
The Burdine Heritage
Presidential Preference: South Florida
Ransom Christmas, 1902
Why an Artifact Collection?

The Historical Association of Southern Florida

UPDATE

Volume 7, Number 4

November, 1980





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.

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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!

The Historical Association of Southern Florida

UPDATE

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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.

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For decades, the Burdine family name has remained a household word in South Florida. Tillman Jones explores a portion of the Burdine genealogy and the development of the prestigious stores of that name.

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Throughout the decades, many U.S. Presidents have found a special attraction for South Florida. Raymond Lang explores the reasons, from political gain to personal pleasure, that have brought Jackson, Harding, Truman, Nixon and many others to the Sunshine State.

Ransom Christmas – 1902 8

A charming letter written in 1903 by Paul Carlton Ransom provides a nostalgic view of an early Christmas on Biscayne Bay, complete with blazing Christmas pudding, an impromptu serenade, and a gloriously decorated Dade County pine.

Why an Artifact Collection? 10

So you think you're a collector? Curator Linda Williams' domain includes some 7,000 historic artifacts (not to mention thousands of archaeological items) relating to South Florida and the Caribbean.

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Photo Credits: p 3 (Roddey Burdine), p 4 courtesy Burdine family; pp 8-9 courtesy Ransom-Everglades School; all others Historical Association of Southern Florida.

On the Cover: Fate, in the form of the 1895 killer freeze, took farmer W.M. Burdine out of the groves and into merchandising. A view of the family and the development of the Burdines stores (an early location ca. 1908 is depicted here), begins on page 3.

LETTERS

VOLUNTEERS

In my possession is a watercolor painted by Veronica (Mrs. Julian) Corrington when she was a young lady student in Pratt Institute. The watercolor is signed Veronica E. Flicke. I offer this to assist you in your research of who she was before she and Julian were married.

We have known the Corringtons for a good number of years... the picture I have is one I admired for a long time, and I am glad to have it in my possession. If you desire further proof, I shall be glad to produce the picture for your inspection.

Dorothy (Mrs. A. Tillman) Jones

Our volunteer story was well received, but we were informed (kindly!) by several Tequestans that we had mis-captioned our photo of Sylvia Brown. Our only excuse for substituting Laurine Atherton's name is that these two volunteers are inseparable friends.

CIGAR ROLLING

A devoted cigar smoker for at least 20 years, I admit there was plenty to learn in your cigar rolling story. For instance, I never knew that my cigar is composed entirely of right-handed or left-handed leaves. Thank you for an interesting story on what I hope is not a vanishing craft.

Robert W. Summers
Kendale Lakes

OUT OF THE TRUNK

I can't offer a shred of information about your mystery photo, but I do have one question: how in the world did women of that era cinch their waists in like that, and still manage to breathe? If Women's Lib has done nothing more than restore us to normal proportions, I'm all for it!

Carlye Weber
c/o 8844 SW 197 Terrace

QUILT CONFERENCE

How great to learn that the Historical Association is sponsoring a quilt conference! This is quite a trend in other parts of the country, as quilting enjoys a renaissance of sorts. But to my knowledge, your conference is the first in Florida, perhaps in the Southeast, and I'm writing to say more power to you!

Desi Brown
Daytona Beach

As we go to press, the Tropical Florida Quilt Conference is just a few weeks away - Nov. 13-15. Registration is still open, and information is available through our Education Office at 854-3289, Ext. 23.

COUNTING NOSES

Jules Rumpf explained a very logical reason to us for the disparity in the spelling of his family name in the Florida census.

It wasn't an error on the part of the census takers, as you might assume. Our family simply changed it. Originally the Rumph family, our ancestors, first settled in the South Carolina area known as Orangeburg. Eventually one branch moved on to Arkansas, and I know they still spell the name Rumph, because I received a letter from one of them about five years ago. In the late 1800s

my grandfather moved from the Carolinas to Florida, and it was this branch that changed the spelling to Rumpf - simply because they liked it better.

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.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

SOUTH FLORIDA'S HERITAGE IS ALIVE AND WELL -
AND THRIVING AT THE HARVEST

South Florida is a rapidly growing region in which new residents greatly outnumber the "native-born." In such an atmosphere, where transition overshadows tradition, a sense of continuity, of heritage, is difficult to sustain.

Five years ago, the Historical Association of Southern Florida discovered a unique and highly entertaining medium for making the past live. It required the dedication of hundreds of volunteers and months of planning that culminate in an event unlike any other in all of South Florida.

The result is called the Harvest, an annual two-day celebration of South Florida's historic crafts, skills, and folk ways that emphasizes doing as much as seeing. Scheduled each year the weekend before Thanksgiving (this year, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 22-23 at Miami's Dade County Youth Fairgrounds), the Harvest has become an annual tradition attracting upwards of 15,000 enthusiastic visitors each year. And rightfully so, for the key to this vibrant event is a "something for everyone" philosophy that truly succeeds.

