
The Real Henry Flagler?

Hurray for Booker T.

Black Memorabilia

The Historical Association of Southern Florida

UPDATE

Volume 8, Number 1

February, 1981





Join the Club... Watch it Grow.

No, that isn't an aerial view of Lake Okeechobee... it's the site of the future Dade County Cultural Complex in downtown Miami, where construction is now under way on the new Historical Museum of Southern Florida. The Museum, seen in the upper right of this photo, had progressed to this state when photographed in mid-November, 1980.

While the existing museum attracts more than 200,000 visitors each year, it is estimated that the new Historical Museum will serve 500,000 in its first year.

When it opens in 1982, the new Museum will afford 14,000 square feet of exhibit space – a significant expansion from the 3,000 square feet in our present facility on South Miami Avenue. Planning for the exhibits has been under way for several years, with historical research beginning more than five years ago. The exhibits will present a people's history of the human experience in South Florida over the span of 10,000 years. Two major themes will emphasize the uniqueness of the environment, and the arrival of successive waves of people into the southern part of Florida.

It's exciting – and part of the excitement is

being part of this fast-growing cultural organization. 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 Floridiana 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 member discounts on gift shop purchases are a special benefit.

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.

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.

The Historical Association of Southern Florida

UPDATE

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Black Archives has gone from zero to a vital community resource, thanks to Dorothy Fields. A salute during February's Black History month.

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On the Cover: Four figures personifying Pioneering, Engineering, Industrialism and Prosperity were personified by H.P. Peterson at the base of the Henry M. Flagler Memorial in Biscayne Bay. Story on Flagler begins on page 3.

Photo Credits: p 2 (aerial) Skelly family; p 3-5-7-8 The Flagler Museum; p 9 (Granberry) 11-1930 Buwashi annual (Nellie Moore collection). Black Archives, History & Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc.; p 10 (1929 class) (Marian Shannon collection), Black Archives, History & Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc.; all other Historical Association of Southern Florida.

LETTERS



Address of November's trunk hunt was 16408 Miami Drive, site of a present-day medical building.



Aerial view of the Hubert T. Skelly home, built in 1926, demolished in 1969. We believe the view is looking northwest and the diagonal road left to right is NE 163rd St.

HOUSE IDENTIFIED

This was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mooty located just north of 163 Street about midway between NE 6 Avenue and West Dixie Highway.

It was probably built in 1925 and although the vine on the front indicates construction has been completed, strangely, the roof still appears being worked on.

Note the absence of any electric power lines. There weren't any; however, the Mootys did not lack for electricity. They had their own generator and at night the house and grounds were always well lighted. One lightpost about five feet tall with a round globe on top is visible. Later, many more were added all around the perimeter of the property line.

Their son Tom was about 12 years old and attended Arch Creed Elementary school. He said it was his job to turn on the generator at dusk each day and check the lights.

This was an unusual, beautiful home.

*Carl Matusek
1001 North America Way,
Dodge Island*

What a surprise to see the Skelly mansion pictured in the "Out of the Trunk" department (November).

The Skelly house stood on an oolite ridge at the northeast corner of NE 164 Street and 16 Avenue in what is now North Miami Beach. I remember being told that the Skellys would hold fox hunts, complete with hounds

and riding habits, when North Dade was pretty much "out in the sticks." I believe they built the house in the 20s. It was razed about 1969 to make room for a row of shops.

I believe the Skelly family moved to North Miami. I am sure they have a wealth of information and interior photographs of the old house and it might be worthwhile to speak to them about Fulford-by-the-Sea and other early settlements in the North Dade area.

*Roy P. Bower
1100 NE 160 Terrace*

A check of the telephone book showed several Mootys, all of whom lived in the southwest section, and

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AROUND THE MUSEUM

BY AMANDA RIDINGS

Our 1980 Harvest is now history—but the memories linger on. If you were there (Nov. 22-23), you know that our annual celebration of South Florida's heritage featured plenty of new additions to enjoy, along with all the crafts, foods, games, entertainment and family fun that have come to mean Harvest.

New this year was our Tropical Florida Quilt Conference, which attracted 150 registrants for the three day program of seminars, workshops, a banquet with fashion show, and an exhibit of quilts created by the Conference's faculty of experts—among them Michael James, Beth and Jeffrey Gutcheon, Jinny Beyer and Nancy Halpern.

Not to be outdone, more than 70 registrants entered their quilts in the Harvest quilting competition, which was judged by Conference faculty members. Prizes were awarded in the following categories:

Best in Show (\$300 cash prize donated by Burdines): Deanna Powell, Melbourne; "Quiltability"—original design based on "Kaleidoscope" pattern.

People's Choice (selected by Harvest

visitors; \$100 cash prize donated by Burdines): Women of First United Methodist Church, Coral Gables; "Kaleidoscope" pattern (owned by Lois and Bill Furr).

Special Cash Award (\$100 donated by Quiltworks): Chloe Sargent and her 1978-9 fifth grade students at Royal Palm Elementary School, Miami; "Trip Around the United States," original design based on "Trip Around the World" pattern; quilt will be sold to help pay for school air conditioning.

Special Cash Award (\$100 donated by Eva Todd): Sally Broadwell, Tallahassee; "Peach Blossoms," an original design.

General Category: Ada Beth Streipthau, Lantana; "Flower Wreath with Sweetpea Border," applique.

Juvenile Category: Piecemakers of Miami; "Peter Welles' Quilt."

Interpretive Design Category: Deanna Powell, Melbourne; "Quiltability."

Special Award for Group Quilts: Chloe Sargent and fifth graders; "Trip Around the United States."

Another popular competition at

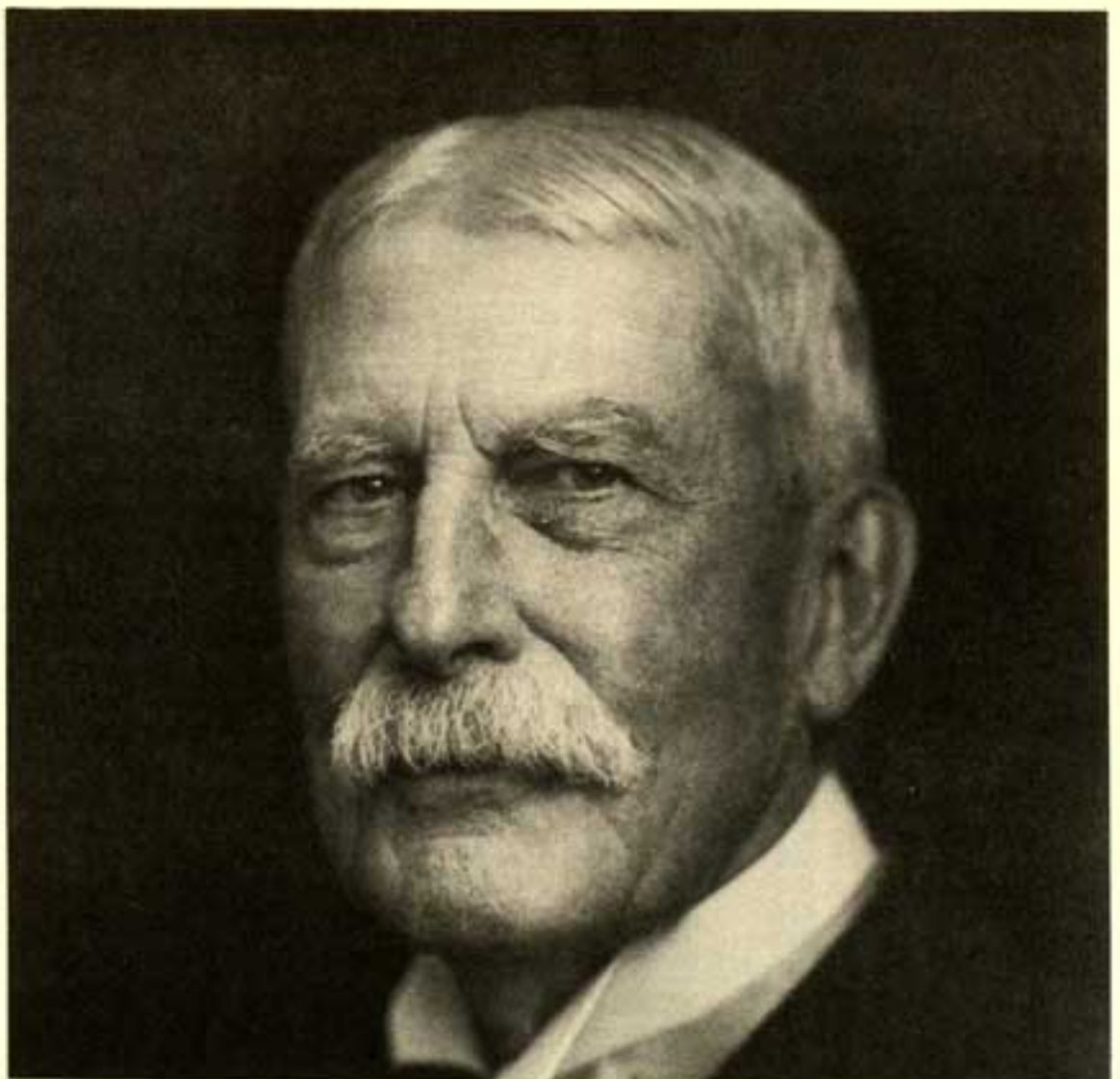
the 1980 Harvest was the fifth annual History Bee, with finals taking place that Sunday afternoon. Twelve finalists from a field of over 70 entrants representing 13 area junior high schools competed in the event, with Master of Ceremonies Glenn Rinker, television news anchorman, awarding prizes to the first, second, and third place winners: Arnold Zipper, Tommy Farkas, and Luisa Specter, all students of Dr. Michael Kesselman of Nautilus Junior High School.

