

BROWARD

\$3.00

*Florida Atlantic
University*

Legacy

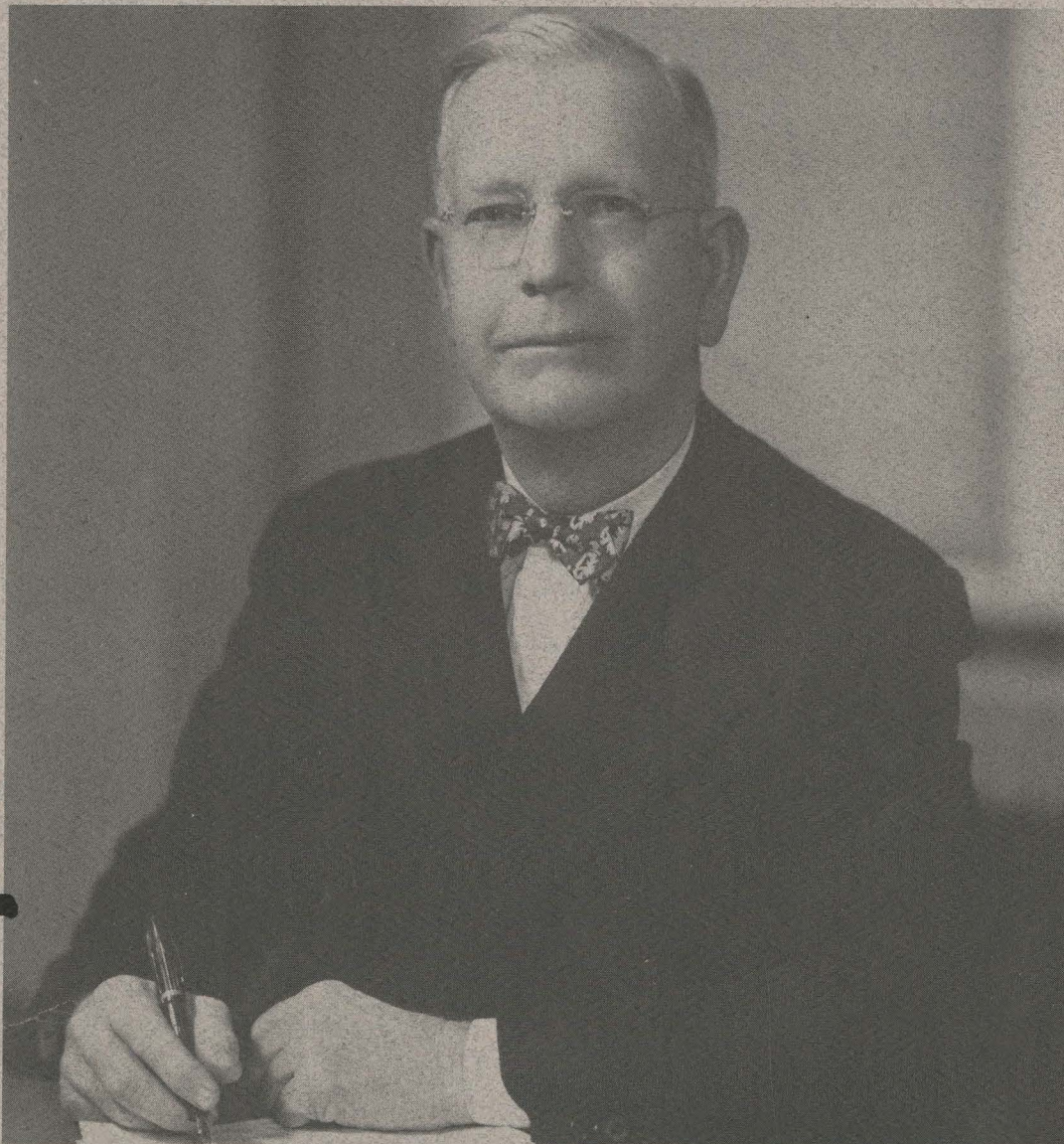
OCT 1 1990

*Library
Boca Raton, FL*

"A Journal of South Florida History"

SUMMER-FALL 1990

VOL. 13 — NOS. 3-4



Florence Roberts Rogers celebrates 100th birthday!

Born on March 9, 1890, in Dallas, Georgia, Florence Roberts Rogers recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

Now living in Fort Lauderdale, Florence was married to Dwight Laing Rogers, who, along with John E. Morris, Sr., founded one of Broward County's oldest law firms in 1925. Dwight later served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1930 to 1938. He was elected as the first representative of the sixth district of the United States House of Representatives, which included Broward and Palm Beach counties, and served five consecutive terms. He died on December 1, 1954, before the convening of the Eighty-fourth Congress.

Florence's son, Paul G. Rogers, was elected to succeed his father in a special election. He served as a member of the United States House of

Representatives for twenty-four years. Florence returned to Washington for a year to serve as Paul's hostess.

Florence was a founder of the Review Club of Fort Lauderdale in 1928. She has been an active and loyal member of the Park Temple (now First United) Methodist Church, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Lauderdale Yacht Club, where she was known for her friendly charm and sharp bridge play.

Florence's three sons, Paul, Dwight, Jr., and Doyle, are all attorneys, practicing in Washington, D.C., Fort Lauderdale, and Palm Beach, respectively. Florence has nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She remains an avid bridge-player, playing nearly every day.

Copyright 1990, by the Broward County Historical Commission. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means, whether graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping or information and retrieval systems, without permission of the publisher.

Broward Legacy is published semi-annually by the Broward County Historical Commission. Location and mailing address:

L. Clayton Nance Historical Building
100 S. New River Drive East
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Telephone (305) 765-4670. Single price copy: \$3 plus tax; annual subscription: \$6 plus tax. Back issues are available.

Unless otherwise noted, photographs are from the archives of the Historical Commission.

Neither the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, nor the Broward County Historical Commission is responsible for the statements, conclusions or observations herein contained, such matters being the sole responsibility of the authors.

Florida Atlantic
University

Oct 1 1990

BROWARD

Library
Boca Raton, FL

\$3.00

Legacy

"A Journal of South Florida History"

SUMMER-FALL 1990

VOL. 13 - NOS. 3-4

"Broward Legacy" Staff

Rodney E. Dillon, Jr.
Editor

Helen Landers
County Historian

Dorothy E. Bryan
Administrative Secretary

Grace Reed
Clerk Typist

Broward County Historical Commission

F.K. Walker
Chairman

William G. Crawford, Jr.
Vice Chairman

William G. Miller, Jr.
Secretary

Cathleen Anderson
Robert Anderson
Ray Collier

Kenneth J. Hughes
John Maseman

Jeanne McKeithen
Leonard Robbins

Betty Roberts
Lowell Showalter

Jeffrey L. Siegel
Mary Smith

Patricia M. Smith

J.W. "Bill" Stevens
Advisor

Broward County Commission

Gerald Thompson
Commissioner, District 1

Sylvia Poitier
Commissioner, District 2

John Hart
Commissioner, District 3

Scott Cowan
Commissioner, District 4

Lori Nance Parrish
Commissioner, District 5

Nicki Englander Grossman
Commissioner, District 6

Ed Kennedy
Commissioner, District 7

Broward Politics, 1928-1938:

Political Influence in Depression Era Broward

by Donald G. Lester 2

The People's Choice —

Election Cards from the Collection of

Easter Lily Gates 24

To Settle the Land: Pre-Emption and the Withers Report in Early Twentieth Century Broward County

Introduced and Edited by Joe Knetsch and Paul S. George 27

Coast Guard Base 6 — Articles Reprinted from

the *Fort Lauderdale Daily News* 34

The First Years of the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club — as Reported by the Club Historian

Reprinted from the *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*,
New Home Edition, Tuesday, August 4, 1924 39

The Lewis Settlement on New River:

A Newly Discovered Document 44

Cover photo:

Dwight Laing Rogers, Fort Lauderdale attorney, Florida state representative, and the first Broward Countian to serve in the United States House of Representatives. Along with his law partner, John E. Morris, Sr., Rogers was a leading figure in the county's political battles in the late 1920s and 1930s. An article on politics during the depression years begins on page 2 of this issue of *Broward Legacy*.

BROWARD POLITICS

1928-1938

POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN DEPRESSION ERA BROWARD

by DONALD G. LESTER

Broward County, along with much of Florida, entered a period of economic depression with the collapse of the real estate boom of the mid-1920s and the disastrous hurricane of 1926. This period of financial hardship was intensified by a second deadly hurricane in 1928, which wreaked particular havoc in the West Palm Beach and Lake Okeechobee regions, by the collapse of a number of south Florida banks in the late 1920s, and by the October 1929 stock market crash which ushered in the nationwide Great Depression. The depression colored nearly every aspect of life in Broward County, which had a population of 20,094 in 1930 and an economy based primarily on tourism and agriculture. In the county's political realm, the decade from 1928 to 1938 emerged as a distinct era, dominated by colorful personalities, influenced by state, regional, and national trends, and characterized by deep and sometimes lasting divisions.

The political factionalism that dominated Broward County during the Great Depression originated with a bitter struggle for the judgeship of the newly-created Twenty-second Judicial Circuit in 1928.¹ The position of circuit judge in Florida at that time rested on gubernatorial appointment. However, the tradition had long been established that the governor would appoint the winner of the Democratic primary,

submitting his name to the Florida Senate for confirmation.² The same procedure was followed for the offices of state attorney and supervisor of elections.

Florida had been part of the Democratic Solid South since the end of Reconstruction. Thus the holding of an elective office depended upon success in the white Democratic primary, with participation limited to members of the Caucasian race. Until 1937, payment of a poll tax was a prerequisite for voting. According to Democratic primary rules set up in 1901, a majority of votes was required for election. In case no candidate received a majority of the first primary vote, a run-off election was held between the two top contenders. The reason for this rule, which predominated in the southern states, though not in the country as a whole, was that, in the South, the Democratic nomination was tantamount to election. The Democratic primary therefore attracted a multitude of candidates, and it was deemed improper to award the nomination, and thus the election, to the top vote-getter if a majority of the voters had voted against him.³

The rules regulating the Democratic primary were amended in 1913 by the Bryan Law, which combined the first primary and the run-off into one election. The new procedure called for a voter to indicate his first choice and

also his second choice. If a candidate received a majority of first choice votes, the primary election was decided. But if no candidate received a majority of first choice votes, the second choice votes of the candidates finishing lower than second place were added to the votes of the two front-runners, and the victor was thus determined. The plan was named after Florida's United States Senator Nathan P. Bryan, a Jacksonville resident whose family played a prominent part in the early settlement of Broward County.

A leading authority on Florida political history has written that the Bryan Law worked perfectly on paper, but that it bogged down in practice. Many voters were confused by the plan, and many did not vote a second choice. Many election officials seemed as confused as the voters and were not sure which second choice votes to count. The procedure bogged down completely in the Florida Democratic primary for governor in 1916. Sidney J. Catts had a clear lead in first choice votes, but his chief rival, William V. Knott, the choice of the party establishment, picked up enough second choice votes to send the election to a virtual tie. After much wrangling, Knott was declared the victor. Catts refused to accept that result and contested the November election as an independent with Prohibitionist party

support, defeating Knott by 9,000 votes.⁴ In 1917, the legislature voted to repeal the Bryan Law, but this bill was vetoed by the governor. Thus the first choice/second choice system remained in place until Florida reverted back to the run-off system in 1930.

Broward County, created in 1915, was originally placed in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit along with Dade and Palm Beach counties. In 1917, the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit was created, separating Palm Beach and Broward counties from Dade, with E.B. Donnell of West Palm Beach as circuit judge. C.E. Chillingworth of West Palm Beach became judge in 1923. The rapid increase in population during the real estate boom of the 1920s encouraged the Broward County Bar Association to clamor for a separate Broward judicial circuit. In 1927, these efforts

Often overshadowed in published accounts of the county's history by the lively boom years which preceded it and the dramatic war years which followed, the depression era in Broward had a fascinating history of its own. Nowhere is this more evident than in the field of politics, with its colorful characters, spirited election campaigns, and evolving alliances and rivalries. As this article points out, the political events of the depression in many cases set the course of Broward County's government for years to come. Furthermore, the story of Broward's depression era politics was not confined to the county's borders, for though its population remained relatively small, its political affairs became increasingly intertwined with those of the state and national governments.

Donald G. Lester, author of this article, is Assistant Professor Emeritus of History and Political Science at Middle Georgia College in Cochran, Georgia. His family has lived in Fort Lauderdale since 1925. He is a graduate of Fort Lauderdale High School and the University of Miami.

This article is followed by a collection of election cards depicting candidates and campaigns from the 1930s to the 1950s. These cards are from the Easter Lily Gates collection in the Historical Commission archives. Mrs. Gates served as Broward County Supervisor of Registration from 1929 to 1969.

bore fruit when the legislature passed an act creating the Twenty-second Judicial Circuit, and the bill was signed into law by Governor John W. Martin. The governor then followed the recommendation of the county bar association and appointed Vincent C. Giblin, possibly the most brilliant lawyer ever to practice in Broward County, as judge of the twenty-second circuit. Giblin had been born in Mobile, Alabama, in 1895, and had received his law degree from Notre Dame University. He had served as an attorney for the Florida East Coast Railway in Jacksonville before moving to Fort Lauderdale in 1925. Soon after his arrival, Giblin was able to impress most of the Broward lawyers with the depth of his legal knowledge and erudition. His appointment to the judgeship of the twenty-second circuit was soon confirmed by the Florida Senate.⁵

Governor Martin also followed the recommendation of the Broward County Bar Association in appointing Fort Lauderdale Municipal Judge Louis F. Maire as state attorney for the Twenty-second Judicial Circuit. Maire had been born in New York in 1894, but had grown up in Georgia. He graduated from the Detroit College of Law at the age of twenty, and, after admission to the Michigan bar and Georgia bar, settled in Fort Lauderdale in 1923. He was soon admitted to the Florida bar and in 1924 made an unsuccessful attempt to unseat Fred B. Shippey as county judge. He then

became Fort Lauderdale municipal judge. Maire's appointment as state attorney was quickly confirmed by the Florida Senate.⁶

Broward County's outstanding legal case of 1927, and one charged with a number of political ramifications, was the Hicks murder trial. William A. Hicks, former chief deputy sheriff under Sheriff Paul Bryan, stood accused of the 1925 murder of Robert R. Barber, a one-time prisoner. Hicks had not been charged until two years after the murder, but interest in the case soon reached a fever pitch. Hicks was defended by an impressive battery of lawyers, including C.E. Farrington, Thomas Lockhart, and G.H. Martin of Fort Lauderdale; J. Walter Kehoe, a long time state attorney from the Pensacola circuit and former one-term congressman from the panhandle; R.B. Gautier, a former mayor of Miami; and the Miami firm of Price and Price. A defense by this outstanding array of local talent indicates that Hicks had some money at his disposal. According to G.H. Martin, wealthy, reclusive Fort Lauderdale beach resident Hugh Taylor Birch donated \$5,000 to the Hicks defense fund.⁷

Judge Giblin's involvement in the Hicks case was short lived. He disqualified himself from hearing the case on grounds of ill feeling that existed between himself and Hicks, and Governor Martin appointed Judge Lexie Parks of Tampa to conduct the trial. After hearing sensational testimony



The Broward County Courthouse, with its distinctive belltower, as it appeared in the 1920s.

which attracted widespread news coverage, the jury convicted Hicks and he was sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary.⁸

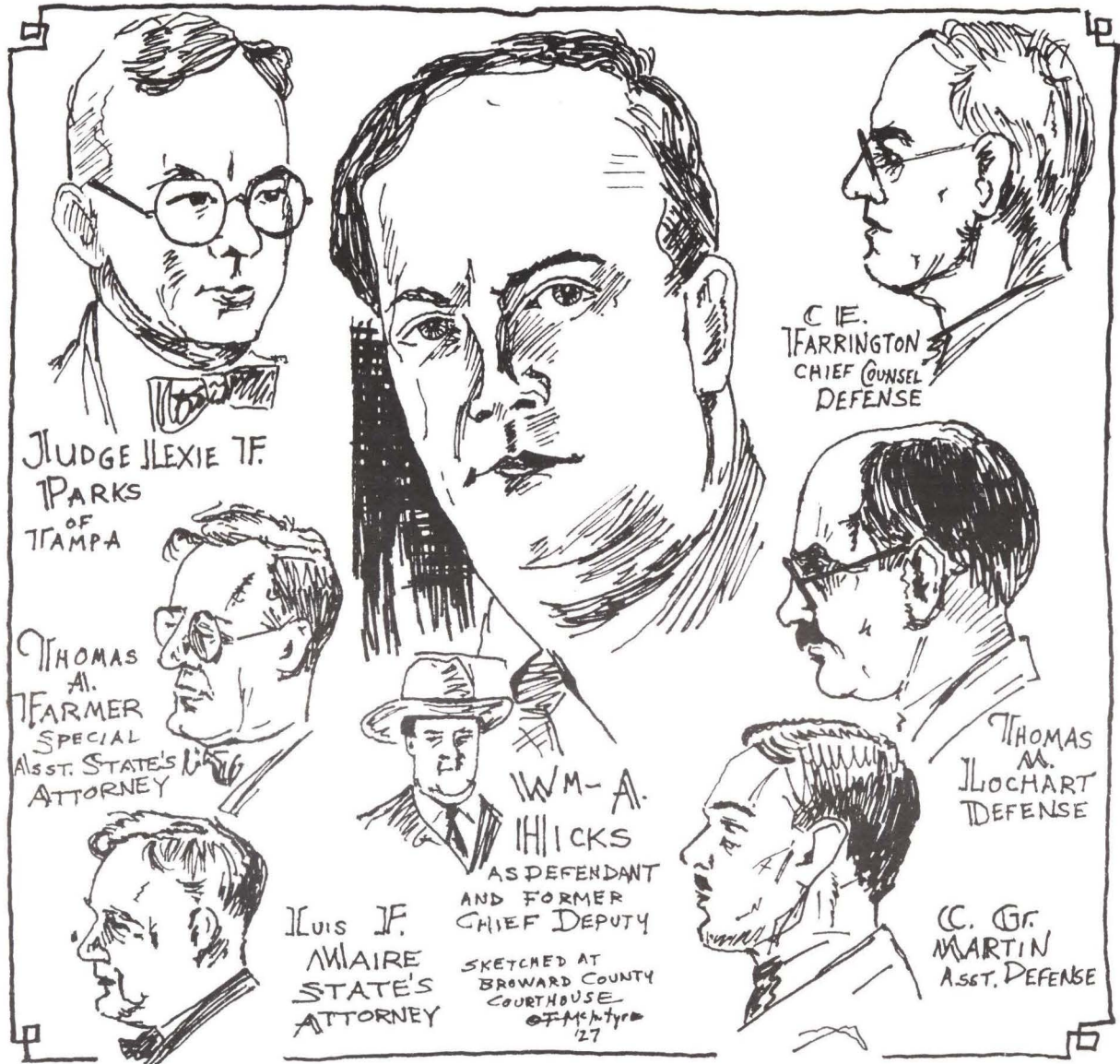
Although he did not play an important role in the Hicks trial, Vincent C. Giblin soon proved to be a tough, no-nonsense judge who took his duties, as well as himself, very seriously. This approach offended many people, and numerous complaints surfaced concerning his high-handed tactics. As the 1928 elections approached, many Broward countians felt that Giblin was

due for his day of reckoning if a suitable opponent could be found. Fort Lauderdale attorney George W. Tedder, Sr., took the challenge and filed against Giblin. A Florida native, Tedder had been born in Madison in 1880. He had started his career as a school teacher and won his first elective office in 1904, when he was chosen superintendent of public instruction for Madison County. He won re-election to that position in 1908, 1912, and 1916, and in 1917 became the president of the Florida Education

Association. Then, in 1920, Tedder entered into the legal field when he was elected judge of the Madison County court.⁹ Two years later he was admitted to the Florida bar. Although re-elected county judge in 1924, Tedder resigned that position in 1925 and moved to Fort Lauderdale to engage in the private practice of law.¹⁰

As the battle for the circuit judgeship took shape, a large majority of Broward County's lawyers came out for Giblin, mesmerized by his legal brilliance. Such a large majority of the

Principals in Trial of Fort Lauderdale Justice of Peace



Principal figures in the W.A. Hicks murder trial as sketched during the proceedings by *Miami Daily News* staff artist O.F. McIntyre. Despite his lifelike characterizations of some of Broward County's leading attorneys, McIntyre misspelled the names of "Luis" (Louis) F. Maire, Thomas M. "Lochart" (Lockhart), Thomas "A." (G.) Farmer, and "C.G." (G.H.) Martin.



Judge Vincent C. Giblin, c. 1935.



Judge George W. Tedder, Sr., c. 1935.

members of the Broward Bar Association endorsed Giblin that many citizens perceived that the bar association itself supported the incumbent judge.

Two Fort Lauderdale lawyers, Dwight L. Rogers and John E. Morris, refused to go along with the wishes of the vast majority of Broward attorneys and became campaign managers for Tedder. Rogers, born August 17, 1886, in Reidsville, Georgia, graduated from the University of Georgia in 1909 and received his L.L.B. from Mercer University the following year. After admission to the Georgia bar, he had practiced in Ocilla, Georgia, for fifteen years before moving to Fort Lauderdale.¹¹ Morris, born in Jefferson County, Florida, on September 12, 1886, also graduated from Mercer with a law degree in 1910. He was admitted to the Georgia bar and practiced law in Quitman, Georgia, from 1910 to 1925, serving as prosecuting attorney in Brooks County, Georgia, from 1912 to 1922.¹² In December 1925, Morris was in Fort Lauderdale, where, by chance, he met Rogers at the corner of Andrews Avenue and Las Olas Boulevard, in front of the Broward Hotel. The two classmates had seen each other only intermittently in the fifteen years between their graduation and their meeting that December day. Both men had come to Fort Lauderdale to practice law, and while Morris had

been promised an office in the Wheeler Building, Rogers had been unable to find one. Then and there, they decided on a partnership, and both went to inspect the promised office space. Once there, they noticed that it consisted of two small adjacent rooms. Morris remarked that it looked small, but Rogers said that it was large enough for the time being. They stood in the doorway that separated the two rooms and shook hands. In twenty-nine years of partnership, ending only with Rogers' death in 1954, that handshake was the only contract between them.¹³

As the campaign between Giblin and Tedder became more heated, a long political advertisement appeared in the *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*. It was a strong endorsement of Giblin and was signed by a large majority of the Broward County Bar Association. The heading stated:

"LAWYERS GIVE REASONS FOR SUPPORTING JUDGE VINCENT C. GIBLIN"

The advertisement began by denying that the lawyers were trying to tell the voters how to vote. It mentioned Giblin's high standing among attorneys and emphasized that he kept his docket clear. The advertisement closed with the following statement and endorsements:

"Coming in contact with Judge Giblin each day in the trial of matters before him we find him to be an able

lawyer, and efficient, honest, and unbiased judge, and we think that he is entitled to an endorsement on his record, he having been a judge for only one year. Coming into contact with Judge Giblin each day in the practice of law and observing and studying his decisions when on the bench, we are of the opinion that his sole purpose in the performance of his duties is to see that justice is done to all litigants. Judge Giblin will not court your or our favor . . .

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Curtis Byrd</i> | <i>T.F. Fleming</i> |
| <i>C.N. McCune</i> | <i>H.D. Dresbach</i> |
| <i>R.R. Saunders</i> | <i>W.G. Miller</i> |
| <i>C.A. Hiaasen</i> | <i>L.G. Casey</i> |
| <i>Miller Walton</i> | <i>C.P. Weidling</i> |
| <i>Maxwell Baxter</i> | <i>T.G. Farmer</i> |
| <i>C.H. Landefeld</i> | <i>Jesse Grantham</i> |
| <i>F. Holmes Johnson</i> | <i>Hugh Lester</i> |
| <i>C.L. Chancey</i> | <i>G.W. English</i> |
| <i>M. Lewis Hall</i> | <i>John W. Whelan</i> |
| <i>Everett H. Hunt</i> | <i>H.C. Tallmedge</i> |
| <i>John M. Seal</i> | <i>William M. Hawkins</i> |
| <i>M.B. Aaron</i> | <i>Ella Jo Stollberg</i> |
| <i>G.A. Frost</i> | <i>T.D. Ellis</i> |
| <i>N.B. Cheaney</i> | <i>W.C. Mather</i> |
| <i>Elbert B. Griffis</i> | <i>T.V. Kieve</i> |
| <i>A.L. McMillan</i> | <i>Robert J. Davis</i> |
| <i>R.J. Blank</i> | <i>Wade A. Gardner¹⁴</i> |
| <i>Louis F. Maire</i> | |

George W. Tedder, Sr., did not take the opposition of a majority of the Broward bar in a meek and humble manner. He staged a traditionally American populist campaign, empha-

COME HEAR

Tom G. Farmer's

VITAL MESSAGE

TO THE

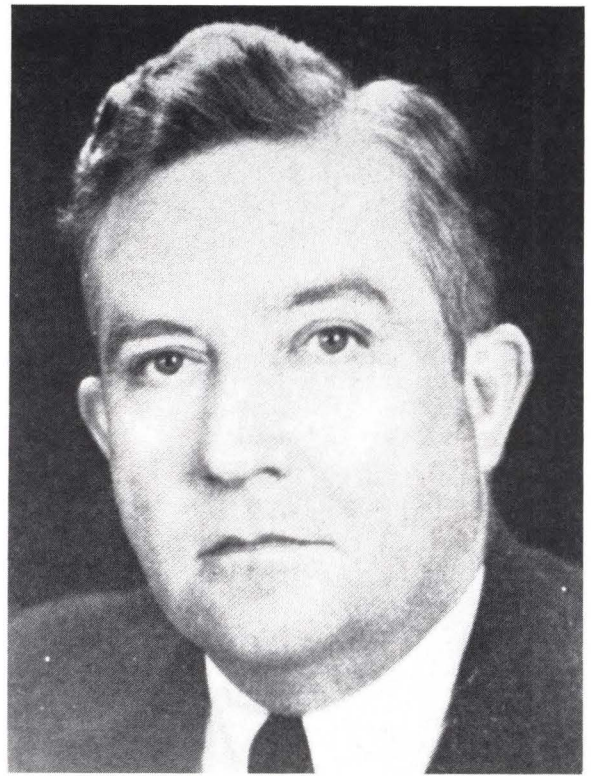
Citizens of Broward County

8:00 p. m.

