

History of *The Miami News* (1896-1987)

By Howard Kleinberg

LEADERS IN BUSINESS

Our Business Interests

A Brief Description of Those Engaged in the Different Branches of Business in Miami.

A Surprising Showing for a Town Not Yet Twenty Days Old.

river, and who by her generous donations induced Mr. Flagler to build his railroad to the Bay and to build another magnificent hotel to also a director of the Bank. Anyone who has come in contact with this lady or had business to do with her will not question her ability to act as a bank director. She is likely to prove one of the best members of the board. We might say the best member, but her male colleagues might feel just a trifle sore if we put it that strong, so it is better unsaid. Small events she is away ahead of the average man in capacity and ability to do business. It seems very fitting that one who has done so much to develop this section of the State and who has such heavy interests, not only in the town of Miami but in this whole section, should have been selected a member of the board of directors despite her sex.

W. J. Brady is another director. He the date in his line of business. He began his career as a clerk with the firm of John Clark & Son, of Jacksonville, and about a dozen years ago left his employers, much to their regret, and embarked in business for himself as J. G. Granger, a small lighterman in Brevard County, about thirty miles from Titusville. Shortly afterwards, when the branch of the J. T. & K. W. Ry. who constructed from its main line Indian River, he moved into Titusville, securing a good location, which he occupied for nearly ten years, that is, from the summer of 1886 until Dec. 18, 1896, when his building and stock were consumed by the disastrous fire of that date, which destroyed so many business houses in Titusville. Immediately after the fire he rented new quarters and opened up for business in a few days. During his career in Titusville Mr. Brady won the reputation of being the most successful business man in health was seriously impaired that life was despaired of and his physicians sent him to Nassau to die. From there he drifted across to Florida and after tarrying at Miami for a few months, his health improved so much he decided to buy a few acres from Mr. Brickle for a home. He still resides on the purchase made at that time.

Mr. Morse is one of the best known residents on the bay. He has served this county in the legislature with marked ability, and his gentlemanly character has endeared him to a host of friends. Mr. Morse rendered valuable service to the Florida East Coast Railway during its construction while having charge of the matter of securing right of way. He performed his duty in that capacity with tact and good judgment, and earned the praise of the officials of the road under whose instructions he acted. Mr. Morse is now retired from his office and has before

has in hand. We have no doubt whatever that Mr. McDonald will have the Royal Palm all ready to turn over to H. W. Merrill, its manager, before the end of the present year. We expect an interview Mr. McDonald in a day or two and lay before our readers in the next issue a complete and detailed description of the Royal Palm. Mr. McDonald has bought several lots at the corner of Avenue D and Twelfth street, and in addition to the great work he has in hand for Mr. Flagler, will begin the erection of several high-class stores as an investment for himself shortly. He has certainly secured a fine location for his stores. The other corner at the intersection of Avenue D and Twelfth street will be occupied by the Bank of Bay Biscayne, by E. L. Brady and by F. T. Hodges—all substantial business men. The corner referred to will probably be the centre of business for the best class of stores.

First Edition of *The Miami Metropolis* HASF Collection

Walter Sumner Graham had not yet established himself in Miami. Writing from his Titusville law office on March 20, 1896, Graham advised one of his Miami partners that the name suggested by Henry Flagler for the newspaper at Miami was a good one.

Howard Kleinberg is editor of *The Miami News* and author of the book *Miami: The Way We Were*.

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C. C. Chillingworth
Vice President
East Coast Publishing Company
Miami

Dear C:

Mr. Flagler suggests "*Miami Metropolis*." None of us had ever thought of that, but it sounds first rate. How do you like it? I have dropped him a line saying we shall adopt this suggestion.

Walter S. Graham
Titusville¹

Graham soon would be at the Miami settlement where a wooden building was to be constructed near where today's South Miami Avenue meets the Miami River. The one-story frame building not only would be home to his law and real-estate business — Robbins, Graham & Chillingworth — but it also would be home to Miami's first newspaper.

In a Deep South version of a rough little pioneer shantytown by a clean green bay, *The Miami News* was born as *The Miami Metropolis* on May 15, 1896.

(The plan was to inaugurate the newspaper about April 15, to coordinate with the arrival of the first train into Miami, but the wreck of the schooner *Seminole* — with a loss of two lives and the greater portion of the material for *The Metropolis'* building — caused a 30-day delay on the project.)²

The 10-page weekly newspaper, in its initial issues, commented:

It is the first paper ever published on Beautiful Biscayne Bay.

Further, said this first issue, it was,

The most southern newspaper on the mainland of the United States, published at the most southern railroad point in Uncle Sam's domain, and at the most southern telegraph terminal and express office on the mainland at Marvelous Miami, the town with over a thousand souls and the survey of the place not yet completed.

The Metropolis was published on cream-colored newsprint. In its first edition, it was reported that *The Metropolis* did not want to imitate a paper on the Indian River, which was published on pink newspaper, so it selected cream. It also asked its readers what they thought of the name of the newspaper, saying it was

suggested "by one who could be trusted in the manner of naming a paper."³

An inventory of Miami's businesses was listed in that first issue. No other, except *The Miami News*, remains active today.

There was not yet a city, that being more than two months away. Miami, on May 15, 1896, was a settlement to which Henry Flagler had brought his railroad, where he was building a grand hotel much on the scale of the ones he had built in Palm Beach and St. Augustine. It was where the visionary widow Julia Tuttle owned much of the land north of the river and where William Brickell ran his trading post on the south bank.

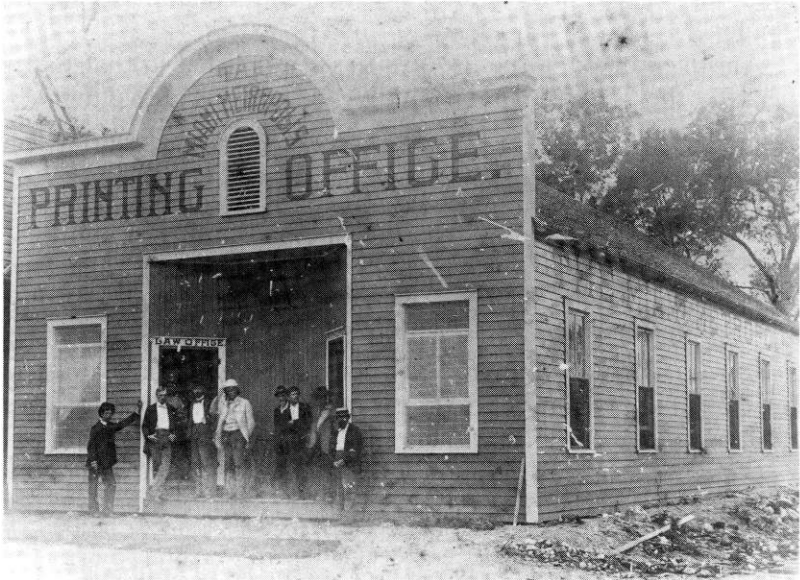
It was where a young Jewish-Russian immigrant named Isidor Cohen arrived in February seeking a location for a dry-goods business, only to be told by the widow Tuttle that he would have to wait. He made this observation in his diary of February 6, 1896:

