

CHAPTER VII

PIONEERS AND LATER ARRIVALS

E. A. WADDELL is one of Miami's earliest pioneers. As a real-estate operator he has contributed to the progress of Dade County by interesting northern capitalists in this section of Florida. Mr. Waddell has been closely identified with the founding of the First National Bank of Miami, of which he is vice-president.

Many will recall the genial Captain John H. Welsh. While not so spry as he used to be, his mental alertness is still as remarkable as in the days when he was the life of our social and civic gatherings. His sallies of wit on those occasions did credit to the race from which he sprang (on a certain occasion he confided to me that he sprang from no one — he sprang at them). At one of the annual St. Patrick's day celebrations he gave the following toast as a compliment to the writer: "If life were a thing that money could buy, the Jews would live and the Irish would die."

Another energetic pioneer is Dan Hardie, who was one of Miami's efficient fire department

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chiefs. He also served Dade County as sheriff. The popularity of this quondam fire-fighter was greatly enhanced by his organization of a company of diminutive Zuaves, composed of boys between the ages of four and ten, whom he used to drill every Friday night, on Flagler Street, between Miami and First avenues, to the great delight of scores of spectators that lined the thoroughfare. The boys were gaudily uniformed and carried wooden swords. Dan, their wonderful captain, was clad in yellow bloomers, green jacket and crimson turban. In that picturesque uniform he often responded to fire-alarms, followed by his faithful company of Zuaves and crowds of spectators.

Miami's pioneer lawyers have contributed much of their time and talent to the welfare of the community. My acquaintance with one of the early lawyer pioneers, Judge G. A. Worley, dates from the day, about a quarter of a century ago, when I defeated him in a highly exciting game of checkers. Robert R. Taylor, who had preceded Judge Worley, was strong on chess. Judge Redmond B. Gautier, who arrived after the chess and checkers stage of Miami's development, experienced many ups and downs while

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trying to build up his law practice. Besides an able lawyer, he finally became an iconoclast and a most loyal disciple of the late Tom Watson, whom he had defended in a suit brought against him, some years previously, by residents of Fort Lauderdale, whom he was alleged to have attacked with a rifle in preventing them from anchoring a boat in the proximity of his winter residence. This episode, Tom Watson termed, "My first and only Naval battle."

Judge H. F. Atkinson is one of the earliest pioneer lawyers. He had removed from Titusville to Miami in 1896. For some time after his arrival he was seldom seen in the daytime. During his seclusion he was taken by some of his fellow pioneers for a burglar. It was finally learned that he could not endure the glare of the white streets during the day. This forced him to reverse the natural order, namely, he worked at night and slept in the daytime.

This pioneer jurist has recently been honored with the Circuit Court judgeship. He had also, for a number of years, presided in the Criminal Court of Records. In his family life, Judge Atkinson enjoys the rare privilege of having a consulting judge in close proximity — his talented

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wife, Edith M. Atkinson, is judge of the Juvenile Court of Dade County.

My acquaintance with Judge Mitchel D. Price dates from the night I sat beside him at a banquet, at the Biscayne Hotel, which was then operated by one of Miami's earliest pioneers, Salem Graham, Miami's first baker and hotel-keeper. Judge Price, who looks more like a poet than a lawyer, had thrilled his audience on that occasion with a poetic eulogy of Mr. Graham's culinary art. Judge Price was recently honored with the Circuit Court judgeship, but soon resigned owing to the demands of his law practice.

The late Judge J. T. Sanders was another of Miami's earliest pioneer lawyers. He had removed from Titusville to Miami in the spring of 1896. He was repeatedly honored with public office, including the judgeship of the Criminal Court of Records. Judge Sanders was closely identified with the progress of Dade County. During the Spanish-American War he was Commander-in-Chief of Miami's Home Guard, which troop he succeeded in training to a high order of military efficiency. (Died in 1918.)

The late Judge Minor S. Jones, of Titusville,

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Florida, while not a resident of Miami, was a frequent visitor, until a few years ago, as judge of the Circuit Court. Judge Jones was noted and will long be remembered throughout Florida for his tender-heartedness and for undeviatingly tempering justice with mercy. This venerable judge was a learned jurist and a great humanitarian. (Died in 1922.)

F. H. Rand, one of Miami's active young lawyers, settled here when the town was still in its infancy. After successfully practicing his profession for a number of years, he visualized the greater possibilities in realty and building operations, and embarked in these enterprises with unexcelled confidence and enthusiasm. With this as his chief capital, coupled with a high degree of shrewdness, Mr. Rand has succeeded in acquiring a number of valuable parcels of desirably located property, which he is developing and is thus contributing to Miami's forward movement.