Thursday, May 31st

STRANAHAN PARK

Subject: - "Our Circuit Judge"



Above: John E. Morris, Sr., partner in the Rogers and Morris law firm and Broward County Attorney from 1931 to 1941. Left: Fort Lauderdale Daily News advertisement announcing Thomas G. Farmer's 1928 speech endorsing Judge Giblin.

sizing that he would be a people's judge rather than a lawyer's judge. A Tedder advertisement which appeared in the Fort Lauderdale Daily News read as follows:

**"VOTE FOR GEORGE W. TEDDER
A MAN OF THE PEOPLE
AND THE PEOPLE'S CANDIDATE**

He is not backed by any faction, political ring, or banking clique. He is not backed by railroad corporations, special interests or their paid attorneys. He believes in more stringent banking laws and in the enforcement of the banking laws we now have for the protection of the depositors. He believes in economy, courtesy, and impartiality in public office as well as efficiency.

He feels that the office is so important and political trust so great that it should not rest in the dictation of lawyers. When elected he will not be merely a lawyer's judge, but will be a judge and public servant for all of the people, with no interest to serve except that of justice.

*For an independent judiciary without entangling alliances vote for the people's candidate, George W. Tedder, capable, efficient, and a gentleman always.*¹⁵

Tom Farmer, a leading Fort Lauderdale trial lawyer, delivered a speech in Stranahan Park entitled "Our Circuit Judge." Farmer said that Giblin kept his docket clear, and he attacked Tedder's qualifications and campaign tactics. A statement of Tedder's that he was "a broadminded man of the people" received Farmer's particular scorn, and Farmer went so far as to declare that Tedder was not fit to be a judge of any court. State Attorney Louis F. Maire took out an advertisement in the local paper endorsing Giblin, as did many other Broward lawyers.¹⁶

While delivering a speech in Hollywood, Judge Giblin was confronted by one heckler — Mrs. W.A. Hicks, wife of the ex-chief deputy who was still languishing in jail as a result of his murder conviction. Mrs. Hicks loudly blamed Giblin for her husband's troubles. Giblin replied that he did not wish

the support of the class attached to Hicks. "I do not care for the support of people like Hicks and his wife," he stated, "If there are not enough decent people to elect me, I will accept defeat with grace." For these remarks, he received an ovation.¹⁷

W.H. Shuford, a former mayor of Pompano, put a political advertisement in the Fort Lauderdale paper which strongly endorsed Tedder. He reiterated Tedder's contention that lawyers should not be permitted to dictate the judicial selection, and then revealed mistreatment at the hands of Giblin. His statement read in part:

" . . . During the month of October I was summoned as a juror to appear on a certain Monday morning for service. I was in bed sick and had been there for a period of four weeks and so I instructed the officer who served the subpoena on me. I told him that I would not be able to do jury service the following Monday morning, but that I would send a reputable doctor's certificate to the court showing that my physical condition was such that I

could not attend. Saturday afternoon preceding the Monday on which I was summoned to appear, Dr. McClellan, one of the most reputable and leading physicians of Broward County . . . and who was my attending physician, gave me a certificate showing that I was physically unable to do jury service and I was under his care. This certificate was sent to Judge Giblin and he refused to accept the certificate without making any inquiry at all but immediately sent Lucian Craig the Deputy Sheriff of Broward County to my home to bring me before him. Mr. Craig came to my home and found me in bed and said that the judge sent him after me to which I replied that I was unable to go to court where upon Mr. Craig said that he would have to carry me by main force if necessary as that was his order from the court. In seeing that there was no way out, I told Mr. Craig that I would come, but that I desired to go by and see the doctor before coming. However, the doctor was away from his office and I was brought to Fort Lauderdale. In my sick condition I appeared before the court and even though he is not a doctor he recognized that I was a sick man and I told him that I could not serve on the jury. I was hardly able to get back to my home in Pompano. I am supporting Judge Tedder for the reason that I do not think that he would do such a thing.

Respectfully,
W. H. Shuford 18

Judge Giblin replied by means of a political advertisement in the following day's paper. He denied that the lawyers were telling people how to vote, and he proceeded to give his side of the Shuford affair, claiming that the deputy had never told him of Shuford's illness and that he knew neither Shuford nor Dr. McClellan.¹⁹ He added that he had apologized to Shuford.²⁰

Dwight L. Rogers and John E. Morris campaigned strenuously for Tedder. They used various persuasive arguments, including the Shuford episode, to convince the voters that Giblin should be ousted as circuit judge. They also informed the voters of Tedder's excellent qualities, which qualified him to be the next judge of the Twenty-second Judicial Circuit.

Overcoming the strenuous opposition of most of the lawyers in the county, George W. Tedder, Sr., scored a resounding victory in the primary election. The final count gave Tedder 2,366 votes to Giblin's 1,755.²¹

Many high profile statewide political contests were also decided in the June 5, 1928, Democratic primary. In the gubernatorial race, former Governor Sidney J. Catts attempted a comeback, but faced major opposition from Doyle E. Carlton, a former state senator from

For Circuit Judge
—VOTE FOR—
GEORGE W. TEDDER
Fair, Impartial, Courteous, Considerate
Your Vote and Support Appreciated
(Real Political Advertisement)

Vote For
JUDGE VINCENT C. GIBLIN
(A Judge and not a Politician)
TO SUCCEED HIMSELF AS CIRCUIT JUDGE
Since his appointment as Circuit Judge in June 1927, he has disposed of more than twelve hundred cases by final adjudication. He has fulfilled the duties of his office fairly, impartially, conscientiously, fearlessly and expeditiously, whereby the taxpayers have been saved many thousands of dollars. His constant and tireless devotion to the performance of his work renders it impossible for him to personally see many of the voters; but his record as Circuit Judge is such as to merit the consideration and endorsement by the people of Broward county of his candidacy for reappointment to office.
Written and Published by Friends and Supporters of Judge Giblin

Giblin and Tedder advertisements from the Fort Lauderdale Daily News during the 1928 circuit judge's campaign.

Tampa, John S. Taylor, the 1925 president of the Florida Senate, and Fons A. Hathaway of Jacksonville, chairman of the state road department with close ties to the Martin administration. To these four candidates was added a fifth man, James M. Carson, a Miami attorney who spent the campaign educating the voters on Catts' shortcomings. Geographic rivalries played a significant role in the gubernatorial contest. Broward County voters were told, for example, that they should support Carlton because he was a south Florida man. They were also told that they should support Hathaway because he was an east coast man.

Retiring Governor John W. Martin made a determined effort to unseat United States Senator Park Trammell, who had never been defeated in any election since starting his distinguished career as mayor of Lakeland in 1899. In 1928, Broward County formed part of the Fourth Congressional District, which stretched along the east coast from Jacksonville to Key West, and also included some inland counties. Representative William J. Sears of Kissimmee, who had served in Congress since the fourth district was created in 1915, was challenged in 1928 by Ruth Bryan Owen, a resident of Dade County and the daughter of William Jennings Bryan. Mrs. Owen had barely missed unseating Sears in the 1926 Democratic primary.

Also running for re-election was Senator Alfred Wagg of West Palm Beach, who represented a district composed of Palm Beach and Broward counties. Not until 1947 did Broward County rate its own state senator.

When the votes were counted, Doyle E. Carlton topped former Governor Catts by 9,000 first choice votes in the governor's race, with Hathaway 1,000 votes behind Catts. The second choice votes insured Carlton's victory. Senator Trammell turned back the determined challenge of Governor Martin, while Ruth Bryan Owen toppled seven-term incumbent Congressman Sears, and Alfred Wagg, with tremendous support from Broward County, held on to his position as state senator by a small margin.

In the local contests, a number of incumbents were toppled. Sheriff Paul Bryan was defeated by an old rival, former Sheriff A.W. Turner, whom Bryan had replaced in 1922. Bryan received more first choice votes than did Turner, but the second choice vote enabled the ex-sheriff to obtain victory. State Representative Tom M. Bryan of Fort Lauderdale was defeated by George L. Blount of Pompano. County Commissioner H.G. Wheeler, in office since 1920, finished third behind C.J. Atwater and George G. Mathews, with Atwater obtaining the position. Frank A. Bryan, clerk of the circuit court since the county was created in 1915, with-

MAKING GOOD IN CONGRESS



Ruth Bryan Owen, Representative from the Fourth Congressional District of this state, is hailed as success at Washington.

Congresswoman Ruth Bryan Owen, 1929.



Supervisor of Registration Easter Lily Gates at her desk in the courthouse, 1944.

stood a strong challenge from Charles Helmich, while J.A. Warren won the tax collector's post by thwarting the comeback attempt of W.O. Berryhill, a former holder of the office.²² Easter L. Gates defeated the incumbent H.J. Singleton for the office of supervisor of registration to become the second woman elected to a Broward County office. Mrs. Gates was destined to hold the office for the next forty years, giving her the longest tenure of any elected official in Broward County history.

In Broward County, as well as in the state, the Democratic nomination was normally tantamount to election. In 1928, however, Governor Alfred E. Smith of New York, the Democratic presidential candidate, was, for a variety of reasons, unattractive to most Floridians. He was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, opposed to national prohibition, and a member of Tammany Hall, New York City's powerful Democratic machine. As a result of Smith's unpopularity, the Republicans realized that they had the best chance in half a century to crack the Solid South.

The November 1928 election proved their efforts successful. Republican presidential candidate Herbert Hoover

carried five of the eleven former Confederate states, including Florida. Broward County went for Hoover by a margin of more than two to one. Hoover's coattails proved beneficial to some local Republicans as well. James S. Rickards, in office as superintendent of public instruction since 1920, was defeated by Republican John M. Gerren. The Republicans completed taking control of the county school system by winning two school board contests.²³ The Democratic candidate for prosecuting attorney, John D. Kennedy, seemed certain of victory after surviving a tough primary battle in June, but during the fall campaign he was quoted as saying, "I don't want the vote of anyone who is not going to vote for Al Smith."²⁴ Apparently many Broward Democrats took Kennedy at his word as he was defeated by Republican Robert J. Davis by a majority of only eleven votes out of a total of over 4,000 votes cast.

In the state contests, Doyle E. Carlton turned back the serious challenge of William J. Howey by a majority of three to two. Howey had made a strong effort to obtain the governorship by trying to erase the carpetbagger/scalawag/Negro image that had

plagued southern Republicans since Reconstruction. To ease concern about the fate of Democratic circuit judges in case of a Republican victory, Everett H. Hunt, chairman of the Broward County Republican Executive Committee, claimed that he had secured Howey's pledge that, if victorious, he would continue the practice of appointing the winners of the Democratic primary to circuit judge positions. Democratic Senator Park Trammell was returned to office by defeating Republican candidate Barclay H. Warburton, the mayor of Palm Beach, by a margin of over two to one. Ruth Bryan Owen led the congressional ticket and scored an impressive victory to become the first woman elected to Congress from the deep South.

In Broward County, even losing Republican candidates made impressive showings. Everett H. Hunt, for example, made a creditable though losing effort against County Judge Fred B. Shippey. Democratic leaders were reported "stunned" at the unexpected election outcome.

Locally, Fort Lauderdale attorney Maxwell Baxter was well positioned politically. He was a firm friend and supporter of Governor Carlton, their connection going back to Baxter's days

in Tampa where he had practiced law for several years before moving to Fort Lauderdale in 1919. Baxter also had close ties to Ruth Bryan Owen as well as to Florida's longtime United States Senator Duncan Fletcher.

The completion of the 1928 political campaign and elections also promised to end Broward County's hard-fought judicial dispute. Doyle E. Carlton took the oath of office in Tallahassee in January 1929, and in due time submitted the name of George W. Tedder, Sr., to the Florida Senate for confirmation as judge of the Twenty-second Judicial Circuit, fulfilling the wishes of the electorate in the June 1928 primary. The senate confirmed the appointment, and most Broward countians assumed that the bitter judicial battle was over.

Suddenly, Judge Giblin announced that his appointment by Governor Martin in July 1927 had been for six years, and that his term would therefore not expire until June 1933. Giblin refused to vacate his office and requested that Governor Carlton issue him a commission for the remaining four years.²⁶ The Broward County Democratic Executive Committee denounced Giblin's move, charging that the judge's request to Carlton for a commission "is designed to embarrass the Governor, to disrupt the Democratic Party in Broward County and to thwart the wishes of the people in Broward County." The committee unanimously adopted a resolution denouncing Giblin's action as "undemocratic and designed to destroy the efficiency of the Democratic Party," and sent a telegram to Carlton asking him to ignore Giblin's request and

pointing out that Tedder had carried fourteen of the county's sixteen precincts.

Explaining his action on the extension of his term, Giblin expressed his regret that he had not been invited to the executive committee meeting. The purpose of the primary, he reasoned, was to recommend a candidate for appointment to a vacancy, and if no vacancy existed then the primary was not needed.

Governor Carlton ignored Giblin's request and stood by the Tedder appointment. Fred Davis, the Attorney General of Florida, instituted legal proceedings to oust Giblin from office. Giblin flatly refused to vacate the bench, adding that he would stay at his post until the Florida Supreme Court decided if his contention that he should hold the office until June 1933 was wrong.²⁷ Representative Merchant of Madison added to the confusion by introducing a bill in the legislature to abolish the Twenty-second Judicial Circuit altogether by reducing the number of circuits to twenty.²⁸ In the meantime, Broward County faced the prospect of having two circuit judges at the same time.

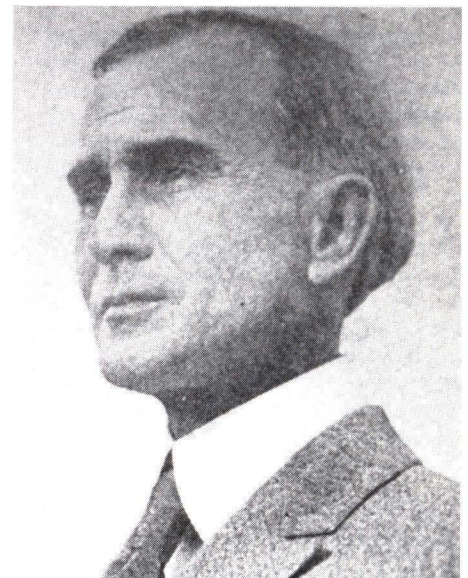
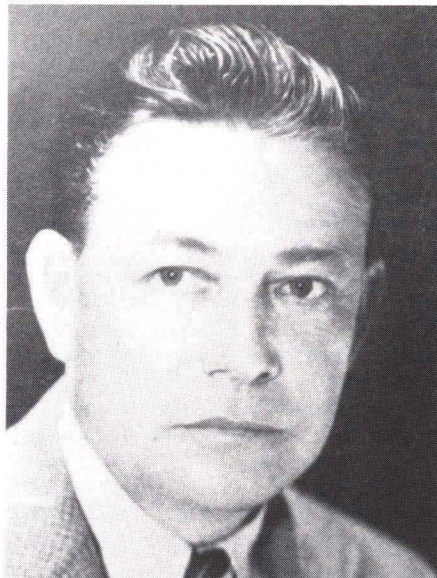
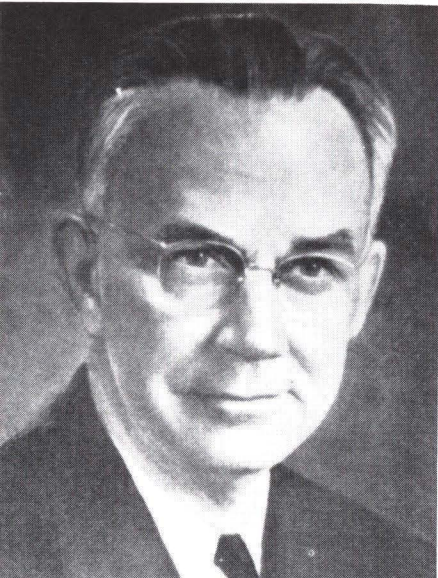
On June 20, 1929, George W. Tedder, Sr., took the oath of office administered by Broward Clerk of the Circuit Court Frank Bryan.³⁰ As judge, Tedder signed decrees, but Giblin, whose commission had expired, continued signing decrees as well. Exasperated by the situation, Tedder went to Tallahassee to fight for his right to be judge of the Twenty-second Judicial Circuit before the Florida Supreme Court. There he was represented by William H. Price of Miami, the law

firms of Rogers and Morris, Roach and Hoyl, and Crim and Cook, as well as by Thomas E. Swanson and C.E. Farrington, all of Fort Lauderdale. The Fort Lauderdale firm of McCune, Hiaasen, and Fleming assisted Attorney General Fred Davis in his fight to oust Giblin. Obviously, Giblin's obstinateness had alienated many Broward County attorneys who had previously supported him wholeheartedly. He was represented in the supreme court case by James M. Carson of Miami, John C. Cooper of Jacksonville, and the firm of Baxter, Byrd and Walton of Fort Lauderdale. After the pleading, Tedder and the other lawyers returned home.

Rather than issuing a clear-cut decision, the Florida Supreme Court added to the confusion by dividing three-to-three, Justices Buford, Ellis, and Terrell upholding Giblin's position and Justices Whitfield, Strum, and Brown opposing him. While this split decision failed to oust Giblin, it did nothing to change Tedder's position either. Broward County again faced the prospect of having two circuit judges.

Giblin resolved the dilemma when he unexpectedly resigned his position and moved to Miami. His career in Dade County would be such as to cause his critics to believe the worst. There he plunged headlong into the practice of criminal law, and became known in some quarters as "the mouthpiece for the mob." The fact that he became the attorney for Al Capone was a particular blight on his personal integrity.³¹

Dwight L. Rogers and John E. Morris, having contributed so much to Tedder's victory in 1928, expanded



Fort Lauderdale attorney Maxwell Baxter (center) with two of his political allies: Florida Governor Doyle E. Carlton (left) and Broward County School Board Chairman and former Fort Lauderdale Mayor Russell G. Snow (right).

their political influence as the 1930 elections approached. The incumbent state legislator, George L. Blount of Pompano, decided not to stand for reelection in 1930, and Dwight L. Rogers secured the nomination by defeating Curtis Byrd of Fort Lauderdale in the primary. Rogers and Morris also won control of the county commission when two staunch supporters were victorious in the primary. B.W. (Cap) Strickland of Fort Lauderdale unseated incumbent Commissioner C.J. Atwater, and J.R. Barnes of Hollywood won the primary for his district as well. Rogers and Morris were also sure of the support of two incumbent commissioners, F.J. Neville of Dania and J.W. Walton of Pompano.

State Attorney Louis F. Maire retained his office in 1930 by defeating Julian E. Ross in the run-off, C.E. Farrington having been eliminated in the first primary. The state had abolished the first choice/second choice system earlier in the year.

In the November 1930 general election, the Democrats scored a clean sweep. They recaptured the two school board positions lost two years previously, and, with the organization of the new board in January 1931, newly elected Democrat Russell G. Snow became chairman. Snow was a good friend of Maxwell Baxter, who replaced Republican Everett H. Hunt as school board attorney, thus extending his political influence.³²

When the new county commission took office in January 1931, W.M. Pope, who had held the position of county attorney for the preceding six years, was ousted, and John E. Morris was chosen to replace him. As the Great Depression deepened, the number of Broward lawyers began to dwindle from a total of forty-nine in December 1929 to about thirty in the middle of the following decade.³³ As the number of lawyers dropped, legal business was at a premium. The law firm of McCune, Hiaasen, and Fleming, because of their connection with the Broward Bank and Trust Company, became leaders of the Broward bar. In fact, this firm and their associates became known as "the Bank Crowd." Their chief rival was the firm of Rogers and Morris, because of their control over most of the political offices in the county. One lawyer who was able to adjust to this polarized situation was Maxwell Baxter because of his state and national political connections. Because of his close ties with Governor Carlton, Baxter had become the patronage chief in Broward County. If a person wanted something, such as an appointment, from Governor Carlton, he "saw Maxwell Baxter." On the national level, Baxter maintained connections with



Superintendent of Public Instruction John M. Gerren, 1931.

Congresswoman Ruth Bryan Owen and United States Senator Duncan U. Fletcher. Locally, he was closely allied with Russell G. Snow, school board chairman during the years 1931 to 1933. Other attorneys used ingenuity to survive during the lean depression years. George W. English, Jr., was a born promoter who managed to start a number of enterprises and to acquire a large amount of property, eventually becoming a very wealthy man. The law firm of Roach and Hoyle specialized in criminal law and managed to stay busy. C.E. Farrington also did very well in the criminal law field and built a statewide reputation as a trial lawyer.

During the depression years official positions were much sought after by attorneys. These official positions included the posts of county attorney, school attorney, port attorney, county judge, prosecuting attorney, city attorney, and municipal judge. None of these positions except the county judgeship were full-time jobs, so each furnished a much-needed stipend to the recipient, who could then continue his regular legal practice.

Maxwell Baxter's political influence reached its zenith during the 1929-33 period. The Carlton connection, the Owen connection, the Fletcher connection, and the Snow connection all came together during those years. However, when Carlton stepped down as governor in 1933 and Mrs. Owen and Snow met defeat in the 1932 Democratic primary, and Senator Fletcher died in 1936, Baxter's influence was on the wane.

In 1931 the Republicans lost one of the two elective county offices that they still held. John Gerren, the

Republican superintendent of public instruction, was having increasing difficulty with the Democratic school board. In fact, Gerren's troubles seemed factional as well as partisan to the point that the Broward County Republican Executive Committee passed a resolution urging his ouster as superintendent even though he was a member of the committee at the time. Gerren resigned under pressure in August 1931, and was also expelled from the Republican Executive Committee. Governor Carlton appointed U.J. Bennett, principal of Fort Lauderdale High School, to fill the superintendent's position. Bennett had been president of the Georgia Education Association when he came to Broward County to take the high school principal's job in 1926. He was destined to serve as Broward County Superintendent of Public Instruction for twenty-one years following his 1931 appointment, the longest tenure of any school superintendent in Broward County history.

John Gerren's troubles did not end when he vacated the superintendent's job. Soon afterwards, the Republican prosecuting attorney, Robert J. Davis, charged Gerren with a shortage of \$11.00, and the former superintendent had to face the charges in county court. Davis prosecuted, and Gerren was represented by C.E. Farrington. The jury was out just ten minutes and returned with a verdict of not guilty.³⁴

The June 1932 Democratic primary proved unfortunate for many incumbents. Rogers and Morris supported County Commissioner J.R. Barnes of Hollywood in his attempt to oust the incumbent sheriff, A.W. Turner. Seven candidates in all challenged Turner. Among them were B. (Brack) Cantrell, active in the American Legion, and long-time resident Lucian Craig, who was a brother-in-law of former Sheriff Paul Bryan and who had resigned as Fort Lauderdale police chief to enter the race. To these favorites was added a newcomer to the political scene, Fort Lauderdale-born Walter R. Clark. Born in 1904, Clark had no law enforcement experience, no military background, no athletic background, and no political experience. His chief claim to fame was as a good-natured butcher at a small meat market next to the A & P grocery on Southwest Second Street in Fort Lauderdale, and he was definitely the dark horse among the candidates.³⁵

Since there were eight candidates involved, it was obvious that no candidate would obtain a majority of votes in the first primary, and that a run-off election would be required. The general assumption was that the run-off would be between Turner and Barnes.

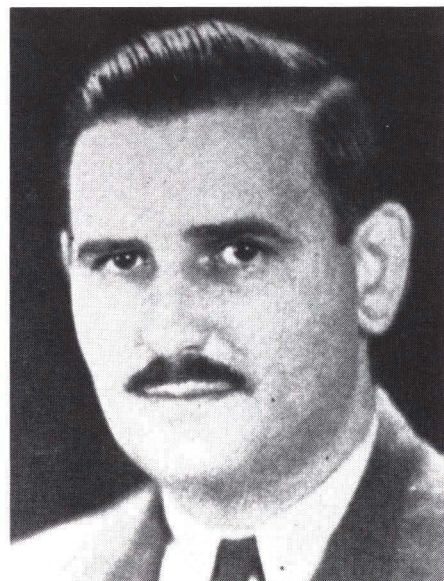


Prosecuting Attorney W. Gerry Miller served from 1933 to 1948.

Long-time Broward County Tax Collector W. O. "Deacon" Berryhill, who filled that office from 1915 to 1925 and again from 1933 to 1953.



Attorney Robert W. Davis, active in Broward County Republican politics in the 1930s and afterwards.