After all her work on the Junior League film "Miami: The Magic City," it would seem probable that Arva Moore Parks would like to take a break... but not Arva! She is presently compiling a history of Miami, likely to overlap into the history of Dade County, to be published by Continental Heritage Press in cooperation with the Historical Association. Scheduled for release next fall, the hardbound book will have a pictorial emphasis, drawing many of its images from the 45,000 or more now in the Association's archives. Further information on the project is available through the Museum office, at 854-3289. ●

Henry M. Flagler (1830-1913) was still building the Florida East Coast Railway that "went to sea" in 1909 when this portrait was taken.

Will The Real Henry Flagler Please Stand Up?

BY JAQUELIN DUGGAN MASON



One hundred years ago, in 1881, a woman named Mary Harkness Flagler died. Fifty-one years ago, in 1930, a woman named Ida Alice Shourds Flagler died. They both were married to Henry Morrison Flagler, who had been born Jan. 2, 1830, one hundred years before his second wife died. At the time of his death, May 20, 1913, he was referred to as the man responsible for making the state of Florida into the "American Riviera." He had spent \$50 million of his own money building a chain of resort hotels and a railway system that went the length of the state.

Who was this man? Where did he come from? What kind of man was he? At the time of his death the *Boston Evening Transcript* ran the following:

"Mr. Flagler had often been called on to tell the story of his life. He told it about as follows: His father was a Presbyterian preacher; salary, \$400 a year. All the training the son ever got at school was obtained before he was 14 years old. At that age he concluded that his mother and sister needed the lean pay which his father received for preaching. So he left home and walked nine miles to the town of Medina, carrying a carpet bag. At Medina he got aboard a freight boat

on the Erie Canal and went to Buffalo. And at Buffalo he took a vessel for Sandusky, in Ohio. He was on Lake Erie for three days in a dreadful storm, was seasick, lonely, and wretched. He was but 14 years old. His mother had put some lunch in his carpet bag. At Sandusky, to use his own words:

"When I got there I had a five-franc piece, a French coin, which passed in this country for a dollar; five cents in silver, and four copper pennies. The five-franc piece is at home in my desk."

HENRY M. FLAGLER

"I remember that I went ashore early in the morning. Weak and dizzy, I staggered along the wharf, between long piles of cordwood, and was mortified to think someone might see me and believe I was drunk. I paid 25 cents for a hot breakfast and felt bet-

ter. I pushed on to the little Ohio village of Republic. When I got there I had a five-franc piece, a French coin, which passed in this country for a dollar; five cents in silver, and four copper pennies. The five-franc piece is at home in my desk. I have kept it all these years, imitating the man in the Bible who had but one talent. I went to work in a country store for \$5 a month and my board. I have always been contented, but I have never been satisfied. To be dissatisfied means that you are ambitious to progress, to do things, not that you may be richer, but that you may be useful and take a part in the work of the world.

"I worked hard and saved my money. I never earned more than \$400 a year when I was employed by others. Fostoria, now a thriving Ohio city, was nearby. In those days it was called Rome. The father of Charles Foster lived there, and had a store. Charley clerked for his father, and he and I were said to be the best salesmen in Seneca County. Charley made a fortune, became governor of his State and secretary of the treasury in Gen. Benjamin Harrison's administration. But business and politics are unlike, and he died poor.

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Highlights In The Life of Henry Flagler

- 1830** – Henry Morrison Flagler born January 2 to Isaac and Elizabeth Caldwell Flagler in Hopewell, near Canandaigua, NY
- 1844** – Left home for Ohio. Worked for L. G. Harkness Co.
- 1849** – Moved to Bellevue from Republic; went into grain business; had John D. Rockefeller as grain agent
- 1852** – Purchased interest in Harkness & Co. grain business
- 1853** – Married Mary Harkness November 9
- 1855** – Daughter Jennie Louise born March 18. A second daughter, Carrie, died as a child
- 1862** – Moved to Saginaw, MI; manufactured salt; business failed in three years
- 1865** – Moved to Cleveland; again in grain
- 1867** – Formed partnership in oil with John D. Rockefeller, William Rockefeller, Samuel Adams; backed by Harkness
- 1870** – Standard Oil Company formed; Harry Harkness Flagler born December 2
- 1877** – Flaglers moved to New York City
- 1878** – Flaglers went to Jacksonville, FL for Mary Flagler's health; returned north in the spring
- 1881** – Mary Harkness Flagler died
- 1883** – Flagler married Ida Alice Shourds June 5 in New York; came to St. Augustine in December
- 1885** – Began Ponce de Leon Hotel, St. Augustine
- 1888** – Ponce de Leon Hotel opened January 10
- 1889** – Jennie Louise, now married to Frederick H. Benedict, gave birth February 9 to a daughter, Margery, who died within hours; Jennie Louise, cruising aboard family yacht Oneida for her health, died March 27 at sea
- 1890** – Memorial Church, built by Flagler in memory of Jennie Louise, dedicated March 16 in St. Augustine
- 1894** – Royal Poinciana Hotel opened February 15 in Palm Beach; railway now extended from Jacksonville to West Palm Beach
- 1894** – Ida Alice Flagler becomes mentally ill
- 1894-5** – Severe freezes destroy many Flagler orange groves
- 1895** – Railroad named Florida East Coast September 7
- 1896** – FEC brought load of building material to Miami April 15; first passengers arrived April 22; Miami incorporated July 28
- 1897** – Ida Alice Flagler committed to mental institution
- 1901** – Florida legislature passed a bill April 25 permitting a spouse to be divorced from a person in a mental institution. Flagler granted a divorce Aug. 14; married August 24 to Mary Lily Kenan of North Carolina for whom he built Whitehall mansion in Palm Beach.
- 1905** – Florida divorce law repealed
- 1912** – FEC ran first train into Key West January 22
- 1913** – Henry M. Flagler died May 20 in Palm Beach following a crippling fall
- 1917** – Mary Lily Kenan Flagler died September 22
- 1930** – Ida Alice Shourds Flagler died, age 82

◀ **Left: Pioneering, Engineering, Industrialism and Prosperity were personified by sculptor H.P. Peterson in pre-cast cement for the 96-foot monument commissioned by Carl Fisher in memory of Henry Flagler and for which he paid \$150,000. On a spoil island called Bay Island deeded to the City of Miami Beach and located between the Venetian and MacArthur Causeways, it was installed in 1913, the year of Flagler's death.**



"When I had accumulated a little money I moved to Bellevue, a small place in the next county, and went into the grain business. John D. Rockefeller was a commission merchant in Cleveland, and I sent him a good many car-loads of wheat, which he sold as my agent. I also had an interest in a distillery. It was eminently respectable in those days to manufacture and sell liquor. The distillery gave me an outlet for considerable grain.

