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# Broward Legacy

an historical journal  
of south Florida history,  
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TITLE



Male High School

FLORIDA ATLANTIC  
LIBRARY  
JUN 25 1982  
BOCA RATON,  
FLORIDA  
UNIVERSITY



# Behind The Scenes

This column is written when it is not possible nor desirable to list the credits and present the background information for each article on its own title page in the "Legacy." Therefore, it is with these purposes in mind that the following synopses appear.

Baseball was the unchallenged national pastime in 1915 when Broward County was created. For well over a generation thereafter, when sports were involved, baseball ruled the hearts of local residents.

On May 9, 1925, the sports editor of the "Miami Herald" chronicled on page 1C the ebb and flow of organized baseball on the lower southeast coast of Florida, beginning in 1914. This article is reprinted herein. The name "Cap" Will J. Reed, mayor of the City of Fort Lauderdale at the time when this article appeared, must be indelibly enshrined when county baseball is mentioned. His guidance and support of the early Fort Lauderdale Tarpon baseball teams is legendary and deserves to be commemorated in a county hall of fame.

Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward needs no introduction to "Legacy" readers. But, there is a vast number of Broward County residents who still know nothing about the man after whom this county is named. His multifaceted career before he became Florida's governor in 1905 is highlighted in this first excerpt from his "Autobiography," published in 1904 during his successful gubernatorial bid. The story of his astonishing life is in the Horatio Alger tradition.

In 1940 Broward County boasted a population of 30,794 people who were congregated in an area of 1,212 square miles. They huddled in seven small communities and the environs along the Atlantic coast and the Davie hamlet. With the exception of the latter area, no community was more than five miles from the coast. Therefore, it was only within those communities that there had been any permanent transformation of or damage to the indigenous plant life. In an abstract that has been re-printed from a 1980 "Florida Scientist," Volume 43, Issue 1, Bryan Steinberg has mapped and described the vegetation of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge of Broward County from the earliest, i.e., 1940, imagery available. The accompanying maps are invaluable because they show the indigenous vegetation prior to the recent waves of development.

On April 5, 1925, the "Miami Herald" printed on page 10C a description of the Hillsboro Lighthouse, located near the Hillsboro Inlet. Fifty-four years later, on February 10, 1979, this lighthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This structure, which saved numerous lives and vessels and probably prevented as many shipwrecks, is operated now by the United States Coast Guard.

School teachers rarely receive the recognition that they deserve while still active in the profession. Kudos is given after retirement or death. The article contained herein by Myra M. Marshall falls between the latter two alternatives. Now ninety years of age, Mrs. Marshall lives with relatives in Tallahassee where she had received most of her higher education. Her "Reminiscences" is taken from PIONEER WOMEN IN EDUCATION, published in the early 1960s by the XI Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and is reprinted with their permission. Much of the mathematics that thousands of Broward County students learned was at the feet of this talented woman. If such is possible, she made mathematics simple and understandable for those with little mathematical ability.

Black citizens have contributed materially to the development and progress of Broward County. Near the top of their accomplishments stand those of Minnie and Isidore Mizell. They arrived in Dania in 1910 and, with their numerous children, continue to participate in community affairs. Almost one hundred years old at the time of the interview, Mr. Mizell has recalled events of the early 1900s as if they had occurred only yesterday. The "Legacy" is proud to salute the Mizells for their exemplary citizenry and unusual longevity.

## IN MEMORIAN

### GARSON KAUFFMAN

1907 — 1982

It was early in 1979 when Garson Kauffman was appointed to the Historical Commission.

During his brief but active role as a commissioner, he served as vice-chairman. Not only did he serve all Broward County residents in this capacity, but he also worked in behalf of several civic and charitable organizations. He will be missed by many.

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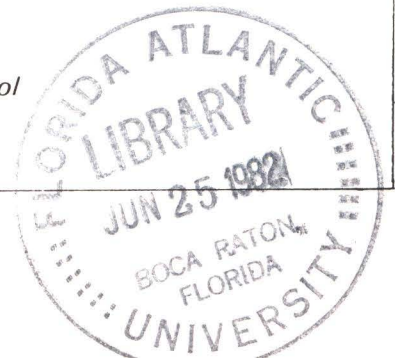
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*Front Cover: Fort Lauderdale High School*



# REAL BASEBALL PROVIDED BY THE EAST COAST LEAGUE

## Career is Checkered\*

by Harold Martin

**F**ew baseball leagues have had the checkered career that the East Coast League has enjoyed during its eventful season. Although the league was first organized in 1914, the 1925 season will be but the sixth one to be started by the season. With the exception of 1922, the league has finished each year started, although the season was abbreviated on three different occasions.

From a three-club circuit back in 1914, the East Coast League has grown until it has eight members for the pennant chase of 1925, which opens tomorrow with games as follows:

Miami at Coconut Grove,  
Homestead at Fort Lauderdale,  
West Palm Beach at Lake Worth,  
Vero at Stuart.

This year, the East Coast League will operate as probably the only twin circuit in the entire country, the loop having been divided into two divisions, the northern and southern divisions, with four teams in each section. Members of each section will play an independent schedule, and the winners of each division will clash in a post season series for the championship, the winning team receiving a pennant offered by The Miami Herald.

In spite of disastrous seasons in the past, the league this year is on a firmer basis than ever and, unless the teams violate the salary and class player restrictions, every team

in the league should finish the season in good financial condition.

The league will operate this year as a semi-pro organization, playing two games a week, on Thursdays and Sundays. The schedule does not provide for a split season; all clubs will play through without a break.

Dr. W.E. Van Landingham of West Palm Beach enters upon his third year of the presidency of the league and, under his guidance, the loop finished a very successful season a year ago, and there is no reason why he cannot successfully pilot his charges through another good year.



**B**aseball has always been played on the lower East Coast since the first settlements were made. Intercity games were played in the early days, but it was not until 1914 that a regular league was organized, with Miami, West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale as members. Each club played two games a week in that year, one team always remaining idle. This season saw probably the fastest baseball played as ever offered in

Florida, all towns being represented by professional clubs before the season ended.

The cost of operating the clubs, however, proved too expensive and the league was not in existence in 1915. Attempts to revive the circuit in 1916 failed, and thoughts of baseball were driven out by the war during 1917 and 1918.

Independent baseball was revived in 1919, and much interest was taken, with the result that the league was reorganized in 1920, with Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Fort Pierce as members. The writer was elected president of the league and served until late in the season, when he was succeeded by the late Quince Bryan of Dania.

The 1920 season was a success, the teams playing two games a week and later three games per week.

The same four cities made the race in 1921, when the league was turned into a professional circuit under the leadership of A.D. Sample of Pompano, games being played six days a week. The cost, however, proved greater than the patronage, and the league cut its season short by a month.

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\*See "Behind the Scenes," inside front cover.



As heavy deficits faced all four clubs at the end of the 1921 race, it was found impossible to revive the league in 1922, but in 1923, a start was made, with Dr. Van Landingham as president. The teams were composed of amateurs, but due to lack of interest, the league disbanded after only a few games were played. Independent baseball was played, however, by several members of the league.

Last year, the East Coast League was revived as a semi-pro organization, playing two games a week, with six cities as members; Miami,

West Palm Beach, and Fort Lauderdale returning to the fold, and with Little River, Coconut Grove and Lake Worth as added starters. The race was a close one throughout, and the full schedule was played.

The plan of the present season to divide the circuit, with Miami, Coconut Grove, Fort Lauderdale and Homestead in the southern division, and West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Vero and Stuart in the north end, was determined upon to cut traveling expenses and to save time in traveling. It

is thought that the plan will work out well.

No city in the league has ever won the pennant twice. The list of pennant winners is as follows:

- 1914: West Palm Beach (won post season series from Miami)
- 1915-1919: No League
- 1920: Miami (won post season series from West Palm Beach)
- 1921: Fort Pierce (won both halves, no post season series being necessary)
- 1923: League did not finish season
- 1924: Fort Lauderdale (won post series from Coconut Grove)



1915 Fort Lauderdale semi-professional baseball team. Front row: Tillmar, Williams, R. Horton, C. Berry, H. Lewis. Back row: J. Atchison, Forbes, Chappel, (unidentified man in shirt and tie), Read, O. Collins, Williams. Upper Left: George Hall, Dr. Stanford. [Historical Commission, Edith Lewis Collection]



All of the old-timers in Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach will remember the 1914 season, the year of the three-club circuit. Managers of the three clubs were: Miami, W.B. Burdine; Fort Lauderdale, W.J. Reed and Karl Horton; West Palm Beach, W.C. Groves. Miami won the first half race and West Palm Beach the second half. The standing at the end of each half was as follows:

First Half			
	W.	L.	Pct.
Miami	14	9	.609
Fort Lauderdale	13	11	.541
West Palm Beach	8	13	.380

Second Half			
	W.	L.	Pct.
West Palm Beach	12	10	.545
Fort Lauderdale	11	12	.473
Miami	10	11	.476

Three days before the season was scheduled to close, Fort Lauderdale disbanded, and Miami and West Palm Beach arranged a series of nine games for the championship. West Palm Beach, however, won five out of six games and captured the laurels.

The names of some of the players who participated in the 1914 games will be of interest. Here are three lineups selected at random:

West Palm Beach: Williams, ss; Benedict, lf; Hill, cf; McLean, lb; Utter, c; Barnett, rf; Emmert, 2b; Almegord, 3b, and Sevier, p.

Fort Lauderdale: Dion, ss; Starr, 2b; Purcell, lf; Horton, p; Zielinsky, 3b; Williams, cf; Atkinson, lb; Blanchard, c, and Lewis rf.

Miami: Chapman, c; Snedigar, ss; R. Taylor, lf; Swink, lb; Robinson, rf; Davis, 3b; Dillon, cf; P. Taylor, 2b; Price, p and Lanford, p.

After playing with Fort Lauderdale, Dion was given a trial with the Brooklyn Nationals. He later enlisted in the regular army, and has played here many times since on service teams from Key West. He

moved to Miami with his family only a few days ago.

In the Miami lineup are names of men that have since made themselves well-known in business and professional circles. Shortstop Snedigar is now Mayor of Miami Beach and one of Miami's leading attorneys. Four other members of the team have also made good in the legal profession in Miami. Robert Taylor is the new county solicitor. His brother, Paul Taylor, has a large practice. Price, better known as "Tubby," served for a time as municipal judge of Miami. Herman Swink served as state's attorney for several years. Chapman, Robinson, and Dillon have made good in business here.

In the 1920 season, West Palm Beach captured the honors for the first half and Miami the second half; Miami winning the play-off for the championship in an exciting series.

Fort Pierce, which had suffered at the bottom of the percentage column during the entire season in 1920, came to life with a vengeance in 1921 and, in the last week of the first half, overtook Miami, which took the lead at the start, and emerged on top of the heap. Fort Pierce won the second half on September 1, the day the league cut its season short and, thus, made any play-off games unnecessary.

After the 1921 season, old Tatum Park, now Miami Field, was sold and cut up as a subdivision, leaving Miami without any diamond except Royal Palm Park, which was not suited for supporting a paid team, as no admission could be charged. This was one of the chief reasons the league did not operate in 1922 and 1923.

Miami Field was dedicated at the first league game in 1924, the city having acquired the land covered by old Tatum Park, and the finest baseball plant in the state was built at a cost of more than \$125,000 for land and buildings.

Miami is not the only club in the league to play on excellent municipal diamonds this year. West Palm Beach and Lake Worth have both built elaborate municipal baseball parks and Fort Lauderdale is to have a new city-owned diamond before long. These city-owned parks insure East Coast League baseball in the future, as they will always be available for baseball.

Although the past in the East Coast League has been a stormy one, the writer is confident that the league is on a firm foundation at last and will operate successfully each year in the future.

"Loading" of teams with imported players was rampant even in the early days of East Coast baseball. The following from the Miami News Record of August 18, 1910, telling of the first of a three games series between Miami and Fort Pierce at Fort Pierce, illustrates this point.

*McDonough and Hadley did the battery work for Miami and Wyndham and Vadem for Fort Pierce. A wire from Secretary Crossland received here last night stated that Fort Pierce had only one local player in her lineup, the balance of the team being all league players. It was reported here last night that Jack Lee, the crack twirler of the Jacksonville South Atlantic League team, will pitch today's game for Fort Pierce. If these reports are true, it looks like Miami had butted into a proposition good and plenty.*

The attendance in the old days was very good, and if newspaper reporters are to be credited, there were larger crowds at some of the games than attend the contests today. The game on Labor Day, September 5, 1910, was described as follows:

*The best of the Labor Day attractions was the baseball game between Miami and West Palm Beach. Fully 2,500 people were gathered in the grandstand and grounds, and the game was one of the best ever played here, the score at the end of 10 innings being 1 and 1.*



# NAPOLEON BONAPARTE BROWARD:

Candidate for Governor of Florida,

Autobiography, Platform, Letter  
and

Short Story of the Steamer "Three Friends,"  
And a Filibustering Trip to Cuba\*

PART I — by Napoleon Bonaparte Broward

## AUTOBIOGRAPHY

I was born on a farm, in Duval County, Florida, April 19, 1857. We went to Hamilton County in 1861, and remained there until 1867, when we returned to the farm in Duval County.

## TRACES OF THE CIVIL WAR AT MY OLD HOME.

A great transformation had taken place. The houses and fences were all burned; and the great oaks that stood southeast of the house were burned on the side next to the fire, and were scarred on the opposite side by shot and shell from the Union gunboats. The house and the battery — which were on the southeast edge of the farm, at the mouth of Cedar Creek — had been fired upon. It was here that torpedoes had been set by our troops. The shores were strewn with white pine lumber and spruce carlins, which at one time had constituted the cabin work of Union vessels.

The highlands of the old farm had grown up in great clusters of chinquapin bushes and live oak saplings, some of them twenty feet high. The lowlands were covered with a dense growth of tall grasses and weeds, together with great clusters of myrtle and other

shrubs. It was here that we did our first hard work. Father had fenced in the field and built a single pen log house, into which we at once moved.

## AN HUMBLE START AT HOME-MAKING.

Without money to buy either mules, horses or cattle, we began to clear away the weeds, bushes and grass from the heavy ground on the margin of the river. This accomplished, we turned over the soil with our hoes. Here we planted Irish and sweet potatoes, sugar cane, beans, English peas, etc. In addition, we had a garden of cabbage, turnips, beets, lettuce, asparagus and onions. This work was done chiefly by mother, brother, and myself, the largest of my sisters doing chores, such as bringing the water, passing measures of seeds, etc., while father was busy securing for us something to eat.

As children we were much encouraged at hearing our mother tell of the delicious Florida-grown Irish potatoes, and the luxury of asparagus, which none, save the rich, enjoyed. I alone of the children had a faint recollection of how delicious the lettuce was, fixed up with cream and sugar, which was raised by us during the first year of the Civil

War. We planted four sacks of Irish potatoes, which produced one. At first the English peas were promising and beautiful, but they soon turned yellow and died. The sugar cane, however, bade fair to be a success. Brother and I pulled the shucks off a stalk about once every day to see how many joints had ripened, until we had counted seven and eight joints to the stalk.

There was a path near the fence, across which a tree had fallen, thus breaking down the only safeguard to this promising patch of sugar cane. The tree had fallen across the path at such an angle as to turn a drove of hungry cattle from the path into the cane patch, and they, in one night, had almost destroyed our fondest hopes. Imagine our disappointment. We were not discouraged, but immediately went to work and repaired the fence.

## IN QUEST OF HEALTH.

The following year we suffered from chills and fever. Being dosed with tartar-emetic; a period of cholagogue followed, bitter enough



\*See "Behind the Scenes," inside front cover.



to have cured, but it did not. Finally in quest of health, we moved from the old place to a new one. The change — and the liberal use of what we had learned was a new cure for fever and ague, to wit: quinine — restored to us our wonted strength again. With the use of a drag seine we caught fish enough to supply the table. Mother procured a contract from an uncle of ours, by which we earned one cent each for making 1½ x 12 inches water oak pins to be used for rafting timber. Thus we struggled along until I attained the age of a dozen years, lacking two months, at which time our mother passed away. We then moved to the old Broward Homestead, where an uncle and some aunts lived. A few months later my father died and my aunts moved to Jacksonville, taking my sisters with them.

Brother and I remained on the farm, accomplishing about as much growing corn and potatoes and caring for the hogs as two boys at our age could be expected to do, in the absence of any directing hand to aid and encourage them. Each of us possessed a dog ("Ring" and "Lady") and a gun. The woods abounding in deer, turkeys and squirrels, the hunting of which furnished us a profitable and pleasing recreation.

#### PIONEER DAYS OF MY EARLY BOYHOOD.

Our nearest neighbor lived two miles distant. At night we would bar the doors, before commencing to cook supper, which frugal meal usually consisted of hominy, peeled sweet potatoes, a piece of pork — all boiled together in the same pot. The supper completed and eaten, we would lean our guns against the wall near the head of the bed, and place a bowie knife in a crack of the log house within reach. As soon as the fire had gone out we were in bed with the quilt securely covering our heads to prevent hearing the doleful sound of the

screech owl's crying, which the superstitious old darkeys had led us to believe was the omen of bad fortune.

We remained here for two years, visited occasionally by an uncle. Sometimes, on the Sabbath day, we walked four miles to visit another uncle. On one occasion my brother and I wished to accompany Mr. Abram Geiger and his family to church on the following Sabbath. My uncle's wife had cut out a pair of new linen trousers for each of us. She had completed my brother's, but the illness of one of the children prevented the completion of mine. I was determined to wear my new pants when I rode to church the next Sunday with my little sweetheart, (Mr. Geiger's daughter) so I sewed the pantaloons myself.

#### RAFTING LOGS FOR A LIVELIHOOD

When my brother was twelve years of age, I was fourteen. At this time we went into a log camp owned by an uncle. We rafted logs for him for a year. At this labor we both contracted fever and ague, and our maternal grandfather took us on quite a journey, from the north to the south side of the river, where his farm and orange grove were situated. Here we regained our health, and, later, went to work on his farm, for which services brother received fifty dollars a year, and I seventy-five dollars. This was, as intended by him, to be a great encouragement to us; and we worked here two summers, attending a country public school at Mill Cove during the winter season. Grandfather paid my brother's board, while I learned mine chopping wood, building rail fences, etc., for Mr. P.P. Lord, a farmer.

#### A SMALL BOY'S COMPOSITION.

I here insert a composition written a few years ago by one of Mr. Lord's little boys, when requested by his teacher, Miss Duval, to

write a composition on the life of some great man.

"Our teacher told us to write about great men. I am going to write about Mr. N.B. Broward. He is a very great man. Last year he ran for Sheriff and beat Bowden. When he was a little boy he used to board with my father. He was poor, and had to make his own way. Now he is famous. He was a pale face boy, but now he is a big, fat man, able to work. He goes to Cuba and carries powder and shot and dynamite to the Cubans. His boat is called The Three Friends. She can outrun any other boat in the United States. One time the Spanish boats got after her and she whipped them all. The Spaniards are so afraid of Mr. Broward and his boat that they have offered a large reward for her capture. Now The Three Friends is tied up, with two revenue cutters watching her, but when she wants to go to Cuba she's going. I could tell a great many other good things about Mr. Broward, but I must stop now.

