

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS UPDATE

By Marlyn Kemper

BLACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF BROWARD COUNTY (Mary Smith, President)

Society members plan to apply for a grant to renovate and convert the Clarence Walker Elementary School at 1001 Northwest 4th Street in Fort Lauderdale into a museum and cultural center. Once known as Dillard High, Walker Elementary School was the first school building for blacks in Fort Lauderdale and was named in honor of principal Clarence Walker, a prominent black educator.

The Black Historical Society has selected Kathleen Wright, Sylvia Poitier, Florence Ali, May Belle, Isaiah Snelling, John Clark, Glennie Charlton, Viola Davenport, Lloyd Thomas, Reverend Bester Anderson, Fredica Glass, Oscar Floyd, and the family of Fannie Allen Jackson as honorees for *PIONEER DAYS 1977*.

BROWARD COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. (Joan Lynn, President)

The Broward County Archaeological Society has successfully campaigned to save Peace Camp from being demolished by a new expressway. Once a seventeen acre Tequesta Indian settlement and burial ground, and later a Seminole council ground, Peace Camp in Davie was in the direct path of the proposed Interstate 75 route. The oldest of about 24,592 artifacts found at the site have been dated to 1100 B.C. Only about one-third of the settlement has been excavated. Hully Stirling, who has owned Peace Camp and the surrounding property for about thirty-five years, said he decided not to sell or develop it when he recognized its historical significance. He has worked with the Archaeological Society by providing access to, and security for, the property.

BROWARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION (Dr. Cooper Kirk, County Historian)

The Florida State Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties has issued a permit to the Broward County Historical Commission to search the area

Marlyn Kemper is the public information officer for the Broward County Historical Commission. She has authored several historical works and currently writes the "Broward History" feature for the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun Sentinel.

north of Hillsboro Inlet for the remains of the Spanish ship, the *Gil Blas*. Pioneer resident William Cooley is believed to have been salvaging the ship's sugar cargo when Indians massacred his family at his New River settlement on January 8, 1836. The project is under the direction of Bill Raymond, chairman of the Commission's Marine Archaeology and Marine Geology Advisory Council. The permit, brought to Broward County by Secretary of State Bruce Smathers, is the first of its kind. Mr. Smathers hopes that this venture will encourage other counties to probe their coastal histories.

The Arthur E. Sweeney Collection, a collection of photographs, papers, letters, and other memorabilia, has been presented to the Broward County Historical Commission by his widow, Mrs. Jackie Sweeney. Mr. Sweeney was a football coach and athletic director at Fort Lauderdale High School from the mid-1930s until the outbreak of World War II.

Winners of the annual photography contest sponsored by the Historical Commission were announced at a special ceremony held in the Broward County Courthouse lobby on Saturday, June 25, 1977.

Participants in the contest were grouped into two categories, namely, Division "A," Broward students under eighteen years of age, and Division "B," residents of Broward eighteen and above. Each entrant was allowed to submit as many as six original photographs taken after April 1, 1976, of Broward County people, places, or things.

Larry Singer was the recipient of the "Best of Show" trophy and a one hundred dollar cash prize.

In Division "A" for black and white entries, Don Eighmie received the first place award and

Sue Rains received the second and third place awards.

In Division "B" for black and white entries, Larry Singer received the first place award and Donald Carson received the second place award.

In Division "B" for color entries, Joe Kamarata received the first place award, Anthony Schleifstein received the second place award, and Don Tuggle received the third place award.

Ron DePompa, Ramon Martinez, and Jim Boyd determined the winners in each Division and selected the photograph designated "Best of Show."

Photographs entered in the competition have been exhibited in the Courthouse lobby and in libraries throughout the county.

BROWARD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (Harry L. Young, Jr., President)

With genealogical interest stimulated by *Roots*, the Broward Genealogical Society has continued to emphasize its publicity program to inform area residents about the methodology involved in researching and preserving family records.

CORAL SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Brenda Marinance, President)

The society's annual meeting was held at the Civic Center in Mullins Park on Northwest 29 Street in Coral Springs on Wednesday, May 4, 1977. The following officers were elected: Brenda Marinance, President; Mort Stern, First Vice-President; Carol McKee, Second Vice-President; Arilee Pollard, Secretary; and Wilfred Neale, Treasurer.

The Coral Springs Historical Society has chosen Joseph Taravella, co-founder of Coral Ridge Properties, and Wilfred Neale, a member of the Board of Supervisors of the Sunshine Drainage District, as honorees for *PIONEER DAY* to be held in October at Port Everglades. Mr. Taravella, designated as "the man who has done the most for the real estate profession in Fort Lauderdale for the last fifty years" by the Fort Lauderdale Board of Realtors, helped develop Coral Ridge, the Galt Ocean Mile, and the City of Coral Springs. Mr. Neale, a Coral Springs resident since 1965, was selected to serve as a member of Coral Springs' first elected city commission.

DANIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Mrs. James McMillan, President)

Members of the Dania Historical Society have participated in a campaign to save and restore

Dania Elementary School at 301 South Federal Highway. The Society is researching the history of the school, also known as Dania High and South Broward High, with the goal of placing it on the National Register as a historical building.

Members received the historical society's charter on Friday, June 24, 1977. Officers of the society for the coming year are Lillian J. McMillan, President; Verlon Burrell, Vice-President; Mrs. Gene Burgess, Secretary; and Luther Sparkman, Treasurer. A meeting for the entire membership has been scheduled for Monday, September 26, 1977, at the Dania Chamber of Commerce Building on West Dania Beach Boulevard in Dania.

Clyde Aycock, Will J. LaBree, Viola Sidney, Odis Devert Studdard, and Gussie and David Sokolow have been chosen by the Dania Historical Society to be honored at the upcoming *PIONEER DAY* festival at Port Everglades.

DAVIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (J. Kenneth King, President)

Society members continue to document the growth and development of Davie with artifacts and photographs and hope to establish a Davie Historical Museum. An oral history is being collected. Honorees for *PIONEER DAYS 1977* include Althea Jenne, Anna Freitag Borresen, and Carrie Lenz Williamson.

DEERFIELD BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Juli Brugnani, President)

Plans have been launched to convert the home of the late Mrs. J.D. Butler, also known as "Aunt Alice," into a museum. Thanks to a surprise inheritance, the Deerfield Beach Historical Society received the home along with its contents and grounds. The grounds cover four city lots: 172 feet along the boulevard and 150 feet deep.

Mary Mowry and Joanna Wanzenberg have been selected by the Deerfield Beach Historical Society to be honored at *PIONEER DAYS 1977*. Mrs. Mowry and Mrs. Wanzenburg were in charge of the restoration of the Deerfield Beach schoolhouse located at 256 Northeast 2 Street. The structure, built in 1920, also served as Deerfield's city hall. The schoolhouse contains an authentic classroom complete with inkwells, blackboards, desks, and pot belly stoves, as well as a civic meeting hall with historic exhibits. Other honorees for *PIONEER DAYS* include Helen Barnhouse and Doris and Robert Lamb.

FORT LAUDERDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. (Russell Gardner, President)

A group of 50-year graduates of Fort Lauderdale High School have embarked on a project to collect data with which to prepare a file on each class. Pictures and other momentos are being rescued from trunks and storage closets. Each picture will be identified with the names of those who appear. The results of the project will be placed in the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society's archives.

Work has begun on remodeling the building into which the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society will move. Current information from the City of Fort Lauderdale is that the renovation may not be completed until after the first of the year.

HALLANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. (Betty Jo Moffit Cunningham, President)

The Hallandale Historical Society hosted its city's Golden Anniversary Celebration. The festival, which took place from Wednesday, May 11, 1977, through Saturday, May 21, 1977, featured a pioneer citizens party, mock olympic games, band concerts, parades, variety talent shows, and an exhibit prepared by the Smithsonian Institute entitled "The Dream of America."

The first book published on the history of Hallandale is now on sale at the Bank of Hallandale and Trust Company, 801 East Hallandale Beach Boulevard; Barnett Hardware, 100 East Hallandale Beach Boulevard; Hallandale Chamber of Commerce, 2100 East Hallandale Beach Boulevard; House of Books in the Diplomat Mall; Hallandale City Hall, 308 South Dixie Highway; and the Hallandale Historical Society at 485-0505. The book, written by Bill McGoun, is 147 pages long and costs \$6.24.

HOLLYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Kenneth J. Spry, President)

Society members will meet on Wednesday, August 3, 1977, in the Americana Room of the Home Federal Tower on Young Circle to discuss ongoing projects for historic preservation, select honorees for *PIONEER DAY 1977*, and confirm the election of the following officers: Kenneth J. Spry, President; John Kellner, Vice-President; Pat Smith, Secretary; and Myrtle Gray, Treasurer.

A reception for Don Cuddy, author of the anecdotal history, *Tales of Old Hollywood*, planned by the historical society for May at the Art and Culture Center, 1301 South Ocean Drive, has been postponed until the fall. Mr. Cuddy's book will be available in three editions (paperback \$5.95; hardcover \$7.95; and deluxe \$9.95) at Town Drugs, Hillwood Chemists, Post Haste Pharmacy, and Plaza Book Store, 124 South State Road 7.

OAKLAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Edward Bailey, President)

The house once occupied by the city's first mayor, Joseph Dewey Hawkins, and by the city's first paid fire chief, Edward Bailey, has been remodeled and refurbished by society members and converted into a historical museum. Proceeds from a rummage sale sponsored by the Women's Club of Oakland Park and a \$10,000 grant from the City of Oakland Park helped to defray expenses. The house is located at 3876 Northeast 6 Avenue.

The Oakland Park Historical Society has selected James Borden, Mary Delegal, James Strickland, Helen Sommers, and Hugh and Clarace Rushton as honorees for *PIONEER DAYS 1977*.

PLANTATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Dorothy O'Hare, President)

Society members have created a museum documenting the history and growth of Plantation in a room formerly used by the municipal court in the Plantation City Hall at 400 Northwest 73 Avenue. The museum is open every Wednesday afternoon from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.

At the annual meeting in May a slide show of historic Plantation was presented to the public.

Ongoing projects include the collection of photographs and artifacts and the restoration of the old Peter's home. A bedroom set once used by Pam Peters has been donated to the society.

POMPAÑO BEACH HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Thomas W. Johnston, President)

The Pompano Beach Historical Society, Inc. the City of Pompano Beach, and the Broward County Historical Commission, with the assistance of the Port Everglades Authority, will sponsor *PIONEER DAYS 1977*. The fifth annual exposition will be held on Saturday, October 1, 1977, and Sunday, October 2, 1977, in Building 22-24 at Port Everglades. Honorees for the *PIONEER DAYS* Festival selected by the Society include Sara Harry Allison, Gertrude Mason Blount, Gelon Brockston Hogan, Henrietta D. McClellan, and James A. McNab.

During the Society's meeting in May, Circuit Judge L. Clayton Nance spoke to members about upcoming projects for the preservation of Broward heritage and Dr. Bennett Kemper presented a program commemorating the history and development of Broward County featuring multi-media techniques. Dr. Kemper's unique show was assembled from the Archives and Museum of the Broward County Historical Commission.

The Society's third annual antique show will be from Friday, November 25, 1977, through Sunday, November 27, 1977.

continued

Over two and one half years ago Dr. Cooper Kirk outlined the broad purposes and themes of *Broward Legacy*:

It would be both popular and scholarly in content and literary style, weighted neither in favor of dry scholarship, not superficial and sensational journalism . . . the focus will be upon subjects whose social, religious, political, cultural, artistic, historical, scientific, and educational significance provide illumination of the past as a beacon for the present and future . . .

Today, as we bring to a close the first volume of *Legacy*, it is time to examine how well the journal has done in meeting the high standards and goals of the County Historian. Readers will soon be receiving through the mail a short questionnaire concerning the journal; please take the few minutes necessary to complete and mail it, along with your subscription renewal, to our offices. Remember, it is only with your comments and criticism that we can continue to improve *Broward Legacy*.

This is also a good moment to pause and thank all those whose support and encouragement made this venture into historical publishing possible. First, there were the authors and editors who overcame countless mistakes and problems to produce a respectable piece of journalism. The Broward County Historical Commission and its advisor, Judge L. Clayton Nance, never flagged in their commitment to the Advisory Council on Publications, the oversight board for *Broward Legacy*. Finally, to the Board of County Commissioners and the various county administrators who helped us on our way, we owe a large debt of thanks.

Ralph Megna, Editor-in-chief

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS UPDATE

continued from page 33

SEMINOLE TRIBAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. (Joe Dan Oseloa, President)

The twentieth anniversary celebration of the organization of the Seminole Tribe of Florida will be Saturday, August 20, 1977, at the Reservation on 64 Avenue between Sheridan Street and Stirling Road in Hollywood. Tribal Council Chairman Howard Tommie said that this year's exposition is planned as a family affair where residents of Broward and the surrounding area can come for entertainment and to learn about the Seminole's heritage and traditions.

THE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NOVA UNIVERSITY JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Dr. Leonard A. Tomasello, Advisor)

Junior historical society members are currently documenting the origin of Broward County school names and conducting interviews with pioneer settlers.

Copies of the junior historical society's sixty-page coloring book based on landmark sites in Broward County dating back to 1915, retail for two dollars and may be ordered from The University School, 7500 Southwest 36 Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314, or by calling 583-6185.

WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Dianne Thompson, President)

The oral history of Wilton Manors continues to be accumulated. (Plans for an exhibit for *PIONEER DAYS 1977* are being formulated.)