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**Remember "FIU in '72" Bumper Stickers?  
Smithsonian Group + HASF Guide = 'Glades Experience  
20th Century Environmentalists: Do You Know Them?  
Graham's Harvests Came Too Late For Him**

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The Historical Association of Southern Florida

# UPDATE

Volume 9, Number 3

August 1982

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The Historical Association of Southern Florida

# UPDATE

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**Mrs. James S. Wooten**  
 PUBLICATIONS CHAIRMAN

**Marie Anderson**  
 EDITOR

**Lee Aberman**

**Dorothy Fields**

**Arva Moore Parks**

**Thelma Peters**

**Eugene Provenzo**

**Yvonne Santa-Maria**

ADVISERS

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

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Michael Kesselman delineates 15 men and women who have worked to preserve and enhance the Everglades, everything but their names. How many do you know?

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He struggled with the land and with the politicians and did not live to see the harvest of his efforts.

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**On the cover:** Man with a shovel: Burma's U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, ready to break ground for the building of Florida International University; man on the run: FIU President Charles E. Perry; man behind him: Florida Governor Reubin O'D. Askew.

**Photo credits:** cover, p. 3-6 FIU; p. 2 Seth Bramson; p. 8-9: B & H Miami News, A HASF, all others Miami Herald; pp. 7 & 10 HASF; p. 11 FIU; pp. 12, 13, 15 Graham family.



1928 Shrine convention decorations turn up on a postcard of the "Miami Daily News Tower, Miami, Florida" (see Letters).

## LETTERS

### ENSHRINED PARK

Seth Bramson, who has been a collector since he was 12, has shared a postcard from his vast collection showing two double pilons with Egyptian heads mounted on them. (February 1982 Out of the Trunk picture) You can see the Prins Valdemar's bow in the background at right. The description on the reverse side extols the splendid roads leading to Miami, however. It also has a small rectangle in the upper right that says, "Place One Cent Stamp Here."

### CAPE SABLE

The centerfold picture of Cape Sable is so impressive I wouldn't be surprised if some hot shot developer doesn't try to buy it.

Kathryn Proby  
Key West, FL

Mrs. Proby enclosed an article on the efforts of the Key West Art and Historical Society to acquire a collection of 12 of Mario Sanchez's paintings (see Book Review) which has been made available. A fund-raising campaign for \$80,000 was launched in May with a Gato Village Festival.

### "SOUNDS" SOUNDS GOOD

I enjoyed Billee Peeler Pearce's poem "Booming Sounds." (February 1982) I think it is great!

You can feel the movement in Miami, the "Booming Sounds," the crowded streets, and even the hurricanes as you read it; and yes, the quietness afterwards.

It can never all be expressed in so short a form so well as in "Booming Sounds." Blank verse is perfect for this story, and her chosen words have so much feeling and force.

*I like it so well I plan to read it for two programs I am giving soon. I only hope I can do it justice.*

*Billee, continue this form of writing history. It is fun to read, especially aloud.*

Odell Rawls Scarborough  
460 NE 52 Terrace

### STAGE COACH

*I am collecting material on the stage coach which used to run from Lantana to Lemon City 1893-1896. I would be glad to hear from any member who has a picture of the stage coach itself and where the line started and finished. The only thing that is certain is the half-way stop at Stranahan's Camp.*

Geoffrey Lynfield  
7050 NE Seventh Ave.  
Boca Raton, FL 33431  
(305) 395-2825

(See "The Final Word" p. 16.)

### HASF & RINGLINGS

*As a child in the late 1930s when visiting the pitifully neglected John and Mable Ringling museum the specter of their personalities haunted me. We were told about their wish and plans to be buried beneath their beloved Michelangelo's David in the outside plaza. I asked why was not their request granted? It seemed the least the state, their family and friends might have done for them was to permit this favor.*

*Recently I read THOSE AMAZING RINGLINGS AND THEIR CIRCUS by Gene Plowden (Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell ID 1967). I found my answer on p. 267, in this well-documented work:*

*"The Historical Association of Southern Florida offered to bring the bodies 'home' as a*

## AROUND THE MUSEUM

The outcome of Robert Herman's New World Festival of the Arts was not known at **Update's** press time but its opening as celebrated by HASF soared on wings of birds.

Just prior to opening panic mounted. With 12 days of rain and rainclouds still overhead the decision was made to transfer the first public presentation of Audubon's **The Birds of America** from the Dade Parks Department quadrangle on SE 32 Rd. back to the HASF Museum of Science complex where Science Museum Director Eric Speyer hastily made accommodations in his exhibit areas for a display of the four volumes of the Double Elephant Folio, each provided with a white cotton-gloved page-turner, all of whom should have had aching arms the next day.

Guests were greeted outside the entrance by a furry double-folio elephant. You don't know what a double-folio elephant is? Well, a double-folio elephant is 29-1/2" x 39-1/2" and a double-folio elephant is an elephant with a 29-1/2" x 39-1/2" tempera-painted replica of an Audubon print (that great flamingo on the cover of **Update's** May issue) on each side, painted by versatile Eric Speyer. Where do you get an elephant? You let your fingers do the walking through the Yellow Pages.

Inside, between print-watching and friend-greeting, guests nibbled on some of the creations of Antoni Miralda, the fanciful Italian, who built birds' nests with slim french fries and filled them with speckled quail eggs (hardboiled). He also took half-shells of hens' eggs, painted them a deep orchid, filled them with creamy-white sour cream sprinkled with red caviar and served them on pale green cardboard trays to hold eggs. White wine was available to wash it all down.

Besides serving as a debut for the prints, the reception also was a thank-you to Mickey Wolfson for his sizeable contribution of Wometco stock last fall. At the moment it is serving as collateral for the loan the association secured to purchase the Audubon prints. When HASF raises the \$1 million to redeem the stock, it will be used to establish an endowment program.

For \$10,000 you may sponsor one of the birds Audubon painted during his Florida trip and have your name as sponsor affixed beside it.

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► Continues on page 15

Sketch of the first building, *Primeria Casa*, is used by THE MIAMI NEWS in a progress report on Florida International University one year after the four-member planning team had arrived in town. It was fall 1970.

## “FIU in '72” Comes True

BY PHYLLIS SPINELLI



In December 1966 Richard Whistler, an Ohio insurance executive, wrote a letter to a fellow insurance executive named Claude Kirk, a good friend of Whistler. Claude Kirk had been elected governor of Florida in November, the first Republican in 90 years.

The letter was about a Bowling Green University graduate whom Whistler had heard talk in Akron on higher education. His name was Charles E. Perry.

The reaction of Kirk's staff was: "He should be hired as of yesterday."

It took some wheedling but by mid-year the Holden, WV, native took his ideas and his family and moved from Bowling Green to Tallahassee, capital of Florida.

In the other wing of the capitol building from the governor's office, the legislature was still arguing the merits of a bill that had first been introduced in 1943 by Senator Ernest R. Graham of Dade County. It sought the establishment of a state university in what had become the largest county in the state.

Although Graham had fought hard for his bill, it had not passed.

By the mid-1950s the children born in the post-World War II baby boom were straining the facilities of primary and secondary schools. This prompted Governor LeRoy Collins to appoint a council for the study of higher education in Florida which urged that the state prepare plans "based on an expected college enrollment by 1970 of at least three times the number of students attending college in the state in 1955." The council recommended that "immediate steps be taken to establish additional state degree-granting institutions in the Tampa Bay area and on the lower East Coast."

The University of South Florida was authorized in 1956 in Tampa. The council urged the State Board of Control (later to become the Board of Regents) to seek legislation in the 1957 session of the legislature authorizing the establishment of a university in Dade County.