The primary result came as a complete surprise. Barnes finished first, as many had expected, but Sheriff A.W. Turner finished third, barely ahead of Brack Cantrell, while Lucian Craig trailed in seventh place. The second place finisher was none other than native son Walter R. Clark. Turner received only about fifteen percent of the total vote, while Barnes received about twenty-five percent and Clark twenty percent. The run-off completed this startling upset, as Clark defeated Barnes and the following January began his lengthy career as overlord of the Sheriff's office. He was to hold office until May 1950, giving him the longest tenure of any sheriff in Broward County history.³⁶

The 1932 Democratic primary saw Dwight L. Rogers win re-nomination for his second term in the legislature as he swamped his two opponents, Arthur C. O'Hea, the former mayor of Dania, and W.M. Pope, the former county attorney. Rogers-and-Morris stalwart B.W. (Cap) Strickland had no difficulty retaining his seat on the county commission, but other incumbents were not so fortunate. Maxwell Baxter's close friend Russell G. Snow, the school board chairman, was defeated by Lamar Thistlewaite, thus reducing Baxter's influence. The venerable Frank Bryan, who had served as clerk of the circuit court since the creation of the county in 1915, lost to E.R. Bennett. When Bryan finished his term at the end of the year, he had served as clerk of the circuit court seventeen years, two months, and twenty-seven days, the longest tenure of any circuit court clerk in Broward County history.³⁷ Former Broward County Tax Collector William O. Berryhill reversed the verdict of the 1928 election by defeating the incumbent J.A. Warren. When Berryhill returned to the position the following January, he was destined to hold the office for the next twenty years, for a total of thirty years' service and the longest tenure of any elected Broward County tax collector.

B.A. Cromartie, tax assessor for the preceding twelve years and brother-in-law of pioneer settler Frank Stranahan, was defeated by L.O. Hansen of Dania, who was also destined to set a record by holding that office for the next thirty years, longer than any other tax assessor in the county's history. County Judge Fred B. Shippey faced a serious challenge from Fort Lauderdale attorney John D. Kennedy and Fort Lauderdale Municipal Judge John H. Cheney. Shippey managed to hold on to his position by defeating Kennedy by eleven votes in the run-off. Four years earlier, Kennedy had lost the contest for prosecuting attor-

ney in the general election, also by a margin of eleven votes. Rogers and Morris supported Elbert B. Griffis for prosecuting attorney, but Griffis was defeated by W. Gerry Miller in a close contest. The county commission seat vacated by sheriff's candidate J.R. Barnes was filled by another Rogers and Morris stalwart, J.W. Moffitt of Hallandale.

The Broward/Palm Beach district in the Florida Senate also saw a change. The incumbent senator, Alfred Wagg of West Palm Beach, decided not to stand for re-election, and John R. Beacham of West Palm Beach defeated Harry Johnston, also of West Palm Beach, in the run-off. Fort Lauderdale's Tom M. Bryan had been eliminated in the first primary.

In the congressional election, Ruth Bryan Owen, the daughter of William Jennings Bryan who had won a national reputation in her own right, was upset by J. Mark Wilcox of West Palm Beach. Mrs. Owen had remained loyal to the political principles of her father and supported continuation of the prohibition amendment while Wilcox favored repeal. Florida was entitled to a fifth congressman as a result of the population increase revealed by the 1930 census, but the legislature could not agree on redistricting. As a result, the extra district became at-large, and former longtime fourth district Congressman William J. Sears, by now residing in Jacksonville, won the position.

The gubernatorial contest promised to be a battle between two former governors — John W. Martin of Jack-

sonville, who had been in office from 1925 to 1929, and Cary A. Hardee of Live Oak, who had served from 1921 to 1925. The dark horse was Dave Sholtz of Daytona Beach. Brooklyn-born, Yale-educated, with a law degree from Stetson University, Sholtz had been a Florida resident since 1914. In Broward County, his chief supporter was Fort Lauderdale attorney R.R. (Bob) Saunders. In the governor's race, as well as in many other contests, the results of the 1932 Democratic primary proved to be a complete surprise. Martin finished first, as expected, but Sholtz edged Hardee for second place. In the run-off Sholtz scored a landslide victory, topping Martin by 71,000 votes. Broward County went for Sholtz by a margin of four-to-one.

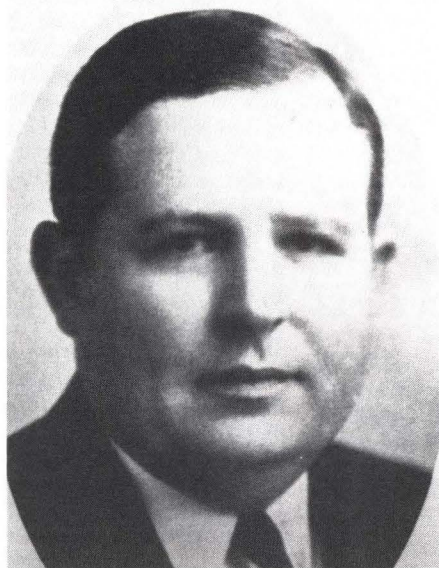
In the November general election, the Democrats scored a big victory, ending the impressive gains made by the Republicans four years earlier. On the national level, Florida returned to the Democratic ranks when Franklin D. Roosevelt carried the state by a three-to-one majority. In the governor's race, Democrat Dave Sholtz defeated Republican William J. Howey by a two-to-one majority. Broward County reflected the state and national trends. In the local contests, Democrat W. Gerry Miller scored a decisive victory over Republican incumbent Robert J. Davis for prosecuting attorney while U.J. Bennett won his election for superintendent of public instruction by defeating his Republican opponent, Fort Lauderdale attorney A.L. McMillan.

Dwight L. Rogers defeated Republi-

can D.E. Piper, whose campaign included implications that some questionable deal was involved in Giblin's sudden resignation, Piper demanding to know what part Rogers had played in the transaction. Walter R. Clark again proved his vote-getting power by defeating Republican Joseph P. Moe. For the Broward/Palm Beach senate seat, West Palm Beach Democrat John R. Beacham defeated his Republican opponent, Fort Lauderdale attorney G.H. Martin. E.R. Bennett won the first of his three terms as clerk of the circuit court by defeating Fort Lauderdale lawyer W.R. Maurer. The only exception to the Democratic sweep in Broward came when Bert Croft, that party's candidate for constable of the Fort Lauderdale district, was defeated by Republican C.M. Weirick. However, gossip concerning Croft's personal life probably had more to do with his defeat than did partisan considerations.

With the inauguration of Dave Sholtz as governor, it soon became obvious that a new political force had arrived. Fort Lauderdale attorney R.R. Saunders became the chief patronage man for the new governor. When the new school board was organized in January 1933, Saunders replaced Maxwell Baxter as school attorney. And, if a person wanted a favor from Governor Sholtz, he had to "see Bob Saunders."

County Judge Fred B. Shippey, in office since 1920, was in declining health and resigned in 1933. He died the following year. Governor Sholtz



Florida Governor David Sholtz (left) and his chief Broward County supporter and beneficiary, Fort Lauderdale attorney R. R. (Bob) Saunders (right).

DEMOCRATIC RALLY

SATURDAY NIGHT

8 O'clock

—IN—

STRANAHAN PARK

In the event of rain meeting will be moved to Central High School Auditorium.

Every voter should hear the candidates present their qualifications and platforms.

Fort Lauderdale Daily News advertisement for the June 2, 1934 political rally featuring Judge Tedder and J. B. Hoyl. Evidently it rained that night, since the rally was held in the high school auditorium.

appointed Boyd H. Anderson, Shippey's chief clerk, to the position. Anderson held the judgeship for the next thirty-five years, which gave him the second longest tenure of any elected official in Broward County history.

Dwight L. Rogers' return to the legislature soon produced his greatest legislative achievement — passage of the Rogers Homestead Exemption Amendment in 1933. As the depression deepened, the plight of many Florida homeowners became desperate. Many were in constant danger of not being able to pay their property tax and thus losing their homes. Further aggravating this situation were a group of speculators known as "tax sharks," who accumulated property by paying the delinquent taxes and held on to their acquisitions until they were able to sell at a sizable profit. Many a fortune was made by this process, but, needless to say, the "tax sharks" became very unpopular among the general public.

The Homestead Exemption Amendment, which Rogers introduced in the Florida House of Representatives, sought to ease the situation by provid-

ing an exemption from property taxes on the first \$5,000 on a homeowner's place of residence. The measure was strongly opposed by many local officials throughout the state, who feared that the exemption would deprive local governments of much-needed revenue. Many business interests in Florida also opposed homestead exemption and counted on legislative support for their stand. In south Florida, Dade Representative S.P. Robineau, closely identified with the political, business, and banking establishment of his home county, was an arch foe of the Rogers amendment. Despite vocal opposition, the amendment passed the House by a margin of eighty-two to eight. The proposal then moved to the Florida Senate where it was sponsored by Senator William C. Hodges of Tallahassee.³⁸ After passing the Senate by an overwhelming vote, the amendment was placed on the general election ballot for November 1934.³⁹

As previously noted, the 1932 legislative campaign which resulted in Dwight Rogers' re-election also raised the specter of the Tedder-Giblin judicial controversy. The smoldering controversy erupted anew in 1934 as a

result of a spectacular legal case. In May 1933, Robert Darsey, a sixty-four-year-old Pompano fish merchant, was assaulted and robbed of seventy-five dollars while walking home from work one Saturday night. He died of his injuries soon afterwards. Within days, four Negro farm laborers were charged with the crime. The four defendants were tried in the Broward Circuit Court, convicted by the jury, and sentenced to death by Judge Tedder.⁴⁰ Then followed an incredible number of appeals. The case was before the Broward Circuit Court three times, the Palm Beach Circuit Court twice, the Florida Supreme Court five times, and the United States Supreme Court once. It was the first Broward County case to reach the nation's highest court.

One of the Darsey case appeals to the Florida Supreme Court contained a bombshell. It charged that Judge George W. Tedder, Sr., a pillar in his church and community, was not really a judge; that he had obtained his position by fraud and deception; that after the Florida Supreme Court's three-to-three vote in 1929 which failed to oust Giblin, Tedder, or people acting on his behalf, had paid Giblin to resign. After Giblin's departure, the appeal continued, Governor Carlton should have reappointed Tedder, and the Florida Senate should have once again voted on confirmation. By alleging that Tedder was holding office illegally, this startling charge had the makings of a great deal of mischief. If the appeal was upheld, all of Tedder's rulings for the previous five years would be open to question, and all dissatisfied litigants might have claims against the county. This potentially disastrous appeal was filed by S.P. McGill and Robert Crawford, Negro attorneys from Jacksonville, and A.L. McMillan, a white attorney from Fort Lauderdale prominent in local Republican politics. Since this bit of legal footwork was the only time that McMillan's name appeared in the Darsey case, it is easy to assume that it was he who peddled this bit of local gossip to McGill and Crawford.

The following day, Tedder issued a vigorous denial with the following statement:

It is to be regretted that after five years of service this effort is made to impeach the validity of all orders and decrees entered by me, and in addition thereto an uncalled for attack made on my character, the evident purpose is manifest at this time. . . . The citizens of Broward County by an overwhelming majority in the 1928 election, made me their judge. . . . I was appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Florida senate, and have held a



By Far the Best Qualified Man for
JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
is

J. B. HOYL

He is a lawyer of standing, of high legal attainments, and has had over 25 years active experience at the Georgia and Florida Bars.

He is not a politician, and if elected, will not keep one eye on the scales of justice and the other eye on the political weather vane.

He is a man of conviction, of irreproachable character, and staunch integrity, and will administer the laws justly and without favor to lawyers or litigants. He will reflect credit on the bar and judiciary.

He will not allow any lawyers to capitalize on the judgeship.

Vote for J. B. Hoyl and an Independent and Impartial Judiciary.

Campaign advertisement for J. B. Hoyl which appeared in several issues of the Fort Lauderdale Daily News in early June 1934.

*commission for and occupied the office since by mandate of the people. As the duly qualified and commissioned judge, I will continue to preside over the circuit court in Broward County.*⁴¹

The Florida Supreme Court rejected the appeal and in effect confirmed Tedder's right to be judge of the Twenty-second Judicial Circuit.

Nevertheless, with the wounds reopened, the bitter Tedder-Giblin feud once again spilled over into the political arena. Tedder was opposed for his second term by Fort Lauderdale attorney J.B. Hoyl of the firm of Roach and Hoyl, which specialized in criminal law. Hoyl based the major portion of his campaign on the charge that Tedder had paid Giblin to resign. At

a Democratic rally held at the Fort Lauderdale High School auditorium, Hoyl delivered a bitter personal attack on Tedder. He implied that he had personal knowledge of a "deal" when he shouted, "And I said to him, 'Judge Tedder, I will help you fight Giblin to the last, but I will not be a party to a scheme like this.'"⁴² Tedder sat impassively and seemed unconcerned, as though Hoyl was delivering a lecture on Russian literature. When Hoyl finished his oration, Tedder went to the podium and dismissed the accusation by simply saying, "I don't feel obligated to answer a colored lawyer from Jacksonville." He then delivered an impressive speech emphasizing his background and record.⁴³ On election day Tedder won an overwhelming victory, 3,031 votes to Hoyl's 852.

The Giblin issue kept simmering even after Tedder's victory in the June 1934 Democratic primary. M.I. Anglin, the former mayor of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, was upset that his town had been unincorporated by the Florida Legislature, and took court action to



B. W. (Cap) STRICKLAND
for
County Commissioner

DISTRICT NO. 3

SUBJECT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
JUNE 5th, 1934

Incumbent County Commissioner B.W. Strickland lost his 1934 re-election campaign despite strong support from Rogers and Morris.



S. C. Fox of Pompano, seen here in a 1948 photo, holds the record for years served on the Broward County Commission.

save its corporate entity. When Judge Tedder ruled against him, the ex-mayor filed an appeal based on the claim that Tedder's ruling was not legitimate because the judge had obtained his position by "fraud, deception, and purchase," which, of course, was the same charge that had recently been dismissed by the Florida Supreme Court and rejected by the voters in the recent Democratic primary. Judge Tedder, having taken barbs from McMillan, McGill, Crawford, and Hoyl, finally decided that he had had enough. He cited Anglin for contempt of court and sentenced the luckless ex-mayor to thirty days in the county jail. Thus the Tedder-Giblin controversy faded from the public view.⁴⁴

Although the Tedder-Hoyle battle proved to be the most acrimonious race, there were other contests of note in the June 5, 1934, Democratic primary. Dwight L. Rogers retained his seat by turning back the determined challenge of Julian E. Ross. But the Rogers and Morris control over the county commission was threatened when B.W. (Cap) Strickland was defeated by Henry L. Driggers, and J.H. Juvenal was defeated by P.L. Hinson by a majority of only two votes in the runoff for the Deerfield seat. Another noteworthy event took place with the election of Sylvester C. Fox of Pompano to the commission. Fox was destined to hold the position until his death, December 28, 1953, giving him the longest tenure of any county commissioner in Broward County history — eighteen years, eleven months, and twenty days.⁵⁶ When the

For United States Senator

—VOTE FOR—

CLAUDE PEPPER

He is Honorable, Able, Energetic and a
Loyal Democrat

Over Obstacles, Difficulties, and Poverty, he
Has Fought His Way Up by Labor of His Hands
and the Strength of His Outstanding Ability.

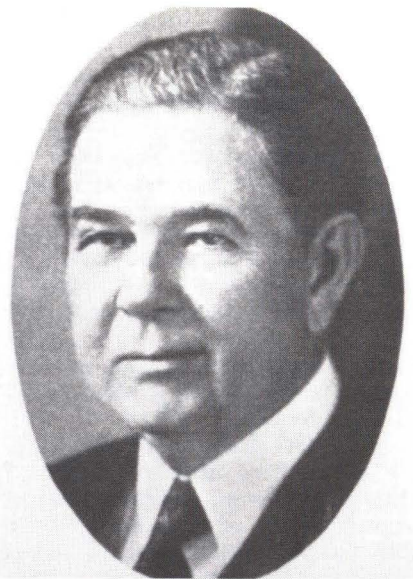


He has never cringed nor faltered when duty called, but has met every responsibility of life with the determined resolute courage of strong manhood.

HELP HIM WIN. YOU WILL NEVER REGRET IT!

**Claude Pepper Will Broadcast Monday Night, June 4, 8 p. m.
Over WQAM**

(Political Advertisement. Paid for by a friend of Claude Pepper's)



United States Senator and former
Florida Governor Park Trammell,
as he appeared in the 1930s.

Newspaper advertisement from Claude Pepper's unsuccessful 1934 Senate race against Park Trammell.

new county commission was organized, John Morris barely retained his position as county attorney. He prevailed by a three to two vote with Fox, J.W. Moffitt of Hallandale, and F.L. Neville of Dania supporting him. Hinson and Driggers voted for Curtis Byrd. Boyd H. Anderson won the first of his many elections as county judge when he scored an impressive victory over John D. Kennedy in the primary and then defeated Republican W.F. Maurer in the general election.

Claude Pepper made his first entry into state politics when he challenged three-term incumbent Park Trammell in the June 5, 1934, Democratic primary. Pepper's political background was not particularly impressive. After graduation from the Harvard University law school, he had served for one year as instructor of law at the University of Arkansas before moving to Perry, Florida, to engage in the private practice of law. In 1928 he had unseated the incumbent in the Democratic primary to become Taylor County's representative in the Florida Legislature. He was defeated for renomination in 1930 and moved to Tallahassee. That was the sum of Pepper's political experience when he

decided to challenge the invincible Trammell. In the first primary, Pepper trailed Trammell by only 2,000 votes. Because of the multiplicity of candidates, a run-off was necessary. In the second primary, Trammell defeated Pepper by a majority of about 5,000 votes, but because of the lopsided margin obtained by Trammell in Hillsborough County many people questioned the honesty of the ballot count. Pepper took his defeat in good spirits and refused to challenge the official results. This was an important and shrewd move on Pepper's part, and it paid political dividends two years later. Locally, the senatorial contest was important because Fort Lauderdale attorney George W. English, Jr., emerged as Pepper's chief Broward supporter. English was a law school classmate of Pepper's and had remained a loyal friend and supporter ever since.

In the general election of 1934, since the Democratic nomination was, once again, tantamount to election, the big issue was the Homestead Exemption Amendment. Dwight L. Rogers stumped the state in support of the measure, declaring that "we have been at the mercy of the tax sharks long

enough." William C. Hodges of Tallahassee, who guided the Rogers Homestead Exemption Amendment through the Florida Senate, also toured the state. Representative S.P. Robineau of Dade County appeared as guest speaker before the Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club and made a strong speech against the amendment. When he finished, club president Jack Fannin asked Florida Supreme Court Justice William H. Ellis, who was attending the meeting as a guest of Maxwell Baxter, to say a few words. Ellis delivered a speech in favor of the amendment and strongly contradicted Robineau. Ellis argued that if the amendment did not pass, the legislature would continue to pile up the burden of taxation to make up the deficit created by the non-taxpayers "on the shoulders of the little fellow who is now bearing the task of maintaining the state and all of the subdivision of government." Labeling as folly Robineau's statement that "adoption of the amendment would deter capital from investing here," Ellis expressed the belief that no one would be kept from locating in Florida because small homes were exempt from taxation. Ellis furthermore stated that many of the amendment's opponents were pro-bondholder or pro-banker interests, and asserted, "I want the little landowner to have pride and security in ownership. This amendment will build up the state's prosperity." He added that the opportunity for the small property owner to vote for the amendment was "the first damn thing that the politicians have done for the little man since the state entered the union."⁴⁶

Senator Hodges came to Fort Lauderdale and spoke in Stranahan Park in favor of the amendment. He called its opponents "selfish interests" and added that the "integrity of the family fire side is at stake." Countering claims that exempted property taxes would be replaced by other measures, he stated, "The issue involved is not a sales tax or any other tax, but the reduction of taxes on Florida's home."⁴⁷ Dwight L. Rogers also denied the necessity of a sales tax if the amendment should pass, and, in a Kiwanis Club speech, repeated that the amendment was necessary to reduce the burden on the small homeowner.

Despite their enthusiasm and influence, the backers of the Homestead Exemption Amendment received what appeared to be a fatal blow when Circuit Judge J.B. Johnson of Tallahassee ruled the amendment off the ballot. This ruling was reversed upon appeal, and the Homestead Exemption Amendment came to a vote in November 1934.⁴⁸ It passed by a majority of more than three to one. Almost unnoticed throughout the state, another amendment passed which reduced the number of judicial circuits in Florida from twenty-eight to fifteen, and which would have important repercussions in Broward County the following year.

As the Great Depression lingered on, Florida politics experienced a marked leftward drift, the movements to the left of the New Deal receiving much popular support throughout the state. Huey Long's "Share Our Wealth" program attracted many Floridians. The Townsend old-age pension plan also received widespread support. This plan, conceived by Dr. Francis E. Townsend of Long Beach, California, proposed having the United States government pay a pension of \$200 a month to every person over sixty years of age. A total of \$400 a month for a man and his wife was a tremendous sum during those lean depression years. There was one condition attached to the proposal; the recipient would be required to spend their \$200 in the United States within one month, insuring more money in circulation. Townsend Plan pensions would be financed by a two percent national sales tax. Townsend clubs appeared all over Florida during the mid and late 1930s, and developed tremendous political clout. In 1936 and again in 1938, Florida office seekers had to be prepared to declare themselves on the Townsend Plan, and, needless to say, most Florida politicians supported the plan.⁴⁹ One of the few exceptions was the fourth district congressman, J. Mark Wilcox of West Palm Beach, who declared his opposition and became the

favorite target of the Townsend clubs during successive elections.

It must be emphasized that the leftward drift of Florida politics during the 1930s had nothing to do with Communism or Socialism. The people were just responding to the cruel economic realities of the Great Depression. In fact, this "leftward drift" had very little to do with what passes for liberalism today.⁵⁰

Maintaining law and order, as well as dealing with economic hardships, occupied the attention of Broward County officials during the mid-1930s. In July 1935, Sheriff Walter R. Clark suddenly found himself in a vulnerable position as a result of the only lynching in Broward County history. Reuben Stacey, a thirty-seven-year-old Negro, was accused of the attempted rape of Marion Jones, a white woman, and was placed in the Broward County jail. Broward Countians were already frustrated and embittered because of the seemingly endless legal maneuvers and appeals concerning the Darsey case, and rumors of a possible lynching began to surface. Much threatening talk circulated, and there were reports of a great influx of Pompano people into Fort Lauderdale. Sheriff Clark was afraid that the county jail might be attacked by a large force, and that he would be unable to handle the situation.⁵¹ The sheriff arranged for his brother, Chief Deputy Robert Clark, as well as Deputy Virgil Wright and three special deputies to escort the prisoner to the Dade County jail for safekeeping. The Dade jail was located in the upper floors of the twenty-seven-story Dade County Courthouse in Miami, at that time the tallest building in Florida. It also served as the max-

imum security prison for south Florida. Despite efforts to conceal the transfer, the car with the prisoner and five deputies was intercepted by a mob west of Fort Lauderdale. The prisoner was taken out of the car and hanged to a tree with a wire. His body was riddled with bullets.

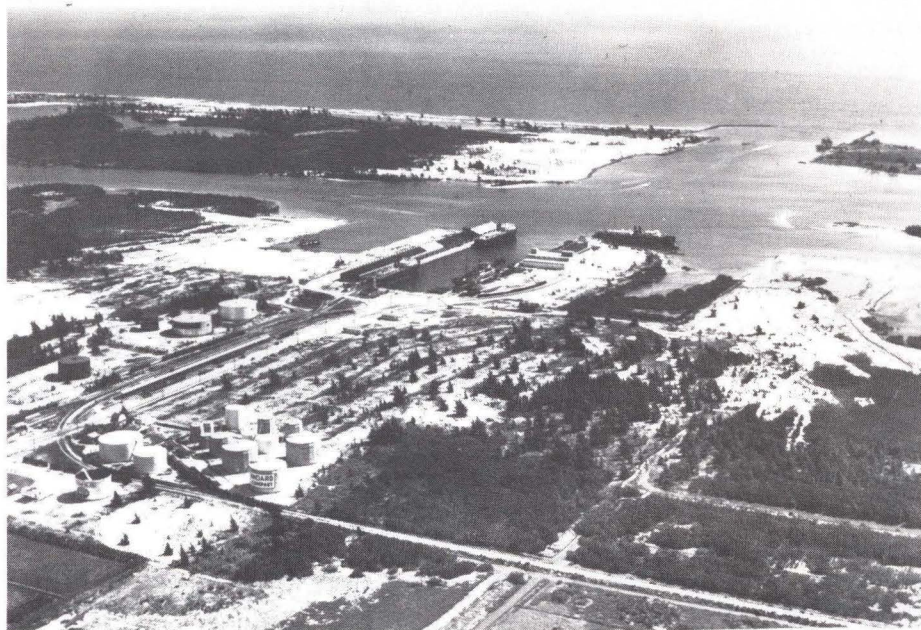
The justice of the peace for the Fort Lauderdale district, and ex-officio coroner, Hugh Lester, conducted the coroner's inquest.⁵² When he arrived at the scene, the body was still hanging from the tree. The coroner's jury assembled in the county court room, listened to testimony, and returned a verdict that Stacey had been murdered by persons unknown. The testimony claimed that the members of the mob were masked and therefore could not be identified. The grand jury then began its investigation. It called upon many people to testify, including the members of the coroner's jury and a number of residents of Pompano, one of whom was John Darsey, son of the murdered Pompano merchant. A general feeling existed that the lynching was probably a Pompano operation. After hearing extensive testimony, the grand jury exonerated Clark and his deputies.⁵³

Sheriff Walter R. Clark was midway through his first term in office when the lynching occurred. By July 1935, he had won only one election, and that had included a fiercely contested runoff with J.R. Barnes, as well as the general election victory over Joseph P. Moe in November, 1932. Clark was not supported by the powerful Rogers and Morris law firm, or by the "Bank Crowd," or the business interests of the county. Neither did he have any influence with Governor Dave Sholtz. If Walter Clark wanted something from the Sholtz administration, he, like everyone else, had to "see Bob Saunders." With little or no influential backing, Clark had to conduct his own operation and depend for his success upon support from the ordinary voters he had befriended and helped through the years.

