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**HIS 6934 Oral History**  
Department of History  
Florida Atlantic University

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Since we are recording this interview, we may record statements you make about yourself or others that you may not want to have included in the public archives. In order to minimize this risk, you will be asked to sign a release form only at the end of the interview so that you will be fully aware of the content of the interview before agreeing to or restricting its public use and preservation. Participation is voluntary; your refusal to participate will involve no penalty to either the subject or the student researcher, and you may discontinue participation at any time.

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For questions regarding your rights as an interviewee, the Office of Sponsored Research of Florida Atlantic University can be contacted at (561) 297-2310. For other questions related to the study, you may call the Professor Heather T. Frazer at (561) 297-3836.

Thank you for your cooperation. You will receive a copy of this form for your records.

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**MAYOR  
FRANK J. McDONOUGH**

**BZ.** *February 20, 2001 I'm Barbara Zisk. I'm a student at FAU--a student of Professor Heather Frazer's Oral History class, History 6934. I'm interviewing retired mayor, Frank McDonough of Lighthouse Point FL. So, we can start now...*

**FM** Okay.

**BZ** *Why don't you tell me some of your background.*

**FM** All right Barbara. As briefly as I can... I was born a long time ago 1919. I finished--grammar school, in Chicago, high school in Chicago, Mt. Carmel High School, University of Notre Dame, in 1941. And then I spent four years in service with the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force, twenty-eight months in Europe... to do my duty. Prior to that in '41, I had started Northwestern law school, but had to give that up. And was working for my Dad. The family business was out in the stockyards of Chicago. [It] was called *The Live Stock Press* and we printed farm journals, and--sports magazines, and general printing. Mostly for the--stockyards people so it was all farm oriented stuff. It was very interesting. And that all in 1953 disappeared because the stockyards disappeared. The major companies dealing in livestock moved to the Corn Belt areas of Kansas, Missouri, and Colorado. A printing place like ours (I used to remember the name) out in the Corn Belt area offered to print all the magazines free for a year, [laugh] if they would take their business out there. So they did. And ah, so our business--that part of our business more or less disappeared over a period of time. And it was right about then '52, '53 that I was able to sell it because there was a lot of other business with it. And we moved to Florida in '54, my wife [Marge] and the kids moved here in '53. I moved here in '54. We moved right to the area that is now Lighthouse Point. Let's see, we got our Lighthouse Point Charter in June of 56 and we were here two to three years earlier with maybe another 150 families.

**BZ** *Why'd you pick Florida to just pick up and move to?*

**FM** Well... Marge's family had come down here. Her aunt and uncle--lived here as a matter of fact. They traveled a lot but they also lived down in Ft. Lauderdale in the Isles. They had a home and then Marge's mother retired as a schoolteacher and came down here. So it was logical that we come here with two kids at the time. And really, it was an opportunity to sell our house and sell the business [in Chicago]. And--we came here.

**BZ** *Oh, that was the same reason I came. My folks were down here, so we came down here because of family.*

**FM** See, right. We had a little extra compulsion--it was hay fever. During that August in Chicago... the kids seemed to have little hay fever... So, it made a lot of sense, particularly since I was more or less freed up. But now I came down here--not owing a penny but not having a penny [laugh]. So I had to look around. And that's when I got into the real estate business. It seemed to be--and it was, very good over the years. And I've been a realtor since 1955--till the present--that's, forty-six years (I think).

**BZ** *There was a lot to sell in forty-six years.*

**FM** Right. There was. And--we did our best [laugh] to sell it... And I know you don't want to talk about me but--along the way, I was President and General Manager of Frank J. McDonough and Assoc. Realtors. I put in about a three to four year apprenticeship with a company in Pompano, starting in '54. And then opened my own office in '59. That was in the Beacon Light Shopping Center and I had that for about thirty-five years encompassing the time that I was mayor. So I had a nice office, a nice bunch of folks who could keep things rolling while I was at City Hall until noon or one o'clock or whatever. As Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the City of Lighthouse Point (we didn't have an assistant back then). I had to prepare the budget. The mayor had to do just about everything--but let's see... in 1963 I first went on the commission at the request of all the other commissioners. I was busy trying to sell real estate, but I had been involved in getting the charter for the city. And ah, this rambling too much?

**BZ** *No. No, not at all. Actually this is great. How do you put together a charter? I mean you said you were a part of that...*

**FM** Well... the way that came about in '55, early in 1955, we had--a bunch of people scattered around this area before it was Lighthouse Point. We had a little bowling team the bowling alley had just opened. We used to bowl and then stop at the Buccaneer Bar and have a beer on the way home. And--one night we were sitting around the Buccaneer Bar, as I recall. The daily paper which was--the Ft. Lauderdale paper at the time and there was a little paper in Pompano Beach... which later became the Sun-Sentinel... (they use to call it a fish

wrapper [laugh]... you know, [laugh] it was pretty bad) Both papers made note that Pompano had asked to annex the three mile area between Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach. They wanted to take that area a little over three miles long and about a mile and a half deep. So the subject got around to that and I said, "How can we--this is a beautiful strip of land--can't we do something with it?" So there was a fellow by the name of Russell Clark (he was an attorney in Deerfield) and he said, "I'll get you a charter." And we said, "Good, if you can, let's go do it." So to make a long story short he did. He got us a charter in June of '56 and we made him the first mayor. And there was a bunch of other guys that became commissioners at the time before we had the first election. And--so that's how the Lighthouse Point charter came about. There were other meetings, you know, to get it rolling. But most of the work was done by Russell Clark, the first mayor. And he used the Salt Lake City charter, as an example. And I remember for years we were taking out references to Salt Lake City that appeared in our charter [laugh] because it hadn't been taken out. So--that's the way we got started.

In June of, '56 we got our charter. We had a little building that was the original police department. We didn't have the fire station or anything else at that time. And that's how we got started... From '56-'72 we did not have an ad valorem tax, or any kind of--tax burden. Excuse me [cough], and most of it was volunteerism and we had a volunteer fire department. Half of the police department were volunteers. The only paid people we had were the city clerks, and they weren't paid very much [laugh] at the time... But we got money from building permits. The federal government at the time was subsidizing some of the small cities. Each year we got some sort of--subsidy from the government. We got money from--a few stores in Beacon Light. That was the main shopping center with an A&P, something like that. And we got cigarette tax money. We got liquor tax money. We got gasoline tax money from the couple of stations around. And that's what we lived on from 1956 to 1972.

**BZ** *I saw in the paper that the mayor's paid now a little over \$10,000. Do you remember what you were paid for your first years as mayor?*

**FM** Yes, initially we all got \$15 a month. And--I think at first we got nothing. But somewhere along in there right after '56, '57, '58, they put in \$15 a month for the mayor and the commissioners. Then somewhere along the line--the mayor's salary went up to \$150 and then it was that until it became \$10,000 in the last ten years maybe.

**BZ** *So maybe it jumped from \$150 to \$10,000 with no increments in-between? That's interesting.*

**FM** Yes I think so.

**BZ** *You missed out on the big bucks.*

**FM** [laugh] Right. Well we were brought up on volunteerism.

**BZ** *Well, that's it...*

**FM** You have something nice; let's keep it nice. And our philosophy was... we have something here that is really choice, I mean it is right at the inlet, we eventually had 18 miles of waterways ... Bob Bateman dug his [canals], and Bob Sullivan dug his [canals]... so we would have the lowest tax burden--in the county. There were thirty-one municipalities then. And we would have the highest services. Which--has always been the case. And we always kept it [the tax burden] low and we're still I guess... you know, down there. One of the reasons was our [starting salaries] even after we had to start becoming a city in every aspect. That happened in 1972 and I can tell you about that. Our... salaries in comparison to the rest of the cities--were always very low. So our people had a long way to come ... and we were fortunate in that respect that, every year or two, we were able to give a decent increase--to our people because we've always had wonderful people. And we were willing to embrace the idea of part volunteerism [laugh] and ... the need to work and earn.

And ah, in '72 the state legislature tried to pass a bill, which mandated that no charter could be maintained, no city charter... unless there was a minimum of 25,000 city residents. Well that put a whole bunch of us out of business right away. So we went up and fought it. We spent some time in lobbying... and we won. But out of it came the need to become a city in all aspects. So we had to have a fully paid and staffed fire department, which we began assembling. Picked a new chief... at that time. Right after that, Paul Mannino [the police chief] came in and he was a real pro. And we had to build a fire station... and get a paid fire department. We had a fellow, they called him Frenchy, and he was French Canadian. He was just a grand character, but very fiery. And he ran the fire department, as a volunteer. And all of us, we all were volunteers. You know, he said, "You're a volunteer so if you hear the whistle blowing come out and see what's going." So

that's the way we did it. And then in '72, '73, we built the fire department to about where it is now. I think five people, five people a shift, three shifts, you know, 24 on 48 [hours] off and then union got involved. And--little by little, we became a city in every respect--which included a need for more financing. And you know more salaries, this, that and the other...

So in 1972, I was the mayor at the time, [cough] I put in the utility tax. I think it was 5%. And there was such a clamor. There were... probably four or five hundred families here. But at that time the majority were--retired, semi-retired and retired folk. And they objected to the utility tax. For the reason that it--couldn't be taken off their IRS return. So, the commission did away [laugh] with the utility tax and imposed the ad valorem tax of 2 mills. It was practically nothing, but it was enough to keep us. And then gradually we built up, we had a city clerk, and then we got a couple of other--girls in the office. We got a paid recreation department; John Trudell came on as Recreation Director. And... what else....

Well we started the parks. That was about the time that we bought the two five acres parcels... one from the Catholic Church, the one over there [St. Paul's on Sample Road] and the one from the Church of the Later Day Saints that's Dan Witt Park now. So we had to have money, to make those into parks. Before they were just ball fields and things. That we kept up, you know. And, that's how gradually we got started and also that's about the time that the city really started to grow. So we went along with just modicum increases, year after year. Always the lowest tax burden as we anticipated and it's kind of kept that way. The present regime sees need for new buildings and these are thirty-five to forty years old when you stop to think of it. Our approach would probably have been to "let's repair the daylight out of it", do a real good job, you know. And ... get some labor thrown in and do this and do that. And ... fix the police department, but they're talking about tearing it down. Which maybe it needs, I don't know.

**BZ** *Well I think there are all sorts of regulations now that probably have crept in as you start to redo things.*

**FM** Yeah, yeah. So those were... some of the things, that... [looking at articles he brought]. This, just talks about me... All right, I was President of the City Commission from, '63 to '67. And then, from '67 on for twenty-one more years, I was Mayor and Chief Executive Officer but then we got an assistant so I don't know whether that pertains. I was President of Deerfield Beach Board of Realtors, in 1962. President of the Notre Dame Club of Ft. Lauderdale in '58. I received the Notre Dame Man of the Year award '58. Want to hear this?

**BZ** *Oh that's neat. Does that just deal with the club's Man of the Year?*

**FM** Yes, just the club. I was put up for a major [award]. It's here somewhere... [Going through his papers] It was at the University... one of my classmates sent in a--nomination for one of the awards, but I didn't get it [laugh]. And then, the Serra Club of Broward County of 1964. Vice President of the League of Cities '72-'74. I don't know whether you need any of this stuff.

**BZ** *It's nice to have some background on you. Obviously there were reasons why they wanted you to be mayor. They didn't just pluck you off the street.*

**FM** I guess, [laugh] I guess I was getting into so many things that--Greater Pompano Beach Chamber of Commerce Director '58-'61 and then, of course, I was President and General Manager of *The Live Stock Press* publishers in Chicago. My dad had passed on in '51, and ... so I had that experience. Then I was President of the Kiwanis Club in the stockyards area and also Lieutenant Governor [Kiwanis Club] that year or the next year. Then we started out, three of us started a real estate company in '54. I didn't start mine until '56. We started a small company in Deerfield, real estate, and then my two partners went their ways and I opened my own down at the Beacon Light Center.

**BZ** *You said they asked you to come in and be a commissioner?*

**FM** Yup.

**BZ** *So you ran obviously and were elected onto the commission. By then they were having elections?*

**FM** Yes.

**BZ** *What did you face when you were a commissioner? What were some of the key problems back then?*

**FM** Oh back then? Mostly growth, you know, there wasn't a great deal [of problems]. We heard appeals from builders... We had a Planning and Zoning board at the time. And appeals that were sent up to us as the final authority--City Commission heard those. Things like, a neighbor putting his air conditioning unit an inch over the set backs and therefore bothering his neighbor. Those kind of things... and we were also looking at our

charter. I mean we would take sections of our charter and look at it and see if it pertained to us as a small city. And--we did things like that.

There wasn't anything real exciting happening at the time. We had one fatality from a fire. But as a commissioner, I was President of the Commission for three of those five years and I just organized the meetings... kept them rolling. And--the Mayor (and I did this afterwards), would always send out ahead of meetings, information that would be coming up so that all the commissioners would have a working knowledge of what was going to be [discussed]. You know, so they wouldn't be caught surprised. And so we continued that. We always did that. And it worked out real well, so it held down the conflicts at commission meetings. But mainly we just heard the people. You know, back then it wasn't clear-cut that you have to go before Planning and Zoning. You might just walk up at the end of each meeting. There's a period of time for residents to talk and bring their problems. And--they [would] bring [them] right up and we'd hear them. And then we'd say, "Well--now you have to go back to P&Z" or "We suggest this..." or "We'll try to do this..." and that's just the way we operated. So it wasn't--real difficult--it's just that every Tuesday night you had to be there. That was the thing that I was trying to avoid, but I didn't. And so I get caught up in it.