"Nevertheless, I had scruples about the business, and gave it up. I made \$50,000 in Bellevue. Then I went to Saginaw and tried to manufacture salt. At the end of three years I had lost my little fortune and owed \$50,000 to about 5,000 Irishmen who had been working in the salt factory. My relatives loaned me enough money at 10 per cent interest to pay my debts, and I removed to Cleveland and engaged in the grain and produce commission business.

"John D. and William Rockefeller and Samuel Andrews had started a

small oil refinery in Cleveland on the side of a hill. When the second refinery was built in 1867, Stephen Harkness backed me for \$100,000 in a partnership with Mr. Rockefeller and his associates. Other little refineries sprang up and we bought them. Our business was developed rapidly, and in 1870 we closed our partnership and organized the Standard Oil Company. We worked night and day, making good oil as cheaply as possible and selling it for all we could get."

"I worked hard and saved my money. I never earned more than \$400 a year when I was employed by others."

HENRY M. FLAGLER

On the morning of Sunday, March 15, 1914 services in memory of the late Henry M. Flagler were held in

the Royal Poinciana Chapel at Palm Beach. The services were conducted by Rev. George Morgan Ward, D.D., LL.D., a close friend of Flagler and his pastor for 16 years. Among his comments Dr. Ward said:

"I would speak of him first as the man who founded this church. I have often said this was the freest pulpit in the world. Early in my ministry, even before assuming the position, I said to Mr. Flagler, 'I do not think I am so constituted that I could talk soft nothings to the guests at Palm Beach.' His answer was prompt, 'Who asked you to talk soft nothings? Speak as you think right.' 'Yes,' I said, 'but are you and I both disinterested enough and big enough not to be influenced at times?' 'Try it and see,' was his answer; and after 16 years of a very happy relation to this pulpit and people, I can say he never by word or sign indicated his difference of opinion on any save possibly some denominational belief we had discussed together. . .

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Whitehall, the home Flagler built for Mary Lily Flagler in Palm Beach, has been restored to its original form and elegance and is now the Flagler Museum. A highrise hotel was attached to it during the boom.

"I believe this State is the easiest place for many men to gain a living. I do not believe any one else will develop it if I do not."

HENRY M. FLAGLER

"One morning we differed on a trifle regarding the clerical gown worn in this pulpit, and the next day he sent me a semi-legal document with a brief note saying, 'I came near breaking my promise and interfering with your pulpit. To avoid possibility of repetition, I hereby put it out of my power to influence your position. You hold it now independent of me. Now I can't trouble you.'

"I remember discussing with him the status of this church. He had spoken of it as part of the East Coast System. I differed and said, 'I thought, Mr. Flagler, it was the Church of Almighty God. As such it cannot be a part of any human system.' Quick as a flash he answered, 'You are right, and if it has ever been in any way dependent it never shall be again.'...

"Find any and every case of real need where a chance to start again will be appreciated and see that they have that chance. The only condition I impose is that they do not know the gift comes from Henry M. Flagler."

HENRY M. FLAGLER

"It was about this time that I asked him his purpose in Florida. He had asked me a most pertinent question and in response I offered to trade questions—to answer him if he would answer me an equally pertinent question. 'Well,' he said, 'I never trade blindly. What is it?' 'What are you trying to do in Florida? Is this investment or philanthropy, or are you anxious to pose as a State builder?' 'That's pertinent enough,' he said. 'I believe this State is the easiest place for many men to gain a living. I do not believe any one else will develop it if I do not. This is a safe kind of work for me to do. I believe it's a thousand times better than your colleges and universities (that was rubbing it into me), but I do hope to live long enough to prove I am a good business man by getting a

dividend on my investment.'...

"...when his whole fortune was at stake behind an incomplete work, he never flinched, but staked his all on the road's completion. A gentleman now dead, a railroad man, a member of the Board of Directors of a concern to which he had applied for a loan, said when asked his opinion on the wisdom of this loan, 'I know nothing of the road and care nothing, but I am satisfied to lend anything he asks for to the man.'...

"... The great freeze of 1894-95 wiped out of existence a hundred million dollars worth of property in a night and men walked the streets with stricken faces and discouraged hearts. The tragedy of that day no one save a Floridian can ever know. In other sections men packed what they could carry of their earthly possessions and worked their way back North, leaving their houses to the bats and the owls... but in these sections a man was sent on a mission. 'Find,' were his instructions, 'any and every case of real need where a chance to start again will be appreciated and see that they have that chance. The only condition I impose is that they do not know the gift comes from Henry M. Flagler.'...

"... We have had some discussion recently as to the wisdom or unwisdom of closing the various amusements on the Sabbath Day at this resort. With Mr. Flagler it was not a question at all. He said to me again and again, 'If they do not like it they

need not come. I am not asking their opinion in this any more than I consult them about my other affairs. Sunday is to be kept at Palm Beach. Its observance is one of the features of the place.'...

"He craved the companionship of his peers, but could not ask it. He had no small talk..."

