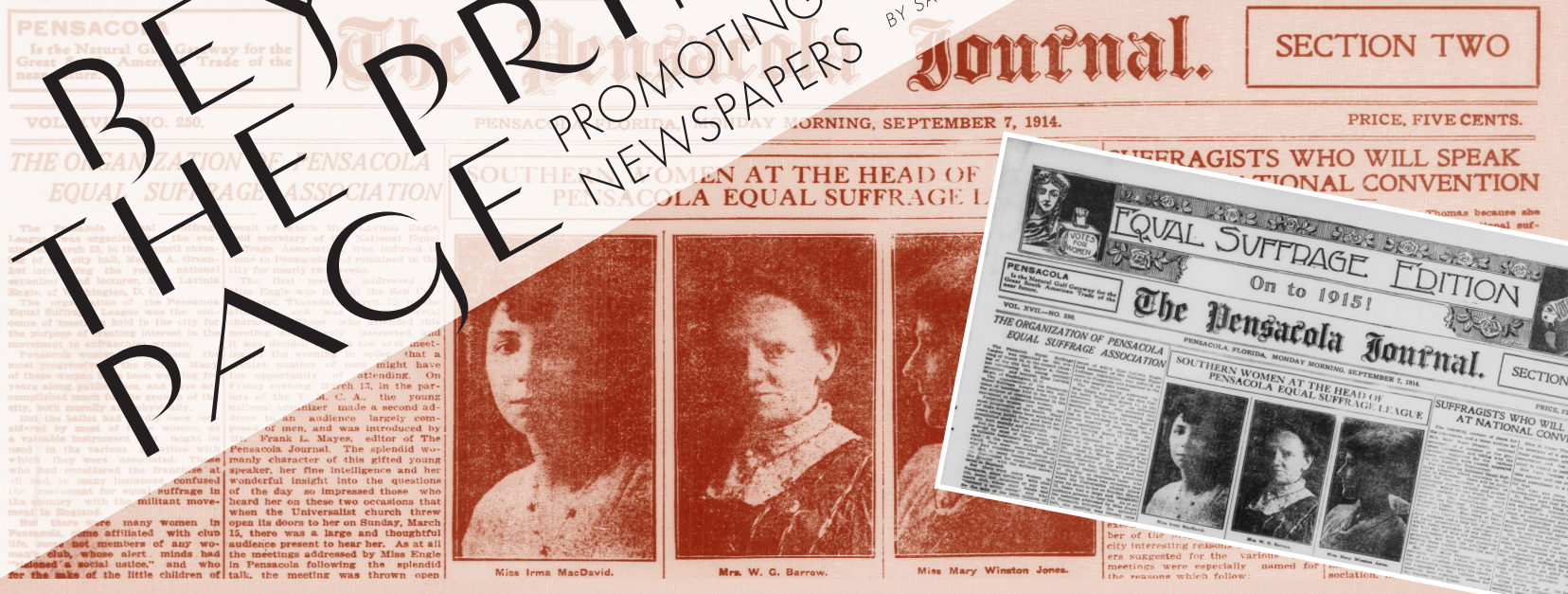
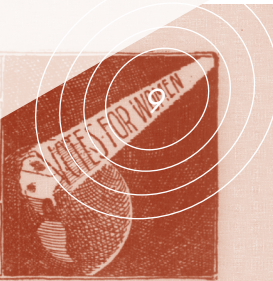


BYOND THE PAGE

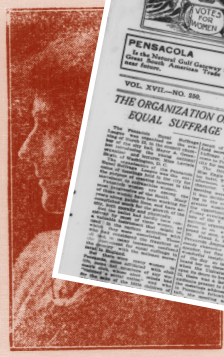
PROMOTING HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS BY SARAH "MOXY" MOCZYGENBA