The Harvest features a wealth of authentic South Florida crafts - among them, spinning, net weaving, quilting, sail-making, palm frond weaving, ceramics and stoneware, and Seminole Indian arts - each demonstrated by skilled craftsmen throughout the Harvest weekend. The emphasis is on involvement; that's what makes tradition live at the Harvest.

Because the Historical Association believes in combining education with entertainment, there is special emphasis on fun-filled learning experiences for youngsters. A favorite is the free petting zoo, where children get acquainted with "furry friends"

from the farm, and discover the not-so-complex art of cow milking. Over 50 free games of skill and chance are based in such historic pastimes as penny pitching, nail-hammering, and sack racing - as much fun for the "Now Generation" as for children of centuries past. The popular History Bee encourages the interest of junior high school students in South Florida history, and provides a forum for recognition of their achievement.

As in the harvests of olden days, music and dance abound. Dulcimer and fiddle players, square dancers, cloggers and others give free performances throughout the weekend, and the audience frequently becomes a part of the show. From Latin to Gospel, from Blue Grass to Barbershop Harmony, the melodies and the magic linger all weekend long.

South Florida's traditional foods are as many and varied as the people of our region, and the Harvest is the place to sample a delicious selection, including pumpkin fry bread, conch fritters, black beans, pigeon peas, Cuban pastries, ribs and corn, and Greek delicacies.

The Farmer's Market features the freshest South Florida fruits and vegetables worthy of any bountiful harvest. And at the Country Kitchen, preserves, pickles, and baked goods vie for attention. For the browser, a variety of shops feature intricate hand-crafted holiday ornaments, historic books, souvenirs, and more.

Antique airplanes, homebuilts and experimentals form a convoy in the sky before landing at the Harvest for their two-day exhibition.

Although the Harvest happens each November, it captures the same American spirit as the Fourth of July, and reminds us that this country and

► Continues on page 12



The Burdine Heritage

BY A. TILLMAN JONES

In Miami and South Florida when you think of shopping you think of Burdines. Burdines has been a household term in Miami for more than 80 years. The first store was opened on South Miami Avenue before 1898 when John Marion Burdine swung open the doors on a store to sell needed items to the soldiers and sailors who were stationed here or passing through going to the limited action in the Spanish-American War.

To digress before starting the romantic story of a successful merchandising organization, let us talk about the Burdine family, a typically American story.

The first Burdine history has recorded was Richard Burdyne (Burdine), who was a member of the Hebron Lutheran Church in what is now Madison County, VA. It is in Spotsylvania County in 1733 that we first find Richard Burdyne.

Richard Burdyne died in 1761 where his will was proved in Culpeper County, VA. In that will, he named his wife, Catherine, and six children, four sons and two daughters: Reginal, Samuel, Hannah Shotwell, Barbara

Grissom, Nathaniel and John. Samuel Burdine, born in 1745, was a farmer and Methodist preacher and, like all Methodist preachers, travelled. He married Mary Fletcher in Spotsylvania County, VA, and his first son, John Fletcher Burdine was born in 1772 in Culpeper County. The family, along with Nathaniel and his wife, went to Amelia County, VA, then to

Wilkes County, NC and by 1790 we find them in Newberry County, SC.

By 1800 they were in the Pendleton District of South Carolina where they were preaching and farming. In 1818, we find John Fletcher Burdine in the new state of Alabama where he had bought property from the Indians on Gaines Trace, and that is where he settled. He died in 1845.

John Fletcher Burdine, Jr. was born in 1811 in South Carolina and married first Adeline McKinney about 1838. From this union there were three children, one of which was William Murrah Burdine, who was born in 1843 in Itawamba County, MS.

When William grew to manhood, the Civil War had started and he served four years in the Confederate Army and returned home to what is now Lee County, MS. He opened a drugstore in the new town of Tupelo and married Georgia Ann Davis. From that marriage there were three children: Edward L., John Marion, and Estelle, who married a Mr. Wheeler. William's first wife died and he married second Mary T. Freeman by whom he had four children: Robert Freeman, Roddey Bell, William Murrah, Jr., and Elizabeth, who was known as Bessie Burdine before she married Commander Cushing Read who was commanding officer of the Dinner Key Naval Station during World War I.

In reviewing the Mississippi records, the only thing that is said about William M. Burdine, Sr. is that the family went to Florida about 1890. They first settled in the Bartow area, where Mr. Burdine had a grove. He, like a great many other farmers, lost his grove in the 1895 freeze in North and Central Florida. Along with a number of other farmers, he came to the Miami area. When William came to Miami, he not only helped son John Marion Burdine run the first store on

► Continues on page 4



Had you stood on Miami Avenue, looking east along Flagler Street on a July afternoon in 1921, you would have shared this view. Shielded from the summer sun by an oversized umbrella, an officer directed chaotic-looking traffic from a questionable post in the center of a trolley track!

South Miami Avenue, but he expanded the lines. One of his first ventures was to put in a stock of brightly colored cloth that the Miccosukees and Seminoles bought for their clothing. These colors remain prominent today in the garb of the late 20th century Indians of South Florida.

