

Update



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Cover:

THE AUDUBON HOUSE
—Sketch by Patsy West, Curator of
the Historical Museum of Southern
Florida.
(See story page 6)

UPDATE

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Yes, Virginia, we have a
history"

Dear Virginia:

To believe that we have no history is as foolish as not believing in Dolphins or sunshine. All history is, is our collective memories, as important to our community as our individual memories are to ourselves.

Who cares if our oldest structures are only 19th Century instead of 5th. They belong to us. They witnessed the birth of the City of Miami almost eighty years ago. They are as important to us as all the antiquities of the ancient world were to them.

Sure, it's too late to bring back the Tequesta midden that once stood in what is now Downtown Miami and was leveled when the Royal Palm Hotel was built, but not to even know that these people lived and died here is perhaps an equal crime.

The lighthouse at Cape Florida still stands — that was one time we won! It marks the beginning of our so-called civilization. It's almost a hundred and fifty years old. That isn't yesterday.

But what about yesterday? That is history too, you know. Our own time and the more recent past will have their places in the continuing story.

FROM THE EDITORS

The editor is pleased to exchange our publication with "Caloosa Quarterly", now in its third year, published by Southwest Florida Historical Society, Fort Myers. Any other historical societies are invited to exchange with us also.

We plan an issue on "Aviation Pioneering in South Florida" in August. We sincerely hope that any of you with something to contribute please get in touch with the editors at once. Closing date is June 15.

Now don't treat this as a

But now, Virginia, that you have suddenly discovered that we do have a history — what are you going to do with it? This is the simplest answer of all. You will learn from it. The most obvious thing you can learn, but somehow the most difficult lesson, is not to repeat the mistakes of the past. Our record in this area is rather poor, but recent leadership gives us cause for optimism.

It is too late to bring back the falls in the Miami River and the springs in Biscayne Bay, but it is not too late to try to do something positive about the bay and the river.

We'll never again see the Peacock Inn but we can *demand* that the uniqueness and historical areas of Coconut Grove be preserved.

Downtown Miami will never again be the only place to shop, work or worship, but it can be a place where Miamians will want to go — if they want it to be that way bad enough.

We realize now that it takes more than money and glitter, concrete and glass or even lots of people really to grow in the best way. It takes the kind of maturity that has nothing to do with age or size. It has to do only with tradition and values that come from a realization of not

going forward until we are sure we know where we have been and what we hope to be.

So you see, Virginia, we are especially lucky. We not only have a history, we are young enough to have a chance to use it to help us make future history even better.

Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to head the Historical Association this past year. It has been an exciting and educational experience I shall never forget. The future looks even brighter for HASF. We are on our way!

—Arva M. Parks

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It was with a great deal of interest that I read the article (December 1973 *UPDATE*) about the first road. I am interested in any information about Lantana. For several years I have been collecting material about the history of Lantana and hope to be able to get it all put together one of these days. You can't be interested in one place without the interest spilling over into other areas so I also find out all that I can about Palm Beach County.

(Mrs.) Mary C. Linehan
139 Prospect Rd.
Lantana, Fla. 33462

I have just received the December 1973 issue of *UPDATE*, and I have enjoyed reading it very much.

Samuel Proctor
Department of History
University of Florida

I have just read with prime interest Dr. Peters' article, "The First County Road", in *UPDATE*. My first hobby was our early trails, here, there, Florida, Illinois, and the United States.

Adin Baber
(Mr. Baber, a nonresident member of HASF, lives in the town of Kansas, Illinois — Ed.)

AUDUBON AT KEY WEST

The following material was excerpted from Jefferson Browne's *Key West – The Old and the New* (1912).

On the fourth of May, 1832, Key West was honored by a visit from the great ornithologist, Mr. John James Audubon. It was the fifty-second anniversary of his birth. He had already published his chief work "*Birds of America*," which sold by subscription then for \$1,000 per copy and is worth over \$5,000.

It was while he was engaged in this work that he visited Key West and other points in Florida for data. He came here from Charleston on the revenue cutter Marion, the vessels of the United States having been placed at his disposal by the government.

The following sketch of Audubon appeared in the paper published in Key West in 1832:

"Mr. Audubon – This gentleman left here in the revenue cutter Marion on Monday last for Charleston, calculating to touch on his way at the Florida Keys, and probably the mainland. It affords us great pleasure to state that this expedition has given him much satisfaction and added largely to his collection of specimens, etc. Mr. Audubon is a most extraordinary man, possessed of an ardent and enthusiastic mind and entirely devoted to his pursuits; danger cannot daunt, and difficulties vanish before him. During his stay here his hour of rising was three o'clock in the morning; from that time until noon and sometimes even until night, he was

ALEXANDER RESIGNS

David T. Alexander, our Museum Director, has resigned as of February 1. We wish to thank him for his years of loyal and faithful service to the Association. His many significant contributions will be long remembered. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

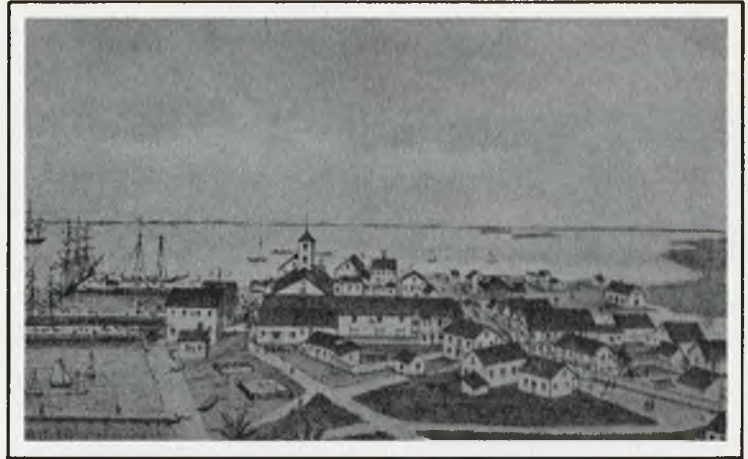
– A. M. P.

engaged in hunting among the mangrove keys, despite of heat, sand-flies and mosquitoes. On his return from these expeditions his time was principally employed in making sketches of such plants and birds as he may have procured. This was not an extraordinary effort for a day, it was continued for weeks, in short it appeared to constitute his chief aim, as it is his happiness. Mr. Audubon has adopted a most excellent plan of connecting with his drawings of birds such plants as may be found in the neighborhood where they are taken. We hesitate not in giving it as our opinion that his work on ornithology, when completed, will be the most splendid production of its kind ever published, and we trust that it will be duly estimated and patronized. The private character of Mr. Audubon corresponds with the nature of his mind and pursuits—he is frank, free and generous, always willing to impart information, and to render himself agreeable. The favorable impression which he has produced upon our minds will not soon be effaced."

