

V.F. MIAMI BEACH - COMMITTEE OF ONE
HUNDRED

*... Into our Second
Quarter Century of Service*



COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED OF MIAMI BEACH

DEC 12 1960

Miami Beach Public Library
Reference Department

1926

through 1952

DEC 12 1960

... into our Second Quarter Century of Service

The

Committee of One Hundred ..

Story

Miami Beach Public Library
Reference Department

First Meetings

In the fall of 1926 James A. Allison, sponsor of this city's first hospital, now St. Francis, invited a group of winter and year 'round residents of Miami Beach to meet at his spacious Star Island home. The purpose of the gathering was to enlist these gentlemen in a concerted movement to assure good city government through careful screening of all aspirants for elective office. The endeavors of these men and others similarly inspired were largely responsible for the defeat of candidates deemed unfit and the election of those known to be honest, unselfish and dependable in positions of responsibility.

Success in the 1926 campaign demonstrated the effectiveness of an organized citizenry and the men who had been in the original group were urged to unite for



The 23rd Street area with the old Roman Pools building in 1926.

further civic service. Choosing the name Committee of One Hundred, they elected Clayton Sedgwick Cooper, author and world traveler, founding president, in which office he served with distinction until his death in October, 1936.

Some of the Founders



JAMES ALLISON



CLAYTON S. COOPER



WILLIAM C. HEINS



JOHN B. ORR



JOHN H. LEVI



F. LOWRY WALL



AUGUST GEIGER



HUGH S. LARRICK



C. W. CHASE, JR.



J. P. SIMMONS



IRVING COLLINS



THOMAS J. PANCOAST



JOHN G. MCKAY

Early Activities

During the first years of the Committee, Miami Beach was still in the era of its basic construction. As an amazed nation looked on, Carl Graham Fisher, who inspired the meeting which was the forerunner of the Committee, literally proceeded to "carve a great city from a jungle."

In this formative period, meetings of the Committee



were held monthly by invitation in the homes of members. Special committee reports were carefully analyzed, results were discussed and ways and means for furthering the public-spirited purposes of the group were skillfully planned.

With expanding membership and purpose, respect for the club grew; meetings became increasingly important and frequent favorable mention of Committee accomplishments appeared in the national press.

Continuing Growth



Each season more and more men, important through achievement and firm purpose, added their names and their efforts to the councils and endeavors of the Committee of One Hundred. The presence of these men

and the opportunity to learn of their views and experiences at first hand engendered the idea of including an intimate, inspirational address on every program.

Whenever possible speakers were drawn from the membership. Minutes of early meetings report talks by Harvey S. Firestone, Dr. Charles F. Kettering, Mark C. Honeywell, George Ade, Dr. John Oliver LaGorce, Sebastian S. Kresge and many other distinguished Americans. This forum plan has continued and a prominent speaker is featured Tuesday evenings throughout the season.

This quintet of Committee leaders was photographed at an early meeting. Standing is Clayton S. Cooper. Seated are Carl G. Fisher, Arthur Brisbane, Mayor Fiorenzo H. LaGuardia and Frank Gay.



With rapidly increasing membership and expanding purpose, need for office facilities and a regular meeting place became apparent.

In this emergency F. Lowry Wall, treasurer then and now, made a suite of rooms available for Committee use on the second floor of a building adjoining the present Miami Beach First National Bank on Lincoln Road.

In 1932 membership approaching three hundred made regular attendance too large to be accommodated in the rooms on Lincoln Road. To meet this situation the purchase of a club home adequate to current and anticipated needs was deemed essential.

Interest finally centered in a property owned by Mrs. Carl G. Fisher. The building had been erected by Mr. Fisher on Lincoln Road at Jefferson Avenue for use as a day school. When the school was discontinued the structure was moved to Michigan Avenue, a little north of Lincoln Road.

First Assembly Room



1673 Michigan Avenue



Following the Committee's acquisition of the one-time school building, an air-cooled auditorium seating three hundred, custodian's apartment, modern motion picture equipment and adequate private parking facilities were gradually added.