Had an interview with Mrs. Tuttle, who is said to be the owner of the north-side territory, in regard to renting a piece of ground for the erection of a store building. Result very disappointing. Must wait until land is cleared and streets laid out, when lots will be put on sale. On declaring that I could not wait, owing to my destitute condition, I was told to take a job clearing land, whereupon I tried to impress this naive lady that the last labor of this character my race had performed was in the land of Egypt, and that it would be a violation of my religious convictions to resume that condition of servitude.⁴

The Metropolis reported that it had a bid of \$1 for the first copy of the first issue of the paper. Instead, *The Metropolis* kept the first copy for itself, gave the second to Tuttle, the third to Mary Brickell. The fourth was mailed to Flagler. The fifth went to Coconut Grove author Kirk Munroe, and the sixth copy was given E. L. White, who had made the original bid of \$1 for the first copy.⁵

(The Robbins, Graham & Chillingworth firm did not spend much time in *The Metropolis*' building, which was just south of the railroad spur that ran to the under-construction Royal Palm Hotel. On July 17, an advertisement appeared in the paper seeking to rent the office in the building formerly occupied by the law and real-estate firm. The ad said the 12 x 24 room would be suitable for a barber shop, tailor shop or confectionary store.)

Walter Graham was one of Flagler's local attorneys. A native of New Jersey, Graham also was a doctor, merchant and politician, a Democrat — as well as a newspaper editor. He and his family



Located near where today's South Miami Avenue meets the Miami River, *The Miami Metropolis* shared quarters with a law office for a short time.

HASF Collection

came to Miami — at Flagler's urging — from Titusville, where the firm of Robbins, Graham & Chillingworth was established.

For several months prior to publishing his first edition, Graham talked about a newspaper, but did not do much about it. Then he met Wesley M. Featherly, a recent arrival from Michigan — and a Republican.

Graham made Featherly his local editor; their names appear on *The Metropolis*' first masthead. Featherly's disappeared a year later, on May 21, 1897. Graham, it was reported, "was a man of forceful opinions and the ability to express them." He was a strong advocate of U.S. paper money being redeemable in silver as well as gold — which it was not in 1896. There was a classic split between Republicans and Democrats on that issue, and this can be seen as a major reason for the breakup between the Democrat Graham and Republican Featherly.

From its first issue, *The Metropolis* began calling on the citizens of the new town to incorporate, citing that there would be 1,500 persons living here by July. Meetings were being held toward

that end, and legal notices were placed in *The Metropolis* regarding the issue.

Flagler wanted Miami incorporated, and what Flagler wanted, he usually got. The newspaper was run by Flagler's people; most of the people in town worked for Flagler — either on the railroad or on the hotel he was building near where the river met the bay.

On July 28, 1896, the city was incorporated. It was reported this way in *The Metropolis* of July 31:

Jos. A. McDonald, Chairman of the Citizens Committee on Incorporation, called the meeting to order in the hall over the Lobby at 2 p.m. last Tuesday. The same being the place, day and hour advertised in the notice of intention to incorporate.

It was announced by the chair that the law required that two-thirds of all registered voters residing within the limits which it was proposed to incorporate must be present before any business could be done, and in order to ascertain if the required number were present he directed the secretary to call the roll of the registered voters. After some delay in waiting until the hall could be filled, it was ascertained that 312 voters were present, 275 being two-thirds of all registered voters residing within the proposed limits. There were thirty-seven more voters than the required number present. It was then moved by W. S. Graham that the vote on the territory to be incorporated, the name of the city and device for a corporate seal be by acclamation. This was carried and the metes and bounds as advertised, were adopted as the limits or boundaries of the City of Miami and a round seal two inches in diameter with the words City of Miami arranged in a semi-circular form, constituting the border around the top, and words Dade Co. Florida, around the base, the design of the royal palm tree in an upright position in the centre of the seal and the inscription "Incorporated 1896" inserted just below the centre of the seal.

Thus, *The Metropolis* covered the birth of the city — a distinction few newspapers elsewhere ever have achieved. Not only that, but its editor — Graham — played a major role in the incorporation and, that same day, was among those elected to be the first seven aldermen of the new city.

The Metropolis appeared each Friday. Subscription rates for the newspaper were \$2 on an annual basis or five cents per issue. The charge for a half-page advertisement for a full year was \$400, while classified ads were five cents a line.

Featherly returned to *The Metropolis* on April 1, 1898, when he purchased the paper from Graham. Featherly, in turn, leased the

paper to E. T. Byington, a newspaperman from Georgia. In an announcement, Featherly said he had purchased the plant, business and good will of the paper but did it only as business speculation — as he did not have time to pursue the editing of a newspaper. Besides, he maintained, “Politically the views of this paper do not meet my own and there being no field here for a newspaper of my particular stripe, I cannot enter the field at present.”

Graham, who said he was selling the paper because he could not devote the proper care to it, returned full time to his law practice along with partner George M. Robbins.

Despite his disdain for a Republican running a newsletter in a Democratic town, Featherly repossessed the paper from Byington on August 26, 1898. Byington reportedly wanted out to pursue an agricultural endeavor. (Byington didn’t spend long in the field; he soon came back and established a newspaper called *The Miami News* — no relation to today’s *Miami News*.)

In returning to the editorship of the then small-town paper, Featherly wrote that the publication would pursue a conservative cause but that it would not be the property of any political party or faction. “When a party paper,” he wrote, “a country journal loses much of its scope of usefulness. People look to the metropolitan papers largely for their political ideas.”⁶

Wesley Featherly, along with his brother Charles, continued to publish *The Metropolis* from the wooden building near the Miami River. On November 12, 1899, a second destructive fire hit young Miami — the first being on the city’s first Christmas night of 1896. The 1899 fire destroyed *The Metropolis* building, as well as Julia Tuttle’s Miami Hotel.

Despite the severity of the loss, *The Metropolis* kept the story of the fire on an inside page in its November 17 issue.