Thus, the lynching put Walter Clark squarely "on the spot." A sheriff's primary responsibility is to protect his own jail, and failure to do so puts him in a certain amount of jeopardy. The danger that Clark faced came not so much from the voters as from Governor Sholtz, who had the power to suspend local officials even if indictments or formal charges had not been lodged. The Florida Senate had to sustain such an action before permanent removal could be effective, but since the legislature met in regular session only every other year, an official could be suspended for more than a year before the senate considered his plight. Further-



Fort Lauderdale attorney and justice of the peace Hugh Lester.



Port Everglades, 1939.

more, as a matter of senatorial courtesy, the senate generally followed the wishes of the senator who represented the district where the suspended official resided. Sheriffs seemed particularly vulnerable to the whims of Florida governors. In 1922, Governor Cary A. Hardee removed Sheriff A.W. Turner of Broward County and appointed Paul Bryan to replace him. The following year, the Florida Senate sustained the removal. In 1933, Governor Sholtz removed Sheriff Dan Hardie of Dade County, ambiguously citing "erratic and eccentric behavior" on Hardie's part, and appointed D.C. Coleman to replace him. Since Senator John W. Watson of Dade belonged to a rival political faction to Hardie's, the Florida Senate sustained the removal in 1935. The removal of several other sheriffs through the years emphasized Clark's precarious position, but the Broward sheriff survived the episode and went on to win four more elections and obtain state and national connections. He eventually became one of the most powerful politicians in Florida.

Nineteen thirty-five brought increased political power to Rogers and Morris when, due to a set of unforeseen circumstances, they were able to gain control of the Port Everglades Commission. This commission consisted of four members elected at-large by the voters of the port district in a non-partisan special election. No more than two candidates could be elected from Fort Lauderdale, and no more than two candidates could be elected from Hollywood. No restrictions were placed on the number of commissioners who

could be elected from Dania or from the unincorporated areas within the port district. In the December 1934 port election, Rogers and Morris supported B.W. (Cap) Strickland, who had recently been defeated for re-election as county commissioner, H. Guy LaBree of Dania, and E.K. DeLoach of Hollywood. The election results had incumbent Commissioner Floyd L. Wray of Hollywood finishing first, Strickland second, incumbent A.J. Ryan of Dania third, and DeLoach fourth, with LaBree fifth. The two remaining incumbents, Thomas E.

Swanson of Fort Lauderdale and Maxwell Baxter, who had been appointed by Governor Carlton in 1932 to fill a vacancy, finished seventh and eighth respectively. The results were thrown into doubt when J.G. Kuhn, represented by G.H. Martin, brought a taxpayer's suit against the port commission, claiming that the election was illegal since the port charter did not specify election procedure. This claim was eventually upheld by the court.

In the meantime, Swanson and Baxter refused to vacate their positions. Governor Sholtz appointed Strickland and DeLoach to fill the Swanson and Baxter "vacancies," but the court ruled against that move. The impasse was finally resolved when Dwight L. Rogers introduced a local bill to the 1935 session of the Florida Legislature to reorganize the port commission. The number of commissioners was reduced to three, with one representing Fort Lauderdale, one Dania, and one Hollywood. The new commission would be elected for two-year terms in a partisan election. The port reorganization bill passed both houses of the Florida Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Sholtz, who then followed Rogers' recommendation and appointed Strickland, DeLoach, and LaBree to the new board. Floyd L. Wray was a Republican and therefore not considered, while A.J. Ryan belonged to a different political faction and was therefore also eliminated.

In response to the 1934 referendum which reduced the number of judicial circuits in Florida from twenty-eight to fifteen, the 1935 session of the

CIRCUIT COURT — CIRCUIT JUDGES 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

HON. C. E. CHILLINGWORTH — HON. GEO. W. TEDDER

There are two Circuit Judges who preside over the 15th Judicial Circuit Consisting of Broward County and Palm Beach County. They have power and authority to make all orders or decrees and to issue every and all process necessary to maintain and carry out their Constitutional Jurisdiction, or to enforce their authority, and to enter and enforce their judg-

ments and decrees in all matters wherein they have jurisdiction.

The Circuit Judges serve for a term of six years.

TERMS OF COURT: Spring Term—2nd Tuesday in March each year.

Fall Term—2nd Tuesday in October each year.

OFFICE OF STATE'S ATTORNEY

PHIL O'CONNELL

Broward County Asst.: LOUIS F. MAIRE

The State's Attorney is elected for a term of four years.

The State's Attorney is the Prosecuting At-

torney for Circuit Court within his judicial circuit.

These listings from a 1940 Broward County courthouse directory outline how the Broward and Palm Beach County circuit courts were structured in a single district after 1935.



United States Congressman J. Mark Wilcox of West Palm Beach (left) and his unsuccessful 1936 opponent and eventual successor, A. Patrick Cannon of Miami (right).

legislature reorganized the circuits. Broward County was returned to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, but this time the circuit was to have two judges — one located in West Palm Beach and one located in Fort Lauderdale. There would be one state attorney for the circuit, but the two current holders of the position were allowed to complete their present terms before having to run in the enlarged circuit. Louis F. Maire had been re-elected without opposition in the June 1934 Democratic primary, and was then re-appointed by the governor and reconfirmed by the Florida Senate in 1935. Thus Maire's term still had four years left. After the completion of that term he became assistant state attorney stationed in Fort Lauderdale with the same duties as before. He continued to hold that position until 1947 when he resigned to go into private practice.

Florida's two long-time United States senators died within six weeks of each other in 1936 — Trammell on May 8 and Fletcher on June 17. Fletcher's passing ended Maxwell Baxter's last major political connection. Claude Pepper ran for Fletcher's unexpired term in the special election and was unopposed, demonstrating that the good grace with which he took his defeat at the hands of Trammell two years earlier certainly paid off. For Trammell's unexpired term, ex-Governor Doyle E. Carlton was a heavy favorite. He was supported locally by his old friend Maxwell Baxter and also enjoyed name recognition throughout the state. Carlton was opposed by Charles O. Andrews of Orlando, a little-known former circuit judge who had presided over a

panhandle circuit years before. Andrews had the support of the powerful Townsend clubs throughout the state and of Rogers and Morris in Broward County. Carlton staged a lackluster campaign, and Andrews won a surprising victory by a 5,000 majority in an election that had a small turnout. The upset was a victory for Rogers and Morris, who were able to extend their influence as a result. The Andrews victory also indicated the power of the Townsend movement. Pepper's victory added to the influence of Fort Lauderdale attorney George W. English, Jr., Pepper's former Harvard classmate, who at that time was chairman of the Broward County Democratic Executive Committee.

Townsend strength was further indicated when little-known Miami attorney Pat Cannon, twice an unsuccessful candidate for the Miami City Commission, launched a serious challenge against two-term incumbent Congressman J. Mark Wilcox of West Palm Beach, an arch foe of the Townsend Plan. Cannon enjoyed the all-out support of the Townsend clubs, and although Wilcox won, the election was closer than had been expected. Joe Hendricks of Deland, an ardent supporter of the Townsend Plan, won election to Congress from the new fifth district, which had been created by the 1935 session of the legislature and taken, for the most part, from the northern portion of the fourth district.

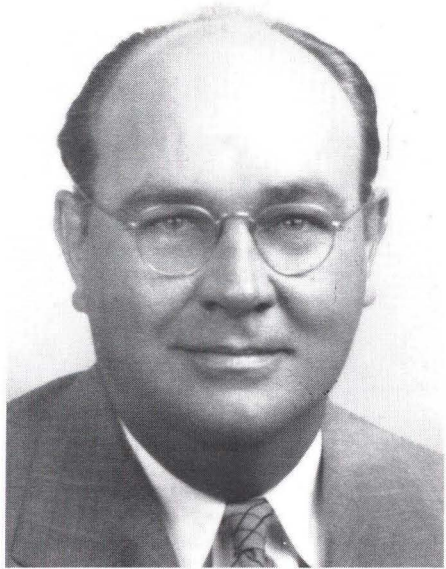
The 1935 session of the Florida Legislature also finally awarded Broward County a second member of the Florida House of Representatives. Roe Fulkerson of Hollywood, a leading member of the Kiwanis Club and

strongly backed by Rogers and Morris, defeated A.J. Ryan of Dania in the Democratic party run-off to capture that seat. Dwight L. Rogers turned back the challenge of J.D. Butler of Deerfield and Charles Crim of Fort Lauderdale in the June 1936 Democratic primary for Broward's other seat in the House of Representatives, while John R. Beacham of West Palm Beach was re-elected senator from the Broward/Palm Beach senatorial district.

Fourteen candidates entered the Democratic primary for governor, and at least half of them had state-wide reputations. Among these were Senator William C. Hodges of Tallahassee; Representative Dan Chappell of Miami, a bitter foe of the Sholtz administration; Jerry Carter of Tallahassee, a member of the Florida Railroad Commission; B.F. Paty of West Palm Beach, a former member of the Florida Racing Commission who broke with the Sholtz administration; Criminal Court Judge Raleigh W. Pettaway of Tampa; and Fred P. Cone of Lake City, who had been president of the Florida Senate back in 1911 and was a declared enemy of the Sholtz administration. Sheriff Walter R. Clark and Fort Lauderdale attorney John D. Kennedy were Broward County's chief backers of Cone.

In the first primary, Judge Pettaway led the field with less than sixteen percent of the total vote. There was a close contest for second place before Fred P. Cone edged William C. Hodges for the run-off spot.

In the run-off, Cone carried the entire northern half of the state and made serious inroads in south Florida. Cone even carried Pettaway's home county



Attorney and politician John Dent Kennedy (above, in a 1940s portrait) was a native Broward Countian whose father was Fort Lauderdale's first physician. Below, Governor and Mrs. Fred P. Cone (left) were photographed with Broward Sheriff Walter P. Clark and his bride Odell at the Clarks' July 1937 wedding in Jacksonville.

of Hillsborough. Clark's and Kennedy's efforts enabled Cone to receive a large vote in Broward, though Pettaway carried the county. In Dade County, a political group headed by Dan Mahoney and *The Miami Daily News* and known unofficially as "Little Tammany" endorsed Cone. Such Dade political figures as Representative Dan Chappell, former State Attorney Vernon Hawthorne, and Miami attorney Frank O. Spain were in the forefront of this group that campaigned vigorously for Cone. The other side of this equation was that with the before-mentioned line-up supporting Cone, Frank B. Shutts and *The Miami Herald* threw their support to Pettaway, who carried the county. Nevertheless, Cone, with his strong anti-Sholtz campaign, won the statewide run-off.

There had developed in Florida during the depression an informal coalition of the rural "cracker" vote in north Florida and the urban labor vote of south Florida. This was the coalition that elected Claude Pepper senator, Fred P. Cone governor, and, in 1948, Fuller Warren governor. It almost elected Lex Green governor in 1944 and Charley Johns governor in 1954. The populist appeal seemed to be attractive

to both groups.

The Townsendites, having failed to unseat Congressman Wilcox in the June 1936 Democratic primary, decided to try again in November. Fort Lauderdale attorney Thomas E. Swanson, the former port commissioner, became the Republican candidate for Congress and immediately announced his support for the Townsend Plan. Swanson received immediate endorsement from the Townsend clubs throughout the district, and Townsendites continued their all-out effort to oust Wilcox.⁵⁴

In preparation for the general election of November 1936, the Broward County Democratic Executive Committee staged a Democratic rally and barbecue in Dania. Fort Lauderdale attorney George W. English, Jr., was chairman of the committee, and the rally over which he presided was certainly a gala occasion. The principal speaker was Senator Richard B. Russell of Georgia, fresh from his reelection victory over Governor Eugene Talmadge and destined over the next thirty-five years to become one of the all-time greats in the United States Senate. Other speakers included Fred P. Cone, Charles O. Andrews, Claude Pepper, J. Mark Wilcox, Dwight L.



Rogers, and a host of local dignitaries — certainly the most impressive gathering of political talent ever to attend a meeting in Broward County.

In the general election of November 1936, the Democratic party ranks held firm. Franklin D. Roosevelt defeated Alf Landon by more than a three-to-one margin in Florida and also carried Broward County by a substantial majority. J. Mark Wilcox turned back the Republican Townsendale challenge of Thomas E. Swanson, and Bert Croft reversed the verdict of four years previously by defeating C.M. Weirick for constable. Floyd L. Wray, twice victor in non-partisan port elections, found partisan elections not to his liking; he was defeated by Democratic candidate Dr. Bruce F. Butler of Hollywood. The November election result was especially satisfying for Congressman Wilcox. In June and again in November, he had overcome the bitter opposition of the Townsendites and Robert H. Gore, publisher of the *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*.

With Fred P. Cone's victory in the Democratic run-off and subsequent triumph in the November general election, Walter R. Clark and John D. Kennedy emerged as major political influences in Broward County. If a person wanted a favor from Governor Cone he "saw" either Clark or Kennedy. Cone soon established a reputation as a spoilsman. An old-fashioned Jacksonian Democrat, he believed that jobs should be handed out for political work done. He has been quoted as saying, "The men who supported me in the first primary will sit at the first table."⁵⁵ In Broward

County, Walter R. Clark and John D. Kennedy sat at the first table during the Cone administration. The Cone connection was the beginning of the great and powerful influence Clark was to obtain, reaching beyond Broward County. After the unsuccessful campaign of J.R. Barnes in 1932, Rogers and Morris never again backed a candidate for sheriff.

As the latter part of the decade was reached, the major political influences were: Rogers and Morris, because of their control over most of the county offices; the law firm of McCune, Hiaasen and Fleming, because of their connection with the Broward Bank and Trust Company; Walter R. Clark and John D. Kennedy, because of the Cone connection; and George W. English, Jr., because of the Pepper connection. Maxwell Baxter, who had started the decade as a major political force in Broward County, was by 1936 definitely on the political decline.

Nineteen thirty-eight was an eventful year in Broward County. Three-term Congressman J. Mark Wilcox of West Palm Beach decided to challenge Senator Claude Pepper, and Dwight L. Rogers, after four terms in the Florida Legislature, decided to try for the fourth district congressional post. Several other candidates entered the congressional contest. Henry H. Filer, a long-time member of the Dade County School Board; Pat Cannon, Miami attorney and loser to Wilcox two years earlier, but who still retained the support of the powerful Townsend clubs; and Mayor Robert Williams of Miami, under heavy attack at home and due to face a recall election the following year, entered the fray. Much to Rogers' dismay, Lewis E. Moore, a former mayor of Fort Lauderdale, added his name to the list of contestants. Two minor candidates from West Palm Beach also entered the race.

In 1938, the Fourth Congressional District consisted of Monroe, Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Okeechobee, and Collier counties. Rogers campaigned on the basis of his legislative record, emphasizing the Homestead Exemption Amendment. In various stump speeches, he told cheering audiences, "I helped save your little home," and asked for a chance to continue his work "in the Congress of the United States."⁵⁶ Cannon based his campaign mainly on his support for the Townsend Plan; Filer stressed his accomplishments in the educational field; and Moore, the owner of a drug store, said, "It is time to send a businessman to Washington."⁵⁷

Senator Pepper and Congressman Wilcox were joined in the senatorial



Pharmacist, former Fort Lauderdale mayor, and congressional candidate Lewis E. Moore, pictured here in 1954.

contest by former Governor Dave Sholtz and two lesser candidates. Pepper declared his undying devotion to the New Deal and the Townsend Plan, and was supported by the Townsend clubs, Governor Cone, organized labor, and many local leaders throughout the state. Wilcox was supported by many business leaders and the more conservative leaders of Florida's Democratic party. One of his leading advocates was M. Lewis Hall, former law partner of Broward County's chief Pepper supporter, George English. Hall had moved to Dade County, where he enjoyed a very lucrative legal practice. Sholtz also strongly supported the Townsend Plan and criticized Pepper for not getting the plan through Congress. Sholtz also blasted Governor Cone for his record as a spoilsman and for his nepotism. Locally, Sholtz's main supporter was his old friend, Fort Lauderdale attorney R.R. Saunders.

The Broward County legislative delegation was due for a complete overhaul in 1938. Representative Roe Fulkerson of Hollywood decided not to stand for re-election, and Rogers was vacating his seat for the congressional try. For the Rogers seat, E.K. DeLoach, the former port commissioner with strong Rogers and Morris ties, entered the contest and was favored to win. He was joined in the race by John S. Burwell, a Fort Lauderdale real estate man, and B.O. Giddens, the mayor of Pompano. For the Fulkerson seat, Broward County pioneer Tom Bryan, a veteran of many political wars, enjoyed the most name recognition and was the early favorite. He was



Fort Lauderdale attorney, banker, and real estate investor George W. English, Jr., c. 1935.

joined in the contest by Rogers and Morris stalwart J. W. Moffitt, a former county commissioner from Hallandale; twenty-six-year-old attorney George W. Leaird, then practicing in Hollywood but born in Fort Lauderdale; and Lem Hughs of Hollywood. For Bryan the election was a comeback attempt. A member of the original Fort Lauderdale City Council, he had also served on the Fort Lauderdale City Commission from 1925 to 1927, and had represented the county in the 1927 session of the Florida Legislature. He had been defeated for re-election in 1928, defeated for a seat in the Florida Senate in 1932, and defeated for a place on the Fort Lauderdale City Commission in 1937.

A record number of voters turned out for the primary on May 3, 1938. In the congressional race, Henry H. Filer of Miami led the field by a margin of 4,000 votes. A very close contest developed between Pat Cannon of Miami and Dwight L. Rogers for the second run-off spot, with Cannon squeezing in by the barest of margins. Lewis E. Moore of Fort Lauderdale finished fourth, Mayor Robert Williams of Miami fifth, and the two West Palm Beach candidates trailed. The results were: Filer 24,525, Cannon 20,155, Rogers 20,119, Moore 6,483, Williams 6,013, Cunningham 3,142, and Bowery 1,215. Lewis Moore was the spoiler in the race as far as Rogers was concerned. The vote in Broward gave Rogers 3,076, Moore 1,445, Cannon 887, Filer 681, Cunningham 131, Williams 128, and Bowery 77.

It seems probable that if Lewis Moore had not entered the race Rogers would have piled up enough additional Broward votes to enter the run-off. It is also probable that if Rogers had been in the run-off he would have entered

Congress in 1939 rather than in 1945. The run-off took place three weeks later, and Pat Cannon, with powerful Townsend support, scored a narrow victory by a margin of less than 500 votes in an election which had a light turnout.

In the senatorial primary, Senator Claude Pepper scored the greatest triumph of his entire career, receiving close to sixty percent of the total vote and thus avoiding a run-off. The vote was: Pepper 242,350, Wilcox 110,675, Sholtz 52,785, Moore 5,417, and Merchant 4,066.⁵⁸

Pepper's strength was distributed throughout the state, while Wilcox's came mainly from the Fourth Congressional District. Former Governor Dave Sholtz, who so dominated the 1933 and 1935 sessions of the Florida Legislature and became the political strongman of the state, saw his empire collapse "like a house of cards." He was completely repudiated, and *The Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, in a front page editorial, pronounced Sholtz's political demise:

EDITORIAL

Dave Sholtz you're through. Voters of Florida wrote Finis for you politically. You've been through a long time, but you weren't smart enough to know it. You wrote your political death warrant in Tallahassee in the governor's office. You know how you wrote it. You know the terms in which it was penned.

Today you are repudiated. Florida has not forgotten you, Sholtz. Florida cannot forget you. Florida doesn't want to forget you because the memory of you and your regime should be — and will be without doubt — a constant reminder against other politicians of your type and stripe.

You're through Sholtz. Now you can go back to Brooklyn whence you came and where your particular and peculiar talents may be more appreciated than in Florida. Or you can go to North Carolina and from your spacious palace in those classic hills meditate on the strange, to you, phenomenon of voters at last acquiring the ability to discriminate between the real and the false.

Yes, you can go back to Brooklyn or to North Carolina or to a certain other place we could name but won't, this being a newspaper of large family circulation. "We come to bury Caesar; not to praise him." Remember the line? Politically you are as dead as the Roman emperor. We come to bury you, Sholtz; not to praise you.

And on the figurative shaft we have reared over your very real political grave on a bleak and lonely hillside we are erecting a mental monument of slot machines, and black bags, and broken promises tinted a deep crimson by the blushes you brought to the cheeks of honest Floridians.

And at the base of this marker we are writing your epitaph: "Sholtz, poeey!"⁵⁹

In the race for one of the legislative seats, E.K. DeLoach led, 2,680 votes to Burwell's 2,152 and Giddens' 1,678, but was forced into a run-off with Burwell. In the other legislative contest, Tom Bryan led with 2,145 votes and would face George Leaird, who garnered 2,017 votes, in the run-off. The remaining votes were divided between Hughs with 1,219 and Moffitt with 1,081.

In the run-off the voters decided it was time for a change. John S. Burwell defeated E.K. DeLoach 3,452 to 2,989,



John S. Burwell (left) and George Leaird (right) served Broward County in the Florida Legislature from the late 1930s to the 1950s.



and George Leaird scored a decisive win over Tom Bryan, who suffered his fourth consecutive defeat, by a 3,911 to 2,508 margin. Burwell and Leaird proceeded to dominate the Broward legislative delegation for the next sixteen years. One, the other, or both were to be in the legislature until 1955.

Dwight L. Rogers would have to wait another six years to enter Congress. One fact was certain — he would have to mend his political fences in Broward County before he could succeed in another congressional try. He would undoubtedly need a larger Broward majority than he had received in 1938. Districting changes would also play a significant role in the future of the county's congressional representation. The 1940 census results entitled Florida to a sixth congressman, but since the legislature could not agree on redistricting, in 1942 the sixth congressman was elected at large. Lex Green, the long-time congressman from Starke, made an unusual move and won the at-large seat. Not until the 1943 session did the Florida Legislature create the Sixth Congressional District, located in the southeastern part of the state. As a result, Broward and Palm Beach counties were separated from Dade County, the new

district consisting of Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Okeechobee counties.

The redistricting gave Rogers his chance to win the new seat, although he faced an uphill battle because Palm Beach County still had a much larger population than Broward. In the meantime, Rogers and Morris tried very successfully to end the political feuding that had marked Broward politics during the depression years. In the May 1944 Democratic primary, Rogers led his principal opponent, L.L. Stuckey of Pahokee, by 2,000 votes. Because of the crowded field, a run-off was necessary. In the run-off, Rogers led by more than 4,600 votes in Broward County, which enabled him to defeat Stuckey by a majority of about 2,000 votes throughout the district. Thus Dwight L. Rogers finally attained a seat in Congress, where he had a major impact on legislation. As an example of his legislative skill, Rogers sponsored a bill early in his congressional career to give the terminal leave pay already available to officers to enlisted men as well. Although this Terminal Leave Bill was opposed by the military, political, and business establishments, Rogers was able to pry it loose from the committee

by successful use of a discharge petition signed by a majority of House members. Then, by insisting on a roll-call vote, he was able to get the bill passed by the House of Representatives. The opposition quickly crumbled, and the bill passed the Senate and was signed into law by President Truman. Dwight L. Rogers continued his distinguished congressional career until his sudden death, December 1, 1954.

As Rogers' eventual congressional victory demonstrated, the legacy of depression era politics in Broward County lasted long after the depression itself had faded away. Although some of the bitterness which characterized the decade from 1928 to 1938 dissipated, the subsequent careers of Rogers, his partner John E. Morris, and such long-tenured office holders as Judges Tedder and Boyd Anderson, Sheriff Walter R. Clark, County Commissioner S.C. Fox, School Superintendent U.J. Bennett, Tax Collector W.O. Berryhill, Tax Assessor L.O. Hansen, and Elections Supervisor Easter Lily Gates provided a strong degree of continuity which lasted through the Second World War and into the period of renewed economic and physical growth which followed.