From this small beginning the business grew. In the organization that developed was a Mrs. Quarterman who was the seamstress. Mrs. Quarterman had a daughter, Pauline, who married John Marion Burdine. The store continued to grow and property on Flagler Street was bought which backed up to the Miami Avenue property and made an L-shaped lot.

John Marion Burdine and Mrs. Quarterman left the parent store and opened a ladies' ready-to-wear store at the corner of NE 1st Avenue and Flagler Street.

Roddey Bell Burdine, born 1887 in Mississippi, was quite young when the family moved to Miami. Upon finishing school, he joined his father, William M., in the mercantile business and learned fast, for in 1911 his father died and he assumed the responsibility of running the store which continued to be most successful. The growth of Burdines Department Store under the leadership of Roddey Burdine was phenomenal, matching the magic of Miami. A story, published in *The Miami News*, indicates that the history of Burdines after control passed to Roddey following the death of his father is best told in figures showing growth, retrenchment and then continued expansion to a new peak.

The year after Roddey took the helm, the store was moved to a five story building on East Flagler Street that forms part of the present store. Then the structure was too large for the store and the three top floors were rented for office space.

In 1920 the store expanded to include property at SE First Street and Miami Avenue, with a two story structure. Two years later more stories were added. In 1925 with The Boom resounding, property in SE 1st Street just to the east of the store was taken over and a six story structure was erected. That year, Burdines business was the largest of any store in the Southeast and showed an increase of 204 percent over the previous year. Then followed retrenchments, but by 1929 the forward march had been resumed.

In the 1920s and 1930s Burdines was the store that northern manufacturers wanted to merchandise their newest spring and summer fashions. The response of sales in Miami was a



Completed in 1912, Roddey's five-story building housed the Burdine store on the ground floor and mezzanine level one flight up, and offices on the top three floors. Though the photo is dated 1914, the sign at left proclaims "Spring 1913." Amid the parasols and pillows, stockings and toiletries, some prices appear — including a selection of lace at 39c a yard.



In this scene, possibly taken before 1911, Roddey Burdine appears immediately behind the wooden Indian, with hat but without cigar. Although the store location is not recorded, the thermometer advertises Whaler's Jewelry Store and an emblem reads, "Cortez, Key West."



This scene of Flagler Street, looking west, is dated Sept. 10, 1914. In addition to the Burdine store, neighboring businesses included the Eugene B. Romfh Company ("Outfitters to Men") and the Biscayne Hotel.



By 1940, the scene had changed. Older businesses (E.G. Sewell Real Estate, the Hotel Roberts) shared the street with more current names (Baker's Shoes, Liggett Drug Store). Across the street at the State Theater, the featured attraction was "Destry Rides Again" starring Jimmy Stewart and Marlene Dietrich. Although trolley tracks were still evident, the Miami trolley system finished service in November of that year.

guide to what could be expected later in the season on a national basis.

Roddey Burdine's personnel policies were unsurpassed for an organization the size of Burdines. There were large numbers of people in Miami who devoted their entire working lives to Burdines Department Store. Burdine took a personal interest in all of the employees and a person did not have to work there long before Roddey knew him by name.

William Burdine, Jr. was also in the organization, however, he did not take as active an interest as did his

brother, Roddey. John M. Burdine and Mrs. Quarterman had opened a ladies' store further east on Flagler Street. Freeman Burdine was an attorney in Miami and was secretary and treasurer of the Burdine corporation. The writer has no information on Edward Burdine.

Quoting from *The Miami News* of Sunday, Feb. 16, 1936, "...Mr. [Roddey] Burdine's death at the age of 49 profoundly shocked the city. It was not generally known he was ill. Only the family and a few intimate friends knew his condition had become critical. The cause was diagnosed as brain

fever."

Business houses generally throughout greater Miami were closed during funeral hours out of respect to the "Merchant Prince" who had so large a part in the business of building his community.

Published in *The Miami News* of the same date were over 70 tributes paid to Roddey Burdine expressing sympathy to the family. These expressions were made by the leading citizens of Miami's business, social, and cultural world. This merchant was known as Miami's greatest civic leader of his time. ●



THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE FOR SOUTH FLORIDA

BY RAYMOND LANG



Hopefully, President-elect Harding enjoyed his golf game in Miami Beach more than this child enjoyed his cigar!

As South Floridians prepare to cast their ballots during this election month, it's interesting to note that many a President – and future President – has discovered his destiny under the Florida sun.

From deep-sea fishing and just plain relaxing to the more somber business of dodging an assassin's bullets and campaigning, South Florida has continued to play a highly pivotal role in the lives of our nation's Chiefs of State.

Warren G. Harding, as President-elect, was lured to Miami Beach before his March, 1921 inauguration by Carl Fisher. As 'father' of Miami

Beach, Fisher pulled off something of a coup.

Well before the scandalous Teapot Dome affair bubbled over, the fun-loving Harding was soaking up the delightful amenities of Fisher's \$1.5 million Flamingo Hotel. He even played a round of golf – with Fisher unveiling an elephant, the Republican symbol, to tote Harding's clubs.