It took nine years to turn the council's initial recommendation into a reality.

When the University of South Florida was authorized in Tampa in 1956 Florida State University in Tallahassee was 105 years old, the University of Florida in Gainesville 103. Even Florida A & M in Tallahassee was 69 years old. No other state institution granting degrees had been built.

In the next nine years four degree-granting institutions were authorized by the state. Florida Atlantic at Boca

Raton (1961), University of West Florida at Pensacola (1963) and University of North Florida at Jacksonville (1965) were all upper-level institutions, depending on the highly developed community college network throughout the state to provide freshman and sophomore instruction.

The 1961 facility at Boca Raton was indeed "on the lower East Coast" — in Palm Beach County, two counties north of Dade County. In the 1960 census Palm Beach County population was 228,106. Dade, the largest county in the state, had a population of 935,047, more than twice the size of the next most populous county, Duval (Jacksonville), at 455,411.

In 1965 State Senator Robert M. Haverfield of Dade County persuaded 24 of his Senate colleagues representing districts from Key West to Jacksonville to sign as co-introducers of a bill establishing a degree-granting state university in Dade County where "in less than a decade more than three million people will reside ... within a 50-mile radius of the center thereof" and "it is essential that a higher education be afforded every high school student capable of undertaking advanced study if we are to survive in the atomic and space age." Representatives Murray Dubbin, Richard Pettigrew and Robert L. Shevin introduced companion legislation in the House designating Dade County as the site for a new university.

The bill that finally passed and was signed into law by Governor Kirk June 22, 1965, authorized the establishment of a four-year degree-granting college. No money was appropriated to set this authorization in action.

It wasn't until 1968 through special efforts by Senators Haverfield, Shevin and Reubin Askew (who later became governor) that the legislature approved appropriation of \$225,850 initial planning money.

That same year Florida Technological University (now University of Central Florida) opened in Orlando. It was a four-year degree-granting college designed to assist the space program on Merritt Island which launched Frank Borman, James Lovell and William Anders on a voyage around the moon by year's end.

It took another year for the Board of Regents to designate a site for the new university. Land in Dade County was expensive and the regents required 1,000 acres for state university campuses. Finally, in July 1969 the regents accepted two sites for the new university: a portion of the old Tamiami Airport and some acreage on the Interama site. The former would serve the rapidly developing southwest.

► Continues on page 4



Formal presentation of the master plan was made by President Perry at a "Florida International Day" luncheon sponsored by the board of governors of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.



Coverage of master plan presentation was extensive. Skilled in public relations, Perry had a flair for the dramatic, for quality, something different. A bumper sticker, however, was the most pervasive.

the other, the equally rapidly developing northeast. Neither had anywhere near 1,000 acres.

On July 11, 1969 Charles E. Perry was appointed founding president of Florida International University by the Board of Regents in a meeting in Jacksonville. The regents of the State University System had picked one of their own. Chuck Perry had served a year as vice chancellor of the system following a year spent in Gov. Kirk's office. He had just turned 32, the youngest person ever to be named head of a state university in Florida.

Perry recalls the first time he arrived on the site of what was to become FIU:

"It was an old abandoned airport in the boondocks. We drove an old state car out there two miles from the nearest life. We went to the control tower, worked our way up to the glass area and I looked out over that site. I had a flash of what it was going to be. I said to my administrative officer Don McDowell,

"This is where we're going to have our office."

"I thought he was going to have a heart attack on the spot. He absolutely could not believe that I was going to take this old building with dirt and cockroaches running all over the place. He didn't know me very well but he thought I wasn't that kind of person.

"I said, 'We're going to be right on this site. We're going to watch this university grow literally from the ground up.'

"So we cleaned up that old building and painted it



Three of the four planners hard at work coordinating time-tables could be mistaken for the backroom of a numbers game. Nick Sileo, Don McDowell and Chuck Perry were dealing with numbers and it was a gamble.

Ivory. It's sort of an inside joke in higher education to have your own Ivory tower."

The team in the Ivory Tower consisted of Donald L. McDowell, a man with a poet's soul and a computer's mind when it came to figures; Butler H. Waugh, who looked like, acted like, and was a scholar, but one who favored sport shirts, jeans or cutoffs; and Nicholas G. Sileo, a warm, comfortable man with a PhD in sociology and a Bachelor of Divinity.

"The four members of the founding corps ... represented a cross section of academic life. Yet they had two things in common: all were from middle-class families with limited financial resources, and all were products of the public system of higher education aimed at serving the greatest possible number of qualified students at the lowest possible cost," wrote Rafe Gibbs in *Visibility Unlimited*.

In a year they and the planners, architects and engineers of the Greenleaf/Telesca firm produced a 138-page book titled *The Birth of a University—And Plans for Its Development*. It begins with a philosophy, goals and objectives and then lays out plans for:

1. governance, academic organization and programs, faculty, students, management of resources, community affairs.
2. resource requirements with figure projections for nine years for space, staff and faculty requirements.
3. a campus that places it in relation to South Florida, the Dade-Broward area, and the area adjacent to the campus.

It was printed and circulated locally and nationally and the Ivory Tower was deluged with job applications. Some of them were accepted almost immediately as staff needs were expanding.

So were space needs. Trailers were already in use and in the fall of 1970 a modular building was ordered from a Fort Lauderdale firm. In two months 16 trucks brought the sections, which cranes lifted into place. Grass, trees, and plants were added.

The building was ready the day after the official groundbreaking ceremony at which U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was given an honorary degree.

It hadn't been easy to get the Secretary-General, who already had 28 degrees from old and revered institutions — not one which existed only on paper — but Chuck Perry had managed it, with agreement that Mr. Secretary-

General would not have to speak. Florida International University would have an international star at its dedication.

"I can still close my eyes and see it," said Perry. "We were out there just working our cans off trying to get the place ready and we were out there in the middle of nowhere and I've got my shirtsleeves rolled up and all of a sudden I look out on Tamiami Trail and I see a big black limousine with a police escort coming in. Well, UThant had arrived an hour early - somebody had given him the wrong time. So I ran in and washed my hands and face and dried with a paper towel and went out and said:

"Mr. Secretary, how are you? It's so nice to see you. I'm glad you could be here because we have a special tour for you."

"As I had gone out I told someone in the office to call out to the Everglades and tell the Miccosukee Indian group out there that we were bringing a very special guest out to take him on an airboat ride.

"He had a great time and we came back and the program went well," said Perry.

It even included a brief speech from the gracious Burmese Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Literally building a university from scratch is by no means an easy task, especially when there is a deadline to meet. For Perry and his staff that deadline was September 1972 when classes began. There had to be a building that provided classrooms, laboratories and other facilities for an estimated 3,600 students.

Planning for Primera Casa (first building) began within a few months of the arrival of Perry and his founding team - before there was a Master Plan. Since it was known only in general terms what would be taught in the building and what divisions would be assigned office space in it, Primera Casa was designed for total flexibility. Rooms were made large, with walls that could be shifted.

One morning at 2 a.m. Architect Francis Telesca was roused by a phone call from Chuck Perry asking him to add a whole new floor to the building. Perry had heard that there were some additional building funds available to the Board of Regents. Moving fast, Perry, McDowell, Telesca and Dan D'Oliveira, director of physical planning, readied all the plans for the building, including the fifth floor, before the next Regents' meeting. The team spirit paid off; the Regents approved the plans. Further tribute came later: the plans won a first-place award in a national contest sponsored by the Construction Specifications Institute; the building received the 1973 Award of Excellence for the outstanding concrete structure in Florida and it was featured in *College Management* magazine for February 1973.