Mr. Audubon was the first ornithologist to find the white-headed pigeon in the United States, although it was well known in Cuba.

This bird is still found in Key West and is plentiful on the keys in this vicinity, a circumstance worthy of note, as the wild pigeon is almost extinct in other parts of the United States.

It resembles the domestic pigeon, in habits and flight, rather than the passenger pigeon, that almost extinct species. They do not go in flocks, but separately and in twos and threes. They are a dark rich blue-black "having the upper part of the head pure white, with a deep rich brown edging at the lateral parts of the crown." The young have no white on their heads, that distinguishing feature not appearing until the birds are four months old. This bird comes from Cuba in the latter part of



Looking North at the business district of Key West in June, 1838, this pencil sketch by William A. Whitehead shows the wharfs and warehouses that lined Duval and Front Streets.

April and remains on the keys where it breeds, until about the first of October. It is not found elsewhere in the United States.

Mr. Audubon painted the white-headed pigeon on a bough of what is called in Key West the "Geiger Flower," botanically known as the "Rough-Leaved Cordia." Of this plant, which is now abundant in Key West, there were only two specimens in 1832, and they were in the yard of Dr. Benjamin B. Strobel.

During this visit Mr. Audubon discovered a new variety of pigeon hitherto unknown to ornithologists, of which he says: "I have taken upon myself to name this species the 'Key West Pigeon,' and offer it as a tribute to the generous inhabitants of that island, who honored me with their friendship." It is sometimes called the "partridge pigeon," from its resemblance to the partridge or quail in its habits and coloring. Like the white-headed pigeon, its natural habitat is Cuba, whence it once came in quantities to Key West and the adjacent keys, but is rarely found here now. Only a half a dozen specimens have been procured in the last thirty years, one of which was shot by Mr. J. W. Atkins, manager of the Telegraph and Cable Company, an amateur ornithologist of some repute. Mr. Audubon calls it the "most beautiful of woodland cooers," and on observing for the first time

"the brilliant changing metallic hues of its plumage" was so inspired with the difficulty of copying nature in this instance that he exclaimed "But who will draw it?" His painting, in the "*Birds of America*," shows it to be a most beautiful bird, but it is obvious that Nature laughed at man's effort to put on canvas what God had limned.

On February 22, 1832, the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Washington, a banquet was given by the patriotic citizens of Key West, in honor of that occasion. The program and toasts were of high order and deserve to be perpetuated in history; not only as a lesson in patriotism but as an illustration of the thoroughness of the journalism of that day.

George Merrick's advertisement of Coral Gables in *POLK'S FLORIDA GAZETEER AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY, 1925*, reads:

"In Coral Gables 30 miles of cement sidewalks have been laid.. the business section of Coral Gables has 12 retail business stores, besides the ALCAZAR TEA ROOM AND RESTAURANT, the PARKER ART PRINT SHOP, the YELVINGTON-OSBORNE FURNITURE BUSINESS.

More than 200 homes were built here in 1922 and more than 300 in 1923.

12 HOURS OF SEBRING by Walter Hill

It is a clear, blue, cool morning at the World War II airport in central Florida. A little red sports car is warming up its competition-tuned engine, the exhaust throbbing and burbling, impatient to go racing.

England's noted race driver, considered on many counts to be the greatest racing driver of all time, vaults lightly into the open cockpit without bothering to open the door. Accelerating the car smoothly down the "Warehouse Straight" on the now deserted race course, he heads for the start/finish line.

What is this — race day at Sebring? Is the jaunty driver Stirling Moss and is he taking to the pits one of the great English Jaguar sports racing cars? Is another of the historic series of the 12 HOURS OF SEBRING to unfold today?

No, this is January, 1974. There are to be no more of those world-famous races here. Oh, we are at the Sebring airport race course all right, but the occasion is the filming of a TV documentary on the history of the distinguished race, the Florida Grand Prix of Endurance.

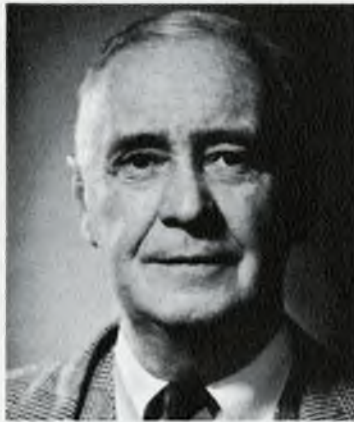
The driver is Stirling Moss, all right, retired from racing since 1962, but nevertheless still a world figure in motor sports. The car is a sleek touring version of the racing D Jaguar.

Walter Hill, a thirty-year Miami-area resident, is a senior airlines captain, a member of the HASF Board of Directors, and a top-echelon sports car enthusiast. Sixteen XKSS Jaguar units, certified at 170 miles per hour, were originally built. Eight or nine of these are still operational somewhere in the world, and of those, Mr. Hill owns two, one of which, S/N 704, appeared in the TV production mentioned in the article. "I honestly would not have lent my car to anyone else in the world but Stirling Moss," Walter told me.

— Editor



Retired British racing driver Stirling Moss is seated behind the wheel of the 1957 XKSS Jaguar used in filming a TV documentary on the Florida Grand Prix of Endurance. —Photo courtesy of Doug Gegen



Alec E. Ulmann, left, organized the first sports car race at Sebring in 1950 and served as President and Race Director thru 1972. He was assisted by Vice-President and Race Secretary Reginald Smith, right.



Miamian Bob Gegen drove this Jaguar XK-120C out of the "esses" and up to the hairpin at Sebring on March 8, 1953. Gegen placed fourth overall in this early model sports racing car.



In 1970, Guinti and Vaccarella drove this late model Ferrari to victory at Sebring. It is a far cry from the earlier C types that raced on the Sebring track.

Florida has long been famous for motor racing — first Daytona Beach in 1903 for speed trials of all sorts, then postwar Sebring, starting in 1950 with road endurance racing, and still later the Daytona International Speedway, a fast oval track inaugurated with the 500-mile stock-car race in 1959.