(Signed)

P. P. Lord."

#### ROUSTABOUT ON A STEAMBOAT.

After remaining with my grandfather two years, I worked on a steamboat for an uncle — Captain Parsons — first as cook and assistant fireman. As a cook, however, I was not a success, and later I served on this steamer as a deckhand and wheelman. I remained in this service during the summer months, and attended public school at New Berlin in the winter, boarding with the lighthouse keeper, Captain Summers.

#### COD FISHING ON THE GRAND BANKS.

From New Berlin, Fla., I went to Cape Cod, Mass. I found that the fishing season at this port had not begun, on account of the continued and excessive cold weather. Snow



Office of the Board of Election

Commissioners of the City of Jack-

sonville, Duval County, Florida.

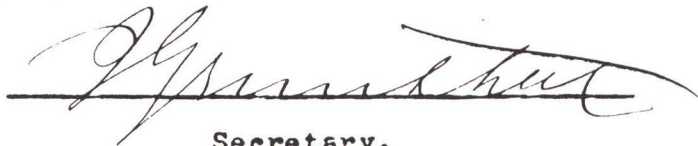
I, Charles B. Rogers, Chairman of the Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Jacksonville, do hereby certify that at a general election for the election of municipal officers of the City of Jacksonville held in and for said city on Tuesday, the 18th of June, A. D. 1895, Napoleon B. Broward received One Hundred and twenty-two (122) votes for the office of Councilman of Ward Two of said city, and the said Napoleon B. Broward, being one of the two candidates who received the highest number of votes for said office, was duly elected to the office of Councilman of Ward Two, of the City of Jacksonville, for the term prescribed by law, beginning at noon on the 21st day of June, A. D. 1895.

Witness my hand and seal this 19th day of June, A. D. 1895.



Chairman.

Attest:



Secretary.



was on the ground eighteen inches deep, and large blocks of ice were lying about the shore. Far from home, without money, shelter or employment, I was confronted with the serious problem of how to sustain myself. The sole avenue of escape was the possibility of securing employment on a schooner — the only vessel in port at the time — which was about to sail to some foreign country. Would the captain want my services or not, was the question.

Knowing that only men of the most rugged physique were employed in this business, and fearing that as I approached the captain I might be attacked with a coughing spell, as a result of whooping cough, which was contracted at school, and that he would think me presumptive, I stepped into a store, took a drink of water to control my cough, walked quickly up to Captain Newcomb of the schooner "Emma Linwood" and asked, "Captain, do you want to ship a man?" The captain looked at me with the piercing eye of an X-ray; but with bated breath, I stood the examination, trying all the while to swallow my Adam's apple in a renewed effort to keep down the coughing spell, which I feared might come upon me before the test was over. Thanks to the drink of water, his answer was in the affirmative, and I shipped in his schooner for the banks of New Foundland, whither I desired to go to engage in the pursuit of cod-fish catching. Here while I was clad only in Kentucky jeans and gingham shirt I keenly realized why my Northern shipmates were clothed in warmest woolens.

For about two years I followed the sea on sailing vessels, freighting lumber, and on fishing vessels, sailing oyster boats, etc., after which I was employed on various steamboats plying the St. Johns River, touching at Palatka, Sanford, Enterprise, Mayport and Jacksonville. I served one year as a bar pilot on the St. Johns bar.

#### CLIMBING UP IN LIFE.

At a later date, Captain David Kemp and I became owners of steamboats which were engaged in carrying passengers and mail between Mayport and Palatka. Continuing in this business until 1887, I then became interested in operating a wood yard in Jacksonville. In the year 1887, I was appointed Sheriff of Duval County, by Governor Perry, to fill the unexpired term of H.D. Hollard, deceased. I was again appointed Sheriff in 1889, by Governor Fleming, for two years. At the expiration of this term of office I was a candidate for the office of Sheriff, being elected and re-elected repeatedly until 1900, when I was honored by the people as a member of the Legislature from Duval County. After the adjournment of the General Assembly, I was appointed a member of the State Board of Health, by Governor Jennings, which position I still hold.

#### BUSINESS AND POLITICAL CAREER

In addition to my political vocation, I was engaged during the year 1890 in the phosphate enterprise on Black Creek, in Clay County, Florida. In 1891 and 1892 I was interested in the phosphate mining business at the head of the Ichucknee River, on the line of Suwannee and Columbia counties. In 1895 I again became connected with the steamboat business, having designed the model and moulds of the steamer Three Friends, and superintended the building of this tug.

In 1895, and for the two succeeding years, I served as a member of the Jacksonville City Council; and, later, as a Police Commissioner of that city.

In 1896 I was captain of the steamer Three Friends on several of her trips, while conveying war materials to the Cubans.

During the years 1902 and 1903, I was engaged in the wrecking busi-

ness at Key West, my family and I having spent a part of that time very happily among the hospitable people of that Island City.

At present time I am in the towing and wrecking business between Jacksonville and Key West — and sometimes Tampa.

NAPOLEON B. BROWARD

## AN OPEN LETTER AS CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR

TO THE DEMOCRATIC  
VOTERS OF FLORIDA:

About two months ago I announced my intention to become a candidate for the Governorship of Florida, before the Democratic primary of this year. I realize that to be the Governor of Florida is an ambition worthy of any of her sons. The holder of that position occupies the highest political trust within the power of her people to bestow, and the man to fill this position should be one whose sole object is to give to all the people a fair, honest and impartial administration of the affairs of the State under his executive control. On the other hand, I am mindful of the fact that the position carries with it a great responsibility.

I am a native of the State of Florida, and have always taken an interest in her progress and prosperity, and firmly believe that she has only fairly begun to be the state which her vast resources will enable her to become. I am familiar, also, with her political history, for the past quarter of a century, and I stand upon the platform of the Democratic party, National and State. As the campaign progresses it is my hope that I will see the people of the different sections of the State and discuss, as I shall be ready and willing to discuss, any questions of Democratic policy or



doctrine, but I now desire to discuss what seemed to me to be the most important issues in this campaign.

#### REPUBLICANS SAILING UNDER DEMOCRATIC FLAG.

The Hon. William J. Bryan, in his speech accepting the Democratic nomination for the Presidency delivered at Indianapolis, Ind., August 8th, 1900, said: "Man, the handiwork of God, comes first; money, the handiwork of man, is of inferior importance; but upon all the important questions today Republican legislation tends to make money the master and man the servant."

In Florida there is, practically speaking, no Republican party in name, but as there are always men upon one side or another of public questions, there is in reality today a Republican party in Florida, although it pretends to be a part of the Democratic party. This condition of affairs was realized and the people warned by the platform adopted by the State Convention at Jacksonville, in June, 1900, embodied in the twenty-first plank of said platform, which reads as follows:

#### PLANK NO. 21 FROM STATE PLATFORM.

"We warn the people that an attempt is being systematically made by avowed Republicans, through the connivance and co-operation of persons claiming to be Democrats, to subsidize the press of Florida for the purpose of teaching Democrats false doctrines, and of keeping at the front, under the guise of Democracy, men as leaders of Democracy who will be subservient to trust magnates, and who will, under the pretense of conservatism, attempt to instill Republican doctrines and oppose the principles of true Democracy. Such newspapers should, under no circumstances, be given any patronage controlled by officers elected by the Democratic party. This insidious attempt to

corrupt the Democracy through the medium of newspapers claiming to be Democratic must be thwarted in every way. Subserviency to Republican influences of any sort is incompatible with true Democracy, and should receive no encouragement from Democrats. Avowed Republicanism is infinitely more tolerable to true Democrats."

#### ATTEMPT TO DEFEAT PRIMARY ELECTION LAW.

At the Democratic Convention, the Democratic party of Florida was pledged by the twenty-second plank of its platform to provide by law for primary elections for the nomination, in white Democratic primaries, of all candidates for office, both State and County, and United States Senators, and to carry out that pledge, a committee was appointed to draft a primary law and present it to the Legislature of 1901.

I was a member of that Legislature, and I was one of those who contended for the adoption of the primary election law as prepared by the committee appointed by the State Convention, but notwithstanding that every member of that Legislature was elected as a Democrat, and was bound by the platform, which pledged the honor of the party "to the carrying out of the same to the full extent that the united strength of the party in the State may render possible," sufficient influence was brought to bear upon the Legislature of 1901, by men styling themselves Democrats, together with some other members who objected to some of the features of the bill, to compass the defeat of the bill presented by the committee, which provided against fraud, bribery and intimidation and other vicious influences, and the primary law finally adopted was the most that could be obtained at that time. In the primary election of 1902, which followed, it was made apparent that the law was defective and needed improvements, but the people did well in

the Legislature of 1903, on account of continued opposition, to prevent the repeal of the primary election law then on the books.

#### WHY I PREFER PRIMARIES TO CONVENTIONS.

It is hardly necessary for me to make argument in favor of a primary election law against the convention system. I am a Democrat who believes in the platform of my party, and would, therefore, uphold it until changed by the proper authority, but if arguments be needed upon the relative merits of the primary system as opposed to the convention plan, I should say, briefly, that I consider the primary election law the most important of all our laws, as it places the power of nominating candidates where it ought to be, with the individual voter. Therefore the candidate will more likely represent the will of the masses who nominated him, than though he were nominated by a convention composed of a few delegates, and as all law should be but the reflex or expression of the conscience of man and as all power is inherent in the people, the more our lawmakers are imbued, with the conscience, heart and will of the people, the source of all political power, the purer will be the laws enacted by them. The nearer to the spring or fountain head, the purer will be the water; so also with our laws, the closer the makers are to the people that those laws are made to protect and benefit, the more beneficial will they be.

Under the convention plan the voters have no choice in naming the nominee of their party, and simply are permitted at the general election to ratify the nominations made by the delegates elected to the convention. It is true the railroads did not try to control the voters when delegates were elected, but found it much cheaper to control by bribery; furnishing of passes, promises of favors and in numerous other ways delegates elected to those conventions, and when the



# THE STATE OF FLORIDA,

DUVAL COUNTY.

Port of Jacksonville---Office Commissioners of Pilotage.

To Whom it may Concern---GREETING:

Be it Known, That *Napoleon, P. Provost*

having applied to be appointed a Pilot on St. Johns Bar, and being duly examined and qualified for the position of Pilot on the above Bar, and having filed his bond and sureties, duly approved, and having taken the oath required by law, is hereby appointed and fully authorized to act as Pilot on the St. Johns Bar during good behavior.

In Witness Whereof, the Chairman of said Board has hereunto set his hand, at the City of Jacksonville, this *Twenty* day of *May*, 188*9*.

*George, L. Wilson*  
Secretary.

*J. M. Quaid*  
Chairman Board of Pilot Commissioners.



delegates got to the conventions, they began to do those things which they considered would be of benefit to themselves in a political way, and not for the benefit of the people they were sent to represent.

In other words, under the convention plan, a few men nominated the ticket and the great masses voted for it in order to continue to be Democrats, regardless of whether the choices made suited them or not. Under the primary system each man's vote counts for the candidate of his choice and the people are directly consulted, and thus is carried out the provision in our Bill of Rights, that all political power is inherent in the people.

#### MY PLEDGE TO MAINTAIN THE PRIMARY.

I believe that the primary system is on trial, and that the people, if they favor it, need a man as Governor who will pledge them, as I here do now, that I will not only oppose, to the utmost of my ability, any attempt to repeal the primary election law, but that I will veto any such bill passed by the Legislature seeking to repeal said primary election law, unless it has first been submitted to a vote of the people and they vote for its repeal; and I further pledge the people that I will do my utmost to strengthen and perfect the system and that I will cheerfully approve any bill tending in that direction.

#### AMENDMENTS I WOULD RECOMMEND.

I would recommend these amendments, strengthening it as follows:

First — Fixing a severe penalty for bribery or the miscounting of votes.

Second — Making the calling of a primary election mandatory with the State Democratic Executive

Committee instead of optional as it now is.

As long as the people have the primary election law, qualify for and vote in the primary, and see the votes counted correctly, that long will they elect to office men of their choice, thereby controlling their own political affairs, and in no other way.

#### THE RAILROAD COMMISSION LAW.

Another very important question for the consideration of the Democratic voters of the State, is the legislation known as the Railroad Commission Law. The Railroad Commission Law was repealed by the Legislature of 1891. A committee of merchants and brokers, accompanied by myself, I being then engaged in the phosphate business, appeared before a legislative committee of the House and Senate of the session of 1893. We urged upon them the necessity for legislation for the correction of abuses then existing, among them being the rebate system; and the discriminating freight rates against localities and individuals, and we so impressed them with the necessity of legislature for the protection of individuals and commerce from railroad abuses, that the Legislature took up the matter of the re-establishment of the Railroad Commission, but the friends of the people in the Legislature were defeated by a few votes.

#### EFFORTS I MADE FOR IT YEARS AGO.

I began the agitation for the passage of another Railroad Commission Law, and, in order to show that I am not simply talking to catch votes, I desire to call the attention of the people of Florida to a letter written by me to the Florida Times-Union, at that time a

Democratic newspaper, on July 28th, 1894. Then, together with others, I induced the Hon. D.U. Fletcher to run for the State Senate on a Railroad Commission platform, but we were again overcome by railroad money and their manipulations, they, at that time, having with them the Governor and the Chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee.

I was among those who persistently fought for the Railroad Commission Law which was adopted in 1897, improved by amendment in 1899, and is considered the most effective legislation upon that subject enjoyed by any State in the Union. The Democratic platform of 1900 endorsed this Railroad Commission, and yet at every session of the Legislature there are men claiming to be Democrats trying to weaken, destroy and repeal this law.

#### BENEFITS OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION.

It is the only court in this State to which a citizen of the State, whether rich or poor, can apply and get relief without any cost to himself. The power is ample and the gentlemen who have held the position of Railroad Commissioners since the passage of the new law in 1897, have always shown themselves willing and anxious to adjust any matters within their control.

The passenger rates have been reduced from four and five cents per mile on the main lines, to three cents per mile, the freight rates on staples have been very much reduced as have also the rates on vegetables and oranges, to the great benefit of the people, and recently, the matter having been brought to the attention of the Commission that the railroads of the State are discriminating against



Florida ports in favor of ports beyond the limits of the State, a phosphate rate of one cent per ton per mile has been ordered put into effect. It has been estimated that the saving to phosphate shippers alone by this will amount to TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS PER ANNUM, enough to pay the maximum expenses allowed to the Railroad Commission for over thirteen years.

The fact that the railroad companies have submitted to these reductions shows that they realized the justice done, and further shows that for all the years when we were without a commission they were taking that much more money out of the earnings of the people of the State than they were justly entitled to receive.

#### PERSONAL AND PROPERTY RIGHTS ENTITLED TO PROTECTION.

I am in favor of the honest acquisition of wealth and desire to encourage industry, economy and thrift. I believe in the maxim of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, and that property rights are more secure when human rights are respected; yet it is a fact that the railroad companies, at every session of the Legislature and men under their control, make diligent efforts to repeal the Railroad Commission Law, and this is not done from any belief on their part that their rights are invaded, or that they do not get justice from the Commission.

It is interesting to note that the first litigated case arising from an order of the Railroad Commission was by one railroad company against the Jacksonville Terminal Company to compel the recognition of its rights. It is only when they desire to do injustice that this branch of the State Government is objectionable to them.

#### ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION AND PLEDGE.

In order that such attempts may be futile, if elected Governor, I shall recommend and urge the Railroad Commission be made a constitutional part of the State Government, just as the Supreme Court, the Circuit Courts and other branches of the Government now are. If that were done the Commission could not be abolished except by a constitutional amendment adopted by a vote of the people, and if I am elected Governor, I pledge the people of Florida that I will veto any bill that seeks to weaken or repeal this law, unless it is first submitted to a vote of the people and they vote for its repeal.

#### WHY I BECAME A CANDIDATE.

My belief in these important public measures is my reason for becoming a candidate for the office of Governor, and it was because I believed that they were in danger of repeal that I announced my candidacy.

Against the private character of the other gentlemen who have announced their candidacy for this position I have no word of criticism or censure, but every man's public and political record is a proper subject of comment whenever he appears before the people for their suffrage.

#### CORPORATE INTERESTS SOLID FOR MR. DAVIS.

These corporate interests which have so persistently fought the Primary Election and Railroad Commission Laws, through their newspaper, the Times Union, are supporting the Hon. R.W. Davis for the Governorship, as are also the other newspapers that are controlled in their interests, among which are the Miami Metropolis, the West Palm Beach News, the St. Augustine Evening Record, the

White Springs Herald and a dozen or more other newspapers controlled by the railroads and they are inducing many other newspapers through the State to fall into line for their candidate.

Believing, also, that they will elect, if they can, a majority of the members of the Legislature in sympathy with them politically, that they may be able to control them, and realizing the great danger that we are always subjected to from the latter source, as the corporations elect many of their agents and attorneys to the Legislature; and knowing that numbers of persons in addition thereto are usually elected members of the Legislature, who are of that colorless form of politics that may mean anything, some induced by persuasion, some by free passes, and some by other means or favors, I concluded that the people of Florida should be put on their guard by getting some one to become their candidate for the Governorship who would protect the people so far as it would be in his power to do so.

Many people, including myself, tried industriously to persuade to become a candidate for Governor some one of the many whom we thought could and would define the issues, and whom we believed would make an active campaign; but failing in this, it was concluded that I should make the effort, hence my candidacy.

#### WHY MR. DAVIS WON'T DO.

At the time of becoming a candidate, it appeared to me that unless the voters were aroused by a realization of the situation, the Hon. R.W. Davis would probably be nominated and elected to the position, and I considered then, as I do now, that while Mr. Davis at



heart is in favor of legislation beneficial to the people, as distinguished from private and corporate interests, yet I believe that his long associations and close alliance with men Republican in fact, and Democratic only in name, would control his actions should he be chosen as your Governor.

I asked of him a pledge that he would not, if he were elected Governor allow, if in his power to prevent, the repeal of either the Primary Election Law or the Railroad Commission Law, and his reply to the effect that I could tell my friends PRIVATELY that he would support and defend these measures, did not seem to me to be the kind of a declaration a candidate should make upon questions of such vital interest to the people. There should be no secrets concerning such measures kept by a candidate from his constituency. It was only after I had made this request of Mr. Davis, telling him at the time that I made it that I wanted to know his position on these measures, that I decided that Mr. Davis, who had been so long in public life, was not the proper man for Governor.

its adjournment, he left the county that had so honored him, and located at Palatka, the headquarters of the Florida Southern Railroad Co., to be the general counsel of that company under the presidency of Sherman Conant.

building of these railroads were in value sufficient to have paid for their construction by the State, and would have left the State as absolute owner. I remember that a special train load of his shouters were brought to that convention, but that fact injured his chances.