Artist Albert Vrana of Miami was commissioned to create a mural for Primera Casa. *Las Cuatro Razas* (The Four Races) cost \$40,000 and stands as a reminder that FIU serves all people of all races.

During the 20 months between groundbreaking and the opening of the University FIU was functioning everywhere in the community. Conferences were conducted. Grants were sought and awarded for community programs. On Miami Beach Rocky Pomerance's policemen were given 96 hours of instruction to help them handle the two national political conventions that were being held on the Beach the summer of 1972.

Land-grant rural colleges had long had County Agricultural Extension Agents as a go-between for farmers and the colleges and universities. Metropolitan Dade County received an Urban Agent as a go-between for residents and the county.

► Continues on page 6



**Congressman Claude Pepper gets an assist from Chuck Perry at groundbreaking. Gov. Reubin Askew, UN Secretary-General UThant, Father Theodore Gibson, Bishop Coleman Carroll and Rep. Richard Pettigrew all took a hand to the shovel at a special plot of ground that had been pre-shoveled to soften it.**



**Large crowd attended groundbreaking, a colorful one with many representatives of Caribbean, Central and South American countries in native costumes, a parade of flags and dancing groups. Scene is looking east toward 107th Ave. from the control tower.**



**Perry's Ivory Tower - The control tower which the planning team took over surrounded by a cluster of mobile units.**



Earthmover is already busy leveling ground for the second building, Deuxieme Maison, while work goes on at Primera Casa. PC, as the building is called, housed all functions of the university at first. Classrooms, student union, library-auditorium and two lab buildings came later.



As many employees as could be mustered pose for a picture just before opening day, Sept. 14, 1972. Albert Vrana's metal sculpture mural, Las Cuatro Razas, looks down on them.



First graduation, June 16, 1973, was held in a first-floor corner of PC that was part of the library. A stage was brought in, faculty placed on either side, VIPs in several rows at right and graduates filled the rest. Parents who were on an outside gallery could see through glass walls and hear from loudspeakers.

Students were given college credits and could work out their own course work with instructors under the External Degree program, the first in the state. Other students were enrolled in off-campus credit courses in four counties. Six institutes were developed: human resource development, labor research and study, women, Cubans, creative communication, and real estate. FIU had come a long way from an old, abandoned airport.

Excitement filled the air on opening day, Sept. 14, 1972, as founding members, staff and community residents gathered at the entranceway of Primera Casa. Students, not scheduled for classes until the 16th, were a good number of the crowd. Their number swelled to 5,667 opening day, taxing facilities planned for 3,600.

The opening day audience heard a congratulatory message from President Richard M. Nixon and a proclamation from Metropolitan Dade County Mayor Steve Clark. The four founders, Perry, McDowell, Waugh and Sileo, were presented with Founders Plaques by the Board of Regents as a tribute to what they had accomplished in three short years. The Goals of Florida International University were read, and, as a climax, in memory of Sen. Ernest R. Graham, a Torch of Knowledge, Service and Understanding was dedicated and lighted.

On the evening of June 16, 1973, the hard work and dedication of Graham, Haverfield and the founding members paid off as 191 graduates participated in the university's first graduation ceremony. The ceremony was a major achievement in itself because the university's initial commencement had been planned for the following year when the first class had completed the full two-year course. Graduates had begun clamoring for a ceremony by the end of the first quarter.

Perry sentimentally insisted that the first graduation ceremony be held on the campus. The only place big enough to hold the exercises was the reading room of the library on the ground floor of Primera Casa, which was cleared and prepared for the graduates. More than 1,500 parents, friends, wives and husbands who showed up sat or stood outside in the pouring rain but seeing through the glass walls and hearing over loudspeakers.

By the second year ceremonies had to be held at Hialeah Park Race Track to accommodate the 1,200 graduates and 7,500 friends and family members. Florida International University was on its way.

In October 1975 Charles Perry resigned as president of FIU. The decision startled many but Perry has not regretted it. "Not for one minute," he said.

"No matter how good a job he thinks he's doing or how loved he may be, there's a life expectancy to the effectiveness of a university president and I think it's particularly true of founding presidents.

"Florida International University and Chuck Perry were the same. I couldn't divorce myself from that institution. I slept it, I ate it, I drank it, I talked about it, I lived it 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I don't think a university can be planned, brought to life and developed unless you have that kind of dedication. If such an individual stays too long, he could destroy all the positive things he has done for the institution.

"It is like having a baby. When the baby starts to walk you have to let it grow and develop. You can't always be hugging it and keeping it in a box. I felt that it was time to let go. I had accomplished my mission and, in my own mind if not in the minds of others, I had accomplished it successfully.

"I think that's an important dimension in living with yourself." ●





Two Californians, who had traversed the US from California to Miami, paddle down Turner River traversing 1900 years in time.

## Smithsonians Tour 'Glades With HASF

BY PAM LOWELL

The entourage numbered 30 — some were bonafide bird watchers and some barely knew a cormorant from a roseate spoonbill. One was a 73-year-old expert canoeist from Boston and a few had never paddled before. They came knowing that the Everglades was an unusual sort of place and left, according to Wit Ostrenko, HASF director of education, "with a real feel for the uniqueness of this very special area."

The tour, a seven-day in-depth

trip through the Everglades, was sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, coordinated by Prue Clendenning and Holly Haynes of the Smithsonian and led by Ostrenko, whose expertise in the areas of both natural and cultural history is known to South Floridians who have taken canoe, bus, and sailboat trips with him.

From the airport the whole group went straight across to Everglades City and the Rod and Gun

Club, which was to be their base for three days. Though they were to blend with nature on a daily basis by means of canoe, hiking, and slogging, nighttime brought a respite from the rigors of outdoor life and a clean, dry spot to rest one's weary body.

Each night after dinner an orientation of what was upcoming the next day was held. The first one, according to Ostrenko, "wasn't a naming sort of introduction. Rather it was more of how the whole Everglades works as a system — how it was formed, how the sawgrass is maintained by fire and floods, and climatic effects."

The first day out it rained. "In fact," said Wit, "we had every bit of weather that South Florida is noted for. It was hot and muggy, then it rained, then we had a cold front that sent the temperature into the 50s, then we had our wonderful, typical spring of warm days and cool nights."

Rain did not deter these travelers. They visited Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, where they reminisced about the plume hunters of days gone by and cypress logging. They also saw wood storks thinking of nesting.

After lunch a slog (that's a walk through the swamps, just like it sounds) through Fakahatchee Strand was scheduled, and, as if on schedule, the rains came, adding to the muck the stalwarts slogged through in the swamp. Not to worry, though, everyone was well-protected



Slogging through Fakahatchee Strand with water overhead and underfoot.

► Continues on page 10

## "THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES IS A NATURAL PHENOMENON SO COMPLEX IN ALL AND EXPENSIVE EFFORT HAS FAILED TO COMPREHEND IT IN TERMS OF CONTE

Here are some 20th century environmentalists – gathered together by Michael N. Kesselman – who have concerned themselves in one way or another with the Everglades. See how many you can identify. Their biographies are in chronological order by birth date. Their names are listed alphabetically. The ten pictures secured are displayed in interest groups.

1. Born in Illinois in 1845, he was 36 and in poor health when he brought his wife and son to Bradenton, but he pursued his study of Florida's plant life while there. When he retired after 18 years in the mollusk department of the Smithsonian Institution in 1900, he returned to Florida, Little River this time. He was soon writing pamphlets for the horticultural society and produced nine books on plants. His enthusiasm was contagious and people flocked to his home to see his plants. In 1931, a year before his death, Jungle Park was renamed for him.