Alec Ulmann, aviation entrepreneur and part-time Floridian, organized the first sports car race at Sebring, naming *The Sam Collier Memorial Trophy* as the prize. Run over 3.5 miles of runway and access roads, the race was won on a handicap basis by a tiny Crosley Hotshot, averaging 52 mph for the six hours, on December 31.

Florida drivers in this first race included Miles Collier, Briggs Cunningham, Bob Gegen, George Huntoon, and Monty Thomas. Florida-owned cars and Florida drivers continued to compete successfully throughout the twenty-two-year series that began that day.

The first 12 HOURS OF SEBRING with full international status was run in 1952 on a course lengthened to 5.2 miles. A French D B Panhard, driven by Rene Bonnet, won the handicap Index of Performance victory at 57 mph average, while a Frazer Nash won the overall at 63 mph average.

The 1953 race became the first in North America to be named a part of the Challenge Mondial de Vitesse et Endurance, counting toward the world championship for manufacturers, as did Le Mans, Nurburgring, Targa Florio and Goodwood. The race for the Sam Collier Memorial Trophy had by now been removed to Vero Beach, and the Shell Oil Trophy was inaugurated for the overall winner at Sebring. This went to a Briggs Cunningham-built CR4 which averaged 75 mph. Miamian Bob Gegen drove a Florida owned C Jaguar to a 4th place overall.

The 1954 race was notable in that the same car for the first time won both the overall and the Index of Performance victories. It was a tiny OSCA, again owned by Briggs Cunningham, and driven by Stirling Moss with Bill Lloyd. The average speed was 74 mph. Five times the world champion, Juan Manuel Fangio of Argentina drove in this race for the first time.

A D Jaguar, on its first appearance at Sebring, won the 1955 overall at 79 mph average.

World Champion Fangio co-drove a Ferrari and a Maserati to overall wins in 1956 and 1957, inching the race average up to 85 mph. Jaguar D types made an unheard-of sweep at Le Mans in 1957, finishing 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Ferrari supremacy began in 1958, to last 7 years (except for a Porsche win in 1960). Average speeds moved up to 90 mph, and fastest lap speeds just exceeded 100. Maximum speeds on the long straights were on the order of 170 mph.

In 1965 the long-yearned-for victory of an American car was realized — the first since the Cunningham CR4 of 1953. It was a Texas-built Chaparral with a Chevrolet engine and the then thought impossible-for-racing automatic transmission. To add to this heady achievement, a Ford GT 40 won second overall and first in the Prototype class. A Ford-powered American-built Cobra won the Grand Touring Class for the second year in a row and was to repeat in its class in 1966.

The Ferrari domination now broken by the mighty Ford Motor Company, the superb GT 40's won the never-before 1, 2, 3 overall victories at both Sebring and Le Mans in 1966. Incredibly, Ford GTs won again in 1967 at Sebring (1, 2 & 4) and at Le Mans. The Sebring average speed shot up to 103 mph.

Things were never easy for race founder Alec Ulmann and his indispensable Race Secretary, Reggie Smith. They were often simmered, steamed or boiled in

the alphabet soup of the national and international sanctioning bodies. The race could not have existed without, and barely managed to survive for twenty-two years, the rivalries and machinations of the men in such organizations as FIA, CSI, AAA, ACCUS, SCCA, ARCA, ARCF, NASCAR and USAC. The years remaining to the aging course, less and less safe as speeds increased (fastest laps were now approaching 115 mph), were definitely numbered.

1968 — Porsche. 1969 — Ford. A near miracle as this "ancient" GT 40 outlasted the exotic prototypes of that year.

1970 — Ferrari. 1971 — Porsche, over a record 1352 miles to average 113 mph. Fastest lap, 122+.

Finally, 1972. The last race was won by a Porsche and appropriately was co-driven by Miami-an Dr. David Helmick. After this meeting, the Federation Internationale de L'Automobile withdrew sanction as an international championship race, breaking the longest series of international road races in American history.

And so it is that today Capital Cities TV Productions, commissioned by British Leyland Motors, arrives at Sebring to take a look backward. Their documentary film for TV, scripted by noted motor sport publication editor, Brock Yates, is to be made in large part from actual racing films. Today's live sequences cast Stirling Moss to introduce the viewer to the town of Sebring and to the race course. Driving the little red sports car, he will "talk" the viewer through highlights of races past, and, camera on board, will drive the viewer through the many thrilling bends and curves of the course — just as though one were actually riding as his passenger, reliving with him the glorious sights and sounds of the 12 HOURS OF SEBRING.

PICTURING OUR PAST by S. J. Boldrick

(Note: *Update*, October 1973, featured an article on Claude C. Matlack and his photograph collection now at the Historical Association of

Southern Florida. The following article covers another collection of area photographs of interest to historians.)



In 1926 "Ben Hur" was playing at the Fairfax Theatre (above). In 1937 the feature attraction at the facelifted Paramount Theatre (below) was spread across a three-deck marquee sign. The theatre bears the same name today. The Calumet building to the east and the Vail building to the west are substantially unchanged from 1926. —Photo from the Romer Collection, Miami-Dade Public Library

"The Magic and Beauty of Miami is being carried to all parts of the world through the medium of Romer Photos." So read the letterhead of Gleason Waite Romer, a commercial photographer of Miami. Lured by the Coral Gables advertisements and the promise of free bus transportation, Romer arrived in Miami in May 1925. His first job was with the *Illustrated Daily Tab*, a sensationalistic tabloid newspaper published by Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr. For the next thirty years Romer's camera recorded Miami's changing face. On January 25, 1965, pursuant to Resolution #36267, the City of Miami purchased the collection of some 8,000 negatives and photographs, and today the Romer Collection is housed in the Florida Room of the Miami-Dade Public Library in Bayfront Park. The collection is available to the public, and copies of photographs will be made at cost. With emphasis on South Florida, the Romer Col-

lection covers all areas of Dade County from Miami Beach to Hialeah to the Redlands. Spanning the development of photography from glass-plate negatives (some as large as window panes) to nitrate base film to today's safety film, the events, structures, and personalities who shaped our past and influence our future are preserved for the benefit of all by the Romer Collection.