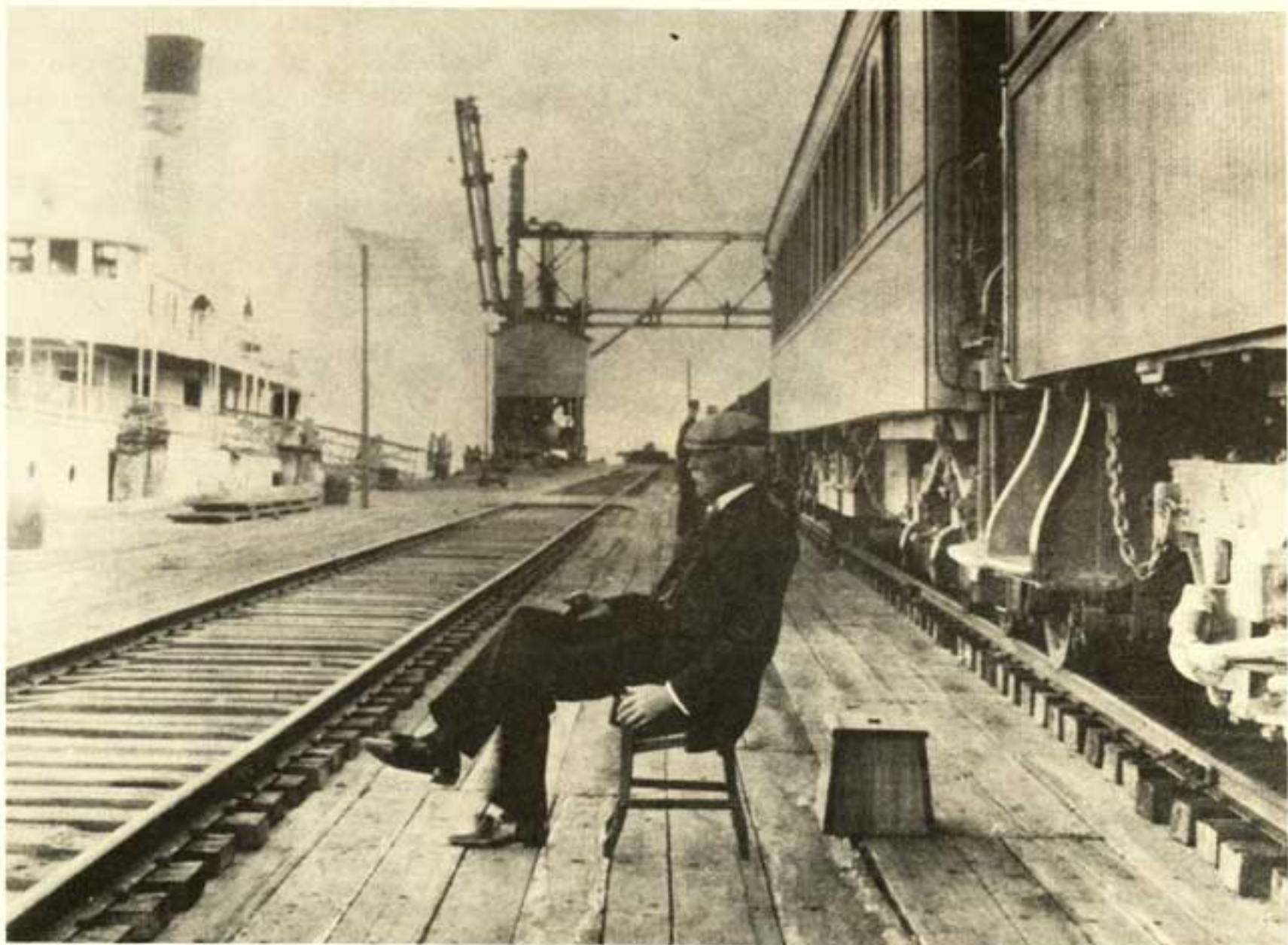
REV. GEORGE WARD

"He was a born leader of men, a captain of industry, the most successful organizer I ever knew, and I am told by men who are capable of judging, one of the greatest experts in this line which America has known. A gentleman sitting in his house this morning, an honored officer in the Confederate Army, said to me a day or two since, 'I told Mr. Flagler a half dozen times that I wished with all my heart that at the time of the War he had gone into the Northern Army. Skillful as he was in the matter of organization, I believe he would so have reorganized your army that you would have ended the War at least a year before you did, and would thus have saved both North and South all that suffering.'

"He was methodical in all things. I have never known his like, not merely in certain directions, but in every detail of dress and habit and



Royal Poinciana Chapel in Palm Beach, built by Flagler, was the scene of a memorial to Flagler conducted March 15, 1914 by Rev. George Morgan Ward.



The Key West extension of the railway was finally completed in January 1912, the year this picture of Flagler was taken.

way of thinking. Economical of all things, including time, his own as well as others, because he knew the value of time. He used to say, 'Why, time is life, and you say life is part of eternity.' He was proud of keeping his word. He used to say, 'I like to make these little things matter of record. It helps to keep my mind at ease and prevents their being forgotten.'

"He loved to overcome obstacles and once they were conquered they lost their charm. At once he looked for new worlds to conquer...

"...but at heart the man was so sensitive that he shrank from even the approach of publicity. This sensitiveness was often mistaken for hard-heartedness and disregard of public opinion. This was not true. He craved the companionship of his peers, but could not ask it. He had no small talk...

"I did my best to induce him to use the audophone or ear trumpet. His devoted wife and I schemed to have one installed in this church without his knowledge, but when it was in he owned up that while he liked it immensely he was ashamed

to be seen holding it to his ear. He had not the courage to use it.

"I said, 'I guess I will go home. We don't seem to be doing anything.' 'Sit still,' he said, 'we don't have to be doing anything. I just want you for company...'"

REV. GEORGE WARD

"I remember one day, long years ago, when the cars used to come in this side of the Poinciana, I had just landed from the train and was hastening into the hotel when some one pulled my coat tails and I turned to see him sitting on the little fence that protected the gardens. He was smoking and watching the arrivals and looked like a big, happy boy. I asked him how it felt to think he could stop the whole thing in a minute if he liked. His reply was, 'I had never thought of it. I could do it, couldn't I? I didn't realize that it was really mine to that extent.'...

"... He was catholic in his literary preferences, as in all else. We read together philosophy, science, the humorous (he dearly loved David Harum), and, above all, the Bible. History he did not care for. You see it was the past. His only interest was in the present, and above all, the future...

"One noticeable characteristic of the man was his phenomenal ability to retain subordinates. His men never left him. To work for 'Uncle Henry' was a life job. It takes far more ability to delegate, to organize, and to direct than it does to perform actual labor...

"He craved companionship, yet always claimed he could not win it. Badly as he wanted to, he could not let himself go. In his later life you frequently saw him with the little white dog that rode with him in his chair. I have seen him for moments at a time with his face buried in little Bobby's fur talking to him like a father to his child. He craved especially the companionship of youth, the gaiety of light and color, yet he had been trained so long to hold himself in check, had been self-repressed so

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long, he could not go half way. Then, too, like all men of his wealth, he feared the insincerity of those who sought him. He said one day he was lonely. . . I remember sitting with him one day on the loggia in silence. Finally, I said, 'I guess I will go home. We don't seem to be doing anything.' 'Sit still,' he said, 'we do not have to be doing anything. I just want you for company. . .'

"He had a keen sense of humor. There is a club of gentlemen which has passed under various names — gentlemen who have sat together for the last 10 or 15 years on these hotel piazzas. He was one of them. At one of our meetings we sat together until dark, when he rose and said: 'Some one must break this up. Whoever goes first will be talked about. I'll go and you can talk about me.'

"He loved to sit in silence on the loggia of his home, and once, after we had sat there for an hour almost, he suddenly said, pointing off to the southern sky, 'Doctor, do you think there is anything more beautiful than that in Eternity? He dwelt much, as we all do, on the thought of Eternity, and with the natural tendency of a strong, self-willed man he was restless that he could not know in advance what the future contained. . .'

"Someone must break this up. Whoever goes first will be talked about. I'll go and you can talk about me."

HENRY M. FLAGLER

"I remember one Sunday morning I had spoken of every man's life as a plan of God. He took exception to the thought of God's control and said we were independent beings and under our own control. 'For example,' said he, 'I am going to live to be 100 years old. I have a purpose and work to do and I cannot go sooner.' And when I said, 'That is not for you to say, the decision does not rest with you. This is the one thing in your life you cannot shape,' I knew by his silence that he did not agree with me. And later, when he lay stricken down by that cruel fall, he asked one day, 'Doctor, do you think that was just fair of God? I was old and blind and deaf, was it fair to make me lame?' And later — 'Was this a part of a plan to make me see my helplessness?' But, thank God, the day came when he thrust his hand in mine and said, 'Doctor, I do not want to go, but I can say, and honestly, I am ready to do His will. . .'

. . . it broke me down, for to yield



Flagler had known Mary Lily Kenan ten years when he married her in August, 1901. They had been married almost ten years when this picture was taken.

a will like his was the supreme sacrifice. . .

"I often wonder what Eternity must mean to him. . ."

This article is based on research done by Jaquelin Duggan Mason, whose father, John Duggan, began working for Henry M. Flagler in 1904 and had been among those celebrating the completion of the railroad to Key West 16 months before Flagler's death in 1913. Publications researched were: **Henry Morrison**

Flagler: In Memoriam, a privately printed book distributed to Florida East Coast Railway employees and associates; "The Story of a Pioneer," a pamphlet published by the FEC Railway, 1950; "A Brief History of the Florida East Coast Railway and Associated Enterprises 1885-6 to 1935-6"; "The Flagler Story and Memorial Church," by the Rev. Howard Lee, D.D., published in 1949 by Memorial Presbyterian Church Society, St. Augustine, FL. ●

Let's Hear It Once More: "Hurray for Booker T."

BY MICHAEL N. KESSELMAN



Booker T. Washington High School, opened in 1927, was built on NW 6 Avenue property sold to the school board by black millionaire D.A. Dorsey.



E.J. Granberry was the first of seven principals who guided students during the school's history.

In 1966 Booker T. Washington was phased out as a senior high school (but remained as a junior high school) because of declining enrollment brought about by desegregation and the dislocating effect of the Miami expressways in the black community. By 1979 a movement countywide had developed for the construction of a new Booker T. Washington high school, an outstanding inner city high school embodying community pride.

For 39 years Booker T. Washington had been a community rallying point for black people in Miami. The school, built on NW 6 Avenue property sold to the school board by black millionaire D.A. Dorsey, opened its doors for the 1927 school year under the leadership of Principal E.J. Granberry. He was followed by James Espy, Charles Austin, S. Meredith Mosley, Charles Williams, Anthony

Gardiner and, after desegregation in 1965, Nicholas Borrata. It was a succession of academic leaders, each of whom continued to follow the school's motto: "Not the largest but the best."

"It truly was the hub of the community," according to longtime teacher Marion Shannon and Activities Director William Stirrup. **Miami Times** columnist Stanley Sweeting amplified this:

"The students at Booker T. were conscientious. There was no television, and many did not have enough money to attend the movies so the kids studied and became involved in school organizations. There was a total emphasis on college and/or professional careers at the school and in the entire community."