The second destructive fire in the history of Miami occurred Sunday last. The first alarm was given at 1:30 and within 30 minutes, the Hotel Miami, *The Metropolis*’ office, Greer’s grocery, Mrs. Knapp’s boarding house, machine shop of the Flagler interests, and Hainlin’s steam laundry with their contents were in a mass of ruins.

The fire started in one of the rooms in the Hotel Miami, where Mrs. John Smith was preparing food for Mrs. Pell who was ill of yellow fever. A blue flame oil stove was the cause of the fire, which when discovered was beyond control . . .

The building of *The Metropolis* was the oldest build-

ing in the city at the time of its destruction, having been built in April, 1896, as soon as possible after the railroad reached Miami. The Hotel Miami was commenced before *The Metropolis* building was started but was not completed for many months. There were some earlier buildings then either built upon a cheap plan — shacks in other words — which have long since disappeared. *The Metropolis* claimed the honor of occupying the oldest building in the city at the time of the fire.

(A clue as to who rented the space vacated by the Robbins, Graham & Chillingworth firm in *The Metropolis* building in July 1896 can be found later in that story of the fire, where it was reported that *The Metropolis* building was “occupied by *The Metropolis* and Undertaker H.M. King.”)

The books and subscription list of the paper were rescued as was much of the printer’s type. The files of the paper, including the first-off-the-press inaugural issue, were lost to the flames. One small press and a perforator were all of the machinery that could be saved. The press was not adequate to publish a newspaper, and within 24 hours of the loss, a message was received from the owner of *The News* at West Palm Beach offering *The Metropolis* the use of its plant as a temporary solution. The editor of the West Palm Beach paper, Simpson Bobo Dean, was later to play a major role in *The Metropolis*, but for the present he was a generous colleague whose offer could not be accepted by Featherly as there was a quarantine placed on Miami by a yellow fever epidemic.

Instead, *The Metropolis*’ friendly rival, E. T. Byington’s *Miami News*, offered the use of its facilities, which the stricken paper was glad to accept.⁷

Dean did perform a good deed. His office in Palm Beach had a complete file of *The Metropolis* from its first issue in 1896, and Dean gave his files of *Metropolises* to Featherly for posterity.

Meanwhile, *The Metropolis* needed a home. The undertaker King had found new facilities in the Belcher block (today’s Southeast First Street and South Miami Avenue). Facilities for *The Metropolis* were located in the Chase Building (today’s Southeast Second Street and South Miami Avenue)⁸ and a press belonging to C. M. Gardner, publisher of *Our Sunny Land*, was used to print the newspaper.⁹

Within two months, on December 29, 1899, Wesley Featherly — returning to citing the difficulty in being a Republican trying to publish in a Democratic town — sold *The Metropolis* to B. B.

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Tatum, editor and manager of the *Bartow Courier-Informant*. Tatum was one of three Tatum brothers who were to become instrumental in the development of Miami and, later, Miami Beach. Wesley and Charles Featherly purchased a paper in Harri-man, Tennessee,¹⁰ but Charles remained behind in Miami for several months, handling business affairs for B. B. Tatum, whose entry into Miami had been delayed by the yellow fever quarantine that cut Miami from the rest of the world in October 1899. More than 160 cases of yellow fever had been reported in the city, with at least eight deaths.

When the quarantine was lifted on January 15, 1900, *The Metropolis* was ecstatic, as evidenced by the tone of its January 19 story:

It is needless for us to state that it was with great rejoicing our people received the announcement Monday morning that all quarantine restrictions were removed from Miami, that we were once more free to come and go at will. We have waited long, weary months for this announcement hoping against fate that each week would see our beautiful city free of the epidemic which had so long held her in bondage. Our people have taken the matter more philosophically than was at first supposed could possibly be the case. When the first scare was reported a general stampede occurred, but when the real epidemic had fastened itself upon us, our people deported themselves wisely and thoughtfully, as always characterizes Miami citizens. Those who desired to leave the city did so quietly and deliberately, while those who remained accepted the position with the best grace possible. During the epidemic many self-sacrificing acts of Christian charity were reported, which will ever remain in the minds of our citizens as a bright spot in the dark part of Miami's history.

B. B. Tatum lost little time in getting *The Metropolis* back on track after its disastrous fire and change of ownership. With himself as editor and manager, he hired E. Nellie Beck away from the *Tampa Times* to become his assistant editor. She was Miami's first woman newspaper executive.¹¹

On May 15, 1900 — the fourth anniversary of the founding of Miami's first newspaper — Tatum, Beck and N. L. Stafford were granted letters incorporating the Miami Printing Company, with a capital stock of \$10,000, and purchased a large Cranston cylinder press and other machinery and material necessary to equip the plant for all demands.

In July 1900, M. F. Hetherington, who had for years conducted a prosperous newspaper and printing plant of his own in Lebanon, Ky., accepted a position as business manager of *The Metropolis*, and on January 1, 1903, he purchased a portion of the stock of the company, was elected secretary and treasurer and made associate editor. E. Nellie Beck's name had long since disappeared from the masthead of *The Metropolis* — replaced with Hetherington's on April 5, 1901.

The Georgia-born Tatum, who later in life was to become associated with his brothers in Miami real estate activities, reflected the white racial attitude of the day. In an editorial after a black man attacked a white woman in Miami, Tatum wrote: "The deplorable circumstances of the assault upon a respectable white woman, reported elsewhere, by a fiendish black brute, brings home to us the question of what can be done with these black sons of hell? All kinds of remedies have been resorted to including hemp, tar and torch and yet it seems that it is all of no avail . . ." Further in the editorial, Tatum said that had a gang of white men gotten their hands on the assailant, few "familiar with the circumstances would have felt any regrets."¹²

Tatum's *Metropolis* took two important steps in 1903. It announced, on August 21, that contracts had been let for a new, two-story brick building to be used as the permanent home of *The Metropolis* and of the job printing business of the Miami Printing Company. It would be directly across Flagler Street from where the new county courthouse was being built. Also on Dec. 11, *The Metropolis* became a daily newspaper — publishing each day but Sunday.

The Daily Metropolis (a weekly edition still was being printed for distribution on Fridays) became an eight-page paper with 1,500 circulation and joined the Associated Press, the first Florida newspaper to obtain that wire service.

The new *Metropolis* building was located at what became 72 West Flagler Street and was occupied by the time the paper became a daily publication.

