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News and Notes

Florida Historical Society
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NEWS AND NOTES

The Annual Meeting

THE HISTORICAL Association of Southern Florida and the City of Miami will be hosts to the Society at its 1957 annual meeting on March 28-30 at the McAllister Hotel in Miami. Ernest G. Gearhart, Jr., president of the Association, is chairman of the committee on local arrangements and Charlton W. Tebeau is program chairman. Requests for room reservations should be sent directly to the McAllister Hotel.



Robert R. Bowen of Jacksonville has accepted the chairmanship of the Society's committee to investigate the possibility of preserving the site of Spanish Fort St. Francis de Poppa on the St. Johns River opposite Picolata.

Conference of Historic Sites Officials

X. L. Pellicer, president of the St. Augustine Historical Society, was appointed by Governor LeRoy Collins to represent Florida at the Conference of Historic Sites Officials. The first annual meeting was held in Woodstock, Vermont on September 27-28, 1956.

The National Park Service

Of interest to those concerned with methods of recounting history is the "push-button tour" now in use at Castillo de San Marcos Monument at St. Augustine. The Park Service has installed sound reproducers at certain locations in the fort. At each location the visitor may push a button to hear a brief recorded talk about nearby parts of the fort. The recordings total a 40-minute historical tour from guardroom to watchtower. The electronic innovation is experimental and supplements the guided trips conducted through the fort by park historians. Since only 30 percent of Castillo visitors can be provided with personal service, the electronic guide system makes self-guide service available to everyone.

Albert Manucy, historian for the Castillo, returned to St. Augustine in October after completing a traveling assignment of several months with the Museum Branch of the Service. The museum work is part of "MISSION 66," the program aimed toward expanded development of areas in the park system by the year 1966. Mr. Manucy was responsible for planning museum exhibits at Fort Caroline National Memorial near Jacksonville; Fort Frederica National Monument at St. Simons Island, Georgia; Chalmette National Historical Park, site of the Battle of New Orleans in 1815; and at Mount Locust, historic inn and plantation on the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi. Most of these installations will be completed during 1957.

Quadricentennials in Florida

Wide interest in Florida's early history is being generated as anniversaries of a number of events which occurred in the mid-sixteenth century are approaching. Among these are the landing of the colony led by Tristan de Luna y Arellano at Pensacola in 1559; the landing of Jean Ribault at the mouth of the St. Johns River in 1562 and the subsequent founding (1564) by Rene de Laudonniere of Fort Caroline, a short distance downstream; and the founding of St. Augustine, the nation's oldest city, in 1565 by Pedro Menendez de Aviles.

These observations present an opportunity to attract national attention to the history of Florida.

The Natural Bridge Streamer

On March 6, 1956 Governor LeRoy Collins wrote the following letter to Dr. Doak S. Campbell, President of the Florida State University: "The State Board of Education, by action taken at the Cabinet meeting this morning, directed that the President of the Florida State University cause to be affixed to the staff of the flag which bears the seal of that University, a streamer which bears the words *Natural Bridge* in commemoration of the valor of those cadets who served with distinction at the Battle of Natural Bridge and as an inspiration to the present students of that institution, which streamer shall be permanently and continuously attached to the staff of this flag, now and hereafter."

This action came as a result of the interest of Mark F. Boyd, a past president of the Society, in calling the matter to the attention of Governor Collins and President Campbell.

The cadets of the West Florida Seminary over the age of twelve, as part of the militia forces of the state, were mobilized on order of Governor John Milton to assist in the repulse of federal forces attempting to capture Florida's capital city. The bravery and valor of the cadets in that action on March 6, 1861 were at the time universally recognized and acclaimed. The Florida State University, successor of the Seminary, is the institutional heir to the bravery of the cadets.

College News

Weymouth T. Jordan of the Florida State University, has been appointed as a member of the editorial board of *Agricultural History* and to the board of editors of East Tennessee Historical Society's publications. Charles Arnade and Weymouth T. Jordan read papers before the American Historical Association's meeting at St. Louis in December. Earl R. Beck presided at one of the sessions of the Southern Historical Association meeting at Durham in November

George Osborn, Lyle McAllister, Rembert Patrick, and Arthur Thompson of the University of Florida were on the program of the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association. Frank Doty, David Dowd, and Lyle McAllister read papers at the American Historical meeting. In February, 1957, David Dowd gave the luncheon address at the annual meeting in New York City of the Society for French Historical Studies. He is a member of the executive committee of the society.

In November, 1956, Arthur Thompson was elected vice president of the Southeastern American Studies Association. The annual meeting of the association was held in Atlanta. Rembert Patrick is to give the Young Lectures in History at Memphis State College in October, 1957. These lectures on "Patterns of Southern Society" will be published by the Memphis State College Press.

