Tequesta: The Journal of the Historican Association of Southern Florida Editors Emeriti N. Tabasu Ph D.

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Number LII

1992

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is published annually by the Historical Association of Southern Florida. Communications should be addressed to the Managing Editor of Tequesta, 101 W. Flagler Street, Miami,

Florida 33130. The Association does not assume responsibility for statements of facts or opinions made by contributors.

On the cover:

African American laborers who came to Miami in 1896 to help build the city.

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Contributors

Olga Espejo Beshers is assistant professor, librarian, at the Otto G. Richter Library, University of Miami. She received her M.L.S. and M.A. degrees from Kent State University, Ohio, and has authored several scholarly articles. Currently she is working on a carto-bibliography of the West Indies and Florida. Before joining the University of Miami in 1989, she was with Ohio State University.

Thomas F. Fleischmann holds two Masters Degrees in History, one from the University of Miami and the other from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He serves as an independent evaluator for the Florida Humanities Council and is a member of the Naval Reserve. Presently he is a project director with Jewish Vocational Service, Inc., a social service agency. He lives in Miami with his wife and daughter.

Nixon Smiley, a well known newspaper reporter for *The Miami Herald*, local historian, and environmentalist, died July 29, 1990. Aside from a hitch in the U.S. Marines during World War II, Smiley worked for *The Herald* from 1940 until he retired in 1973. His *Knights of the Fourth Estate*, one of nine books that he wrote, is the definitive history of *The Miami Herald* and an excellent history of Miami as well. Long *The Herald's* horticulture expert, Smiley was also acting director at Fairchild Tropical Garden from 1956-63. His interest in tropical plants was a particularly rewarding part of his life.

John Viele is a retired naval officer, a former submarine commander and marine engineer. Now living on Cudjoe Key, he writes a monthly column on Keys history for the *Island Navigator*. His articles have also appeared in *Florida Keys Magazine*. He was a member of the advisory committee for the development of the Museum of Natural History of the Florida Keys and was history editor for the *Monroe County Environmental Story*, a resource textbook for public school teachers. He is a director of the Key West Maritime History Society and a frequent lecturer on Keys history.