And then as far as the mayor's situation, Russell Clark was our first mayor. And the pressure of his [law]business after about four or five years, became too strong, and he resigned... I remember the night he resigned. He and his wife--came before the City Commission--before us--and he had tears in his eyes. I mean it was such an important thing to him. He really choked up, and he said, "I'm just so busy." And he was. He was handling all the big ocean front business that was coming along. [Material removed at the request of the interviewee.] And then John McGinn became the Mayor. He was actually appointed by his peers on the commission. And then John McGinn four years later was asked to become the Administrator of the county, Broward County. And he accepted it. And that's when I was elected Mayor. I was Mayor for quite a while, twenty some years. And then Al Fletcher became the Mayor for two years. And Leo Bentz for two years, and then, at that point, I came back for four years. And the reason I came back for four years was--that there were some things that needed attention--it seemed like from the old group. Bill Sullivan was standing in the wings. He was Commissioner, President of the Commission, doing a great job. And he said he'd like to be Mayor and I said, "Well, I really don't want to keep going," But he forgot to resign in order to run. [Laugh] So at the last minute, I had to put my name in again and nobody ran against me. So I was four more years there--as mayor. And then at the end of that time I resigned. Then Bill ran and was elected. So that worked.

**BZ** *How much time did you have to spend out of your day as being Mayor?*

**FM** Well I was Mayor, in the early days particularly, we were doing everything. We had a city clerk, but we had to... we had to handle "hands on" all the little problems in town. And the idea was to try to do them before they got to the Commission. Some of them didn't. They would come to the commission meetings. But many people would just come in and wait to see the Mayor. So you'd handle all kinds of problems. That's why in the late '70s; we got an Assistant to the Mayor. You know our form of government is a strong mayor form of government, because the strong mayor is the closest elected representative to the people. And it's really a wonderful system. The mayor doesn't have a vote, five commissioners are the legislative branch and they're the ones who do the voting. Now the mayor has a veto power. And if the mayor doesn't like something that is going on she [the Mayor at this time is Marsha Linville] can advise them that when this comes up, "I'm going to veto it because I think this or think that." And it's always been the mayor being so close to it, on the day-to-day basis. The mayor would be the advisor--to the commissioners... and always say, "Here's what I think..." "Here's the way this goes down..." "Here's what city attorney says..." And--that's way the city runs, you know, carefully and well.

So--that was the way that we did it back then... At the time, I would spend mostly every morning... here at City Hall. And I made it a point to contact each department head, every day if I could, to find out what was going on. Back then the Mayor swore in everybody that was being employed. And--today, most of Public Works [employees] wave when I see them; because I swore them all in and they remember that. Most of the policemen,, although there are some new ones... they're people that I swore in. And they remember even if I forget their faces. And--so I averaged maybe, maybe three to four hours a day. Now that would be except for special meetings with county people or you know, all the different things that a city has to do. You meet with

the League of Cities representatives for insurance, for all the different things that we use that agency for. So the city was primary. It was what you thought about. And...

**BZ** *So it was a very big part time job?*

**FM** Yeah, oh yeah, it was ...

**BZ** *For free!*

**FM** For free [laugh].

**BZ** *When you were talking about you having to do certain things and have certain meetings, I wanted you to repeat your story about the increased water tax that you told on "Keepers' Day". That was such a great story. [Laugh]*

**FM** Yeah, that was in the late '60s. What had happen was that Ed Stack who owned the Silver Thatch Tennis Center over on the beach... It's now the Silver Thatch Condominiums and they have their tennis courts and everything. Well, it was the prime tennis center of South Florida at the time. Everybody who was anybody in tennis visited there, played there, and Ed Stack owned it. He also was the mayor of Pompano Beach and I happened to know him. We were in Kiwanis Club together. We were good friends and anyhow, he let it be known, and the press picked it up at one meeting that they [Pompano Beach] were going to... they were going to increase the water rates to the south part of Lighthouse Point. This was an area that was developed before it was a city and we took it in. We annexed it but they had subscribed to Pompano Beach for the water. And it was just a small area; maybe--I don't know, maybe one hundred homes or two hundred homes or something like that. But it was a considerable number of residents. And ah, I forget how it was brought to our attention, but I guess somebody saw it. And so we started talking about it... and we said, "We can't have that. It's unfair." and so forth. So I said, "I guess I'd better talk to Ed about that." You know, I never did get around to seeing him or talking to him about it. At one of the next meetings, the press brought it up and said, "Did you ever talk." I said, "No but, what I'm going to do I'm going to challenge him to a tennis match. See if he'll take me up on it and if he beats me then he can impose the increase in water rates." And the press picked this up and went back and forth and they brought it up at the next meeting in Pompano. It went two or three months, bantered back and forth. And finally we established a date that he and I would play. I guess, we had gotten all the mileage we could out of this crazy story [laugh] in the press.

The day of the tournament--Ed had--his pro was Ian Laver. Rod Laver was the great Australian left-handed tennis player for a long time. This was his cousin, who was also a great pro. He was the pro at the Silver Thatch at that time. Anyhow, I got word through the press again that Ed was taking secret lessons from Ian Laver. Late afternoon--he was doing this. He was getting ready. And, you know, we kept this thing going. The date came and I got over there and a couple of my friends came along with me. And--Ed had the band from Pompano Beach High School. Pompano [High School] was still there then. He had the cheerleaders. He had a professional sitting in the chair to mediate the match. He [the umpire] had been doing this all his life; everywhere, England, [Wimbledon] and a real pro... and [Ed] charged everybody a dollar. We all paid to get in and that money went to the band. And so anyhow, we played. This fellow in the chair called foot faults on me. He called out balls that were obviously in. He just harassed the daylights out of me all in good fun. And Ed's standing back there with a big smile on his face. But the thing was, he didn't have a chance. [Laugh] He wasn't that good. So... before we finished the first set he just threw his hands up and he said, "You win." And so he didn't increase the water rates. I think it was two to three years later before they started talking about them. So he kept his word. And--that's how we facetiously took care of one problem.

**BZ** *That's great. The newspapers called it the first annual; did you play any more after that?*

**FM** No.

**BZ** *That was it. No more athletic events for the mayor?*

**FM** No, not with Mayor Stack. He went on to be Sheriff and then he was a member of the House of Representatives in Washington. And, he was a great guy. He was just a great guy. One other quick story while we're thinking of them. When the police chief--when we hired Paul Mannino--25 years ago. I took him around town. And ah, I said, "Nice quiet town." It's the way we like it. We like the police officers to stop and talk to the people. You get to know the people. You'll know what is going on... And that policy really paid off because two or three times we caught people burglarizing a house. An officer happens to be riding by and knew that there was something strange or different cars [in front]... So, within two weeks after he was hired and I

[had]told him nothing [ever]happens, we had a plane fall into town. And [it]landed right up against a house. And right against the bedroom of a bunch of kids. Over on 31<sup>st</sup>, nobody was hurt. Fortunately they had all these big old pine trees surrounding the house and the plane went into these trees. What had happen was, apparently the pilot had fallen asleep in his plane and, he had set his course. But the plane kept going like that. We heard it going around, around and around, lower and lower. Finally it came in over the Intercoastal houses and went right into the house. Nothing could be done about it because the guy couldn't be aroused. [Material removed at the request of the interviewee.] Then during the two-week period we had a bomb scare. The bomb scare, I remember it was two or three in the morning before the bomb squad from Miami got up to us and dismantled the thing.

**BZ** *So there really was a bomb?*

**FM** There was a bomb. It was very crude and they didn't know if it could have done any damage but we couldn't take any chances. It was a fellow who owned a string of early restaurants down here. And apparently a disgruntled employee was trying to nail him and [laugh]... So he put this crude makeshift bomb in the driveway. We were there for four hours hiding behind the buildings. And then the third thing was--some lady got mad at her husband and chased him down one of the streets firing a gun. Just firing a gun in town. Those three things happen within two weeks after he became the police chief.

**BZ** *Probably became boring after that again.*

**FM** Well it did. It really did. I don't know of any other real serious things that happened. Except back in the late '60s and early '70s, the marijuana running boats were coming in our canals. And they had a system of coming in and they would pull it up to dock in town, which had already been prepared. The house... usually you'd find a couple of trucks backed up to the garage out front. But there was never anybody around. And they (the guy who drove the boat or usually two) would pull it up to the dock, fasten it down, get out and take off down the street. There'd be a car around the corner--where, you know, so they could get away. Well finally, we would get word that there was a heavily laden boat coming in the inlet and we are watching it. And then word would go out to our people, as well as, the federal people who were all involved; where it was going to tie up; and we'd be waiting for them. Usually-- there were 80-100 lb bags of this grass and these small boats were just loaded with that stuff. If they got caught out at sea they'd just throw it all over. So there was always stuff floating in, back in those days, but you don't see that anymore. I guess it's more sophisticated or it's not being done.

**BZ** *Or we'd built up too much. That could be it too. I mean...*

**FM.** Yes, that could be.

**BZ** *And there's a lot of people who are here year round. That may have been more of a winter home situation.*

**FM** That's true. There were a lot of vacancies, a lot rental houses that people bought hoping to come down eventually, you know, to use them. And ah, now where were we? [Laughs]

**BZ** *We've done a lot of my questions without me even having to ask them. Let's see... we've had a couple of fights of trying to keep the town from not being annexed by Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach. In 1968 we added over seven hundred homes up above Sample Road... What did you see as the pluses and minuses of making the city bigger?*

**FM** ... Well, yes in '68 that was Palm-Aire, from 45<sup>th</sup> Street to 54<sup>th</sup> St. And, that was part of the county, still just a little piece of county. It made sense because it was all-residential and it fit in beautifully to Lighthouse Point. So we went after it and got it. And there was a little resentment, now and then, because they had a little different zoning then we did. We wanted to keep everything to two stories, nothing bigger than two stories. Even single-family residences could be two stories high but also only apartments could be two stories. Well they had some four and five story buildings in that area and we did take those in. But they also had some lots that were zoned for higher... for larger sizes than ours. We had to bring those in to correspond to ours and it was a little problem but it worked out. The attorney for Palm-Aire was Russell Clark, our first mayor [laugh]...

**BZ** *So you had an "in."*

**FM** That was, well, from that sense we did I guess. But he was tough. His client came first. I said, "What are you doing? This is your city, what are you talking about?" Anyhow we worked that out and we took that area in. Annexed it from 45<sup>th</sup> to 54<sup>th</sup> so that we abutted Pompano on the South and we abutted Deerfield Beach on the north. About that time, an opportunity to grow east and west was offered to us. And it was brought about

by... there was a clamor from the people on the west side of Federal Highway to come into Lighthouse Point. So I put out a, ... questionnaire. It wasn't on a ballot or anything, asking the people if they'd like to grow right straight west between Pompano and Deerfield. The legislature wouldn't let us only go, say to I-95. If we did anything we would have to go all the way to the turnpike. Take in that whole area. Then we'd become a city almost the size of Pompano and Deerfield at that time, you know. And it was turned down 98-2 [laughs]. For certain, I don't know who the two were. They wanted to keep Lighthouse Point the way it was. And it would have changed everything, you know, I mean the center would have had to been on the west side of the highway I'm sure. [Material removed at the request of the interviewee.] It would have cost us money, you know. Eventually the commercial and industrial areas might have generated enough ad valorem income to overcome the expenses we would have had, more police, more fire, more everything. And so it was turned down so that Lighthouse Point would stay the way it is. And it's been that way ever since.

**BZ** *And that area is still unincorporated at this point.*

**FM** Yes. I think that's right, that's right. Some of it just went into Pompano. And that would be the stuff from, I don't know, Sample but probably 24<sup>th</sup> Street south... And eventually that will all either be in Deerfield or Pompano over there. So we are locked in the way we are. We'll never have more than 11,000 to 12,000 people. We'll never have more than 5,500 properties because there are 5,500 lots. Those set backs will be the same. You know that's why what you're seeing now is the--older homes being torn down and new homes going straight up to the allowable thirty-three feet above the ground and out to the side setbacks. So they are bigger and, the lots don't change. You know, that's the way it should be and that's the way it should be kept.

**BZ** *Since we are on the bigger houses. Those houses are just gigantic.*

**FM** Yes they are.

**BZ** *I mean, they're really changing the whole look of the city and I'm not so sure that is for the best.*

**FM** Yeah, I don't know but it's been the nature of progress. Twenty-five years ago, when somebody would build out to the side setbacks and maybe go up two stories, I mean oh boy, I'd say that's tremendous and now--everybody's doing it, you know. You're starting at a million dollars and going up instead of \$300, or 400 [thousand]. I think in time, that's what you're going to see.