ENDNOTES

1. Some of the material in this article is based on information supplied to the author by his father, Fort Lauderdale attorney Hugh Lester (1884-1957), who was a keen observer of the political scene as well as a minor participant in some of the political skirmishes of that era. Some of the material is based on the author's personal knowledge.
2. The governor did not always follow that tradition. In 1927 Governor John W. Martin refused to appoint Worth W. Trammell, the brother of United States Senator Park Trammell, after Worth Trammell was chosen circuit judge by the Dade County Democrats. Worth Trammell had been one of Martin's opponents in the 1924 Democratic primary, and Martin planned to run against Park Trammell for the U.S. Senate in 1928. In 1930 Worth Trammell won the Democratic primary for circuit judge and was appointed by Governor Carlton in 1931. The Florida Senate confirmed him that year. The circuit judge's office became elective in 1948. William A. Herrin of Miami was the first circuit judge to obtain office by election. There were other circuit judges elected that year, but all but Herrin had a prior appointment from the governor. Herrin served as a circuit judge for thirty-six years until his defeat in 1984.
3. In recent years some journalists have claimed that the motive behind the run-off system was to prevent black candidates from winning. Since Negroes were already barred from the Democratic primary, there were no Negro voters; therefore no Negro candidates. It is obvious that the racial situation had no bearing on the run-off matter. In fact, no creditable historian has made this claim.
4. J.E. Dovell, *Florida, Historic, Dramatic, Contemporary* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1952), vol. 2,501; Allen Morris, ed., *The Florida Handbook, 1981-1982* (Tallahassee: Peninsular Publishing Company, 1981), 501.
5. *Bench and Bar of Florida* (Tallahassee: Horace Evans, 1935), vol. 1, 42.
6. *Ibid.*, 25.
7. Talk delivered by G. Harold Martin before historical meeting sponsored by the Broward County Historical Commission, January 7, 1987. The author attended the meeting.
8. In 1929 the Florida Supreme Court reversed the conviction. A second trial was held in the Broward Circuit Court and resulted in a mistrial due to a divided jury. A third trial held in Miami following a change of venue resulted in acquittal. For an account of the Hicks case see Marlyn Kemper, "On Trial, William A. Hicks," *Broward Legacy*, vol. 1, No. 2 (January 1977), 8-14.
9. A county judge was not required to be a member of the bar.
10. Ellwood C. Nance, *The East Coast of Florida* (Delray Beach: The Southern Publishing Company, 1962), vol. 3, 521.
11. *The Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1971*, 1627.
12. Dovell, *Florida, Historic, Dramatic, Contemporary*, vol. 4, 793.
13. John Morris interview in *The Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, December 2, 1954.
14. This advertisement appeared in a number of issues throughout the campaign, including the one of June 2, 1928. It should be noted that there are at least five identifiable Republicans on the list: Hiaasen, Casey, Hunt, Davis, and McMillan. Hunt was chairman of the Broward County Republican Executive Committee and, in November, was the Republican candidate for county judge. Davis was to be the Republican candidate for prosecuting attorney. Four years later, McMillan was to emerge as the Republican candidate for county school superintendent, and Casey was often a featured speaker at Republican meetings. Since participation in the Democratic primary was limited to registered Democrats, those five Republicans could endorse Giblin but could not vote for him.
15. This political advertisement appeared in many issues of *The Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, including the one of June 3, 1928.
16. *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, June 1, 1928.
17. *Ibid.*, June 2, 1928.
18. *Ibid.*, May 10, 1928.
19. W.H. Shuford had lived in Pompano for sixteen years and was once mayor of the town. Dr. McClellan was one of the best known physicians in Broward County. It seems strange that a circuit judge did not know either of these men.
20. *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, May 11, 1928.
21. Election results are taken from the issue of *The Fort Lauderdale Daily News* the day following the election unless otherwise indicated.
22. Berryhill was the original holder of that office but resigned in 1925 to enter the real estate business. Lillie Smith was appointed to succeed him and won the special election of 1926, thus becoming the first woman to win county election in Broward. She did not seek re-election in 1928.
23. In the primary he defeated Julian E. Ross and the incumbent prosecuting attorney Charles Crim.
24. Told to the author by his father, Fort Lauderdale attorney Hugh Lester.
25. At that time there were only three school board members.
26. During the 1928 judicial campaign, Giblin made no mention of the six-year term, and he did not enter the primary under protest.
27. *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, June 14, 1928.
28. *Ibid.*, June 10, 1929.
29. *Ibid.*, June 22, 1929.
30. At this time there were only six members of the Florida Supreme Court.
31. The author's father, Fort Lauderdale attorney Hugh Lester, has called Giblin a "good hired man," and added, "He will do a job that he is paid to do and do it well. He gave excellent service to the Florida East Coast Railway. He was then a tough, non-sense judge. In Miami he gave Al Capone excellent legal representation." A generation later Giblin returned to the circuit bench, but this time in Dade County, where he received much praise for the quality of his performance. In 1952 he lost a very close election to Harris Drew for a position on the Florida Supreme Court. Late in his career he served as adjunct professor of law at the University of Miami.
32. When Russell G. Snow served as Mayor of Fort Lauderdale, 1922-24, Baxter served as city attorney.
33. There was an exodus of lawyers from Broward County during this period. Those departing for greener pastures included Vincent C. Giblin, M. Lewis Hall, L.O. Casey, and Miller Walton, all of whom moved to Dade County. Everett H. Hunt moved back to Buffalo, New York, and F. Holmes Johnson returned to Gray, Georgia. Those who died included Tom Farmer and Dave Cook in 1932 and John H. Cheney in 1936.
34. Robert J. Davis, in his role as prosecuting attorney, seemed to get involved in trivial cases. In December 1929, he had attorneys J.R. Roach and J.B. Hoyl

arrested for conducting a business without a license. Roach said that, of the forty-nine lawyers in Broward County, only one had paid the business license fee and that was Davis who had paid it the morning he had sworn out the warrant. The case was heard in county court with Davis prosecuting. Roach and Hoyl defended themselves. Judge Shippey dismissed the charges.

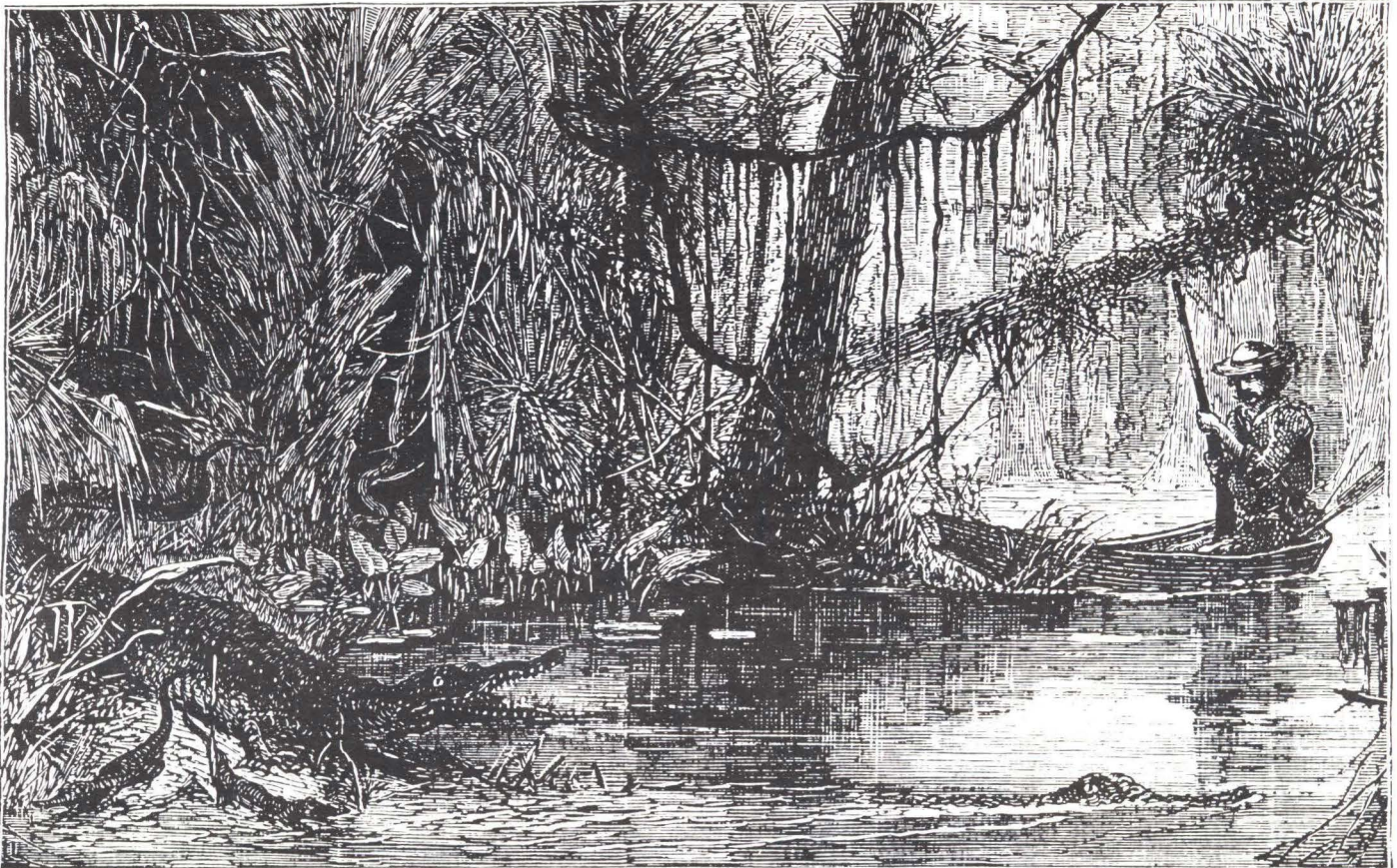
35. For an excellent account of Clark's early life, see William H. Kramer, "Walter Reid Clark, Broward County's Legendary Sheriff: The Formative Years," an unpublished manuscript in possession of the Broward County Historical Commission.
36. Clark was suspended by Governor Holland in 1942, but the Florida Senate reinstated him in 1943. The local senator, John R. Beacham of West Palm Beach, supported Clark.
37. J.L. "Sam" Heede, "Our Bryan Pioneers," Part II, *Broward Legacy*, vol. 8, Nos. 1 & 2 (Winter/Spring 1985), 31.
38. Dade County Representative Simon Pierre (Pete) Robineau (1882-1952) was a law school classmate of the author's father, Fort Lauderdale attorney Hugh Lester. Born in France, Robineau moved to the United States at the age of seven. He practiced law in Boston 1912-15, moved to Miami in 1915, and soon rose to the top of the Dade bar. He became chairman of the Dade County Democratic Executive Committee, and from 1929 to 1937 served in the Florida Legislature. In 1935 Robineau became the floor leader for Governor Sholtz. When Sholtz became unpopular, Robineau became unpopular and did not stand for election in 1936. Robineau served overseas in two World Wars.
39. In recent years, certain journalists have been promoting the idea that the motive behind the Homestead Exemption was to encourage more people to move to Florida. Statements of this nature reveal a lack of knowledge of Florida history and the Great Depression. The actual motive was to enable the hard-pressed homeowner to keep his home.
40. The conviction was reversed by the United States Supreme Court in 1942. In a subsequent trial the

defendants were acquitted by Palm Beach County Circuit Judge C.E. Chillingworth. For a full account of the Darsey case, see Donald G. Lester, "The Darsey Case: Little Scottsboro Revisited," *Broward Legacy*, vol. 11, Nos. 1 & 2 (Winter/Spring 1988), 2-13.

41. *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, May 9, 1934.
42. In 1928 the law firm of Roach and Hoyl had supported Tedder against Giblin, but had had a falling out with the judge since that time.
43. Democratic party rally held at Fort Lauderdale High School auditorium, June 2, 1934. The author was present and is quoting from memory, but believes that the quotations are substantially correct. The author has a problem with Hoyl's presentation. If such a "deal" were in the works, why tell Hoyl? J.B. Hoyl was certainly no "insider." In fact, Roach and Hoyl can be considered as "professional outsiders."
44. In over fifty years of observing and studying Broward County politics and politicians, the author has neither seen nor heard any compelling evidence of any "deal" concerning Giblin's sudden resignation. The author believes that the charges are probably based on assumptions. Since Giblin retained his post after the three-to-three Florida Supreme Court vote and then suddenly resigned, many observers assumed that there must have been a "deal." The author puts forth a plausible alternative explanation. Giblin, having proved his point (to his own satisfaction) and having accomplished his purpose (to aggravate Tedder) decided to move on to greener pastures.
45. "Elected County Officials," *Broward Legacy*, vol. 6, Nos. 1 & 2 (Winter/Spring 1983), 27; Obituary, *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, December 28, 1953.
46. *Miami Herald*, November 1, 1934.
47. *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, October 6, 1934.
48. *Ibid.*
49. In 1940, after the main push for the Townsend Plan had passed, Fuller Warren, campaigning for governor, made a speech in Fort Lauderdale's Stranahan Park. When he finished and was walking down the steps of the bandstand, an elderly man approached him and asked how Warren stood on the Townsend Plan.


Warren replied that he favored it. The author's father, Fort Lauderdale attorney Hugh Lester, then a member of the Broward County Democratic Executive Committee, presided at the meeting and overheard the exchange.

50. In recent years a number of historians have tried to explain the failure of Communists and Socialists to exploit the miseries of the Great Depression for their own advantages successfully by offering the explanation that the people "blamed themselves" for their misfortune. This explanation appears ridiculous to those who lived through the depression. The people's dissatisfaction was actually directed at such targets as Wall Street, bankers, big business, the Republicans, etc.
51. This was no idle fear. About a year and one half previously, a mob of about 100 men stormed the county jail in San Jose, California, took two kidnapper-murders out of the jail, and publicly hanged them in the presence of 2,000 cheering citizens.
52. The author's father, Fort Lauderdale attorney Hugh Lester, served as justice of the peace from 1930 to 1937.
53. For an anti-Clark version of the lynching, see Bryan Brooks, "The Day They Lynched Reuben Stacey," *Sunshine Magazine*, *Fort Lauderdale News*, July 17, 1988, 11-13. For the official version, see Donald G. Lester, "The Darsey Case, Little Scottsboro Revisited," *Broward Legacy*, vol. 11, Nos. 1 & 2 (Winter/Spring 1988), 9-10.
54. The author's father, Fort Lauderdale attorney Hugh Lester, was a member of the Broward County Democratic Executive Committee and was much concerned over the possible Townsend deflection from party ranks.
55. Told to the author by his father, Fort Lauderdale attorney Hugh Lester.
56. The author was present and heard the message several times during the campaign.
57. *Ibid.*
58. Morris, ed., *The Florida Handbook, 1981-1982*, 505.
59. *Fort Lauderdale Daily News*, May 4, 1938.



THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Election Cards from the Collection of
EASTER LILY GATES



TOM BRYAN
CANDIDATE FOR
REPRESENTATIVE
IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE
GROUP NO. 2, WHICH EMBRACES ALL OF
BROWARD COUNTY
Subject to the Democratic Voters of 1938
WILL APPRECIATE YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT

1

"BY HIS RECORD YOU KNOW HIM"



FRED P. CONE
NATIVE FLORIDIAN
CANDIDATE FOR
**United States
SENATE**

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY, MAY, 1940


As Governor he opposed new taxes and gave the people of Florida real economy in State Government—truly a governor of all the people and of ALL FLORIDA.

Your Support Will Be Appreciated



FRANK STIRLING
CANDIDATE FOR
State Representative
Broward County, Group 2
Subject to the Democratic Primary
May 2, 1944
20 Years of Citrus Growing and
General Farming in Broward County

7



TED CABOT
Candidate for
Clerk of the Circuit Court
for Broward County
Subject to the Democratic Primary
May 2, 1944
(over)

1



Your vote and support will be appreciated

Henry A. "Ham" Marshall

Candidate for
COUNTY COMMISSIONER
District No. 3 Broward County

Subject to the Democratic Primary
May 2, 1944

A Resident of Fort Lauderdale for 33 Years



RE-ELECT

E. R. BENNETT

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

HE HAS DONE A GOOD JOB

SUBJECT TO THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY, MAY 2ND, 1944
(over)

LUTHER S. REMSBERG

CANDIDATE FOR

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

District No. 3, Broward County

Subject to Democratic Primary May 2, '44

Your Vote and Support Will Be Appreciated



ELECT

R. K. (BOB) LOWRY

Your Representative
To the State Legislature

GROUP ONE
BROWARD COUNTY

Democratic Primary, May, 1948

Qualified
Native Broward Countian

VOTE FOR
HENRY J.
DRIGGERS

CANDIDATE FOR

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

DISTRICT 3

Subject to Democratic Primary May 27, 1952

(over)

YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT WILL BE APPRECIATED



W. H. MEEKS, JR.

CANDIDATE FOR

TAX COLLECTOR

Broward County

Subject to
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY MAY 6,
1952

YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT
WILL BE APPRECIATED



Elect

F. LAIRD RICKARD

for

Member of

PORT AUTHORITY
DISTRICT 3

(Over)

YOUR SUPPORT AND VOTE
FOR

ELIAS E. MARSHALL

AS

CONSTABLE

OF THE FOURTH DISTRICT
OF BROWARD COUNTY
WILL BE APPRECIATED

(over)

Re-Elect...
DR. MYRON
ASHMORE
 DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE
SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT



ATLANTIC PRINTING 1

PROVEN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

— RE-ELECT —
TONY SALVINO
County Commissioner



ATLANTIC PRINTING 2

*For a Continued
 Progressive Administration
 in County Government*

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY SEPTEMBER 9th
A PROVEN RECORD!

RE-ELECT
JOHN S. BURWELL
State Representative
 (GROUP 1)



Subject to Democratic Primary May 6
 Has served six terms as Broward
 County Representative

**AN EXPERIENCED LEGISLATOR
 OF PROVEN ABILITY**

Lived in Broward County 36 Years

ATLANTIC PRINTING 4

(over)

**DON'T TRADE EXPERIENCE
 FOR PROMISES**

ELECT
CLAUDE A.
TINDALL
SHERIFF



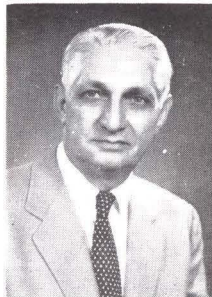
ATLANTIC PRINTING 3

OF BROWARD COUNTY

VOTE ON NOV. 6, 1956

1405 S. W. 19th Ave. Ph. JA 2-6234

RE-ELECT
JUDGE BOYD H.
ANDERSON
COUNTY JUDGE
Democrat
OF BROWARD COUNTY



PLATFORM: Will continue to administer the duties of
 this office, both judicial and administrative, fairly, im-
 partially, diligently with dignity and courtesy.

(over)

ATLANTIC PRINTING 4

Elect --
C. B. SMITH
County Commissioner

**"16 YEARS OF UNSELFISH
 DEVOTION TO PUBLIC GOOD"**

That Is and Will Be My Platform
 For the Next Four Years!

ATLANTIC PRINTING 12



— ELECT —

George W. Leaird
Circuit Judge

**PALM BEACH AND
 BROWARD COUNTIES**

TO SETTLE THE LAND:

Pre-Emption and the Withers Report in Early Twentieth Century Broward County

Introduced and Edited

by JOE KNETSCH and PAUL S. GEORGE

Even after Henry M. Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway entered Fort Lauderdale in 1896, the area that would later become Broward County remained sparsely populated. Not until one decade later, with the onset of Everglades reclamation, did it begin to exhibit even modest growth, for attracting settlers to one of America's last frontiers was not an easy task.

One method of bringing settlers to the area was through active recruitment. Broward County Historian Cooper Kirk, in his "Andrew Christian Frost: Founder of Dania," wrote of Frost's trip to Oconto, Wisconsin, to find settlers for the fledgling community of Modelo (Dania). Frost brought back thirty adults.¹ James Ingraham, another colonizer, was forced to recruit his brother-in-law, Luther Halland of New York, to lead the settlement that was eventually named Hallandale. Halland advertised southern Florida to his fellow Swedes in newspapers and flyers strategically placed aboard Clyde Line steamers. Printed in Swedish, they proclaimed the area "safe from that early and late frost which in the northmost parts of the state has so often ruined the expectations of the fruitgrower."²

A different but widely used method of populating the region was the awarding of land to settlers through

pre-emption. The procedure had been outlined in 1881, in Chapter 3324, Sections 1-5, of the Acts of the Legislature of the State of Florida.³ Under this legislation, citizens of the state were permitted to enter upon public lands and establish residence or cultivate a parcel of land not exceeding 160 acres for the purpose of creating a homestead which could not directly or indirectly benefit any other person(s). The land had to be located in legal subdivisions (i.e. surveyed and

sectioned land). The state would set the price, while the awardee had to obtain two "credible witnesses" to sign affidavits stating that he/she was residing on or improving this land; moreover he/she was required to sign a personal affidavit before an authorized officer empowered to administer official oaths. The state provided an installment plan for the purchase of the land, providing for a settler to pay one-third of the cost of his parcel at the time of the agreement; he would

The scattered nature of Broward County's early twentieth century settlement and the relatively late formation of the county as an independent governmental unit make it difficult to assemble a comprehensive list of the area's earliest settlers. Various land records help fill the gaps left by federal census reports and newspaper accounts. One such record, I. N. Withers' report to the state Internal Improvement Fund Trustees on pre-emption claims in Dade and Monroe Counties, not only lists claimants, but provides thumbnail descriptions of improvements to their property. Withers' description of claims in the portion of Dade County which in 1915 became Broward is reprinted here, along with an introduction by Joe Knetsch and Paul S. George explaining Florida's pre-emption law and outlining Withers' varied career.

Joe Knetsch, a frequent contributor to the Broward Legacy, is research historian with the Florida Department of Natural Resources in Tallahassee and a former Broward County Historical Commissioner. Paul S. George is professor of history at Florida Atlantic University and the University of Miami and the director of the Historic Broward County Preservation Board.

pay another third within the first two years of settlement, and the final third within three years of concluding the initial agreement. If a settler failed to pay within ninety days after the due date, the land would revert to the state. Only one entry per person was allowed. These terms, which paralleled the pre-emption policy of the federal government, were strong inducements to settlement for land-hungry pioneers.⁴

In sparsely settled regions of the state, it was common practice for the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to dispatch an agent to an area to investigate the legitimacy of land claims. In 1905, the Trustees appointed Isaac N. Withers as land agent. Withers' duties involved selection of state land under the Swamp and Overflowed Land Act of 1850; moreover, "...it also [will] be a part of his duties to look after trespassers upon the lands of the Internal Improvement Fund and prosecute the claims for such trespass, making monthly reports of his doings and actions...." For these tasks, Withers received \$100.00 per month, and twenty percent of all moneys collected for successful trespass prosecutions.⁵

Born at Fort Mill, South Carolina, on January 7, 1853, Withers was educated locally and at Rutherford College in North Carolina. After moving to Florida in the early 1870s, he began working as a salesman in a Leesburg mercantile store. Withers later joined his brother in an orange grove venture on Picciola Island in Lake Griffin. In 1894, he began his own

store and grove at Lady Lake, but two devastating freezes in the winter of 1894-95 ended this attempt at homesteading. After a sojourn in Citronelle in Citrus County, Withers returned to Lady Lake in 1902. His career of public service had begun as tax collector of Sumter County in 1885 and included a stint as county commissioner. In 1906, after less than a year as a state land agent, Withers was appointed to fill the unexpired term of a member of the state senate from District Twenty-three, which included Lake County. He was re-elected to the seat in 1908 and remained in the senate until his death on February 12, 1912.⁶

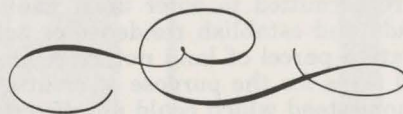
The Withers report, which follows, represents a rare first-hand glimpse of early settlement in Broward County. From the information he gathered, we can see the type of people who pioneered the area and the various improvements they made on the land. Withers reported that many of the people who made claim to improvements or settlements were exaggerating — if not outright prevaricating. Some claims had already been abandoned, or their claimant had died. However, many did institute the necessary improvements and received land at prices ranging from \$1.25 to \$3.00 per acre.⁷ Some of the claimants were founders of Broward County's first communities.

Of special interest in the Withers report are his revelations concerning the varieties of pioneer agriculture. Because of the well-known success of the region's truck farms, it has been

generally assumed that this was the most common type of agriculture in early Broward. Relying on the memories of early Hallandale residents, one writer has stated, "The type of farming they did could be described best as truck farming without trucks. The area was too wet for any grain, even corn, but produced excellent vegetables." This same writer also noted the early importance of the pineapple.⁸ Withers found, however, that the cultivation of citrus crops was at least equal to the acreage devoted to raising vegetables. This fact appears to have escaped the memories of many pioneer offspring upon whose recollections historians have based some of their accounts of Broward's early history. Withers' report will help refine and balance earlier pictures of life in the land which became Broward County, and demonstrate the diversity of opportunities that southeast Florida's fertile frontier offered pioneers.

— Endnotes —

1. Cooper Kirk, "Andrew Christian Frost: Founder of Dania," *Broward Legacy*, vol. III, nos. 1 & 2 (Summer/Fall 1979), 18-19.
2. Bill McGoun, *Hallandale* (Hallandale: Hallandale Historical Society, 1976), 6.
3. State of Florida, *General Statutes of the State of Florida, 1906*, Title VII, Chapter II, Article I (Tallahassee, 1907).
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Minutes of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund*, vol. VI (Tallahassee: Capital Publishing Co., 1906), 63-64.
6. William T. Kennedy, ed., *History of Lake County* (St. Augustine: The Record Company, 1929), 44-45, 308.
7. *Minutes of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund*, vol. VII (Tallahassee: N.P., 1909), 199-204.
8. McGoun, *Hallandale*, 10.



THE I.N. WITHERS REPORT

PUBLISHED IN
**MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES,
INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND
VOLUME VII**

Lake City, Fla., Nov. 5, 1907

To the Honorable Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund,

Gentlemen:

In accordance with instructions from your honorable board, I have examined settler's claim on State lands

in Dade and Monroe Counties and hereby report as follows, to wit:

In Township 50S, Range 41E, Frank R. Oliver, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed November 22nd, 1897, on S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 1.

P.N. Bryan, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed March 15th, 1902, on S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$,

Section 12.

Fred T. Fisher, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed March 27th, 1906, on E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 12.

W.P. Cromer, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed March 5th, 1902, on NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 12.

No improvement whatever on either of above claims.

