trips. He needs people to set up new programs like the recently developed Outreach Program. Kitty Brooker, Sherrill Kellner and Donna Baase, all docents, have prepared a program of slides and artifacts that describes the homesteading era in South Florida. This program is used during Cultural Arts days in elementary schools.

► Continues on page 14



An "insider's view" of such historic places as the Barnacle is one of many fringe benefits for Tequestans.



Rosemary Wirkus likes precise instructions for her library job and setting her own pace.

More docents are needed. Volunteer Lucy Petry directs a six-session training period for prospective docents that in itself is a learning resource. Marge Haring, native Miamian and recent trainee, commented after finishing it, "Even if I never take a group of children through the museum, the training has been a great educational experience for me."

"Thursday with Thelma" has become a popular way to learn South Florida history. Author, former teacher and former director of the museum Dr. Thelma Peters conducts the six two-hour sessions during which unusual pieces of history's jigsaw sometimes fall into place. One session provoked a recollection of Lamar Louise Curry about Charles A. Lindbergh, who in 1919 lived with the Curry family while working in Miami as a grease monkey. The 17-year-old Charles was concerned about his receding hairline and followed the advice of fellow workers to put axle grease on his hair to keep it from falling out. The axle grease on the pillow slips and towels finally got to be too burdensome for Mrs. Curry and she asked Charles to leave.

The HASF staff is young; the median age is 30-35. Older volunteers can frequently supply information about earlier periods that may not have been recorded in available source material.

Work done by these volunteers is the kind of day-by-day work needed to make the museum operate smoothly and grow. It is staff work that needs doing now before the Association has developed its funding ability to afford the staff. The volunteers now serving at the museum are contributing \$22,500 a year in volunteer time, computed at the lowest hourly rate the Association now pays: \$3.75 per hour. Assuming the average volunteer position is filled four hours a week for 50 weeks during the year, the time given has saved \$750 annually per volunteer in staff salary. Multiply that by 30, the average number of volunteers per week — a \$22,500 annual contribution!

Lucie Cogswell, volunteer coordinator, is the person to see if you have the time, the talent and the inclination. "Volunteers are one of the major strengths of this institution," Lucie says. ●

Around the Museum
▶ Continued from page 2

Joseph Cotten to narrate the film. Now the League hopes Joseph will "cotton" to the idea of attending the film's debut on Sept. 26 at 8:30 p.m. at the official opening of the Gusman Cultural Center in downtown Miami. Among Junior Leaguers to be congratulated on their achievement are Association members LuAnne Schwarz, Dana Cookston, and Sarah Woods.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll read about the vital contribution to museum operations made by our volunteers. But there's a new kind of support benefitting the museum, which recently has been made available through the federal Senior Aides Program.

The program enables older citizens to supplement their incomes by working in federally-funded part-time positions in such areas as community service. Presently two positions at the museum have been staffed through the Senior Aides Program: a Curatorial Assistant, Aurelia Tanner, now aids Curator of Collections Linda Williams with such ongoing tasks as accessioning, or processing, artifacts into the collection; and a Library Assistant, Delia Lazo, supports Librarian Becky Smith with such clerical responsibilities as processing photograph orders and filing. Aurelia and Delia are welcome additions to the staff, and their performance, though only part-time, makes a marked difference in production for their respective departments.

In their daily work at the museum, the staff is constantly reminded that today's events are tomorrow's history; and as interested as the staff is in them, sometimes those events work against them.

Such was the case for education director Wit Ostrenko's sell-out trip to Ft. Jefferson, which had to be cancelled due to the Coast Guard's embargo of outgoing vessels during the height of the Cuban exodus. Although the trip will be rescheduled, it was a great disappointment to Wit and company. (Human nature being what it is, we can't help feeling that years from now, when the world views the historic implications of South Florida's largest Cuban immigration, Wit and friends will still associate that event with "the time they didn't get their trip to Ft. Jefferson." But Wit, being the philosophical sort that he is, might console himself by observing, "That's history biz.") ●

If you enjoy a good mystery, "Out of the Trunk" is for you! The Historical Association has good mysteries – thousands of them – in the form of fascinating photographs about which we just don't have very much information. **Update** publishes one photo each issue, providing what information we can, and challenges our readers to tell us more.

Since "Out of the Trunk" debuted in 1979, we have published three "mystery" photos. Readers sent suggestions about the subject of the first photo, which lead us to believe the scene depicts either the Seaboard Airline Railroad on NW 7th Avenue, or a movie studio built before 1917; we have not yet verified either suggestion.