**BZ Side 2 of tape 1.** *And I had just asked Mayor McDonough about the larger homes and how they might demand more services and change the nature of the city itself.*

**FM** mm... Well I don't know that they're going to demand more services than what we have. One of the reasons that they are building such homes is because of the services that we have. It's ... the only thing that they will be adding will be more taxes because of the size of the homes. But, the services are in place. And people who are building those homes recognize it. So I don't know that they'll--I don't know. My experience does not include the fact, that they are going to ask for this and that and the other thing. Generally... speaking, it has not been the owners of those large, new homes that are asking for more services. It's others. You know, it's others, maybe canal people, for example, who want the dredging. And rightfully so, because it's a boating community... So I don't think that that's really a problem, as I see it.

**BZ** *Okay. Aside from the mango colored home on my street [laugh]...*

**FM** Oh yeah [laugh]...

**BZ** *I don't know. Maybe we should put in something about how you can paint your home but ...*

**FM** Is that the red one in Lake Placid? No?

**BZ** *No. Oh there's a red one? I missed that one.*

**FM** It's on Lake Placid, when you go over the bridge take the first right and go all the way down, to where Kesters live down in that area. There's a home with turrets, I mean and it's bright red ...

**BZ** *Oh wow...*

**FM** ... [laughs] [Material removed at request of the interviewee.]

**BZ** *I know, that's amazing, I mean these things are going up spec. Okay, do you need to take a little break? Need some more tea?*

**FM** No I'm fine.

**BZ** *I wanted to ask you a little bit about one of the articles you gave me. It was either you or your wife claimed you weren't a political type.*

**FM** Oh...

**BZ** *And is that a plus or minus?*

**FM** Oh...

**BZ** *What do you mean... you're not a political type, I mean you were mayor for so long?*

**FM** Well...

**BZ** *You didn't play politics at all?*

**FM** I suppose you call it politics. I mean even the tennis match was politics. But I was offered the opportunity... to run for the House of Representatives in Florida. And I didn't really want any part of it. I mean that would have meant... really getting into party politics, and this, that and the other. And I didn't feel that... another time I was appointed to the School Board. That was before it was an elected office... I said, "I'd think it over" and they took it to mean yes. And all of a sudden they're talking about me becoming the next School Board member down there. They needed a Republican on it. And I couldn't do it. I was raising a family, trying to sell some real estate, doing this, you know, so ... I think when that came about... we [city officials] didn't play party politics at all. First of all, we ran nonpartisan [city elections], [not] Republican or Democrat; you know... there were no party politics involved in the mayor's job here. It was keeping the city nice for the benefit of the residents. And, that's probably what that meant. I don't remember.

**BZ** *Okay [laugh]. Do you see the mayor's job becoming more political now? I mean we are in the midst of election...*

**FM** Yeah...

**BZ** *... and it seems to be not the real laid back elections we normally have.*

**FM** No, no this is really--this is, I would say, political in the true sense. There are different opinions. And they're putting forth those opinions. And they're all working hard to accomplish a seat. So I would say yes, it's... much more political now. Matter of fact ... the last election, I think, one of the candidates was supported by the Republican Party of Florida...and two years ago.

**BZ** *Wow that does make a difference...*

**FM** Yes...

**BZ** *...because that means they have money coming in ...*

**FM** ... sure...

**BZ** *...that they wouldn't have had necessarily.*

**FM** ...right, so that's becoming more political for sure

**BZ** *That's it, not as friendly. So it's no longer the next guy who's [commission] president gets to move up and be mayor?*

**FM** Yeah, that's the way it should be in a little town like this.

**BZ** *Okay. You resigned in '84 then you came back in '89. ... What brought you back? You said some things needed to be worked on?*

**FM** Yes...there was a kind of... clamor for a return to the old way of doing things. And ah, I forget exactly ... the employees were ... talking about a change they needed. I always felt that one of the biggest assets the city had was a good staff of employees to do the work, you know. And there was a lot of unrest. So I just threw my hat back in the ring. If people wanted me fine, if not...and I was elected for another four years. And--we did put things back the way they were. Got a few important increases in department head salaries from different areas. That was the only reason that I saw a need... and reluctantly came back.

**BZ** *Now just for a little change in direction. And once again this is coming out of the Keepers' dinner. I saw that you bought the fourth home to be built in Lighthouse Point.*

**FM** I think Marge, my wife, told me it was actually the ninth house in Lighthouse Point.

**BZ** *Now, was there really a neighborhood alligator that you had to beware of?*

**FM** [Laugh] Yeah...

**BZ** *Mrs. Tunnison told that story so I need to have that verified.*

**FM** [laughs] Yes, there was [one] down there where they lived. And when we dredged that area (I'll never forget) the alligator had disappeared for months, a couple months. And so they were dredging Cap Knight's Bayou, which is the entrance into Lighthouse Point from the Intercoastal Inlet and around the bend. And all of a sudden... they were dredging with these big pipes... and all of a sudden out of this comes this huge alligator.

He had been laying in the bank down there. And so, they pulled him out, I guess, as they were dredging. And that's the alligator they came and took away. But, he had been... a pet alligator. I think people even fed him.. Didn't know what to do back then. But it was wide open; there was nothing there. It was in the Tillotson Square area.

**BZ** *Basically it looked pretty barren some of the old photos...*

**FM** Yes it was...

**BZ** *I mean, I couldn't believe you had to go to Federal Highway to pick up your mail.*

**FM** Sure did. We went out to Federal Highway ... and you would never believe this, but we had two little girls, and they [laugh] would play--I mean, they'd run around on Federal Highway. The main road was Dixie Highway, you know, and--I made a couple of notes here [looking at a typed paper]. Initially we put the girls, the oldest girl, in a private school, St. Anthony's, in Ft. Lauderdale. We had to drive her in every morning. And gradually other people came who'd do the same thing. So I can remember, once or twice a week, I'd have the morning run and someone else would get them in the afternoon, you know, all the way into Ft. Lauderdale. That was before the other private schools came that the kids could go to.

**BZ** *And there must not have been too many schools up in this area either.*

**FM** There weren't. Pompano Beach grammar school and high school were the biggest you know. And then Saint Coleman...

**BZ** *St. Coleman's?*

**FM** Yes, they went to St. Coleman's and then they went to St. Elizabeth's that was next.

**BZ** *Okay, let's see. Looking at the city now, is this what you envisioned the city to become? Just the way it's turned out?*

**FM** What it's turned out? I don't think we ever pictured it with million dollar houses, no. No [laughs], but we did always view it as a water front community mainly; with boat access to the Intercoastal for those who lived off the water in Tillotson Square. That's what it was suppose to be and it won't be now, because it's changed.[At the time of this interview, the area known as Tillotson Square has had a major face-lift] And I think that if we thought far enough... a city of 5,500 houses with a few apartments sprinkled around and a beautiful area close to the Hillsboro Inlet--on the Intercoastal and also on Federal Highway. We never, never really envisioned anything beyond that. I mean, beautifying the city meant paving the streets digging the canals you know keeping the appearances up. Putting in 6000 trees, which was done a few years ago. That was quite a project.

**BZ** *They're getting very big.*

**FM** [laughs] They are, aren't they. Yeah, they are.

**BZ** *They're getting to be gigantic.*

**FM** Yes, well those oaks are suppose to grow well into posterity.

**BZ** *We may be really paving the roads if they get bigger.*

**FM** We might at that, you know.

**BZ** *I was going through some of the old articles and my favorite picture was the picture of an announcement in the newspaper that Lighthouse Point had put in its first stoplight. And then right underneath the picture was its first accident.*

**FM** [Laugh] No kidding.

**BZ** *I couldn't believe it. They put in their first stoplight and there is an accident right under it. It's just hard to imagine Federal Highway being the way it is now--so much traffic, so much growth.*

**FM** Yeah, I can hardly remember it but--I do remember that. It wasn't long before we had mailboxes, you know. But, Lighthouse Point is not a designated postal, we're a substation of Pompano Beach. And it's always been that way. And it's difficult to regulate when we try to beautify the post office or get them to beautify it. They'd say, "You have to go through Pompano Beach," and they don't have any money to do it. And so, you know, we had little control. Also all of our mail had to go down to Pompano before it was distributed elsewhere and that was an extra day. So that was always a problem.

**BZ** *Even today if you give some places your zip code they'll say, "Oh Pompano Beach" and you go, "No, no, no, it's Lighthouse Point." It does make a difference.*

**FM** Yes it does.

**BZ** *Let's see we're almost at the end here. I wanted to ask you about the "Keepers' Day". "Keepers' Day" was a three-day celebration. How does that compare to, say with, the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the town? Was it such an extravaganza?*

**FM** No this was by far... the... greatest tribute that the city has ever had. I mean, we've never had more than a day. And the Twenty-fifth [Anniversary] was just one day, I think. One morning, I don't even remember it at this point [laugh]. But this was a gala. I mean this was... They did it so nicely and so well. We would have never ever thought because of the expense. We'd have never thought. They were wise enough, this group, to get contributions to pay for the bulk of it (I guess).

**BZ** *Yes, I think that it was mostly paid by businesses.*

**FM** Yes, by businesses. So, remarkable, but this--was by far the biggest that Lighthouse Point has ever had. We started with picnics, before it was a city... out at Tillotson Square. We use to have the families come together on a Sunday. We'd have picnics, play ball, and fish along the seawall. There was a seawall out there at the time. It was good fishing. I remember the kids use to catch a lot of fish. And that was the whole idea of bringing people together. Then after the city was formed and we had our charter, we brought people together in the commission meetings. Yeah, they use to come. People really use to come. Then it gradually got boring and wore off. We tried to do more things, day to day, rather than waiting for a commission meeting to get it done, you know. And we had more liberty to do more things, I think, back then. Like Art Graham, the Publics Work Director, (I think it's a year or two since he was appointed) he got right in there and started doing this and doing that. And [Mayor Linville] said, "Wait you can't do that. Before you do that, you've got to submit an appraisal, and get it before the commission." And he said, "What are you talking about? I can get it done for nothing." And [she] said... [laugh] "That's the way it is now." We use to do it. Get it done, you know.

**BZ** *Well, the curse of paperwork.*

**FM** It's the paperwork right, [laugh] exactly.

**BZ** *You need to have a paper trail just in case.*

**FM** Exactly. Yes...

**BZ** *Well I've got two last questions. First of all ... you said that after you quit as mayor you went in with Bateman to sell real estate. Is that what you did once you were done?*

**FM** Yes.

**BZ** *You kept yourself busy that way?*

**FM** Right, I just went in--with Bateman and Co. and handled commercial and industrial properties for seven years, I think. But it was nice in that, I could come and go and I didn't have the overhead. I didn't, you know. I'd just work on my own. So it worked out real well.

**BZ** *And then you just wander through City Hall whenever... whenever the need hits?*

**FM** [laugh] Yeah, so far. [Laugh]

**BZ** [laugh] *Well it's tough to break that habit.*

**FM** Well it is, you know, because I ... I've known everyone so well, and every part of City Hall because I was here every day and checking with everybody. You know, I always felt... and--I tried to say this the other night. The mayor is the closest elected representative to the people in our strong mayor form of government. The five elected commissioners are the legislative branch. They make the laws. The mayor takes the information from the people, listens to the people, then funnels it through her own computer and presents it to the legislative branch to turn into law in behalf of Lighthouse Point and that's her role. So, I think that the mayor should not get away from the idea that she is the prime elected official. And that she is the strong mayor. She is doing the will of the people. And she's got to watch--everything, not only the departments and all the employees, but also the commissioners.

**BZ** *That's for sure. You said that the mayor has a veto. Do you remember ever vetoing anything?*

**FM** I threatened it one time. You have to advise--when something comes up that you don't like. You have to advise that you are going to veto that the next time it comes up. You can't do it all at the same time. And I couldn't tell you what the issue was... but I remember one time, probably, in the '80s (the early '80s) something came up, and--I said, "I want you to understand that if this goes for another reading I'm going to veto it." You have to have 4/5s vote of the commission to over ride the veto. So nothing came of it.

**BZ** *So not too many controversial subjects...*

**FM** No.

**BZ** ...if you've only threatened one veto...

**FM** Yes.

**BZ**...and didn't have to go through with it.

**FM** Not really. We hammered things out pretty well. Always had two, sometimes three, attorneys on the commission when [laughs] I was mayor. And plus a city attorney so--we were very careful--with what we did, and things got done properly.

**BZ** Okay, last question, and here it goes. If you [could] go back in time to change one thing about the city what would that be? This is my husband's question.

**FM** Oh was it [laughs]? Oh... one thing that ... we could change. Well... nothing about the form of government. .... Hmm, I should think-- should come up with something there, [sigh]... .. I don't know of anything that I would change... The laws fit this piece of property beautifully... I might have... thought... that ... to remain a city for longevity, we might have to grow. And, I was kind of hoping that when I put that straw vote out... that the people would say, "Sure lets grow. Let's grow." ... It would have been a tremendous challenge but would have insured the longevity of Lighthouse Point. We're a small city of 11,000 people, three miles long, mile and half deep... There's no telling when the legislature, which has life and death control of our charter, would say, "Yes you are going to have to be bigger. You're going to have to grow." Or they're going to work out a deal where we would be split between Pompano and Deerfield (which they would both love). ... The only thing now it would have to by vote by all the people, you know, and our people would vote against it and the people of Pompano and Deerfield would vote for it. So who knows what would happen in that regard. Otherwise I don't know of anything that I would change. I just... I think--that we were very fortunate to first of all get a charter for this area and two, to be part of it. And to live in this particular area the way it's grown, even though [laugh] we might all be priced out at some point the way they are going with million dollar houses. But otherwise, I think everything has gone just fine.