Known as 1673 Michigan Avenue, this property remained the home of the Committee through nineteen eventful and fruitful years. In June, 1951, it was sold to the City of Miami Beach, at the request of the City Council, for inclusion in the ever expanding municipal off-street parking system.



Renowned Speakers



VICE PRESIDENT CHARLES CURTIS

These distinguished Americans are but a few of the scores of speakers who have addressed the Committee through the years.

From 1926 until the present time men notable in national and international business and professional endeavors, statesmen, philosophers, humanitarians, explorers, men of war and men of peace, have come upon invitation from all over the nation to participate in the weekly forums of the Committee of One Hundred. By their broad and specialized knowledge, their exemplifications and their wide travels they have enlightened and inspired members and guests invited as a civic service to attend these programs of cultural information.



CHANNING POLLOCK



GEORGE FIELDING ELIOT



GLENN CURTISS



GENERAL OMAR BRADLEY



SENATOR ESTES KEFAUVER



SENATOR STYLES BRIDGES

Invading Maine

The Honorable Louis J. Brann, then governor of the State of Maine, was guest speaker at the northern dinner in Boston in early October, 1935. The Governor's enthusiasm for the achievements and ambitions of the Committee brought an invitation for members and their wives to be guests of the State of Maine for a week in September, 1936.

Police-escorted motorcades through an amazing combination of bustling cities and magnificent vacation land, with the unforgettable hospitality of the citizens, remain high points in early Club history. As an expression of appreciation and a testimony of sincere regard, Governor Brann was elected an honorary member of the Committee of One Hundred and his name remained on the roster until his death.

Other memorable northern reunions have been in Detroit, Philadelphia, Chicago, Rochester and two both in New York and White Sulphur Springs. The 1939 Waldorf-Astoria dinner in New York followed four festive days in the metropolis, visits to the New York World's Fair and elaborate entertainment by individuals and member groups. Metropolitan newspapers rated it among the most unusual and effective gatherings in Waldorf-Astoria history.



In Lighter Vein

While major objectives of the Committee center in civic and educational avenues, occasional relaxation and entertainment for members is not neglected.

An annual outing, a golf tournament now and then, with a large dinner or two each year, provide divertimento and afford welcome opportunities for increasing friendly association with men of kindred interests.

Basketball, golf, amateur movies, group singing in the clubhouse and an informal pose with a furry friend reveal how Committee of One Hundred members find whole-hearted enjoyment in recreational activities and laugh-provoking diversions.



Annual Outings



The annual outing and barbecue picnic is one of the most widely publicized events of the club year. These completely informal hours of good fellowship, fun and feasting have occurred at various locations in the Florida Keys, notably at Gar Wood's Cocolobo Cay and at Boca Chita, a tropical island paradise until recently the property of



Mark C. Honeywell, former president of the Committee. For three memorable years the club was guest of the Matheson Estate on Biscayne Key and members still recall the cattle round-up and branding arranged by hospitable Fred C. Peters on his immense ranch near Fort Lauderdale.



Outings to Come



Annual outings offer opportunities for members and guests to enjoy uninhibited relaxation. The elephant-riding picture of Charles F. Kettering and Mark C. Honeywell had wide attention.



Since 1941 outings have been restricted to locations easily reached by automobile, with yacht anchorage when possible. Record attendance of members and their guests continues year after year.

Purchase of the Adams home and several surrounding acres on Belle Isle provided an ideal setting for the 1952 and many future outings. Small boats are easily moored along the two hundred foot sea wall and larger craft anchor within a dozen feet of the shore. Access to the clubhouse by car could not be improved.

A fully equipped kitchen, ample sanitary conveniences and protection from storm emergencies assure complete comfort and adequate accommodation.

The Distaff Side



Mrs. F. Lowry Wall, Mr. and Mrs. George G. Foster and Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Freitag.