ALWAYS FAITHFUL TO  
THE RAILROADS.

#### CORPORATION CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR IN 1888.

He appeared at the St. Augustine Democratic State Convention, three years after as the pronounced choice for Governor of the land grant railroads of the State, which had obtained land grants aggregating many millions of acres of the State's best lands. The land sought to be obtained as bonuses for the

He subsequently appeared before the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund as counsel for the railroads and obtained for them large amounts of land. From that time, until his election to Congress he was never out of their employ, and ever their faithful attorney, appearing one day (I am reliably informed) in Tallahassee before one State Board to urge the conveyance of lands to the railroads on the grounds that the railroad had cost the stockholders a vast amount of money

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## NAPOLEON B. BROWARD MAY RUN FOR GOVERNOR.

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MR. DAVIS' AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

I heard him give his life's history to the voters, and I was struck with the peculiar obligations he would be under to the corporations in the event of his election. According to his own biography, he came to this State and located in Green Cove Springs, in Clay County. He was elected a member of the Legislature from Clay County, and was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Legislative session of 1885. He appointed the House committees of that session. During that session of the Legislature he so impressed himself upon the representatives of the Railroad Corporations that immediately after

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### It Is Now Thought That He Will Soon Make an Announcement.

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The indications are that Napoleon B. Broward will enter the gubernatorial race.

One of the closest friends of Mr. Broward informed a Metropolis reporter yesterday that considerable pressure was being brought to bear on him to enter the race, and that he felt satisfied that he would announce himself for the position within a short while.

Mr. Broward has been moving about the State quite lively lately, and it may be that he is feeling the public pulse.

Broward has no superior as a campaigner. He is one of the "wool hat boys," and when he takes to the woods he usually does most effective work. He is not one of the high-falutin, spread eagle kind of orators, but he is an entertaining talker on the stump. Broward is a Florida "Cracker" and several newspapers are throwing bouquets at him. The

Tampa Herald, one of his strong supporters, in its issue of yesterday says:

"The intimation that Hon. N. B. Broward will yet enter the gubernatorial race continues to create much stirring interest throughout the State. Mr. Broward is a strong, forcible man and is well and favorably known in all sections of the State. This fact makes talk of his candidacy of the deepest moment. Few men possess his ability and qualifications for campaigning, together with the very best of executive and business ability. From Key West to the Georgia line there is a strong pressure being brought to bear upon him to enter the race, and much interest will be manifested until he gives a definite answer, one way or another. Mr. Broward it would appear, still remains a quantity that must be reckoned with, if public sentiment counts for anything, and it generally does in a State campaign."

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and were very valuable, and later the same day, appeared before another Board in the same Capitol building to urge a reduction of the tax assessments on the ground that the railroad was not so very valuable after all.

#### PLEASED THE CORPORATIONS AS CONGRESSMAN.

He was elected to Congress in 1896, and has served there ever since. At least one Congressional Convention specifically instructed him to work for the passage of an act giving to the Inter-State Commerce Commission power to control inter-state freight rates and passenger fares, but if he has ever introduced a bill, or made a speech, or been in any way active in advancing this measure so much antagonized by the great railroad corporations of this country, I have never heard of it. He at least has not antagonized them enough to prevent them from furnishing him with annual free passes, on which he rides free, while drawing from the United States Treasury twenty cents per mile for traveling between Palatka and Washington.

#### A PERTINENT QUESTION.

Mr. Davis says that he resigned his position as counsel for the railroads, when he was elected to Congress. Why then does he still receive free annual passes from the railroads? Is it for legal services, or is it because he is a member of Congress? If only as a Congressman, then what consideration does he give them as a Congressman?

The Hon. Charles M. Cooper, whom Dr. Davis succeeded in Congress, was, during his whole career in Congress, very active in endeavoring to give the people relief from the burdens of the exorbitant freight rates on their products shipped to Northern markets, and he urged actively the passage of an act

of Congress giving the Inter-State Commerce Commission power to fix rates on inter-state shipments. As a result, he was never tendered a pass over any railroad during his Congressional career. The congressman who is true to the interests of the people is never put under obligations for passes.

And so with Hon. Stephen R. Mallory, one of Florida's United States Senators. Although threatened with political oblivion for his activity in securing the establishment of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, when a member of Congress some years ago, he has ever kept aloof from improper railroad influences, and is today known throughout the length and breadth of this land as one member of the United States Congress who has never made use of a railroad pass during his long public career as a faithful servant of the people.

#### SOME MORE PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

The people of this State have expressed in their Constitution their opinion that a Governor or a member of the Legislature should not be under obligations to railroads for free passes. Do the people believe that it is improper for a Governor and members of the Legislature to ride on free passes, but that it is proper for a member of Congress to ride on free passes over the State, making his canvass for Governor?

The State Constitution prohibits your Governor from putting himself under obligations for free passes, but this member of Congress, as a candidate for Governor, is continually putting himself under obligation for free transportation to the very railroad companies which are now suing the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, of which board, if elected Governor, he will be chairman, to obtain from the State millions of acres of lands, proceeds to which are now refused by that Board on the ground that

the corporations are not legally entitled to the lands.

And there is now in the State Treasury, to the credit of the Internal Improvement Fund, \$318,505.00, the proceeds of sales of lands claimed by those corporations. Those corporations claim that the Board of Trustees, of which the Governor is Chairman, should pay over to them all the moneys arising from the sales of lands, amounting to \$318,505.00.

Do the people believe that Mr. Davis will be unhampered by obligations for free passes?

#### A PROBLEM IN MATHEMATICS.

Again, Mr. Davis announced, more than two years in advance, that he would not be a candidate for election to Congress in 1904. He gave as his reason that he could not afford the financial sacrifice to remain in Congress, where he gets a salary of \$5,000.00 per annum, with twenty cents per mile for traveling between Palatka and Washington on free passes, and an opportunity to practice law on the side, which he has always done at good compensation.

He, however, promptly announced himself as a candidate for Governor at \$3,500.00 per annum, where he will have to include in his oath of office the proposition that he, for four years, will quit riding on free passes. He will get no mileage for traveling to or from Tallahassee. He cannot continue to practice law. Unless he expects at the end of his term as Governor to re-enter the service of the corporations at a very large salary, even larger than he got after his career as Speaker of the Florida Legislature, can he explain why he is too poor to remain in Congress at \$5,000 per year and no perquisites, but rich enough to be Governor at \$3,500.00 a year and no perquisites.



## THE PEOPLE CAN CHOOSE.

The more I considered these things, the more I became convinced that the people of Florida could not afford to force Mr. Davis to give up \$5,000.00 per annum, twenty cents per mile traveling expenses and free passes everywhere, and a lucrative law practice, to serve them as Governor at \$3,500.00 per year — and nothing else. And yet the people of Florida know that Mr. Davis' best friends and clients have ever been the railroads of the State, and that if he were forced to serve the people four years faithfully as Governor, and should fail as Governor to prove the friend of the corporations that have so long and so powerfully been his friend, they would never again employ him in any capacity, so I decided myself to become a candidate and give the people an opportunity to elect a Governor who has never allowed himself to be put under obligations to the land grant corporations of this State, and who will not be hampered, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, in voting against giving away the State's lands, or in adjusting their claims to the money now in the State Treasury.

## WOLVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING.

The Florida Times Union and the other papers in this State controlled by the Republican corporations, announce that Mr. Davis is the "people's candidate" for Governor, and style him "Our Bob," and, yet, these are the papers that in almost every issue contain denunciations of life-long Democrats and National and State platforms of the Democratic party, and they are the papers referred to by the twenty-first plank in the Democratic State platform of 1900. They

are like the Republican who said he had too much sense to be a Republican in a Democratic State. Their voice is Jacob's voice, but their hands are "the hands of Esau," but they never lose an opportunity to sing the praises of Mr. Davis nor to vilify and malign myself and the other candidates for this office.

## MR. DAVIS' OBLIGATIONS.

Mr. Davis travels about over the State with his pockets full of passes, and supported by all the real Republican, but nominally Democratic, newspapers in the State. Do you want a man as Governor who had extended to him these favors by the interests opposed to the Primary Election Law and the Railroad Commission Law, and who may justly be said to be their attorney and agent? If it is so important to these interests to fill our legislative bodies with their agents and attorneys, both National and State — these interests who have their agents always present at the State Capitols to take care of the business of their employers — why is it not a good idea for the people, who are never present at the State Capitol, but are always absent, to elect as their representative a man upon whom there are no such claims, who has never been supported by these influences. who has always had to fight against them in business and political life?

## WHY THESE FAVORS ARE GRANTED.

Are not these favors intended to influence men in official positions? There are more ways of influencing and controlling men than by the direct use of money. The successful support in the election of a candidate by these influences is enough to make him feel under obligations to them. I quote from a letter

written by an attorney of the Santa Fe Railroad to a member of the Illinois Legislature:

"Your letter of the 22nd to President Ripley, requesting an annual over the railroad of this company, has been referred to me. A couple of years ago, after you had been furnished with an annual over this line, you voted against a bill in which you knew this company to be directly interested. Do you know of any particular reason, therefore, why we should favor you with an annual this year?"

These passes are not given to public officials as compliments, but are given for favors rendered or to be rendered. It is all hire and salary.

Governor LaFollette, of Wisconsin, in his speech on "Good Government," delivered at the Old Settlers Association, at Keneshaw, Wis., Aug. 10, 1903, quoted from a letter written by a United States Senator this paragraph:

"It is expecting too much of human nature that a Senator whose every association is with the great railroad corporations, and whose political lives depend largely upon them, should, in good faith, approve a measure that would, to an extent, make railroads a servant to the people and to be subject to the Commission (meaning the Inter-State Commerce Commission) when a question of rates is raised. The Senate Committee is by a large majority, men who bear those relations to railroads."

## RAILROADS ENTITLED TO FAIR TREATMENT.

I am in favor of the construction of railroads and other transportation lines, and believe that we should cheerfully pay transportation rates high enough to insure them reasonable dividends on their capital actually invested; that they should receive at the hands of our Legislature fair treatment in the



protection of their property rights. I am glad to have the officers of railroads and their employees participate in all our political affairs, as individuals, and have each man vote for the man of his choice, but I am unalterably opposed to corporations in politics.

#### CORPORATIONS KNOW THEIR SERVANTS.

If your Governor is true to the people he cannot be unfair to the railroads, because the people are interested in the protection of railroad and all other property; but it has been demonstrated too often before this, in the repeal of the former Railroad Commission Law, and in other matters, that when corporate interests get control of a Government they use it to their own advantage and to the detriment of the people. The people are sometimes mistaken and deceived in a man they have supported for public office, but the railroad and corporate interests select a man they know they can control, and are never deceived in such matters.

#### MR. MAYS' LEGISLATIVE RECORD.

Another candidate for the Governorship, Hon. D.H. Mays, has this record as a legislator: In 1891, when elected with two other legislators from Jefferson County (the people of that county favoring the re-election of Senator Call to the United States Senate) Mr. Mays voted once for Senator Call, then permitted the railroad forces to use his name as a candidate, to prevent Senator Call's election. He continued to do this for several weeks, until Senator Call was elected without his vote, although his fellow-members of the House and Senate from Jefferson County refused to

join him, but consistently voted as the people desired them to — for the re-election of Senator Call.

Mr. Mays was also a member of the Legislature, and elected Speaker of the House in 1897. The Democratic voters of Jefferson County still favored the re-election of Senator Call to another term in the United States Senate, but Mr. Mays did not vote for Senator Call, but for a gentleman who was the Vice-President of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. He continued to vote for him against Hon. J.N.C. Stockton and Hon. S.R. Mallory, both of whom were candidates of the people — and in spite of the fact that the other member of the House and Senate from his county refused to vote with him for the railroad candidate.

We cannot have a Government "of the people, by the people, for the people," if public officers act as Mr. Mays did in both of these instances. We will have instead a Government of our officers, by our officers, for our officers.

#### PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

I am mindful of the fact that a good education is the most valuable heritage that we will be able to leave to our children; therefore I believe in a longer school term for the children attending our free schools, and favor liberal appropriations for our colleges.

#### CIVIL WAR PENSIONS.

The patriotic service and self-sacrifice of our soldiers and sailors in the Civil War, should guarantee to the deserving needy ones, or their widows, such reasonable pensions as an appreciative people are ever ready to pay.

#### STATE TROOPS AND NAVAL MILITIA.

The manifest patriotism of our Florida State Troops and Florida Naval Militia should be encouraged by the most liberal support commensurate with a reasonably economical administration of our State Government.

#### GOOD PUBLIC ROADS.

I favor the passage of such laws as will best tend to the improvement of our system of public roads, hard surface or otherwise, as may be most practicable. As automobiles cost little more now than a good horse and buggy, or horse and wagon, it is to be hoped that our people in the country, will, in the near future, find it easier to cover distances to the school houses, and make near neighbors, in point of time, even of those living many miles apart.

#### IN CONCLUSION.

It has occurred to me that some of our people may think that my criticisms are too severe. But to you, fellow citizens, I will say that you cannot regret more than I do the conditions that make these criticisms necessary; but I am impelled to use plain language, feeling, as I do, that the man who is too timid to put the people on notice of impending danger, even at the risk of momentarily appearing harsh, would be too timid to aggressively meet and combat such dangers, once he is elected to the high position of your Governor.

If I am elected Governor, I promise you that I will be the Governor for the whole people and enforce the laws protecting the human and property rights of all alike.

Respectfully submitted to the  
Democratic People of Florida.  
NAPOLEON B. BROWARD



# VEGETATION of the ATLANTIC COASTAL RIDGE of BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, Based on 1940 Imagery\*

by Bryan Steinberg

**ABSTRACT:** *With the 1940 imagery and past vegetational studies in southern Florida as a base, the vegetation of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge of Broward County is mapped to show Strand, Tropical Hammock, Low Hammock, Mangrove, Swamp, Scrub, Pine Flatwoods, Dry Prairie, Wet Prairie and Marsh. Differences in vegetational types have characteristic species composition, ecology and soils.*

Southern Florida's vegetation was surveyed as early as the 1760's. Spanish records of southern Florida's vegetation before the English period (1763-1783) are few and lack detail. The first English surveys were by DeBrahm (1773) and Romans (1775). They described some vegetation types (pinelands, hammocks, swamps, marshes), and physical coastal features (inlets and rivers). During the 1800's the need for military information in the Seminole Wars brought about the production of the first reasonably accurate vegetation maps of southern Florida (Bruff, 1846; Ives, 1856). Federal surveys delineating townships and ranges for southern Florida (MacKay, 1845; Williams, 1870; Fries, 1898) also described some vegetation characteristics as

did the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (1883, 1884) of the area from the coastline west to the first coastal ridge.

Contemporary methods of vegetation analysis were pioneered in the early 1900's. Harshberger (1914) and Harper (1927) produced the first ecological studies of the vegetation of southern Florida. Later, Davis (1943) stressed ecology, soils and topography and introduced remote sensing to vegetation analysis. Alexander (1958) published the only detailed vegetation analysis of a part of Broward County, a coastal section in Pompano Beach (T.49S, R. 43E, Sec. 6).

Urbanization has caused the spread of exotic species into natural habitats. Currently *Schinus terebinthifolius* Raddi, *Casuarina equisetifolia* Forst and *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (Cav.) Blake are three exotic tree species which have invaded much of the native vegetation of Broward County. These species spread into any habitat that is disturbed.

I have mapped the vegetation of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge of Broward County from the earliest imagery available (1940). The vegetation maps will aid in the assess-

ment of human interference and exotic species spread into the natural habitat of the County.

**METHODS** — The vegetation maps were produced using standard stereoscopic techniques with aerial photographs from the United States Department of Agriculture (1940, 1947, 1948, 1949). Ground truth surveys were made of the existent vegetation to aid in the interpretation of the vegetation from the photographs. Changes which occurred before 1940 in the vegetation are not shown on the vegetation maps, but earlier studies which described vegetation features were compared with vegetation maps. Particularly useful early studies were by DeBrahm (1773), Romans (1775), MacKay (1945), Bruff (1846), Ives (1856), Williams (1870), United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (1883, 1884), Fries (1898), Harshberger (1914), Harper (1927), Davis (1943), and Alexander (1958).

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\*See "Behind the Scenes," inside front cover.

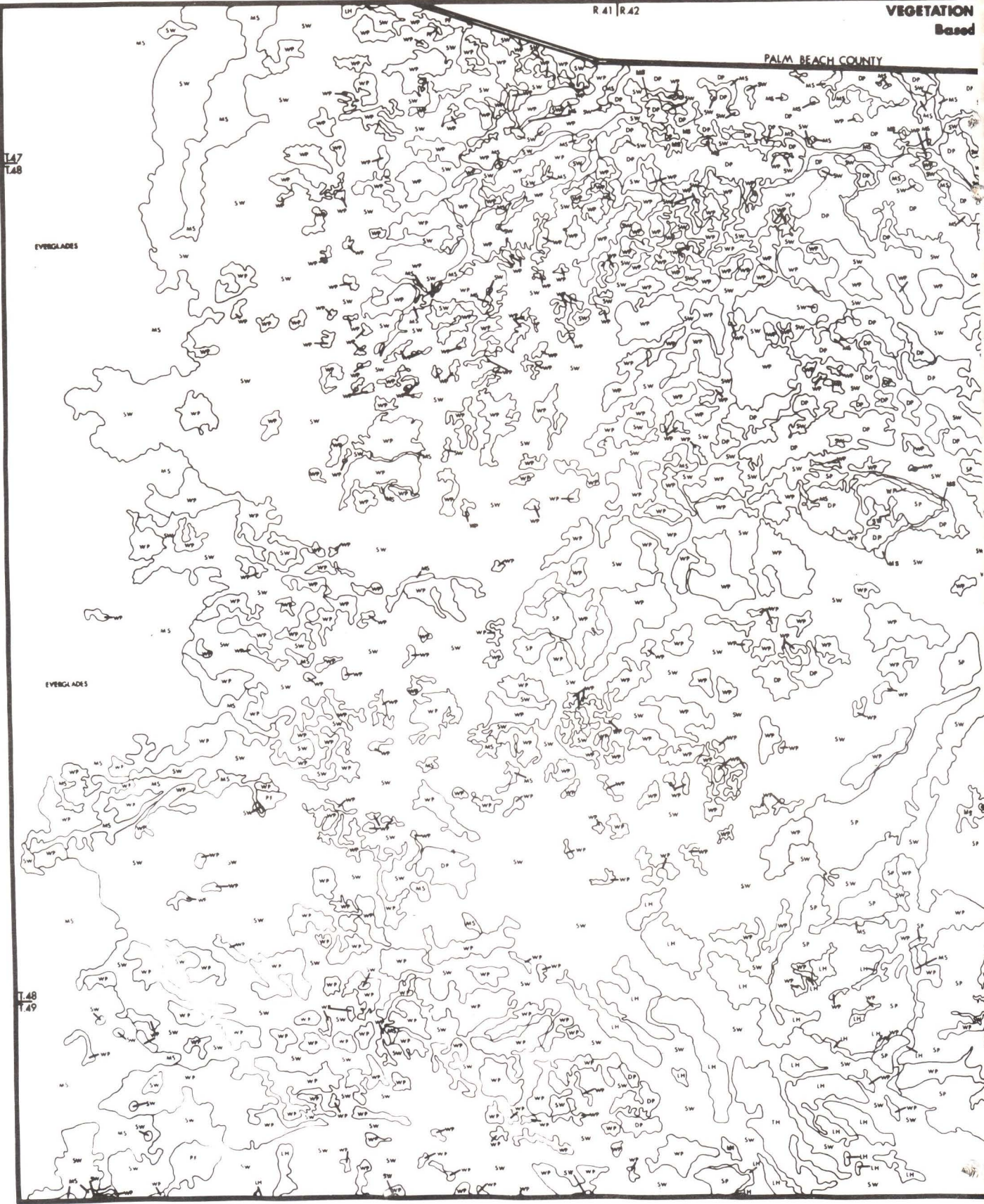


T47  
T48

EVERGLADES

EVERGLADES

T48  
T49



Map 1: Vegetation Map of Broward County, based on 1940 imagery, northern section. [Bryan Steinberg]



**VEGETATION MAP OF COASTAL BROWARD COUNTY**  
Based on 1940 Imagery, Map 1

R42/R43

Interpreted and drawn by  
**MEYAN STEINBERG**  
Florida Atlantic University  
1976





Vegetation — Ten vegetation types are recognized.