**BZ** Well I must too for I'm in my third house here...

**FM** Are you really?

**BZ** so...

**FM** Are you?

**BZ** ... and we debated about selling it and we thought, well if we go someplace else and don't like it, as you said, we wouldn't be able to afford to move back.

**FM** Sure, sure...

**BZ** So...

**FM** That's the problem. We built a house on 32<sup>nd</sup> Court in 1959-60 and the kids were just still small. During their high school years and college years and ... some of the grammar school years, we were in that house where they had the boats... And in '79, '80 or early '80s, Marge said, "This house is too big, too expensive. Let's get rid of it." So we downgraded a little bit to where we are on 45<sup>th</sup>. It's a big house, four bedrooms you know, so there's plenty of room for kids to come to. But we don't have the water any more. And of course we sold at the wrong time, which is...

**BZ** Always the story right? ...

**FM** A really bad story yeah. [Laugh] And I don't know whether I have covered everything for you here ...

**BZ** You have but... can you think of anything else... that we missed?

**FM** [going through papers] I rambled...

**BZ** But you rambled in the directions of all my questions, that's a key point [laugh]

**FM** Good, good well you kept me on it ... [going through papers]... there's a couple of little anecdotes...

**BZ** Oh anecdotes, that'll be great.

**FM** You want anecdotes... The sidewalks that we have were initially designed as bike paths. And the ladies went door-to-door asking for \$25 from each resident, back then, for the bike [paths]--for the sidewalks. And a lot of people gave it and we built the sidewalks. That's how the sidewalks came about. But they're not, if you've ever ridden a bicycle on the sidewalks, you know, [laugh] it's not good. "You've got to get on the street." so people are saying. Well, I say, "It's just for pedestrians now." That was one of the things that... the early women are very proud of. They went door to door, my wife Marge and Marlene McGinn and all the

**FM** I had some of this. Is there anything else? If you think of anything why, I've got all kinds of stuff ... but I think you got most of these stories... [looking at old newspaper clippings]

**BZ Right** *I was thinking our oldest buildings are here Caps Place, the Dairy Queen and the bowling alley.*

**FM** [laughs] True, true...

**BZ** *Not too much there to, you know...*

**FM** This is the Twenty-fifth did you get that one?

**BZ** *no... this one you didn't give me...*

**FM** You can have that [handing me a local newspaper].

**BZ** *Okay, well this is great...just the ads alone...*

**FM** Yes, there's a lot of stuff in there [goes through papers]...I don't know these, these kind of stories that, ... [looking at papers] nope

**BZ** *No?*

**FM** Well, I have all this junk, here I've got but ...

**BZ** *"Runs on your record"...* [reading newspaper article titles]

**FM** [going through papers]

**BZ** *We've got a great recreation department my only concern is we don't have any more space for parks...*

**FM** No, we sure don't...

**BZ** *...and...*

**FM** ... Well, we knew it was going to be tight.

**BZ** *...so I think is the one sad thing that we just don't have any more space for these kids...*

**FM** [laughs] Boy this is going back here ... this is... when we first learned to scuba dive off shore (you don't want that). But that's what we did in the early days...

**BZ** *Now you have to watch out for all the boats.*

**FM** I don't know what all this stuff is but... this is the way we had no tax parties [looking at a picture of picnic tables lined up in the middle of a road with all the chairs filled]

**BZ** *You had "no tax" parties?*

**FM** Yes...

**BZ** *"They honor their no tax government"* [reading a caption under a newspaper picture] *So that's one of your picnics...*

**FM** [laughs] Yes one of the picnics... and...

**BZ** *"The grateful citizen thank you for no taxes"* [reading caption under newspaper]... *about only seventy-five though were expected to attend, so only seventy-five were happy for no taxes...*

**FM** This is the early days... that's the real early days... [looking at articles and pictures]... I don't know if whether any of these would make any sense...

**BZ** *Let me turn this off here ...* [turn off tape as he looks through more papers]

**BZ** *Former Mayor Sullivan said that he was a judge at point. When did we lose our judge?*

**FM** Oh gosh..., see we had, administrative, legislative and judicial. We set it up just like the federal government. And we had a court here, from '56 to about... seems to me about late '70s or maybe '80, at the latest. The judicial system decided that the court for this area would be in Pompano and we'd have to share it. And that was... I would say '78-'79 that that happen and we lost our court... maybe early '80s. And Bill was the judge for a while. We had Judge Ben Haywood, Gentle Ben he was called, for a number of years. And everybody loved to go up before Ben because he was always very sympathetic to everything [laughs]. He's still around, I saw him not to long ago...

**BZ** *Were the judges elected?*

**FM** No we appointed them. They were appointed... I forget, but it was a court that heard all kind of cases that happen in Lighthouse Point.

**BZ** *According to Bill, even a made-up murder case.* [Laugh]

**FM** [laugh] Yes, [laugh] so things like that happen. I wondered how he remembered that... that was pretty good... this is "Stack is Bested" [reading article title]

**BZ** Yes that one you gave me.

**FM** I did?

**BZ** Yes...

**FM** [looking through papers]

**BZ** *Are you still playing tennis?*

**FM** Yes,

**BZ** *Still beating your opponents?*

**FM** Well I've slowed down. We're playing doubles now, you know ... and ... I had--I don't know whether you wanted any of these pictures or anything? [holding up a campaign picture]

**BZ** *Oh that will be good, so I'll have a nice picture of you to put in with the tapes. That'll be great...*

**FM** That's all right. Somewhere here I had... these things, you know. I haven't really looked at these but they go way back. I thought maybe there'd be something there... This goes back to the stockyards! [Laughs]... This is the way we use to do it at Kiwanis... [shows pictures]...

**BZ** *"On top of the Kiwanis, New officers installed" ...* [Reads newspaper article title]

**FM** Yes ...

**BZ** *Just to get off the point... were they as interesting as stories are about the stockyards?*

**FM** Yes... every year in the middle of June or July they would have an egg ... contest. They'd break eggs in the middle of the entrance to 42<sup>nd</sup> street that went into the stockyards and fry the eggs right on the street [chuckles]. You know, just to show how warm it was there. And many times--in our print shop, which was two stories, the people from the yards would bring their copy down to be printed by horseback. And a guy would ride right into the front office, drop it off on a desk and ride his horse back out and ...

**BZ** *Wow that's unbelievable. We're not talking the Wild West here.*

**FM** No well its almost... [laughs] it was beautiful. It was really that way--smelly, you know, but you don't know it after a while...

**BZ** *You don't notice after a while...*

**FM** No, no...

**BZ** *It must have really changed after they closed it down?*

**FM** Yes it became--well the Stockyard Inn that was famous for the Saddle and Sirloin Club, one of the most famous eating-places in Chicago, and the Amphitheatre, where they had a lot of sports games... those things stayed. I don't know whether they're still there, but the rest of the yards became trucking companies mostly. The bank left, and all the big stock companies left, you know... the meat the packers, hog companies, sheep companies and the rest of them. They all went out to the Corn Belt. Missouri, Kansas ...

**BZ** *So changed Chicago, so Mrs. O'Leary's cow won't kick over the...*

**FM** No it won't anymore...

**BZ** *anymore...*

**FM** Nope, she tried to do it, but the Stockyards had a big fire, too, in '34. I did have some pictures of that somewhere too... well everything burned down--our plant burned down. The bank fell on our building.

[Looking through papers]

**BZ** *Oh that's yours, I brought it back for you.*

**FM** Yes, that was all the bologna about me... I don't know that there's anything here. Well the Twenty-fifth you've got...

**BZ** *I've got those...*

**FM** ... all those things... twenty-five years and--oh the Doll House?

**BZ** *Oh now that would have been controversial...*

**FM** Yes, we worked hard on that... [Looking through papers, turn off tape]

**FM** Here, long before, he [talking about Roy Glisson] had a plant place [nursery] where Venetian Isles is now. He had a tree farm there and he had a real estate office in town. Now, he lives in Wellington.

**BZ** Okay.

**FM** Now.

**BZ** He's moved north.

**FM** He's has a real estate office up there and he has his home up there. A very colorful character. He took the surrender... [Putting papers away] (This stuffs no good...) He took the surrender of the last Japanese admiral to surrender during WWII...

**BZ** *Did he really?*

**FM** ...in New Guinea...it's quite a story, the way he did it... He was captain of an army group. They were charged with bottling up the last of the Japanese holdouts at the end of this island. I think it was New Guinea (the Australian group anyhow). Finally the Admiral Yamamoto (same spelling as the street up there) [Boca Raton's Yamato Road] sent an emissary in and said, "We will surrender. Will you send four of your big boys to carry the Admiral in on his chair?" Roy always had some very good words ...

**BZ** [laughs]

**FM** ...and he told him where to get off [laughs]. He said, "You ought to come in, you either walk or have your own big boys carry you. None of my guys are going to carry you in. What are you talking about?" The day they came in, Roy has about a two-day growth of beard, no tie. And this guy comes in with four, six of his, people carrying him. Spit and polish and he's just great. Roy set him down at a makeshift table, and they drew (Roy was an attorney) up the surrender and the guy signed it. And Roy says, "Are you any relation to the Yamamotos from Boca Raton, Florida?" and he said, "Those are my cousins..."

**BZ** *Oh wow! That's really interesting.*

**FM** Yes... and he's got a lot of stories...

**BZ** *Oh wow, interesting...*

**FM** He was here early on.

**BZ** *Well okay, I'll have to think about that...*

**FM** Might make a good story...

**BZ** *Might make a good story, if not for me for someone else to go talk to him...*

**FM** Sure...and I mean if you needed more to fill out this... As I see the concept, this is something that is going into the...

**BZ** [FAU] *Archives...*

**FM** ...archives for perpetuity... you know, whether or not its beefed out enough here from what I've said, John McGinn could really give you some good stuff and, of course, Roy could too.

**BZ** *Okay. That sounds great. Florida is so new, that we don't think of ourselves of having much history, but in the future people are going to want to come back and learn about who started everything...*

**FM** Sure, sure.

**BZ** *...I mean even I've been here since '78...*

**FM** Mmhmm...

**BZ** *...the stories you and the other Mayors were telling at the Keepers' Dinner, I mean, it's just, you know, they were so amazing...*

**FM** Yes...

**BZ** *You know it's just so hard for us to imagine mailboxes on Federal Highway[laugh]...*

**FM** Yes [laugh]...

**BZ** *...and only one light!*

**FM** ...and one light, yes...

**BZ** *One light...*

**FM** ...true

**BZ** ...so...

**FM** ...true...

**BZ** *So at some point, these will be there [Archives]...and as I also said, I'm going to turn in a copy of the tape and the transcript to our[Lighthouse Point] library, as well, so we can begin a little history thing...*

**FM** I was, I was thinking about it, I was thinking is there enough ammunition here to make... something, you know, fill out what you would like. You could get an awful lot of information from John and from Roy...

**BZ** *...and fill it all out. Well that's it...*

**FM** Yes...

**BZ** So...

**FM** If you want...

**BZ** *We had to start with the, the man who had served the most!*

**FM** [laughs] And you know, if you do as you go through this and you need anything else why just call. I'll be glad to read through and see if I can think of some other things...

**BZ** *That'll be great. This was just wonderful...*

**FM** Was it?

**BZ** ... *I really want to thank you for taking time...*

**FM** Good, good...

**BZ** ... *doing this because I've learned a lot about Lighthouse Point and as I said I've lived here since '78...*

**FM** '78? Are you any relation to Richie Zisk?

**BZ** *No, he's my husband...*

**FM** Oh, Richie?

**BZ** *Yes...*

**FM** Is that right? Baseball?

**BZ** *Yes right...*

**FM** Yes, I met him... golly, years ago...

**BZ** *He came and asked you for a stop sign or a light.*

**FM** Oh did he?

**BZ** *One or the other...*

**FM** Is that right? My gosh, that's been a while...

**BZ** *We've been here a while... like I said [since] '78, in three houses...*

**FM** ... '78, three houses, well that's what we had...

**BZ** ... *and two children born in Florida...*

**FM** Yes...

**BZ** *Not too many can say they were born in Florida.*

**FM** Natives [laughs]...

**BZ** *So we've been here a long time, so this was really good...*

**FM** Wonderful.

**BZ** *And like I said, the Keepers' Weekend brought on the idea that this would be a really nice idea...*

**FM** Yes...

**BZ** ... *so I just really appreciate you taking the time...*

**FM** Not a bit... happy to do it. I just sometimes don't feel so totally inadequate; you know, that we're doing all this jumping around a little...