The Cinderella Ball Room, a popular dance hall in the mid 2910s was located at 35 NW 2nd Street. —Photo from Romer Collection, Miami-Dade Public Library

S. J. Boldrick is the curator of the Florida Collection at the Miami-Dade Public Library.

THE FIRST AUDUBON SOCIETIES IN MIAMI by Jo Cameron

On an April afternoon in 1915, in the auditorium of Coconut Grove School, the first Audubon Society was launched. The founder and first president was Mary Barr Munroe, wife of Kirk Munroe, writer of popular boys' books. Among the backers and Life Members were James and Charles Deering, the John Giffords, the Charles Simpsons and the David Fairchilds.



Mary Barr Munroe, wife of writer Kirk Munroe, was the founder and first president of Coconut Grove's Audubon Society. She first settled in Coconut Grove in 1886 and was an ardent enthusiast of the ban on plume-hunting of egret feathers.

However, as will be noted, local Audubon activity was predominantly feminine. Both Coconut Grove Audubon Society (CGAS) and Miami Audubon Society (MAS), founded in 1918, were affiliates of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs (FFWC), which excluded male members, although men were in on the founding of CGAS and were active at the State level. Evidently, both clubs disbanded during World War II; in 1945 the Dade County Ornithological Society was formed, which subsequently changed its name to Tropical Audubon Society and affiliated with the state and national Audubon organizations, not with the FFWC.

Mrs. Joanna Cameron, a 5-year Miamian, is a librarian at Papanicolaou Cancer Research Institute, where her husband is a staff biochemist.

The 1915 CGAS agenda matches anything we modern environmentalists can muster, for sheer number of urgent problems. Three typical items: education about the value of birds; the ravaging of egret and heron populations by the hat-plumage industry; the establishment of a sound game-control authority in the State government.

These threads, laid at the earliest business meetings, twist in and out the five years of regular minutes, contained in three battered Webster composition books covering CGAS from 1915 to 1918 and a fat canvas-bound records book with leather corners devoted to MAS from 1918 to 1922. All are stuffed with news clippings from the same period. (See Editor's note)

All over the nation, people were discovering the worthiness of Birds. A letter to a CGAS member from a Cleveland friend says, "Everyone here is a bird warden and there are birdhouses in every tree." Why? Added to the growing awareness that birds eat insects that destroy crops, there was the emotional climate of World War I: the Bird was not only Useful but Patriotic. An early MAS activity was to design a poster celebrating the Black-bird, long considered a farm pest. Army worms were attacking the castor oil bean crop, planted specifically to provide machine oil to the armed forces. The poster's slogan: "This is the bird that eats the worms that eat the beans that oil the machines that fly the planes that shoot the Huns and win the war." (I hope copies of this poster still exist!)

Another line of "consciousness raising" about birds was the installation of bird fountains at several Coconut Grove churches and public places. The first of these, at St. Stephens' Episcopal Church, Coconut Grove, was presented at a ceremony in November 1917. There is still a bird fountain with a small pool at St. Stephens', but this may be a later donation, since a marble plaque attached says "in memory of

Mary Barr Munroe, our founder", and she died late in 1922.

In January 1918 a similar bird fountain was presented to the Christian Science Society. Others were donated to the Miami Humane Society, who worked hand in hand with Audubon, providing interim bird protection however it could.



In the battle to save the Birds, no bird attracted such sympathy and zeal as the Egret. Ladies' hats of the Edwardian era rank as small works of architecture: bows, flowers, ribbons, feathers combined in majestic structures it must have taken some balancing act to wear. The most highly regarded decorations were the breathtakingly delicate swirls and cascades of "aigrettes", the mating plumage of at least three species of heron: the Great White Heron, the American Egret and the Snowy Egret.

At the very first meeting, the secretary happily reports that a Mrs. Cannan has discarded her aigrettes when learning of the dreadful manner in which they were obtained. CGAS activists used a hard-line appeal to motherhood and feminine guilt. The vision of nestlings starving, with the carcasses of their parents nearby, shorn of their glory, still

has the power to make blood run cold. Other tactics included snubbing ladies who wore the plumes, which were termed "swamp shrouds" or "white badges of cruelty."

Mrs. Munroe writes, in the April 1915 issue of Tropic Magazine, that a common defense by aigrette wearers was that they have bought plumes from the 'poor Indians'. Would these same women give the Indians the exact amount of money in sweet charity? And do they realize that if they would stop buying

and wearing the plumes, the Indians would not have them for sale?"

Sound enough economics. When Dr. Herbert Mills of Tampa, a Florida Audubon Society official, visited CGAS in 1916, he urged a bill to make possession of wild native bird plumage illegal. This would render the lady of fashion herself liable for arrest. As late as 1919, a stern note appears in the minutes: There has been seen in Coconut Grove a woman wearing aigrettes in her hat. Anyone who meets her should warn her that her arrest is possible.

In 1915, "live feathers" brought from \$15 to \$20 an ounce! "Dead feathers", that is, moulted plumage, were worth about \$3 an ounce. In February 1916 Indians were observed selling to tourists at \$9 a plume. New York State passed the first

ban on plumage in 1910, but not until March 1918 does the CGAS secretary note two new Florida laws, one forbidding sale of plumage, the other, that no wild bird shall be shipped out of state. Also in 1918, egrets and herons were included in the list of birds protected by the revised Migratory Bird Treaty.

This matter of plumage poaching leads to the real "gut issue" of the period. In 1913, Florida had authorized a Game Commission, ineffective from the moment of its creation; it was abolished entirely in 1915.

CGAS wasted no time. At their second meeting a resolution was passed asking the State legislature to establish the office of game warden. An answer was received from Governor Trammell by the next meeting, but the minutes do not reveal what he said. Meanwhile National Audubon Society had sent an attorney to Tallahassee to argue the matter. By November 1916 CGAS was raising funds to send its own delegates to the Capitol "to see about game wardens."

Meanwhile, Mrs. W.S. Jennings had succeeded in getting the State Legislature to designate 960 acres at Royal Palm Hammock in the Everglades as a State Park, to be administered by the FFWC. Mrs. R.W. Brigham donated another 960 acres. "An effort will be made at the coming session of the legislature to secure the adjacent land in order to protect game and birds in the park from hunters."