Strand: = Sea Beach Formation and Dune Formation (Harshberger, 1914); = "Strand" (Davis, 1943) but not Coastal Hammock (see below). Strand is the first vegetation to occur inland from the ocean on beaches along the coasts. Soils are undifferentiated beach sands. The species are herbaceous to shrubby, salt tolerant, display varying degrees of succulence, and are often dispersed by the ocean.

Species in the Strand are characteristically zoned:

ZONE 1: Closest to the ocean this zone typically contains *Ipomoea pes-caprae* (L.) R. Brown, *Canavalia maritima* (Aubl.) Thouars., *Iva imbricata* Walt. and *Paspalum distichum* L.

ZONE 2: *Uniola paniculata* L., *Tournefortia gnaphaloides* (L.) R. Br., *Suriana maritima* L., *Scaevola plumieri* Vahl. and *Helianthus debilis* Nutt. often occur in this dune stabilizer zone.

ZONE 3: This zone consists mostly of thorny or prickly plants, commonly including *Opuntia compressa* (Salisb.) Macbride var. *austrina* (Small) L. Benson, *Yucca aloifolia* L., *Cnidoscolus stimulosus* (Michx.) Engelm. & Gray and *Agave decipiens* Baker.

ZONE 4: The zone farthest from the ocean contains thickets of shrubby plants such as *Serenoa repens* (Bartr.) Small, *Coccoloba uvifera* (L.), *Chrysobalanus icaco* L., *Randia aculeata* L., *Sabal palmetto* (Walt.) Lodd ex Schultes and *Scaevola plumieri* Vahl.

Strand vegetation occurred along the entire coast of Broward County (Maps 1, 2 and 3).

**Tropical Hammock:** = High Hammock Formation (Harshberger, 1914): includes Coastal Hammock of Davis (1943). These hammocks seem to be confined to areas where the temperature inside rarely, if ever, drops below freezing. Most commonly these habitats are coastal probably because of the warming effect of the ocean. The soils are Palm Beach fine sand (U.S.D.A., 1946) and a variety of sands, loams and rocklands (Davis, 1943).

Occasionally tropical hammocks are found inland at higher elevations on limestone outcrops or inland sand dunes.

The characteristic species are:

TREES: *Bursera simaruba* (L.) Sarg., *Mastichodendron foetidissimum* (Jacq.) Cronquist, *Sabal palmetto*, *Coccoloba diversifolia* Jacq., *Krugiodendron ferreum* (Vahl) Urban, *Metopium toxiferum* (L.) Krug & Urban, *Zanthoxylum fagara* (L.) Sarg. *Simarouba glauca* DC.

SHRUBS: *Ardisia escallonioides* Schlecht. & Cham., *Eugenia axillaris* (Sw.) Willd., *Psychotria nervosa* Sw., *Amyris elemifera* L., *Coccothrinax argentea* (Jacq.) Bailey.

HERBS: *Rivina humilis* L., *Nephrolepis exaltata* (L.) Schott.

VINES: *Smilax bona-nox* L., *Vitis shuttleworthii* House.

EPIPHYTES: *Tillandsia fasciculata* Sw. *T. recurvata* L., *T. usneoides* L., *Encyclia tampensis* (Lindl.) Small.

Tropical Hammock was common along the coast of Broward County between the ocean and the Intra-coastal Waterway (Maps 1, 2, and 3). Inland tropical hammocks occurred in Broward County but less frequently (Maps 2 and 3).

**Low Hammock:** Includes Oak Hammocks, Oak Cabbage Palm Hammocks and Cabbage Palm Hammocks of Davis (1943). These hammocks are dominated by southern temperate tree species and are rarely flooded. Most Low Hammocks are elevated, but sometimes they occur in depressions or in ecotones between Scrub and some other vegetation of lower elevation (e.g., Marsh, Wet Prairie, Swamp, Mangrove). Some of the more common soils are Dade fine sand, St. Lucie fine sand (U.S.D.A., 1946) and Limestone outcrops.

The typical dominant species are:

TREES: *Quercus virginiana* Mill., *Sabal palmetto*, *Ficus aurea* Nutt., *Celtis laevigata* Willd., *Morus rubra* L.

SHRUBS: *Psychotria nervosa*, *P. sulzneri* Small, *Serenoa repens*, *Callicarpa americana* L. *Rhus copallina* L.

HERBS: *Thelypteris normalis* (C. Chr.) Small, *Nephrolepis exaltata*, *Pteridium aquilinum* (L.) Kuhn, *Blechnum serrulatum* Richard.

VINES: *Smilax auriculata* Walt., *S. laurifolia* L., *Vitis rotundifolia* Michx., *V. shuttleworthii*.

EPIPHYTES: *Tillandsia usneoides*, *T. recurvata*, *T. fasciculata*, *Encyclia tampensis*, *Polypodium polypodioides* (L.) Watt.

Low Hammock was frequently associated with the Hillsboro River, Cypress Creek, Middle River and New River systems in Broward County (Maps 1, 2, and 3) as well as ecotones between Scrub and some vegetation of lower elevation. Pine Island Ridge is a distinctive stand of Low Hammock approximately 10 - 15 mi inland elevated above the Everglades on St. Lucie sands (Map 3).

**Mangrove:** These are brackish to salt water swamps characteristic of protected coastal areas where there is shallow salt or brackish water little disturbed by wave action. The soils are Perrine Marl (U.S. D.A., 1946) and undifferentiated mangrove peats (Davis, 1943).

The dominant species are trees or shrubs and may occur in zones. The outer zone is of *Rhizophora mangle* L. In back of this zone may occur a band of *Avicennia germinans* (L.) L. and *Leguncularia racemosa* Gaertn. f. The inner zone may contain *Conocarpus erecta* L. and *Dalbergia ecato-phyllum* (L.) Benth.

Mangroves were common in 1940 on both sides of the Intra-coastal Waterway (Maps 1, 2, and 3). Most of these mangroves have replaced coastal fresh water systems (Marsh) present before the dredging of the Intra-coastal Waterway and the opening of new inlets to the ocean (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1883, 1884; Austin, 1976).

**Swamp:** Includes all Swamp classifications of Harshberger (1914), Harper (1927) and Davis (1943). This is any stand of natural fresh water vegetation dominated by tree species, which is seasonally flooded or flooded most of the year. The most common soils are Lauderhill and Dania mucks (U.S.D.A., 1971), Davie mucky fine sand, and Pompano fine sand (U.S.D.A., 1946).



The most common species are:

TREES: *Taxodium distichum* (L.) Richard, *Acer rubrum* L., *Persea borbonia* (L.) Spreng. *Salix caroliniana* Michx., *Ficus citrifolia* Mill., *Quercus laurifolia* Michx., *Magnolia virginiana* L.

SHRUBS: *Psychotria nervosa*, *P. sulzneri*, *Myrsine guianensis* (Aubl.) Kuntze, *Myrica cerifera* L., *Baccharis halimifolia* L.

HERBS: *Sagittaria lancifolia* L., *Thalia geniculata* L., *Pontederia lanceolata* Nutt., *Nuphar luteum* (L.) Sibth. & Sm. spp. *macrophyllum* (Small) Beal., *Crinum americanum* L., *Cladium jamaicensis* Crantz., *Lemna perpusilla* Torr., *Blechnum serrulatum*, *Osmunda regalis* L., *Nephrolepis biserrata* Schott.

VINES: *Smilax auriculata*, *S. laurifolia*, *Vitis shuttleworthii*, *V. rotundifolia*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (L.) Planchon., *Toxicodendron radicans* (L.) Kuntze.

EPIPHYTES: *Tillandsia fasciculata*, *T. utriculata* L., *T. usneoides*, *T. setacea* Sw., *T. balbisiana* Schultes, *Epidendrum rigidum* Jacq., *E. anceps* Jacq., *Encyclia tampensis*, *Polypodium polypodioides*, *Campyloneurum phyllitidis* (L.) Presl., *Phlebodium aureum* (L.) Sm.

Swamp was common in Broward County along river systems (e.g., Cypress Creek, Middle River, and New River) and on the western section of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge south to New River (Maps 1 and 2).

**Scrub:** = Sand Pine Scrub (Davis, 1943); = Pine Barrens (Romans, 1775). This is the characteristic vegetation of sand ridges of St. Lucie, Paola, and Pomello sands (U.S.D.A., 1973). Scrub is not known to occur at elevations less than 10 - 15 ft. above sea level. Fire is important in maintaining Scrub and burning commonly occurs every 20 - 40 yr. (Florida Department of Natural Resources, 1975). The species display xeric adaptations such as small thick or succulent leaves, and specialized underground parts. Suckers are very common as a means of reproduction. The most common species are:

TREES: *Pinus clausa* (Engelm.) Sarg. (Sometimes not present).

SHRUBS: *Quercus virginiana* var. *geminata* Sarg., *Q. myrtifolia* Willd., *Q. chapmanii* Sarg., *Q. minima* (Sarg.) Small., *Serenoa repens*, *Ceratiola ericoides* Michx., *Ximenia americana* L., *Licania michauxii* France., *Lyonia ferruginea* (Walt.) Nutt., *L. lucida* (Lam.) K. Koch, *Vaccinium myrsinites* Lam.

HERBS: *Polygonella gracilis* (Nutt.) Meissner, *P. fimbriata* (Ell.) Horton, *P. polygama* (Vent.) Engelm & Gray, *Palafoxia feayi* Gray, *Sisyrinchium solstiale* Bicknell.

VINES: *Cassytha filiformis* L., *Smilax laurifolia*.

EPIPHYTES: *Tillandsia recurvata*, *T. balbisiana*.

Scrub occurred in Broward County mostly west of the Intracoastal Waterway from the Palm Beach County line to Dade County and was transversed by Swamp and Marsh systems (Maps 1, 2 and 3). The largest Scrub ridge was transversed to the north by the Hillsboro River system and to the south by the Cypress Creek system (Map 1).

**Pine Flatwoods:** = Slash Pine (Harshberger, 1914); = Flatwoods (Harper, 1927); = Dry Pineland and Wet Pineland (Long & Lakela, 1971). Pine Flatwoods occur where soils are moderately to well drained and are fairly uniform in elevation. This habitat was not common on the Atlantic Coastal Ridge of southern Florida (MacKay, 1845; Ives, 1856; Williams, 1870), even though previous authors believed Pine Flatwoods was the dominant vegetation in that area (Harper, 1927; Davis 1943). Pine Flatwoods may occur on Immokalee soil (Davis, 1943), but also occur on a variety of other soil types such as Arzell and Broward fine sands (Wet Prairie soils) and St. Lucie sands (Scrub soil). The presence of Pine Flatwoods in Wet Prairie is mostly due to drainage of soils since the turn of the century. Scrub may be replaced by Scrubby Flatwoods dominated by *Pinus elliottii* Engelm. and *Quercus* spp. if the burning cycle is increased. The normal burning cycle for

Pine Flatwoods is from 3 - 7 yr (Hofstetter, 1974).

In southern Florida Pine Flatwoods vegetation has the following common species:

TREES: *Pinus elliottii* (at least 3 trees per acre).

SHRUBS: *Serenoa repens* and *Ilex glabra* (L.) Gray (two most common shrubs), *Lyonia ferruginea*, *Lyonia lucida*, *Befaria racemosa* Vent.

HERBS: *Coreopsis leavenworthii* T & G, *Heliotropium polyphyllum* Lehmann, *Hypericum tetrapetalum* Lam., *Satureja rigida* Bartr. ex Benth.

A few scattered stands of Pine Flatwoods occurred in Broward County in 1940 bordering the Everglades (Map 2) and in the southern sections of the county 3 - 5 mi inland (Map 3).

**Dry Prairie:** = Palm Savana (Harper, 1927); = Palmetto Prairie (Kuchler, 1964). Dry prairie is similar to Pine Flatwoods in soil and species composition except *Pinus elliottii* does not exceed 2 trees per acre (Harper, 1927).

This vegetation commonly occurs as a result of overburning of Scrub or Pine Flatwoods vegetation. Except for lack of *Pinus elliottii*, the typical species of Dry Prairies are the same as Pine Flatwoods (See Pine Flatwoods) but *Serenoa repens* is the dominant species.

In Broward County, Dry Prairie occurred in the northern section four to six mi inland (Map 1) and in the southern section 3 - 5 mi inland (Map 3).

**Wet Prairie:** Includes all Wet Prairie classifications of Davis (1943). This is low dominantly "grassy" vegetation of seasonally wet soils. Most commonly the soils are Arzell and Broward fine sands (U.S.D.A., 1946). A surface layer of muck up to a few inches deep may occur in wetter sites such as temporary ponds.

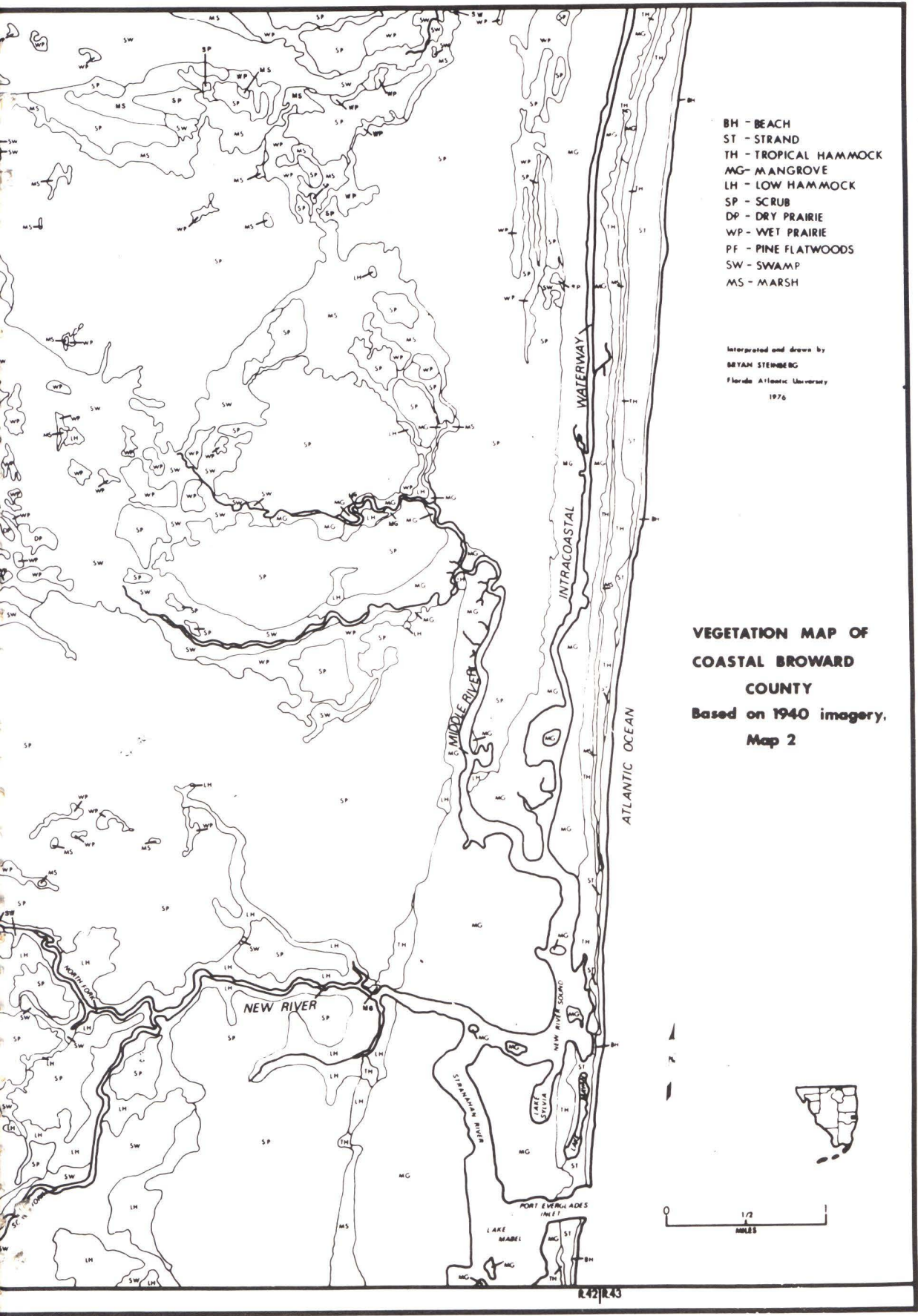
Characteristically Wet Prairie lacks trees, but *Pinus elliottii* may be present in dryer sites and *Taxodium distichum* may be widely scattered in wetter sites. The typical species are:





Map 2: Vegetation Map of Broward County, based on 1940 imagery, central section. [Bryan Steinberg]

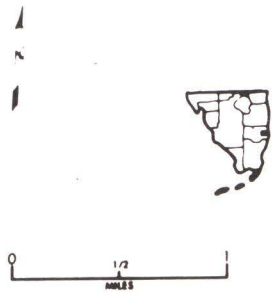




- BH - BEACH
- ST - STRAND
- TH - TROPICAL HAMMOCK
- MG - MANGROVE
- LH - LOW HAMMOCK
- SP - SCRUB
- DP - DRY PRAIRIE
- WP - WET PRAIRIE
- PF - PINE FLATWOODS
- SW - SWAMP
- MS - MARSH