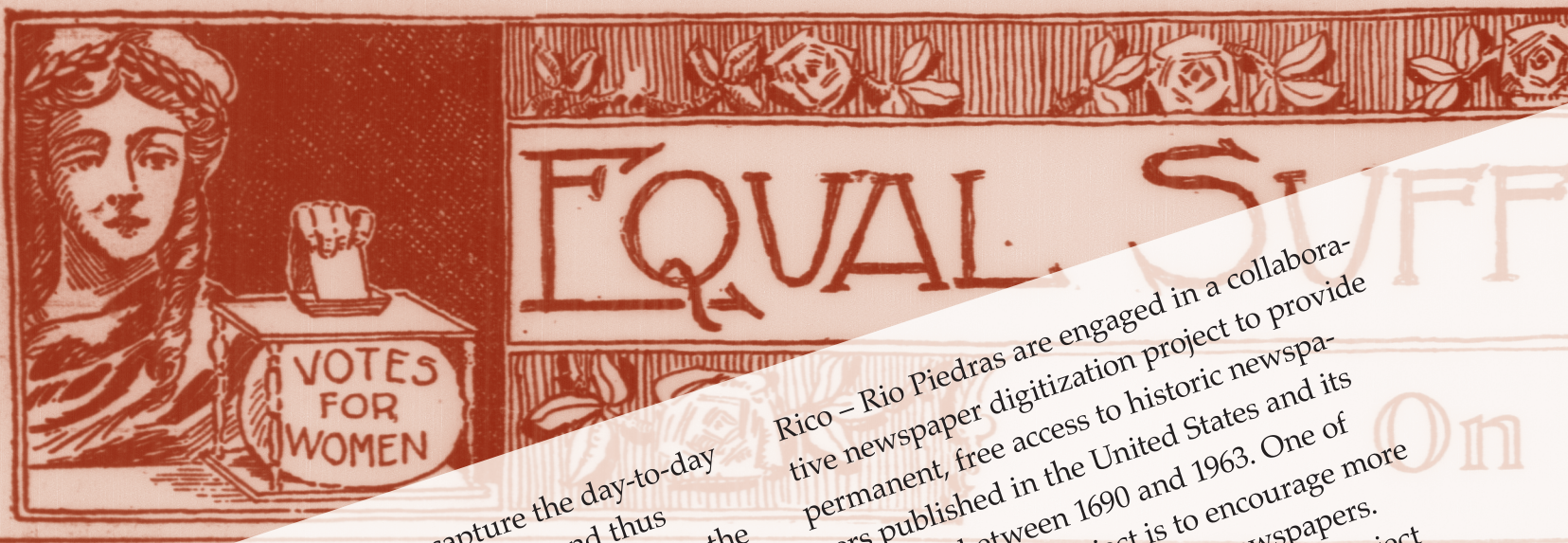
Miss Irma MacDavid.



Mrs. W. C. Barrow.



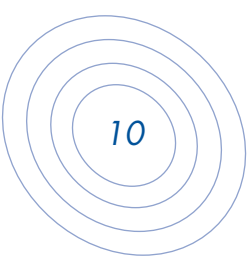
Miss Mary Winston Jones.



Newspapers capture the day-to-day life of communities and thus provide a unique window into the past. Until recently, libraries and archives only kept original copies of newspapers or reproductions on microfilm, which required researchers to travel to use collections, greatly limiting the number of people able to use them. Today, the George A. Smathers Libraries at the University of Florida and the library system at the University of Puerto

Rico – Rio Piedras are engaged in a collaborative newspaper digitization project to provide permanent, free access to historic newspapers published in the United States and its territories between 1690 and 1963. One of the goals of this project is to encourage more widespread use of historical newspapers. Outreach efforts associated with the project have resulted in classroom presentations, poster sessions at conferences, and collaborations on museum exhibits.

ABOVE: Banner of the 1914 Suffragist Edition. *The Pensacola Journal*, September 7, 1914.



Mrs. L. H. Pierce.

President of the Civic League, member Board of Directors of the Y. W. C. A., and an enthusiastic member of the Pensacola Equal Suffrage League.

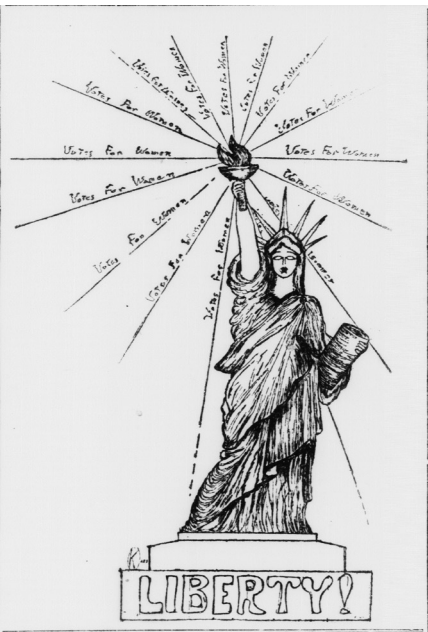
The Florida and Puerto Rico Digital Newspaper Project (FPRDNP) is a collaborative digitization project representing Florida and Puerto

Rico's contribution to the National Digital Newspaper Program. The NDNP, a partnership between the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress, is an offshoot of the United States Newspaper Program (USNP), which ran from 1982–2011 with the goal of creating an inventory and catalog of historic newspaper material.