2. This young man, who was born in NJ, was working in a bank in 1884 when he did his first bird survey, which was highly praised. Two years later he resigned from the bank and moved to Gainesville FL for field study on birds. By 1888 he was a member of the American Museum of Natural History in New York and taking winter field trips to Florida, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America. He took an active part in the campaign against the millinery trade, which was destroying birds by the millions. In 1908 he became curator of ornithology at the Natural History Museum, where he continued until 1942, three years before his death. He was known for his promotion of popular study and conservation of bird life, research in geographical distribution of birds, pioneer work in showing birds in their natural habitat and in seasonal exhibits.

3. Another NJ man had opened a life insurance office in New York and had become bird-protection committee chairman of the American Ornithologists' Union (founded 1883) when a Boston group organized a Massachusetts Audubon Society in early 1896. There had been great response ten years before to a suggestion of *Forest and Stream's* editor to such a society, but he had no one who could take hold and organize it. Now one group had formed itself and our bird-protection chairman found himself encouraging the founding of local Audubon groups all over the country. In 1900 he tried to buy Florida's Pelican Island from the federal government as a bird sanctuary for nesting brown pelicans but the deal bogged down in bureaucratic red tape. President Theodore Roosevelt was so impressed, however, that he took matters into his own hands and set the island aside as the first national wildlife refuge. At the same time, our man was searching out game wardens at key bird-resting colonies in the US and by 1904 had 34 wardens in 10 states, four in Florida. By Jan. 4, 1905, 35 state Audubon societies and Washington, DC filed incorporation papers in NY as the National Association of Audubon Societies (NAAS) and our man became its first president. He served until 1910 when he became paralyzed by a stroke. He died in 1920.

4. Born in Michigan in 1869, this young man received his BS degree from a midwestern state college of which his father had been president. He went to work for the US Department of Agriculture and spent the next five years studying botany and allied services in Germany, Italy and Java. In 1894 he began plant explorations that in the next ten years would take him to the East Indies, Siam, Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea, Japan, China and Africa. He managed, however, to squeeze in a trip to Miami in 1898 and establish a plant experimental station. In 1904 he became the first head of the US plant introduction office in Washington, DC, which he headed until his retirement in 1928. He continued his research in his retirement home in Coconut Grove until his death in 1954. In 1935 a botanical garden was dedicated to him.

5. Born in 1869, this landscape architect came from New Haven CT to Coconut Grove when he retired in 1925. He made friends with a group of naturalists who wintered in



Florida or visited it frequently, most of w Natural History, which the newcomer progressive destruction of the wilderne should be saved. Our man toured the agreed to work for their preservation. In 1 Association and the next year persuaded to acquire the land needed to meet the Congress approved the park whenever Department. The land amount had grown acres to almost two, the legislature failed along. Our man was crippled in a fall. Wor it to the park dedication in 1947 and was spectators. He died in 1952.

6. His was a short, happy life but it was protect vanishing species of rare birds in 1870 at Flamingo FL. He was a pleasa employed with funds from NAAS to try gotten passed by the Florida legislature to 1901 and the four wardens hired in 1902 commercial killing of thousands of birds men's hats was a lucrative business. It ha and the hunters were prepared to defend the young man from Flamingo was killed reaction enabled the passage of more effi

7. A boy born in IL in 1873 was to assur conservation. He moved with his family in community of citrus farmers. Birds fasci he traded his collection of bird eggs and board and tuition. In 1895 he had writt decorating of hats with birds and feath became its secretary and took over ex became paralyzed in 1910. He became some 15 years.

8. This young woman, daughter of a Flor judge in 1891. He had been born in IL bu school in Chicago. His first wife died following year he won our girl's heart. In state legislature and ultimately became g in the civic life of Jacksonville, where th women's clubs. By 1910 the federation ha glades west of Homestead. It purchasec acres jointly donated by the State of Flo

### NATURALISTS



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

### EVERGLADES PARK



I



J



K

**OF ITS RELATIONSHIPS THAT A CENTURY OF INCREASINGLY INTENSIVE  
ROLLING AND USING IT EFFECTIVELY." – CHARLTON W. TEBEAU**



... were members of the Florida Society of ... ed. The group was concerned about the ... and had delineated particular areas that ... s, was impressed with their beauty and ... he organized the Everglades National Park ... legislature to establish a park commission ... requirements of a national park. In 1934 ... property was turned over to the Interior ... from an original delineation of one million ... and the purchase price. World War II came ... was continued by others but our man made ... ven resounding applause from the 10,000

... his death that he catalyzed a movement to ... e Everglades. This young man was born in ... quiet young man who was one of four ... enforce a law the association had finally ... protect tropical birds. The law was passed in ... ere warned of the dangers they risked. The ... hose feathers were used to decorate w ... been going on since the young man's birth ... eir right to kill the birds. Within three years ... y a plume hunter and the ensuing public ... ive protective laws.

... a leading role in the development of bird ... 882 to Archer FL, where there was a Quaker ... ed him and by the time he was college age ... ounted birds to a NC college for two years' ... and distributed a leaflet condemning the ... s. In 1905 he helped incorporate NAAS, ... utive responsibilities when the president ... AS president in 1920, a position he held

... state senator, married a Hernando County ... moved to Brooksville FL after attending law ... few months after their marriage and the ... 93 he resigned his judgeship to run for the ... rnor of Florida. His wife took an active role ... had moved, and in the state federation of ... come interested in the preservation of the ... 00 acres, which, added to almost 2,000 ... and the Model Land Company, became

**ENVIRONMENTALISTS**



I

J

Royal Palm State Park. Our former First Lady persuaded the federation to offer the park as part of a national park in 1929 and in 1932 Florida's first congresswoman introduced a bill calling for the establishment of such a park.

**9.** Another champion of the Everglades was a man considered the US's first graduate forester. He received his doctorate in forestry from the University of Munich in 1899. As a conservationist, public speaker, prolific author, professor (UM) and civic leader he diligently fought for the conservation of natural resources in South Florida with particular emphasis on the Everglades. He condemned the drainage of the Everglades and cautioned against turning the area into a Sahara.

**10.** There are many Friends of the Everglades but only one comes to mind when the phrase is presented. She came to Miami in 1915 to spend the two years it took then to obtain a divorce. She has been in Miami ever since, leaving behind, save for her accent, the Minnesota and New England of her upbringing. She uses her voice and her typewriter to "fight for a beautiful and better Florida," joining those to whom she dedicated her book on this state with its long frontier. She attacks developers who have run canals through the big cypress. She is adamantly against any Everglades drainage and blunt in her criticism of the US Army Corps of Engineers. She circulates petitions; she travels the state speaking at political forums. Through it all she continues to work on a book about W. H. Hudson, English author and naturalist born in Buenos Aires.

**11.** A Florida governor called him "Florida's best-known conservationist" but professionally he was a newspaper man. Born in IL in 1897, he came to Miami in the height of the boom, 1925, to do a story for the Cincinnati Post. He was offered the job of city editor of **The Miami Herald**, a position he assumed several months later. He became editor of the editorial page that molded the opinions of a large segment of SE Florida. There were those who called him "Mr. Miami Herald." About the time Environmentalist #7 became incapacitated, while WWII was still the country's primary concern, our man worked with two governors to consolidate interest in establishing a national park in the Everglades. The amount of land was decreased from 2 million to 850,000 acres, almost half of which the state would have to buy. The Everglades National Park Commission was revived. Editorials examined the concerns of park critics. To crack the North-Florida-oriented legislature, the park commission decided to ask first for only \$400,000 of the \$2 million needed to buy the land. Our editor sought to win the support of five influential North Florida senators, succeeding so well that the legislature appropriated the full \$2 million. The park was dedicated Dec. 6, 1947. Our editor was appointed in 1949 to the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials, serving until it was absorbed by the Department of Conservation in 1969. In 1960 the first underwater park in continental US was named for him. He died in 1978.