In 1917, the State passed a county game warden law, which put the burden on the counties to man the position and pay salary. Understandably, perhaps, the counties were reluctant to make the effort. Here is Mrs. Munroe (as Chairman of the FFWC's Bird Protection Committee), reporting her adventures of 1917-1918:

"...the winning (of Dade County's game warden) would make an interesting comic page for a Sunday supplement, and the honor goes to the Coconut Grove Audubon Society. I, as

its president, was informed by Tallahassee officials, our county commissioners, and county sheriff and others, that the office of game warden had been abolished and that the sheriff was the one to act. I knew better - I had looked up the law - they had not. At last I got a hearing from the lawyer for the county commissioner (sic) and he advised the appointing of a game warden, which was done and that warden now holds his commission signed by the governor."

When CGAS sent its petition on the subject to the County Commission, it was realized that they needed the clout of citizens from a fully incorporated city to back up Coconut Grove, then only a village. With this spur, the Miami Audubon Society was organized January 7, 1918. MAS' first president was Mrs. Jerome de Gratigny, whose husband was estate manager for Charles Deering, who was having plenty of poaching problems.

The vigorous effort was rewarded. In March a man named Charles Veber presented himself to CGAS and MAS as candidate for Dade County's first game warden under the terms of the 1917 law. In April, his employment was confirmed by the county.



J. B. ROYALL,
GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSIONER

Footnote: Actually this is far from the end of the State game warden story. The new Commission, established in 1925, fell helpless before the morass of local laws and was disbanded; also a blanket annulment of all local game laws was attempted. By 1932 the responsibilities for game control were placed under the Department of Conservation. It is not until 1942 that our present Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission was provided for by amendment to the State Constitution.

Editor's note: The original minutes on which this article is based are included in HASF archives.

Cover: *THE AUDUBON HOUSE*

Built in 1830 for Captain John H. Geiger, a pilot and wrecker of Key West. In 1832, when the Naturalist, John James Audubon was studying and sketching in the Keys, he stayed with Geiger in Key West. March 18, 1960, the house, in a run-down state, was purchased by the Mitchell Wolfsons of Miami, restored and dedicated to the Public as a Museum

-The Artist, Patsy West, is Curator of the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

He had come none too soon. Mrs. de Gratigny reported incidents of poaching in Royal Palm Hammock State Park: otters and several bird species. Her indignant feeling was that poaching was inevitable while the lands surrounding the park were rented out, and recommended that leases be written with clauses prohibiting shooting. For various reasons, this was met by uneasiness by the FFWC, who feared offending the renters. Mrs. Munroe snorts, "The Park belongs to all the people of the State and all should help to protect it, but at our first attempt to do so, we are not sustained."

On April 9, Mrs. de Gratigny had a letter from Charles Veber saying that he had investigated but could not find out who did the shooting. The Park's caretaker, Mr. Mozier, a conscientious man, said he was unaware of any such investigation. Mrs. Munroe received an April 19 letter from Veber, that he did not make the investigation since Governor Catts had not yet signed his papers of authorization.

CGAS decided, in view of this discrepancy, that they'd better investigate Veber himself. At the December 10 meeting, they endorsed W.H. McCormick of Coconut Grove as game warden, "if the county commission-

ers follow the suggestion of the grand jury and suspend the present warden from office." There is no explanation given.

In April 1919 Mr. John Pent was introduced to MAS as the new Dade County game warden. This is the last regular entry in the minutes of the two local Audubon Societies. After a number of blank pages, they resume, very briefly, for the year 1922. In March, we find Mrs. Munroe introducing Mr. Rex Williams, chief of the Coconut Grove police, as a volunteer game warden for Dade County, until funds are allocated for a salary. Mr. Williams, reminiscing, mentions difficulties he had with a former game warden, Charles Veber, now being held for the murder of Chief Jack Tigertail.

In November 1922 the two Audubon Societies gather to pay homage at the death of Mrs. Munroe. They elect Mrs. C. D. Benson their new president, and the records of early Audubon activity come to an end.

Wait. There is one more item tucked in the back of the MAS notebook. It is a letter addressed not to anyone in Audubon, but to Mrs. Hanson Brock of the Miami Humane Society. It is dated July 12, 1927. Its letterhead reads:

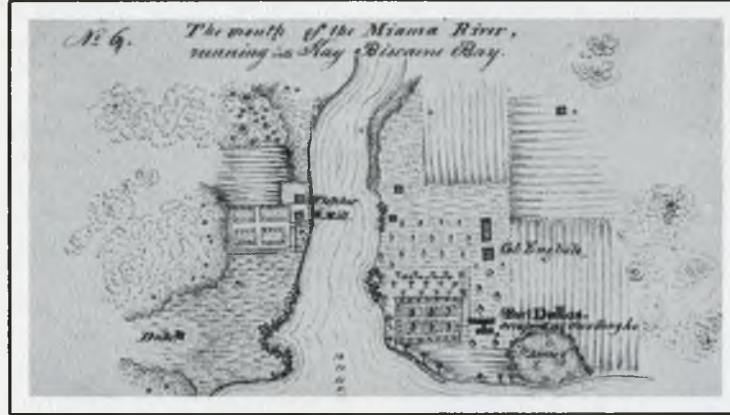
NEW TOWN RECALLS OLD by Arva Moore Parks

Every one knows that Flagler Street is named for Henry M. Flagler, the man who in 1896 brought his railroad to the wilderness and launched the city of Miami. But did you know that the developers of Miami Lakes have named a group of streets after some pioneers who predated Flagler by almost a hundred years? These almost forgotten first citizens are now immortalized in the Lake Katherine section of the "New Town".

Miami Lakes, located in North Dade in the bend of the Palmetto Expressway, is a community created on the old Graham Dairy tract, purchased by Senator Ernest R. Graham in 1931 from the Pennsylvania Sugar Company, after their sugar cane operation failed. The Sengra Corporation, named to honor Senator Graham, was organized by the Graham family in the early 1960s to develop the huge area into a new residential and industrial community built around the idea of a "New Town" concept.

A drive down Miami Lakesways east from Miami Lakes Drive offers you an instant local history lesson. Here in chronological order, no less, you will find Egan Lane and Lewis, Fitzpatrick and English Roads. Pent Place has been added recently. This is probably the only place in Miami that these names are recorded other than in the abstracts of property owners in Downtown Miami and south of the river as far as Vizcaya. These are the names of the first landowners in Miami.