Our second photo, entitled "Frolic Girls Orange Dance," brought no response from our readers. But our scene of a Howard Johnson's location in the May issue resulted in several letters – which, appropriately, appear in our Letter column beginning on page 2.

This issue's picture is particularly difficult, because it features not places, but faces. These nine ladies obviously have gathered for an occasion – possibly a special one, judging from their lacy dresses. Could it be a class reunion? A family reunion? Or, using the jewelry as a clue, a religious occasion? Do the clothes, hairstyles, or other features suggest an era in which this photo may have been taken? Better still, can you identify any of the young women featured, or offer an educated guess as to the location of this scene?

Write to **Update** in care of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, 3280 S. Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33129. Your comments could help us solve our "picture puzzle," and will be most appreciated!

If this photo stumps you, take heart; the Association has a seemingly unending supply of photos we'd like to know more about, and your powers of deduction and recall will be tested again in subsequent issues of **Update!** ●

LETTERS POLICY

Letters relevant to previous issues as well as appropriate historical topics should be addressed to: Update Editor, Historical Association of Southern Florida, 3280 S. Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33129. Letters should be signed. Letters may be edited to meet space restrictions.

OUT OF THE TRUNK



AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Sam Boldrick, former Association trustee, is director of the Florida Room at the downtown branch of the Miami-Dade Public Library system.

Concepcion Garcia is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Elementary Education, School of Education and Allied Professions, University of Miami. The cigar factory article is based on research he completed with Gene Provenzo for a bilingual children's book on the cigar industry in Miami.

Suzanne Curry Jones, a contributor to **Update**, is co-chair of the Tequestans, the Association's volunteer organization.

Jaquelin Duggan Mason, long an Association member, is the fourth of five daughters born to Sadie and John Duggan, he an FEC engineer who came to Miami in 1904 when the overseas railway was being built. Jackie, born in St. Augustine, moved with the family to Miami in 1910 and cherishes those early-days memories.

Eugene F. Provenzo, Jr., Ph.D., former Association trustee, is an associate professor in the Department of Educational Psychology, School of Education and Allied Professions, University of Miami.

THE FINAL WORD

There are new names on **Update's** masthead. Five of those listed have agreed to serve separately and, four times a year, collectively as advisers to **Update's** staff. Different outlooks and different backgrounds should add perspective, the staff thought. After an initial meeting, we think they will.

Jack Kassewitz had worked at the **Macon Telegraph**, the **Atlanta Journal**, the **Washington Times-Herald** and the Washington bureau of the **Wall Street Journal** when he came to **The Miami News** in 1954. He was chief editorial writer for the **News** for fifteen years and is currently a **News** columnist. For 10 years he was a panelist on WLBW (now WPLG/10) and was on a WCKT/7 panel for five years. In 1971 he became a trustee of Miami-Dade Community College and has been chairman of the board since 1978. The South Campus computer center building was named for him in 1978. He is on the board of the American Jewish Committee and is chairman of the Florida regional board of the Anti-Defamation League. He received the league's Leonard L. Abess Human Relations Award in 1979.

Arva Moore Parks, born in Miami, received two degrees in history at UM and taught history in Miami. Then, as a volunteer project, she helped produce "Ours is a Tropic Land," a television program on early Miami up to 1926, and discovered an excitement in presenting history visually. She followed that with **The Forgotten Frontier**, a book based on Ralph Munroe's photographic collection, which reveals Miami life through the eyes of a man who enjoyed people and appreciated nature. She is completing an update on the television program, bringing Miami from the 1926 hurricane to the present, and is negotiating a pictorial book on Miami history for those who know little about it.

Thelma Peters, who grew up in Miami, is well known to readers of **Update** as the author of many delightful articles on Miami's history. She has a sizeable, though unorganized alumni association of students she has taught at Miami High and Miami-Dade North. The "Thursday with Thelma" series on HASF's activities calendar is really a Thelma Peters fan club; once you go, you're hooked. Her **Lemon City** book is in its second printing and she is working on another. If you don't know Thelma... no, that's too unlikely.

Bill Primus, born in Daytona, had

a history and political science B.S. from Florida A&M and a master's in international relations from Kent State when he began a doctoral program at UM, studying under Charlton Tebeau, who sparked his interest in Florida history. He received his Ph.D. from Nova in learning systems, studied demography at Stanford and U of Maryland, was an exchange professor in 1975 at the University of Jaiegellonski in Cracow, Poland and was at The Hague last year studying international law. Thelma Peters hired him to teach at Miami-Dade Community College in 1968 and he is the current recipient of the North Campus' Distinguished Service Professor Award.