**12.** This man first came to SE Florida in 1937 to make the first general reconnaissance for the National Park Service of the area which Congress had approved as a national park. His report later guided planning and administrative decisions in helping to create the park. He became the first superintendent of the park, remaining at this post for 11 years. His administrative leadership and perseverance lent stability to its first years.

**13.** The youngest of our environmentalists, he was dubbed South Florida's "ecological knight in shining armor" by **The Miami Herald** in 1972. He told the state cabinet in 1970 that drainage canals must be filled to halt growing damage to South Florida's Everglades basin. He attacked the Central and South Florida Flood Control District in 1971, charging that its policies had unbalanced water levels in the Everglades. He headed a study team that kept the jet port out of the Everglades on the grounds that it would endanger South Florida's fresh water supply. Besides being a naturalist and environmentalist, he is a lecturer, writer and philosopher.

Mark the listing with a figure and a letter if applicable (as in your free sample), mail with your name and address to **Update**, Historical Association of Southern Fla., 3280 S. Miami Ave., Miami, FL 33129, by August 15. Winners announced in November **Update**.

- |                                |                                  |                                 |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Daniel Beard</b> _____      | <b>William I. Dutcher</b> _____  | <b>T. Gilbert Pearson</b> _____ |
| <b>Guy Bradley</b> _____       | <b>David Fairchild</b> _____     | <b>John D. Pennekamp</b> _____  |
| <b>Frank Chapman</b> _____     | <b>John Gifford</b> _____        | <b>Charles T. Simpson</b> _____ |
| <b>Ernest F. Coe</b> _____     | <b>Mrs. W. S. Jennings</b> _____ |                                 |
| <b>Marjory S. Douglas</b> 10-I | <b>Arthur S. Marshall</b> _____  |                                 |



Smithsonian's Holly Haynes and Vermonter Mimi Krakoff pull into dock at Smallwood's general store on Turner River.

► Continues from page 7

against the elements, and remember these people were used to snow and slush and sleet, so what's a little bit of warm rain?

A strenuous canoe trip down the Turner River took the travelers back some 2,000 years — back to when the Calusas built huge mounds of shells and bits of pottery and rock as insurance against water surges accompanying hurricanes. It also brought them a bit forward to the turn of the 20th century when they explored the Smallwood general store.

The highlight of a tram ride through Shark Valley was discovering there is no quicksand in the Everglades. The Ranger sent Wit wading into what looked like deep muck and he sank no deeper than his knees.

"That group is now convinced that the Everglades lies on a cradle of rock, or, to be more exact, on a bed of

oolitic limestone," said Wit, who knew a bottom was there.

Two sunset cruises were taken — three counting the final midnight sail on Biscayne Bay out of Dinner Key. On one, in the Ten Thousand Islands, osprey nests complete with baby ospreys were seen, along with black skimmers, bottlenose dolphins, and the ever-present raccoons. On the second, "after we had checked into the Flamingo Hotel, we were treated to a glorious sunset — it was almost weird. As the sun began its descent, it glowed a familiar golden color, then it sank behind a cloud, only to break through once again in a spectacular red glow," Wit reported.

Mullet are those fish that jump out of the water. Some say they do it to get rid of parasites, some say to get away from predators. Wit says they "do it for fun. One actually jumped far enough out of the water on Bear Lake



Only Miamian on the trip, Mrs. Henrique Alonzo, was also the tour member with the most years behind her — 75.

Trail to hit my chest and fall flopping into the canoe." It was a good-sized one, about 14" long, and provided subject matter for the clicking of cameras.

The travelers couldn't get enough of experiencing what was at hand. They took brisk walks at sunrise. On one to Echo Pond they saw their greatest gathering of birds, some 500, including a white ibis who had caught a snake and was in the process of billing it to death.

A trip to Mahogany Hammock included a race to see who first found the two varieties of tree snails. Winner received the first box lunch. Nine-mile Pond provided a glimpse of a red-breasted merganser; Long Pine Key had millions of wildflowers and a pair of red-shouldered hawks; flashlights along the Anhinga Trail at night showed the gleaming red eyes of alligators, and barred owls whooped. A special treat got these tourists up by 5:40 a.m. to view the spring planetary alignment of Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars.

The trip wound up at the Coconut Grove Hotel. The Smithsonian travelers were a bit tired, but there was to be little rest. Becky Smith, HASF's librarian, had managed to have developed Wit's innumerable slides, and after dinner he "roasted" the travelers as they progressed through the trip from tenderfoot to seasoned slogger.

It was a trip of experiences — some expected (a canoe tipping over), some unexpected (a budding romance) — but none will be forgotten. Explained Wit: "South Florida has a history not duplicated anywhere else in the world. These travelers were interested in what makes it unique."

A repeat of this Smithsonian tour is scheduled for fall, and one to the Keys, with snorkeling and sailing, is planned for April '83. Check your HASF programs. ●



Sun shining, sunshade up, jacket off, Carlos Alonzo walks with his mother down the road on Long Pine Key.



Lighting of a Torch of Knowledge, Service and Understanding, memorializing Senator Ernest R. Graham, closed opening day ceremony of Florida International University. President Charles E. Perry gestures toward the torch. Graham family, from left, are Sen. Bob Graham, Carol, Cynthia, Beth, daughters of Bill and Pat Graham (behind), Hilda Graham, widow of Ernest Graham, and Sandy, oldest of the Bill Grahams' daughters.

## Ernest Graham's Seedlings Flourished

BY M. W. ANDERSON

At the close of the 1972 opening day ceremony at Florida International University, Hilda S. Graham, widow of Senator Ernest R. Graham, and his sons William and Robert, watched as the Torch of Knowledge, Service and Understanding was lighted honoring Senator Graham, who in 1943 had introduced the first legislation for a state university to be established in South Florida, which, to Senator Graham, meant Dade County. Now, after almost 30 years, it was about to happen.

As the Grahams left after the ceremony, Robert said, "I just wish that Dad could have been here today." Senator Graham had died in 1964.

Ernest Graham was sent to Miami in 1921 as resident manager of a sugarcane-planting effort of the Pennsylvania Sugar Company. He established his wife Florence, daughter Mary and son Phil on a houseboat on the Miami Canal where "the alligators

and Seminoles were pals of ours," Phil said later. "It was really wilderness."

W. H. Hoodless, general manager of the Pennsylvania Sugar Company, had been associated with Ernest Graham in a beet sugar mill in Croswell, Mich., where Graham was born in 1885. Raised on a farm, a Michigan School of Mines graduate and a captain in the army engineers in World War I, he had the engineering and agricultural experience Hoodless needed to try to grow sugar in the Florida Everglades. It was part of a United States effort to alleviate a worldwide sugar shortage after the war.

Previous efforts at cane growing had been made in Florida as early as 1884 in the St. Cloud area and in 1915 at Lake Okeechobee. Prospects seemed good for a harvest from 300 acres of cane at the Everglades site when the entire planting was lost in a freeze in December 1920. Doubts were raised in Pennsylvania and

Hoodless summoned Graham.

For the next ten years Graham tussled with the Everglades. "... throughout the entire period... it was necessary... to conduct continuous and extensive research... There were few or no textbooks or other authentic printed data concerning the soil and cultivation potentialities of Everglades land... it was necessary to employ competent chemists, agriculturalists, engineers and soil analysts... the methods, processes and tools had to be specifically adapted... Ford cars and trucks have been equipped with special rims and flat steel-faced tires, ten to twelve inches wide... characterized as 'rough-riding artificial donkeys'... mules and work horses were largely unsatisfactory because the footing was too soft..." The writer, Bill Graham, was born on the houseboat in the Miami Canal a short time before the family moved to a house on Okeechobee Road.