Like Harding before him, Franklin D. Roosevelt was President-elect when he visited Miami. It almost cost him his life in what could easily have changed forever the fortunes of the free world.

In a bizarre twist of anger, a for-

lorn, demented Giuseppe Zangara, complaining of capitalists and mysterious stomach ailments, played out a dramatic scenario at the picturesque Bayfront Park Bandshell that would stun the world.

It was Feb. 15, 1933. Roosevelt was in town! Thousands packed Biscayne Boulevard and 15,000 more were sardined into the bandshell, among them Zangara.

Armed with a cheap, pawnshop revolver, he stood on a chair and fired five times at Roosevelt, ensconced only 30 feet away in an open touring car. Pandemonium erupted!

While Roosevelt escaped unharmed, Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak was fatally wounded, and would die March 6. Zangara, destined to become but a footnote in the history books, was electrocuted March 20 at Raiford Prison.

Roosevelt would return. While most Miamians still slept, the Presidential Pullman Ferdinand Magellan, a steel-plated, rolling fortress of a car, clanked to a halt on Jan. 11, 1943, at a siding on S. Dixie Highway at S.W. 27th Avenue.

A motorcade rode quietly south on 27th Avenue a dozen blocks to the bay and the Pan American Airways hangar. Roosevelt boarded a clipper ship and flew off to Casablanca for that famed conference with Churchill. Together, they plotted the final end of the Nazi regime, the terms of unconditional surrender and the embryonic details of what would be known as the Normandy invasion.

Just as silently as he had come, Roosevelt returned to Miami, boarded the Magellan at 6 p.m.,



Among "also-rans" who enjoyed South Florida's beaches was Al Smith (at left, with M.F. Kenny), defeated for the presidency in 1928 by Herbert Hoover.

Jan. 30, and returned to the nation's capital.

While President, Harry Truman 'discovered' Key West. He soon emerged as a familiar – and welcome – sight, strolling the Key's quaint streets in his wildly-colored, tropical shirts.

He stopped long enough in Miami to visit his daughter, Margaret (wife of Clifton Daniels, managing editor of *The New York Times*). This was Feb. 4, 1960 and she was appearing in 'Happy Time' at the Grove Playhouse.

Truman visited Key West more than a dozen times and many considered him a 'native Conch.'

While South Florida continued to attract many a President, it fell to President Dwight Eisenhower to recognize the state's enormous clout in national politics.

Seeking re-election in October, 1956, with his running mate, one Richard M. Nixon, Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie, made a 15-minute 'prop stop' at Miami International Airport. In search of Florida's electoral votes, he launched a tradition zealously followed by his successors in the Oval Office.

And who can forget when Camelot came to Miami?

John F. Kennedy dashed through Miami in November, 1960, long enough to get a Key to the City from Mayor Robert King High and to glance quickly at a rendering of the Torch of Friendship, which would soon go up in his honor on Biscayne Boulevard.

He returned to Miami in 1962 with his wife, Jackie, and spoke to a packed Orange Bowl. Following the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion, JFK grandly promised Miami's Cubans and Brigade 2506 that the United States would assure their eventual return to 'a free Cuba.' He came again in November 1963 to address the InterAmerican Press Association. Four days later he was fatally shot in Dallas.

South Florida obviously gained its greatest fame (or notoriety, depending on your political preferences) when President Nixon, no stranger when he was Vice President, established his Florida White House on Key Biscayne.

This man who walked with Kings, who commanded one of the world's most powerful armies and who clutched the scepter of power, was even mundanely listed in the city directory. It said: Nixon, Richard M., wife, Patricia, 516 Bay Lane, Pres.

Almost as an afterthought, it should be mentioned that Presidents Lyndon Baines Johnson and Gerald



President-elect Hoover visited Miami in 1929, celebrating his victory as the first Republican to carry the state of Florida since Rutherford B. Hayes defeated Sam Tilden.



F.D.R. center greeted Everest Sewell (left), early civic leader and three-time mayor of Miami as the President's son stood by.

Ford dropped into Miami on occasion. But only for some sterile piece of business, not to enjoy its ambiance. Of course, President Carter has been here, as well.

History records that much of Gen. Andrew Jackson's military fame stems from his wrenching Pensacola out of Spanish control and for his huge success in 1817 in the Seminole Indian Wars.

Those same battles launched a rather nondescript Zachary Taylor

into the White House. He fought the Seminoles, as well, in 1836 in central Florida at Lake Okeechobee.

Jackson, Taylor, Harding, Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Nixon, Kennedy, Carter – Florida has played a role in the story of each presidency. Certainly, while Virginia may claim the title "Mother of Presidents," it is clear that Florida has held a unique attraction – whether political or personal – for a host of our nation's Chief Executive Officers. ●



(Above) First Christmas in the Pagoda, 1902.

(Left) One of the first two buildings at the camp was called the Jungalow, shown here in 1897. Paul Ransom rests on the front stair; Francis Bird, an early student, is seated on the porch.