Through the years, however, *The Metropolis* could not shake its image as a Flagler-run newspaper. In an editorial, Tatum complained of a speech in the city which charged *The Metropolis* with being owned or controlled by Henry Flagler. Tatum strenuously denied this, charging the speaker with having a record of an anarchist and socialist.¹³ Tatum editorialized that *The Metropolis*

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was absolutely independent and unhampered. Yet, as late as 1949, when Sidney Walter Martin published a biography of Flagler, he referred to *The Metropolis* of July 1905 as being the “official mouthpiece for Flagler.”¹⁴

Enter Simpson Bobo Dean, the man from Palm Beach who in 1899 offered assistance and files to a *Miami Metropolis* burned out of its home.

On January 7, 1905, Dean’s name first appeared on the mast-head of *The Metropolis* as secretary-treasurer of the newspaper. Heatherington’s name was gone. Dean was a native of Alabama who started his newspaper career as a printer’s devil on a weekly newspaper and later worked on the *Knoxville (Tenn.) Journal & Tribune*.¹⁵

Dean established the *Weekly Lake Worth News* in 1894, serving the sparsely populated Lake Worth/Palm Beach area. On February 12, 1897, he began the *Daily Lake Worth News* from a printing plant on Clematis Street in West Palm Beach. The paper described itself as a seasonal publication “devoted to the society happenings and events of interest at the Palm Beach hotels and Lake Worth cottages.” Dean published 41 issues that first season.¹⁶ He later changed the name of the newspaper to the *Palm Beach Daily News*, and held forth over that newspaper until coming to Miami in 1905.

In Lake Worth, Dean had continuing financial problems. It was reported that he had borrowed money from Flagler and was being pressed by the magnate for repayment.¹⁷ It was reported elsewhere that Flagler was not a lender so much as he was a secret partner with Dean from the beginning of publication and that fact did not surface until 1948 when it was disclosed in a sale.¹⁸

Dean eventually sold the entire paper to the Flagler interests, went to Miami and declared war on Flagler.¹⁹

(Ironically, the *Palm Beach Daily News* has survived to the present and now is a part of Cox Newspapers — as is *The Miami News*, which started life as *The Miami Metropolis*.)

Dean crusaded for better roads and water and sewerage systems, and against illegal gambling and alcohol. A supporter of Flagler’s railroad empire when in Palm Beach, Dean turned against the railroad in Miami, which had given preferential shipping rates to Cuban pineapples and vegetables over South Florida products. It finally put to rest the perception that *The Metropolis* still was under the control of Flagler. In his crusade, he took full advantage of what other newspapers were saying of the situation, as evidenced

by this March 17, 1910, editorial reprinted here in part:

This paper has been frequently assailed for making attacks on the Florida East Coast Railway and the political system that has been built up through this agency. Such assaults are usually inspired and it is not difficult to place the source. We have attacked only the evil that has grown out of the system. But it is strange that the transparency of those who defend the system cannot be seen, and stranger that the people who continue to give their votes for the men who represent the system, when it is recognized that Florida has been hampered for years by this incubus. The following is from the *Atlanta Journal*:

“Flagler is not the power in Standard Oil that he was when he invented the famous come-back rebate system, whereby the oil trust profited by its rivals’ shipments. His name is now synonymous with Florida, for if there is any one State owned body and soul by a boss, it is Florida; 25 of her largest hotels, all famous wintering places; most of her railroads; and many acres of her land are owned by Flagler.”

Dean is given much of the credit by historians for his battle with the Florida East Coast Railway, but newspaper accounts of the day gave equal credit to Dean’s editor, Joe Hough Reese.²⁰ (By 1909, Dean had assumed command of *The Metropolis*. Tatum sold his interest in the paper to A. J. Bendle on April 20, 1909, and Bendle — a Colorado businessman who had interest in Everglades land companies — announced that he would take no part in the management or conduct of *The Metropolis*, leaving that, instead, to Dean who remained secretary-treasurer of the newspaper.)

As Reese — obviously supported by Dean — continued to attack the railway in 1910 for what the newspaper considered to be second-class treatment of South Florida by absentee capitalists of the railway, a plot was hatched to hurt the newspaper.

Many of the town’s leading citizens and businessmen were urged — presumably by railway people — to petition *The Metropolis* to cease its opposition to the railway for the good of the community. The petition was presented to the newspaper. With 49 of the town’s leading citizens and merchants signing the March 28, 1910, document, it was taken as a threat to the future of the newspaper. The editors, on April 1, ran on the front page the petition and the names of everyone who signed it — under the heading: ‘Business Men Attempt to Put Quietus on Metropolis by Significant Petition.’

The story and names set off a storm. For the next few weeks,

the front page of *The Metropolis* was jammed with stories and letters of support — and an occasional word of protest such as the one from merchant William Burdine, who asked: “We wonder who will be next to lick *The Metropolis*’ soiled boots.”²¹

As the petition signers found their names in public print, and saw the backlash — especially from the agricultural industry in Dade County — they backtracked. Dean won the day, and advertisers and subscribers who had dropped their support of the paper through FEC pressure came back. The railroad finally readjusted its rates.

Never again was *The Metropolis* to be considered the mouthpiece for the railroad.

Without fanfare — in fact, even without an announcement — Dean became sole owner of *The Metropolis* on October 17, 1914. On that day, Bendle’s name disappeared from the masthead and only Dean’s remained — as Editor-Manager.

He fought against America’s participation in World War I, ably helped by his crusading writer Hattie Carpenter, who had been principal at Miami High School but quit in a dispute with the school board. Sales dropped as a result of Dean’s opposition, but when the U.S. declared war on Germany, Dean pledged his full support — and members of his staff who went off to fight were retained on the payroll, though Dean never mentioned that fact in print.

Dean fought many wars of his own in Miami. He was a spirited editor who didn’t mind printing his editorial positions on the front page of the newspaper.

In November 1913, Dean won still another of his crusades when Dade County voted itself into prohibition — years before the rest of the nation.

For 10 more years, Dean continued his brand of crusading journalism for Miami’s readers. But, in 1923, another newspaper publisher — James M. Cox — was to arrive in Miami at the urging of Miami Beach pioneer Carl Fisher. Cox made note of his arrival and subsequent business deal in this passage from his 1946 autobiography, *Journey Through My Years*.


Fisher had importuned me to come to Miami. I finally did, in 1923, and fell completely in love with the place, confident that it would grow into a great city. Living in a hotel was always an intolerable experience for me. When I made up my mind to spend a part of each year in Miami, I realized that to find happiness there, I must get something to occupy my time.