Besides trying to live with the

► Continues on page 12

natural terrain and precarious rainy season Graham also was living with the real estate boom that had hit the area. Laborers were hard to find and recruits from Georgia soon were struck with real estate fever and left for downtown Miami. An even more vital problem materialized:

"The real estate boom... caused land values in Dade County to rise so rapidly that 33 of 96 dairies operating in the county in 1924 were forced to go out of business. The resultant decrease in the fresh milk supply alarmed J. S. Rainey, county agent," wrote Bill Graham.

Kenneth Ballinger reported: "Faced with a shortage of 4000 gallons of milk daily in the Miami area, ten men banded together in August to get a new source of milk to replace the dairies being driven out of business... A syndicate was formed to finance a \$1,000,000 dairy, fruit and truck farm on 3200 acres to be bought from the Pennsylvania Sugar Company west of Hialeah. Those joining the enterprise were Marcus A. Milam, James Gilman, E. B. Douglas, Ernest R. Graham, E. P. Fripp, Edward Anderson, John J. Quinn, Dr. John R. Pearson, James Donn and Fred Cason.

"Graham, who was manager of the Pennsylvania Sugar Company, had been preaching for some time the necessity of making pasture for dairy cows on the muck lands of the Everglades. The embargo cutting off the precious imported dairy feed was to lend added weight to his argument a month later, but the cause of imported cow feed still is being upheld, 11 years later, by state price-fixing of milk. The dairy project got off to a late

start, but the idea was roundly applauded everywhere at the time."

The heavy rains in the late summer of 1925 plus the sudden "bust" of the real estate boom ended the need for the dairy project and the money was refunded.

Ernest Graham's principal battles with the Everglades, and the main reasons for abandoning the sugarcane cultivation, were inadequate drainage and soil deficiency. A major contributor in his mind to the drainage problem was the Tamiami Trail, which had been begun in 1915 and was finally completed in 1928. The Dade County portion was finished in 1918, and Graham felt it acted as a dam to the natural flow of the water south, diverting it to the east and northwest, and the Everglades Drainage District did not appear to have the authority to control drainage.

In 1931 the Pennsylvania Sugar Company abandoned the cane-growing experiment. Graham obtained a portion of their land and some buildings and developed a dairy and beef cattle farm on the original Miami Canal site. His wife Florence died not too long after, and in the mid-1930s Graham married Hilda Simmons. Their son Bob was born in 1936.

Graham was busy running for a seat in the Florida senate on a platform advocating repeal of the Florida poll tax. The tax was considered a device to keep blacks from voting but in actuality, Graham found through his milk salesmen, whom he used to collect neighborhood opinions and to disseminate campaign material, that many white residents could not vote because of the tax and many who did

vote had their tax paid in exchange for their vote. He estimated these votes as between four and five thousand and that the money came from gamblers. In spite of the gambler-backed votes Graham won the election.

Peter D. Klingman wrote: "New Dealers in Florida during the 1930s were few and uneasily identified. Most Florida politicians were reluctant to become associated with President Roosevelt's big-government politics, with the notable exceptions of Florida Governor David Sholtz and U.S. Senator Claude Pepper. Nonetheless, in the 1937 state legislature there were Democrats committed to certain reforms. Their principal targets were the abusive practices of racing and gambling interests in Florida and the proliferation of political machines in local cities created to advance these special groups. To counter these unwelcome trends, the 1937 state legislature passed several important reform measures, including the repeal of the slot machine law passed in a previous session, municipal reform bills, and the abolition of Florida's poll tax. Much of this reform legislation resulted from the efforts of Ernest Graham, Dade County state senator."

Among the federal programs was the 1935 social security act, which had two insurance programs and an assistance program to states for categorical welfare aid. In Florida state funds would be matched up to a stated level for old age assistance, aid to the blind and aid to dependent children. Graham campaigned for a five per cent tax on pari-mutuel betting to fund this program and was successful in passing it. As Nancy



Conceivably, this photograph could have been taken very near the location of the picture on the preceding page, only 25 years earlier. Senator Graham and his son Bill are examining flooding conditions at Tamiami Airport after a 1947 hurricane.



**In 1955 Ernest Graham turned 70 and his family gave him a birthday party. The Senator is at left. Behind him is his son Phil. Next is his daughter Mary with her husband, Lon Worth Crow, behind her. Graham's sister Ora McDuffy, son Bill, wife Hilda, daughters-in-law Katharine Graham and Pat Graham and granddaughter Cathy Crow prepare to help blow out 70 candles.**

Beth Johnson stated, "The money wasn't coming out of his pockets or the pockets of his constituents but from the tracks, which had the reputation for being controlled by the mob."

Concern about "the mob" and its reputed control in various political arenas prompted Graham to introduce a charter reform bill in the legislature that would have abolished the Hialeah city council and appointed a three-year interim reform council. The bill, bitterly fought, passed the legislature, was challenged by the city council, considered constitutionally valid by the Supreme Court, which five months later reversed itself over a section of the bill prohibiting elections for three years. In the meantime the old city council continued to function and was reelected under the old charter, which the court subsequently upheld.

Graham was elected to a second term as senator in 1940. When the United States entered World War II, Army ground and air forces were established on Miami Beach and Navy sea and air forces on the mainland. Since the staple of the economy, tourism, was stopped, the county was concerned with developing wartime business contracts. Graham agreed to establish himself in Washington as an on-the-scene expeditor without pay and spent two years at the task. The Chamber of Commerce picked up basic living expenses.

In 1944 Graham ran for governor of Florida. No Dade Countian had ever been elected to the post, although William H. Gleason of Dade, elected lieutenant-governor in 1868, initiated impeachment proceedings against Governor Harrison Reed and declared himself governor. Gleason was subsequently impeached, however, for not having lived in the state three years prior to his election. Graham ran third in a field of six in the 1944 first primary and in the second primary Millard F. Caldwell of Milton defeated R. A. (Lex) Green.

Graham was then 59 and he ran for public office only one other time, when he became outraged over the county's land use plans and ran unsuccessfully for county commissioner.

Although his son Bill said that he thought politics had mellowed his father considerably Ernest Graham never became complacent. In the late 1940s as chairman of the Florida Water Resources Commission he tangled with the County Conservation Council. In the 1950s he fretted over the liberal leanings of his sons.

Phil, who had married Eugene Meyer's daughter Katharine in 1940, had become president of the *Washington Post* in 1946 and had developed a communications conglomerate of radio and television stations and magazines, including *Newsweek*. Among his friends was

Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy. Ernest Graham's youngest son Bob, president of Miami High student government, was an international officer of Key Club and a winning advocate of the United Nations in high school debates. Even Bill, who had taken over the operation of the dairy, sometimes irritated the senator's conservative constitution. He was pleased but not surprised when Bill was named outstanding young dairyman of Dade County and was elected president of the state dairy-men's association.

But Ernest Graham had much to be joyful about when his family all gathered in Miami in 1955 to celebrate his 70th birthday. His children were successful. The country was still enjoying a post-war boom.

By the next year when the state legislature authorized a university to be built in Tampa he was hopeful of at last seeing a university in Dade County. These hopes were dashed in 1961 when the "Southeast Coast" university was placed at Boca Raton.

Ernest Graham would not live to see the legislature finally establish a university in Dade County. Nor would he see the development of Miami Lakes, the prize-winning community created by Sengra, his sons' corporation headed by Bill, from some of the Everglades on which Ernest Graham tried to grow sugarcane. He was too sick before he died March 15, 1964 to enjoy the house in the development that he and Hilda had moved into only two months before his death. He had not even been told that his son Phil, who had been being treated for deep depression, had shot himself the previous August.