TOWNSHIP

6	5	4	3	2	SECTION 1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

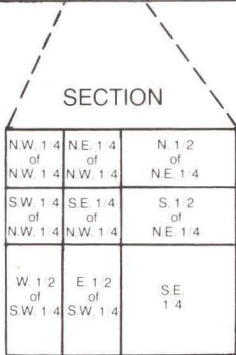


Diagram showing section divisions as described in the Withers report.

L.H. Bryan, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed May 1st, 1899, on N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13.

Abandoned claim and it is now occupied by J.W. Clark, Ft. Lauderdale. His improvement consists of one palmetto shack, with paper roof and one shack with one side and one end palmetto, the other side and end and roof of paper; a shed for mule and cow, has three small clearings of about half acre each, on which he will plant vegetables; value of improvements, ten dollars.

G.D. Bryan, claim filed May 1st, 1899, on E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13. The only improvement is an Indian camp.

W.M. Hill, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed December 3rd, 1906, on NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13.

Has farmed a few acres, also says he has farmed ten or twelve acres of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ (a part of G.D. Bryan's claim), therefore he thinks he should be permitted to purchase the said forty acres.

R.A. Bryan, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed April 28th, 1899, on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13.

No improvements whatever.

N.H. Braddock, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed July 25th, 1899, on E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13.
Nothing done on claim.

H.D. Braddock, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed November 11th, 1899, on E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13.

Improvements consists of one small shack and three acres cleared and planted in vegetables; has also a few bananas and guavas. Improvement worth fifty dollars.

J.W. Braddock, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed April 2nd, 1899 on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13. Which he has assigned to N.H. Braddock. Improvement consists of one small board house, in which he is living; a well, stable and packing shed. Has three hundred orange and grapefruit trees, one half in bearing, eight Avocado pear trees, five mangoes and a number of guavas.

J.W. Clark, N.H. Braddock, H.D. Braddock and W.M. Hill, state that if permitted to buy the land on which they have filed claims they are willing for the State to reserve all wood on the land.

Skelton & Bemis filed claim on E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{2}$ [1/4], Section 36, Tp. 50, R.41 and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 1, Tp. 51, R 41, on which nothing whatsoever has been done.

In Township 51S, Range 41E.

N.C. Pike, Hallandale, claim filed April 8th, 1902, on E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 1.

J.E. Mosley, Hallandale, claim filed April 3rd, 1899, on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 1.

Farmed about twenty acres in 1904; nothing done since.

Sold claim to H.F. Ingalls, who is in possession and has six acres cleared, on which he has five hundred two-year-old grapefruit trees. Improvement worth five hundred dollars.

C.W. Brown, Hallandale, claim filed March 12th, 1902, on W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 2.

N.A. Carlson, Hallandale, claim filed August 13th, 1901, on NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 11.

Improvement consists of small house and four or five acres in cultivation. Improvement worth fifty dollars.

A. Andrain, Hallandale, claim filed July 25th, 1901, on N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 11.

Improvement consists of a house 20

x 20 and several acres that have been cultivated in vegetables. Had barn and stable but was burned. Improvement worth fifty dollars.

A.L. Bryan, Hallandale, claim filed July 22nd, 1901, on S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 11.

Improvement consists of packing house and twenty-five acres that have been cultivated in vegetables. Improvement worth twenty-five dollars.

C.H. Garthside, Miami, claim filed August 31st, 1901, on NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 12.

P.N. Bryan, Ft. Lauderdale, filed claim March 3rd, 1902, on S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 12, but neither Garthside nor Bryan have made any improvements.

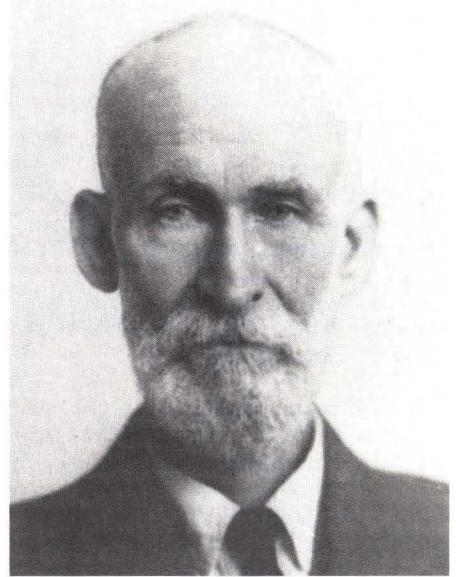
Oscar Anderson, Hallandale, filed claim on W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 11. No improvement.

N.C. Bryan, Hallandale, filed claim April 20th, 1899, on S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 12.

Improvement consists in dwelling and several acres in cultivation on which are growing two hundred orange and grapefruit trees, fifty avocado pears, fifty mangoes, guavas and one acre in pineapples. Improvements worth one thousand dollars.

J.M. Bryan, Sr., Dania, filed claim April 20th, 1899, on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12.

Assigned claim to C.E. Ingall



Philemon N. Bryan, one of Fort Lauderdale's earliest pioneers, his sons Reed and Tom, and other members of his large and influential family filed pre-emption claims in present Broward County.

[Ingalls], Hallandale, who is in possession. Improvements consist of good barn and packing house, several acres in cultivation, on which he has growing one hundred orange and grapefruit trees, one hundred avocado pears, ten mangoes, guavas and two hundred acres in pineapples. Improvement worth five hundred dollars.

W.Q. Bryan, Hallandale, claim filed April 20th, 1899, on N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13. No improvement.

J.B. Gordan [John B. Gordon, famous Confederate general and post-Civil War governor and United States senator from Georgia], Biscayne, filed claim December 13th, 1901, on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13.

Assigned December 20th, 1901, to Fannie H. Gordan. No improvement, except a few acres cultivated in tomatoes in 1903 and 1904.

Henry Clemmons, claim filed April 20th, 1899, on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13. No improvement.

J.R. Charlton, Hallandale, claim filed June 12th, 1899, on W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13.

Improvement consists of dwelling house, six acres cleared and cultivated, on which is growing four hundred orange and grapefruit trees, twenty-five avocado pears, twenty-five mangoes, twelve Japan persimmons, plums, guavas, maumee apples, mulberries, pineapples, beside flowers and a well. Improvement worth five hundred dollars.

H.N. Gordan, Biscayne, filed claim December 9th, 1901, on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13. No improvement.

Frank Gordan (dead) filed claim December 9th, 1901, on SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13. No improvement except a few acres in tomatoes several years ago.

C.M. Howell, Hallandale, claim filed November 13th, 1901, on NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14. No improvement.

J.H. Johnson, Hallandale, claim filed October 30th 1901, on NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14. No improvement.

John T. Wofford, Hallandale, claim filed July 13th, 1901, on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14.

Improvement consists of packing house, twenty-five acres cultivated in tomatoes in 1902. Nothing since.

J.B. Coombs, Ojus, claim filed September 23rd, 1901, on E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14. No improvement.

J.W. Wofford, Hallandale, claim filed September 23rd, 1901, on W $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 14.

Nothing done. Mr. Wofford is dead and his widow has moved to Atlanta, Georgia.

Edwin Anderson, Hallandale, claim filed December 19th, 1901, on NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 15. No improvement.

H.N. Harris, Ojus, claim filed October 28th, 1901, on SE $\frac{1}{4}$, of Section 15. No improvement.

W.T. Johnson, Ojus, claim filed October 28th, 1901, on S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 15. No improvement.



Former Confederate general and Georgia statesman John B. Gordon, who lived on Biscayne Bay, filed a claim for property near the present intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and U.S. Highway 441. Gordon died at his Biscayne Bay home in 1904.

Edward W. Johnson, claim filed October 28th, 1901, on N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 21, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22.

John Anderson, Hallandale, claim filed December 10th, 1901, on S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22. No improvement (now in asylum).

J.W. Johnson, Ojus, claim filed October 25th, 1901, on NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22.

Abandoned claim and it is now being worked by Henry Johnson. Had ten acres in tomatoes last season and now preparing land for fall planting.

C.W. Coombs, Ojus, claim filed

October 28th, 1901, on S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22. No improvement.

Charles Errickson, Hallandale, filed claim December 11th, 1901, on SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22. No improvements.

George E. Galloway, Hallandale, has located a farm on E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 22.

Has cleared land and set out four hundred and twenty-five bananas and six avocado pears.

E.J. Glass, Buena Vista, claim filed March 26, 1896, on E $\frac{1}{2}$ of E $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 23.

J.B. Gordan, Biscayne, also applied for same, but neither has made improvement.

H.N. Harris, James Murphy, R.R. Thompson, Fannie B. Smith and J.M. Holding, filed claim on W $\frac{1}{2}$ of E $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 23, but no improvement by either worth considering.

S.L. Padgett, Miami, claim filed October 26th, 1901, on NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23. E.H. Padgett cultivating a small part of claim in tomatoes.

N.G. Padgett, Ojus, claim filed October 26th, 1901, on N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 23.

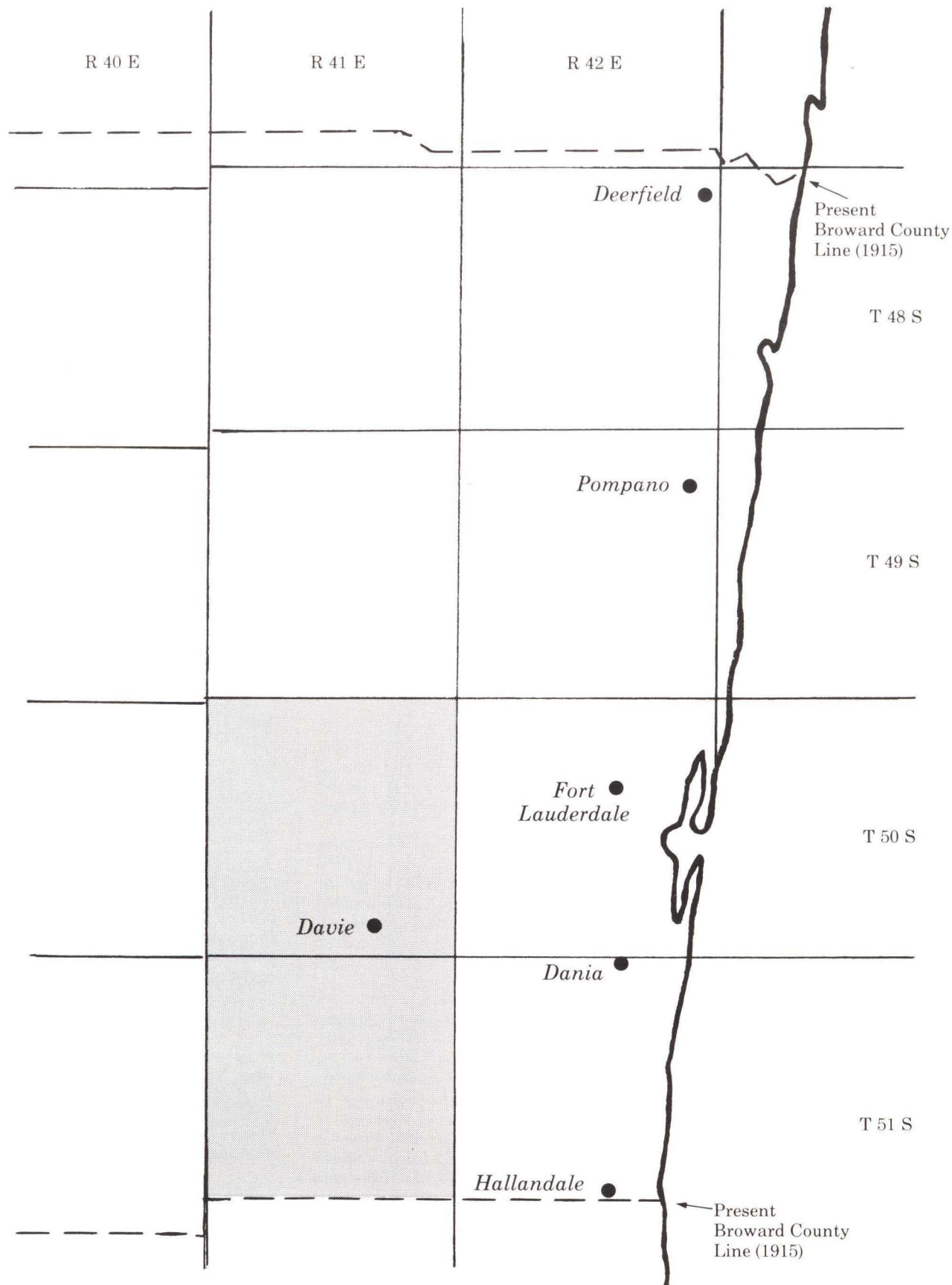
No improvement, except few acres cultivated in tomatoes.

E.W. Smith, Francis, claim filed September 26th, 1896, on N $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24. No improvement.

H.W. Padgett, Miami, claim filed March 13th, 1896 on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and N $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24. The SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ has been assigned to George E. Galloway, whose improvement consists of a dwelling and several acres in cultivation, one hundred young orange and grapefruit trees, ten avocado pears, mangoes, limes and guavas. Improvements worth one hundred dollars. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ has been assigned to W.M. Ingar, who has dwelling, one acre in cultivation, on which he has fifteen avocado pears, eight mangoes, a few orange trees, limes, lemons and guavas. Improvement worth one hundred dollars. The balance of the claim is held by Mr. Padgett, although he is in business in Miami. About ten acres have been cleared, on which are two old houses and fifteen or twenty avocado pears, which constitute the improvements.

Note as to claim of John W. Leslie, Miami, Fla.

S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24, T. 51S.,



Map showing areas claimed under Florida's pre-emption law and investigated by I.N. Withers in 1905-06.

R.41E. He built house before survey was made. After the survey the house proved to be on the NE¼ of SW¼. Mr. Leslie wants to retain his improvements. The NE¼ of SW¼ is occupied by J.S. Blackman, who has small settlement.

James W. Strange, Miami, claim filed March 13th, 1896, on S½ of SE¼, Section 24. No improvement.

W.M. Brown, claim filed November 20th, 1901, on N½ of NW¼, Section 24. No improvement.

John W. Leslie, Miami, claim filed October 17th, 1901, on S½ of NW¼, Section 24.

Improvement consists of dwelling, rock fence and fifty or seventy-five fruit trees.

Fred H. Kron, Buena Vista, claim filed July 27th, 1896, on NE¼ of SW¼ and S½ of SW¼, Section 24 and NW¼ of NW¼, Section 25. Claim abandoned and now in possession of J.S. Blackman, who is living on NE¼ of SW¼ and has small grove of young orange trees on NW¼ of NW¼, Section 25.

E.T. Byington, Miami, claim filed November 16th, 1901, on NW¼ of SW¼, Section 24. No improvement.

John B. Britt, Lemon City, claim filed, May 21, 1903, on E½ of NW¼ of SW¼ and NW¼ of SE¼, Section 25. Claim abandoned by Britt and now occupied by T.G. Pryor, who has made a clearing and built two palmetto houses 15 x 15 and 15 x 25 respectively, set out sixty orange trees, thirty-five lemons and three hundred bananas. Improvement worth one hundred dollars.

J.J. Slevin, Buena Vista, filed claim July 27th, 1896, on SW¼ of NW¼ and W½ of SW¼, Section 25 and SE¼ of SE¼, Section 26. Claim abandoned by Slevin. SW¼ of NW¼, Section now occupied by J.M. Holding, he has several acres cleared and set in young orange trees. W½ of SW¼, Section 25, now occupied by E.A. Brewer, who has one house, one palmetto house, barn and packing house, four hundred young orange trees, fifteen mangoes, twenty-five avocado pears, forty guavas, limes, lemons and eight thousand two hundred bananas. Also sugar apple, tamarinds, etc. Improvements worth two thousand dollars.

R.E. Padgett, Miami, claim filed March 3rd, 1896, on W½ of NE¼, Section 25. No improvement.

Ivan B. Padgett, Miami, claim filed March 13th, 1896, on E½ of E½ of Section 25. Cleared and cultivated three acres in vegetables.

O.L. Brown, filed claim January 21, 1902, on NE¼ of Section 25, which includes claims of R.E. Padgett and Ivan B. Padgett, but has made no improvement.

Edward A. Brewer, filed claim May 9th, 1898, on SE¼ of SE¼, Section 32 and SW¼ of SW¼, Section 33. Assigned claim to John Douglass July 8th, 1898. Douglass assigned August 31st, 1901, to R.E. McDonald. McDonald has sold an interest in claim to John O. Neal, they have in grove five hundred young orange trees, this is an island in the glades, known as Honey Hill.

Robert B. Fickle filed claim February 15th, 1896, on SE¼ of SE¼, Section 34, and S½ of SW¼, Section 35. Transferred same to J.G. Truitt, Fulford, August 19th, 1897; improvements consists of twenty-five acres cleared and set with orange and grapefruit, avocado pears, mangoes and sixty thousand nursery stock.

John A. Harp, Fulford, filed claim on S½ of SE¼, Section 35. Improvement consists of five acres cleared and set in orange and grapefruit. Mr. Harp lives on homestead adjoining said claim.

J.B. Studstill, Miami, filed claim August 4th, 1906, on SW¼ of SW¼, Section 36. Improvement consists of house 16 x 20 feet, two acres cleared and set in avocado pears and mangoes.

Thomas A. Harp, Fulford, filed claim February 19th, 1896, on SE¼ of SW¼ and SW¼ of SE¼, Section 36. Improvement consists of dwelling, one hundred and fifty large orange and grapefruit, two hundred small trees, two hundred large avocado pears, one hundred mangoes, guavas and limes.

Elijah H. Padgett, Miami, filed claim March 13th, 1896, and February 23rd, 1898, on E½ of NE¼ and N½ of SE¼, Section 36, transferred same to Noble Padgett. Improvement consists of house, five acres cleared and set in small orange and grapefruit, avocado pears and guavas, said improvement being on NE¼ of NE¼, and a three acre clearing on NW¼ of SE¼ for gardening.



To the Honorable Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, Tallahassee, Florida.

Gentlemen:

Following instructions of your honorable Board, I have examined the various claims of settlers on State lands in Township 51 south, Range 41 east. The following are on pine land, the soil being poor and in many places covered with rock, the claimants have made substantial improvements and, with one exception, are living on the land. The one exception, Mr. J.W. Leslie, is quite old and feeble and unable to make a living for himself, therefore was compelled to leave his place and is living with his daughter in Miami. Taking into consideration the fact that they went on these lands and have been at considerable expense in making improvements and have opened the way and shown what can be done off the land, I recommend that they be permitted to purchase eighty acres of the land at \$1.50 per acre.

Section

H.F. Ingalls, SE¼ of SW¼	1
N.C. Bryan	12
C.E. Ingalls	12
J.R. Chalton [Charlton]	13
H.W. Padgett	24
John W. Leslie	24
J.S. Blackman	24
T.G. Prior	25
E.A. Brewer	25
John O'Neal	32
John O'Neal	33
J.G. Truitt	34
J.G. Truitt	35
John A. Harp	35
Thomas A. Harp	35
Thomas A. Harp	36
N.G. Padgett	36

The following have built and live a part of the year on pine land, but have farms on the sand glades. I recommend they be allowed to purchase eighty acres of land at \$2.00 per acre.

Section

N.A. Carlson	11
Mrs. A.D. Ingalls	11
A. Andrain	11
G.E. Galloway	22
Henry Johnson	22
Wm. Inger	22

The following are now farming or have farmed the glades. The glades in this vicinity are mostly sand and not so fertile as those composed of muck. With heavy fertilizing and a great deal of water they are very productive, on the other hand too much fertilizing and too little water makes a failure in a

crop. I recommend this class of claimants be allowed to purchase eighty acres at \$3.00 per acre.

Section

N.C. Pike 1
 C.W. Brown 2
 C.H. Garthsidcs 12
 P.N. Bryan 12
 J.B. Gordon 13
 H.N. Gordon, Biscayne 13
 C.H. Howell 14
 J.H. Johnson 14
 J.T. Wofford 14
 J.B. Coombs 14
 J.W. Wofford 14
 Edwin Anderson 15
 H.N. Harris 15
 S.L. Padgett 23
 E.H. Padgett 23
 I.B. Padgett 25
 J.M. Holding 25
 J.J. Hamilton 23
 L.L. Silcox 22
 John Anderson 22
 E.P. Byington 24

Joe Jennings, Miami, filed claim on portions of Secs. 6 and 8, but I have not been able to locate him; therefore do not know if he wants the land.

J.B. Studstill, Miami, has claim on SW¼ of SW¼, Sec. 36, 51, 41, but informed me that he did not want the land and would not pay 25 cents per acre for it.

J.T. Sloan, Miami, has claim on SW¼ of SW¼, Sec. 36, 51, 41, a part of Thomas A. Harp's claim. I have requested Mr. Sloan three times to give me a statement in writing setting forth his claim, but he has failed so far to do so. I think Mr. Harp has best right to the land.

According to the Florida *Tract Book*, Volume 30, the following settlers received deeds to the land they homesteaded:

State Deed Number

H.F. Ingalls 16134
 C.E. Ingalls 16159
 N.C. Bryan 16124
 A. Andrain (Andrew) 16112
 J.T. Wofford 16232
 J.B. Coombs 16330
 J.R. Charlton 16101
 N.A. Carlson 16155
 Charlotte Wofford (widow) 16259
 J.H. Johnson 16219

This information appears in pages 212-226 of the *Tract Book*.

The following claims are abandoned:

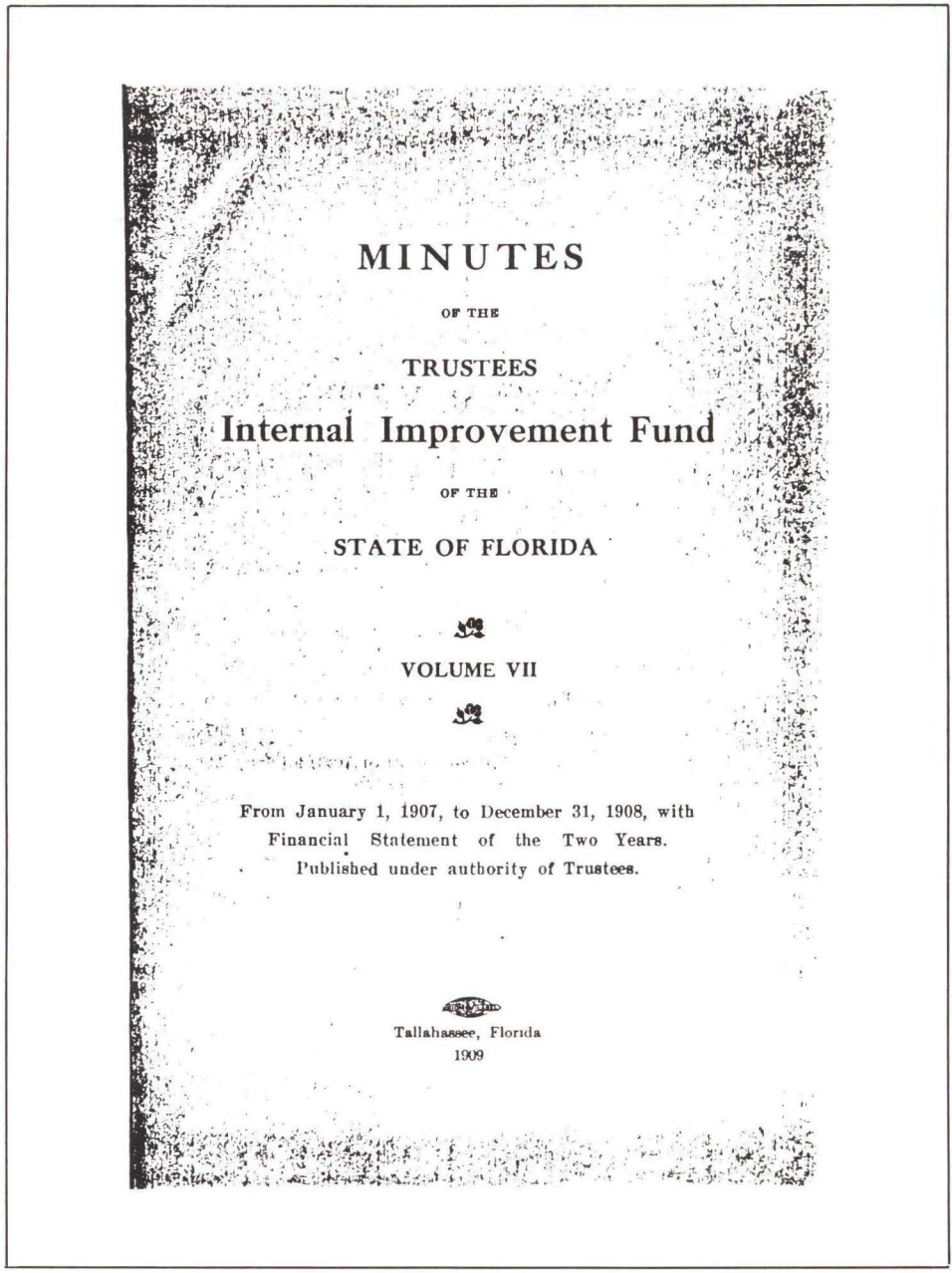
Section

Oscar Anderson 13
 W.O. Bryan 13
 Henry Clemons 13
 H.N. Gordon 13
 W.T. Johnson 15
 E.W. Johnson 21
 E.W. Johnson 22
 C.W. Coombs 22
 E.J. Glass 23
 W.M. Brown 24
 E.W. Smith 24
 J.W. Strange 24
 R.E. Padgett 25

The claims in Tp. 50, R. 41 of Frank R. Oliver, Sec. 1 and P.N. Bryan, Fred T. Fisher and W.P. Cromer Sec. 12, and Skelton & Bemis, Sec. 36 and Sec. 1, Tp. 51, R. 41, deserve no concession whatever.