(Left) Mrs. Frank E. Gannett, Mrs. S. S. Kresge and Mrs. David Sholtz. (Right) Dr. Charles F. Kettering, Mrs. John Oliver LaGorce and Dr. LaGorce.



Civic Service

Founded upon civic and educational service, endeavors of the Committee of One Hundred have the cooperation and approval of many national, state and municipal altruistic groups. The Community Chest, Salvation Army and American Red Cross are aided by letters of reminder to prospective donors. As the Christmas season approaches a campaign by mail and personal solicitation urges residents to especially decorate and illuminate their homes. Prizes have frequently been offered to stimulate competitive effort.

Committee members are in regular touch with local situations of importance to the general welfare and efforts to insure intelligent, reliable public service are never overlooked or neglected.

Constant Committee interest has been of much financial importance to the Miami Heart Institute where Charles E. Sorensen, chairman of the executive committee of the Committee of One Hundred, is president of the Board.

By joint invitation of the Department of Justice and the National Education Association, the club has actively participated in each National Citizenship Conference since 1948.



St. Francis Hospital



Miami Heart Institute

Waterfront Festivals



The Committee of One Hundred sponsored the first two Christmas Eve water spectacles in which owners entered into friendly competition for prizes offered for the five most appropriately decorated yachts.

Several hundred carolers aboard scores of pleasure craft in the processions, joined in hymns of praise and thanksgiving. Sound amplification carried the familiar carols across moonlit waters,

enhancing the dignity and solemnity of these magnificent pageants of the Nativity.

Tragic days following Pearl Harbor brought government need for a majority of the privately owned vessels in southern waters and necessitated the discontinuance by the Committee of this unforgettable tribute to Christmas-tide.



Today's Situation

The Committee of One Hundred has reached a high point in its career of good will and accomplishment. With a clubhouse containing an auditorium, general and private offices, board and committee rooms, it is more than ever a rallying point for altruistic groups.

Men whose leadership point paths to national success, today direct the destinies of the Committee exactly as their kind have always done from the club's inception. As officers, governors and members these men of vision and foresight continually give of their time and talents to guide the forward march of the Committee of One Hundred of Miami Beach.



CHARLES F. KETTERING



JOHN OLIVER LaGORCE



CHARLES E. SORENSEN



F. LOWRY WALL



ROBERT W. GIFFORD



CHARLES W. BEECHING



MARK C. HONEYWELL



GAR WOOD



CALVIN P. BENTLEY



JOHN S. SWIFT



C. W. CHASE, JR.



GEORGE G. FOSTER



FRED B. SNITE



C. H. ALCOCK



A. FRANK KATZENTINE



GEORGE W. MEAD



FRANK E. GANNETT



ANDREW J. SORDANI



WILLIAM TARADASH



HUGH S. LARRICK



J. IRVING HOLCOMB

New Home



In 1951 the Committee acquired the Joseph H. Adams mansion at 18 Belle Isle, fronting Biscayne Bay, establishing a clubhouse commensurate with the civic importance of the group. An auditorium with a seating capacity of more than three hundred, rostrum and balcony, together with a magnificent pipe organ, library, reading rooms and lounge for members are included.