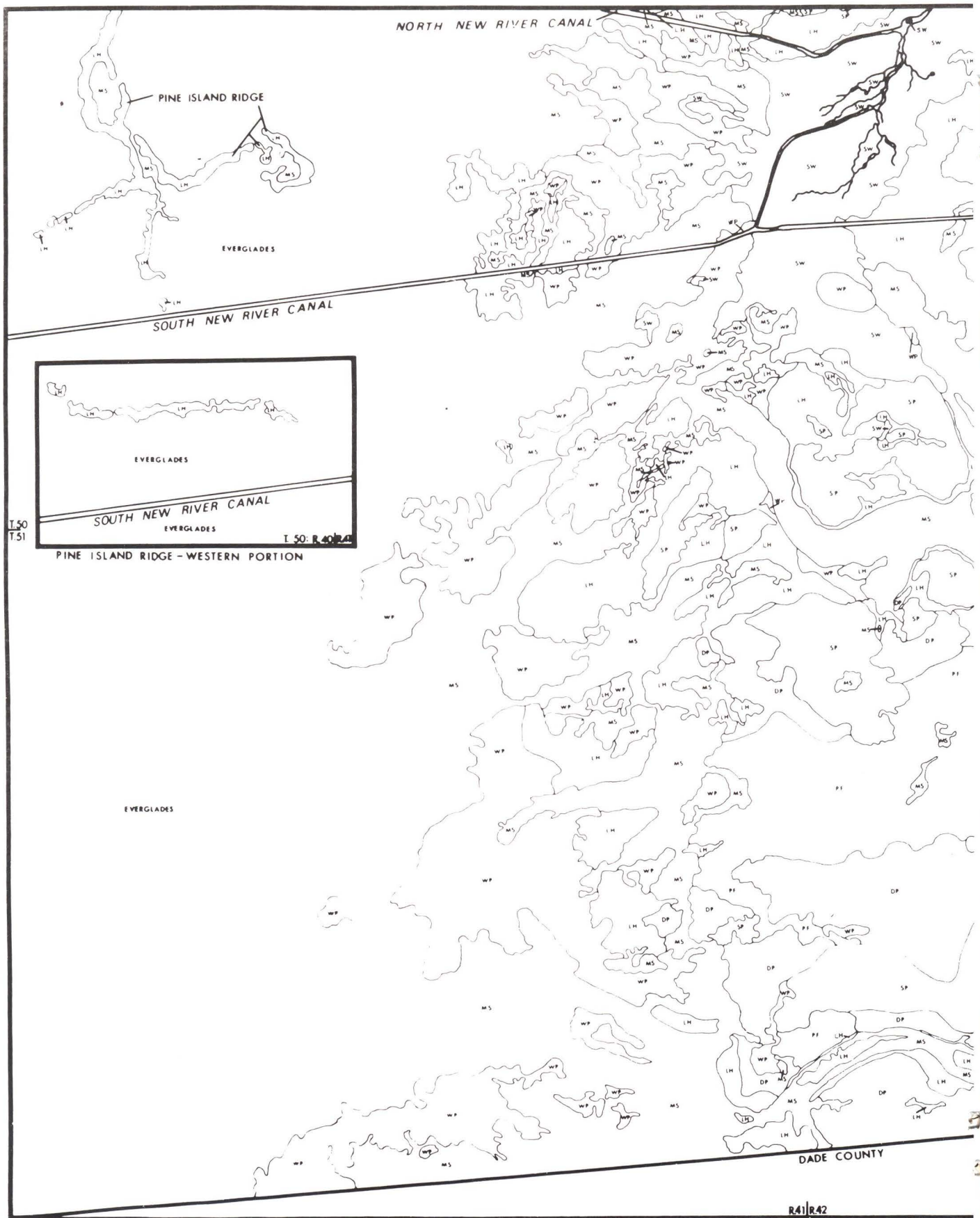
Interpreted and drawn by  
 BRYAN STEIMBERG  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 1976

**VEGETATION MAP OF  
 COASTAL BROWARD  
 COUNTY**  
 Based on 1940 imagery.  
 Map 2



R.42/R.43





Map 3: Vegetation Map of Broward County, based on 1940 imagery, southern section. [Bryan Steinberg]

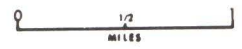




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- MS - MARSH

Interpreted and drawn by  
 BRYAN STEINBERG  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 1976

**VEGETATION MAP OF  
 COASTAL BROWARD  
 COUNTY**  
 Based on 1940 imagery,  
 Map 3





SHRUBS: *Myrica cerifera*, *Baccharis halimifolia*.

HERBS: *Aristida patula* Chapm. ex Nash, *Spartina bakerii* Merrill, *Andropogon glomeratus* (Walt.) BSP, *Hypericum fasciculatum* Lam., *Oxypolis filiformis* (Walt.) Britt., *Pluchea rosea* R.K. Godfrey, *Rhynchospora corniculata* (Lam.) Gray, *Flaveria linearis* Lag., *Eupatorium coelestinum* L., *Xyris jupicai* Richard, *Sabatia grandiflora* (Gray) Small.

Wet Prairie was common in Broward County interspersed with Marsh or Swamp bordering the Everglades and also was present in depressions within Scrub ridges (Maps 1, 2, and 3).

**Marsh:** Includes Saw-grass Marshes, Flag Marshes, Aquatic-plant Marshes, Cat-tail Marshes, Spike-rush or Needle-grass Marshes, Mixed Herb and Shrub Marshes, Fern Marshes and Bulrush Marshes of Davis (1943). Marsh is treeless fresh water vegetation on soils that are seasonally wet or covered with water most of the year. This is the characteristic vegetation of the Everglades. Soils usually have a thick muck layer of a few to several feet. Some of these soils are Everglades peat, Okeelanta muck and Parkwood sandy loam (U.S.D.A., 1946).

The most common species are:

SHRUBS: *Myrica cerifera*, *Salix caroliniana*, *Baccharis halimifolia*, *Ludwigia octovalvis* (Jacq.) Raven, *L. peruviana* (L.) Hara.

HERBS: *Cladium jamaicensis*, *Sagittaria lancifolia*, *Pluchea odorata* Cassini, *Pontederia lanceolata*, *Nuphar luteum*, *Nymphaea odorata* Ait., *Utricularia purpurea* Walt., *Blechnum serrulatum*, *Thelypteris totta*, *Sabatia grandiflora*, *Panicum hemitomon* Schultes, *Spartina bakerii*.

In Broward County, Marsh was common in transverse depressions which cut through the Scrub ridges and also in the section of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge bordering the Everglades (Maps 1, 2, and 3).

**CONCLUSIONS** — The origins of stands of the current vegetation become evident when compared with the vegetation maps (Maps 1,

2, and 3). Today much of coastal Broward County is urbanized with remnants of the vegetation remaining in scattered sites. These stands can be linked to pre-urban vegetation systems in the county. Scattered stands of Scrub vegetation (T.47S., R.42E., Secs. 1, 6; T.48S., R.42E., Secs. 6, 12, 13, 24, 25) are all part of one large scrub ridge (Map 3). Similarly scattered stands of Swamp (T. 49S., R.42E., Secs. 5, 9, 10, 11) are part of a swamp system associated with Cypress Creek.

Successional changes in the vegetation since 1940 also became evident when the current vegetation is compared with the vegetation maps (Maps, 1, 2, and 3). Some of the changes in the vegetation which have occurred are Wet Prairie to Pine Flatwoods (T.48S., R.41E., Sec. 33), Scrub to Dry Prairie (T.48S., R.42E., Sec. 33), Scrub to Low Hammock or urbanized sections with *Quercus virginiana* and *Pinus elliottii* the dominant tree species (T. 50S., R.42E., Sec. 4).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** — I thank my professor, Daniel F. Austin and my committee members: Robert B. Grimm, Roy R. Lemon, and Thomas T. Sturrock (Florida Atlantic University) for their help. The Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems provided financial assistance (Vegetation Maps as a Guide for Planning in South Florida, 1974 - 1975; D.F. Austin, principal investigator). Funds for publication were kindly provided by the University of Florida, IFAS, Agricultural Research Center at Ft. Lauderdale. Fellow graduate students Donald R. Richardson and Anthony Arico gave much encouragement, David Schwartz of the Florida Department of Transportation provided soil maps, and Robert V. Dowell of the University of Florida assisted in the preparation of the final draft of the manuscript.

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# Long in Light Service:

## Captain Thomas Knight, Served in Station of which his Father and Grandfather also were Keepers\*;

by C. Clinton Page

**H**illsboro Light at Pompano Beach — that mute but constant monitor to the great ships at sea as they ply the charted course day or night along the Atlantic sea coast — how many of us who have glimpsed this silent sentinel on the seashore from the road in passing really know or think about its highly important and often merciful service to mariners, and in these later days, the navigator of the hydroplane, who may also be passing along the coast? Comparatively few perhaps have tarried to inquire minutely and to learn that this all-steel tower rising 136 feet in the air supports at the top an intense flash light of 370,000-candle power which may be seen by the ship's navigator at a distance of 31 miles in ordinary weather, or on an extraordinarily clear night, the reflection of this giant light in the sky may be seen by the mariner

35 miles at sea. This light is displayed in alternating flashes of 10 seconds each.

Hillsboro Light is what is known in the government light service as a skeletal tower. That is, instead of being built of brick tile like the huge chimney of a great industrial plant, as in the case of some of the older types of lighthouses, the upright steel cylindrical center of the structure, 13 feet or more in diameter, is supported and stayed to stand the storms with many steel rods, braces and brackets from its cement base to the top and according to the most scientific conception of steel construction. The top, or light and watch tower, is reached by a winding steel stairway on the inside of the tower, secure from the wind and the weather. All of the work of the captain or lighthouse keeper and his two assistants, except the annual painting of the

exterior to stay the ravages of rust incident to the salt laden air of the sea, is done on the inside of the tower.

Captain Thomas Knight, the official keeper of Hillsboro Light, was at Palm Beach at the time of my visit, so I am indebted to Mrs. Knight and the first assistant keeper, B.F. Stone, for data for this story. However, both these were most courteous and cheerfully gave any information at their command. From them I learned that Hillsboro Light, which required two years to erect, was completed in 1906. Mrs. Knight said, as she recalled, it was built by the Champion Bridge Company. Captain



\*See "Behind the Scenes," inside front cover.



Knight, a native Floridian and now 46 years old, came to take charge of the Hillsboro station in July, 1911, from Cape Canaveral, where he was born and where he was assistant lighthouse keeper of the Cape Canaveral light eight or nine years, when he was transferred here. He was also lightkeeper at Jupiter Inlet for five and a half years.

Hillsboro Light is known as No. 126 in the sixth district of the government lighthouse service, though it was formerly included in the seventh district. Charleston, S.C., is the headquarters, where the superintendent of the district is located, to whom Captain Knight has to make his monthly and annual reports. The superintendent also inspects Hillsboro and all the other lighthouses in his district four times a year. Hillsboro Light, First Assistant Stone told me, was one of the best kept stations on the coast, and further vouchsafed the statement by saying that Captain Knight and his assistants during the past year won the lighthouse pennant and the efficiency star, which distinctions of exceptional work are awarded each year.

Captain Knight has two assistants, B.F. Stone, first, and J.B. Isler, second, all three of whom are furnished comfortable homes for themselves and families. Besides these homes other minor perquisites and monthly salaries of \$125 for the keeper, \$115 for the first assistant and \$100 for the second assistant are received. Their various duties, in addition to keeping the light in the tower burning every night from sunset to sunrise, involve rescue work in cases of storms and shipwreck, and to at all times keep the lighthouse in firstclass shape.

This includes painting of the exterior once a year and the interior something like every third year. The watch periods in the tower vary in length of from 12 to 24 hours, though the day part of the longer shifts in calm weather give time for rest and sleep. The short and long shifts are divided among the men, whose off time with a maximum of

48 hours is also similarly divided or shifted, giving all reasonable time for recreation. Though the salary is not large, similarly the duties are seldom arduous for a great length of time.

Captain Knight's father before him, Captain J.A. Knight, was lighthouse keeper at Cape Canaveral in the early seventies, while a grandfather, Captain Burnham, was the keeper of the same light before the former and during the Civil War. Hence Captain Knight's splendid record at Hillsboro as well as other stations, is but natural. He has grown up in the service. He also has an uncle, Captain Wilson, an assistant at Canaveral, who served in the Mexican, Seminole and Civil wars. His grandfather Burnham was at Fort Capron, two miles south of Fort Pierce, when Fort Capron was burned by the Seminoles, and he barely escaped to sea in a small boat, being picked up later by a schooner near St. Augustine.

Captain Knight has a family of four children now quite grown. When he and Mrs. Knight first came to the Hillsboro station there were no roads of consequence along the beach and few residents much nearer than the little town of Pompano on the Florida East Coast Railroad, over a mile back from the seashore. Naturally, it was somewhat lonesome at first, but roads have since been built, the bathing beach a mile south improved, until now, with various homes in the vicinity and small pleasure craft in the inlet nearby affording considerable social intercourse. A couple of years ago also the Lake Placid winter school for boys, formerly at Coconut Grove, was located near the lighthouse. All of these and the development of residence subdivisions nearby, are attracting visitors, bathing and fishing parties, until Hillsboro Light is now quite firmly on the list of enjoyable places to visit along the Atlantic beach in South Florida.

The immense glass flash light lens in the top of the tower of Hillsboro Light is of interest

because of its great size, peculiar construction and its revolving mechanism. The lens consists of more than 300 curved glass prism sections set in a globular frame work of brass eight feet in diameter, besides 14 other smaller prisms at the center of the "bull's eye." The light is generated by a large lamp in the interior of this globular lens from kerosene by means of a vapor burner with an asbestos mantle somewhat similar to many of the gasoline lighting apparatus of the present time used for house lighting where electricity is not available.

This lens is skillfully and substantially built on a circular platform which sets in a large steel tub or circular vat containing approximately five gallons of mercury, in which the whole flashlight lens and revolving mechanism floats. This mercury is used in lieu of ball bearings or similar device, I was told, because of the less friction involved and because of the more desirable sensitiveness to adjustment and rotation of the lens. The rotation of the lamp and the lens are accomplished by means of clock work gears and weights very similar to those employed in a grandfather's old clock.

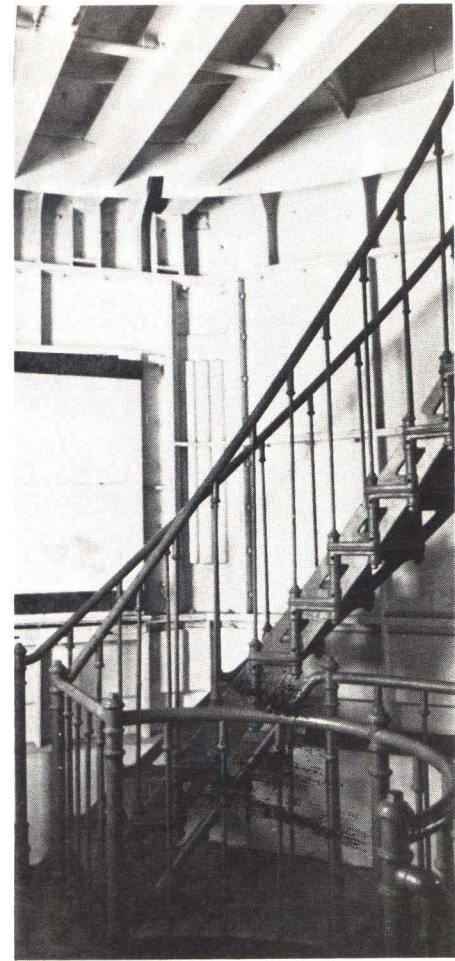
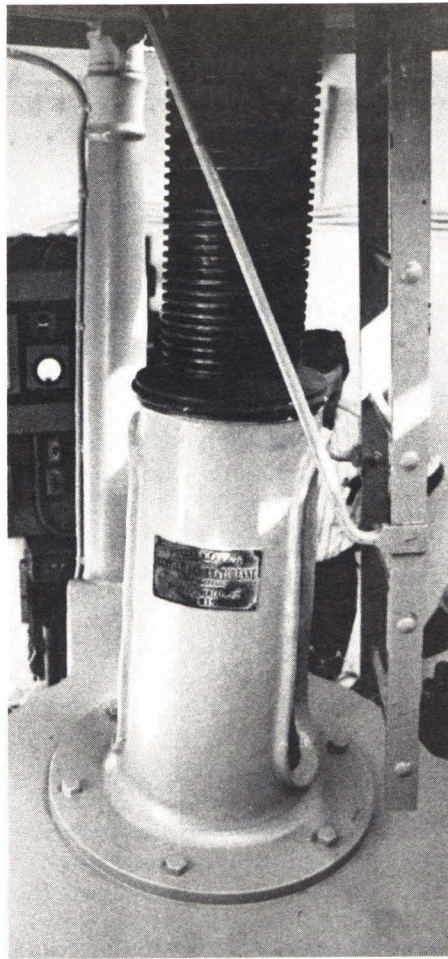
The weights in this seemingly primitive motive power are of heavy metal slugs fastened to the end of a small metallic cable suspended in the steel shaft in the center of the tower. This clock motor has to be wound every three hours for the vapor lamps. Because of the effect of the temperature on the mercury in which the big lens floats, the man on watch in the tower is required to take off or put on more weights on this cable to maintain the proper efficiency of the light. Some of the adjustments involve small weights of little more than a quarter of a pound and from that on up to five pounds or more.

That the lightkeeper's nightly work is not all monotonous routine may be gleaned from the fact that so minute in adjustment is the needle in the burner of his vapor

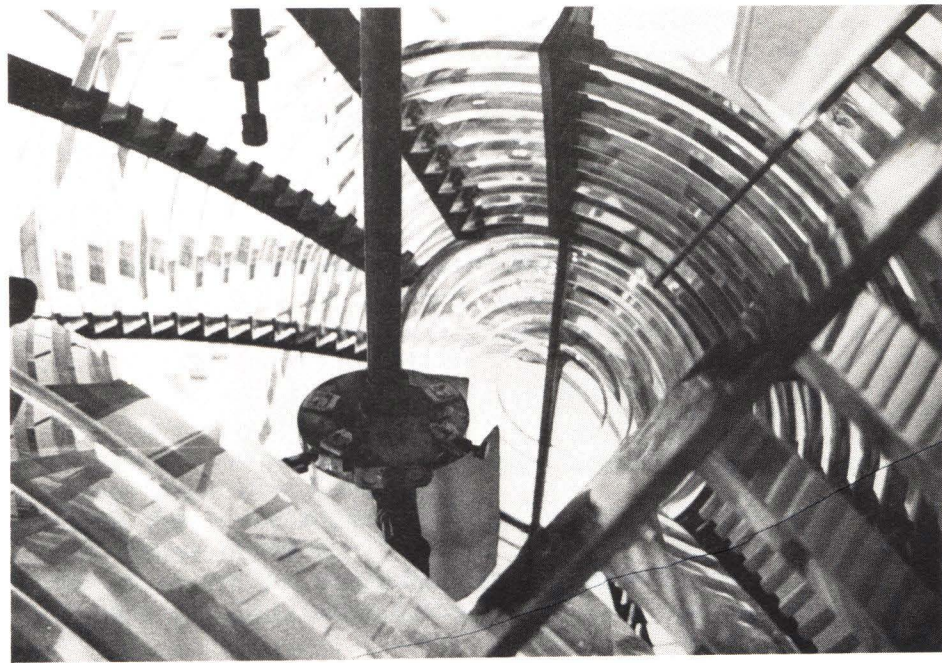


lamp that if perchance, as sometimes happens, a grain of sand or small fibre of asbestos from the mantle gets into the needle the

Hillsboro Lighthouse. [Historical Commission]



Upper left: the plaque indicates that the gear shift was manufactured in 1880 in Paris, France. [Hibbard Casselberry] Upper right: the watch room, with windows that face out in all directions, is located below the gear system. [Hibbard Casselberry] Below: the electrical conduit, originally kerosene, powers the pair of "clam shell" revolving lenses that had been invented by French physicist Augustine Fresnel.





light is immediately extinguished and he must repair it at once.