Carl Fisher suggested that I purchase the only afternoon paper, *The Miami Metropolis*, the oldest paper in the region. It was owned by Bobo Dean. Fisher arranged a meeting for me with Mr. Dean. We came to terms quickly and the deal was made for cash. Before going back North in the spring I purchased land on the Beach and had a residence erected during the summer of 1923. At that time the Nautilus Hotel and our house were the only structures north of the Biscayne Canal.

Cox, ex-governor of Ohio and unsuccessful candidate for president in 1920 with Franklin Roosevelt as his running mate, already owned newspapers in Dayton and Springfield, Ohio. Both newspapers were named *The News*. When he purchased *The Metropolis* on April 18, 1923, the sale was reputed to be for a million dollars.

**THE ROLL CALL
DEMOCRATIC
44th Formal Ballot**

CANDIDATES	NOMINEES			
	MR. BARKER	MR. COX	DAVIS	ADAMS
STATE				
Ala.	24	13	8	3
Ariz.	6	3	3	
Ark.	18	18		
Calif.	26	13	13	
Colo.	12	12		
Conn.	14	12	2	
Del.	6	3	3	
Fla.	12	12		
Ga.	28	28		
Idaho	8		8	
Ill.	58	44	13	
Ind.	30	30		
Iowa	26	26		
Kans.	20		20	
Ky.	26	26		
La.	20	20		
Maine	12	5	5	
Md.	16	13	2½	
Mass.	36	35		
Mich.	30	PASSED		
Minn.	24	8	15	
Miss.	20	20		
Mo.	36	18	17	
Mont.	8	6	2	
Nebr.	16	5	2	
Neu.	6	6		
N. H.	8	2	6	



James M. Cox,
Governor of Ohio, born March 31, 1870, at Jacksonburg, Ohio, was a school teacher at 17, a newspaper reporter at 20, private secretary to a U. S. Congressman at 24, a newspaper owner and publisher at 28, a U. S. Congressman at 35, and the Governor of his state at 42. After serving two terms in Congress, he was elected Governor in 1912, defeated for re-election in 1914, re-elected in 1916 and again in 1918.


"I shall accept the standard from the democracy of America, conscious not only of the honor but of the great responsibility conferred. As Providence gives me strength and vision, my firm resolve will be to justify the confidence which has been officially expressed."

"He is a supporter of the League of Nations, holds liberal views on the temperance question, and favors the substitution of a tax on sales for the excess profits tax."

Mr. Cox is married and lives in Dayton, O.

**THAT NOMINATED
NATIONAL CONVENTION
San Francisco, July 6, 1920**

CANDIDATES	NOMINEES			
	MR. BARKER	MR. COX	DAVIS	ADAMS
STATE				
N. J.	28	28		
N. Mex.	6	6		
N. Y.	90	70	20	
N. C.	24	24		
N. Dak.	10	2	4	
Ohio	48	48		
Okl.	20			
Oreg.	10	10		
Pa.	76	68	4	2
R. I.	10	9	1	
S. C.	18	18		
S. Dak.	10	5	3	
Tenn.	24		24	
Tex.	40	40		
Utah	8	1	7	
Vt.	8	8		
Va.	24	18	2½	1½
Wash.	14	13		1
W. Va.	16		16	
Wis.	26	23	3	
Wyo.	6	3	3	
D. C.	6	6		
Alaska	6	6		
P. I.	6	4	2	
Hawaii	6	6		
P. R.	6	5	1	
C. Z.	2	2		



Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Assistant Secretary of the Navy, was born in Hyde Park, New York, January 30, 1882. He attracted the attention of Pres. Wilson while serving as state senator in the New York legislature from which he resigned in March, 1913, to accept his present position.

In 1918 he was in charge of inspection of U. S. naval forces in European waters, and in 1919 he directed the demobilization of American naval forces in Europe.

Mr. Roosevelt is a lawyer. He was in active practice until his appointment in the U. S. Navy Department. He is a rich cousin of the late Theodore Roosevelt, and is now occupying the same official position which Theodore Roosevelt resigned during William McKinley's administration to enlist for active field duty in the American army during the Spanish-American war. His wife is the daughter of the only brother of President Roosevelt. They have five children.

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Three years before purchasing the *Miami News-Metropolis*, James M. Cox was nominated for President by the Democratic Party. Franklin D. Roosevelt was his running mate.

Best known nationally as a politician, Cox was first a journalist. He began his career at the age of 20 in 1890 at the *Middletown (Ohio) Signal*, published by his brother-in-law. Starting as a printer's devil (an apprentice in the print shop), Cox quickly moved up to reporter, then city editor, makeup man and circulation manager of the weekly.

Cox reported a Middletown train wreck so well that he caught the eye of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, which hired him as a reporter. He later became the political reporter, and that had much to do with shaping young Cox's future. He quit the paper to become secretary to an Ohio congressman and, with money borrowed from that congressman, bought the *Dayton Daily News* in 1898.

Cox, just as was to occur with Dean a decade later in Miami, took on the railroad and was almost wiped out as a result.²²

But he had tasted politics and liked it. Cox, in 1908, succeeded the Ohio congressman who loaned him the money for the newspaper. He was re-elected in 1910 and was elected governor of Ohio in 1912. He lost his seat in 1914 but regained it in 1916 and was re-elected in 1918.

In 1920, Cox received the nomination of the Democratic Party to be that party's candidate for president. Franklin D. Roosevelt was chosen as his running mate. Another Ohio newspaper publisher, Warren G. Harding, won the nomination of the Republican Party and defeated Cox.

The victorious Harding came to Miami Beach in 1920 to celebrate before taking office. Here, he was the guest of Carl Fisher. Cox remained at home, tending to his newspapers — until Fisher convinced him to come to Miami in 1923, when he bought *The Metropolis*.

In a two-column box on the front page announcing the purchase of *The Metropolis*, Cox outlined his publishing philosophy:

The Metropolis will uphold the principles of Jeffersonian Democracy and devote itself to the public interest. Any city, growing as Miami is, needs a vigilant press. The public interest must always be paramount. The function of a newspaper carries a grave responsibility. It is the agency of information and truth. Its news columns should give all sides of an issue of general concern, regardless of the convictions which the paper has. A journal without convictions is of little use to a community. Influence of public opinion should be sought in the fairest manner. Either misrepresentation or suppression of essential facts profanes the traditions of a great profession.

One of Cox's first moves was to change the name of the newspaper to *The Miami Daily News-Metropolis*, with *Metropolis* in much smaller type. (*Metropolis* was later dropped, as was the word *Daily*.) Cox decided early that the two-story newspaper building on West Flagler Street was not adequate to his plans and decided to erect the structure that became Miami's most significant landmark.