The group of later arrivals, who settled in this city in their boyhood, composed of J. H. Mercer, R. V. Waters, F. W. Cason, W. L. Harris and Lilburn R. Railey, have participated in many movements in the interest of Miami's welfare.

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T. V. Moore is one of Miami's old settlers who has contributed considerably to the progress of the city and county. Mr. Moore arrived in Miami at a very critical period, when the farmers and merchants were casting about in an unorganized effort to obtain better transportation facilities. His entrance immediately upon his arrival, into the former Board of Trade (now the Chamber of Commerce) marks the transition period of that noted organization. On becoming its president he set its machinery working toward the relief of Dade County's transportation problems. In this important undertaking he had the coöperation of the late A. A. Boggs, Senator F. M. Hudson, T. A. Winfield, R. Hudson Burr, G. D. Brossier, the late Major S. Rodmond Smith, the Townley Brothers, Capt. Geo. F. Cook, C. D. Leffler and Judge R. B. Gautier. Mr. Moore's intensive activity in this direction proved of a highly educational value in so far as the imperative need of deep water in the Miami Harbor was concerned. Upon recognition of this indispensable element in Miami's growth and prosperity, the people had gotten behind this movement and they are now gratified to have approached its full realization. Mr.

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Moore's frequent trips to Washington in this connection were productive of beneficial results.

The late Joseph A. McDonald (builder of the entire chain of Flagler's hotels) did much for Miami. In his intimate association with Henry M. Flagler, he was enabled to secure many valuable concessions from the Florida East Coast Railway Corporation to the advantage of this city. It was through his efforts that the city and county secured the conveniently located sites for their administration buildings. He served the city as one of the councilmen of Miami's first municipal administration and in diverse other ways gave the community valuable service. He was very charitable and profoundly religious. He was noted for his affability and great influence in the community. (Died in 1918.)

The late Frederick S. Morse, one of Miami's first real-estate brokers, was one of the most popular citizens. He was noted for his highly developed sense of humor. Although suffering from a chronic ailment from his very boyhood, he was always cheerful and was seldom absent from his business as land agent of the Model Land Co. He was a man of liberal education, very

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generous, public spirited and a true philosopher. It was probably due to his philosophy more than to anything else that his life was prolonged against formidable odds. Mr. Morse served the county as its representative in the legislature, and the city as councilman. Through his association with the Flagler interests he largely contributed to the agricultural development of the entire east coast of Florida. (Died in 1920.)

The late Dr. J. M. Jackson, Jr., was an ideal citizen, possessed of many noble traits of character. He was noted for his sympathy and generosity in the exercise of his profession. His life was dedicated to the alleviation of physical suffering. His personality radiated good cheer that proved more soothing and healing to his countless patients than ordinary medical treatment. He not only gave his professional services to his poor townsmen without compensation, but often supplied the necessary medicines at his own expense. When permitted by the almost incessant demand upon his professional services he responded to the call of civic duty with avidity. His favorite philanthropy was the uplift of the town's boys and girls. He was a God-fear-

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ing man and a true friend of his fellow men. (The City hospital has recently been dedicated to the memory of the decedent, who died in April, 1924, and named "The Jackson Memorial.")

John B. Reilly is one of the surviving pioneers, who has been intimately associated with the founders of Miami and who has taken a prominent part in all stages of its development. On his arrival, early in 1896, he took charge of the Florida East Coast Railway Corporation's administration office, acting as employment officer and paymaster throughout the period of Henry M. Flagler's building operations, and has held many other positions of trust. He has taken an active part in all public activities and has been an important factor in the progress of Miami and Dade County. In recognition of his marked executive ability, coupled with his great popularity with the men under his charge, he was made Miami's first mayor.

The late S. A. Belcher was another pioneer who contributed to the progress of Miami. He served several terms as county commissioner, and was instrumental in providing Dade County with the finest roads in the state. (Died in 1923.)

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B. B. Tatum, who arrived in Miami immediately after the yellow-fever quarantine had been lifted, contributed to the progress of Dade County as editor of the *Miami Metropolis* (now the *Daily News*). After severing his connection with that publication he joined his brothers, the late J. H. Tatum and Smiley Tatum, in the realty business, and in the course of time became one of the foremost realty operators and developers in this section of the state. His firm has been prominently identified with the reclamation of the Everglades and with other enterprises of large magnitude, including the establishment of a sugar refinery and the introduction of sugarcane culture in Dade County. The Tatum brothers were instrumental in interesting Governors W. S. Jennings and Napoleon B. Broward in draining the Everglades in the vicinity of Miami, and have rendered the community other constructive service.