James Egan occupied 640 acres on the north bank of the Miami River during the Second Spanish Period. His mother, Rebecca Egan, received a similar grant on the south side of the river. Both claims were recog-



A map of the mouth of the Miami River, drawn by a Coast Survey cartographer in the late 1840s or early 1850s, showing the extent of cultivation. —Map courtesy of Arva M. Parks

nized by the United States in 1824. A mistake was made in the spelling because the Bahamian settlers invariably pronounced the name "Hagan". Imagine the problem that occurred when years later a genuine James Hagan arrived on the scene and, when encouraged by resident carpetbagger William H. Gleason, claimed title to the land. This situation caused a cloud on the title that was not completely cleared until the late 1890s.

South of the Rebecca Egan Donation, Jonathan and Polly Lewis were granted 640 acres each. They were the children of Frankee Lewis, who had the original land grant in what is now Ft. Lauderdale. They too were successful in having their

claim approved by the U.S. Government when Florida became a territory.

Both the Egans and Lewises built homes and made improvements on their property. Some early descriptions of South Florida mention this small settlement.

In the 1830s Richard Fitzpatrick, from South Carolina, bought both Egan and Lewis Donations, consolidating the four tracts into one holding. (He also purchased the Frankee Lewis land.) He cleared most of the natural hammock on the north bank, planted pumpkins, sugar cane and other tropical fruits and built several wooden buildings for himself and the numerous slaves he brought with him. As a man of means and



English Road, in the Lake Katherine section of Miami Lakes, recognizes a pre-railroad pioneer, William S. English, who platted the village of Miami in the 1840s. His name also appears on the map above. —Photo courtesy of Sengra Corporation

The newest street in the Lake Katherine Section of Miami Lakes is Pent Place. The story of Temple Pent and his family will be told in another issue of Update.

importance, he represented Monroe County, which at that time included Dade, in the Legislative Council of the Florida Territory. He spent most of his time in Key West.

Fitzpatrick saw the opportunity to create a new county out of the huge area that was called Monroe. On January 2, 1836, the Council passed his resolution and named the new county after Major Dade, who in December 1835 had been killed by the Seminole Indians. Ironically, four days later the Seminole Indians raided his plantation at the Miami River and forced his overseer and slaves to flee for their lives. He never really lived there again, spending his remaining days in Key West. There is a street named after him there, but until recently nothing in the Miami area recognized his role as the "Father of Dade County".

In 1840, Fitzpatrick tried to claim \$60,000 in damages against the United States Government for the destruction of his plantation by the Indians and for three years' rent for occupation of his land by U.S. troops. He also complained that 300 cords of wood had been illegally cut from his land without compensation. Finally, in 1886 his heirs received \$12,000 from Uncle Sam for rent and wood. This "occupation" was Ft. Dallas.

In 1843 Fitzpatrick sold his holdings to his nephew William English. English, heavily financed by his mother, Harriet, moved to the area. The Seminole War was temporarily quiescent and for the time being the U. S. troops were off the land. The Dade County seat was moved from Indian Key, which had been destroyed by the Indians, to the Miami River — first located in the Fletcher home on the south bank that William English platted what he called the "Village of Miami" — probably the first recorded use of that name. He even sold several lots and gave a few away. Lot No. 98 on the corner of "Miami and Porpoise

Streets" was given to Harris Antonio on the condition he build a "good frame building".

On the north bank of the river, amidst the ruins of the old Fitzpatrick plantation and the wooden structures built by the Army, he began construction of two coral rock buildings. One was to be his own home and the other would house his slaves. They were only partially finished when he, along with his Uncle Richard, got gold fever. Off they went to California to seek their fortunes. It has been said that English planned to make a million and turn his paper Village of Miami into reality. His dreams died with him in 1856 when he accidentally shot himself while dismounting from a horse in Grass Valley, California.

In 1855, the U.S. Army returned to the again abandoned plantation and re-opened Ft. Dallas. They completed his two stone buildings making one into officers' quarters and the other into quarters for enlisted men. It is one of these buildings that was moved to Lummus Park in the 1920s and is known locally as "Ft. Dallas".

After several other occupants—none of which had title to the land, Dr. J.V. Harris, for whom Miami Lakes' Harris Terrace and Plane are named, took possession. He and his family lived there for several years until he, like so many of his predecessors, gave up and returned to Key West where he finished his life as an important man in the community there.

Finally, in 1891, the land on the north bank passed to Mrs. Julia Tuttle from a Georgia corporation, who had purchased it from Harris.

In 1871, William B. Brickell purchased the original Rebecca, Egan, and Jonathan and Polly Lewis Donations south of the river as well as the Frankee Lewis Donation in Ft. Lauderdale. Thus in 1815 William Brickell and Julia Tuttle owned all the original Lewis and Egan grants except for one ten-acre tract that had been previously pur-

chased by a Dr. Fletcher. Together, Mrs. Tuttle and Brickell offered huge tracts of land to Henry Flagler to entice him to bring his railroad to Miami. When he did, the true pioneer days came to an end.

For some reason the promoters of the new city of Miami, incorporated in 1896, preferred to think of the "Magic City" as springing full born from the smokestack of the Florida East Coast engine — minimizing and sometimes ignoring completely the earlier pioneers. Unfortunately, this led to a kind of anti-history feeling in the new community that to some extent still persists today. Thanks to the developers of Miami Lakes a few of our forgotten have been remembered.

FLORIDA'S POPULATION EXPLOSION SINCE 1940

Florida is the twenty-seventh state to enter the Union. In 1900 with 528,542 people it was only 32nd in population. In 1940 with 1,897,414 it had grown to 27th rank, and then came the explosion. The census in 1950 counted 2,771,305 which put Florida in 20th place. In 1960 with 4,951,560 it had risen to tenth. And in 1965 the census bureau estimated 5,805,000 which placed the state in 9th place where it has remained, although it grew to 6,885,702 in 1970.

South Florida has been growing most rapidly. In 1900 the seven counties south of a line from about Charlotte Harbor to Cape Canaveral and excluding Polk and Orange there were only 43,344 residents, just over eight percent of Florida's total of 528,452, and 17,000 of them were living in Key West.

In 1970, now grown by division to twenty counties, the southern peninsula counted 3,131,966 residents, 45% of the total. Also, Dade, Broward and Palm Beach, with a population of 2,236,645, accounted for almost exactly one third of the total and 1,267,792 of those were in Dade. — C. W. T.

FORWARD SCATTER

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

April 9, 1974

Annual Meeting — New officers elected.

Program — "Coconut Grove, One More Time" 8 PM at the Museum

This year's annual meeting is being combined with the last Program of this series. Arva Parks will have new photographs from the Munroe collection and will speak on "Coconut Grove, One More Time." Please plan to attend. The monthly program series will resume in October.