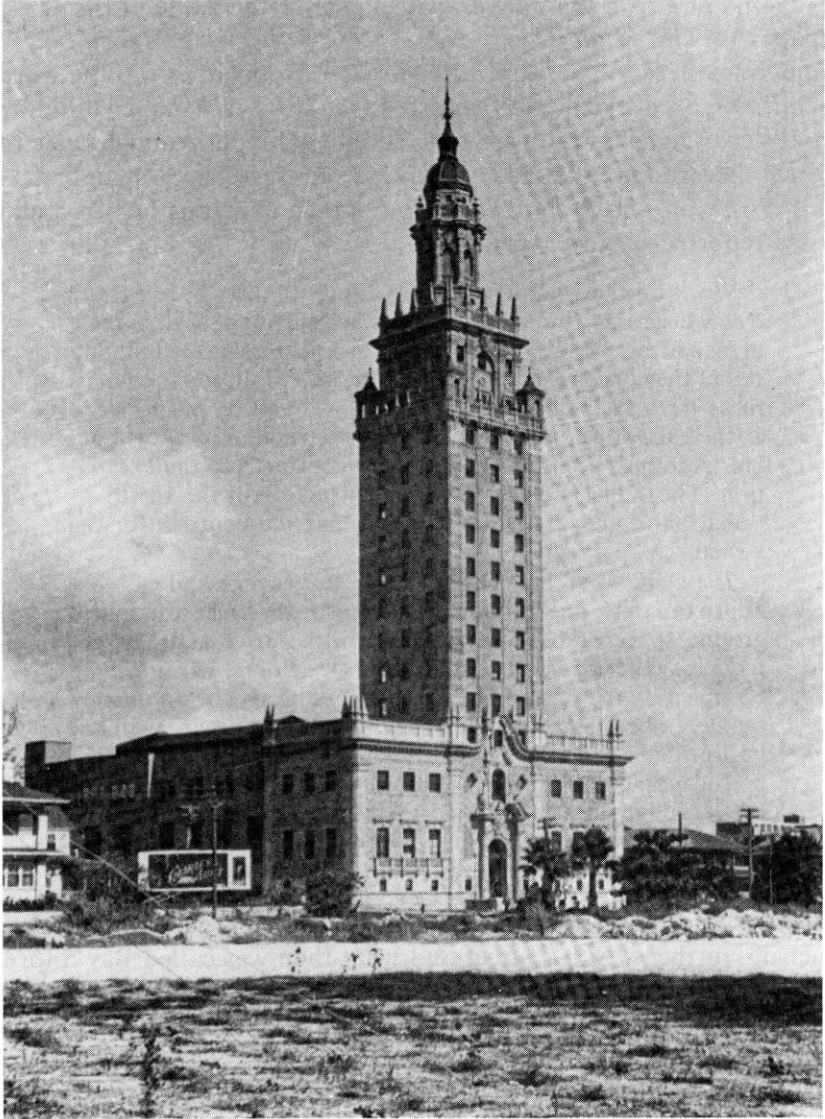
Work on *The Miami News Tower* began on June 11, 1924, and was reported by the paper:

Work on the 15-story office building for *The Miami Daily News* began at 10 o'clock Wednesday morning, a large crew of men being engaged in removing the pine trees on the building site at the corner of N. Bay Shore dr. and Sixth st. As soon as these trees are removed, a steam shovel will be put to work at the excavation, and then actual construction work will begin. Adolph Freedlund has the sub-contract for the excavation. The Fuller Co. of New York, which built the First National bank and the Nautilus hotel, has the contract for the structure.

The Daily News building will be 15 stories high and will cost approximately one million dollars. It will cover the entire ground space of 125 feet frontage on the drive and 220 feet frontage on N.E. Sixth st. The first three floors, which will be occupied by the publishing plant, will be ready for occupancy by December. The tower, which will be 40 feet square, will not be finished until later in the winter. Offices in the tower will be for rent. Surmounting the tower will be a dome which will be flood lighted at night, and this can be seen far out to sea. The tower will be half as high as the Washington monument. *The Daily News* building will be the tallest structure in Miami.

Cox had purchased, from an undertaker, a large lot on the corner of Northeast Sixth Street and what then was called Bay Shore Drive, soon to be broadened and renamed Biscayne Boulevard. He engaged the New York architectural firm of Schultze & Weaver to handle the project.

It was decided to design a building in the Spanish style described as Plateresque. Leonard Schultze and S. Fullerton Weaver, who had designed the Waldorf-Astoria in New York and the Nautilus Hotel in Miami Beach, arrived at a 15-story structure topped by a cupola that could be seen far out at sea. "The News Tower," according to a newspaper article of the time, "derives much of its design from Giralda Tower in Seville, although the treatment of the tall cupola on the former is more vigorous and dominating."²³



Begun in 1924, the *Miami Daily News Tower* was modeled after the Giralda Tower in Seville, Spain.

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Schultze & Weaver soon were to further influence Miami architecture by designing the Biltmore Hotel & Country Club in Coral Gables and Roney Plaza Hotel in Miami Beach — all strikingly similar to The News Tower.

For his new building, Cox ordered a mural "symbolic of Florida as known by the ancient and embryonic maps of the 16th century."²⁴ He then commissioned a poem to be written by renowned poet Edwin Markham to be a part of the mural on the mezzanine of the new building.²⁵

Here once by April breezes blown
You came, O gallant de Leon,
Sailed up this friendly ocean stream
To find the wells of ancient dream —
The fountain by the poets sung
Where life and love are ever young.
You found it not, O price, and yet
The wells that made the heart forget
Are waiting here — yea ever here
With touch of some immortal sphere,
For here below these skies of gold
We have forgotten to grow old —
Here in this land where all the hours
Dance by us treading upon the flowers —

(There is nothing to indicate that Gov. Cox ever saw the Giralda Tower. In his autobiography, Cox refers to only one trip to Europe prior to the building of The News Tower. He wrote that, in 1922, he visited Germany, England, France, Italy and Switzerland but he did not mention Spain.)

Cox added a Sunday edition to the newspaper on Jan. 4, 1925; then to celebrate the opening of his stylistic newspaper plant, he published on July 25 what then was the largest single edition of any newspaper: 504 pages in 22 sections. Not coincidentally, the newspaper that held the previous record was Cox's *Dayton Daily News* at 256 pages.