**BZ** *But it was perfect...*

**FM** That's good, good.

## 2001 Lighthouse Point "KEEPERS"

**Mayor Russ Clark (dec. 1985)**  
1956-1964

**Mayor John McGinn**  
1965-1968

**Mayor Frank McDonough**  
1968-1984  
1989-1993

**Mayor Al Fletcher**  
1985-1987

**Mayor Leo Bentz**  
1987-1989

**Mayor Bill Sullivan**  
1993-1999

**Dan B. Witt**  
"Mr. Recreation"

**Larry Tunison**

## PROGRAM

6:30-7:15 Cocktails - Cash Bar

7:15-7:30 Welcome  
Jane McLaughlin, Keepers Day Chairman

Invocation  
Rev. Dwayne Black  
First Presbyterian Church

7:30-9:00 Dinner

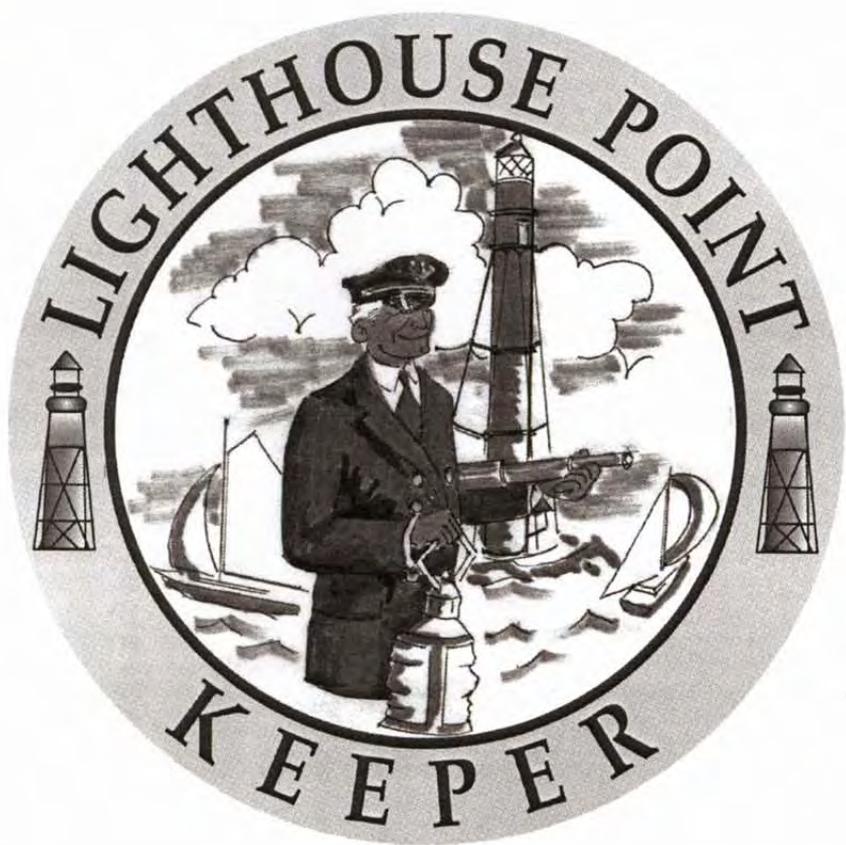
9:00-10:00 Guest Speaker, Earl Maucker  
Editor/Vice President, Sun Sentinel

Presentation of Proclamations  
Mayor Marsha Linville

Honoree's Remarks  
2001 Lighthouse Point "KEEPERS"

Lighthouse Point Keeper Days  
Recognition Dinner

February 9, 2001  
6:30 p.m.



Chateau de Ville ~ Lighthouse Point

## LHP Keeper Days 2001 Sponsors

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Balistreri Realty Inc.  
Fred and Sheri MacLean  
Aapex Rent-A-Car  
South Florida Dentistry  
Mink & Mink  
Dr. Stephen Short  
Oasis Lawn Service  
North Broward School/LPA  
Lighthouse Point Yacht Club

## LHP Keeper Days 2001 Committee

Jane McLaughlin, Chairman  
John Trudel, Recreation Director  
Marsha Linville  
Phil Linville  
Doreen Gauthier  
Kenton Hajdic  
Dwayne Black  
Meredith Chaiken Weiss  
Karlene Whitney  
Joe & Jim Balistreri  
Kathy Lockard  
Ofc. Larry Hawkins/Commander Chuck Marchitello  
Fonnie Castino

# tle Leaky

**D WEATHER:** Partly night with a few after- . High today 88 to 92, 70 to 75 with mostly athwest winds 5 to 15

# The

Wednesday, Ju

## Clarke Voted Mayor Again At Lighthouse

**BY DUANE JONES**  
Pompano Beach Bureau Chief

**LIGHTHOUSE POINT** — Russell Clarke was re-elected mayor here Tuesday and John McGinn, Everett Boyce and Frank McDonough were elected to two-year terms on the city commission.

### They Won

Of the city's 1,465 registered voters, 1,018 went to the polls. Top vote-getter was McGinn, a young realtor who is completing his first term on the commission.

Clarke, mayor here since the city was incorporated in 1957, received 585 votes to defeat Walter Jacobs, his only opponent. Jacobs received 365.

#### Commission results:

McGinn, 737; Boyce, 635; McDonough, 559; Parry Evans, 378; Carl Wuest, 228, and Albert Nute, 174.

Boyce is completing his second term on the commission and the other successful candidate, McDonough, a realtor, was making his first bid for public office.

Clarke, McGinn, Boyce and McDonough will take office in two weeks.

Jacobs, who served two terms on the commission, chose to oppose Clarke rather than seek reelection on the commission.

Evans, Wuest and Nute were also making their first bid for public office here.

Sixty-three absentee ballots are to be counted today.

Each of the successful candidates has expressed opposition to the imposition of property taxes. The city has never had an ad valorem tax and officials say one won't be necessary in the foreseeable future.

At a regular commission meeting Tuesday night, the board passed on final reading a rezoning ordinance that would permit Builder George Rehkamp to construct three high-rise apartment houses in the southwest part of town.

But the board also accepted a petition signed by more than 15 per cent of Lighthouse Point property owners who want the high-rise controversy settled by referendum.

Commissioners indicated that a special election will be called to settle the matter. The referendum, if approved, will probably be held this summer or next fall.



Clarke



McGinn



Boyce



McDonough



**OUT OF BOUNDS?**  
... can't be



**HERE IT COMES**  
... I'll murder it



**DOGGONE IT**  
... into net again

## Stack Bested At Net

**POMPANO BEACH—** Ed hit a tremendous back-hand drive that sent Frank back to the edge of the court, but it was out of bounds.

The match was over and the mayor of Lighthouse Point had defeated the mayor of Pompano Beach in their first annual tennis classic.

The match between Pompano Mayor Ed Stack and Mayor Frank McDonough has been brewing for two years and it was finally played Thursday.

It was to be the best out of 15 games, and Stack appeared to be the favorite.

But McDonough had the stamina, and won 8-4.

An immediate challenge was issued by Sheriff-elect Stack to renew the contest Dec. 19, 1969.

"We may be No. 2, but we will try harder," Stack said.

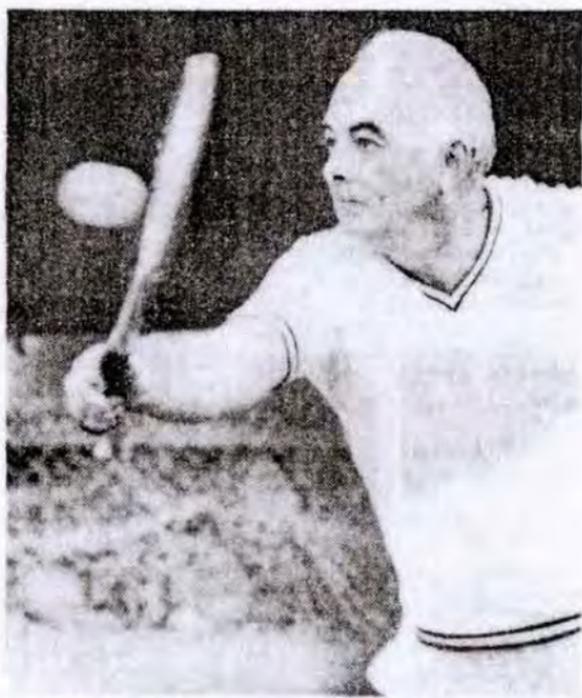
"It was a great match," said a beaming McDonough.

"We had a couple of tough commission meetings this week and neither of us was in top shape," the gracious winner said.

"The Mayor of Lighthouse Point played superbly," Stack said.

Collections were taken from the audience and proceeds will go to the fund for the high school band trip to the Presidential inaugural.

—BUDD BOYER

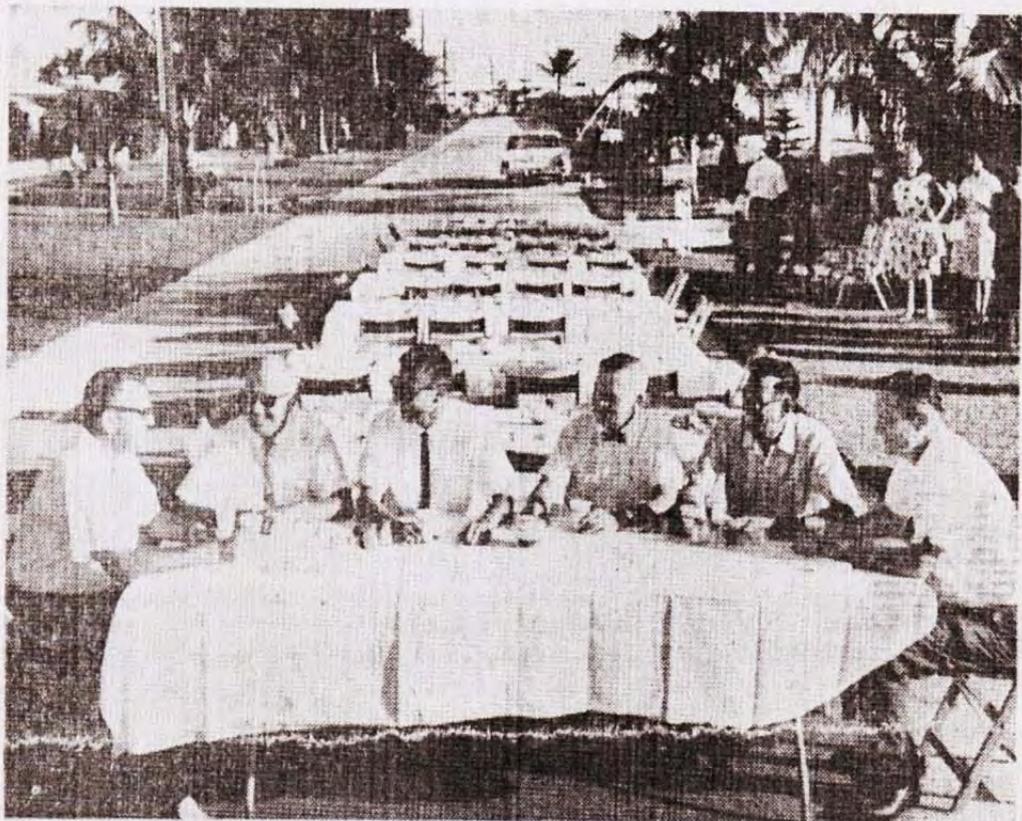


**McDONOUGH FLASHES FORM ON RETURN**  
... match was to benefit band's trip



(Staff photos by Arnold Ernest)

**'CONGRATULATIONS (PUFF), FRANK'**  
... winner McDonough beams, Stack mops



(Sun-Sentinel photo by Jim Daly)

**A 'THANKS' PARTY**—Lighthouse Point city commissioner's hungrily await for roast beef at an outdoor banquet held Thursday by grateful citizens. The block party honored the officials for their "no tax government." From left to right are: Mayor Russell Clarke, commissioners Frank McDonough, John McGinn, Paul Jacobus, Everett Boyce and William Harper. About 75 were expected to attend the party.



**THE TOP OF KIWANIS** - New officers were installed at Kiwanis on Wednesday. Lt. Gov. Designate Quentin Long is at extreme left here. Others, from left, outgoing president Vic Chase, first vice-president Bert Broome, second vice president Duane Strawbridge, secretary Les Bauer,

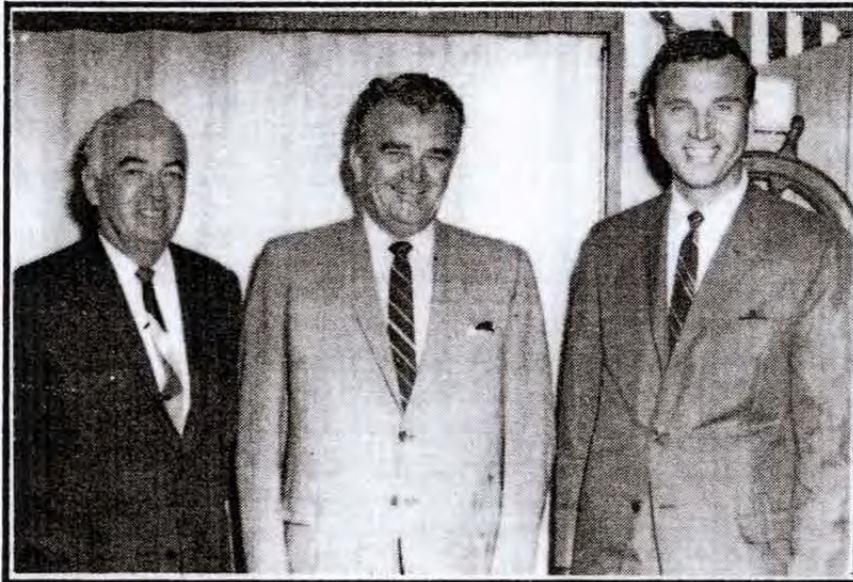
president Ellsworth Hoppe, treasurer Orin Thornburgh and directors Don Thompson, Ed Stack, Skip Boos, Jim King, Frank Wirth and Frank McDonough. Installation was made during a banquet at the Venetian Isles Yacht Club.