Approximately 60 per cent of the

► Continues on page 10

students attended college after graduation. This figure could have been higher, but finances were a deterrent in many families. Other graduates married, some went into business or vocational careers, while others became involved in community programs.

Charles Williams, a perfectionist who was principal of Booker T. for 19 years, probably did more than anyone else to develop this drive to be the best. Williams was a strict disciplinarian. Decorum in the halls and classrooms was scrupulously maintained. Students had to keep high academic standards and participate in co-curricular activities which enhanced their liberal arts education, such as band, drama and debate, as well as extra-curricular programs.

These programs abounded. In the co-curricular area the school band was considered the best in Florida, marching for 34 years in the Orange Blossom Classic parade. Under leader Tim Savage the band played throughout the community in the 1950s, augmented by choral ensembles and vocalists. The band had an annual community drive week with entertainment and dance contests. Band alumni such as Wally Futch offered their services.

The drama group received nationwide attention in 1962 when the Booker T. Washington Thespian troupe, directed by Leroy Washington, was selected one of eight superior school drama groups in the country and invited to participate at the Indiana Drama Festival. (To emphasize responsibility, the school invited students with perfect attendance records to special performances of the drama and musical groups.) In the seven years the school could participate in *The Miami Herald's* Silver Knight Awards, three drama students received awards.

A speech program begun in 1941 by Sara S. Martin developed orators and debaters who participated in the Elks' oratorical contest and in presentations during annual Negro History week programs.

The school newspaper, *The Washingtonian*, begun as a mimeographed publication and later printed by the *Miami Times* (one of the community's black newspapers), received statewide recognition.

Besides co-curricular activities, the school offered a multitude of extra-curricular clubs, organizations and activities for student participation. The student council was perhaps the most important body, giving students an introduction to public governance. It affiliated in 1943 with the National Association of Student

THE CLASS OF '29— BTW'S 2nd GRADUATING CLASS



Standing, left to right: Clarence R. Hogan, Jerome Jamison, Samuel O'Tanner Cohen, Elliott J. Pizzo, W. Eugene Duncombe, J. Kenneth Johnson, Arthurine Collier (Chavis) and Sarah Alexander. Some members of the class still living in Miami are, Dr. Clarence R. Hogan, prominent dentist; Samuel O. Cohen, prominent newspaperman; W. Eugene Duncombe, head of BTW's science department; Dr. J. K. Johnson, prominent medical doctor; Mrs. Dorothy McKellar, teacher at Floral Heights Elementary; Mrs. [Name obscured]

Reprint from the June, 1959 student newspaper "Washingtonian" shows the Class of '29, Booker T. Washington's second graduating class. A dentist, doctor, newsman, school administrator and several teachers emerged from the class.

Councils and had a wide interest range. Consider: voting machine operation demonstration, school grounds improvement, student punctuality drives, citizenship weeks, PTA membership drives, collections of toys for Christmas and foods for Thanksgiving, raising funds for the United Fund and March of Dimes, homecoming festivities, school and community socials including the annual New Year's dance, PTA teas and Parent Appreciation nights. Offshoots of the student council were the Girls Senate and Boys Congress. The Girls Senate presented an annual chapel program with tributes to former faculty members and community leaders.

In 1943 the National Honor Society was established at Booker T. Washington. A students' learning lab conducted before classes began was among its projects. Through the lab, students in the '50s and '60s could obtain additional vocational and employment training and remedial services.

One of the most active clubs at Booker T. was the Mary McLeod Bethune Future Teachers of America Club, organized in 1945. It provided speakers and programs and its annual Charter Day assembly program

was a tribute to teachers and college interns in teaching.

From Allied Youth to Y-Teens there were clubs geared to cheerleaders, homemakers, business, industrial arts, human relations, stenographers, safety, science, black history, and foreign languages. The Tornado Yearbook devoted a vast portion of its annual each year to the activities of more than 30 clubs. There was much interaction between these clubs and the black community.

Another strong tie with the community was the school's athletic program, particularly football. The Tornadoes of Booker T. Washington were "rulers of the state" in football from the late '30s through the mid-'50s and had to search for competitive opponents in other states. James Everett, coach of the Tornadoes, led his teams to state championships in 1940, 1941, 1947, 1952 and 1956. Among his many stars were: Percy Oliver, an All Big Ten guard at Illinois in 1949 and today principal of Miami Jackson Senior High in Miami; William Barber, the first Booker T. professional football player; Jim Cash, currently principal of Edison Middle School; and Larry Little, Miami Dolphins star.

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BUWASHI

GENEVA MARTIN

Geneva's complete indifference to her classmates is astounding. How can she stay in the same class with us and notice us as little as she does? We like her though.

Trite saying: "My Gosh"

MOSES CLARK

Advertising Manager for "Buwashi" '30
Treasurer for "Buwashi" '30

"Baby-face" - According to an old maxim, still water runs deep, so we expect a lot of "Baby-face." His quiet spoken manner denotes strength and ability instead of shyness as many suppose.

Trite saying: "You might say"

CLAUDIA BARNES

Chairman of Social Committee '30
Literary Editor '30
Member of Glee Club '30

"Georgy Porgy" is keeping "Claudia" alive until "those people" come back from New York. "Claudia's" a "natural-born" flirt. Don't know what we're going to do about her.

Trite saying:
"My Bouncing Brownskin Baby Boy"

JOSEPH KERSHAW

Vice-President of Class '30
Chairman Annual Committee
Co-worker of Ways and Means Committee '30
Some day "Windy" will lead the champion debating team of the country - Talking about arguments - he can produce 'em - be they true or false. Seriously though, this young man has a head for business.

Trite Saying: "Tell 'em 'bout it"

LOUISE MCKENZIE

Steady - dependable - "Everwatchful" - This little girl has a wicked eye. We've agreed that when she stares so hard, she must be looking for a fellow, as she has none so far.

Trite saying: "Oh me"



1930

Among graduates was Joe Lang Kershaw, first black to be elected to the Florida legislature.



Vocational training for girls included domestic science. The girls learned to prepare nutritious meals, to set a fine table and to serve properly.

Athletics served as a springboard for many Booker T. students to attend college. Southern black universities such as Florida A&M, Morris Brown and Tuskegee worked with Booker T. Washington and the local community to award student athletes scholarships. For those athletes who did not attend college after graduation, a semipro team was organized in the community under the leadership of longtime **Miami Times** writer Stanley Sweeting and Charles Rainbow Smith.

The ties between the community and the school were reinforced as generations of students took their place in the community. In 1934 the Collegians Club was organized for Booker T. students who had attended college. The club sponsored two dances a year for college students, proceeds being divided between school and community projects. Many a student made the extra effort to go to college to be eligible for a Collegian Club invitation. Civic and social clubs such as the Algonquins, Frogs, Quest and Young Businessmen counted a large number of Booker T. graduates in their memberships and gave it strong support, as did the Friendship Garden and Civic Club and a very active Parent Teachers Association.

The community was so dedicated to Booker T. and education that, in 1949, hundreds of people lined up at noon for tickets at \$1 per person to the evening commencement ceremonies at the school. At the time of the ceremony, there were still hundreds of people outside attempting to get in. The police were summoned to restore calm as vocal community members clamored for the right to witness the annual graduation, and the auditorium was full. By 1950 Graduation Activities Director William Stirrup and a group of citizens had arranged to move the graduation to Dinner Key Auditorium.

Booker T. Washington Senior High had a uniquely profound effect on the Miami black community. It was a symbol of pride, unity and educational excellence. A positive symbiotic relationship endured between school and community. Its graduates include Miami Commissioner Theodore Gibson, former Commissioner Athalie Range, University of Miami history professor Whittington Johnson and actress Esther Rolle.

Its closing left an educational and cultural void. Whether the "hub of the community" will be rebuilt is still a decision for the future, but many black community leaders sincerely hope the answer will be an affirmative one. ●

No One Was Keeping Black Memorabilia

BY BEA L. HINES

Dorothy Jenkins Fields is the granddaughter of Ida Ellen Johnson, who spent 34 years educating her seven children, all of whom became professionals. Through Dot Fields' efforts the Black Archives have become a reality.