Ransom Christmas - 1902

After receiving academic degrees from Williams College, Harvard Law School and Columbia University Paul Carlton Ransom was four years into a legal career when he was advised in 1893 to go south if he wanted to prolong his life for a few years. On February 22, 1893 he arrived by boat, met Kirk Munroe and purchased 7.5 acres of Munroe's property on Biscayne Bay. He returned in 1896, bringing with him a young boy from Trenton, Ferdinand Roebing, whom he was tutoring. Pine Knot Camp evolved and the tutoring grew so that Ransom sought an assistant, Franklin Carter, Jr., who subsequently became his brother-in-law when Ransom married Alice Carter in 1903. That fall also marked the opening of the Adirondack-Florida School, which had fall and spring terms in Onchiota, NY and a long winter term in Coconut Grove. This letter was written by Paul Ransom to Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Childs, New Englanders who helped Ransom convert the camp-cum-tutoring into a school. It describes Christmas Eve and Christmas 1902 which also celebrated the completion

of the Pagoda, which was to be the principal building of the Coconut Grove campus. Ransom succumbed to his kidney ailment in 1907. The school, which was closed with the outbreak of World War II, was reopened in 1949 with only the Coconut Grove campus and was named Ransom School. In 1974 it merged with Everglades School for Girls, which had opened in 1955.

Dear Ted and Frances:

It probably seems to you as if all of your patient work were little appreciated, but I have only been waiting for a quiet, uninterrupted time to write. Mr. Ditmers started north this morning, and all the rest have gone over to Cape Florida with the Pelican and the launch; so it seems that my chance has come and I am going to revel in telling you about our Christmas.

The fact that I was going to give the men a tree leaked out weeks in advance and everyone was on the tiptoe of expectation, for to the people down here, the camp is a very won-

derful place. So when the things did not come, I was rather worried and was about to telegraph to Mrs. Johnson to have them traced, when her letter came telling me of the shipping mistake and that they had gone by freight. Fortunately, there was time for them to come that way, and from Jacksonville they came by express and were here in ample time.

The choice of a tree was a matter of some concern - I even thought of sending north for one, but we finally settled upon one of the native long needled pines, and thickened its rather scanty foliage by inserting extra branches into holes bored in the trunk - they did not show at all that they did not grow there. In this way we obtained as handsome a tree as I ever saw, for the glossy long needles lent themselves very effectively to the decorations. It was brought down the driveway on the shoulders of eight stout men, hoisted into position by block and tackle and the stump lowered into a big packing box weighted with stone, that had been placed in position to receive it. Charlie Perry secured it in position. Smaller pack-

ing boxes were placed around the big one, so as to form a kind of step. The whole base was covered with big white bath towels that had very much the effect of snow, and lo, our tree was ready to be adorned! It was a beautiful thing, even without any decoration – twenty feet high at least – with its dark green needles outlined against the white of the gallery.

Wednesday morning we sent the boys out sailing and Mr. Ditmers, Bob Rumsey, Percy White, Miss Herrick and I gave ourselves up to the delight of unpacking the beautiful decorations and decking the tree like a bride. We wished for you over and over again – it seemed too bad for you not to have a share in this part of it – and when at last the tree stood before us in all the glory of its flashing beauty, our first thought was – if you could only see it. The dark green branches were wound with festoons of silver, each bough bore pendants of sparkling fruit, and the snow shimmered with a frosty light seldom seen in this tropical clime. Around the base the soldier clothes formed a kind of buttress, their warm scarlet making a vivid contrast with the snowy whiteness of the bath towels. The terraces of the base were covered with a regular city of candybox houses, laid out in streets, a veritable Quebec. It was certainly the finest tree the state of Florida has ever seen!

We could not spend too much time in rapture, for events were pressing upon us. At dusk we illuminated the room by lighting all the acetylene jets – the effect of which was most satisfactory – and a fire was kindled in the big fireplace. The Caldwell family had been invited to come over and hang up their stockings as soon as it was dark, and they soon appeared – father, mother and six children, who delighted greatly in the marvel of the tree. "The stockings were hung by the chimney with care" and after the Caldwells had departed to get ready for our first function – the Christmas dinner, which we held on Christmas eve. Our neighbors on the south, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Brown and their children, Mr. & Mrs. Jamot Brown (Jamot Brown is a Yale graduate of Franz Carter's time) were our guests, and thanks to Miss Herrick and Mrs. Phillips, we had a beautiful dinner, well served – not an elaborate affair, but excellent soup, an irreproachable turkey, a blazing Christmas pudding and all minor accessories. When it was finished I felt that I had good reason to feel proud of my establishment.

After dinner we came over to the living room and spent the evening before the fire under the sparkling



In rocking chairs, Paul Ransom (left) and his brother-in-law, Franklin Carter, Jr., posed with a group of young men, ca. 1898.



