

Tequesta

THE JOURNAL OF THE HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

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Number LVII

1997

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THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

Tequesta

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

33130. Telephone: (305) 375-1492. The Association does not assume responsibility for statements of facts or opinions made by contributors. (ISSN 0363-3705)

On the Cover: "90 Day Wonders" taking basic training on Miami Beach. Many got "sand in their shoes" and returned to Miami as permanent residents after the war. (HASF, *Miami News* Collection, 1989-011-18440)

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Editor's Foreword

In the quarter century since I began studying the rich history of Miami and South Florida, I have been struck by the area's role in World War II. Frequent research forays into the topic have only whet my appetite for more information on a dramatic – and dangerous – era that saw German submarines prowling the waters off of Miami Beach; soldiers marching along Ocean Drive singing Big Band and patriotic songs; sailors from China, Russia and the United States training together on Miami's bayfront; and the brief pandemonium associated with V-J Day. By a wonderful coincidence, Gary R. Mormino, one of Florida's premier historians and a superb stylist, has spent several years researching the Sunshine State and World War II as part of a larger study. Mormino answered our request for an article on Greater Miami and the war with a stunning piece of scholarship that appears in this issue of *Tequesta*.

Christine Ardalan, a graduate student in history at Florida International University, is another contributor to this issue of *Tequesta*. In "Professional Nurses in Early Miami, 1896-1925," Ardalan employs the memoirs of Lillah B. Harley, a nurse, to examine many issues involving her craft and medicine in the young city of Miami, as well as the beginnings of the City Hospital, the predecessor of today's giant Jackson Memorial Hospital. Professor Roderick Waters, who was influenced as an undergraduate student by Gary Mormino at the University of South Florida before earning his doctorate in history from Florida State University, provides a fascinating look at Dr. William B. Sawyer, one of the most important and versatile citizens of Miami's Colored Town (today's Overtown), a segregated quarter in the northwest sector of the city. Sawyer arrived in the Magic City in 1910 and wasted little time establishing a successful practice, one that stretched from West Palm Beach to Homestead. Sawyer was also a founder of the first black hospital, a civil rights leader and the owner of the community's premier hotel.

History is alive and well in the Magic City. The recent spate of anniversary celebrations has piqued a great deal of interest in our area's history. This year's observance of the centennial of the Miami City Cemetery and of the golden anniversary of the opening of the Everglades National Park will be followed in 1998 with the recognition of the one hundredth anniversary of Camp Miami, a problem-plagued

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Spanish American War camp amid the piney woods north of downtown, along with the opening of the Burdine store in Miami, which was directly related to the encampment. The growing number of exhibits, publications, classes, history tours and videos directed toward this community are testaments to our rising interest in its past. We are delighted with this trend. Again, we encourage any of our readers with ideas for an article to contact us so that we can assist you.

Paul S. George
Tequesta Editor