Charles A. Mills is one of the younger set of Miami's earliest pioneers. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gus A. Mills, arrived here when this was still a tent encampment. Charlie was raised in Miami, and upon reaching manhood joined the city's public-spirited forces in serving the

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community. He is still active in diverse branches of community service, particularly in social-welfare work. He is past commander of Harvey Seeds Post of the American Legion and is holding a commission of Lieutenant in the U. S. N. R. F. He is also "Chef de Gare" and "Grand Cheminot La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux" of Miami Local.

County Solicitor Fred W. Pine is another of Miami's younger early settlers. Fred has spent the greatest part of his turbulent life in this city and has contributed in a large measure to the general progress and welfare of the community. In spite of the fact that Fred has been the storm center of countless political convulsions characterized by conflict and hostility, he never ceased inclining toward the promptings of his heart in his administration of justice. It should be noted that many an erring boy of Dade County owes his rehabilitation to Fred Pine.

Dr. P. T. Skaggs is one of Miami's earliest pioneer physicians — in fact the only surviving pioneer in the profession. Dr. Skaggs has made an enviable record as a physician and as a patriotic citizen. He has contributed generously to the welfare of the community. During the

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yellow-fever epidemic in 1899 he distinguished himself by his ceaseless ministrations to the stricken, regardless of compensation. His countless patients and innumerable friends hold him in the highest esteem. The next oldest physicians are, in the order mentioned, Dr. W. S. Gramling, Dr. E. K. Jaudon, Dr. A. L. Monroe and Dr. C. F. Sayles.

Ben Shepard, while not a pioneer, has contributed his share to the growing prestige of Miami. He has participated in many drives for the benefit of the community. He has been prominently identified with the movement that resulted in a change of the municipal government and in the election of five bankers as city commissioners which made Miami unique in the annals of municipal administrations. Mr. Shepard has served as county clerk for several terms during which he became noted for his courteousness and competency in the discharge of his duties.

Of the pioneers who settled here in their childhood, and who grew up with the city and contributed to its progress, the following group of citizens are prominently identified with Miami's history: Judge W. F. Blanton; Chief of

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Police H. Leslie Quigg; Sheriff Henry R. Chase; Registration Officer Carl Holmer, Jr.; County Clerk George F. Holly; Tax Assessor Robert L. Hill; County Commissioner R. A. Coachmen; County Solicitor Robert R. Taylor, Jr.; City Attorney J. W. Watson, Jr., County Commissioner W. Cecil Watson, and County Tax Collector Robert M. Simpson.

The election of these young pioneers to their respective offices may be regarded as an expression of confidence in their integrity by their fellow-townsmen who had observed their conduct since their boyhood.

Of the pioneers who settled in this town before it reached its second birthday, and who contributed to its material and spiritual development, the late J. Austin Hall has been an outstanding figure. Possessing what was then appraised as considerable means, he demonstrated his faith in the town's future by building a number of dwellings which were badly needed. His initial building operations were confined to the locality where now stands the Federal building (at the corner of Northeast First Avenue and First Street). A number of years later, Mr. Hall envisaged the future possibilities of the beau-

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tiful section of the city called the "Southside." He was the pioneer developer of that region and was instrumental in inducing other investors to continue its development. Mr. Hall, in his younger days, attracted considerable notice as a writer. His frequent articles in the local press were read with much interest. (Died in 1923.)

The late Judge A. E. Heyser was one of Miami's pioneers and one of Dade County's earliest settlers. Prior to his removal to Miami he resided at Juno, Florida, where he held the office of County Judge. With the removal of the County Seat to Miami, Judge Heyser took up his residence in this city. During the later years of his life, Judge Heyser practiced law and devoted considerable of his time to community-welfare work. He was prominently identified with Miami's Boy Scout movement. (Died in 1924.)

The late Edwin Nelson was one of Miami's earliest pioneers who was prominently identified with the material and spiritual upbuilding of the city. He was the leading spirit and the most active worker in the early establishment of the Northern Methodist church (now the White Temple). As the town grew he became active in social-reform work and developed into a

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most formidable opponent of the open saloon. After retiring from the furniture and undertaking business, in which field he was the first pioneer, he formed a building and loan association, which institution has finally developed into the present banking institution known as The Dade County Security Co., of which Mr. Nelson was the head up to the time of his death in 1919.

W. F. Miller is another pioneer who has participated in the progress of Miami from its very infancy. He has been active in social-welfare work as well as in the business life of the community. Mr. Miller has recently disposed of a very valuable tract of land and placed the proceeds in trust of the White Temple church, which organization has been made one of the beneficiaries of this accumulative fund. While Mr. Miller retired from active business some years ago, he still retains his membership on the Board of Directors of The Dade County Security Co., with which institution he has been connected since its foundation.