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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May 1974

Annual Benefit

Watch for details from Benefit Chairman, Finlay Matheson. The party will take place at a downtown location, with the theme, "Downtown: Old Town — New Town".

HISTORY'S NO LONGER A MYSTERY

Answers to Puzzle (from page 11)

ACROSS: (1) pryor (5) his (8) m a (10) leer (11) disaster (14) ada (15) ort (16) team (17) urn (18) tab (21) elephants (25) budge (27) airt (28) zigurat (30) u m (32) zip (34) era (35) lep (37) erect (41) road (42) ra (43) air (44) fad (46) nlp (47) honey (49) onsets (52) juno (53) at (54) naut (56) migrant (57) asse

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MISS HARRIS HAS A BIRTHDAY



Mr. and Mrs. William B. Brickell. Mr. Brickell is the grandson of William B. Brickell who came to South Florida in 1871 and opened an Indian Trading Post on the south bank of the river. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brickell attended Miss Harris' school.

A great lady, Miss Julia Fillmore Harris, celebrated her 96th birthday on January 22nd. Although she was unable to be present, over 200 former students of Miss Harris' Florida School gathered at the Historical Association of Southern Florida on the 19th of January to honor her. Miss Harris educated several thousand Miami women from the time she founded her school in 1914 until she moved to Stuart, Florida in 1957. The Stuart campus remained open until 1972 when Miss Harris retired. Although slowed down physically due to her advanced years, this remarkable woman is as mentally alert as ever and, besides receiving almost daily visitors, she carries on an active correspondence with friends and former students throughout the United States. Never one to dwell in the past, Miss Harris envisions the day in which children throughout the state of Florida will enjoy the individualized instruction and open-air schools that she advocated for over half a century. — G. L.



Four former students, left to right, Jill Philbrick Munroe, Judy King Titus, Mercedes Ferre, and Joanne Lowry Marren attended the historical Association's party to honor Miss Julia Fillmore Harris on January 19th.

PROGRAM MEETINGS

DR. TEBEAU AND THE SEMINOLES – JANUARY 8



Two Seminoles pose in their canoe before a settlement in early Florida.
—Photo HASF Collection.

President Arva Parks presented her teacher, Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, who spoke on “The Seminole Indians”, particularly the litigation respecting the Indian treaties of 150 years ago.

In 1946 Congress authorized suits by Indians against the Government over charges of treaty rights violations. As a result Florida and Oklahoma Seminoles joined in a 1950 suit for damages because of violations of the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in 1823 and the Treaty of Paynes Landing in 1832.

When we acquired Florida in

1821 about 5,000 Seminoles lived on the most productive land across northern Florida. An opportunity to remove them came in 1823 when at the Treaty of Moultrie Creek the Seminoles agreed to be resettled roughly between Ocala and Lake Okeechobee, with certain additional benefits. At once northern Florida was settled by eager white pioneers, followed by many violations on both sides. Andrew Jackson, Florida’s 1822 Territorial governor, argued that the Seminoles were not entitled to any rights as a separate nation, because they belonged with the

Creeks who had moved west, yet the treaties recognized their rights.

In 1832 the Treaty of Paynes Landing provided for the removal of the Seminoles to territory west of the Mississippi but ignored the territorial and other rights granted in the first treaty. In 1835 when it was time to go they refused and went on the warpath. At the end of the uprising their number had been reduced to about 500. After the final 1855 outbreak there were about 300 left, which amazingly a century later had increased to 1500!

The 1950 lawsuit was settled only in 1964 when the Indian Claims Commission ruled that the Indians had lost 23.8 million acres under the 1823 treaty and 5.8 million more in 1832 but deferred a determination of the land’s value.

The Court of Appeals in 1967 upheld their findings and ruled that the acreage was correct but still left undetermined its value. As a solution the Indians proposed that they be paid \$1.25 an acre (\$37,000,000), which the government had charged for public lands in that era.

However, the Claims Commission set the loss at only \$12.2 million; because of benefits already paid they offered to settle for \$6.2.

The Indians appealed to the United States Court of Claims, winning a victory of sorts in 1972, when the Court ordered the Claims Commission to justify the basis of its settlement offer. The final verdict is not in. Attorneys for the Indians in the early stages of the trial were Ray Struble and Mrs. Effie Knowles. Among those to testify were Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the late Dr. John M. Goggin of the University of Florida and a native Miamian.

During the question period it was brought out that Osceola emerged as a leader of the agricultural Seminoles only when negotiations with the white man became necessary.

Dr. Tebeau emphasized that the treatment of the Seminoles was comparatively humane. An interesting slide of Chief Billy Bowlegs in full regalia was posed in New Orleans during the trip west. — G. M. K.

OUR MARJORY CONQUERS THE UNITED STATES NAVY – FEBRUARY 5



Mrs. Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

It was early in 1917, and the United States had not yet entered the first World War. Several Miamians, reservists all, were stationed as recruiters at 7th Naval District headquarters in Key West. They came to Miami on a ship, set up a recruiting shop, and awaited results.

Mrs. Marjory Stoneman Douglas tells the story. She boarded the ship as a newspaper reporter to write of the enlistment of a woman expected to become the first Florida female to join the Navy. Something went awry; to save face the recruiters had to sign up a woman. They brainwashed Mrs. Douglas; first thing you know she was starting out near the top, signing on as Chief

Yeoman. This was before the days of yeomanettes.

Soon the Navy came to their senses, Marjory said, and she was busted back to Yeoman (F) First Class (F for female), still a jolly good job, yeoman to a male staff some of whom couldn’t dictate what she thought to be properly grammatical letters. Sometimes they were incensed at her alleged improvements.

Finally came the duty she enjoyed, yeoman to LCdr Albert Cushing Read, a flier, remembered as the pilot of the famed NC4 on its flight across to Portugal. Incidentally, he met and wooed Bess Burdine at a dance; later they were married. Read

finally made admiral, retiring from the service as commanding officer at Pensacola.

In the spring of 1918 Marjory asked for a discharge. “The Navy gave their unanimous approval,” she said, as if to deplore her status and abilities.

The reason she wanted out was to seek an assignment overseas with the American Red Cross, which she achieved just before the end of the war in 1918.

However, her Navy duty makes her a full-fledged veteran, with considerable of the perks of the former service person. “I wouldn’t take half a million dollars for that year in the Navy,” Marjory will tell you.

