

1959

News and Notes

Florida Historical Society
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NEWS AND NOTES

Business and History

The landing of Jean Ribault and his band of French Huguenot followers at the mouth of the St. Johns River on May 1, 1562 is commemorated in the decor of the dining room of the new Sears, Roebuck and Company store in Jacksonville. A magnificent oil painting on canvas covers an 8 by 33 foot wall of the room and depicts an adaptation and extension of Jacques Le Moyne's famous painting of the scene at the pillar which Ribault erected near the present site of Mayport. As there are no known likenesses of Ribault, he is pictured here as conceived by the artist, Lee Adams of Jacksonville. Souvenir menus carry a copy of the mural and a short history of the landing. A replica of the pillar stands at the entrance to the dining room.

"Seventy-five years ago a little village was founded when a railroad line was completed. And 75 years ago a pioneer newspaper publisher [Captain F. W. Merrin] from Mississippi brought his printing equipment by steamer, rail and horse and wagon to the little town that showed promise of growth and progress. And so this year Plant City and *The Plant City Courier* observe the anniversary of their founding."

This quotation is taken from the February 27 edition of *The Plant City Courier*. Two years in preparation, the edition is filled with historical articles and old photographs. Clay C. Codrington is editor and publisher of the paper.

Mark 75 is the title of a series of special magazine sections which are being published by the *St. Petersburg Times* to mark its 75th birthday. The first volume appeared in July. This is probably the most ambitious anniversary publication ever attempted by a Florida newspaper. The editors have described the project in these words: "These five issues tell one basic story; the story of a geographical unit, its progress through 75 years and

its anticipated progress through the next 75. Interwoven with the threads of this story is the narrative of the newspaper that began here when this Suncoast was no more than a group of small fishing villages along primitive shores." Nelson Poynter is editor and publisher of the *St. Petersburg Times*.

On August 21 a ceremony in Clearwater commemorated the centennial of the establishment of the city's first post office. David Turner, the first postmaster, was represented by his grandson, Joe Turner, and his great grandsons, Mike and Mark Turner. A plaque was placed on the site of the original post office building at the foot of West Turner Street, overlooking Clearwater Bay.

A new mapping service which the State Road Department is providing the Photographic Archives of Florida State University's library is a continuing photographic history of the development of the state.

The photographs, which are used for technical purposes by the Road Department, have become particularly important during the building of four-lane state roads, the new multi-lane Interstate Highways, and bridges. Among the first photographs sent to the library are a number showing construction of a new bridge on the Miami Reach end of the MacArthur Causeway over Biscayne Bay. These aerial pictures of the highly developed area are particularly significant because the library already has pictures taken in the same area 30 years ago.

The plan to preserve the photographs is under the direction of Joe Grotegut, Road Board Chairman and N. Orwin Rush, Director of Libraries at the University.

Florida's Quadricentennial Celebrations

The 1959 legislature provided for the creation of city and county quadricentennial commissions by the passage of Senate Bill No. 634. Local groups desiring to establish commissions should secure copies of the law from the Secretary of State in

order to set up the mechanics necessary to participate in the statewide program.

Confederate Round Table

An informal organization, to be known as the Confederate Round Table, for the discussion of all phases of the history of the Confederacy has been formed in Dade City. Colonel William M. Robinson, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, retired, addressed the first session of the group. The meeting honored Colonel D. B. McKay whose "Pioneer Page" in the *Tampa Tribune* was helpful in the formation of the organization. E. M. Covington, in whose home the first meeting was held, said that the group hopes to attract others in central Florida interested in Confederate history and hold meetings throughout the area.

News of Local Historical Societies

The Apalachicola Historical Society, organized March 3, 1959, elected Ben Tucker as its first president. Officers elected to serve with him were Mrs. J. H. Hodges, first vice president; Miss Emily Porter, second vice president; Mrs. Edna Murdock, secretary; Miss Julia Grace Harrison, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Dwight Marshall, treasurer and Mrs. C. T. Drennen, program chairman. The Society plans to restore a home, dating from 1838, for use as a depository of historical items relating to the area.

Hale G. Smith, professor of anthropology and archaeology, Florida State University, spoke before the July meeting of the St. Augustine Historical Society on "Oldest House Archaeology." Dr. Smith is in charge of excavating the Society's property on Charlotte Street and is supervising the preparation of exhibits for the Tovar House Museum.

In another phase of the Society's summer research program, Charles W. Arnade, University of Florida, is combing Spanish documents in the Stetson collection for information on food production in St. Augustine during the first Spanish period.

The St. Johns County Historical Commission has selected the following marker sites: the capture of Osceola; the massacre of the French at Matanzas Inlet; the old coquina quarries; Picolata and the home of Frederick Delius at Solano Grove.