It was 1974. The nation was deeply engrossed in preparations for its 200th birthday celebration.

This was to be the celebration of a lifetime. And rightfully so. Organizations, schools and women's groups worked enthusiastically on projects which they hoped would make a lasting impression on future generations.

But in Miami's black community, the enthusiasm was lackluster. Some blacks felt there was nothing for them to celebrate. After all, contributions they had made for centuries had been deliberately written out of the history books.

White children, and some black children, in Miami did not know who D.A. Dorsey was. They did not know that he donated the land on which one of Dade's first black high schools was built. Or that he was Miami's first millionaire.

And white children did not know that at least a third of the names on the charter of the City of Miami were those of black men. In fact, there were few black children who knew.

And so, while some blacks felt only bitterness and remorse at this time of celebration, others felt the time was right to righten some of the wrongs concerning blacks in the history of America. The place to start was here. The time, now.

One of those persons who shared this feeling was Dorothy Jenkins Fields, a member of one of Miami's pioneer black families. Another was Eunice Liberty, retired teacher and civic worker.

However, it was Fields, at that time a librarian at Myrtle Grove Elementary in North Dade County, who was driven to the point of making such a project a full-time obsession.

At first, Fields said, she too, wondered what blacks had to celebrate during the bicentennial.

"I thought about black children, especially," she said. "What did they have to be proud of? Why should blacks celebrate the birthday of a nation which had deliberately retarded their progress?"

"But then, I remembered the stories from my own childhood; how blacks had helped to build the City of Miami. I had never seen this information documented any place. Even in the school library where I worked, there was nothing about blacks to which black children could refer proudly."

A call to the Miami Public Library caused Fields to be even more concerned. "I was put on hold for what seemed like a long time," Fields said. "When the librarian came back to the

phone, she told me there was a folder with a few newspaper clippings. That was all.

"I was disturbed and asked why there was nothing more on Miami blacks. The librarian told me, 'Those people didn't care enough about themselves to write their history.'"

A call to the Historical Museum proved to be almost as frustrating. But Dr. Thelma Peters invited Fields to come to the Museum, along with some members of her family, to be interviewed. Peters had been impressed when Fields told her the story of her family's struggle to become professionals in a time when it was almost impossible for blacks to even graduate from high school. Even so, all seven of Samuel and Ida Ellen Johnson's children finished high school and college and became Miami's first black professional family.

"It took 34 years for Mama Ellen to get all her children through college, but she did it. She instilled a sense of love and responsibility in them that as one finished college, he would work and help the other. Often, the Johnson children would have to go to college a year, come out and work a year, and then return to college. It took years for

► Continues on page 13

the oldest of the Johnson children to finish college, but one by one they did it. And they were not unique. Other black families did the same for their children," Fields said.

Fields later met Arva Moore Parks, who had done some research on the blacks of early Coconut Grove. From the information she got from Parks, Fields learned of Dr. Irene Sampson Pratt, who was the first black child born in Coconut Grove.

That interview led to others. People started calling Fields. The word was out. The late Alese Gill, a longtime elementary school principal, and Marie White, a black nurse, called to donate documented history of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, one of Miami's oldest black churches.

But the bulk of the early information on the history of blacks came from Annie M. Coleman, who had her own archives of sorts.

It was from these humble beginnings that the Black Archives History and Research Foundation was founded.

Now housed on the seventh floor of the Joseph Caleb Community Center, the Black Archives is described by Fields as a "depository for black history materials — the neglected history of the black community in South Florida."

The organization is non-profit and was incorporated in 1977 by the State of Florida. It was first named the Advisory Committee for the Black Photographic Archives and Oral History Collection, but was changed as

more documented materials were collected.

Among its possessions are letters dating back to the early 1900s, a copy of the charter of the City of Miami, circa 1896, which lists the names of the blacks, and a number of photographs of pioneer blacks. There are also tapes of oral history as told to Fields by members of such pioneer black families as the Stirrups and the Johnsons.

Believed to be the first of its kind established by a black community, the Black Archives is operated solely by volunteers. There are 29 members of the board of trustees and an executive committee of six.

The organization's main purpose, Fields said, is to identify, collect and preserve historical materials pertaining to the participation and contributions of blacks in the development of South Florida. The archives are open to schools and organizations as a research source. It recently broadened its services by providing Haitian Creole and Spanish translations of material.

Programs "just grow," said Fields. "One of our main objectives is to provide role models for youths, and we recently went to Liberty City, the spawning area of the May riots, and told the history of this first public housing project, how successful it was and how much James E. Scott, the organizing administrator, was respected in the city. These young people didn't know that and they were impressed."

Black Archives receives no public funds but does obtain in-kind services from Metropolitan Dade County and the Dade County Board of Public Instruction. It has a grant from the City of Miami and a Historical Heritage Conservation grant to pursue acceptance of the Overtown district by the National Register of Historic Places.

In October, for the first time, the Black Archives solicited the black community for funds. It was a 24-hour radiothon on station WMBM during which \$5,000 was pledged.

There are six Doctors of Philosophy on the Black Archives board: Chairman Gilbert Porter, Evalina Bestman, Clarence Cryer, Whittington Johnson, William Perry and Margot Silverman. Besides Porter, the executive committee consists of Vice Chair Essie D. Silva, Secretary Marian Shannon, Treasurer Arthur King and Members at Large Mrs. John E. Culmer and Eddie Fields, Esq.

Trustees are: Evalina Bestman, Georgiana Bethel, Billy Byron; Clarence Cryer, Walter Cogdell, Lucretia Compton, Ardie Edwards, Dan Francis, Eufaula Frazier, Hazel Reeves Grant, H. Clayton Hamilton, Bea Hines, Alice Johnson, Charles Johnson, Jr., Ellen Johnson, Enid Johnson, Whittington Johnson, the Rev. J.K. Major, Lucy Matthews, Caroline Morley, Maud Newbold, Melba Nixon, Ed O'Dell, William Perry, M. Athalie Range, Nancy Riesman, Margot Silverman, Marjorie Wake and Carl Williams. ●



Helping Hands from HASF

In 1974 when Dorothy Fields was trying to find information about the participation of blacks in South Florida's past, she received encouragement and help from Dr. Thelma Peters, director at that time of the museum of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, and Arva Moore Parks, HASF's president. It was common knowledge that blacks were instrumental in the building of Miami, but

where was the documentation?

When Dade County Public Schools endorsed Fields' proposal to research these contributions and teach them to students, she was assigned on a part-time basis to the museum. With the help of the museum staff and support from Third Century USA she developed the Black Photographic Archives and Oral History Collection which became a part of Miami's year-long Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

The collection was housed at the Historical Museum until 1978 when it was moved to the Joseph Caleb Center at 5400 NW 22 Ave. By then the Black Archives History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc. had been organized to operate the "history and research center containing primary source materials such as letters, non-current organizational records, manuscripts, photographs and oral history tape recordings."

Tremendous progress has been made in the documentation of the history of blacks in South Florida. Dorothy Fields still spends two days a week working at the HASF museum. The unfolding program is a facet glowing brightly in HASF's goal of preserving and interpreting the history of all the "arrivals" to this area, a goal established over 40 years ago by a small group of local history buffs who got together to form the Historical Association of Southern Florida. They were not at all modest about their goals: to study, preserve and interpret the history of the people who over the last 10,000 years have lived in the broad region known as South Florida; Lake Okeechobee to Key West, Naples to Palm Beach. A few hundred people working together can accomplish a lot, but the broader the base the more precise the results. HASF wishes there were more groups like the Black Archives Foundation. ●

BOOK REVIEW

Land into Water – Water into Land: A History of Water Management in Florida. By Nelson M. Blake. (Tallahassee: University Presses of Florida, 1980. viii, 344 pp. Preface, Introduction, Notes, Index. \$19.95.)

In his book, *Land into Water – Water into Land*, Nelson M. Blake describes how Florida's water problems have changed between 1821 and 1980. He does this by concentrating on two major issues, the Cross Florida Canal and Everglades drainage. He also explains the roles and influences of special interest groups in water management.