**Small LHP Facts:**  
**June 13, 1956 - Petition**  
**for incorporation**  
**Original corporate**  
**limits: NE 24th St.,**  
**Southern Boundary**  
**NE 36th St., Northern**  
**Boundary**  
**1957: Venetian Isles**  
**annexed**

# The Making of a City

As Recalled by  
 Frank McDonough

**A Few Good Men**  
 Frank McDonough (3rd Mayor),  
 Russell Clarke (1st Mayor),  
 John McGinn (2nd Mayor)

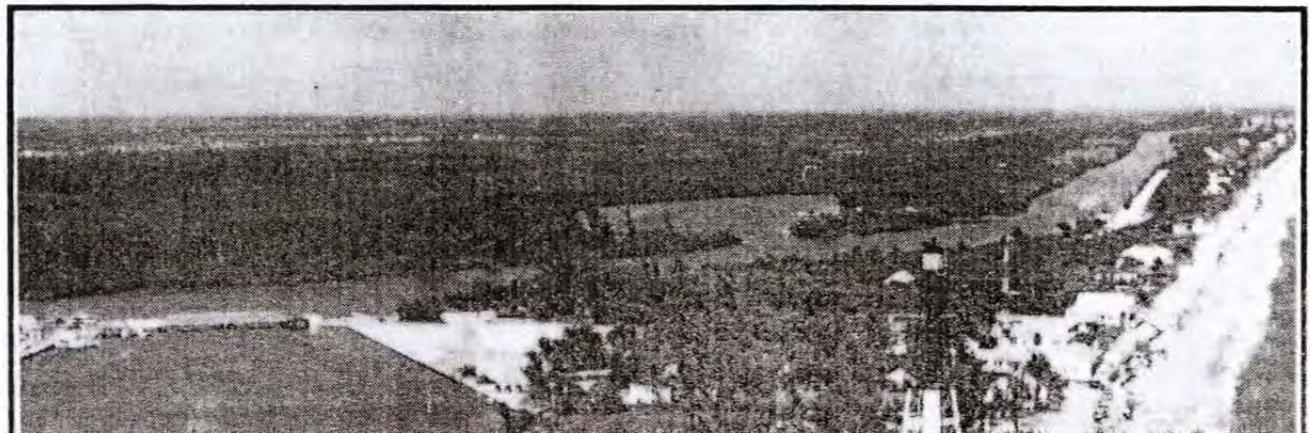


Conclusion to "Making of a City"

**V**olunteerism is a big part of Lighthouse Point's success as a city. In addition to reducing the tax burden to the lowest in the county and providing the finest services at the same time, volunteers work in all departments for the sheer beauty of lending a helping hand.

Our recreation programs which embrace all sports from organized basketball, football, baseball, and

**Before the Rocks - The lighthouse stands in earnest as sentinel for boats of pleasure and shipping. Notice the houses on the**



cer, tennis, and volleyball are acknowledged to be the best in the county, and they are all coached by volunteers under the direction of John Trudel, the city recreational director.

Dan Witt was our first recreation director in the city until it became a paid position in 1960. The park was named for him because of all the hours and hard work that he had invested into our program over the years.

Our programs send youngsters on to high school and college greatness, not only in sports, but in academics as well.

Over 600 Lighthouse Point children participate in the recreational programs offered year-round.

## City threatened by State

In 1971, the State of Florida, decided in its good judgement, that our county should be divided into ten districts. Of the then 31 municipalities, 21 were to disappear with a wave of the Tallahassee pen. Only the large cities would remain as a basis for growth.

LHP, then 15 years old and growing beautifully, would be split between our neighbors, Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach.

It was our first real experience at lobbying the State legislature, or any other body, except the county, for that matter.

We were successful in convincing the Solons that we were indeed a city in all regards, and that we did not duplicate in expense those capital expenses possessed by our neighbors; rather, we relied on mutual aid pacts which have

Beach and the old bridge in the background. This photo was taken in 1952, entitled "The Storm that Filled the Inlet." All photos, courtesy of LHP City.



worked so well, and that the state which holds life and death grips on municipal charters, rightly must put any such major change on a ballot for the electorate to speak.

We won on all counts, and are today with just 11,500 happy residents, a full city.

To become so, we had to go from a volunteer to a paid fire department. We built facilities for the fire and police departments, installed hydrants and pipe lines throughout the city, installed a sanitary sewer system to replace the worn-out and over-loaded septic tanks, and raised all salaries to meet the competition. We built a new city hall, enlarged our library in the face of a new county system, added parks and recreational facilities, and planted thousands of mahogany trees throughout the city.

## A time for the birds

We had a public works director years ago named Julie. His name was Julian, but he was known to all of us as Julie. One time we had a

"dirty pigeon" problem. (Lighthouse Point was chartered as a bird sanctuary). Discrimination of any bird was not allowed. Several residents complained about these birds. Apparently, they would feast on berries and fly wildly around town causing no end of problems.

**"The code protects them, the residents love them, and the only thing I can do is teach them to fly upside-down." We looked forward to such evenings of levity even though the problem was still with us.**

One night the city commissioners asked Julie how he was going to rid the town of these pigeons which roosted under the 23rd Avenue Bridge when not flitting around the rooftops.

Julie assured the commissioners that he would take care of the prob-



Prototype for Galeria? - Frank Hutchinson is on hand for the ground breaking of the first "business district in LHP - Beacon Light Shopping Center.

lem without violating the charter. Soon the dirty pigeons were spiraling lazily into the canals and were borne on the tide toward the ocean.

What wasn't known then was that a kindly lady near the head of the canal was retrieving the pigeons with a long net, restoring them to health, and sending them back into flight. The problem magnified.

At a commission meeting several weeks later, one of the eagle commissioners asked Julie how he was coming along with the pigeon problem.

Julie retorted, "The code protects them, the residents love them and the only thing I can do is teach them to fly upside-down." We

# Mayor

From page 8

looked forward to such evenings of levity even though the problem was still with us.

All commission meetings were very serious because the problems set forth represented a major difficulty for the resident.

## Government by tennis

Some years back we had a water dispute with one of our neighboring cities. We rightfully felt that their rates were too high for that part of our City which they served. One night at a commission meeting when negotiations face to face were not proceeding too well for us, I threw out a challenge to the Mayor of our neighboring city.

He, incidentally was a good friend, and he owned a large ocean-front resort with six or seven clay tennis courts.

I said I would play him two out of three sets of tennis. If he won, he could impose the rate increase. If I won, he would forget the increase. The press picked it up and for a month or so the challenge made a good story back and forth.

The match was set; my opponent had arranged for the band at Pompano Beach High School to be present. We would take up a collection and give it to the band.

My opponent began working out with the pro at his resort -- the pro, incidentally was Rod Laver's cousin, Ian Laver of Australia.

On the afternoon we played, the band was there, several hundred

people were on the bleachers, among them a number of former tennis greats who had played Wimbledon and on our early U.S. Tennis teams, and a referee from Wimbledon who was staying at the resort.

Despite the foot falls and bad calls against me (which were contrived to add fun to the match) my opponent ran out of gas late in the first set and conceded the match. The band added several hundred dollars to its coffers, and the City of Lighthouse Point did not receive a water rate increase.

**I said I would play him two out of three sets of tennis. If he won, he could impose the rate increase. If I won, he would forget the increase.**

During that period many residents came to our meetings complaining about the proposed rate increase for their water. One, a long-time native, was angered and complained that the existing water rates were misleading, and an increase would be even worse. "I put in an extra water meter for my sprinkling system, thinking that I would save on my water bills, but it didn't help at all. And now you want to increase my rate?"

## And one more joke

He wasn't through. "It reminds me," he went on, "of the time Sam Snead, the pro at the Boca Raton Hotel played a round there with Jack Nicklaus shortly after Jack had turned pro.

They came to the 7th hole which was a par 4 with a dogleg midway to the left. Sam, who loved a good bet, said, "See that stand of trees right at the dogleg?"

Jack allowed that he could indeed see that far.

"Well," said Sam, "when I was your age, I could hit right over those trees."

"Ten bucks sez I can do it if you could," said Jack.

"You're on," said Sam.

Jack hit three mighty tee shots and every one came down right in the middle of the trees at the dogleg.

"How could you do that and I can't?" asked Jack.

"Well," said Sam, "when I was your age, Jack, those trees were only seven feet tall. Gimme my ten spot."

"Now that's as misleading as those water rates," said the resident.

Lighthouse Point is in great hands for the future; it is governed from the ground up by the people, and it represents, to my way of thinking, what our Founding Fathers had in mind when they avowed that this country would put the people first and the government as servant.

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Mac Crookston  
Citizen Of The Year  
Page 30

Lighthouse Point  
Special Section  
With News and Ads  
Pages 17 - 24

Local Lions Roar  
With Enthusiasm  
Over Awards  
Page 27

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# Deerfield Beach Lighthouse Point **Observer**

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VOL. 18 NO. 23

JUNE 11, 1981

ESTABLISHED 1964 Deerfield Publishing

## Lighthouse Point: 25 Years Growing

### Walking To The Park

The City of Lighthouse Point is celebrating its 25th Anniversary Saturday, June 13th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Dan Witt Park.

The theme is "Walk To The Park" for health and happiness to celebrate the Silver Anniversary. But you can also walk, bicycle or drive to a trolley stop at Lake Placid Park or the Lighthouse Point Marina and enjoy an open-air trolley ride to Dan Witt Park. The trolley will run continuously beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Just come for the fun to enjoy: popcorn; hot dogs; drinks; WPTP mobile & Barbershop Quartet; pictorial history; special guests; antique car display; hot air balloon rides; Ronald McDonald; Police Department SWAT Team and Square dancing.

There will also be friends you haven't seen for a long time, good conversation, and much more that hasn't been mentioned.

Don't miss this festival occasion. Everyone will surely be there.



Mayor Frank McDonough on the move.

### McDonough A Perennial Mayor

BY RITA

Lighthouse Point — Frank J. McDonough seems destined to be the perennial Mayor of Lighthouse Point.

He is now in his 13th year in that position, and before that he served as commission president for three years, and several years as commissioner.

He says he is not "the political type" but despite that, his list of accomplishments is legend.

He first became interested in what is now Lighthouse Point when he built the fourth house in the unincorporated plat of land.

He had three children, Mary Beth, Peggy and Mick. He and his wife Marge were devastated that their children had no place to play.

McDonough was also concerned in safety signs and routings. He bombarded the city commission with his ideas and he not only got what he wanted, but a traffic light and directional signals, too.

As a member of the Recreation Department, McDonough coached a basketball team for several years, helped out with football and gave Dan Witt all the help he could spare.

family moved into Lighthouse Point in 1954 while it was unincorporated. Lighthouse Point became a city in 1956.

As Mayor, McDonough, is the executive officer charged with the administration of city government. He serves two-year terms and has recently been re-elected. Most of the time, he is unopposed.

The Mayor supervises the City's executive branch, including its operating departments and is the appointing authority of all officers and employees in the executive branch, subject to the approval of the City Commission (Albert E. Fletcher, Jr.; Maurice O. Rhinhardt; Charles Barger; Daniel D. Peschio and Leo L. Bentz).

As Mayor, McDonough makes his way to City Hall every morning and spends at least two hours checking "what's going on." He is definitely not just a Mayor in name only.

Some of his accomplishments over the past 13 years include the 10 miles of bike paths; Dan Witt Park, 12 tennis courts (he happens to be a very good tennis player) installing a sanitary system; put in an entire new fire hydrant

(Continued on Page 16)

### Heavy Dipping Into Surplus

Continued on back...

## Lighthouse Point 25 Years

(Continued from Page 1)  
system; sidewalks;  
jogging track in South  
park; turned the  
volunteer fire department

expanded the library by  
50 per cent, and entered  
the Crime Watch  
program.

Though the city  
sounds like it revolves  
around the young  
people, that isn't quite  
true. There is plenty of  
recognition for the senior  
citizen.

Being a bit shy,  
Mayor McDonough says  
if he has been successful  
it is because he has kept  
pace with the needs and  
the way of life that the  
people have demanded,  
by making the improve-  
ments, such as parks,  
sidewalks, bike paths,  
safety and beautification.

McDonough majored  
in English and Journal-  
ism and spent a number  
of years running a pub-  
licity plant.

"Municipal Adminis-  
tration wasn't all that  
difficult," McDonough  
said. "We're not politi-  
cal but we appreciate the  
political power."

