

The Historical Marker Program

On Saturday, June 7, 1958 the association dedicated with appropriate ceremonies three identical markers commemorating the building of the Tamiami Trail.

At nine o'clock in the morning at a breakfast in the Columbus Hotel Roof restaurant in Miami Senator Spessard L. Holland spoke of the historical background of the area in which the Trail building began in 1915. Mrs. James Franklin Jaudon whose late husband was by common consent an originator and tireless worker for the project, unveiled the marker. It has since been placed beside the Tamiami Trail just west of the Miami City limits. Stephen J. Flynn was master of ceremonies.

The group then formed a motorcade and proceeded to Everglades, where the second marker was dedicated at a luncheon at the Rod and Gun Club. State Representative James L. Walker of Naples related highlights of the story of Trail building in Collier County.

Honored guests at the luncheon were a dozen men who had worked at building the historic highway. Mrs. Jaudon unveiled the marker which has since been set beside the highway at the junction of the Everglades-Immokalee Road and the Trail. Norman A. Herren of Everglades, Vice President and General Manager of the Collier Development Corporation presided.

The motorcade then moved to Fort Myers where at 4:30 in the afternoon, at the municipal bandshell, the third marker was dedicated. The speaker on this occasion was Barron Collier, Jr., whose father had such a large role in the building of the Tamiami Trail. He spoke principally of the future that he envisioned for the area in which his father had pioneered a generation ago. Mrs. Jaudon unveiled the marker which has since been placed beside the highway near the Coloosahatchee River Bridge. W. Stanley Hanson, Jr. whose father was a "Trail Blazer" presided. Following the ceremony the Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce was host at a dinner for those in the motorcade.

The entire program was arranged by Lewis W. Dorn, chairman of the Historical Sites and Markers Committee of the Association.



TAMIAMI TRAIL

THE TAMIAMI TRAIL LINKS THE TWO GREAT CITIES FOR WHICH IT WAS NAMED—TAMPA AND MIAMI, IT BRIDGES THE EVERGLADES, TYING TOGETHER SOUTH FLORIDA'S ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS.

ITS OFFICIAL OPENING ON APRIL 25, 1928, BY GOVERNOR JOHN W. MARTIN CLIMAXED THIRTEEN YEARS OF PLANNING AND WORKING.

FLORIDA IS INDEBTED TO CAPTAIN J. F. JAUDON, WHOSE FAITH AND PERSISTENCE KEPT THE PROJECT ALIVE; TO THE INTREPID TRAIL BLAZERS, WHOSE TRIP BY CAR ACROSS THE TRACKLESS EVERGLADES IN 1923 DRAMATIZED THE NEED FOR THE HIGHWAY'S COMPLETION; TO BARRON C. COLLIER FOR HIS UNSTINING AID; AND TO OTHERS WHOSE TIME, ENERGIES AND TALENTS MADE THIS TREMENDOUS FEAT POSSIBLE.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA—1948

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On March 5, 1956 on the occasion of the Seventh Annual Greater Miami Industrial Exposition, a marker in honor of South Florida's first industry was dedicated. Thomas W. Hagan, President of the Historical Association acted as Master of Ceremonies. In October of 1958 the marker was erected beside the highway near Kendall.

STARCH MAKING: SOUTH FLORIDA'S FIRST INDUSTRY

The last commercial coontie starch mill operated in Dade County was owned by Albert Baxter Hurst. Established in 1908 in the vicinity of Little River, the mill was moved in 1919 to a site near this spot where it remained in operation until 1925.

Indians first discovered that starch could be extracted from the coontie root and white settlers are known to have engaged in starch-making prior to 1840.

Northern biscuit makers were principal users of the product which was known as Florida Arrowroot Starch. During World War I, it was found that a thin gruel made with arrowroot starch was the first nourishment a gassed soldier could take. This mill operated eighteen hours a day to supply the Government with starch for that purpose.

This marker was erected on the occasion of the seventh annual Greater Miami Industrial Exposition, in honor of South Florida's first industry.

The Historical Association of Southern Florida, 1956.