Even though Blake emphasizes the mistakes of the past, his account is not a strident indictment of the early boosters' attempts to alter the Florida peninsula, but a clear and coherent description of the boosters' reasoning and motives in the context of the times. His presentation of current problems and possible solutions, however, reveals his acceptance of the ecologists' perception of and answers to present and future problems.

He begins his story in 1821, by describing Florida, with its seemingly endless supply of pure clean water. At that time, the dangerous nature of Florida's reefs and the large number of ships that wrecked there influenced sentiment favoring a Cross Florida Canal. Later, the mentality of the Nineteenth Century, which detested anything it considered wasteful or useless, brought visions of the Everglades drained and supporting hundreds of farms to Florida's pioneers.

At first the Cross Florida Canal took precedence. The Erie Canal had been finished in 1825 and canals were popular all over the country. Several state and federal surveys were made to determine the best route for such a canal. Army en-

gineers did not think the idea was feasible, and Congress lost interest in the scheme as railroads usurped the popularity of canals.

The desire for a Cross Florida Canal did not die and the idea would be revived periodically. Construction on the canal was begun in 1930 when Franklin Roosevelt supported the idea. At that time, the railroads opposed the canal for economic reasons, but they also argued that the canal would harm Florida's water resources. After World War II the canal continued to receive Democratic support.

In the 1960s and 1970s, environmentalists became increasingly vocal in their opposition to the canal. They believed that the canal would destroy the quality of the Florida aquifer, and they detested the project's destruction of much of Florida's natural scenery. In 1971, Richard Nixon ordered a halt to construction of the canal. After several court cases and environmental studies, the canal lost all of its federal and state support.

The other issue that threads its way through this basically chronological narrative is the effort to drain the Everglades. The state received title to all lands "wet and unfit for cultivation" in Florida from the federal government in 1850. Proposed as early as 1837, attempts to drain the Everglades did not begin for another forty-four years. Hamilton Disston headed that effort; it failed in 1896, but 10 years later Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward and the state renewed Everglades drainage. Very little planning and no studies of its impact on the environment were done at that time.

Drainage efforts were plagued by economic problems which finally halted the project in 1928. The canals that were finished overdrained some areas and failed to drain others. Another by-product of drainage was the lowering of the water tables and the consequent contamination of coastal wells by the intrusion of salt water.

Early efforts at drainage were not

opposed by conservationists, but as the effects of those poorly planned efforts became obvious, opposition began to coalesce. Alternating seasons of drought and floods have caused a reevaluation of the necessity and the advisability of drainage. Environmentalists now make major contributions to all planning and decision-making processes in water management in Florida.

Blake's research was extensive, using many primary sources, but his failure to include a bibliography is a serious omission. His style is fluid and he condenses a very complicated subject into an easily read and comprehensible account of how man in Florida "has not so much adapted to nature as he has reordered nature to serve his needs." ●

— Daniel Markus

Letters

► Continued from page 2

two Skellys listed at the same address in Biscayne Park. A call to Carl Matussek revealed that he could be wrong about his friend Tom's last name, it could have been Skelly. They were grade-schoolers and he had shared in a spend-the-night party where the boys had slept in the garage apartment behind the house. One more call to Hubert and Marie Skelly confirmed that they were the owners of the house but not the builders.

The Skellys came to Miami from Chicago in 1931 and bought the house with "Judge Burwell" handling the sale for the doctor/builder who, at press time, is still a mystery. The address was 16408 Miami Drive and the doctor built the house in 1926. "He was a tall man," Marie Skelly said. "We had the longest bathtub."

The closest neighbors, who were not very close, were the Frohocks, the Robbs and the Fulfords. Since Albert Frohock ran a riding academy, it was not unusual to see a group of hunters riding past with hounds. There were foxes and rattlesnakes and the Skelly's bulldog had the distinction of being the first dog in the area to be given a blood transfusion after being bitten by a rattler. His whole side swelled and turned black but he managed to survive.

By 1957 NE 163 Street was becoming a shopping center and the Skelly property was sold in 1967. A young painter, Alton J. Chapman who painted under the name Aljaman, painted a picture of the picturesque house with its large "For Lease" sign in front that was exhibited extensively around town. Marie Skelly tried to get

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Miami Canal was part of efforts to drain the Everglades, which did not begin until 1906.

Letters

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the house preserved but it was wrecked in 1969 and a medical building constructed on the site.

WHAT THE LADY WANTS

In the good old days stores were smaller and merchants were oriented toward "personal service and customer satisfaction." Today, stores are large and multiple, usually in groups or chains, with group management oriented toward bigness, technology, computerization, mass buying and "public image."

When I joined Burdine's in 1921, Roddey Burdine had weekly meetings with all personnel to impress on them the importance of service and customer satisfaction. They had porters and doormen to assist customers and carry their packages. In pursuing this purpose they had a very liberal "return goods" policy - a "satisfaction or money-back guarantee."

Once, Mr. Burdine spoke to a young men's Bible class and told them success in life could be likened to a golf game - you had to "have the right swing at the start," and then added, "but don't forget the good things."

George W. Jenkins, founder of Publix Supermarkets, started out in a small store in Harris, Ga. and used to tell his employees, "Give the lady what she wants." Today they operate 250 stores open every day of the week but closed on Sunday. They still try to "give the lady what she wants" and "not forget the good things."

B.H. Blakey

11011 SW 88 Court

Hiram Blakey, who came to Miami in 1921 and worked at Burdine's until his

retirement as vice president and public relations director, has shared his correspondence in March 1980 with John S. Knight, editor emeritus and former chairman of Knight-Ridder Newspapers. He also included a copy of the June 1980 issue of *Sunrays*, the Burdines house organ, in which the retired (1961) board chairman of Burdines, George E. Whitten and his wife Lottie were wished a happy 60th wedding anniversary June 3. Whitten wrote, "I spent 48 years in Burdines and loved every minute of it."

CENSUS ADDENDA

... work is being done to make the 1900 census of Dade County into a book. Wava White at West Palm Beach has been doing the bulk of the work and the Palm Beach County Genealogical Society plans to publish it. I have been doing what I could to check names in the area, which will constitute three-fourths of the work.

... the 1885 state census was taken by Charles Peacock and contains the same items of information as the 1880 federal census. The space allotted for names was a bit short so Charles wrote initials instead of first names. Charles did not write plainly. It would be most difficult to do a good job at transcribing so I did not try, but summarized what I found.

Oby Bonawit

12030 SW 68 Avenue

Oby Bonawit's work laboriously transcribing early records is unappreciated by anyone who has not seen some of the originals, but present-day generations should be eternally grateful to him. One fruit of

some of this tender care is his recently published book *Miami Florida Early Families and Records*, which is available in the HASF library, or for \$15 you may have one of your own, purchased at the museum shop.

CARYSFORT RELISHED

From a letter to Charles M. Brookfield:

... It was indeed pleasant to see your short story, "Mystery at Carysfort" (May 1980). It was more pleasant, however, to read your fine, basically descriptive and informative prose that captivated your reader, Charlie. I hope you will record more such gems.

I have been mostly in the Bahamas of late. Have a small cottage with about the same frugal amenities as on Elliott's Key...

Wade (Stiles)

Green Turtle Cay

Abaco, Bahamas

Charlie has promised another story. He and Wade are among HASF's original charter and founder members. (See Final Word.)

... I enjoyed the articles about subtropic houses and especially enjoyed the tale about Carysfort Light that Charlie Brookfield wrote. We've been snorkeling there many times.

T.J. Cogswell

5850 Riviera Drive

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

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*.



The pool and bathhouse may not be local but it should be in South Florida. Beneath the yellow pines are Australian pines found in this area and peeking over the screen on the right is a palm tree. The building at right in background could be a hotel.

THE FINAL WORD

In the back of *Tequesta*, the Journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, among the 1700 or so members listed are 22 with an asterisk and three with two asterisks, denoting charter members and founder members. I have always wondered what the difference was and recently found out from HASF's librarian Becky Smith in the course of researching a comment that "1981 is HASF's 40th anniversary."

For those who have not read Charlton W. Tebeau's article on the "Origin and Early Years of The Historical Association of Southern Florida" in the June 1976 issue of *Update*, 23 persons gathered at the home of James and Ruby Leach Carson in January 1940 and agreed to make an effort to establish a historical society. By April 23 there were 90 persons who chose a set of seven officers headed by George Merrick and 21 directors. Estero, Everglades City, Key West and Nassau were represented on the board.