McDonough owns his  
own real estate firm in  
Lighthouse Point.



into a paid fire depart-  
ment; enlarged and de-  
partmentalized the police  
department; created a  
Harbor Patrol and a fire  
boat and has recently  
entered the city in the  
computer age, which  
takes care of the budget-  
ary and payroll  
accounts.

Those of course, are  
not all of his achieve-  
ments. Just a few.

The City has recently

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ed in serving on an area se-  
lective service board  
should contact Mayor Jean  
Robb at City hall.

Mayor Robb announced

Sunday, June 22, 1986

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Beach, Sea Ranch Lakes and surrounding communities

**Founded to avoid becoming part of a bigger city, Lighthouse Point still offers the pleasures of small-town life 30 years later, its pioneers say.**

## LHP celebration revisits passage into life as city

By Marci Richardson  
Staff Writer

**LIGHTHOUSE POINT** — It started with one square mile of land and 100 families who wanted to govern themselves.

The waterfront municipality is now three times the size and nearly 100 percent developed, boasting a thriving commercial district and a residential community of 13,000.

Many of those residents will devote today to remembering the way life was and remembering those who helped improve it, as the community celebrates its 30th year of cityhood.

"There was nothing here. In fact, we lived in our house for a year before we could get a phone," said John McGinn, who moved to Lighthouse Point just weeks before four subdivisions voted to incorporate on June 13, 1956.

"Some people might call it luck, but it was really a lot of hard work during those formative years that brought the city along," McGinn said. He was a city commissioner from 1961-65 and mayor from 1965-68. "In those days, nobody expected to get paid for it. You did it because it had to be done, and you were proud to do it."

Motivated by a fear of being annexed by Pompano Beach and facing higher taxes, a handful of urban pioneers began a petition drive. The co-

alition, led by the late Russell Clarke, who died in December at age 68, conducted a campaign that resulted in 107 of 128 registered voters casting their ballots for independence.

Clarke was elected mayor, with



McGinn

Walter Van Lare, Edward Steadman, Hayden Hale, Claud DeGraw and Claude Johnson serving as aldermen. Together, they secured the charter in June 1957, creating Broward County's 18th city.

"We did it because we thought the area should be preserved and we should have the right of self-government," said Frank McDonough, who served 11 consecutive terms as one of the city's commissioners and then its mayor.

He moved from Chicago in 1954 to what is now the southern tip of the city. At that time, McDonough said, only a half-dozen houses had sprouted during the two years since bulldozers and dredges transformed the swamp into a waterway-laced village.

With a farm running from the sub-

Please see LIGHTHOUSE, 2

VEST  
et.

ple

s into art

Evalyn Waldman, fruits she faces she might carve village home is full of her and fragile treasures.

Sports

**Deerfield team keeps rolling**

Players for Deerfield Beach's Big League baseball team thrive on overcoming obstacles. In fact, where there are no obstacles, they provide their own. This team wins in spite of itself.

Page 14

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# Lighthouse

Continued from page 1

divisions' northern border at Sample Road to Deerfield Beach, the community took on a rustic air and a clannish attitude, McDonough recalled. Mail was delivered to boxes on Federal Highway, "and you could stand at your mailbox for five minutes and not see a car."

There were no streetlights, only the beacon of the century-old lighthouse, beaming over the Intra-coastal Waterway and sweeping across the sleeping subdivisions.

"It shone all over this area," McDonough, 65, said. "There weren't that many buildings, so you could see the lighthouse from any point."

And thus the name, originally bestowed on one of the subdivisions by developer Robert E. Bateman.

Other projects drew names from the landmark as well. The Beacon Light Shopping Center, at 2400 N. Federal Highway, was established as the first commercial square.

On a whim, Eldon and Clara Bright started a children's clothing store there in September 1956 and somehow survived the early years.

"The town was such a calm, peaceful, sleepy little place," Eldon Bright reminisced. "When we first took the store, [the management] wanted all the merchants to stay open nights. We couldn't figure out why. There was nobody there."

But by 1957, a new development, Venetian Isles, was taking shape to the north and petitioned for inclusion in June of that year.

"Then it started to grow very rapidly," McDonough said.

The first traffic light was installed at Northeast 24th Street and Federal Highway in 1958. Ground was broken for the City Hall in mid-1959, and by 1960, the city had 2,446 homes.

It wasn't until almost 10 years later, however, that the houses were linked to a sewer system. The \$4.5 million project still stands as the city's most expensive undertaking, said Jim Fay, a city commissioner from 1965-71.

During his last year in office, Fay said, the unthinkable finally happened after 15 years as a municipality — the first ad valorem taxes were levied.

But the city also increased its tax base. The Coral Key development was annexed, extending Lighthouse Point's northern border to the Deerfield Beach city line.

Over the years, the community not only realized a change in its boundaries but also in its inhabitants. Originally a retirement and vacation destination, the city developed a reputation as "a good



Frank McDonough



Jim Fay

place to live and a good place to raise a family," Fay said.

The median age of the residents is 53, said City Clerk Frances Marsh, with 30 percent of them calling Lighthouse Point their permanent home. Between 1970 and 1978, she said, the percentage of elderly residents dropped from 28.2 to 21.3.

But, what hasn't changed, McDonough said, is the way it feels to live there.

"It's small town U.S.A. It was a grass-roots effort that got everybody together to try to make a nice place to live, and it's retained that friendliness and small-town flavor through it all."

The 30th anniversary will be celebrated with a family day at Dan Witt Park, 4521 NE 22nd Ave. The event, which will run from 4 to 7 p.m., will include music and free hot dogs and sodas.

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Editor: Ken Kaye

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Community Sports Editor: James Kuykendall

Northeast is published twice a week by the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. Editorial offices are located at Suite 121, 6442 NW Fifth Way, Fort Lauderdale, 33309.

For news, call 493-6404. For advertising, call 941-7800. For home delivery, call 527-4600.

# Lighthouse Point may seem less bright without old mayor

By MARY C. HICKEY  
*Herald Staff Writer*

After 19 years at the helm of one of Broward's smallest and most exclusive cities, Lighthouse Point Mayor Frank McDonough is stepping down.

He promised his wife 10 years ago he was going to quit.

Even then, McDonough was growing weary of the late-night meetings on zoning codes, the Elks Club dinners, the angry phone calls from citizens complaining about garbage collection — the very stuff of which small-city politics is made.

But when election time rolled around, McDonough's supporters urged him to run again. So he did. And he ran again two years later, and again twice more after that. The city seemed to like its leader. In all but two elections, he ran unopposed. When he was challenged, his margin of victory was large.

*Kitty Oliver's column will resume shortly.*

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Last week, though, the mayor made good on his 10-year-old promise to his wife. In his resignation letter, McDonough, 64, wrote:

"I find my time has arrived to leave these privileged duties to the younger, dedicated servants of the people. The burdens of the office and the daily volume of personal attention it demands have become too taxing and time consuming."

McDonough — a strapping, white-haired Irishman who hails from Chicago — said he now plans to devote more time to his neglected real-estate business, more time to his tennis and golf games, more time to his wife. The City Commission is expected to appoint a new mayor on Tuesday.

"Of course, after 19 years on the job, I'm sure I'll feel a tremendous gap," McDonough said, sounding a bit remorseful.

The city is likely to notice the gap as well. McDonough's wife, Marg, describes him as "more of



Frank McDonough: At Lighthouse Point's helm for 19 years.

a public servant than a politician." His associates say that above all, he is dedicated.

"He's been around City Hall for so long," said City Clerk Frances Marsh, "that Lighthouse Point just won't seem like Lighthouse Point without him."

Sitting in a small City Hall conference room, McDonough reflected on his stewardship of the 2.5-square-mile city, a city that barely existed when he took office.

The mayor boasts that now the city offers "one of the finest life

*Please, turn to LIGHTHOUSE 14B5*

# And... they're off!

*Trivigno-Linville campaign  
kicks off LHP's biggest  
political season ever*



Pictured left to right at the campaign kick-off are present mayor Bill Sullivan, Marsha Trivigno-Linville and former Mayor Frank McDonough.

By Bridgette L. Rallo

**LIGHTHOUSE POINT** — More than 100 of the city's most prominent citizens attended the first campaign party of the year. The bash was thrown by City Commissioner and mayoral candidate Marsha Trivigno-Linville last week at the LHP Yacht and Raquet Club.

All of the city's living former mayors and many of its past and current commissioners were on hand for the festivities. Pompano Beach Mayor Bill Griffin and City Commis-

sioner Pat Hardin also put in an appearance; Griffin gave a short endorsement speech for Trivigno-Linville, who has a business in Pompano Beach and is a member of that city's Chamber of Commerce.

Trivigno-Linville, who began exploring her campaign options last fall, has only one challenger to date, fellow City Commissioner Tom Hasis. But LHP residents can expect a lot more campaign news in the near future — besides the mayor's seat, four commission seats are up for grabs.



# Lighthouse Point celebrates its 25th ANNIVERSARY

## Lighthouse Point Sophisticated City Springs From Mangrove

By Mayor Frank McDonough

Lighthouse Point - OUR SILVER ANNIVERSARY . . . What more appropriate time for reflection and for sharing together a brief history of Lighthouse Point, which in the short span of twenty-five years has evolved from mangrove and fertile farmland into a canal-laced, tree-lined community characterized by informal beauty and great civic pride. Some of us have been here from the very beginning; many more of us have not. Let's take a glance back together over the early years; then look briefly at this anniversary year 1981; and finally, peer cautiously into our crystal ball to see what the future may hold for us. First . . .

A GLANCE BACK — to 1947 when the first home was built by Juliette Becker at the present Sample Road and N.E. 21st Avenue Shopping Center location; to 1951 when the first acreage was acquired for development by R.E. Bateman; to 1952 when the first home in a new subdivision called Hillsboro Isles was completed on Lot 6, Block 14; and to December 23, 1953 when the first baby, Cynthia Ann Wright, was born to "Lighthouse Point" parents. From these beginnings, the future City of Lighthouse Point began to emerge. As development progressed and population grew, so did the concern of residents over matters such as water rates, telephone service, school bus service, mail delivery, and other essentials. A civic association was formed in October 1953 to provide an opportunity for people to meet together and discuss these important matters. Soon there was need for a shopping center and plans began to unfold for the Beacon Light Shopping Center. By early 1954 there were important questions to be addressed regarding the new community's future; whether to remain status quo, to be annexed by the City of Pompano Beach, or to incorporate as a separate entity. Our far-sighted first settlers seemed determined to avoid the liabilities being experienced by the neighboring cities to the south and north. Surely, they must have considered the area's splendid geographic location, its proximity to scenic waterways, and the nature of its picturesque semi-tropical atmosphere in arriving at their decision to incor-

rate. On June 13, 1956 the TOWN OF LIGHTHOUSE POINT came into being when 107 of the approximately 600 people living in the subdivisions of Hillsboro Isles, Lake Placid, Lighthouse Point and Lighthouse Point Estates voted to incorporate at a meeting held in the Lighthouse Village Church, now the site of the First United Presbyterian Church of Pompano Beach — the "pink church." They decided to call the new area Lighthouse Point; appropriately so, as it sits directly under the beam of the famed Hillsboro ocean inlet since 1906. Their purpose was to insure self-determination and political self-integrity, with no dependence upon either the burdened city to the south or that to the north.

Local Attorney Russell B. Clarke was elected mayor. Five aldermen were also elected, along with a town marshal to insure police service and a town clerk. Lighthouse Point was off and running, financed, the story goes by a \$100 cash loan from one of the city fathers. City hall operated from a store front at 1811 N.E. 24th Street. Fire protection was provided initially by the volunteer department from Pompano Beach Highlands just across the highway. Court was held each Saturday morning when necessary, but for the most part, violators received only warnings. Town meetings were held every second week and early legislation dealt with, among other things, traffic and building regulations and appointment of persons to city positions.

On March 15, 1957, less than a year later, the by-line in the Fort Lauderdale Daily News read, "Says Lighthouse Point — Please call me 'CITY'." A 59-page charter was drafted which included the name change, along with a detailed list of everything needed to provide a framework for local government, including provision for a mayor to be elected every two years and a five-member commission to be elected at large, three in odd years, two in even years. Incidentally, the mayor's salary was to be no less than \$180 per year; commissioners were to receive no more than \$7.50 per meeting. The new charter was approved by the state legislature and later, on June 11, 1957, by voters at referendum. In July 1957

Lighthouse Point received its new charter and officially became a city.

First Mayor Clarke, having guided the young city through the rigors of securing the charter, was now ready to introduce it into the fraternity of Broward municipalities and to get on with its day to day business. Initial financing came from franchise agreements entered into with the various utility companies serving the area and the state supplied tax revenue from cigarette monies. These, together with fees from the sale of building permits, occupational licenses and ID cards comprised the city's sole income. By 1963 the new city was able to employ a fire chief and ten reserve firefighters. We had acquired two fire engines which were housed in the garage which is now the public works building across from city hall.

A highlight of Mayor Clarke's administration was construction of a city hall which housed all city departments until 1965 when a police building was constructed across the street to accommodate both police and fire departments. Under Mayor Clarke's administration, through the administration of second Mayor John McGinn who served the city from 1965 through September 1968, and until 1970, the city was able to operate free of ad valorem taxes with the franchise and booming building permit income to sustain it.