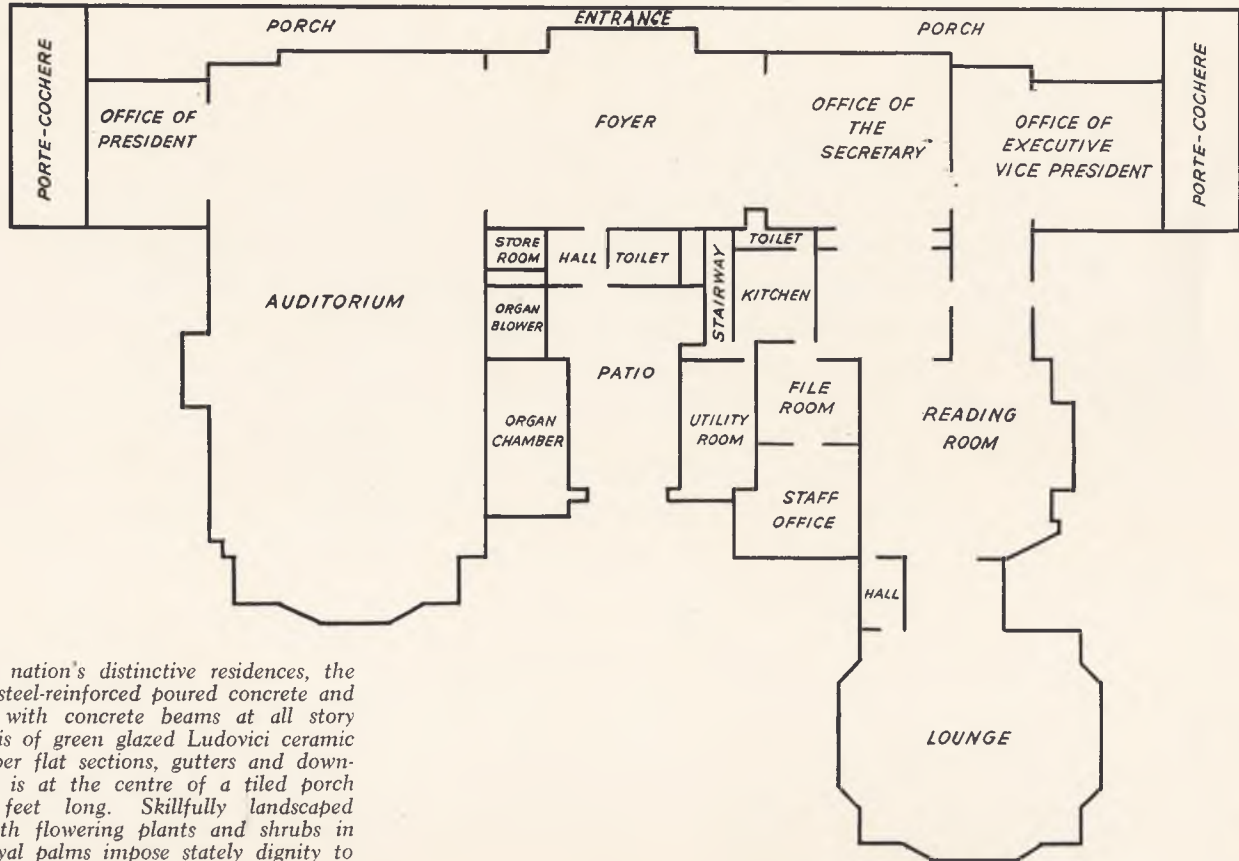
Auditorium showing organ console and stairway to observation balcony.

Corner of lounge overlooking Biscayne Bay and Miami skyline.



Main entrance, bronze and iron vestibule gates and secretary's office.

Clubhouse Unsurpassed



Designed to be one of the nation's distinctive residences, the clubhouse is constructed of steel-reinforced poured concrete and interlocking Dennison tile, with concrete beams at all story heights and corners. Roof is of green glazed Ludovici ceramic tile supplemented with copper flat sections, gutters and downspouts. The main entrance is at the centre of a tiled porch one hundred twenty-five feet long. Skillfully landscaped grounds are ornamented with flowering plants and shrubs in profusion. Two lines of Royal palms impose stately dignity to the westerly front.

The Years Ahead

Cultural, educational and civic endeavors remain its principal concerns as the Committee of One Hundred of Miami Beach enters its second quarter century of fellowship, understanding and human service. Banded together in a spirit of helpfulness to all and loyalty to each other its members renew their pledges of devotion to their city of unequalled year 'round climate, modern homes, health, prosperity and opportunities for happiness. They are proud of the part it has been their privilege to have had in aiding Miami Beach to become an ever-increasing example of the best in American municipal progress.