—L. G. P.

BOOK REVIEW SECTION



THEY SAVED OUR BIRDS
The Battle Won and The War to Win

by Helen Ossa. New York: Hippocrene Books, Inc., 287 pp., illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index, \$6.95

Reviewed by Stuart B. McIver

By the end of the nineteenth century the fashion of adorning women's hats with feathers had all but doomed Florida's plume birds to extinction. A hungry millinery trade based in New York City was offering staggering prices for plumes; egret plumes from Florida at one time were worth more than their weight in gold.

To supply the demand, bands of plume hunters ranged down through Florida, virtually wiping out the state's egret and spoonbill population. The tip of South Florida proved to be the last American battleground in this bloody fight.

Helen Ossa tells how the endangered birds were finally saved, primarily through the work of the National Association of Audubon Societies. This was "the battle won" in the book's title; "the war to win" is, of course, the continuing fight to protect the country's endangered species in the bird kingdom. A substantial portion of the action in both sections concerns South Florida.

Mr. McIver, who has written and produced a film on endangered species which won a Silver Medal at the Venice Film Festival, is writing a book on plume hunting.

In July of 1905 near Flamingo the feather fight's most dramatic, and tragic, event occurred — the murder of Guy Bradley. This Monroe County game warden was the first Audubon man to be killed in the line of duty.

An international cause celebre, his widely publicized death gave Audubon leaders the ammunition they needed to secure tough legislation. This finally dried up the traffic in plumes and saved the birds.

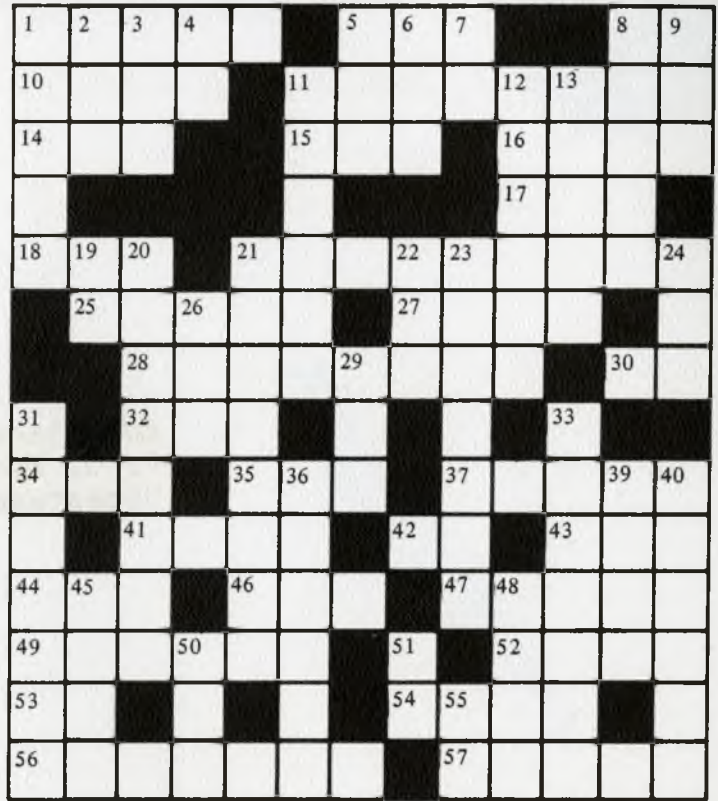
In the "war to win" section, the author confronts today's enemies, replacing plume hunters and milliners with DDT and encroachment on habitat. Many Florida birds are discussed in detail, among them the brown pelican, American egret, snowy egret, reddish egret, roseate spoonbill, wood stork and Everglade kite. A full chapter is devoted to Everglades National Park, which provides a home for so many endangered species. In conclusion, the author suggests ways the average citizen can help "win the war", principally through the support of the major conservation organizations.

They Saved Our Birds is an uneven book. The contemporary scene is a warmed-over conservation message. Fortunately, the section dealing with the past more than offsets this deficiency, bringing together in a well-organized sequence a great deal of worthwhile material of interest to a student of Florida history.

On Thursday, September 3, 1925 this headline appeared in the *Miami Metropolis*:
MIAMI EXTENDS BOUNDS TO 50 SQUARE MILES
Suburbs Annexed in Election With Only One Precinct Opposed

The article read. . . . "Miami became the largest city in Florida Wednesday when . . . voters favored the city annexation plan. . . . Nine of the ten precincts carried with Coconut Grove the only territory in which successful opposition was found . . ."

HISTORY'S A MYSTERY by Thelma P. Peters



ACROSS

- 1 Early band leader
- 5 Not hers
- 8 Higher degree
- 10 Oblique glance
- 11 1926 hurricane
- 14 ___ Merritt, early teacher
- 15 Jackie ____, aquatut of the '20s
- 16 The Dolphins
- 17 Big coffee pot
- 18 Early Miami newspaper
- 21 They worked for Carl Fisher
- 25 He sold hardware
- 27 Haughty manners
- 28 Terraced roof
- 30 Higher Ed. in the Gables
- 32 This helps the P.O.
- 34 Period of time
- 35 Adam G. Adams met to his friends
- 37 Build
- 41 Alton or Lincoln
- 42 Our California rival
- 43 Tune
- 44 Temporary fashion
- 46 A little pinch
- 47 Year-'round Fla. product
- 49 Assaults
- 52 Early county seat
- 53 Near
- 54 Astro-
- 56 S. Fla. beanpicker
- 57 Thing of quality

DOWN

- 1 Flagler's Gulf Coast rival
- 2 ___ Shannon, popular bootlegger
- 3 Affirmative
- 4 Conjunction
- 5 Broadway success
- 6 An exponent of (suffix)
- 7 Latin neighbors
- 8 Intended
- 9 Prepare for combat
- 11 Golf course challenge
- 12 On St. Lucie Inlet
- 13 Sea birds
- 19 ___acus, counting device
- 20 At home atop the courthouse
- 21 Winter vegetable
- 22 Equal
- 23 Famous racetrack
- 24 Total
- 26 502 in ancient Rome
- 29 Sports official
- 31 Wave topping
- 33 See *Herald* Comics
- 36 Electrical wizard
- 39 100 in Little Havana
- 40 Trial
- 45 Against
- 48 Early East Coast town
- 50 Go astray
- 51 Article
- 55 Help for alcoholics

(Answers Page 9)



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