There had been hurricanes in Miami in earlier years but not for some time. According to weather bureau records, the last hurricane to hit Miami was in 1906. Almost all the people living in 1926 Miami had never experienced a powerful hurricane when, on September 18, they were tested. The damage was huge, as first reports in the September 18, 1926, *Miami News* indicated:

HURRICANE HITS MIAMI

*Tidal Wave Sweeps Bayshore Drive, Wrecking Boats
Fear Felt for Miami Beach; Pounded by Heavy Sea*

Miami was laid waste Saturday by a raging hurricane, attended by a gale of more than 130 miles an hour velocity,

and followed by one of the most disastrous tidal waves ever experienced on the Atlantic Coast.

Miami Beach was isolated from the mainland and no word has been received as to the effect of the storm there. It is feared that a monster tidal wave has swept across the entire island city. Newspapermen crawled from Miami Beach at 3 a.m. with a story of pounding surf, broken communication and distressed boats. It was the last information to reach Miami.

Scores of houses in Hialeah were reported leveled by the hurricane and under water from the overflow of the canal. Coral Gables was cut off from all outside communication at 4:40 a.m. Saturday. Continued efforts to reach the city by wire were impossible . . .

At least 114 died and thousands were left homeless. The city, especially along the waterfront, was flattened by the winds and tidal surge. *The Miami Daily News & Metropolis* published a one-page edition with a hand-run press on September 18 and again on September 19, all the way publishing hand-cranked mimeographed bulletins through the days and nights as a public service. The September 20 edition of the paper was printed, as a courtesy, by *The Miami Herald*, which had power restored before the *News & Metropolis*.

Gov. Cox, who was in Dayton at the time, recalled in his autobiography that first word about the Miami disaster came from a steamship in harbor at Mobile, Ala. "A dispatch stated that the News Tower was leaning thirty-three and third degrees," Cox wrote. "We fell to wondering whether, in the construction, rubber had been used rather than steel."²⁶

Miami, indeed, had been struck a major blow but there was a spirit about the place that fortified the resolve of its citizens and leaders. Out of the rubble of the hurricane, grew a greater Greater Miami.

Joining Cox in Miami at the time of the purchase of *The Metropolis* in 1923 was his son-in-law, a man who in later years was to become one of Miami's most influential citizens. Daniel J. Mahoney helped negotiate the deal with Dean. He had married Cox's daughter, Helen Harding Cox, in 1918. She died in 1921.

Mahoney was a burly Irish-American who thrived on adventure. This temperament did much to influence his reign of influence in Miami.

He was a school dropout who worked as an engineer on a Southern Pacific route survey team along the Mexican border and

later signed up as a scout for Gen. John Pershing against Pancho Villa. During World War I, Mahoney was a lieutenant with the 89th Division in France, then served in the occupation force as a captain.

Marrying Cox's daughter after the war, he returned to Dayton and worked in the paper's advertising department. He was named national advertising manager and, in 1925, became general manager of *The News League*, which is the name Cox gave his group of newspapers — which now included a newspaper in Canton, Ohio.²⁷

Mahoney built a home in Miami Beach in 1926 but spent most of his time in Dayton until 1930 when he moved here full-time. In 1929, he was named general manager of *The Miami Daily News*. Mahoney, said Cox, was one of the best public relations men and sales executives in the country. While promoting advertising and circulation sales with his paper, he also promoted the community and played a key role in many local institutions such as the University of Miami, the Greater Miami Crime Commission and many charitable organizations.

Cox and Mahoney soon had a tiger by the tail. Mobster Al Capone bought a house on Palm Island. The paper began a campaign to run Capone out of town.

That crusade included a wave of front page editorials aimed at the gangster, such as this one of April 21, 1930, which began:

Al Capone, with all his aliases, has arrived at Miami Beach. Except for a temporary restraining order which came from the United States court, he would have been met at the state line, under orders from the governor of the state and transported north. For the time at least, Governor Carlton is halted in his efforts to remove a person designated by him as an "undesirable."

There is no surprise in Capone's defying the spiritual sense of the people of Florida. He laughs at law, he gives it no respect; through the organized forms of criminal operation he has with one exception escaped, up until this day, anything beyond arrest or detention upon suspicion . . .

Cox and Mahoney had prevailed upon the governor to stop Capone at the state line but found they had no legal reason to keep him from entering Florida.

Mahoney went to work on Capone through daily front page editorials. Mahoney reported that he began receiving telephone calls asking if he would like to be measured for a coffin.

"I would like to meet at any hour at any place the man who

thinks he's big enough to put me in it," Mahoney would respond.²⁸

One night, Mahoney discovered he was at the same party as Capone. "Get that bum out of here or I'm leaving," he announced. Capone was asked to leave.

Cox wrote that he was offered \$5 million for the paper and that there was no doubt in his mind that Capone interests were involved. He refused the offer.²⁹ The governor is supposed to have told the Capone mouthpiece, "If you want to buy *The News*, you can get it for five cents on any street corner."

Cox's newspaper continued to pursue Capone but the mobster lived the rest of his days here.

The year 1939 brought the newspaper its first Pulitzer Prize, the Gold Medal for public service.³⁰ A campaign, begun in 1937 against three city commissioners who had taken over city hall and were promoting their own pet projects and making jobs for their camp followers, finally bore fruit in 1938 with the recall of the trio.

The war years just ahead, however, were to forever alter Miami.

Before war's end, Greater Miami literally was a beehive of military activity, stretching from training schools on Miami Beach to operations at the downtown seaport, in Opa-locka, at Dinner Key, at Chapman Field on Old Cutler Road, at a massive blimp base in Richmond and at the University of Miami.

The war pinch was being felt at *The Miami Daily News*. Not only were the men and women of the newspaper off to war, but materials were hard to come by. In December 1943, *The Miami Daily News* introduced a nine-column wide news page, designed to cut down on the number of pages needed to produce the paper.³¹

The immediate post-war years also brought a time for another *Miami News* crusade. Miami, now with a population of 400,000, was faced with the legacy of Capone and his cronies: the S&G Syndicate. The syndicate was into casinos, bookmaking and police bribery.

Dan Mahoney and *The News* started roaring like a bull and were instrumental in setting up the Greater Miami Crime Commission under ex-FBI agent Dan Sullivan. "When *The News* kept doing stories about the mob," recalled Sullivan, "officials on the Beach started worrying it was keeping the tourists away, so city commissioners went to *The News* building and complained. Mahoney was a pretty forthright guy. He told them to go to hell."³²

U.S. Sen. Estes Kefauver soon entered the scene with investigation into organized crime in the country. His first stop was Mi-

ami and it spelled the end of the S&G Syndicate in 1950.

There were many in those days who thought Mahoney was a heavy-handed autocrat. It was he, not the paper, who picked the political candidates. "I don't think he was an autocrat," said James Cox, "When he wanted something he'd get it, though. He didn't brook opposition. He was a slugger. The Tyrant of the Tower they used to call him.