Paul Ransom (left) sailing with Franklin Carter, brother of his wife and son of the president of Williams College.

branches of the tree. When our guests departed we added our own stockings to the row before the fireplace, filled up the Caldwells' and finally got to bed, weary but happy.

Right after breakfast Christmas morning the colored people of the place and of the plantation came in to see the tree and get their presents – Clark, the faithful man-of-all-work with Rebecca, his wife and Willy, their little boy; Julia the laundress, and Josephine, her assistant, and Julia's little boy; Nat, Clark's assistant, and Nathan, the man from the plantation. Clark was as pleased as a little boy with his umbrella – we saw him with it one rainy day afterwards, carrying it around in the rain but afraid to put it up for fear of getting it wet! Rebecca and Julia were delighted with their chains. I had not counted on

Josephine for I did not know Julia had an assistant, but I had brought down a few things for emergencies and we got around all right. As soon as the colored people had gone, the Caldwells came over to see what Santa Claus had put in their stockings. I bought their presents myself before I came down, and we all enjoyed watching the children's pleasure – especially Charley, the youngest, who does not talk but who danced around and laughed with glee. During the morning the tree was on exhibition to any who cared to come and see it, and we received a number of callers. The funniest was the serenade of the colored band – I took a picture of them which I will send you with the pictures of the tree as soon as they are developed and printed. No one could

► Continues on page 10

by any possibility tell what they were trying to play – it sounded as if they were all playing different things but their black faces were beaming with pleasure and good nature and they all came in to look at the tree and were presented with a box of cheap cigars as I had been warned of their coming – in a dream.

At three o'clock the invited guests. Written invitations on the Camp note paper had been sent out, and everyone was dressed in their best and very solemn. They greeted me gravely and "took seats" in the living room and looked at the tree and each other in awed silence. Mr. Ditmers, Bob and Percy warmed them up a little and by degrees the numbers increased until nearly a hundred people had gathered in the big room. The time had come to give out the presents and Mr. Munroe asked me if I was ready. I said I was and two of the boys brought from an adjoining room a table loaded with the gifts, the smaller ones all done up in green tissue and tied with white tape – the Camp colors. Just here a surprise was sprung on me, for instead of letting me get off the neat little speech I had

in mind, Mr. Munroe asked if he might say a word first. On my saying "of course" he introduced Charley Perry who made a beautiful little speech, saying that the men were desirous of giving the Camp a testimonial of their appreciation, and from the gallery a beautiful silk regimental flag was unfurled, with the inscription, "Pine Knot Camp, from the Men Who Built it, 1902." Of course, my little speech was nipped in the bud. I could only stammer my thanks for the way the men had turned the tables on me, and distribute the presents. The company then scattered over the place, the workmen pointing out to their admiring friends the fruits of their labor, and ice cream and cake were served upon the piazzas. At dusk we lighted up the whole place with the new acetylene gas, to the wondering admiration of our guests, and finally we were left once more to ourselves.

After supper Mrs. Phillips asked Miss Herrick if the girls, who had shown the greatest interest and had worked hard, might come over in the evening and hear Mr. Ditmers play. So all the lights were turned out, except the student lamp, the girls came over,

and we sat before the blazing fire while I read the story of the Ruggles's dinner party. Then Mr. Ditmers played for a half hour or so in the warm firelight, with the tree flashing back its reflection from the dark shadows, and finally we had evening prayers, the girls and Mrs. Phillips retired, and we talked it all over and unanimously voted that, thanks to Ted and Frances Childs, we had had the best Christmas of our lives as well as given pleasure to a whole community – and this letter is a thank offering from us all.

The cart is here and just fills the bill, as everything does that you do for me. The last freight has come and all is in readiness for the remainder of the family which will arrive on Wednesday night. Workmen are still upon the place, finishing up little odds and ends, but all will be gone next week, and we are in splendid shape to take care of our family. There will be room for you people and I shall not be happy until you have paid us a visit and seen the place you have done so much for.

With many thanks and much love to all three of you – ●

Paul

Why an Artifact Collection?

BY LINDA K. WILLIAMS



In 1962 the Historical Association of Southern Florida decided that one of the best ways it could share our local history with both residents and visitors was through the provision of a museum. A converted residence served as the first. Ten years later the museum moved into the Vizcaya complex. The end of a second decade will witness the completion of a new Historical Museum in the downtown cultural complex.

A museum required the addition of new tools for interpreting the past: artifacts. These tangible objects which people could see and touch would help their understanding of what life was like during a previous era. The Association formulated a collection policy to fulfill this need. Artifacts are accepted into the collection

which either relate directly to South Florida or the Caribbean area, or are items which can be used in the interpretation of the history of these areas.

The museum, with its many exhibits, is only one reason for building an artifact collection. Researchers use objects to supplement information obtained from other sources. Artifacts are particularly valuable when studying the aboriginal Indians of



Artifacts such as this Fresnel lens from the Carysfort Reef light are invaluable aids in communicating the history of Southern Florida.