Henry H. Harrison, Miami, has filed claim on all Secs. 4 and 5 and parts of Sec. 6, but informed me he does not want the land.

Dr. Graham, Miami, filed claim on portions of Secs. 5 and 6, but he also informs me that he would not buy the land if he could get it.



The United States Coast Guard can trace its presence in Broward County to 1917, when it took over the House of Refuge on Fort Lauderdale beach for the duration of World War I. On June 9, 1924, Coast Guard Base Six was officially commissioned, one of only three full-fledged Coast Guard bases in the entire United States. In the succeeding months, a cutter with a crew of thirty-three Coast Guardsmen, as well as eight picket boats and four patrol boats took up their station in Fort Lauderdale, although the House of Refuge remained in operation until March 1926, after the Coast Guard had completed their wharf and brought the headquarters boat Moccasin to the site.

During the 1920s, the base played an important role in enforcing Prohibition and apprehending bootleggers operating between the Bahamas and Florida's southeast coast, as well as performing the numerous other services detailed in the following articles. With the outbreak of World War II, the Coast Guard, operating from Base Six and from Port Everglades, was instrumental in securing Broward County's coastline as German submarines prowled the adjacent waters and preyed on commercial shipping. Declared surplus in 1946, the Coast Guard base property was eventually acquired by the City of Fort Lauderdale and became the site of the Bahia Mar Yachting Center.

COAST GUARD BASE 6

ARTICLES REPRINTED FROM
*THE FORT LAUDERDALE
DAILY NEWS*

COAST GUARD BASE FACTOR IN LOCAL LIFE

Renders Relief in Times of Storm and Stress:
Is Major Industry of City

From special section "The Gore Publications," Section A, page 7, Monday, December 1, 1930.

Fort Lauderdale takes great pride in its coast guard base, because of the laudable part it has played in the protection and saving of life along the lower east coast in times of hurricanes

and other disasters, and because of its importance as a financial asset. With an annual payroll of approximately \$250,000, supplies costing a like amount and incidentals topping off

another \$100,000, it is seen that the base is quite an industry for Fort Lauderdale and results in a yearly turnover of more than \$600,000 or a total turnover of more than \$2,400,000 since its establishment here a little over four and a half years ago.

Land Service

The local unit has not confined its efforts to the sea alone, but in recent years, it has on many occasions devoted its time to land service whenever the need has arisen.

During the 1926 hurricane after the *Moccasin*, which at the time housed the local unit, was washed upon the shore at Idlewyld, the men immediately formed units and supervised relief work in Fort Lauderdale and surrounding towns. With their assistance, the electrical supply at Memorial Hospital was quickly repaired, and lights furnished in order that doctors and nurses might make use of proper facilities, in caring for the injured. Meanwhile one detachment of men from the base was on constant duty at the Westside school and within 24 hours had taken care of over 500 relief cases.

Okeechobee Flood

Following the September, 1928, hurricane, four boats were rushed to the stricken area around Lake Okeechobee, and these were followed by 10 men sent overland in command of Boatswain C.C. Baum who established headquarters at Belle Glade. Additional forces were stationed at Palm Beach and West Palm Beach, a mobile

reserve force of only 30 men being left at Base 6. Field operations were in charge of Lieutenant Commander T.S. Klinger, who is now in charge of the base.

During the first days of the emergency relief work, 14 persons were rescued from isolated spots and brought to places of safety, and 175 dead were recovered and given burial.

Clear Roads

While engaged in maintaining order in the stricken area, the guards also cleared and made passable roads between Pahokee and Belle Glade. This stretch of road 13 miles long was covered with tree trunks, muck and other debris to a depth of from four to five feet. In many places the road had been completely washed out, which resulted in much delay in the completion of the work.

Afterwards in commenting on the squads of coast guardsmen who helped to maintain order in Palm Beach, authorities there stated that in no locality where police duties were performed by men from the Fort Lauderdale base, was there single instances of looting or disorder reported.

Aid Boats

Just prior to and during the onslaught of the hurricane of September 28, 1929, the unit from Fort Lauderdale received several calls for assistance from steamers stranded at various points about the Florida Keys and Bahama Islands. Although the sea and winds were high at the time the

coast guard cutters, *Forward* and *Saukee* were started at once to the rescue of the distressed vessels.

On September 27, a spirit of dangerous optimism developed among local inhabitants, who thinking the storm was no longer dangerous started to pull down storm shutters and otherwise relax in caution. Through the medium of the *Fort Lauderdale Daily News* local people were warned not to be too confident; that the storm was still potentially dangerous.

Deliver Mail

After the winds had abated patrol boats were sent to Key West to deliver mail and to take stores to Cape Sable and other points. Coast Guard cutter 210 proceeded all the way to the Keys, but found little or no assistance could be rendered by boat as land communications had been established by the clearing of roads. Nevertheless, the coast guard men remained until assured that every storm sufferer had been rescued and removed to places of safety.

Entertain Children

On Easter of each year, the unit entertains about 50 children at an Easter egg hunt, and on Thanksgiving and Christmas about 75 of the poor children of the county are invited to a big spread with turkey and candy and everything. The league of coast guard women, which is composed of about 30 active members, assists in the entertainment of the children and also takes an active part in other welfare work in the city. During the 1928 Hurricane these women were assigned the duty of collecting and issuing clothing to the destitute who had been brought here from the lake regions. The parent of the league at Washington sent supplies collected from units all over the country, and also generous contributions of money which was expended to provide necessities for urgent cases.

Personnel

There are now at the local base 150 men and 15 officers. R.I. Jack, commander of the east coast patrol, operates from the local base. The Lieutenant Commander is T.S. Klinger. Other members of the executive staff are E.E. Hahn, executive officer; J.O. Wylie, construction officer and machinist, and J.J. DeCarlo, engineer officer.

Buildings

There are numerous buildings within the grounds of the coastal patrol area, consisting of administration office, barracks, kitchen, machine shop, marine railway, battery and



The Coast Guard boat *Moccasin* served as base headquarters until it was swept across the Intracoastal Waterway and driven ashore at Idlewyld by the September 18, 1926, hurricane.

electrical shop, armory, hospital, airplane hanger, radio station, recreation hall, canteen and storerooms.

The coast guard base has an unequaled location between beautiful New River and the ocean, and within 100 yards, incomparable fishing and bathing advantages. More than 75 coast guard families make Fort Lauderdale their year round home and enjoy to the fullest extent, the balmy breezes and tropical beauty of the city, and at very economical living cost.

Athletics

The baseball team composed of coast

guard men is one of the finest in the state, and early this year had the opportunity of playing against the Buffalo team on numerous occasions when the professionals were in winter training here. This summer the University of Havana baseball team came here for a series of games. The members of the coast guard team will go to Havana, where a return series will be played with the Cubans.

Patrol Boat

A recent addition to the base in Fort Lauderdale is the United States Coast

Guard Patrol Boat, *Perry*, which has been stationed at the harbor where it is rendering assistance to vessels whenever the need arises. Boatswain O.L. Labeson is in command of the *Perry*.

Some time ago the city commissioners expressed their appreciation for the great work accomplished by the Fort Lauderdale Unit since its locating here. Mere words, however, are inadequate when it comes to expressing the admiration that people of this city have in their hearts for the personnel at the base which has worked so tirelessly for the community.



SERVICE MOVED HERE FROM MIAMI IN 1926, NOW RATED AS VALUABLE ASSET TO CITY

Guardsmen Called Upon to Combat Smuggling,
Aid in Alleviating Suffering in Times of
National Disasters

From "Mailway Edition"
Section A, page 4, Monday,
November 29, 1937.

In its twelfth year the United States Coast Guard Base Six is one of the city's primary assets. It was in 1926 that Coast Guard officials decided to transfer the base from Miami, giving Lauderdale one of the three bases that the service maintains in the United States and marking another important step in the history of Lauderdale's growth.

Beside the Coast Guard base, the service also maintains a cutter, the *Mojave* at Port Everglades, with a full crew and officers in residence on the boat.

The Coast Guard base is under command of Lieut. Comm. N.H. Leslie. Other officers are Lieut. R.W. Malen, executive officer; E.D. Green, Boatswain; J.A. Hayes, base machinist; J.E. Ricard, base carpenter; and E.O.

Hannaford, supply officer.

In command of the *Mojave* is Comm. G.H. Abel. Other officers are Lieut. Comm. R.V. Marron, Lieut. B.E. Shaw, Lieut. F. Tomkiee, Lieut. J.A. Glynn, Lieut. R.H. French, Ensign C.E. Columbus, Ensign E.J. Statts, Ensign C.W. Peterson, and Machinist Walter Robbins.

The service rendered by the Coast Guard is valuable and varied. Its peace time duties are divided into three classes: the enforcement of Federal law upon navigable waters within the jurisdiction of the United States; the rendering of assistance to vessels in distress and saving the life and property on the seas and navigable waters of the United States and possessions; duties as a military force of the United States subject to the call of the president.

Works with Customs Men

By far, however, the most important duties of the Guardsmen fall into the first two classes. In the first class the guard operates in conjunction with the customs service to prevent smuggling. It sees that the customs laws are enforced; protects the fisheries and bird reservations set up by Congress, and inspects vessels to see that licence laws are complied with.

Second class duties comprise flood relief in the event of disasters like the Mississippi Valley flood last spring, the carrying on of an ice patrol in Arctic waters, the extension of medical service and assistance to vessels on the high seas, removal of dangerous derelicts, transportation of Federal agents and collecting of statistics regarding the loss of life at sea. The ice patrol of the Coast Guard has been responsible for eliminating floating icebergs as a menace to shipping.

Maintains Station

In order to carry out its vast program of life saving and naval assistance, the service maintains 243 life saving stations located at various points along the coast. In addition, it has three shore bases, located at New London, Conn., Ft. Lauderdale and Oakland, Calif.

Included in its equipment are 32 cruising cutters, 45 harbor craft, six special craft and 131 patrol boats ranging in size from 165 to 75 feet in length. Seven larger patrol boats of 827-foot length have recently been

placed in commission, while other craft are now under construction. In addition to its boats the service now has 45 airplanes at its command.

In 1935, 9,095 enlisted men were included in the personnel of the Coast Guard, all especially trained for the job of saving lives and rendering assistance to shipping and to humanity. In command of these men were 477 regular commissioned officers, who in turn, were under a captain commandant, similar in rank to a navy captain. For the training of future officers the service maintains a Coast Guard Academy at New London, Conn., where cadets are drilled in the work of the Coast Guard, learn its traditions and its ideals, to become officers upon graduation.

Battles, Tragedies

The men stationed at the local base have had their share of thrilling battles, tragedy, and disasters that called for courage and bravery. One of the most remarkable battles in the history of prohibition rum-running was fought in these waters in August, 1927, when the Coast Guardsmen captured Horace Alderman, a well known rum-runner, and his associate, Robert Weech. The outlaws were captured only after a desperate hand to hand fight in which Alderman boarded the Coast Guard patrol boat. Three Guardsmen were killed, and Alderman was hanged for his part in the bloody affair.

The daily life of the Coast Guardsmen is fraught with the adventures of life-saving errands. In one year, the service men went to the aid of 134 vessels in distress in these waters. The calls are heaviest during the hurricane season when the Coast Guard cooperates closely with the weather bureau to protect ships at sea. During one year the men of the Lauderdale base were called 47 times to meet ships at sea and remove injured or seriously ill seamen and passengers, or to deliver serums or anti-toxins needed to save lives.

An example of the service of the Coast Guard in times of national disaster occurred two years ago, when a storm swept the keys, leaving hundreds dead and wounded in its wake. The Coast Guard braved stormy seas to go to the aid of the steamer *Dixie*, which had been driven on a reef by the wind. The work of the Coast Guard, among the first of the relief agencies on the scene, undoubtedly did much to keep the appalling death toll down.

Aided in Flood Relief

More recently the nation saw the Coast Guard as an agent of mercy and relief when floods swept the Mississippi and Ohio valleys last winter. From all parts of the country Coast Guardsmen were mobilized and sent onto stricken areas. They patrolled flooded cities, aided in the work of saving lives endangered by the flood, gave assistance to the injured, and guarded properties from vandals and thieves.

A large number of enlisted men, in six boats, under the command of two warrant officers, were sent from the Lauderdale base last June to aid in this work. The men remained on duty in the flood area until March, giving assistance to thousands of sufferers who were desperately in need of aid.

Since the organization of the Coast Guard 147 years ago, it has grown in size and the scope of its service. Established by President Washington in August 1790, it started life as the Revenue Cutter service. Its organization was primarily designed to combat smuggling, but it gradually developed and took over other work. The little vessels of the Revenue Cutter service formed the only floating force of the nation until the navy was created in 1798.

The Revenue Cutter service remained in operation until January 1915, when Congress united it with the life-saving service, created in 1874, to form the present Coast Guard. Under the supervision of the Treasury Department in time of peace, the service reverts to the control of the navy in the event of war, and in that guise it



Aerial photo from the early 1930s showing the Coast Guard base buildings and docks in the foreground. In the background are the Las Olas Boulevard causeway, the Amphitrite floating hotel, and the Las Olas Beach casino pool.

has played a large role in every major American military struggle.

Life Saving Agency

Recent years, however, have shown the Coast Guard to be of vastly more worth as a life-saving and law-enforcement agency, than a military force. In 1936 more than 7500 persons owed their lives to the work of the Coast Guard, while some additional 87,533 persons were on board vessels assisted by the Coast Guardsmen. The instances in which the Coast Guard went to the assistance of vessels and saved lives amounted to more than 8,000.

From an economic point of view the Coast Guard is of great importance to Ft. Lauderdale. The base and the *Mojave* bring into this territory an additional purchasing power of about

\$300,000 annually — the amount spent for salaries for men in residence, repairs, purchase of supplies, etc.

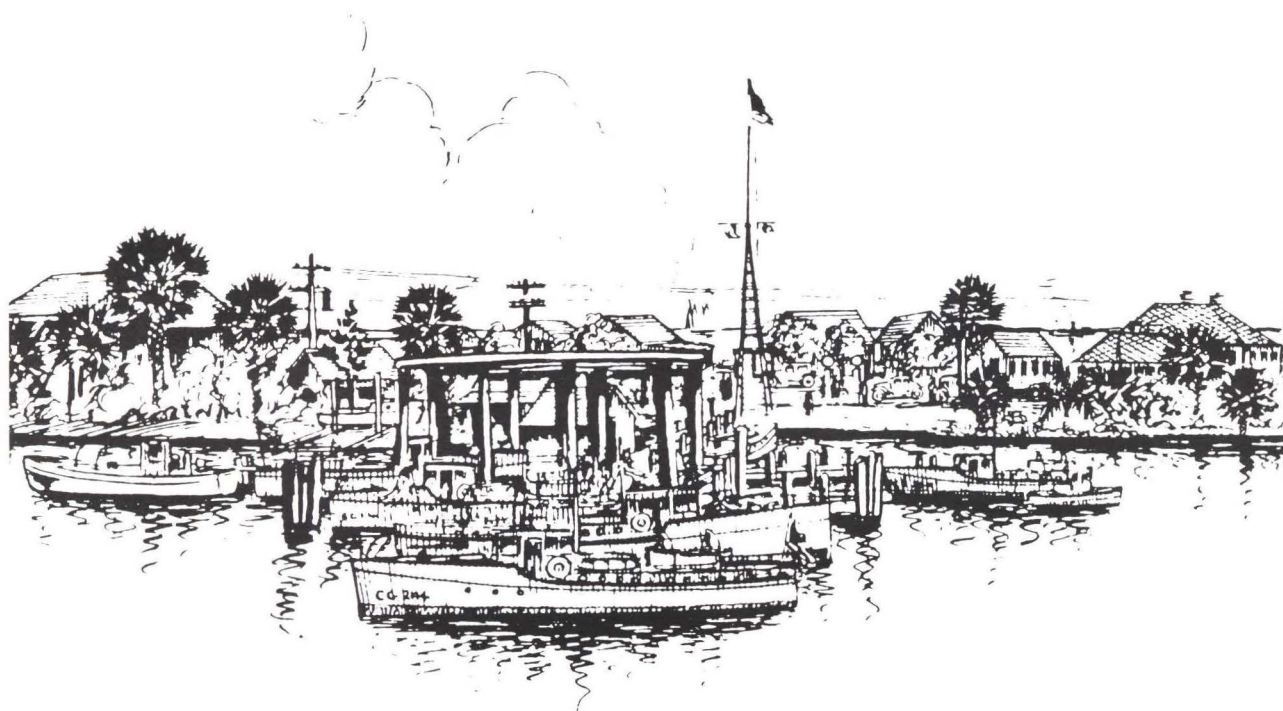
But apart from the monetary angles there are other reasons why the base is regarded as an outstanding asset to the city. The Coast Guard plays an important part in the fishing industry along the coast and many times during the year go to the aid of fishing craft in trouble. Knowing that the Guard will be available in case of trouble, the fishing boats can operate at a greater distance from shore, thus making for larger catches.

In the dissemination of storm warnings and information the Coast Guard plays a major role. Following the disastrous storm of 1926 the Guardsmen were the first in the field, and the brunt of caring for the wounded, digging wells for safe water supply,

and carrying out general cleanup operations fell to them.

The Guard also serves the city in the matter of publicity. During the year hundreds of news items carrying a Ft. Lauderdale date line, and emanating from the base and the *Mojave*, are published in newspapers throughout the country. Thus, the city receives considerable notice and many persons are attracted here, boatmen in particular, because of the protection afforded by a Coast Guard Base.

In still another way the Coast Guard acts as an asset to the city, and that is by members of the service establishing permanent homes here. More than forty men from Base Six and like a number from the *Mojave* now call Ft. Lauderdale their permanent home, and together with their families play an important part in civic affairs.



Sketch of activities at the Coast Guard base, c. 1940 (from "Historical, Mysterious, Picturesque New River," Friends of the Library of Fort Lauderdale, Inc., 1978-1979).

THE FIRST YEARS OF

The Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club

AS REPORTED BY THE
CLUB HISTORIAN

Reprinted from *The Fort Lauderdale Daily News*,
New Home Edition, Tuesday, August 4, 1925, page 14

Older than the City of Fort Lauderdale itself, the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club has provided nearly ninety years of leadership in the fields of public service and civic improvement. Originally named "The Ladies' Civic Improvement Society," the club was organized to combat unsanitary conditions in the community. In succeeding years, the Woman's Club founded Fort Lauderdale's first library, and was instrumental in the establishment of the city's first volunteer fire department, 4-H club, and tourist board, as well as participating in a number of educational and beautification projects.

The following article, a chronicle of the club's activities and accomplishments during its first fourteen years of existence, was written in 1925 by Mrs. Cordelia D. Vreeland, the club historian. Born in New Rochelle, New York, in 1862, Mrs. Vreeland came to Florida in 1900 and moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1906. In addition to her term as historian, Mrs. Vreeland served as president of the Woman's Club in 1928 and 1929. She died in 1958, at the age of ninety-five, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

"The Ladies' Civic Improvement Society" was organized on January 11th, 1911, in the little M.E. church south.

Mrs. Frank R. Oliver, president; Mrs. H.B. Adams, vice-president; Mrs. Frank Stranahan, secretary; Mrs. P.D. Parks, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C.H. Slifer, treasurer.

The second meeting of the organization was held at the home of Mrs. J.F. Gordon at which time a committee was elected to draft by-laws and regulations.

The charter members of the club are as follows: Mrs. H.B. Adams, Mrs. S.M. Davis, Mrs. G.I. Edgerton, Mrs. J.K. Gordon, Mrs. W.H. Heiney, Mrs. W.H. Marshall, Mrs. P.D. Parks, Mrs. C.G. Rhodes, Mrs. D.D. Rawlins, Mrs. C.H. Slifer, Mrs. Frank Stranahan, Mrs. W.B. Snyder, Mrs. D.G. TenBrook, Mrs. Chas. Van Antwerp, Mrs. J.B. Vreeland, Mrs. H.G. Wheeler, Mrs. Frank R. Oliver.

Two months after the organization the little town of Fort Lauderdale became a city and elected a mayor, Honorable W.H. Marshall, the society entertained the mayor and newly elected city officers on the beautiful lawn at the home of their president and her husband; this function was the society's first big affair and they had no reason to be ashamed of their reception to the city fathers.

During the months between January 11th and October 6th the society raised about \$80 and had a membership of twenty-nine.

This handful of ambitious women worked and worked hard, harder than the women of today will ever work, because of the hardships and difficulties they were compelled to face and to overcome in order to "blaze the trail" for those who would come in later; and always the object and aim of these pioneer women was a club home and a library for their city.

The first Friday in October was, and is today, the beginning of the club year, so on October 16th, 1911, the same year in which the society was organized, Mrs. D.G. TenBrook was elected the second president of the society.

Mrs. Oliver served faithfully and conscientiously as president during the nine months of her administration and the society deeply regretted that she felt that she could not serve another year.

Mrs. TenBrook served one year doing a wonderful work under difficulties and with many real hardships to endure. At this time meetings were held at the homes of members, sometimes in the schoolhouse, where now stands the courthouse, sometimes in the one church in the town, until the Real Estate Exchange and the Board of Trade offered the society the use of

their rooms on Wall Street: the society was invited to serve ice cream and cake at a ball given by the band; also to cooperate with the Board of Trade in entertaining the state senators when they were here on the occasion of the "Gulf to Atlantic" celebration in February; the society held a sociable to raise funds for the Fort Lauderdale band, at which time about \$50 was netted and presented to the band.

It was Mrs. H.G. Wheeler who suggested that the hibiscus be adopted as the club flower, also that the club colors should be red and green.

February 13th was named "Guest Night" when the club members entertained their husbands and friends, and jolly good times they had, too.

A Valentine social was given on February 14th, when a neat sum was realized for the library fund.

The matter of organizing a fire department was taken up with the Board of Trade and the society donated one hundred dollars to the newly organized fire department.

A street and back yard clean-up was inaugurated. One of the methods for raising money was for each member to earn five dollars for the society by January 1st, and to tell how she earned it; some of the stories were very amusing indeed. A supper was given which netted \$34.15.

The society became instrumental in having a "stock and poultry ordinance" passed; also sanitary conditions looked into.

A beautiful motto was suggested by Mrs. S.M. Drake as follows:

"For the cause that needs assistance,
For the wrongs that need resistance,
For the future in the distance
And the good that we may do."

Mrs. TenBrook filled the office of president with dignity and grace and was faithful and true to her trust.

Mrs. H.G. Wheeler then shouldered the burden and responsibility on October 4th, 1912, and successfully guided the society through its third year.

Mrs. Wheeler and her predecessor Mrs. TenBrook were the society's first delegates to a convention when they were sent to attend the convention of the State Federation of Women's Clubs at West Palm Beach, at which time the society became a member of the state federation.

The school improvement association was organized by the school committee. Two separate funds were created — the expense fund and the building fund; in the latter they had at this time \$159.15; in the expense fund \$20.86.

A bazaar was held and a minstrel show, in which the members were the actors, was given in March when

\$122.00 was added to the building fund.

On May 16, 1913, the president, Mrs. Wheeler, and her good "club husband" donated a beautiful lot to the society on which to build a club house and library. This was received with much enthusiasm and gratitude, as it was just what the society had been working so hard and long for. The society immediately became incorporated with the following members as directors:

Katherine A. Wheeler, Ivy J. Stranahan, Alice R. Drake, Eva L. Newland and Eva A. Oliver.

At the close of the year the society had in the expense fund \$2.51 and in the building fund \$308.40, and all the bills paid. Loaned \$250 at eight percent interest.