Young Bob Graham became a state legislator in 1966 and a state senator like his father in 1970. By the time of the opening day ceremony at Florida International University September 14, 1972, he was considered the outstanding member of the legislature and was being discussed as possible state commissioner of education. His political impetus was very like his father's when Ernest Graham had first fought for the university. No wonder Bob's feelings at the ceremony were strong for his father.

Six years later Bob Graham could again "wish Dad could have been here." On November 7, 1978, he became the first Miamian to be elected governor of Florida. He had defeated Jack Eckerd, a Republican who had received the support of the man who had defeated Ernest Graham for governor 34 years before, Millard F. Caldwell. ●

## BOOK REVIEW

Local history has many aspects, each interesting and important in its own right. Recent publications by five authors are good examples.

Langley, Joan and Wright. **Key West, Images of the Past.** Key West FL: Christopher C. Belland & Edwin O. Swift III, 1982. Dedication, foreword, 132 pp., \$19.95 hardback, \$9.95 paperback.

The Langleys' book on Key West is a picture history that surpasses Wright Langley's other collaboration, **Yesterday's Key West.** The Langleys have produced a book that is, in their own words, "a brief but entertaining history of the island, accurate enough to serve as a general reference."

The photographs are the real attraction in this work. Almost all of the images are reproduced here for the first time and they are extremely effective, giving the reader a true feeling of life on the key over the years. Even though there are no footnotes in the text or a bibliography, the sources of the photos are noted and this does make the book very useful as a general reference.

Proby, Kathryn Hall. **Mario Sanchez, Painter of Key West Memories.** Key West FL: Southernmost Press, Inc., 1981. Acknowledgments, dedication, preface, bibliography, 64 pp., \$14.95.

Kathryn Hall Proby's **Mario Sanchez** is the biography of a unique artist. The work tells the story of the descendant of a Cuban cigarmaker who came to Key West in the 1860s. Born in 1908, Mario began painting almost 35 years later. His style of carved paintings is unusual and in high demand.

However, this book is more than just the story of a man's life. It is an attempt to tell the history of "Gato's Village," an enclave in Cuban cigarmakers that existed in Key West during the late 1800s and now lives only in Sanchez's mind and in his art. Although this work has no footnotes, it is an interesting and colorful account of one man's life and his memories.

Ridolph, Edward. **Biscayne Bay Trolleys, Street Railways of the Miami Area.** Forty Fort PA: Privately published by Harold E. Cox. Introduction, 96 pp. \$9.00.

Edward Ridolph's **Biscayne Bay Trolleys** is a complete history of the trolley systems in the Miami area. The book is well researched and full of photographs illustrating the trolley's use in the area. Unfortunately, there are no footnotes and no bibliography, both of which should be included in any historical work.

Mr. Ridolph has traced the trolley's story from 1906 to 1940, including maps of all the lines established in Miami, Miami Beach, and Coral Gables. The book is full of facts and statistics on each route from its inauguration to its discontinuation. Even a

brief sketch of each trolley car's history and use within the system is included. It is hard to imagine that much more raw data on these systems will come to light. Now those data need to be analyzed in order to determine the trolleys' effect on the development and growth of Miami and its environs.

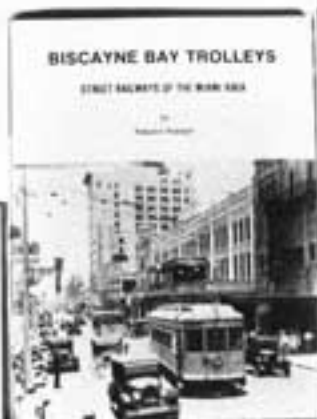
Wells, Sharon. **Forgotten Legacy, Blacks in Nineteenth Century Key West.** Key West FL: Historic Key West Preservation Board, 1982. Acknowledgments, preface, footnotes, bibliography, 60 pp. \$7.95.

In the preface of her book **Forgotten Legacy** Sharon Wells states her intention "to focus upon the isolated and often neglected culture of the black race in Key West and to unveil and record historical data that is so often buried in footnotes." She has fulfilled her goals very well. The book is well researched, well documented, and well written. The photographs, footnotes, and bibliography all attest to the work put into this study.

Ms. Wells covers all aspects of the black experience in Key West. From the arrival of blacks from the Bahamas to the demographic changes on the key by 1900 she uses her facts to advance her thesis that even though "the societies of the black man and the white man were separated [in Key West]... racism... never became firmly rooted on the island." Her evidence supports the premise and hopefully she and others will continue to pursue this line of research.

Another recent addition to the local history scene is a magazine put out by the Black Archives History and Research Foundation, edited by Dorothy Fields, director. This excellent pamphlet gives us a brief overview of black history in Miami. Hopefully this outlet for and source of black history will become a regular publication of the Archives.

— DANIEL MARKUS



A quintet of recent publications that add to South Florida's recorded history.

## FURTHER READING

### About environmentalists and Everglades National Park:

Douglas, Marjory Stoneman. **The Everglades, River of Grass.** Revised edition. Miami, Banyan Books, 1978.

Ossa, Helen. **They Saved Our Birds.** New York, Hippoerene Books, 1973.

Tebeau, Charlton W. **Man in the Everglades.** Coral Gables, University of Miami Press, 1968.



Around the Museum

► Continued from page 2

For \$2,250 you may sponsor one of the other 403 prints. Many of the birds familiar to Floridians were painted in Louisiana or South Carolina.

It is a lot of money but when the original 200 sets were issued at \$1,000 a set, Nathan W. Rothschild, founder of the House of Rothschild, considered the price outrageous and subscribed reluctantly. That was \$2.30 a print.

HASF paid \$945 for insurance and guards just to get them out of Brink's vault and display them that night.

It all began when county manager Merrett Stierheim went through the culture complex and was so impressed he felt the county commissioners should be given a tour.

The first day of June seemed a poetic day for a euphoric gathering. The commission would adjourn at noon, go to the historical museum, eat gazpacho, hear Randy Nimnicht as they toured the building, go to the library, eat a variety of sandwiches washed down with canned drinks, hear Ed Sintz, go to the art pavilion, eat ice cream, hear Jan van der Marck.

It poured rain. Three commissioners were out of town (Harvey Ruvlin had taken the Stierheim tour). The morning session developed into a battle that delayed proceedings 45 minutes. Two commissioners didn't show up at the culture complex but George Valdes, who that morning had become the first Cuban-born American to preside at a county commission meeting, arrived with Ruth Shack and Clara Osterle.

They were greeted at the door by Julia Tuttle (Lyn D'Alemberte in turn-of-the-century clothes) passing out sprays of orange blossoms.

"They're not really orange blossoms," Nimnicht said to Osterle.

"I know a lime blossom when I see one," replied the south county commissioner.

Upstairs, where the main exhibit is to be and the gazpacho was, Henry Flagler (aka Frank Burke, actor) burst among the gathering to protest their disruption of his building of the railroad. Before he returned to his work, he mellowed enough to congratulate the crowd on building the finest regional history museum in the country.

An abundance of media made up for the scarcity of commissioners, with Ralph Renick head and shoulders above the crowd in a foot-high hardhat.

The Woodrow W. Wilkins Archives of



Rep. George Holt, Sen. Ernest Graham, Rep. Earnest Overstreet, Rep. Marshall Wiseheart

## OUT OF THE TRUNK

Eggnog cups in hand, the Dade County delegation to the Florida legislature toasts the Christmas season. It wasn't hard to get the entire delegation together back in 1937. There were three representatives and one senator. Compare that with the current 22 representatives and eight

senators. Times are changing, however. Next year Dade will be down to 20 representatives and seven senators.