South Florida who left no written record. Materials from the Association's artifact collection are loaned to other educational institutions for special exhibits. Docents (museum tour guides), lecturers, staff, and volunteers use artifacts to stimulate interest in South Florida history. And perhaps most importantly, artifacts collected today are preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of South Floridians tomorrow.

Artifacts owned by the Historical Association of Southern Florida are held in public trust. The museum is responsible for the care, condition, location, and accessibility of each artifact as well as for the body of information which documents the artifact. Professionally accepted standards must be followed in order to insure the preservation of this material for the future.

The Historical Association is constantly striving to add to its collection of artifacts relating to the history of South Florida and the Caribbean area. Most artifacts come into the collection in one of two ways: an individual contacts the Museum offering to donate an item, or the Museum staff seeks out a particular artifact needed in the collection. This latter method is aided by an acquisitions fund. The acquisitions program is benefiting from increasing efforts to stimulate community awareness of

the needs and aims of the Historical Museum.

When a new artifact enters the collection, it is accessioned. This process includes noting statistical information about the object, recording its history, filling out a donation form and donor card, photographing the item, and cataloging the artifact by subject. It takes approximately one hour to complete the documentation on an artifact. An annual inventory of the entire collection is also conducted so that the museum can maintain current information on the condition and location of every artifact.

The Historical Museum, which holds artifacts in public trust, strives to keep each object in such a manner as to guarantee its existence for as long a time period as possible. Professional guidelines for the storage and exhibit of artifacts are followed. The museum also undertakes conservation and restoration projects on selected artifacts. It has successfully stabilized a cannon salvaged from the 1695 wreck of the *HMS Winchester*. Plans are underway for the restoration of a 1926 City of Miami trolley car. Conservationists and restorers nationwide are consulted for these projects.

Exhibits in the Historical Museum will never fit the description of "objects with glass cases around them." Our exhibits begin with a concept, are developed through historical research, and come to life with ar-

Children; China; Clothing & Dress; Dolls; Toys		H A S F ACCESSION RECORD	NO. 78.32.1
ITEM: Doll		LOCATION: <i>Shelf 11-A</i>	
DATE RECEIVED: 8/3/78			
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Doll with china head, arms and feet, painted hair, face, shoes. Dressed in full length dress with matching bonnet. Trimmed with lace and blue satin ribbons. Undergarments include slip, hoop and pantaloons			
Color: white clothes		DONOR: <i>Marilyn M. Mandelahn</i>	
Composition: china, cloth		ADDRESS: <i>336 West End Ave., New York, N.Y.</i>	
Weight: 1.4 lbs.		PHONE: <i>212-5785</i>	
Length:		MEMBER ?:	
Height: 16"		REFERRED BY: <i>T. Peters</i>	
Condition: good			
HISTORY OF ITEM: doll given to donor by <i>Texas T. Peters</i> ca. 1948. <i>Texas</i> was wife of tomato grower <i>Thomas J. Peters</i> . See letter of donation for more information.			
REMARKS:			
REFERENCES:			
		ACKNOWLEDGED: <i>L.P.M.</i>	INITIALS: <i>L.P.M.</i> DATE: <i>8/1/78</i>
		ACCESSIONED: <i>L.P.M.</i>	<i>L.P.M.</i> <i>8/15/78</i>
		DONOR CARD: <i>L.P.M.</i>	<i>L.P.M.</i> <i>8/15/78</i>
		MARKED: <i>L.P.M.</i>	<i>L.P.M.</i> <i>8/15/78</i>
		SUBJECT CARD: <i>opw</i>	<i>opw</i> <i>8/19/78</i>
		REGISTERED: <i>L.P.M.</i>	<i>L.P.M.</i> <i>8/15/78</i>

Accession cards enable the staff to record and retrieve valuable information, including description, dimensions, history and donor of artifacts.

tifacts, graphics, audio-visuals, and the many other interpretive tools available to museums today.

A part of this process is research of individual artifacts. The restoration of a trolley car can be undertaken only after we know how and when it was originally made. An exhibit on Seminole patchwork clothing depends on artifacts which document the chronological development of design. These activities depend on artifact research. In many instances research also reveals new knowledge.

For example, the examination of early photographs proved that a previously unidentified metal object was a magazine rack from an early commercial seaplane.

The artifact collection is a very important part of your Historical Museum. If you have items packed away in a box or a closet which are in good condition and relate to our local history, please call the Historical Museum, 854-3289. Donations are tax deductible and you will be helping us preserve the past. ●

OUT OF THE TRUNK

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.

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!**



This issue's scene is a charming — but unidentified — locale. The photo is one of a collection donated to the Association. Several others in the group have tentatively been identified as representing such 1920s North Dade Developments as Fulford and Sunny Isles. Can you identify this location, provide information about the automobile, or offer an "educated guess" about anything depicted here?

HASF Membership: A Gift For All Seasons

The great majority of *Update's* readers are members in the Association. For the benefit of those who are not members—or, for those who are looking for a special holiday gift to give a friend or relative (or yourself!)—your *Update* staff wishes to summarize the benefits of membership in the Association, and to remind you that enrolling is as simple as dialing the phone.