This accident of occurrence must also be noted on his nightly log and show in his monthly report to headquarters. In stormy weather he must also keep a sharp lookout from his tower for passing vessels to warn them if they appear to be getting too close to the reefs or sandbars near the beach.

In case of shipwreck near enough to his lighthouse so that it is possible, he or his assistants must also put out to sea in one or more of their three 12 to 20 horsepower gas boats and render such assistance as may be possible. During the more severe storms it may be necessary for the man on watch to warn passing ships being crowded too

close to shore, by the firing of a gun or the displaying of special light signals. Nineteen disabled hydroplanes alone have been towed in at Hillsboro light during other rescue service.

The location of a lighthouse is an indication to the mariner of rock reefs, shoals or sandbars off the shore in the vicinity, and he readily understands that he is to keep a certain distance from the shore, particularly in stormy weather. There are rocky shoals some 200 or 300 feet out from the beach at Hillsboro. These lighthouses are so stationed that the navigator as he passes one light begins to look for the next one on his way. This with the aid of his charted course keeps him out of danger most of the time

except during blinding storms or heavy gales.

First Assistant Stone, with whom I talked, said he came to Hillsboro Light last June from the lighthouse tender, Water Lily, on which he was chief engineer for five years. He had during this service visited all the stations on the Atlantic coast in the jurisdiction of the Water Lily, and was for a time connected with the lighthouse at Mosquito Inlet, just south of Daytona. He stated among other things that the flash light in the Hillsboro tower was on exhibition, shortly after it was made, at the St. Louis World's Fair and was later shipped direct to Hillsboro for installation. He pronounced it as one of the best lights along the coast.

## The Founding of Broward County's Twenty-Nine Cities: A Chronological List

Dania: November 30, 1904.

Pompano Beach: June 6, 1908.

Fort Lauderdale: March 27, 1911.

*Broward County: October 15, 1915.*

Deerfield Beach: June 11, 1925.

Davie: November 16, 1925.

Hollywood: November 25, 1925.

Oakland Park: November 25, 1925.

Hallandale: May 11, 1927.

Lauderdale-by-the-Sea: November 30, 1927.

Hillsboro Beach: June 12, 1939.

Wilton Manors: May 13, 1947.

Hacienda Village: October 29, 1949.

Plantation: April 30, 1953.

Lazy Lake: June 3, 1953.

Miramar: May 26, 1955.

Margate: May 30, 1955.

Lighthouse Point: June 13, 1956.

Pembroke Park: December 10, 1957.

Pembroke Pines: March 2, 1959.

Cooper City: June 20, 1959.

Lauderhill: June 20, 1959.

Sea Ranch Lakes: October 6, 1959.

Lauderdale Lakes: June 22, 1961.

Sunrise: June 22, 1961.

Coral Springs: July 10, 1963.

North Lauderdale: July 10, 1963.

Parkland: July 10, 1963.

Tamarac: August 15, 1963.

Coconut Creek: February 20, 1967.



# "Mrs. Mathematics:" Reminiscences of Broward County\*

by Myra McIlvaine Marshall

## GROWING UP IN TAMPA

I, Myra McIlvaine Marshall, was born in Tampa, Florida, on June 23, 1892. My mother, Carolyn Maude Taylor, moved with some members of her family to Tampa from Helena, Arkansas, where she was born. After taking a boat down the Mississippi River, they reached New Orleans where they boarded a Gulf steamship for Tampa. There she met and married Victor Bledso McIlvaine, a native Floridian who was born on Cedar Key, Florida. They hurried their marriage in order to take the last train permitted to leave Tampa on August 12, 1888, because of the yellow fever scare. They honeymooned in Evinston, Florida, where papa's two year old son lived with his aunt, Mary Avery.

I am the fourth in a family of seven children. I marvel that mama and papa, a wholesale fish dealer, could do so well by such a large family. Mother was a graduate of the now extinct Mary Sharpe College in Winchester, Tennessee. She always was interested in music and supplemented the family finances by giving piano lessons. Her family had moved her lovely rosewood piano from Arkansas to Tampa. Later, a beautiful table was made from the piano and it now is in my sister Ruth's house in Tallahassee.

Papa's formal education ended in the fifth grade when he left his physical science textbook outdoors and it was ruined by rain. His family couldn't afford another. In spite of that, papa was a well educated man who was self-taught. Mama was always buying sets of books on the installment plan. One of my fondest memories is of papa reading and reclining in his easy chair, feet propped up on a hassock, while I or one of the other children combed and re-combed his curly hair.

Each of us who reached college age received a college education. I remember when my half-brother Eugene, called home from Washington & Lee University because of the death of a younger sister, received a telegram from his instructor in Real Estate Law telling him that he had received the university's first score of 100% on the law examination. How proud we were of him!

When I was in the 9th grade at Hillsborough High School, I decided that I would teach Home Economics. My early training was the result of conditions at home. My mother was somewhat of a cripple. Doctors later said that she must have had a slight case of infantile paralysis. As we grew up, the household duties became ours. One cooked, one washed dishes, and another made beds. Mama organized a sewing class for us and the neighborhood children. With the help of Mrs.

A.L. Shaw, a kindly neighbor, we made most of our own and our mother's clothing.

I remember the first dress that I ever made for myself when I was seven or eight years old. Mama helped me with the cutting and assembly, but I pedaled the machine. Papa had to make a business trip to Punta Gorda and I was elected to go with him. We stayed at the home of our friends, the Browns. Of course I took my new dress. When I got home, Mama asked me when I had worn it. It had not occurred to me to wear it, although I had proudly shown it to Mrs. Brown and her daughters. We had an instructor for the heavily padded color embroidery that was so popular at that time. Recently, I came across several awards that I had received from the South Florida Fair Association held in connection with the Tampa Gasparilla. I had displayed ten little circular doilies elaborately scalloped and decorated with beautifully blended colors of lifelike roses, strawberries and ferns. I really wonder who did most of the work, me or my teacher? Later, I made use of this skill by sewing by the day for friends. I even earned part

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\*See "Behind the Scenes," inside front cover.



of my college expenses by renting a sewing machine and sewing for the other college girls; papa had died during my first year of college.

The date of my graduation from high school on May 20, 1910, is an easy one to remember. Halley's Comet was putting on a show as it streaked through the atmosphere on its nearest approach to the earth during its seventy-five year orbit. After high school graduation I had to wait two years before I could go to college. Sister Ruth was going and our family finances could not stand the strain of a second college student. I rested, kept house and did some work at the Tampa Business College during the first year after graduation; but, during the second I taught the two upper grades in the Baptist Mission School in Ybor City. There I earned the large monthly salary of \$35. I have at least one recollection of where some of that money went. I would walk from home to the car line and from the stop to the school. Then I taught all day and stood on a concrete floor. Every single month I had to buy a new pair of shoes and have the old ones half-sole. Although I did practice my home economics before I studied it in college, one of my greatest shocks was to receive a "C" as my first grade in sewing!

Some day we may have white and colored children in the same

school here in Fort Lauderdale but, at that time in Ybor City, colored children were not allowed by law to attend even the private schools. One day, a dark skinned child enrolled. The missionaries were not certain whether she was white or colored. When we went to visit the child's home, a large black negro mammy answered our knock. We explained why the child was not permitted to attend the mission school and she was withdrawn the next day.

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics in 1915 from Florida State College for Women [FSCW] after three years of work. In 1933 I standardized that degree and received a Master of Arts degree in Education and Psychology from the same college. You might ask, "Why not an M.A. in Mathematics?" After all, I had been teaching math since 1916. However, I had taken very little college math, none before 1915, and did not have sufficient background for an M.A. in that subject. But, I had accumulated enough college credits by attending summer school and by taking correspondence courses in order to get my teacher's certificate in mathematics. I was very proud to have my mother attend my second graduation because she was unable to attend the first. The following spring, she died.

#### ARRIVAL IN FORT LAUDERDALE

After my graduation in 1915, I taught home economics for one year in Tampa, for one day at Plant City High School and for four days in the new Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, one of the eleven new school buildings that had been erected during the previous summer. Since I was the most recently hired home economics teacher, I was the one to be let go when the county authorities decided that they had expanded too rapidly. Through the efforts of Miss Agnes Ellen Harris, head of the Department of Home Economics at FSCW

at Tallahassee, I came to Fort Lauderdale. I knew little of this area at that time. I knew only that a new county, Broward, had been created by the 1915 legislature from narrow strips of Dade and Palm Beach counties. The new county was named in honor of Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, the governor who had done so much for this section of the state by initiating the drainage of the Everglades.

By leaving Tampa at 6:00 a.m. I reached Fort Lauderdale at 10:30 that night. I had ridden the Atlantic Coast Line train north to a point thirty miles west of New Smyrna. There I boarded a one coach train on the East Coast Railway line to New Smyrna. I almost believe that the engine crew got out and collected wood along the right-of-way for the engine, so slowly did we cover those thirty miles. Coming on down the coast I worried about what I would find when I reached a strange town so late at night. Would the place be large enough for electric lights? Let me assure you that it was. Where would I stay when I arrived? The kindly conductor helped me on that point. He looked in his railroad guide and found that a small hotel, the Gilbert, was only a half block east of the station.

One thing that I did find in Broward and Dade counties was a certain amount of prejudice. Negroes who were driving cars were not permitted in Miami. Any tourist who brought his colored chauffeur had to get a white man to drive his car in Miami. For years after I came, no Catholic could teach in the Broward County schools.

#### SUMMER VACATIONS

During my years of teaching I attended various summer schools; Asheville's North Carolina Normal was one. Alice Woodward, a Delta Kappa Gamma, and I attended classes in the mornings. Then,



Myra Marshall. [Courtesy of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.]



we and our husbands would explore the area in the afternoons. I took courses in personal home economics, psychology and penmanship. The next fall I was called to task because I had not taken classes along my particular line of work. I reminded the superintendent that I had consulted with him prior to summer school and, since he had made no particular suggestion, I thought that personal home economics might be of help to me. I could remember the teacher who was not re-hired because her dress was not approved by the authorities. I did not want that to happen to me.

I had a nice summer at the University of Southern California. We were a part of the Moyers Tours that organized in Atlanta. There we boarded a special train that stopped at all points of interest along the southern route to California. We visited New Orleans; the Grand Canyon; Dallas; El Paso, with a side trip into Mexico; Los Angeles, with a trip to Catalina; and Yosemite.

Mr. Moyers would plan trips each weekend if we cared to go. Some were an evening in San Francisco's Chinatown, a trip up the peninsula, and another to Stanford University. Coming home, we took the northern route and spent a week in Yellowstone, a day in Salt Lake City, with a swim in the great Salt Lake, and a day in Chicago. I remember that that summer I took a course in trigonometry that was taught by a Chinese instructor and was attended by several colored students. That was my first experience having colored people in my classes.

My most enjoyable summer school session was the one that I attended at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Catherine Boyd Fahrion and I had driven out to Colorado. During the summer we made weekend trips into the mountains, to the opera in Silver City, to Pike's Peak and into Denver. We attended the rodeo in Wyoming and, on the way home, visited Carlsbad Caverns. We learn-

ed that World War II had started when we stopped in New Orleans for the night.

That summer in the cool air of Colorado was followed by four summers in the heat of Tallahassee. I carried my electric fan with me while I studied and did research for my master's degree. I also remember the late hours that I kept that summer. I would take a nap after supper and then type until two or three o'clock in the morning on my sister's front porch.

### TEACHING AND MARRIAGE

The school to which I was directed on that fall morning of 1916 was way out on the eastern edge of town, the center of which is now the Fort Lauderdale High School plant. Now the school is right in the downtown section. This was the second year for the fine new \$86,000 [\$55,000] two story concrete building with its large classrooms, spacious auditorium and separate kindergarten building. This was quite a contrast to the small \$75-\$80 one room wooden structure that was occupied by the first school in Fort Lauderdale where Mrs. Stranahan taught. It was also a contrast to the second building located on South Andrews Avenue and SW 5th Street, where the Fort Lauderdale school was located until 1915. Grades 1 - 8 used the first floor while grades 9 - 12 were on the second. This was the only high school in the county.

Pupils were transported from Deerfield in the north, Davie in the west, and Hallandale in the south. Motor driven buses, open-air affairs, were used. The pupils sat on benches built along the sides of the body of the car. Contrast that to the fifty to ninety passenger buses in use today. I've heard Mrs. Otto T. Herbert tell how her father, Mr. Edgar O. Bras, provided the first transportation of pupils in our city from 1910 to 1915. He hitched a blind pony to a yellow spring wagon and brought the children to

Fort Lauderdale from Colahatchee, which is known now as Wilton Manors.

The original Fort Lauderdale High School came into existence in the fall of 1911. Classes were held for nineteen pupils in one upstairs room of our second building. Miss Margaret Warner and the principal, C.B. Cummings, were the instructors. The first graduating class in 1915 consisted of five boys: brothers Martin and John Davis, Charles Crim, Dale Redman, and Raymond Russell. Their graduation sermon was held at the North Methodist Church [Park Temple]. The graduation exercises were out in the open on an improvised platform in Stranahan field, just east of the new school that had been dedicated on March 3, 1915. When I came in 1916 the high school faculty had increased in number to nine. The fifty-four students fairly "rattled around" in all those second floor rooms. I have been told that the entire population of Broward County in 1915 was 497 white and 96 colored persons [actually 4,763 total].

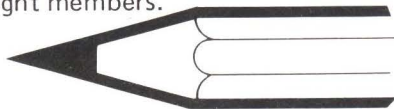
I retired to get married and to put my home economy into practice. Elias Ellis Marshall and I were married on July 21, 1919, in Jacksonville, Florida, at the home of my half-brother Eugene T. McIlvaine. Elias is the youngest of thirteen children born to Henry A. and Margaret Powell Marshall of Georgia. He was born in Jefferson County, Florida, on the family farm that is just south of the state line. He came to Fort Lauderdale in 1909 to assist his brothers in farming.

During the second month of the school term in 1919 I was persuaded to teach first and second year algebra. I had not looked in an algebra book since I was in the 10th grade, eleven years before, so I asked for a week's time and I crammed! I managed, through the year, to keep one jump ahead of the second year algebra class. I wonder at my brass! During the following year I taught seven periods of Algebra I and II, and did I work!



In the ensuing years, along with mathematics, I have had classes in chorus, modern history, American history and civics, which were separate subjects then and, "shades of Robert Ripley," even penmanship. During the First World War our cooking classes did quite a bit of canning after school hours, preserving surplus fruits and vegetables.

This was followed by a summer as a home demonstration agent in Suwannee County. I have even been the acting school principal! So many of our men teachers had been called into service that in 1918 I was asked to serve as principal for the closing month of school. I signed the high school diplomas as principal. The years 1925 to 1926 mark the boom period. Georgia moved to Florida en masse. The old 8 - 4 system was changed to the present 6 - 3 - 3 plan. By now the faculty had increased to thirty-eight members.



Like "Topsy," the school has grown and grown until now the senior high school has entirely outgrown the plant. Next fall they will occupy a new, air-conditioned plant that is being erected on NE 4th Avenue, just south of Wilton Manors. In the early days, school was cancelled when the weather was cold because there was no heat in the buildings. I have the desire to remain on the county's substitute list until I have taught at least one day in this new building. Superintendent Myron Ashmore has assured me that this can be arranged.

I remember being docked because I was ill for five days during the 1918 flu epidemic. It cost me \$25 to be ill! In contrast, when I was sick in 1946 and unable to find the cause, I went to Johns Hopkins Hospital during the Christmas holidays and missed the first week after Christmas. Not only did I lose no school pay, but Blue Cross helped materially to defray the cost of the trip to Baltimore.

The examinations revealed no reasons for the recurrent fever. The doctors said it was probably nerves. I decided that, if nerves were the cause of my troubles, it was about time for me to leave the classroom. I had been in school at least part of every year since I was seven years of age. I made plans to retire and left the school system in June 1948. At that time the school population of Fort Lauderdale was 3,000. Compare that with the nine students enrolled in our first school nearly fifty years before.

### TEACHERS' SALARIES

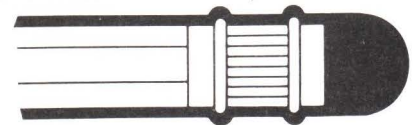
Money problems have always been with schools. "Way back in 1916 we had such frills as kindergarten, athletics, physical education, music, art, home economics, and manual training. I took metal work with the manual training class and made several hammered brass pieces that I value to this day. As money became scarce, these "frills" were dropped. Sometimes we are pennywise and pound foolish. While home economics and manual training were not being taught, the equipment for these subjects completely disappeared; when these subjects were put back into the curriculum in 1925, the laboratories had to be completely restocked.

By the school year 1927-1928, teachers' salaries had reached the high of \$215 per month, but they were cut to \$190 during the second semester. In 1932-1933 we received a 28½% cut over the previous year. At one time, our superintendent used his silver tongue to talk us into cutting our own monthly salaries to a low of \$87.59 for a teacher with a master's degree and ten years experience. At one time we voted to have our annual salary divided into twelve installments, but received only eight and a half months of pay. The school board mortgaged the high school property to a group of local businessmen in order to raise money for our salaries. Another time, when

teachers were receiving \$1,200 for a full year's work, they were told that salaries could not be increased because of the lack of funds. The superintendent, however, was given a \$1,200 raise.

By the time I retired in 1948, salaries had been raised to \$3,300, plus \$100 for a masters degree with ten years experience. Retirement was based on the average of the best ten years and I had to include one or two at \$1,500. The retirement system for Florida teachers had gone into effect in 1939 - 1940. The teachers then in service were given credit for all the years that they had taught in the Florida public schools prior to 1939.

Some teachers are now required to pass the National Teachers Examination before they receive a continuing contract and the masters degree is recognized. I have been very fortunate. I have four certificates, two Graduates and two Life Graduates, and I have taken only one teacher examination, and this was on the United States Constitution. A number of hours in psychology and education were required for my first Graduate Certificate. Four hours in education were taught by Dean Salley. Poor Dean Salley! I know he must have tired of seeing me in his classes four hours each morning for six weeks. Did that help drive him to the West Florida Hospital?