Activities of Historical Societies

The St. Augustine Historical Society was represented by Hiram Faver, a director, at the October meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington. He also accompanied President Pellicer to the conference of Historic Sites Officials and together they participated in a short course on "Historic House-keeping" in New York. A report on these meetings was made to Society members in December. The Society feels that close observation of the historic sites movement throughout the nation will be of special value to the preservation program in St. Augustine.



The Historical Association of Southern Florida expressed its interest in the development of Everglades National Park, the state's only national park, at its November meeting. Park Superintendent Dan Beard, and naturalists E. P. Christiensen and D. O. Karraker, told of plans for further development and expanded use of the area, illustrating their remarks with especially prepared colored slides and film.



Among the recent activities of the Pensacola Historical Society were excursions to nearby areas which share some historic event or personage with Pensacola. These included the site of Fort Toulouse near Wetumpka, Alabama; the home site of William Lowndes Lancey; Spring Lake, Mobile Bay, Montgomery and Biloxi.

Speakers at last year's meetings of the Society were Dixie Beggs who traced the history of Santa Rosa Island and Fort Pickens; Joe Marques who spoke on the economic value of history and Mary Louise Stewart, a descendant of Dr. John Gorrie, who told of his life and of the unveiling of his statue in Washington. Albert Jacobi spoke on the town of Molino; Mrs. Grover Pittman sketched the life of her ancestor, Judge Maximo de Riobo; Mrs. Thomas A. Johnson described shipbuilding in Bagdad in which her family played a vital part and Ann Martin gave an illustrated talk on Spain.

The Journal of the Halifax Historical Society, Volume II, Number 1, was released last fall. This volume should be of special value to anyone with an interest in the area. Origins of place names, locations of land grants and geneological data make it a useful publication. Copies are available from Mrs. Ianthe B. Hebel, secretary, 519 Grange Avenue, Daytona Beach, The cost is \$1.00.

In September the Halifax Society met at Sugar Mill Gardens, the ruins of Dunlawton plantation. Several hundred members and visitors were in attendance.

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The House of Refuge Museum was formally dedicated on Sunday, December 9 at Stuart. Paul G. Rogers, M. C., delivered the principal address. The ceremony was concluded at the Museum on Hutchinson Island with the raising of the flag over the eighty-year-old building. The Martin County Historical Society is sponsor and operator of the Museum.

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The Tallahassee Historical Society has published Volume IV of *Apalachee*, a selection of papers presented before the Society from 1950 to 1956. Copies are available from D. A. Avant, treasurer, 1575 Hickory Avenue, Tallahassee, for \$5.00 including tax. Previous issues may also be secured from the treasurer.

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The General Duncan L. Clinch Historical Society of Amelia Island is the new name of the organization of a similar name organized in Fernandina Beach in 1949. Plans were made at the October meeting of the group to expand activities and to publish a newsletter, relating incidents in the history of the area, several times each year.

Officers elected for the coming year were William N. Galphin, president; H. D. Lohman, first vice president; L. A. Ferreira, second vice president; Wyona Deen, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Sybil Maples, recording secretary; Ira W. Hall, treasurer and the following directors: Mrs. A. G. McArthur, J. T. Davis, J. E. Williams, J. T. Ferreira, Mayor W. H. Melton, Dena Snodgrass of Jacksonville and Howell Schaeffer of Tallahassee. Duncan L. Clinch of Chicago and J. William Decker of Fort Clinch State Park were named permanent president emeritus and archivist respectively.

A "living memorial" to the musician, Frederick Delius, has been established by the Jacksonville Historical Society at Jacksonville University. Through the generosity of Mrs. Henry L. Richmond and the work of a committee of which Mrs. Frank L. Harris was chairman, records of Delius' works are now available to students. In the designated "listening room" a portrait of the musician looks out on the St. Johns River which had a significant effect upon his life.

Ripley Bullen, curator of social sciences, Florida State Museum, was guest speaker at the November meeting of the Society. In expanding his title, "Florida's Prehistory," the speaker gave a comprehensive summary of Indian life in Florida and displayed a number of pertinent artifacts from the Museum.

The Wentworth Museum

T. T. Wentworth, Jr. has long been a strong proponent of various phases of historical endeavor in the Pensacola area and in the state. His early interest in the cause of history recently culminated in his establishment of a private museum to house his collection of materials, already large and growing as his interest continues.

In an area which is aware of its historic heritage, this collection should have added value.

The Seminoles

Louis Capron of West Palm Beach has an interesting article in the December, 1956, number of the *National Geographic Magazine*. In "Florida's 'Wild' Indians, the Seminole," he gives a brief history of the Indians and vividly describes some of their customs.