Drawing from the bibliographic material collected by the USNP, the NDNP has awarded one grant

per state or U.S. territory to digitize historical newspapers each year since 2005. The George A. Smathers Libraries participated in the initial 2005 grant cycle, adding Puerto Rico as a partner in 2013. The newspapers digitized as part of this project are available in the Library of Congress website, *Chronicling America*, as well as in the UF and UPR-RP digital collections.

From headlines to personal notices, advertisements to crime reports, few subjects go unmentioned in these newspapers. However, some voices are more prevalent than others. In the early 20th century women began to regularly write in newspapers, but their work was largely confined to society pages. Many papers in the collection feature regular society sections that go by names like "In Women's Realm," "People



BELOW AND ACROSS FOLD: Fashionable 1913 evening gowns. *The Pensacola journal*, November 27, 1913.

EVENING GOWNS

BY MAY MANTON

EVENING gowns are really sumptuous in their beauty. Wonderful beaded velvets, exquisite laces, glowing silks and satins, and all sorts of beautiful trimmings are used for their making. The much talked of minaret styles have had a certain fashion and short tunics are much worn and flared skirts are liked for the younger contingent. Women who like the extreme effect wear the tunics at their lower edges, but the greater number are content with such trimming as the banding and beaded edges, the very nature of which requires the tunic to stand off a little from the foundation.

THE autumn is ever the season of weddings and of trousseaus and costumes have an especial interest. An exceedingly smart going-away suit that has just been completed is made of daveya in a beautiful shade of almond green. It consists of a quite untrimmed skirt that is just a little draped at the front with over it a tunic that is shorter at the front and longer at the back but which reaches only to the knees at its longest point. This tunic shows plaits right at the front, in conformity with the very newest idea, and again at each side



and Events,” and “Over the Coffee Cups.” Beyond simply reporting important life events such as births, deaths, and funerals, the columns also include reports of illness, birthday parties, out of town visitors, and club

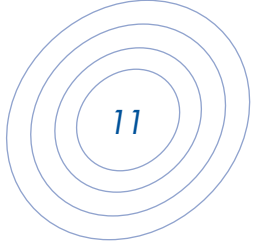
meetings. Women’s pages also feature advice and advertisements for fashion, health, cooking, and childcare. Because of this, society sections allow insight into the so-called “women’s sphere.”



As part of the project’s outreach efforts, the FPRDNP team has presented on women’s pages in Dr. Manoucheka Celeste’s Gender,

Race, Sex, and the Media course. She believes historic newspapers matter because they help students understand our present as well as the past, stating that “in an era where the term ‘fake news’ is being normalized, it is especially important for students to connect to historical documents such as those in this archive. News has never been neutral, and like all cultural production, it is influenced by the time, circumstances and ideologies. Connecting the past and present makes it more difficult to simply dismiss news as fake, and encourages us to ask critical questions around what shapes news and how that impacts or reflects society.”

The increased political activity of women in the early twentieth century resulted in many women living more public lives. The suffrage movement, while prominently discussed on society pages, was also reported on front pages, and discussion of it in our newspapers demonstrates the contentious nature of the issue in the years leading up to the ratification of the 19th Amendment. After its passage and implementation, women’s rights continued to be front page



BELOW, TOP: Ad for summer fashion. *The Pensacola Journal*, June 15, 1916.