### MEMORIES

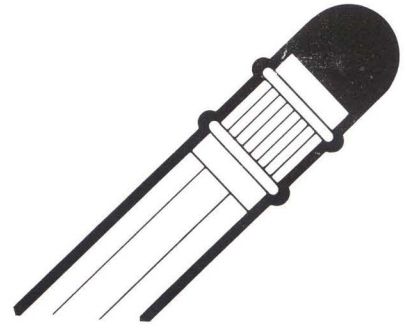
One of my most rewarding experiences as a school marm was to have one of my former pupils with me as an intern teacher. Mary Louis Perfect, a Delta Kappa Gamma, was completing her college work in Tallahassee. She chose to return to her Alma Mater for the period of internship. She is now head of the Math Department at Stranahan High School. She is doing an excellent job. Recently she was chosen Florida's "Teacher of the Year."



I am still substituting in our county schools. When I first retired, the State Board of Education would not permit a Florida retired teacher to substitute. I wonder why? I have been asked if the children now are any worse than in the "old days." I was in a biology class the other day and someone had opened the doors of the little cages so that the white mice could get fresh air and exercise running about the classroom. I remember when the fresh air of Fort Lauderdale High School was not so fresh because of the over-ripe sailfish that had been crammed into the overhead ventilator. Teachers and pupils were sent outdoors while a search was made.

I also remember when a boy was dared to jump out of a second story window. And, he took the dare! And I remember another boy who, also on a dare, drank nearly a full bottle of Tabasco sauce. Was he sick! My most embarrassing moment was when I discovered that my shoes were being passed about the classroom. I had kicked them off as I sat at the desk; my feet hurt!

We read of teachers going on strike. But, I remember when the pupils at Fort Lauderdale High School went on strike. Back in 1921, for some reason, the school authorities decided that we should have school on Friday following



Thanksgiving. This day had traditionally been a part of the Thanksgiving holiday. At about 9:30 that morning, a large group of pupils decided that they would protest by walking out. And, they did. Some got cold feet and returned after an hour or so, but the rest



**Smith Apartments**

(Historical Commission, Nance Family Collection.)



stayed out all day. Punishment followed. There were five days of suspension and the loss of twenty-five points on each grade. Poor seniors! Some almost didn't graduate. That stunt was not tried again but, as I remember, we had a holiday the next year. I am told this was the start of "skip day," the day when all seniors are allowed to "skip" school.

Natural hazards in and around the school grounds are not the only things children have to face. I remember when a canal was dug along the northern edge of the school campus. Narrow streets were on each side. This was supposed to furnish drainage for the excess water that we had experienced. But, it was a dead end that became a smelly eyesore. Eventually, drainage pipes were installed and the canal was filled. The blasting and pounding were so loud and continuous it was almost impossible to teach. Pupils and teachers recently have gone through almost the same experience in the building of the New River Tunnel. Not all the blasting was outside the school building, however. One of the boys was playing with his toy pistol in study hall and accidentally shot himself through the hand.

So many of our old downtown landmarks, such as the first two schools, the Gilbert Hotel and the Florida East Coast Railway Station, have disappeared. The Smith house on New River, home for so many of our teachers through the years, also has been demolished. The Tom Watson Hotel at the eastern end of Las Olas Boulevard has given way to a more modern structure. Recently, the W.B. Snyder cottage on Las Olas Boulevard, south of the school property, has been removed. I remember it particularly well because it was my home for the first three years when I was in Fort Lauderdale. School trustee Mr. C.A. Carrier and his wife felt sorry for us because we were having such a hard time finding a place to stay. They

took six of us in to board during that first year.

## THE 1926 HURRICANE

Speaking of landmarks being demolished, the 1926 Hurricane did its best to destroy Fort Lauderdale High School. The east and west wings of the school plant had just been completed the previous summer. The rail embargo made it difficult to secure building materials except by boat, so the second story of the east wing was built of the plain tile instead of the interlocking tile that was used in the remainder of the two structures. The hurricane wiped off the entire second floor of the east wing, lockers and all. The auditorium was so weakened that it had to be bolstered with those wide steel beams that make it difficult to see the stage. Water filled the auditorium to ground level and completely ruined the seats, which had to be replaced. On at least one other occasion those poor auditorium seats were ruined by high water.

Few people who were living here on September 18, 1926, were spared personal loss from the hurricane. We had had a close call in July. That hurricane did us no damage, but Palm Beach caught the brunt of it; and, October's hurricane had centered south of Miami. On the evening of the 17th of September, the "Fort Lauderdale News" warned that a storm would strike near here during the night. That meant so little to us. We hadn't been through one.

The wind rose. How it rained. Our bed was only eighteen inches away from the window which I had left cracked open a half inch. Water drops were carried straight across that space to hit me in the face. Elias was up and holding the door shut. The screen latch would not hook if the door were shut. Finally, he tired of holding the door so he opened the latch on the

screen. The wind immediately took off the screen and carried it away.

We saw the bushes getting whipped about. A small avocado that I had grown was bent to the ground, first one way and then the other, as the wind changed directions. Finally, as the water began rising and entering the room whose floor was only three inches above ground, we decided that we would be wise to seek refuge elsewhere. A single story wooden garage was swept away between our house and an adjacent two story concrete building. We waded across this space and climbed the exposed stairway to the second floor apartment. Elias' father was out of town at a Baltimore hospital and he was worried about his mother and her companion. We would make trips between our two places to see how they were faring. On one such trip, Elias narrowly missed being hit by the roof of our cottage as the wind ripped it off and deposited it against the back buildings. Fortunately, that roof didn't go. However, although the screens in the two front rooms were out, the large glass doors held and Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery, who were alone that night in the upper apartment, were protected. During the height of the storm we saw the large sheets of metal roofing tear off the two cottages to the south of ours and fly through the air. The wind and tide brought the salt water up quite a few feet, up to the window-sills in our ground floor apartment, before the receding tide lowered it. The days following the hurricane were unusually bright and clear; it gave us the time to clean up the mess, dry out some possessions and rebuild the damaged structures.

The year of the hurricane was also the year when "individual instruction" was introduced into our school system. Estelle Montgomery and I had spent weeks during the summer making our plans and tests for the math department. The pupils were supposed to advance at their own speed and take tests



individually as they finished a unit of work. If they failed the test, they were to re-study and test again. So, duplicate tests were needed. The hurricane destroyed all our work; we had to do it a second time. This method of instruction did not last long in our schools.

## TEACHERS' CREDIT UNION

I have never quite figured out how I deserved the honor of being asked to join Delta Kappa Gamma, which I accepted. It may have been because in 1946 and 1947 I had been the first president of the Broward County Classroom Teachers' Association or because of the work that I did with the teachers' credit union.

During the year when I served as president of the Classroom Teachers' Association, we invited a group of Dade County teachers to have dinner with us at the Pioneer House and discuss credit union work. We liked the idea and, later, after securing a state charter, organized our Broward County Teachers' Credit Union with about thirty members and \$300 in assets. Our first loan was made to Jean Lloyd Berry, a Delta Kappa Gamma, who received a master's degree from Columbia University. Jean is now dean of girls at Olsen Junior High School.

Time passed. The state bank examiner eventually came to inspect our books. He called for a group meeting and said he could make no examination because they had not been set up properly nor kept up-to-date, although the money was all accounted for. Some of the teachers urged me to act as treasurer of the credit union. I said that if Irene Mims, our bookkeeping instructor, would help me, then I would. The credit union became my hobby. I wanted to build it up to be self-supporting. I took over the job in the spring of 1947 and, by 1956, it was large enough to stand alone, and I retired a second time.

I rode this hobby of mine hard by building up the membership, securing more money in shares, making loans, sitting under trees to discuss loans, and visiting schools after pay day to make collections. Much of the material was done on a borrowed ditto and was decorated by the art work of Bessie Y. Cook, a Delta Kappa Gamma, who taught at Northside School for many years and now is retired. At first I kept the books in my school locker; but, when I retired from teaching in 1948, I later kept them under my bed. When the credit union had outgrown this method of operation we secured the use of the passageway of the Adult Education Department. We also outgrew this area and moved into a small janitorial room in the North Hall building. Because it had an outside door on the west side, we were able to have our own street address.

Over the years Mr. Henry Claywell of the Hillsborough County Teachers' Credit Union has been a helpful advisor. Membership was wisely opened to the colored employees of the school board. As the credit union grew, staff workers were added. I am proud to say that, under the combined leadership of treasurer Muriel Lynch and assistant treasurer Don Wills, the 1962 report showed \$2,513,901.05 and a membership of 3,701. This compares with my earlier report of January 1956: \$431,936.05 and 1,256 members. I am especially glad to have worked with the credit union because, through it, I have set up my social security, a welcome addition to my meager teacher's pension.



## FORMER STUDENTS

I take great pleasure in recalling the successes of my former pupils and hope that, in some way, I have influenced them. I grieve at the early deaths of some. Cyril Mitchell, a ham radio operator who

had reached my brother Victor in Tampa, was lost at sea in the First World War. Sandy Nininger, a West Pointer, class of 1941, was awarded the first Medal of Honor in World War II. James Hill, class of 1919, broke his neck when he dove into a shallow canal. Another committed suicide by jumping from the Sweet Building.

On the brighter side, naturalist and author Dr. Marston Bates, listed in "Who's Who," first showed his interest in the insect world by making a wonderful collection of butterflies while he was in high school. Dr. Bates did research in South America for the Rockefeller Foundation for fifteen years. Gertrude Boyd teaches at the University of Arizona. Colonel Truman Setliffe, a 1941 graduate of Louisiana State University, has been District Engineer, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, since July 1959. Army Engineers, by the way, are restoring the New Jersey shoreline damaged by the severe storm last spring. The Delaware Valley Council and the Army Engineers plan to develop the water and land resources of Delaware River Basin.

Ruth T. Dichtenmueller and Ernestine Freiday, Ivy Berryhill, Ann M. Evans, all Delta Kappa Gammas, Geneva Rickard, Charles Packard and Harold Hayes all teach at Fort Lauderdale High School. Others include: Frank Clinton, principal at New River Junior High School; Paul Rogers, congressman; Boyd Anderson, Sr., for many years our county judge; Virginia S. Young, school board member; and Bill Hollard, post-master. Many others have made their names in athletics: Katherine Rawls in swimming and Buddy Behrens in tennis. I could go on and on in telling of the successes of former students but, in conclusion, let me say that teaching Fort Lauderdale High School students has been a most rewarding achievement.



# Pioneer Farming in Dania: An Oral History Interview with Minnie and Isidore Mizell\*

CK = Cooper Kirk MM = Minnie Mizell  
IM = Isidore Mizell EH = Ervean Hampton

conducted by Cooper Kirk, Ph.D.  
transcribed and edited by Carolyn G. Kayne

*Dania pioneers Minnie and Isidore Mizell were interviewed by county historian Cooper Kirk in the summer of 1981 at their home in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. and Mrs. Mizell were born in Hamilton County, Florida, in 1882 and 1894, respectively. In 1910 they and their two sons, Von and Ivory, moved to Dania when it was known as Modello.*

*Twelve more children were born to this couple after they had settled in southern Broward which, at that time, was in the northern section of Dade County. The names of their other children are: Murray, Ethel Papy, Ervean Hampton, Bernice Peck, Taft, Earl, Zeal, Gwendolyn Mosby, Lorenza, Guilda Bryant, who was named by Mr. John Bryan after his wife, Jacquelyn Andrews, and Isidore, Jr. The three oldest sons are deceased.*

CK: . . . that's fine. Now we've got that background. Mr. Mizell, what kind of work did you do when you came to Dania in 1910?

IM: I worked on the farm and raised tomatoes, and beans, . . .

MM: You're forgetting . . .

EH: What about the Pine Island grove where you worked for John Bryan first?

IM: We worked and stayed out there on the grove seven years.

And, then, we came from Mr. Bryan's grove to Dania and we lived there in Dania from then until 1963 when we moved to Fort Lauderdale. And we've been here ever since.

CK: How many years have you been retired from work? You're ninety-nine now.

IM: Well, I retired . . .

EH: He retired when Ivory took over the property and the business and such. He really retired when he had an accident about five years ago.

CK: So, you worked up till you were past ninety years of age? And what kind of work were you doing back then?

IM: I farmed and worked with carpenters. There was a bunch of carpenters working there, and I worked along with all of them until the time would come to farm and we'd go back to the farm.

CK: Whereabouts in Dania did you farm?

IM: We were staying there in Dania and we worked on the farm until the boll weevil came and shut the farming down in Dania. We couldn't raise any tomatoes; the blooms would drop off. So that's when I got to working with the carpenters, building houses and shacks here in Dania for about thirty years. And, then, in 1963 we came to Fort

Lauderdale, and we've been here in Fort Lauderdale ever since. But I haven't been able to do anything since. My working days are gone.

CK: Well you worked long enough. What do you remember about Mr. John Bryan?

IM: He was the finest man I ever worked with in my life. He was a nice man. I couldn't expect anybody to treat us as nice as he did. We stayed right there [c. 1917] until he decided to go to the range up there in Kissimmee. He left us in charge of every thing, the house he lived in, and all. They didn't move anything. They just left their stuff there in our charge. And they'd come back sometimes and spend a day or two, or a week, there and then they'd go back again to the range. But, Mr. John Bryan was a fine man. He was a good man. And he treated us just as nice as he could. We don't want anybody to treat us any better than Mr. Bryan did.

CK: Did he work hard, himself?

IM: Mr. Bryan was a range man, he raised cattle. He brought a bunch of cattle down here but the cattle couldn't stay down here because

\*See "Behind the Scenes," inside front cover.



these glades got under water; there weren't any canals down here. There was nothing to take the water away. And when the big rains came, all those rains we had, the cattle would get under water, and he had to carry the cattle back. He did come back, but they couldn't live here at that time. There weren't any canals here. And there wasn't any way to get the water away from here; you couldn't pump the water off because there was nowhere to pump it.

CK: You say he took the cattle off, what did he do with them, take them up to Kissimmee?

IM: Now, I don't know what he did with them, but he loaded them in box cars and carried them back to Kissimmee; and I imagine he put them out on the range; but, I didn't go up there. He didn't ever carry me to Kissimmee, where the cattle range was, with him. But when he'd come back here, sometimes he'd stay a week at a time.

CK: Well, did you work with him out here, with the cattle, or did you stay just on the grove?

IM: I just stayed on the grove. What time I worked for Mr. Bryan, I was on his grove.

CK: Was he here when you came?

IM: Yes, sir. They were living out on the grove at that time and they moved and went to Kissimmee on a ranch where they were raising cattle and left me and my wife out there on the grove and we took care of the grove and they were raising cattle up there at Kissimmee.

CK: What made you come to Dania, to Modello, from Hamilton County?

IM: I had some friends who told me that you could raise a thousand dollars worth of tomatoes on one acre of land. And they said this was the best tomato land. They'd plant them in seven foot rows and they'd fill them rows up with tomatoes, just as pretty as you want to see. And you just set your bucket down and filled it up. They were

the prettiest tomatoes I had ever seen in my life. And Livingston Blue was the name of the tomato seed that we were using at that time. And, from then on, Mr. [John B.] Gregory got to raising seed right there in Dania. And he'd have a bunch of tomato seed, and they called them Gregory seed.

CK: Did you know J.M. Holding?

MM: Yes.

IM: Sure. Yes, sir, he was one of the old citizens there in Dania. When I came there, there weren't but seven old citizens there: Mr. Roper, Mr. Holding, Mr. Frost, and Mr. Tubbs, and . . .

CK: You mean there were only seven families there when you came?

IM: Seven families, and it was Modello then; it wasn't Dania, it was Modello.

CK: What do you remember about Mr. [A.C.] Frost, the old man . . .

IM: Mr. Frost, the father, was running the store, and he had Mr. Martin Frost and Mr. Greg Frost clerking in it. And Mr. Willis had a store on the other side of the street. There were only two stores in Dania when I came here, and Mr. Frost was running one of them.

CK: Now, what kind of man was Mr. Frost, the old man? How was he to get along with?

IM: I didn't deal too much with the old man, but Mr. Martin C. Frost was a nice man to get along with. We rented a lot of land from Mr. Martin Frost, to farm on, and so I think the best acquaintances I had in Dania were Mr. Frost, Mr. Edge, and Mr. John Gregory. They were the best men whom I knew to help me out. They treated me very nice. They'd let me have land anywhere they had it to lend.

CK: How much would you pay in rent for an acre of land?

IM: Sometimes they'd charge us ten dollars, but they never did charge too much for the rent. Seven, and eight, and ten dollars per acre.

CK: Per year?

IM: Yes. The highest I know of was fifty dollars for five acres. That's the highest rent I ever paid.

CK: Who'd you pay that to?

IM: Mr. Martin Frost.

CK: Was it good land for raising tomatoes?

IM: The east side [east side of present Federal Highway] over there would make the best tomatoes that you'd want to raise.

CK: Do you remember when, in 1918, the canals were dug to drain the land? Or, do you remember any ditches over there?

IM: The first canal cut through there was in 1917 when they cut that little Dania Cut-off Canal. That's two years after we sent seven men to Tallahassee to get Broward County. They got up there and got them to divide some land off Dade County and some off Palm Beach County, and made Broward in 1915.

CK: You remember who those seven men were?

IM: I know some of them. Mr. [S.M.] Alsobrook was one from Dania. Mr. Martin Frost was another.

CK: How about Tom Bryan?

IM: Well, Tom Bryan wasn't a Dania man, so far as I knew . . .

CK: He was from Fort Lauderdale.

IM: Yes, sir, that's right.

CK: Do you mean that there were seven who went from Dania, or seven that went up there altogether?

IM: Well, sir, they had to be in Dania for me to be acquainted with them because we didn't get around too much. Nobody had any automobiles at that time. And then, Mr. Bryan had an automobile, one of about three. And Mr. Mulligan had one.

CK: That's when the county was formed?

IM: Yes, I don't think anybody else owned an automobile. There



were about three automobiles there in Dania.

CK: What do you know about Mr. Holding [first Broward County Superintendent of Public Schools]?  
IM: Well he had a grove not too far from Mr. Bryan's grove. And he came out there sometimes with some tangerines. Mr. Bryan didn't have any. And he'd give me a box full. And I thought that was mighty nice of him. I never did get too well acquainted with him, never did work for him, never had many dealings with him. Mr. Frost and Mr. Edge and Mr. John Gregory and Mr.

Tubbs . . . there was a man who I was well acquainted with.

CK: Mr. Harry Tubbs was the mayor of Dania in 1925. Now, do you remember when there was a lot of building in Dania in 1925, 1926?

IM: Yes, sir, I remember those houses they built and . . .

CK: Do you remember the Dania Beach Hotel? The president of the company that built it was A.J. Ryan from Chicago. And several of the people were from Chicago. Do you remember A.J. Ryan?

