

Behind the Scenes . . .

Celebrating its third year of publication, this **Broward Legacy** includes selected reprints and articles by contemporary authors. Charles Forman, D.V.M., has contributed an article about his parents which he composed for the dedication of the Hamilton McLure Forman Building, now under construction at the South Florida Education Center. Constructed by the University of Florida Department of Agriculture by direction of the State Board of Regents, it will cost in excess of one million dollars. Dr. Forman and his brother Hamilton are local bankers, developers, and philanthropists. Like their father, they are consummate politicians whose interests embrace education, historical preservation, housing, ecosystems, mortuaries, and a host of other local and state concerns.

For more than seventy years, longer than any other woman, Broward County's first school teacher cast her beneficent shadow over the county. Ivy Cromartie Stranahan deservedly was known as the First Lady of Fort Lauderdale and patron of the Seminole Indians. She died on August 30, 1971, after surviving her husband Frank for more than forty years. In 1961 the XI Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma published a mimeographed edition of **Pioneer Women in Education**, dealing with pioneer education in Broward County. Prior to publication, Chapter members interviewed Mrs. Stranahan in 1960 and 1961. With permission from the Chapter, the **Legacy** article is published as an edited version of their interview.

In 1948 local realtor Luther Remsburgh promoted sales in the westerly county location of Plantation. That year the newspapers carried Remsburgh's prediction that the few dozen inhabitants of Plantation eventually would increase to 25,000 within twenty-five years. To most Broward Countians, this prediction was so far fetched as to boggle the mind. At this time the principal developers in Plantation were Chauncey Robert Clark, Senior and Junior, both transplanted northerners. The Clarks conceived the plan of locating settlers on large tracts in their Everglades development. Hence, the name Plantation for a city whose present population exceeds thirty thousand. **Broward Legacy** carries the son's story of how their dream city survived floods and other natural disasters during its first three years of existence.

The City of Dania celebrated its seventy-fifth birthday in 1979. It is the oldest incorporated community in Broward County. Many historical artifacts remain to be preserved in this coastal community. Mrs. Marlyn Kemper is Director of Historic Broward County Preservation Board, Department of State, State of Florida. Awaiting publication of her history of Broward County, tentatively entitled **BROWARD'S HISTORY: FROM EVERGLADES, MANGROVES, AND SAWGRASS** and subtitled: **A TREATISE ON THE GROWTH OF FLORIDA'S BROWARD COUNTY**, she has consented to the publication of Chapter Two, "Dania." Broward Countians eagerly anticipate its publication which will portray the saga of men and women who carved an empire out of the watery wilderness known as the Everglades.

Popular knowledge and appreciation of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842, are slight compared to the publicity given to the United States' conflicts with the western Indians. Innumerable books, articles, and movies of the western Indians' warfare with the United States have saturated the public for a century. In contrast, few ever have seen a prime time movie or documentary which emphasizes the Seminole conflict. Yet, this was the United States' longest and most costly Indian war. No doubt, one reason why the Seminole War has been slighted, in spite of several scholarly books on the subject, has been a lack of popular treatment of specific episodes of the conflict. To remedy this hiatus, **BROWARD LEGACY** presents contrasting accounts of one dramatic war episode. Colonel William Selby Harney's second expedition into the Everglades in January 1841 drew national attention to the Florida conflict. In addition, it proved to the Americans and Seminoles that the latter no longer could validly boast that American troops lacked the stamina and courage to invade their watery wasteland in pursuit of their people. Young Edward Zane Carroll Judson, alias Ned Buntline, published a melodramatic account of the expedition in which he participated. While his account is poorly written and contains some inaccuracies it does, however, enliven the activities and personalities of the war. An accompanying army officer published his own factual account of the same expedition. In conjunction, these two records provide some comprehension of the difficulties and bitterness which propelled the protagonists.

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