The city prospered and grew; the subdivisions of Venetian Isles, Lighthouse Manor and Wooler Heights were added between 1957 and 1969. In October 1968, on resignation of John McGinn, Commissioners appointed member Frank



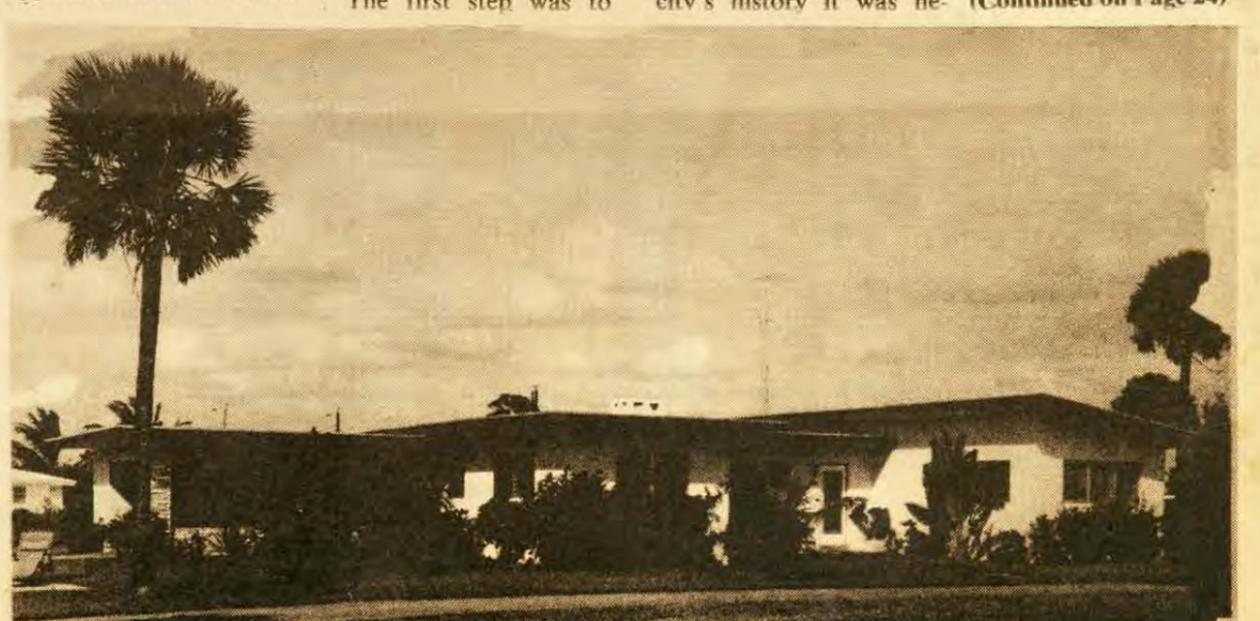
Aerial view of Lighthouse Point taken in 1952 before the boom.

McDonough to take the reins of government.

In 1969 the state-appointed Governmental Efficiency Study Committee began a review of the counties as to the number of charter governments in each. Their findings were released in a report known as the "GESC Study" with a recommendation that Broward County be reduced from 31 municipalities to 8. In the restructuring Lighthouse Point was to completely disappear, with that portion north of Sample Road inuring to Deerfield Beach and the area south of Sample Road to be annexed to Pompano Beach. We took up the challenge and began a program to make Lighthouse Point a city in every way . . . and we were successful! The first step was to

increase our size, and thoughtful consideration was given to an area to annex that would be both practical and desirable. In 1970, after approval from Tallahassee and referendum of the people, the Coral Key and Pompano Waterway Estates area officially became part of Lighthouse Point, adding approximately one-half square mile, 754 homes and an estimated 1,885 residents, increasing our land area to 2.35 square miles and our population to nearly 11,000. Boundaries then — as now — included all lands from Deerfield Beach on the north to Pompano Beach on the south from the center of the Intra-coastal Waterway to the western boundary of Federal Highway.

During this period the city continued its efforts to qualify as a "full service" community. We spoke before the state legislature, before every county body available, and used all political expediences to maintain Lighthouse Point's charter and integrity. In the process it became absolutely essential for Lighthouse Point to conform to federal "green area" (Continued on Page 24)



First house to be built in Lighthouse Point in 1952 for Paul Buffa by Frank Hutchinson.



# Lighthouse Point celebrates its 25th ANNIVERSARY

## Rowleg, Fleming To Instruct Lighthouse Point Tennis

BY RITA

Lighthouse Point — Pike Rowley and his wife, Laurie Fleming will again be instructing

tennis classes at the Lighthouse Point tennis Center this summer.

"The camp will be much like last year," Rowley said. "We will feature top instructors,

from the local area, four hours drilling and competition daily, interclub

league competition, ten-terclub team competi-tion, trophies and

awards for significant achievement, free use of ball machines, tournaments and contests, all sessions two weeks, Monday through Thurs-days, from 12 to 4:00

p.m."

Classes are limited so best get your application in soon. Pike Rowley, Instructor, 3500 N. E 27th Avenue, Lighthouse Point, Florida, 33064.

Sessions will be from June 15 through 25, June 29 through July 9, and July 13 through July 23.

Rowley can be reached at 946-7306.



# Lighthouse Point celebrates its 25th ANNIVERSARY

## Cap's Place

### A Lighthouse Point Landmark

BY RITA

Lighthouse Point - The most well-known landmark in the city of Lighthouse Point is a restaurant called Cap's Place.

In the early days, there was only one way to get to Cap's - by boat, a one lugger motor popping and sputtering bringing over passengers.

It is no longer an island, so the boat has gone by the wayside.

Nearly 50 years ago, Captain Eugene Theodore Knight, grandson, son and brother of lighthouse keepers, seaman, chef, rumrunner and syndicate gambling-housekeeper, created a restaurant-bar from a batch of pilings, some barges and fishing shacks.

Never mind the gaps in the floor and holes in the walls, decorating with things scavenged from the sea - wooden sandal soles washed up on the beach, cane as big as a man's wrist, a decorative side panel from a Spanish galleon supposedly 200 years old, and a ship's hatch door, painted yellow and brown and hinged to a wall leading nowhere.

A six-foot-two sea captain, already in his sixties and was stubborn enough to live another 30 years to oversee it, even demanding that his own food be brought to him daily at the hospital when he finally lay dying.

Barefoot and in his constant outfit of white shirt and bib overalls, he had been host at one time or another to President Franklin Roosevelt, Secretary of State Edward Stettinius, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Dodges, Vanderbilts, Rockefeller, mobster Meyer Lansky and the man on the street.

At age 13, "Cap" ran away from Cape Canaveral Lighthouse where he was born, to become a messboy on a seagoing lighthouse tender. He had a full career with Morgan and Cunard shipping and won his designation as a master seaman.

He was born in 1872 and by the time he had opened Cap's Place he had already lived what most men would envy as

a full life.

He met, married and in 1907 divorced Bertha Bush, who bore him two sons and a daughter.

Then, at 43, Cap started a second full life, marrying 23-year-old school teacher Lola Saunders of Delray.

The year was 1916, and just four years later, Cap was to become one of the area's most suc-

(Continued on Page 24)

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# Major Improvements Made In 25 Years

(Continued from Page 17) regulation, which gave rise to several beautiful parks and mini-parks. At special referendum in March 1970 voters authorized the purchase of approximately five acres of land from the Mormon Church, later to be developed and named Dan Witt Park in honor of the founder and guiding force behind the city's early recreation program. In early 1971 the city approached federal and state agencies about the possibility of leasing nearly 4.6 acres of land at Northeast 52nd Street on the Intra-coastal Waterway. A lease was arranged and in June, 1971 "Nature Park" became ours for \$1.00 a year. On November 7, 1972 voters approved the purchase of five acres of property in Lake Placid from the Archdiocese of Miami, now the site of the Lake Placid Tennis Center and recreation area. Six clay courts were built (more have been added since) in 1974 and a tennis pro was hired to supervise the tennis activities and to instruct both children and adults,

adding another dimension to the city's fine recreation facilities. In 1973 a lot was acquired north of Dan Witt Park and a public works building styled to blend well with homes in the area, was constructed. Also in 1973 two additional lots at the entrance of Dan Witt Park were purchased by the city to provide additional ingress and egress as well as future parking. The year 1973 also marked the introduction of Cable TV to our city, by a franchise agreement with American Video Corporation. We also embarked upon a plan for sanitary sewer and wastewater collection system about this time, which was a "must" for survival as a city, and we were subsequently commended for our foresight by state and county authorities. The system, installed not without some problems and considerable inconvenience, has proved to be an excellent utility, more than justifying plans and hopes for it. In 1974 a new fire station was constructed

to house the by now well-established professional department. Also in 1974 and 1975 the city fought a valiant battle to save its palm trees from the lethal yellowing blight which was attacking South Florida's coconut and other variety palms. An intensive inoculation program was begun of all susceptible trees in the city which continued until it became apparent that efforts to save the trees were futile. At this point owners were encouraged to remove dead and dying trees in order to minimize the further spreading of the disease, and thousands of disease resistant Malay palms were purchased by the city for resale at cost to residents. In 1975-76 the utility tax was removed. To maintain the normal level of services the cost had to be borne totally through the property tax. While other cities had far exceeded our tax increases, our residents were privileged to enjoy the most complete municipal services and facilities at one of the lowest

governmental costs in Broward County. On June 13, 1976, in the nation's Bicentennial year, Lighthouse Point celebrated its 20th birthday and the nation's 200th in a big way. A bicentennial parade wound its way from Beacon Light Shopping Center to Dan Witt Park for an old-fashioned town picnic and a full day of events, with special honors bestowed on the city's 20-year residents. The event kicked off a week of bicentennial activities in conjunction with the County's "Star Spangled Broward" program, and included tours of city facilities; traveling art exhibit; sporting events; lectures and demonstrations; and concluded on Friday evening with an oldtime "town meeting" at City Hall. A time capsule was buried with appropriate formalities in the mini-park at the intersection of 26th Avenue and 27th Street, the exact spot marked by a 3' x 3' stone, and neighborhood residents donated funds for the erection of a flag and

pole on the site. The capsule, to be opened at 5:00 P.M. July 4, in the year 2000 contained several dozen items depicting life in Lighthouse Point in 1976, including photographs, a city map, postage stamps, business cards of residents, an Instamatic camera, plastic American flag, seashells, books, sunflower and pine tree seeds, a sample of drinking water, newspaper dated 7/4/76, a Bible, religious medal and hand crocheted cross, a real estate tax bill, a Bicentennial coin, and a certificate of appreciation signed by Mayor McDonough. 1977 and 1978 were years of growth for the newly-formed Lighthouse Point Senior Citizens group which has become one of the most active social clubs in the city. Meeting in the city hall auditorium, the members enjoy card-playing, bingo, lectures and films. In addition to specially-priced group tours to well-known cities and vacation spots throughout the country.

There were several milestones in 1979. On October 19th the Friends of the Lighthouse Point Library, Inc. received its charter from the State of Florida. This not-for-profit corporation, duly organized, elected officers and began an active campaign to promote, support and proclaim the advantages, services and goals of the city's library. "Crime Watch" came to Lighthouse Point in 1979 as crime statistics soared in South Florida and citizen participation came to be viewed as an effective tool against it. Networks of neighbors received training in home and self protection, suspect identification, and began to serve as extra "eyes and ears" for the police and the community. Lighthouse Point made its entry into the computer age in 1979 when its new NCR 8150 computer went on line to handle budgetary and payroll accounting. Well, there it is in a nutshell — 25 years of history of our city.



Mayor Frank McDonough



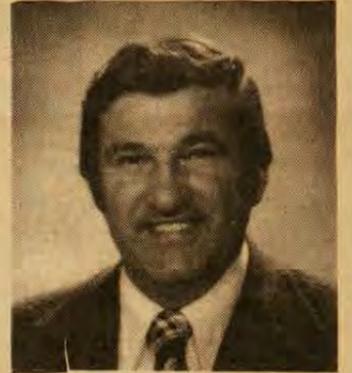
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City Clerk



Gerald Renuart  
Administrative Assistant



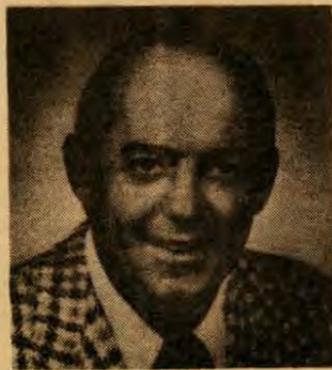
Paul Mannino  
Police Chief



The city's three Mayors — Current Frank McDonough, first Mayor Russell B. Clarke and John McGinn.



John Trudel  
Parks & Rec. Dept.



Dan Witt  
Park Named For Him



Wayne Stambaugh  
City Engineer

## Cap's Place

(Continued from Page 19) cessful rumrunners. He ended his liquor running when the Coast Guard started building faster boats. Cap passed away at 92 and his wife Lola is in a nursing home, wondering where all her money went. She remembers with fond memories the 50 years she spent with Cap and would do it all over again. She met the celebrities, the politicians, the ordinary people, and she made hundreds of friends.