**LEFT:** Left to right, Von, Ivory, Minnie and baby Murray, and Isidore Mizell. (C. 1914.)

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Front row, left to right, Moylend DeLoche, T.H. Hampton, Lottye DeLoche, Roslyn Papy, Minnie Mizell, Trudy Marzo, Guilda Bryant, Lonnie Peck. Back row, left to right, Ethel Papy, Bernice Peck, Maisie Mizell, Ervean Hampton, Don Mizell, Lorenza Mizell, Greg Mizell, Myrtis Mizell, Loraine Mizell, Isidore, Jr. (C. 1950.)

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Minnie and Isidore Mizell. (C. 1940.) (Courtesy of the Mizell family.)



IM: A.J. Ryan sold real estate. He was one of the Dania citizens, too. Mr. Labree was a bicycle man. He rented bicycles and I used to rent bicycles from him sometimes to go on a little trip. Mr. Labree was a nice man, too. I don't think he had anything but a little truck; I don't believe he had a car.

CK: Do you remember when Tiger-tail Road was built?

IM: I remember when they finished it. They had a little dike filled up there to go through on, but they finished that.

EH: Yes, it did have that. It used to go over like a little bridge.

CK: Did it cross a canal, was that it?

EH: Yes. It's right between Griffin Road and Stirling Road.

CK: Do you remember Lercy Bryan?

EH: [laughter] Excuse me, he raised Lercy Bryan.

IM: Now, Lercy Bryan was one of Mr. Bryan's boys.

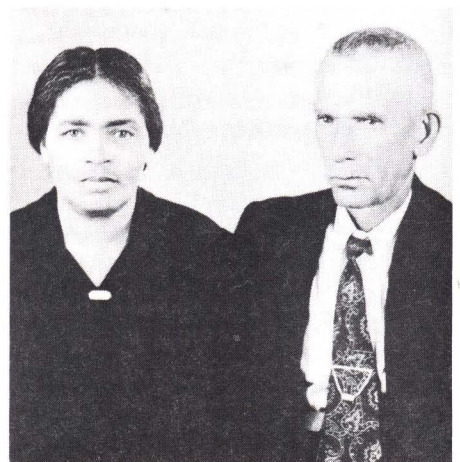
CK: How many boys did he have?

MM: Two.

IM: Murray was the oldest boy.

CK: I knew Lercy; I used to play ball against him. He's a tough little cookie. Let me ask you, what person did more for Dania than anyone else, to build it up, to improve it?

IM: If I were to give you the best of my knowledge, it was Mr. Martin Frost. He sold the Dania





people all the lots they had in Dania. They divided the tract of land that their old man [A.C.] Frost had there, on the west side of the railroad, and they laid that off for the colored people. Well, they never squared them lots up, they ran them right by the railroad. One lot is nine feet longer on one end than it is on the other. The lots are not square in colored town. Mr. Frost is the man who owned the property and he sold them for little or next to nothing. Some paid ten dollars for a lot. And Mr. Frost would give them five years to pay it. And they needed every bit of it.

CK: Sounded like some poor people back in those days.

EH: That's right.

IM: And that's the way we bought the lots in Dania. We bought them from Mr. Martin Frost.

CK: Do you wish you had bought more land?

IM: Well, I'll tell you, I had a chance to buy forty and fifty acres of land, but I thought there'd come a day when I'd be sorry I bought it; that I'd be tax poor. Mr. Alsobrook owned a lot of land and he was tax poor. Mr. [Joseph W.] Young came down there and bought [Mr. Alsobrook 's] land and built Hollywood. Now, Mr. Alsobrook had got to where he couldn't pay his taxes.

CK: Well, Mr. Alsobrook owned that land where Hollywood is now, is that right?

IM: That's right. He owned that land and sold it to Mr. Young. Mr. Young gave him a hundred twenty thousand dollars for that whole tract of land back in there. And Mr. Alsobrook came to me and asked me what will he do with all that money. Mr. Alsobrook was surprised, he was so happy. He had one boy and the boy had one eye. And Mr. Alsobrook bought that land and sold that land to Mr. Young.

CK: Who owned the land where the two million dollar banyan tree was located? Was it [P.H.] Roper?

Where Brooks came in later, around the curve, there.

IM: Mr. [George B.] Hinkley.

CK: Right. He put in a lot of different kinds of shrubbery there. He had a nursery.

EH: Did any colored people own any of the land on the east side?

IM: Not that I knew of. If any did, I didn't know it.

CK: According to the newspaper accounts, Mr. Holding owned more land over there than anybody else.

EH: I thought the Frost's did.

CK: Not according to the newspapers. But, Frost owned a lot. So, you would say that Mr. Martin C. Frost did the most for the people of Dania. Do you know his daughter, Mrs. Jeanette Eby?

MM: Oh, yes . . .

IM: Yes, I know Mr. Frost, his family, all of them.

CK: Do you remember I.T. Parker?

IM: I.T. Parker passed on to his sweet beyond. He's gone but I've been told that his brother [William S.] is living somewhere. Ervean, where's his brother?

EH: He's in a nursing home in Hollywood. Both of them were bankers . . .

IM: I.T. [Parker] is the one who started the bank. He started that bank in 1912 and there was none in Dania before that.

CK: Did you come up to Fort Lauderdale often?

IM: No, sir, about once a year.

CK: Up to the courthouse?

IM: After they made this Broward County I had to come to Lauderdale about once a year to pay my taxes. I stayed in Dania from 1915, the time when they made Broward County, until 1963, when I came to live up here in Lauderdale.

CK: How did you get money to send your children to college, like Dr. Von Mizell? Did he work his way through?

MM: We worked and helped him.

IM: Well I'm going to tell you, the colleges weren't like they are now. You could send a child to college for forty-five dollars a month, at that time; and I could get up forty-five dollars to pay one's board and keep one in school all the time. There was plenty of work there that I could get enough to get up to forty-five dollars. But, if you had a child now and you wanted to send him to college, you'd have to go somewhere else.

CK: Well what were you doing when you sent Von to college?

IM: I'd farm in the winter, up until the last of April. Then, I would go out and catch little jobs here and yonder, building and helping people to build things.

CK: How much would you get per hour, carpentering?

IM: We got a dollar and a quarter an hour.

CK: That's ten dollars a day. That was pretty good money back in those days.

IM: I thought I'd rather do that than to farm.

CK: What about the mosquitoes, what did you do when the mosquito season was here; how did you fight the mosquitoes?

IM: We had mosquito nets. We'd put a mosquito net over the bed we slept in. And, in fact, we had to fight mosquitoes all the time.

CK: What did you do when you were out working?

IM: The mosquitoes wouldn't bother you too much when you were working. I never saw mosquitoes when we were working. But at night, when you laid down to rest, they'd come in; they'd be so thick you could just catch a handful of them.

CK: Did you ever have smudge pots?

MM: Yes, sir. That's right, we had smudge pots. We would burn insect powder, too. Sometimes we'd just make a smoke out of rags.

CK: How about the churches? Did



you go to church?

IM: Yes, sir, we went to church; we were Missionary Baptists. We went to St. Ruth's Church every Sunday.

EH: Tell him that you built St. Ruth's Church.

IM: Oh, I built the church, I built it three different times. The storm blew it down one time and I built it back. Then they decided that they wanted a block building. That church is still there. I built that church from the ground up. I poured the foundation and went on up to the top.

EH: It might be interesting to know that he and another man [Joe Sidney] built the first black school. Mr. Martin Frost gave the land.

CK: Do you remember what year or about when it would be?

EH: It must have been . . . Attucks was built in '26 and six years before that . . .

CK: About 1920. I know it was being renovated in 1925, I got the school board records. And the colored school building in Dania was being renovated in 1925 when James S. Rickards was the county superintendent of the schools. Mr. Holding went out in about 1915 and Mr. Rickards came in and stayed in until 1928. Mr. Bennett came in in 1931 and stayed until 1952 . . . Do you know where Dania got its name?

IM: Well, it was named Modello before. They changed the name to Dania after they found out that the Danes were the first people to come here.

**RIGHT: Ervean Hampton, Isidore Mizell. (C. 1981.)**

**FAR RIGHT: Minnie Mizell. (C. 1981.)**

CK: The Frosts were Danish. A.C. Frost, the father, came from Denmark to Illinois in the 1870s. Did you know Monty Smith? He wasn't an old-timer. He was a policeman, a police chief on the sheriff's department. I played ball with him for years and years.

IM: Well, I remember him.

CK: Were there any paved roads in Dania when you came [in 1910]? Or, were they all sand roads?

IM: No, they had rock roads.

CK: Incidentally, did you come down by train when you came in 1910?

MM: Came down by train.

CK: Where did you stay when you first came down?

MM: Mr. Bryan had a little house that we stayed in.

CK: So, the first work that you did was in Mr. Bryan's grove and you stayed with Mr. Bryan for seven years . . .

MM: Right.

CK: And you went into farming for yourself in about 1917. Did you ever go to the beach when you were young, back in those days?

MM: We'd go sometimes.

IM: We'd go down there sometimes when the church would have a meeting and they'd want to go down to the beach and then picnic. We'd baptize people in the ocean.

CK: You had to have a boat to get across the canal, didn't you? There was no bridge back then.

IM: We had a bridge.

CK: Did you go to the beach regularly?

MM: No, just went on occasions.

CK: Did you ever go hunting?

IM: Why, racoon and 'possum would come up all around our house. And rabbits, you'd catch all of them roaming around the grove, there. We had rabbits and 'coons and 'possums.

CK: Were there any wild turkeys?

MM: A few.

CK: Did you have any contact with the Indians?

MM: I didn't. They would come by and ask to pick oranges sometimes.

CK: Ever go fishing?

IM: We went fishing quite often. We'd go striking at night and kill all the fish that we wanted with a striking iron. The glades were all full of water and nice big warm perch would be out there. We had a torch that we'd hold up over the





water and you could see the fish down there just as plain as if it was wide open daytime.

CK: So, it was clear water, then?

IM: That's right. They'd be down there. And there was one lady there, Mrs. Blount, a widow woman, who'd go striking, too. Lot of nights she'd be down there striking, carrying us some feed, and we'd be down there and we'd kill all kinds of fish, these would bite, you know, what they called a pike fish.

CK: I've heard of it.

IM: They lay right on top of the water. You could see them, easy. But, the mudfish and the catfish would be down in the deep water.

CK: Did you consider yourself, in relation to the other blacks in Dania, well-off, or average, or below average? How did you think about yourself? We all think about ourselves and, you know, how we fit in. Were you any better situated than most other blacks in Dania or, what do you think about it?

MM: I didn't think much about it. I felt very comfortable. It was families, the [Leola C.] Chambers family, Miss [Mary] Chambers, and Mr. Collins' wife whom we associated with and . . .

CK: Well, did you think of yourself as being rich?

MM: No, always felt poor, very poor.

CK: Who were some of the blacks down there besides the Collins family?

MM: There were the Chambers and the Mac Smiths. There was Miss Lottie Taylor, a black in Dania; she's very intelligent, and Mr. and Mrs. Perkins.

CK: Were most of these people farmers?

MM: Yes, though, of the wives, Mrs. Collins ran a store and Mrs. Perkins was a maid. Mrs. Chambers was a midwife, a granny.

CK: So, you didn't go to a hospital;

you had the granny, a midwife, here. How much would the midwife charge?

MM: I think the charge was three dollars. And it went up to ten.

CK: She finally went up to ten dollars. That was really an outrageous charge, ten dollars.

MM: That was terrible.

CK: Did the blacks ever get together and have a community picnic, or something like that?

MM: Yes, we had picnics. We would go to the beach sometimes and have a group picnic. Maybe one church would get together.

CK: But, did you have any group outside the church?

MM: Well, yes, if they'd want to come they'd be welcome. All they had to do was to bring their baskets of food.

CK: Did you have a baseball team?

MM: Well, we didn't have a regular team in Dania. The boys played ball.

CK: Your children grew up in Dania, of course. How old was Von when you came down here?

MM: He was about three years old.

CK: So, he got all his schooling down here, then.

MM: That's right.

CK: He must have been in one of the first schools that they had in Dania.

MM: Well, I reckon so. They had four months of school there. They started in July, I think it was. That's all.

CK: He must have done some studying at home, then. Did you encourage him to be a medical doctor?

MM: Well, we did.

CK: Where did he go to college?

MM: Morehouse, in Atlanta. First he went to Florida Normal, a high school, in St. Augustine.

CK: Florida Normal has been made into a college, Florida Memorial College, down in Miami. Of course

you had to pay for that, too, when he attended Florida Normal.

MM: Oh, yes.

CK: Where did he go to medical school?

MM: Meharry, in Nashville.

CK: So he went from here to St. Augustine, to Atlanta, to Nashville, and then he came back here to practice. Do you ever go to this big center [the Dr. Von D. Mizell building] down here, about three blocks away, that's named in his memory?

MM: Well, I've been crippled; we had a bad wreck about five years ago. I was there for the dedication, but didn't go inside the building.

EH: All the school children went to the dedication . . .

CK: Did you have a car down in Dania when you were young, say, in the 1920s when the boom time came?

MM: I think we did. I think in the boom time we had a car . . . when did we get the first car that we owned?

IM: I don't remember, Minnie, the year we did get that car . . . it was a Ford. We used to drive that Ford up to Jasper, the county where we were raised, and . . . we never had too much trouble with that Ford car. I believe they were built better then, than they are now. I believe they were good cars, the Ford cars. Do you know one thing, the President of the United States, Mr. James Carter, wrote us a congratulations when we were married seventy years and I didn't even know he knew that we were in the world.

CK: When were you married? It had to be before you got here in 1910.

IM: Me and my wife left Hamilton County, and came all the way down here. We came from Genoa, Florida, to Palatka and crossed over there on the other side of the river and got on the [Florida] East Coast train, and when we got off, we got



off in Dania. We didn't know anybody in Dania when we got off there. But, there was a fellow there they called Joe Young. We went to his house and asked if there were any boarding houses or any place where we could stay at night. And he said, "Come on in. You can stay right here." And we stayed there with him that night and, the next morning, I asked him how much did we owe him. He said, "nothing but due respect." And, we didn't have to pay him one penny, and we'd never seen the man before.

CK: Did you see him after that?

IM: Yes, I saw him several times, about two years after that.

CK: What kind of food did you have to eat?

MM: Plenty of green vegetables.

CK: Was your garden by your house or out where you farmed tomatoes?

MM: Out where we farmed tomatoes sometimes.

CK: What kind of stoves did you have?

MM: Wood stoves.

CK: Did you ever own a coal-oil stove, where you had burners on it?

MM: Yes, but I never really liked it.

CK: You liked the wood stove the best?

MM: Oh, yes.

CK: What did you do for air-conditioning?

MM: We didn't have anything like that.

CK: What did you use, a fan?

MM: No.

CK: Keep the windows open?

MM: Well, when we had mosquitoes so bad, you couldn't keep the windows open.

CK: You ever have much cold weather then?

MM: Oh, no, we wouldn't ordinarily get the cold.

CK: But you still got cold enough

that you had to make a fire at times, didn't you?

MM: Not much.

IM: We used to put a chimney into every house we built. And, we'd have a fireplace in there. But, mosquitoes, after so long a time they got the mosquitoes killed off, they'd just come and spray the whole home and get rid of those mosqui-

toes. Got rid of them, quick. Now, you won't find too many mosquitoes, here. You might find a few, but you won't find too many.

CK: What thing helped you most when you were in Dania in the early days, say in 1910, 1915? What helped you the most to keep going? It was a hard life. What kept you going? Was it faith in God?

MM: Oh yes, I've always been a practicing Christian.

CK: In other words, as a Christian you had hope that God was in control of things, that He was watching out for you.

MM: Yes.

CK: Did you think about life getting better, that: "Someday, if we keep saving our money we can buy some land; maybe sometime we can retire!" Did you ever think like that?

MM: I never felt as though I would ever be able to sit down. But, I just prayed and asked for good health so I could be able to take care of myself.

CK: Did you have good health?

MM: Good health, both of us, always.

CK: If you had to change your life, in just one way, what would that change be?

MM: The only change that I have made in my life that I'm not too satisfied with, although I've accepted it, was moving from Dania up here to Fort Lauderdale. I had good friends. I didn't give it much thought when I was moving. I had GOOD friends there, and I got along well with them. But, I'm up here in this area, and I haven't been

able to make the friends here that I had there. I'm just not able to get out and do it. You know, people will meet you half way probably, but you've got to do something yourself. And I'm not able to do this, and he is not able; so we just sit here on the porch.

CK: So, you miss your friends that you lived with for so long in Dania, you miss them more than anything else. . .

MM: Right. I miss the white and the colored. I had a good white friend there that I thought a lot of . . .

CK: Tell me about your father?

IM: Well, he was a good family man, a good provider, and he raised ten head of children right there in Hamilton County.

CK: Where'd he come from?

IM: They brought him to Georgia, to the sale block, and sold him to Mizell, and Mizell brought him to Florida . . . We got the name from Mizell who bought him off the sale block in Traders Hill, Georgia, and brought him here. There are a lot of Mizells here, now. They're scattered all over the United States. But, my father and his brother were the only Mizells brought from Traders Hill, Georgia. My grandmother came from Africa. When Mizell bought him off the sale block in Georgia, that was in '59 . . .

CK: How old was your father then?

IM: He was twelve years old when FREEDOM came.

CK: If he was sold as a slave in 1859, then he was six years old when he was bought. Did your father live to be an old man?

IM: Seventy-eight.

CK: You've out raced him twenty-one years, so far.

IM: Yes, sir.

CK: Well, this has been a very delightful time talking to you and getting this information. I know it's hard to recall things over such a long period, from around 1900 up to the present time. Thank you very much.





We are pleased to join your family and friends in sending you our warmest congratulations on your wedding anniversary. May love and devotion continue to bless your marriage.

*Rosalynn Carter*

*Jimmy Carter*

Mailed from the White House on January 4, 1979. (Courtesy of the Mizell family.)

Fanny + William Moore

Angela + Henry Mizell

Minnie Moore

+

Isidore Mizell

(chronological list of children)

1. Von + Alpha Campbell  
Sharon, Von D.
2. Ivory + Vera Glass  
Lorraine, Myrtis
3. Murray + Jonnifer  
John, Toinette
4. Ethel + Lilburne Pappy  
Roslyn, Adlai
5. Ervean + LeRoy MacSmith  
LeRoy, Jr.  
+ T.H. Hampton  
Ernest, Lottye
6. Bernice + Lonnie Peck  
Trudy

7. Taft Mizell + Mildred
8. Earl + Ruby Butterfield  
Errol, Ralph
9. Zeal
10. Gwendolyn + Nathaniel Mosby  
Nadalyn, Howard, Philip,  
David, Warren
11. Lorenza + Maisie Bradford  
Don, Greg
12. Guilda + Johnnie Kirk Bryant  
John, Angela, Wendell
13. Jacquelyn + Andre Andrews  
Joyce, Anthony, Derick
14. Isidore Mizelle, Jr. + Odessa  
Carl, Kendra





Fort Laud