Cuban-born Frank Soler has fond memories of Miami from yearly visits with his parents from the time he was four until 1959. He came alone in 1960 through Msgr. Bryan Walsh's program and lived in a foster home until his parents arrived from Cuba in 1961. That year he became a copy boy at **The Miami Herald** and began studying government and languages at night at UM. After a three-year stint at WCKT/7 as Latin American editor and reporter he returned to the Latin American desk of **The Herald** in 1968. He helped develop **EI Miami Herald** in 1975 and was its editor until 1979 when he joined Editorial America, a multi-national publishing corporation with 13 publications in Spanish circulated in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America and South America. He is an editorial advisor and directs two of the publications, **Geo Mundo** and **Hombre de Mundo**.

The other new name on the masthead is Laura Stearns, who came to Miami from West Cornwall, CT in 1979. With two undergraduate

degrees from the University of Rochester in American history and French literature, Laura joined the UM public affairs office. She also joined the Association and has joined the **Update** staff as a volunteer assistant. Miami is not new to Laura, since she visited her grandmother here once a year until she finished high school. Grandmother is Polly Davis Faulkner.

There are two names on the masthead that have been there for three issues:

Mrs. James S. Wooten, publications chairman, is a member of the Association's board of trustees; matters pertaining to any publication come under her scrutiny. Dodie (Eudora Lyle) Wooten, a native of Warsaw, VA, near G. Washington's birthplace, grew up in Miami but returned to Virginia as an Associated Press correspondent. Back in Miami in 1948 she was Jimmie's wife and Terry's mother full-time until 1964 when she received a real estate license. It has been Esslinger Wooten Maxwell, Inc., Realtors with variations ever since.

Amanda Stevens Ridings, **Update's** managing editor, says she was born in Pentagon City, otherwise known as Arlington, VA. She has undergraduate and graduate degrees in communications from West Virginia University and became a Floridian when her parents retired and moved to Daytona in 1971. For Valentines last year she and her husband Roger gave themselves a move to Miami. Roger is a Braniff pilot and Amanda, besides **Update**, manages the Association's public relations and corporate development programs.

Mari Anderson

Letters

► Continued from page 2

1930 Hudson. The two cars in the foreground are a 1937 Ford 2-passenger coupe and a 1937 Dodge panel truck. The latter has a body with sliding cab-doors that was probably specially made for HJ.

The best-known HJ was at 11th Street and the Boulevard, which location they still have, but unrecognizable from the '30s. This photo is not that location, however, because of the foliage on the left; 11th Street was never so pretty.

Robert B. Gegen
7730 SW 66 Street

The cars were 1937 Ford and 1938 Plymouth (truck). I lived on 16th Avenue and 3rd Street in 1924-25.

Mrs. William C. Hillbauer, Sr.

... and the Ford a 1935 model. HJ was on the north side of Flagler so the car and truck are headed west.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Stokes
1130 Alfonso, Coral Gables

The picture was obviously taken after 1937, because the Ford Coupe is a '37 model. Hope this is of some help.

I very much enjoy the new format of **Update**.

Thomas H. Barkdull, Jr.
7500 Old Cutler Road



In response to the tremendous interest generated by last year's Harvest Quilt Competition, the Historical Association is pleased to announce the first annual Tropical Florida Quilt Conference, a three-day event that will feature such nationally-recognized quilting authorities as Michael James, Jinny Beyer, and Beth and Jeffrey Gutcheon.

The first such conference to be held in the Southeast, the Tropical Florida Quilt Conference offers a wealth of seminars and workshops, including such topics as: color and fabric coordination, design illusions in patchwork, fabric as an expressive medium, precision piecing, teaching original design, and much more. A contemporary quilt exhibit will spotlight the work of the experts, and participants in the conference will be eligible to enter the 1980 Harvest Quilt Competition.

Open to everyone interested in quilts and quilting, including beginners, teachers, designers, professionals, hobbyists, and collectors.

November 13, 14, and 15, 1980

Holiday Inn, 1350 South Dixie Highway on U.S. 1 in Coral Gables across from the University of Miami. \$100 includes two full days of workshops and lectures, a slide presentation on Medallion Quilts by Jinny Beyer, two meals and a banquet with fashion show, and a quilt competition open to conference participants.

SPONSORED BY:

The Historical Association of Southern Florida

For literature and registration forms, contact the Education Department of The Historical Association of Southern Florida, 3280 S. Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33129 (305-854-3289). Registration is now in full swing, and number of participants is limited; so, act now!

Update

Historical Association
of Southern Florida
3280 S. Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33129

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Miami, Florida
Permit No. 608