

DEDICATION of the Broward County Historical Museum Judge L. Clayton Nance Library AND Dr. Cooper Kirk Archives

Over 300 people were present at the opening of the Broward County Historical Museum and the dedication of the Judge L. Clayton Nance Library and the Dr. Cooper Kirk Archives on the evening of May 4, 1993. County Commission Chairman Gerald F. Thompson cut the ribbon officially opening the facility.

The museum, permanent home of the Historical Commission, contains exhibits illustrating the history of Broward County from the sixteenth century to the present and focusing on the establishment and formative years of the county government. Artifacts on display include a model of the 1839 Seminole War fort, memorabilia of Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, and relics from the 1928 courthouse. Temporary exhibits on special topics will also be featured in the future.

The library was dedicated in memory of Judge L. Clayton Nance, whose behind-the-scenes activity brought to completion in 1972 the creation of the Historical Commission as a public agency designed to locate, acquire, catalog, interpret, and disseminate the untapped, unexamined, and undiscovered history of Broward County. In dedicating the library, Historical Commission Secretary William G. Miller, Jr., recalled his lifelong friendship with Judge Nance and summed up the judge's many contributions to Broward County, "I never knew a thing that Clayton undertook to do without doing it with great vigor and doing it very successfully. Whatever that undertaking



Historical Commissioner Mary Smith, chairman of the dedication reception committee, welcomes guests.



Historical Commission Advisor J.W. (Bill) Stevens (left) and County Commission Chairman Gerald F. Thompson cut the ribbon officially dedicating the Broward County Historical Museum.

might have been, he never seemed to be interested in money, but in doing good for his friends and his community."

The Cooper Kirk Archives, dedicated in memory of Broward County's first County Historian, contains priceless material assembled by Dr. Kirk during many years dedicated to the collection and dissemination of Broward County and south Florida history. One of Dr. Kirk's goals during his seventeen years as Broward County Historian, was the development of historical societies throughout the county. Today, twelve such societies exist in Broward County. Historical Commissioner Leonard Robbins, in his remarks, gave this definition of a historian, which is appropriate to Dr. Kirk's life and career:

A historian must be exact, sincere, and impartial; free from passion, unbiased by interest, fear, resentment, or affection; and faithful to the truth, which is the mother of history. He is the preserver of great actions, the enemy of oblivion, the witness of the past, the director of the future.

In the spirit of community service and the search for historical truth embodied by Judge Nance and Dr. Kirk, the Historical Commission invites the public to visit its facilities and make use of the material available in its museum, library, and archives.



Nella Kirk (left) and Dorothy Nance speak at the opening of the L. Clayton Nance Library and the Cooper Kirk Archives.

Guests view historical displays and listen to the evening's program.



Left to right are: Historical Commissioner Leonard Robbins, sponsor Buddy Lochrie of SunBank, and Historical Commissioner Lowell Showalter.

☞ *Dedication* ☞

Special Thanks



Becker & Poliakoff

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Broward County
Historical Museum

151 S.W. 2nd Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

Judge L. Clayton Nance Library
and
Dr. Cooper Kirk Archive

May 4th, 1993

5:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Broward County Historical Commission



This program was produced at a cost of \$60 or \$30 to provide information on the
dedication of the Broward County Historical Museum. An equal opportunity employer
and provider of services. Minority/Female/Disabled/Veteran.



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☞ *Program* ☞

Mary Smith, Presiding

Welcome F. K. Walker
Chairman, Broward County Historical Commission
Invocation William G. Crawford, Jr.
Vice Chairman, Broward County Historical Commission
**Introduction
of Guests** Mary Smith
Broward County Historical Commission
**Historical
Benchmarks** Helen Landers
Historian, Broward County Historical Commission

Dedication Ceremony

**Judge
L. Clayton Nance
Library** William G. Miller, Jr.
Secretary, Broward County Historical Commission
Dorothy Nance
**Dr. Cooper Kirk
Archive** Leonard Robbins
Broward County Historical Commission
Nella Kirk
Ribbon Cutting Gerald Thompson,
Chairman, Broward County Historical Commission

Museum Tours and Refreshments

Guests: Study the Blacklight Exhibit
Houses: Self-Guided Tour and Self-Serve Open House
Catering: Jo Jordan
Photo courtesy: Broward County Parks and Recreation Division