A constitution and bylaws were written, a charter signed and the journal *Tequesta's* first issue published by 1941. *Tequesta* was a joint venture with the University of Miami, continuing until the university withdrew in 1974.

Before the end of the first decade, in August 1950, the historical marker program was announced and the first marker was placed the following year in Bayfront Park, a site the *Tequesta* Indians called home.

By the end of the second decade HASF was negotiating with Rosalie Wolfe for the purchase of a house at 2010 N. Bayshore Drive to be used as a museum. She accepted an offer of \$40,000. Link trainer inventor Edwin Link and his wife Marian assumed a \$15,000 interest-free mortgage on the house in 1962 and Jack Porter became HASF's first director, followed the next year by David Alexander, who served over a decade.

Update made its appearance in October 1973 with articles about heraldry, guns and Florida as part of the Caribbean. A report on the marker program revealed 29 markers in place with the latest being HASF's museum, which was opened the same month at the present site. The county had offered the spot to the association, a building fund campaign was launched and the building completed in October 1973. Thelma Peters became interim director during part of 1974 and our leader Randy Nimnicht arrived in July that year.



Ninety persons attended the organization meeting April 23, 1940 of the Historical Association of Southern Florida. Its first annual meeting in April 1981 will have grown to its fortieth this year.

The annual meeting in April this year will be HASF's fortieth and should bring back many memories to those 22 charter members and three founder members. The charterers are: Charles Brookfield, Robert and Margaret Burton, Patty and William Catlow, Walter Combs, Laura Cushman, William P. Dismukes, Mrs. John Gifford, Thomas Herin, William Herin, Herberta Leonardy, Eunice P. Merrick, Thelma Peters, Mrs. J. Lawton Rast, Luella Shaw, Elizabeth Spinks, Charlton W. Tebeau and Charles Doren Tharpe. The three founders are: Marjory Douglas, Lewis Leary and Wade Stiles, whose letter from the Bahamas to Charlie Brookfield appears in the Letters column.

What is the difference between charter members and founder members? Four dollars. Back when the association established its first dues you could get a charter membership for \$1 and a founding membership for \$5.

One former president of the Historical Association of Southern Florida will be missing from the an-

nual meeting this year. Rear Admiral Irvin J. Stephens died of a heart attack on the last day of 1980 at the age of 70. Admiral Stephens took over the leadership of HASF a year and a half after retiring as director of the Port of Miami and served from April 1974 to April 1975. In six years he had built the port into the largest passenger port in the United States.

Admiral Stephens, a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy at New London, Ct., first came to Miami as an officer in the Navy's Submarine Chaser Training Center in World War II. He later commanded all Coast Guard operations from Miami, beginning with the Cuban crisis.

He conducted meetings of the board of trustees with the same precision he used with Coast Guard officers, tempering his regimen with a genial smile. "He was truly a person of substance," said HASF director Randy Nimnicht.

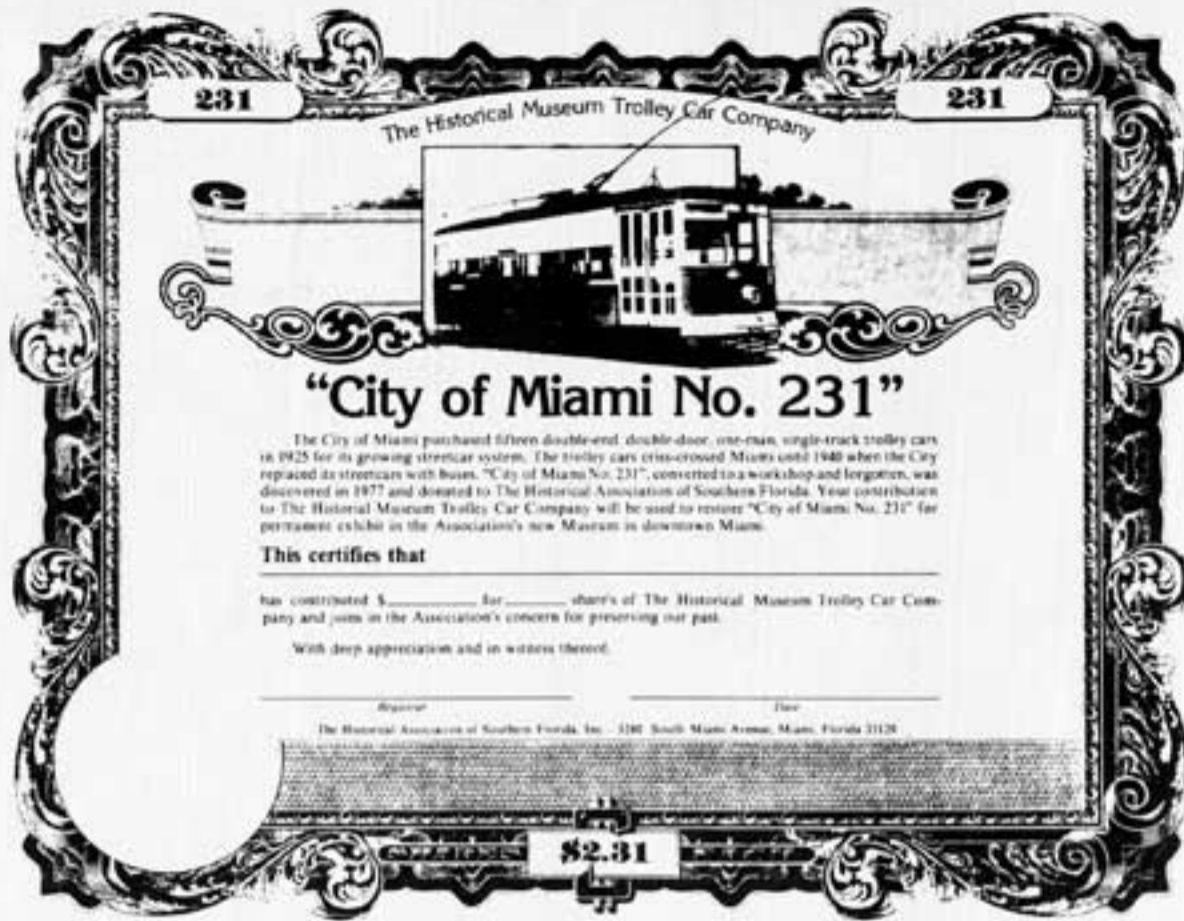
Marian Anderson

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

Jaquelin Duggan Mason, who came to Miami while Henry Flagler was still alive, told about summer in Miami in the May issue.

Michael N. Kesselman, director of student activities and social science chairman at Nautilus Junior High School, wrote the Booker T. Washington High School article from material he gathered for his doctoral degree, which he received from the University of Miami in 1979.

Bea Hines, who grew up in Liberty City, is a reporter for *The Miami Herald*.



SHARE IN THE RESTORATION OF OLD #231!

In 1977, the Historical Association of Southern Florida became the owner of trolley car #231 from the original City of Miami trolley line which stopped service in 1940.

Following extensive research, the Association elected to undertake the formidable task of restoring #231 to its original state – at an estimated cost of \$42,000. Following completion of the restoration, #231 will be displayed at the new Historical Museum, now scheduled to open in the Dade County Cultural Complex in 1982.

To finance the restoration, the Association has established the Historical Museum Trolley Car Company. Opening shares are offered at \$2.31.

Blocks of shares are available at \$231 for 100 shares, \$23.10 for 10 shares, or \$2.31 each in odd lots. Your purchase is tax deductible; your dividend is the satisfaction of preserving an important part of South Florida's past. For each contribution of \$2.31, the Association will send you a personalized certificate complete with embossed corporate seal. To become a shareholder, send your check (payable to The Historical Association of Southern Florida) to:

Trolley Car

The Historical Association of Southern Florida
3280 South Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33129

**Yes, I would like to purchase shares in the
Historical Museum Trolley Car Company.**

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ shares @ \$2.31 per share.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Purchase of shares is tax deductible.

Update

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

Address Correction Requested

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