The St. Augustine Restoration Program

The St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission was established by the 1959 legislature for the purpose of planning a restoration program for the city. An appropriation of \$150,000 was provided. Members of the commission, appointed by Governor LeRoy Collins, are Mrs. Nelson Poynter of St. Petersburg, William B. Sims of Orlando, Leonard Usina of Miami, and Herbert E. Wolfe and William B. Rolleston of St. Augustine.

Junior Historical Contest, 1959

The following essays have been judged winners among the papers submitted in the 1959 contests. First prize: *People's Judge* by Susan Yancy, Leon High School, Tallahassee; second prize: *From Cypress Swamp to City* by Bonnie Higgins, Fort Lauderdale High School, Fort Lauderdale; third prize: *Island Fortress* by Alan Gadney, Clearwater High School, Clearwater and honorable mention: *The Methodist Church in Florida* by Richard Gwinn, Miami Edison Senior High School, Miami.

The Society expresses its appreciation to the committee of judges who read the one hundred papers submitted. Gilbert P. Richardson served as chairman with the following members: Robert K. Akerman, A. F. Fugitt and Darrell Roberts.

ENTRIES IN THE JUNIOR HISTORICAL CONTEST

- HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF MANATEE COUNTY by Ruth Hartin, Manatee High School, Bradenton
- HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY by Carthell Everett, Washington County High School, Chipley
- CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT by Beverly Forman, Fort Lauderdale High School, Fort Lauderdale
- FRANK STRANAHAN, by Judy Philpott, Fort Lauderdale High School, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
- FLORIDA'S ROLE IN THE CIVIL WAR, by Donna Marshall, Fort Lauderdale High School, Fort Lauderdale
- THE SEMINOLE INDIANS IN THE HISTORY OF FLORIDA by Alene Williams, Dunbar High School, Fort Myers
- THE SEMINOLE INDIANS, by Carolyn Nelson, Howey Academy, Howey-in-the-Hills
- CHURCHES, By Ginger George, Howey Academy, Howey-in-the Hills
- A FORTENBERRY, by Kathy Fortenberry, Howey Academy, Howey-in-the-Hills
- OSCEOLA AND THE SECOND SEMINOLE WAR, by Julia Louise Towson, Alfred I duPont High School
- THE JACKSONVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, by Sandra Anderson, Andrew Jackson High School; WILD WINDS OF FLORIDA, by Thomas Barket, Andrew Jackson High School; AN OLD OAK SPEAKS, by Karen Giffie, Andrew Jackson High School; SQUARE 39, by Alvin Edgar Holmes, Andrew Jackson High School; JACKSONVILLE'S CITY HALL, by Nancy Kelley, Andrew Jackson High School; FLORIDA'S BLACK GOLD, by Gaylen Lee, Andrew Jackson High School; JACKSONVILLE'S FIRST RADIO STATION WDAL, by Howard Power, Andrew Jackson High School; HISTORY OF THE LOLA M. CULVER SCHOOL 1895-1959, by Margaret Ann Zorn, Andrew Jackson High School
- THE PAGEANT AT ST. JOHN'S BLUFF, by Linda Burbridge, Bartram School; THE REPUBLIC OF EAST FLORIDA, by Gigi Golden, Bartram School; ZEPHANIAH KINGSLEY AND HAITI, by Brigitte Groehl, Bartram School; CHIMPANZEE COLONY IN FLORIDA, by Christina R. Schiller, Bartram School; FLORIDA DURING RECONSTRUCTION, by Sibyl McRae, Bartram School; FROM SAND MINE TO GOLD MINE, by Linda Rumpel, Bartram School; KING EDWARD FINDS A HOME IN FLORIDA, by Jeannette Swisher, Bartram School; SUNSHINE-A COMMODITY, by Olive Wilson, Bartram School
- THE STORY OF KARL TANZLER VON COSEL, by Jackie Williams, Key West High School, Key West; CHURCHES, by Jacqueline Pla, Douglass School, Key West; KEY WEST AS A TOURIST CENTER, by Helen Johnson, Douglass, H.S., Key West

EPISODES IN THE PIONEERING OF MANATEE COUNTY, by Phil Krug, Manatee High School, Bradenton