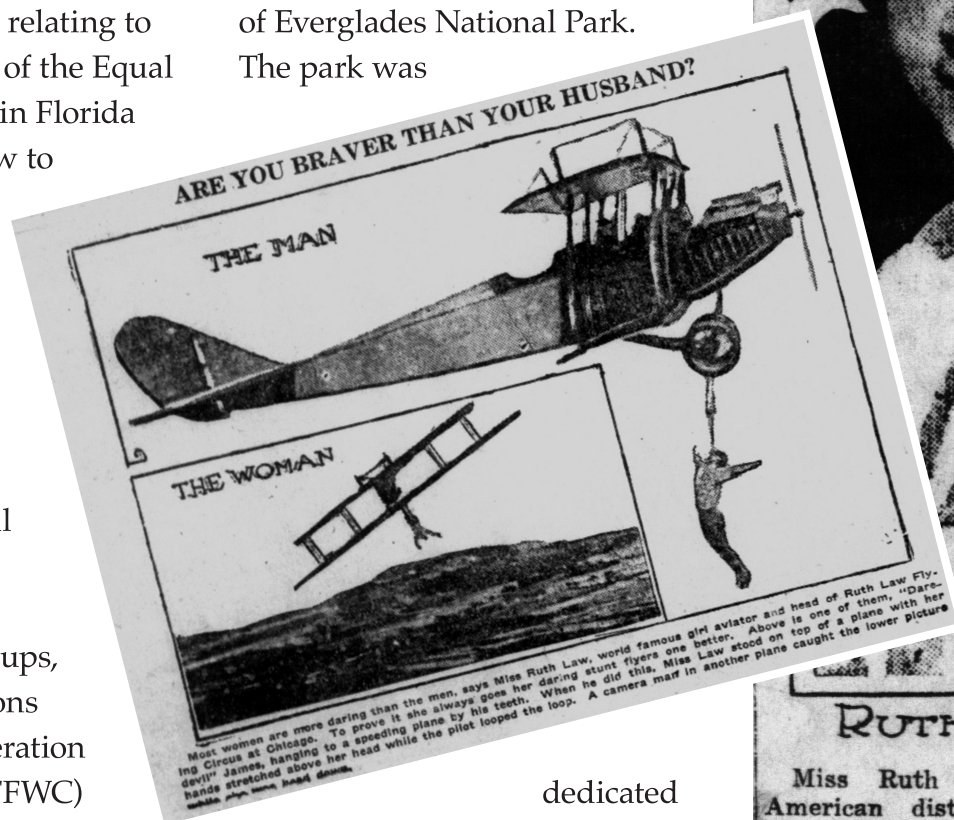
BELOW: Spring hat fashion. *The Pensacola Journal*, January 9, 1917.



news after previously allied women's groups disagreed over the implications of the Equal Rights Amendment proposed by Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman in 1921. During the Spring 2018 semester, the FPRDNP team taught content related to the ERA to students in Gender and Politics, taught by Dr. Louise Newman. Her opinion is that the presentation "gave my students access to dozens of sources relating to the tortuous history of the Equal Rights Amendment in Florida and taught them how to confidently search through and use a digital archive." We hope that these students continue to use *Chronicling America* and other archives, both digital and physical.

In addition to suffrage-specific groups, women's organizations like the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs (FFWC) put pressure on the legislature to pass laws to improve funding for education, children's health, and environmental protections. May Mann Jennings, who is referred to in our papers as Mrs. W.S. Jennings, served as president of the FFWC during the 1910s and

used her social connections in Tallahassee and network of politicized women to lobby the state to purchase land in the Everglades to create a state park. Achieving the creation of the park became a legislative priority for the FFWC during the 1915 legislative session, and they were ultimately successful in earning custodianship of Royal Palm State Park, which today serves as the nucleus of Everglades National Park. The park was



dedicated in November of 1916 to much fanfare and the event was covered extensively by the state press. Newspapers in the early twentieth century frequently featured travel reports, often on society pages, especially positive ones that highlighted the virtues



ABOVE: Photograph of Ruth Law. *The Pensacola Journal*, January 24, 1917.

ABOVE LEFT: Ruth Law performing daring stunts. *The Pensacola Journal*, February 11, 1921.



LEFT:
In Society column header.
The Lakeland Evening Telegram,
November 12, 1912.

of Florida. Because of this, there are many stories in our papers which either focus on or include positive reviews of Royal Palm State Park.

During the Summer of 2017, the project team worked with the Center for the Humanities in the Public Sphere at the University of Florida to present the history of Royal Palm State Park to K-12 teachers at their interdisciplinary residential educator seminar Humanities and the Sunshine State: Teaching Florida's Climates. Sophia Acord, Associate Director of the Center, spoke to us about our inclusion in the program saying, "Newspapers are an excellent way to help students understand the ways in which we experience major scientific and environmental events in our everyday lives. We may not have talked about climate change 50 years ago, but people did talk about the weather and the ways in which weather events affected them. So, looking at articles in historic newspapers is a great way to bring science to life and put it in its social

context." While many individuals only associate historic newspapers with social and political history or genealogical research, our hope is that teachers and instructors working in the sciences also see the value of using primary resources to contextualize discoveries and innovation.

Newspaper digitization efforts are central to the preservation of primary source documents, but without outreach efforts via partnerships with instructors, institutions, and the public, digitized resources such as these remain unknown to many. The Florida and Puerto Rico Digital Newspapers Project's goal is to introduce new audiences to this newspaper collection and inform them on how the content can be used.

To explore other topics featured in our papers or learn more about our project, visit our blog at www.ufndnp.wordpress.com.