Dr. A. L. Monroe, one of Miami's oldest physicians, has contributed much of his time and talents to the welfare of the community. He has taken a keen interest in educational matters

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and has served, for several terms, as chairman of the Dade County School Board.

The group of public-spirited citizens composed of Robert L. Zoll, J. A. Riach and Hamilton Hopkins, is a great factor in the success of Miami's community drives for funds through regaling the workers with their vocal talents.

C. J. Rose is one of Miami's earliest pioneers. Prior to his removal to this town he had resided at Coconut Grove. When Miami passed out of its frame building stage of development, Mr. Rose entered into the manufacture of concrete blocks which proved a highly satisfactory building material for this section of the country for structures of moderate cost. This invention acted as a great stimulus to Miami's building enterprises.

Marcus Milam and F. G. ("Pat") Railey, while not belonging to Miami's aristocracy of the first train, are regarded as old settlers. Both are prominent in the business and social life of the community. "Marcus" and "Pat" can always be depended on when community workers are needed and when funds have to be raised for civic purposes. The former is noted for serious-

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ness of thought and stern practicality in the councils of welfare boards, and the latter for his infectious sense of humor — Mark Twain had nothing on "Pat."

Dr. J. D. McKenney is one of the many Miamians who unfailingly respond to the call of civic duty. He has been prominent in numerous drives for the benefit of the community and is a generous contributor to all worthy causes.

T. G. Pancoast is another public-spirited citizen. He has for a number of years been prominent in the councils of Miami's Chamber of Commerce and has given the community very valuable service. Although a resident of Miami Beach and one of its foremost boosters, he never severed his identification with the progress of the city of Miami.

Clifford H. Reeder has been identified with the progress of Miami since his arrival a number of years ago. He has taken a prominent part in many community drives and still figures in various civic activities. He achieved an enviable record, during the World War, in overseas service in the U. S. Engineer Corps, and has served a term as commander of Harvey Seeds Post of the American Legion.

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Hamilton Michelson, is another of the later arrivals who is giving the community unstinted service. He is taking a deep interest in the schools of Dade County and is a loyal champion of the unprivileged child.

Fred L. Weed, the efficient secretary of the Miami Chamber of Commerce, is entitled to considerable credit for the proper functioning of this organization. His valuable experience as newspaperman is being utilized for the benefit of the city and county. Its results are noted in the wide publicity enjoyed by Miami. In addition to his secretarial duties, Mr. Weed edits and publishes the *Miamian*, a very creditable monthly magazine issued by the Chamber of Commerce. (Mr. Weed resigned after this was written.)

Caspar Hefty is one of Miami's citizens who is swiftly responsive to the call of civic duty. Mr. Hefty has given the community faithful service and has added to the commercial prestige of Miami through his development of one of its most important industries, namely, printing and book-binding. He has also served the community as a member of the City Council for several terms.

Among the early settlers in this city, the group

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composed of Thos. J. Peters, John Seybold, J. K. Dorn and the late Phillip Ullendorff, who came here practically penniless and have amassed large fortunes, stands out as a striking demonstration of the great opportunities afforded by the Magic City to young men of determination, ambition and industry. While these pioneers made their respective starts many years ago, it is only in the last few years that they have emerged from economic insecurity and nerve-racking struggle, entailed in tenaciously holding on to their gradual accumulation of property, which has finally placed them among the wealthiest citizens of Dade County. (Mr. Ullendorff died in 1923.)

Captain G. Duncan Brossier is one of Miami's earliest pioneers who, until recently, has given this community continuous and most valuable service. For a number of years he served without compensation as secretary of the Board of Trade, in which position he manifested marked ability and unselfish devotion. He also served as president of the first Real Estate Board, which was organized about twelve years ago and which was the forerunner of Miami's present strongly organized body of realtors. He was a member of Miami's Commission-Manager Char-

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ter Board. He also served a term as president of the present Chamber of Commerce after the merger had been effected.

Captain Brossier has distinguished himself as publicity writer and statistician. His booster articles in the local press and his statistics relating to real estate taxation and comparative property valuation received wide circulation and attracted much capital to Miami and Dade County. As special assessor he saved the city thousands of dollars through his revaluation of taxable property.

Another early pioneer who has given Miami faithful service is Captain J. F. Jaudon who is noted for his affability and true southern chivalry. Captain Jaudon has for a number of years been active in local politics and has served the county as tax assessor. He has been captain of the Dade County Home Guard and Major of the local company of National Guards. For the past few years he has been engaged in Everglades-land development.