

Tequesta

THE JOURNAL OF THE HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

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THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

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On the Cover: Florida East Coast Railway Oversea Extension workers taking a break. HASF 1991-208-31.

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Editor's Foreword

As we near the end of the century and the millennium, the discipline of history continues to grow in demand and cachet. Historians are being called on to help prepare lists of the century's top one hundred stories, events, athletes, personalities, and whatever other topics creative minds can come up with. Books and articles focusing on the end of the last millennium and the beginning of the present one are also plentiful. This issue of *Tequesta* brings to our readers a more measured approach to history, since we've been in the "history business" for almost sixty years. Yet we also have an anniversary to "celebrate": the fall of 1999 marks one hundred years since the city of Miami was stricken by a yellow fever epidemic that brought wide scale suffering, loss of life, and closed it for three months to the outside world.

In this issue of *Tequesta*, Joe Knetsch, a prolific, voluble historian with a Ph.D. from the Florida State University, has provided, with "The Peonage Controversy and the Florida East Coast Railway," a detailed study of a controversy that dogged the Flagler organization during its construction of the Overseas Railroad to Key West. Dr. Knetsch, Historian with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, has plumbed the William J. Krome collection of newspaper clippings and other important source material in this work. Doug Andrews, a faculty member at Miami-Dade Community College's Wolfson Campus, has given us, in "Black Education in Greater Miami, 1921-1940," a sobering look at the disparities in funding, facilities, and teachers' salaries in the area's racially segregated school system. Professor Andrews has made impressive use of the Minutes of the Dade County School Board in explaining these inequities in an era that witnessed boom and bust, a lingering economic depression, and the early stirrings of a civil rights movement that led to significant change in public schools and in many other areas of American life. Andrews, a native Miamian, is Professor of Distant Education and Social Science Education, Miami-Dade Community College, Wolfson.

Benedicte Sisto, a young historian living in Samur, France, offers with "Miami's Land Gambling Fever of 1925," a look at one of the seminal events in the city and the area's history. Historian Sisto's

article is timely since we are on the cusp of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the boom's peak year, 1925. Ms. Sisto's article is also important for its source material, since it employs a spate of articles from several periodicals seldom used before in accounts of the boom. Sisto is a Teaching Assistant in American Civilization at the University of Tours, France. She is completing her Ph. D. in History at the same institution. A frequent visitor to the United States, she taught French at the University of California, Berkeley.

We know that you will enjoy and learn from these scholarly offerings. Let us hear from you if you have questions, comments, or prospective articles for *Tequesta*. Thank you.

Paul S. George
Editor, *Tequesta*