A cursory check of local libraries shows very little information on the legislature prior to WWII. A lot of trunks out there must be harboring Legislative Blue Books that would be valuable research sources. HASF Librarian Becky Smith will be happy to keep them in her trunk and share them with researchers. Drop Update a postcard, 3280 S. Miami Ave., Bldg B, Miami FL 33129.

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

**Phyllis Spinelli** was cited as "Outstanding News Editorial Student" at FIU's spring graduation. A communications major, she was editor of the yearbook and is now interning at Channel 7. The 23-year-old New Yorker took her first two years at Miami-Dade Community College. How did she pick MDCC and FIU? The climate and the price were right.

**Pam Lowell**, a year ago, gave us children's views of tours through the museum, the Barnacle and the Florida Lighthouse. This year it is the Everglades through the eyes of an environmentalist.

**Michael N. Kesselman**, who gave us a glimpse of the glory days of Booker T. Washington High School and the hurricane-filled decade of the 1940s, has collected some 20th century environmentalists who have influenced history.

**M.W. Anderson** just happened to have an article she wrote on Ernest Graham that fit the FIU-Everglades-Florida history syndrome so she used it.

Architectural Records got off to a historic start back in May with a reception in the great ballroom over George Merrick's Douglas Entrance to Coral Gables. Woody, a former HASF trustee, came from Pensacola, where he has lived with his sister since his retirement from the University of Miami.

The Archives will be housed in HASF's Charlton W. Tebeau Library of Florida History. The graphic and written records of the "built environment of South Florida" are the archives' objectives. The administration wants to collect, preserve, catalog and make

them available for research. Our librarian Becky Smith works with the Archives' advisory board and says response has been good from those attending the reception and the 18-day exhibit at the Main Library during Preservation Week. Besides raising some valuable seed money the functions produced some valuable leads on where material might be.

HASF sponsored one of its famous "Moonlight Gourmet" canoe trips down Snapper Creek during Preservation Week and a Railroad Towns tour in South Dade led by our South Dade historian Jean Taylor. ●

## Letters

► Continued from page 2

public service and Mable's sister gave her prompt and complete approval. However, relatives objected and said removing the bodies to Sarasota (they were at least interred together, Brookside Cemetery, Englewood NJ) for a final burial was 'a private, personal matter.'"

As a member of our association for some years, I cannot tell you with what a reward of sympathy I learned of this effort by the association. I was deeply moved and think that other members might appreciate knowing of this very personal involvement of our organization.

\*Mable died 1929, John 1936.

William D. Eppes  
68 Bedford Street  
New York, NY 10014

**NO SIDEWISKERS?**

You were right all along. I do look better without the mustache. But even with the mustache, I look better than James Audubon on the facing page. (May 1982)

R. Layton Mank  
1 SE First Street

**TRUNK TREASURE**

A little girl, smiling and standing on an alligator.

My name is Dallas Mercier Conklin. I was the little girl. I was born in Miami, down by the river, 1907.

My father was Oscar T. Conklin. He was general manager of *The Miami Herald*.

As my mother often said, "I love every grain of sand in Miami."

Once again, my regards to Thelma Peters, Dallas Conklin  
6311 Sea Side Walk  
Long Beach, CA 90803

Dallas Conklin was born in the Fort Dallas compound near the Tuttle's home. She was a popular member of Miami High's class of '25 but in her sophomore year attended boarding school in Mississippi. From there she went to California where her father had joined the Long Beach **Telegram** staff. She taught school and journalism and worked in the business office of her uncle Oscar. She came back to Miami in 1975 for the 50th reunion of the class of '25. She continues her membership in HASF, becoming a life member in 1979.

**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.

**THE FINAL WORD**

Two years ago you were introduced to a board of advisers for **Update**. Not wanting to be gluttonous in our demands on their time, we reluctantly relinquished three of them, thank them for their help and wish them well. Jack Kassewitz continues with **The Miami News**, Bill Primus with Miami-Dade Community College North Campus and Frank Soler has managed to launch his successful Spanish-language magazine **Miami Mensual** during his **Update** tenure.

We replaced them with four people: Lee Aberman, Dorothy Fields, Eugene Provenzo and Yvonne Santa-Maria. Fields is also a new member of HASF's board of trustees; Provenzo and Santa-Maria are former members.

Pick a subject and it is likely Lee Aberman has done a paper on it. A partial list ranges from the evolution of paper money and credit in France 1700-1870 to Jewish immigration and American colonial policy to the detective story as social history to the US in China 1944 to black artists in the US. She handles marketing for her husband's Commercial Coatings Corp. and participates in industry painting projects and in vocational projects in Dade's schools. She is research consultant for the Jewish Historical Society of South Florida and mounted a Bicentennial exhibit for Temple Israel with HASF Trustee Marcia Kanner's help. This former St. Louis girl received her M.A. from University of Miami 30 years after she had received a B.S. from Northwestern and still plans to obtain a doctorate.

Dot Fields is founder and chief archivist of the Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida. Newspapers, TV stations, movie producers, authors call on her when dealing with black culture. She serves on boards of six private community agencies and two public ones. A graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, she has an M.A. from University of Northern Colorado and an Archives Administration certificate from Emory University.

It was in a library in St. Louis that Eugene F. Provenzo Jr., a young man of Italian descent, engaged in conversation with Asterie Baker, whose ancestry was a fair percentage of the New England colonies. Over coffee later she asked him, "What's your ambition?" "I hope to marry an American descendant of the revolution and pollute her bloodstream," he

quipped. "Here I am," she replied. So far the lineage is unsullied but the Provenzos, who now live in Miami, are about to produce a family and community history for junior high students called **Pursuing the Past**. If it turns out to be two volumes, it should be out in October or November, but a one-volume publication won't arrive until December. Gene has co-authored a history of education and culture in America and done several articles on Florida History. He is assistant professor in the department of educational psychology, School of Education and Allied Programs at the University of Miami.

Little did Yvonne Santa-Maria think when she received a liberal arts degree from Linden Hall Junior College in Pennsylvania that she would return to the US in a little over a decade and become a citizen. She began servicing FHA and VA mortgage loans for a savings and loan association and three S&Ls later she is president and chief executive officer of Ponce de Leon Federal S&L. She has served on city, county, state and Inter-American commissions on women, on human relations and bi-racial commissions, Hispanic employment task force, Health Planning Council and has received a wallful of awards. She combines her interests in history and money by being a numismatist.

At their first meeting, the new advisers agreed that **Update** should start telling its readers about the new museum. Since **Update** has a six-month gestation period after copy is in hand, the outlook back in May was iffy. Buildings and exhibits and A-V systems were all just taking form. We think we will make it by the November issue, however, with more to come in February and May, when, hopefully, you can see the new museum with your own eyes.

Since 1983 also marks the tenth year of **Update's** publication we hope to reminisce a bit as well as peer into the future.

The first issue had Curator of Exhibits William L. Ganong's story about the two cannons the museum has in custody, which has turned into a ten-year serial. The second issue has Thelma Peters's story on the first county road from Lantana to Lemon City, a reprint of which we are sending Geoffrey Lynfield of Boca Raton (see Letters).

If you have any favorites or any comments on past issues or articles, drop us a line.

Maria Anderson

# EACH ONE REACH ONE



*Each time a HASF member gives  
a membership to someone,  
HASF membership grows.*

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a year-long membership can mark a  
birthday, a graduation, a promotion  
or can serve as a thank you.*

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**Historical Association of Southern Florida,**  
at 854-3289.*



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