Mrs. Frank Stranahan was elected to the presidency on October 3rd, 1913,

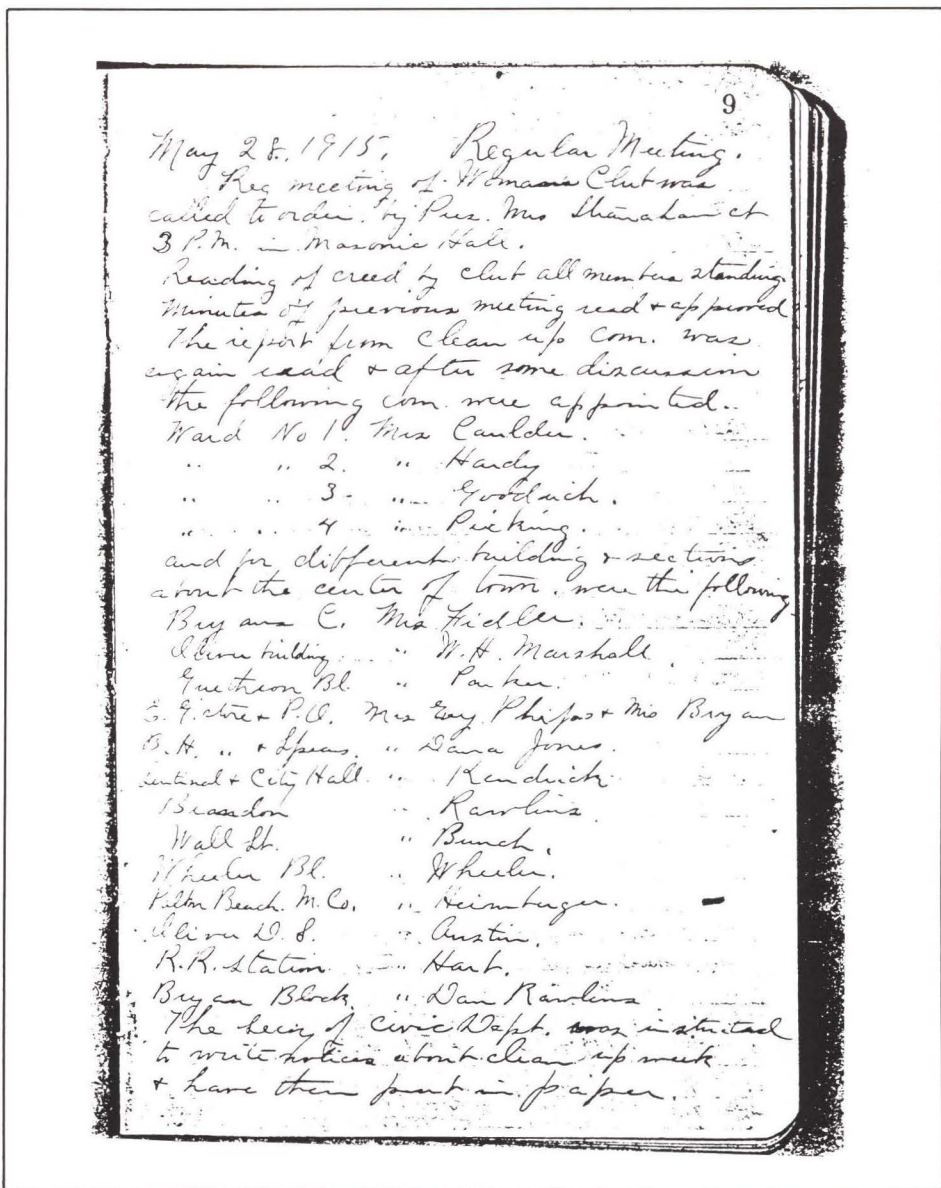
and it was during her administration that the Ladies' Civic Improvement Association became the Woman's Club.

Mrs. Stranahan filled the office of president three years. During her second year she and her husband donated to the club the present site of the club house on the corner of North Andrews Avenue and Park Avenue [Southeast First Street after 1927].

At the close of this year the annual report showed a membership of 91 and a balance on hand of \$32.37 in the expense fund and in the building fund \$209.20.

In 1914 the educational department bought a Victrola, records and some reference books for the use of the public schools.

October 4, 1915, there was a membership of 112, with \$648.37 in the



Minutes of an early meeting of the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club, May 28, 1915.

building fund. During the year they studied parliamentary law once a month, gave a New Year reception, held a guest day reception for our teachers in the public schools and entertained the executive board of the Florida Federation. Had a suburban day which served to bring our neighboring towns closer to us, as well as our suburban neighbors. On this day, the club had as its guest Mrs. T.V. Moore, sectional vice president, to tell the women why they should belong to a club and why that club should be a federated club.

Tag day was a financial success, clearing \$105.00 for the building fund. Mrs. Belle Goodrich filled the office of president during the year 1916-17. Mrs. Goodrich was also elected chairman of the building committee, for the club then began to make preparations for building the club home and library that they had labored and sacrificed so much for. They were happy to realize their dreams at last and were as enthusiastic and happy as it was possible to be.

It was during this year that the club published an edition of the *Fort Lauderdale Herald* while the editor was away on a trip, in order that the subscribers might not miss their weekly paper. The *Herald* came out on time and looked unusually attractive, and had many special articles written by the women of Fort Lauderdale upon many subjects and altogether it was a very creditable edition.

The club was asked to appoint a committee to confer with a committee appointed by the Board of Trade to investigate and remedy conditions of

much needed improvements in our cemetery.

Held a Bohemian luncheon; also conducted an art exhibit at which were shown a number of paintings of scenes adjacent to Fort Lauderdale, by Aston Knight, for the benefit of the library department.

Assisted band in celebrating the Fourth of July; purchased piano. Served on National Defense patriotic program as well as other war work.

Mrs. Goodrich, as president and chairman of the building committee, built our club house, and when it was opened to the public on May 18th, 1917, it was she who so ably addressed the large audience in attendance. Mrs. Goodrich spoke of the struggle of the club, for the beautiful home had been realized through the generosity of the citizens of the community. She spoke of the business side of our corporation, of the obligations which we had assumed and of the work that was ahead of us to accomplish. Her every word impressed the large audience and moulded closer the good fellowship between the townspeople and their Woman's Club.

It was with happy hearts and smiling faces that the club took possession of their splendid new club home at a regular meeting on Friday, May 18th, 1917. About sixty members were present, all happy and enthusiastic in their appreciation and gratitude and with renewed courage to go on with the work of the club — "the uplift of social and civic conditions" as well as rendering assistance whenever needed.

Mrs. Daniel E. Clune was the eighth president of the Fort Lauderdale Wom-

an's Club. As this was the year in which the United States entered the World War, very little club work was done; the club however did a great deal of war work.

After a few months Mrs. Clune left town and the vice-president, Mrs. Edward Heimberger, filled out the year and was elected president in October 1918, and was a very successful one under very trying circumstances; the club continued doing war work when and wherever called upon, besides doing considerable club work as well.

The officers for the year 1919-1920:

Mrs. George E. Henry, president; Mrs. Frank Stranahan, vice-president; Mrs. L.A. Holland, rec. secretary; Mrs. C.W. Montgomery, corresponding secretary; Miss Elizabeth Kraft, financial secretary; Mrs. George Hall, treasurer.

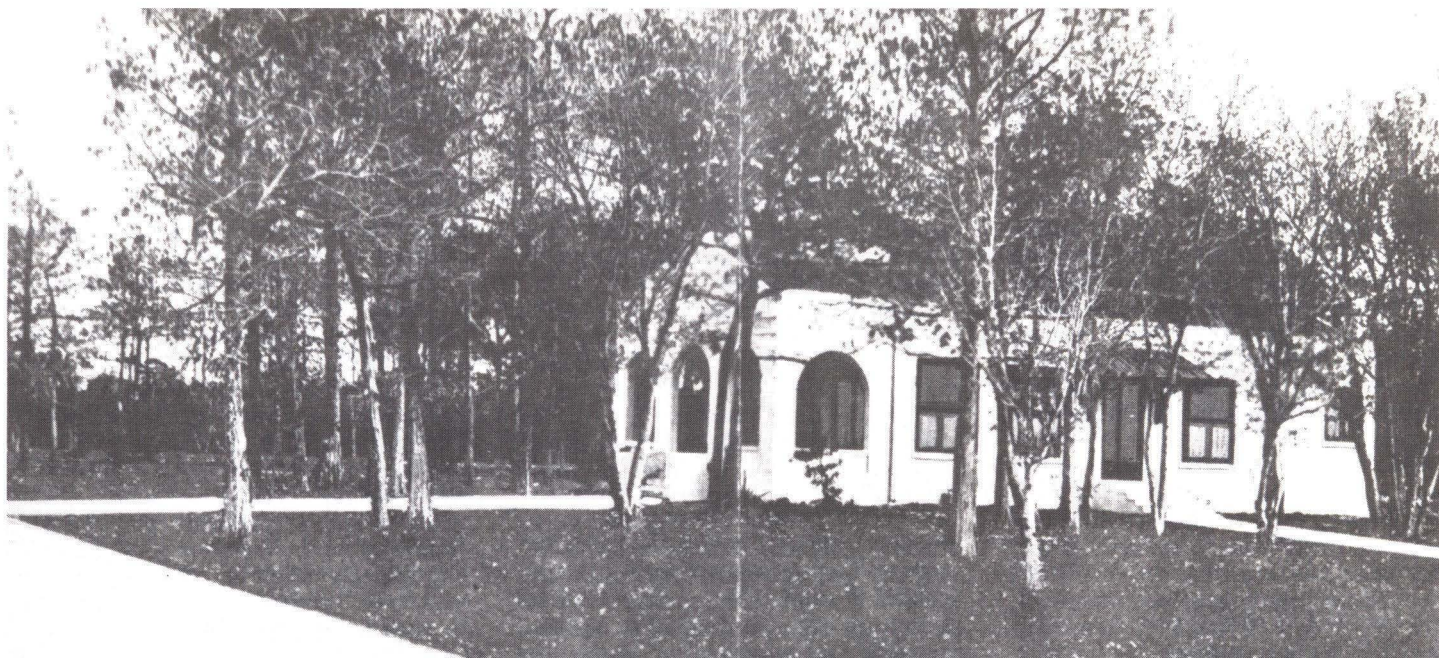
The accomplishments were not many during that year, although the club was recovering from the effects of the war and taking up the duties of club life once more.

A study of foods and their values was inaugurated and conducted monthly by Mrs. Peay, Broward County's demonstration agent, which was helpful and instructive.

Voted an appropriation of \$10 to the Roosevelt Memorial Fund. Planted trees on Armistice Day in memory of our fallen heroes.

Inaugurated "hospitality teas" in which the various churches of the city took turns in serving; assisted in having Royal Palm trees set along Las Olas Boulevard; responded to call for assistance of Near East Relief work.

Brought the civic department of the



The Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club building in Stranahan Park, shortly after completion, 1917.

club and that of the Chamber of Commerce together in a civic federation, and so have a stronger body to work for the community, and do greater things along civic lines and were able to raise about \$800 with the help of Mrs. Peay. Also had demonstrations of canning, cheese-making, jelly-making and balanced rations.

The policy of the club during this season was to be as useful as possible, both in making Fort Lauderdale a better city for its own people, and to make it an hospitable and pleasant resort for the tourists.

Mrs. Olive M. Sperry was the eleventh president of the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club. The accomplishments of the club this year were as follows:

A civic Christmas tree; clean-up campaign; annual Valentine party by the library department on February 14; tree planting day on Washington's birthday, when 100 cocoanut and Australian pine trees were planted in town; Royal Palm State Park day was observed by a fine program prepared by Mrs. H.G. Wheeler at which time \$44.48 was contributed for the up-keep of the park.

To the federation of women's endowment fund \$5; to Fort Lauderdale schools for periodicals \$9; for press work \$6.60; girls' canning club \$1; scholarship to the Florida Woman's College, \$5; war children's relief fund, \$15; the Children's Home Society of Florida, \$31.50; the European Relief Council, \$20; Near East Relief fund \$180; Florida Industrial school, \$8; Serbian Child Welfare fund, \$10; bought new chairs for the club house; loaned a set of Encyclopedia Britannica to the school; held a course of lectures on citizenship by Mrs. Cotman under the auspices of the educational department.

The music department, under the leadership of Mrs. W.B. Snyder, did wonderful work. It offered three prizes to the school children, one to the primary department and one to the high school, and much effort and enthusiasm on the part of the pupils was manifested and these prizes, we hope, were an incentive for much study and work on the part of the children.

Before our president, Mrs. Sperry, left for her home in the north, she gave a farewell party to the club members on the club grounds. A royal good time was enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Louella Giles Snyder was the twelfth president of the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club; Mrs. J.D. Sherwin, vice-president; Miss Elizabeth Kraft, recording secretary; Mrs. Kenneth Richardson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. William Kohlhausen, treasurer; Mrs. R.D. Bailey, auditor.

From the moment of her election to

the office of president Mrs. Snyder began to plan her year's work; she immediately called her executive board together and appointed standing and special committees; at the first meeting of the board-elect at Mrs. Snyder's home the president called for suggestions for the year's work and many schemes for entertainments to raise enough money to lift the mortgage from our club house was planned.

Mrs. Snyder also instituted a most impressive and beautiful installation ceremony when the new officers were installed. She was responsible for the first annual banquet given on the club's eleventh birthday at the Hotel Broward, on January 11, 1922, which was a decided success and greatly enjoyed by all present.

The membership was increased by 47 new members, raised about \$2,192; observed Royal Palm State Park Day; entertained the several clubs of the county and organized a county federation.

Entertained members of the Older Boy's Conference and served a banquet to the boys; gave several musical entertainments under the auspices of the music department; conducted a carnival very successfully; held hospitality teas in conjunction with the several churches of the city.

Held a Valentine party under the auspices of the library department; instrumental in widening Andrews Avenue; instrumental in having unsightly signs removed from Australian pine trees along the Dixie Highway; assisted Chamber of Commerce on city extension question; organized systematic work in the different departments of the club; conducted a dance and card party at the Hotel Broward for the benefit of the mortgage, raising \$74; also held a movie picture which proceeds amounted to \$117. Sold Red Cross seals to the amount of \$70.

Received a birthday gift of \$100 from our president and her good club husband; a valentine gift of \$50 from Mrs. Sperry; a gift of \$100 from Mrs. G.E. Henry and a gift of \$5 from Mrs. F.H. Benton on mortgage.

About 200 new books were added to the library, the card system put into effect and the library opened two days each week. Held teachers reception at the club house; donated \$25 to the Children's Home Society in Jacksonville and, best of all, raised the mortgage from our club home.

Mrs. R.D. Bailey was installed in the office of president on October 6th, 1922, and was the thirteenth president of the Woman's Club. Mrs. Bailey was re-elected the following October, serving the club two consecutive years; one hundred and thirty-four new members

were added during her administration and a total of \$6,226.31 was earned by the club.

Flowers sent to sick members, also to any for who the club feels an interest, as well as to the funerals of those of our members who have been called up yonder.

Receptions were given to school teachers, also to new members; sent delegates to annual conventions of state federations held at Green Cove Springs and at West Palm Beach. Mrs. Bailey was sent to the bi-annual convention of the national Federation of Woman's Clubs at Los Angeles, California in May, 1924.

Sent delegates to eleventh sectional meeting in Miami and last March were hostesses to the eleventh sectional meeting here.

Splendid work was done by the Broward Welfare Board, whose chairman was appointed from our club.

Edited two special editions of the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, one each year, which were in every way successful.

Were hostesses at sale of lots in Pompano, chaperoned sales at the Oliver Brothers' store, also at the Max Lehrman store.

Brought Cloburn's minstrels to our city; also a lyceum course of three splendid numbers. Collected subscriptions to the *Sentinel* from which we realized a generous percentage.

Put new roof on our club house, had it newly plastered and re-decorated, floor cleaned and finished and bought new shades for the windows at the cost of \$618.45.

Assisted county federation in putting on the Bethlehem pageant, our share of the proceeds being sent to the Florida Children's Home in Jacksonville.

A letter campaign was inaugurated in an effort to remove unsightly billboards from our highways.

Gave band benefit under the auspices of the music department; successfully conducted a mid-winter fruit and flower festival; conducted a motorcade to Royal Palm state park.

Assisted in Better Homes Demonstration Week for which we received third prize; sold medals for fire protection at Royal Palm state park.

Endorsed Mrs. W.S. Jennings for candidate for President of National Federation of Woman's Clubs.

Endorsed mother's pension law for Broward county; also endorsed civil government commission for our city. Compiled and published a cookbook. Organized a junior department with 35 members. Assisted county federation in celebrating Fourth of July at Las Olas Beach.

Were the recipients of a gift from our



Mrs. James B. Vreeland, Sr., (left) was the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club historian in 1924-25 and the author of this article. The club president at the time this article was written was Mrs. A.J. (Annie) Beck (right, in a 1918 portrait).

president, Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Frank Stranahan of a gavel made from redwood grown in Royal Palm state park and decorated with a carving of hibiscus, the club flower.

At the first meeting of the club held on October 3rd, 1924, the following were installed:

Mrs. A.J. Beck, president; Mrs. Fred B. Shippey, vice-president; Mrs. Lucian Craig, recording secretary; Mrs. J.A. Gruver, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C.E. Parks, financial secretary; Mrs. S.M. Drake, treasurer; Mrs. Alonzo Emans, auditor; Mrs. Julius Lange, chairman of music department; Mrs. F.H. Benton, chairman of public welfare department; Mrs. J.E. Robinson, chairman of educational department; Mrs. H.E. Knapp, chairman of library department; Mrs. M. Louis [Lewis] Hall, chairman of junior department; Mrs. Frank Carmichael, chairman of finance; Mrs. Louise Richardson, chairman of house committee; Mrs. R.J. Blank, chairman of program and printing committee; Mrs. P.H. Thompson, chairman of the press committee; Mrs. John Grant, chairman of visiting committee; Mrs. R.E.

Dye, chairman of social committee; Mrs. J.B. Vreeland, Sr., club historian.

The retiring president automatically becomes director, consequently Mrs. R.D. Bailey fills that office.

Seven business meetings have been held and nine program meetings; these program meetings are intensely interesting as well as instructive. The club has listened to a very interesting health talk by Dr. Leslie H. Maxwell; "Conditions in Europe," by Mrs. Kate Havens of Miami; "Review of Legislative Resolutions to be Voted on," by Mrs. Frank Stranahan; a splendid talk about her trip abroad by Mrs. Carl P. Weidling; a very enjoyable talk on art by Mrs. Julius Lange; several book reviews; a very fine report from the biennial, by Mrs. R.D. Bailey, who was our delegate to the convention held at Los Angeles in May of last year; besides the wonderfully interesting programs given by the several departmental chairmen.

One unique program, given by Mrs. F.H. Benton, was the pioneer program, when several of the pioneer women gave their impressions of Fort Lauderdale when they came here to make

a home for themselves and families.

Answers to "Roll Call" have been: "Vacation Echoes," "Current Events," "Name of a Florida Winter," "Possibilities of New River." "Suggestions for Christmas Cheer," "Florida's Famous Men," "Florida's Forts," "Name a noted Scientist and his Accomplishment." "Irish Conundrums," "Quotations from American Poets," "Broward County Wild Flowers," and "Suggestions for a Better Fort Lauderdale."

A fine talk by Rev. Evenden on "Dickens As My Father Knew Him" was greatly enjoyed as was also a visit and a splendid talk by our state president, Mrs. W.F. Blackman, and last, but by no means least, an excellent talk on current events by Mrs. Horace Stilwell, which everyone enjoyed.

A reception was given to new members and past presidents which was a very enjoyable affair and voted a complete success.

Up to date the club has elected 75 new members and earned approximately \$3,185.42.

BY THE HISTORIAN

THE LEWIS SETTLEMENT ON NEW RIVER

A Newly-Discovered Document

Richard K. Murdoch's article, "Documents Concerning a Voyage to the Miami Region in 1793," appearing in the *Florida Historical Quarterly* in 1952, and reprinted in volume 3, numbers 3 & 4 of the *Broward Legacy*, assembled several documents describing a Spanish reconnaissance of New River. This expedition was dispatched from St. Augustine by the Spanish Governor of East Florida, Juan Nepomuceno de Quesada, to investigate the reported presence of the Bahamian Lewis family on the river. The Lewis homesite, carefully described in the Spanish reports, was the earliest known non-Indian settlement in what is today Broward County.

The following document, which pre-dates those printed in Murdoch's article, consists of Quesada's preliminary report to his superior, Don Luis de Las Casas, Captain General of Cuba, discussing the whereabouts of the Lewis settlement, its status under Spanish territorial policy, and the possibility of seizing Lewis. It is here that Quesada states his intention of sending the expedition which Murdoch's article describes. The original English translation of this document is located in the papers of Richard Keith Call, territorial governor of Florida, in the Florida State Archives, Tallahassee.

To The Most Excellent Don Luis de Las Casas¹

*From the Governor of Florida² to the Captain General of Cuba
St. Augustine, January 13th 1793.*

Most Excellent Sir — I received your Excellency's letter of the 3rd. inst. — The Englishman Sarles Lewis³ does not as stated in your letter of November 8th last reside on the river Gega⁴ which is at least 15 leagues South of the ys,⁵ and scarcely deserves to be called a river being merely a body of stagnant water never communicating with the sea unless after a long series of heavy rains. Lewis's establishment is on the Rio Nuevo (New River) at the mouth of which in November last was seen the Bilandre (small vessel) of which I spoke to your Excellency in my dispatch No. 302 dated September 26th, 1791 —

You ask whether Lewis dwells on our territory or on the Indian — according to the Treaty of limits concluded in 1765 between the English and Indians,⁶ by which I think we should be guided, the latter ceded to the former, not only the territory contained between the Sea and the bend of the San Juan,⁷ and that between the latter view and the Santa Maria,⁸ but also the whole coast of the Peninsula as far up as the tide flows, that is to say, up

to the point where the salt water meets the fresh in the rivers. Now Lewis lived 15 miles from the Sea,⁹ and the sea water reaches at the farthest only eleven; from which it would appear that this establishment was in the Indian country. But by reference to a map now before me, I find that it is situated between the Sea, and the Lake of Mayaco which certainly forms part of the San Juan;¹⁰ there is more over an opinion which was held by the English that the waters of the said Lake emptied themselves into the Gulf of Mexico in the Bay of Juan Ponce de Leon —¹¹

As to the effect that the seizure of Lewis would have on the Indians my own opinion is that, at first it would excite some clamor which would however gradually subside just as it did when I seized Bowles who certainly had much more influence over them than Lewis.¹²

It would however be better to treat privately beforehand with the principal chiefs of the Nation who might easily be induced by means of bribes not only to connive at it but even to deliver him up themselves.

I have some thoughts of sending a small vessel with proper persons on board who under pretence of hunting or watering may make inquiries and obtain an account of the exact state of things.¹³ I have however no intention of proceeding farther until I hear

from your Excellency who Heaven preserve. To the Most Excellent Don Luis de Las Casas.

— Endnotes —

1. Don Luis de Las Casas was appointed Captain-General of Cuba, with headquarters in Havana, in 1790. During the second Spanish occupation of Florida, the governor of the colony of East Florida reported directly to the captain-general of Cuba.
2. Juan Nepomuceno de Quesada served as Governor of Spanish East Florida from 1790 to 1796.
3. The first name of the head of New River's Lewis family has been spelled Sarles, Surlie, Charles, and other variations in contemporary documents.
4. The river Gega, also spelled Jega, Jaga, Geaga, and Jeaga, appears on eighteenth century Spanish maps in the vicinity of today's Jupiter Inlet. As early as the sixteenth century, the name was applied to the Indians who lived between the Atlantic Ocean and the eastern shore of Lake Okechobee. The name may also be related to "Jobe" or "Jove," designations for the same general region which also appear on early Spanish maps and from which are derived the English place names "Jupiter" and "Hobe Sound." The placement of the Gega to the south of the "Jobe" (Jupiter) Inlet on several Spanish maps, and Quesada's statement here of its "never communicating with the sea unless after a long series of heavy rains," indicate that it may describe Lake Worth.
5. "Ys" appears to be a variation of Ays or Ais, a name given by the Spanish to the Indians who lived along the Indian River, and to an inlet connecting that river to the sea, probably near the present site of Fort Pierce.
6. The "Treaty of Limits" refers to the treaty signed November 18, 1765, at Picolata on the St. Johns River by James Grant, British Governor of East Florida, John Stuart, British Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern District, and a number of Creek Indian leaders. The treaty defined British and Indian territory in East Florida.
7. The St. Johns River.
8. The St. Marys River.
9. This statement is clearly an exaggeration, since the Lewises resided on the south bank of New River near today's William H. Marshall Bridge at Fourth and

Seventh avenues in Fort Lauderdale. Although the New River Inlet was, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, located at the approximate site of Sheridan Street in Hollywood, the distance up the river from the inlet to the Lewis home still only amounted to about eight miles.

10. The "Lake of Mayaco" here refers to Lake Okeechobee. As late as the 1820s, several maps depicted Lake Okeechobee as the source of the St. Johns River.
11. Some eighteenth and early nineteenth century maps show a variety of rivers running through southwest Florida from Lake Okeechobee to the Gulf. Actually,

the numerous rivers emptying into Ponce de Leon Bay are relatively short and have their source in the Everglades.

12. William Augustus Bowles, the Maryland-born adventurer who landed in Florida in 1788 and attempted to establish a sovereign nation among the Creek Indians there, had some connections to the Lewis settlement on New River. Bowles had given horses to Charles (or Sarles) Lewis, and Joseph Robbins, who lived at the Lewis home in 1793, was described as one of Bowles' "principal confidants." These connections, and the possibility that Lewis may have come

to Florida with Bowles explain the Spaniards' concern at Lewis's presence in the otherwise remote and isolated New River country.

13. Quesada followed through with his intention, dispatching the schooner *Juan Nepomuceno* to New River on February 23. The schooner arrived at New River Inlet on March 5, crossed the bar and proceeded up the river the following day. For an account of this expedition and their findings at New River, see Richard K. Murdoch, "Documents Concerning a Voyage to the Miami Region in 1793," *Broward Legacy*, vol. 3, Nos. 3 & 4 (Fall 1979), 32-37.

Back cover:

Broward County pioneer citizens and dignitaries gathered at the bandshell in Fort Lauderdale's Stranahan Park as part of the "River Revelry" celebration commemorating the city's twentieth anniversary, March 4, 1931. Left to right: Eva Bryan Oliver, Frank R. Oliver, Susie Bryan Craig, William J. "Cap" Reed, unidentified, Lucian Craig, A. D. Marshall, C. J. Coyle, unidentified, Walter R. Clark, Col. George G. Mathews, John Dent Kennedy, unidentified, Sam Drake, Margaret Oliver, W. O. Berryhill, George McQuarrie, B. A. Cromartie, Reed A. Bryan, unidentified, Ivy Stranahan, Frank A. Bryan, Beverly McQuarrie, Tom M. Bryan. Walter Clark and Margaret Oliver are dressed in costumes and seated on thrones as "King" and "Queen" of the event, in recognition of being considered the first white children born in Fort Lauderdale.