In addition to your subscription to *Update*, you'll also receive *Tequesta*, the Association's annual scholarly journal, as well as such publications as the director's newsletter and educational program brochures.

Members enjoy access to the valuable collections housed in the Association's Charlton W. Tebeau Library of Florida History, housing over 45,000 pictorial images and one of the most highly regarded collections of Florida in existence.

Members also receive invitations to regularly scheduled programs and to social and intellectual events planned especially for members. They also can participate in outreach efforts and other voluntary activities of the Association.

There are member discounts on educational courses, tours and trips offered regularly by the Association. And, in this gift-giving season, member discounts on gift shop purchases are a special benefit.

Certainly not the least is the excitement of being part of one of Miami's fastest-growing cultural organizations, at a time when the Association's move to the modern Dade County Cultural Complex is fast becoming a reality.

The benefits are many; the cost, comparatively little. To join, to provide a membership as a gift, or to find out more, call Carla Shaw, membership coordinator, at the Historical Museum, 854-3289. ●

Around the Museum

► Continued from page 2

our section of it are steeped in a rich tradition that affects our lives even in these modern times. By nurturing and expanding our knowledge of this unique heritage, the discovery of America remains a continuing adventure for all to share.

THE HARVEST

10 am-6 pm, Saturday & Sunday,
Nov. 22-23, 1980

Dade County Youth Fairgrounds
112th Avenue & Coral Way,
Miami, Florida

THE FINAL WORD

Update celebrates its first birthday with Amanda Ridings and me giving parental guidance. Our offspring still has not settled down but it is beginning to develop its personality. It looks better, too, thanks to two people, Bob Burke and Peggy Fisher.

Bob is the Association's Curator of Exhibits, whose wonderful visual imagination has translated Miami's written history into the tactile audio-visual exhibit he has planned for our new museum in the downtown cultural center. If you have been in the board room at our present site you have seen his renderings which include the "little man (woman and child) who is not there" so that you can get the idea of size without being distracted by the little man. Bob has lent his time and fertile mind to our last covers and some layouts.

Peggy is a person, like Bob, who sees what some pictures and galleys of type can look like when assembled into a magazine, but she also is mindful of making it easy for the reader to work his/her way through the publication and she is the one who makes sure that it all comes out evenly to the sixteenth of an inch. She translates the layouts into the pasted up boards from which the printer prints the pages.

Besides looking better we're a little better organized. We would like to do a two-faceted story on present Miami movers and shakers whose first tour of duty here was during World War II and the reverse of that:

Miami's community leaders in World War II who are still here to be heard from. If you have any suggestions, call Amanda at 854-3289. Do it right now; we have a January deadline.

Two other themes are sports in Miami and Miami as part of the Caribbean. If you have thoughts on either of those subjects, let us know. Sports has an April deadline; Caribbean, July.

Better still, why not join our growing roster of contributors and write an article for us? Sure, it takes time and talent, but not that much. During the year we have had 16 contributors and this issue brings the number to 20. Jeanne Bellamy and Suzanne Jones have each done two articles during the year and Jacquelin Mason's second is scheduled in February. The pay is nothing but you have to start somewhere. We do provide 10 complimentary copies of the magazine as an expression of our appreciation.

One of last year's contributors, Lawrence Mahoney, said he would like to do more with *Update* and we immediately made him an associate editor. Whereupon he became associated with the refugee program as public information officer and has been working 12 hours a day, six days a week! We're hoping it all sorts itself out.

Mari Anderson

The Historical Association of Southern Florida Invites You to Attend The **TROPICAL FLORIDA QUILT EXHIBIT**

A fascinating array of contemporary quilts by such nationally-known experts as Beth and Jeffrey Gutcheon, Jinny Beyer, Michael James and Nancy Halpern.

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 14-15

Riviera Presbyterian Church - 5272 Sunset Drive, Miami
10 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Admission \$1.50

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

A. Tillman Jones is a genealogist whose life-long love of South Florida began when he first arrived in 1917. Despite a 50 year absence, he returned upon retirement and resettled in the Redlands with his wife, Dorothy.

Raymond Lang is a staff writer with the City of Miami Information Office. Some of his leisure time currently is spent in preparing articles for future issues of *Update*.

Linda Williams, now in her fifth year as Curator of Collections for the Association, was recently elected chairman of the Florida Historical Confederation.



**Saturday & Sunday
November 22 & 23, 1980
Ten O'Clock A.M. - Six O'Clock P.M.**

**Dade County Youth Fair Grounds • Coral Way at 112th Avenue
Admission: \$2.50 Adults – \$1.00 Children**

- Antique Airplanes • Folk Arts Demonstrations • Crafts for Sale • Balloonists
- Cow Milking & Petting Zoo • History Bee & Essay Contests • Free Games for Children • Traditional South Florida Foods
- Farmer's Market • American Folk Dancing & Music • Quilting Competition – Plus much, much more!



The Harvest – a family tradition • All exhibits & events are subject to weather conditions & scheduling.

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