"But, God knows, the town in those days really needed someone to run it."³³

Cox died on July 15, 1957. His newspaper lamented the loss on its front page the next day.

James M. Cox, owner of *The Miami News* and an elder statesman of the nation died last night at his home in Dayton, Ohio. He was 87.

For more than half a century, Cox had been a prominent man in American life. He was a member of Congress, was three times the governor of Ohio and in 1920, he was the Democratic candidate for President.

It was in the 1920 campaign that Cox, agreeing with President Woodrow Wilson that the League of Nations was necessary to preserve world peace, became the premier advocate of the principles which a generation later led to the creation of the United Nations.

Beginning as a young man in 1898, he created a group of newspapers which eventually included *The Miami Daily News*, the *Dayton Daily News*, the *Dayton Journal Herald*, the *Atlanta Journal*, the *Atlanta Constitution*, the *Springfield (Ohio) Sun* and the *Springfield (Ohio) News*.

He was active in the publishing of his newspapers until he suffered a stroke five days ago. He maintained a home at 4358 North Bay Road, Miami Beach.

Prior to his passing, Cox already had set in motion the building of a new home for the paper on Northwest Seventh Street, the old Tower no longer being able to handle the growth of the paper.³⁴

On October 20, 1957, *The News* staff moved in to its new building. By this time, the paper had a new editor, a Georgia boy with a crew cut and a permanently wry smile, named William Calhoun Baggs. It was he who changed the name of the paper from *Miami Daily News* to its present name, *The Miami News*.

Baggs plunged into the civil rights crusade, along with Rev. Theodore Gibson and Elizabeth Virrick. It is reported, but never admitted, that Baggs pressured major businesses in the community

to commit to hiring exact numbers of blacks for better than menial chores and that Baggs kept those pledges under lock and key in his desk drawer, calling upon the businesses every once in a while to honor their obligations.

The Pulitzer Committee was to honor *The Miami News* again in 1959 when it chose reporter Howard Van Smith's series on the plight of South Florida's migrant workers for the national reporting award.³⁵

The years of Fidel Castro also were at hand and, with it, came the Cuban Missile Crisis. It led to the paper's third Pulitzer Prize, for international reporting in 1962.³⁶ News of the Russian missile buildup was first broadcast to the world by *The Miami News*, despite guarded denials from Washington. Eventually, the administration made it public.

As the world sat breathless, wondering if the Russians would back down, Baggs received a telephone call — he was never to reveal from whom — and loped into the city room to get into print the fact that the Russians had, indeed, backed down. It scooped the State Department by an hour. When *Time Magazine* pressed Baggs to reveal his source, he grinned that lopsided grin and said: "A rose-ate spoonbill told me."³⁷

As *The Daily News* staff worked from its new building on the banks of the Miami River, the *News Tower* was deserted; it was dubbed "the dowager of the boulevard," by one journalistic observer. Soon, however, there was to be a change in Miami — a change so severe that it not only changed the image of the tower but of the entire city as well.

In 1960, Cuban refugees fleeing Fidel Castro began pouring into Miami. The temporary processing center at Miami International Airport could not handle the volume and a new center was sought. That center turned out to be "the dowager of the boulevard."

On June 20, 1962, life returned to Gov. Cox's tower. Reported *The Miami News* that day:

The old Miami News Tower woke up today.

After almost five years of silence where presses once roared and typewriters rattled, the Tower was full of human voices and human activity.

With a new name — *Freedom Tower* — the historic building will begin a new and even better life Monday.

It will become headquarters for the Cuban Refugee Center. Nearly 3,000 penniless refugees from Fidel Castro's Cuba will come there daily in search of help, and will find it.

The building that Cox built after a tower in Spain was now a bastion of liberty for those who spoke Spanish.

The first four floors of the building were leased by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Each month, hundreds of new refugees arrived at the Tower for processing. They got there either through the Freedom Airlift, or on leaky boats — much as did Haitians who began following the Cubans to our shores a decade later.

It is estimated that between 1962 and 1974, a total of 463,854 refugees passed through the *Freedom Tower*.

(The building originally had been sold by *The Miami News* in 1957 to a New York real estate investor for \$1.25 million. The investor, Irving Maidman, at the time also owned three hotels in New York.³⁸ He planned to turn the *News Tower* into an office building, but did not. Through the years, ownership of the *Freedom Tower* has passed through many hands.)

Meanwhile, in 1963, Dan Mahoney passed away while undergoing surgery in New York. He was succeeded by James M. Cox, Jr., son of the founder of the newspaper league.³⁹

Three years later, the paper signed an agreement with the *Miami Herald Publishing Company* whereby the publishing company would print, distribute, sell advertising and promote *The Miami News*. The paper moved out of its home on the Miami River and into the *Miami Herald* building on July 29, 1966.

It followed, by a few months, *The Miami News'* fourth Pulitzer Prize, awarded to Don Wright for editorial cartooning.⁴⁰ Wright, who started at the paper as a copy aide and subsequently was a photographer, photo editor and cartoonist, became a nationally-acclaimed cartoonist and is widely syndicated.

Fate dealt the paper and the community a cruel blow, when on January 7, 1969, Baggs died at the age of 48. Exhausted by years of battling for civil rights and against the American presence in the Vietnam War — he twice visited Hanoi as an unofficial representative of the U.S. government⁴¹ — Baggs succumbed to pneumonia.

In 1974, James M. Cox, Jr., passed away and was succeeded as publisher by Daniel Mahoney, Jr., son of the former publisher.⁴² Young Mahoney had been publisher of *The Dayton Daily News* and came to Florida to oversee both *The Miami News* and Cox's newspapers in West Palm Beach.

Recognizing the need for a full-time publisher at *The Miami*

News, however, Charles Glover, then president of *Cox Newspapers*, selected David Kraslow, chief of the Cox Washington Bureau, to be publisher of the paper in 1977.⁴³ For Kraslow, it was a return home.

A graduate of the University of Miami, he began his newspaper career at *The Miami News* in 1948 as a sports writer, later moving on to *The Miami Herald*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Washington Star* before accepting the Cox Washington job in 1974.

In the period from 1976, *The Miami News* was redesigned into one of the nation's most exciting formats, truly modular. Meanwhile, awards continued to pour in for the newspaper. In 1980, Don Wright received his second Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning.⁴⁴

In May 1986, *The Miami News* celebrated its 90th anniversary. With the exception of the Florida East Coast Railway, which opened the town in April 1896, the newspaper is the longest continuing business in Miami.

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