THE RISING TIDE-STATEHOOD AND SECESSION, by Sharon Roberts, South Dade High School, Miami; THE HISTORY OF MIAMI BEACH FLORIDA, by Valerie Foster, Assumption Academy, Miami; FLORIDA'S FLAGLER, by Eleanor Jellachich, Academy of the Assumption, Miami; OSCEOLA, by Gay Ann Brautigam, Academy of the Assumption, Miami; HENRY FLAGLER-FATHER OF FLORIDA, by Dan Radcliffe, Miami; FLORIDA STATE FARMERS MARKETS, by Joan Lobaugh, Miami Edison Senior High School, Miami; ELEVEN YEARS OF NIGHTMARE, by Douglas W. Quick, Miami Edison Senior High School, Miami; THE CATTLE INDUSTRY IN FLORIDA, by Lansing B. Price, Miami Edison Senior High School, Miami; EARLY DAYS IN MIAMI, by Donna Romfh, Miami Edison Sr. High School, Miami; DEMONS FROM THE DOLDRUMS: THE NATURE AND HISTORY OF FLORIDA HURRICANES, by Jim Stokesberry, Miami Edison Sr. High School, Miami; INDUSTRIAL FLORIDA, by Ronald M. Taylor, Miami Edison Sr. High School; THE EARLY FLORIDA INDIANS, by Phyllis Teschke, Miami Edison Sr. High School, Miami; FLORIDA POLITICS DURING THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA, by Susan Whelchel, Miami Edison Senior High School, Miami; MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, by Penny Lynn Sitzer, North Miami High School, North Miami; THE SPANISH MONASTERY, by Mollie Fitzgerald, Assumption Academy, Miami

HISTORY OF BAGDAD, by Marian Sullivan, Milton High School, Milton

EARLY HISTORY OF MOUNT DORA, by Ann Whittington, Mount Dora High School, Mount Dora

WELLINGTON WILLSON CUMMER, by Dana Roe, Ponte Vedra Beach High School, Ponte Vedra Beach

The following entries are from St. Pauls School, St. Petersburg: GREENERY IN THE SUNSHINE STATE, by Kathryn Alkire; THE PRE-DISCOVERY AND EARLY EXPLORATIONS OF FLORIDA, by Jane Bachnik; LIFE IN THE EVERGLADES, by Alexander Sprunt, Jr.; COLONIZATION OF FLORIDA FROM 1589-1698, by Susanna Bergeron; PERIOD OF COLONIZATION 1698-1756, by Maria Blanco; FLORIDA THROUGH THE AGES, by Patrice Boyle; FLORIDA—THE LAST FRONTIER, by Brian Burke; THE FOUNDING OF FLORIDA, by Charles Burke; WEBB'S CITY, by Priscilla Catalano; FLORIDA, A BIRD LOVER'S PARADISE, by Veronica Dombroski; FLORIDA'S TERRITORIAL PERIOD 1819-1860, by Mary Anne Feeney; FLORIDA RIVERS, by Paul Ferguson; OSCEOLA, by Aldena Flynn; DE LEON—THE DISCOVERY OF LA FLORIDA, by Barbara Gillies; A LOOK AT FLORIDA'S SIGHTS, by Senja Jaspers; THE EVERGLADES, by Barbara Grant; UTOPIA—THROUGH FLORIDA'S WATERWAYS, by John Kiernan; THE FLORIDA INDIANS, by Margaret Link; THE ST. JOHN RIVER, by Helen Mansmann; FLORIDIAN CITIES, by Michael Mehill; FLORIDA UNDER FIVE FLAGS, by Katherine Morrissey; THE POTENTIAL ENJOYMENT OF FLORIDA STATE PARKS, by Ann Mortimore; "DOC WEBB," by William Neron; ST. PETERSBURG, by Patricia O'Brien; THE STATE FLAG OF FLORIDA, by Veronica Rehberg; DISCOVERY OF FLORIDA, by Gerald Rote; THE UNCONQUERED SEMINOLE, by Jonalee Sharbel; THE ABORIGINALS OF FLORIDA, by Patricia Shirley; A PLACE IN THE SUN, by Bernadette Stein-

kirchner; SOUTH FLORIDA'S AMAZING EVERGLADES, by Carol Vance; THE STATE SONG, BIRD, AND SEAL OF FLORIDA, by Rosemary Walsh; FLORIDA'S FIGHTING SEMINOLES, by David Watts; FLORIDA BY THE SEA, by Stephen Weller

BENJAMIN CHAIRES, by Carolyn Floyd, Leon High School, Tallahassee; RICHARD KEITH CALL, by Duane Eubanks, Leon High School, Tallahassee

ON STAGE: TAMPA, by Elaine Allen, Chamberlain High School, Tampa; THE FLOWERING OF TAMPA, by Dorothy Michener, Chamberlain High School, Tampa

The following entries are from Sacred Heart Academy, Tampa, Florida:

HISTORY OF FLORIDA AND TAMPA, by Sarah Jane Bullard; FATHER LUIS CANCER, by Mary Anne Lorek; HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE, by Patricia Nuccio; TAMPA BAY HOTEL, by Joyce Pinney; THE SEMINOLE INDIANS OF FLORIDA, by Mary Leach Schappert