



# The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida

## Chapter The Florida Anthropological Society

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President: Beth Read

March - 1989  
Editor: Pat Cervi

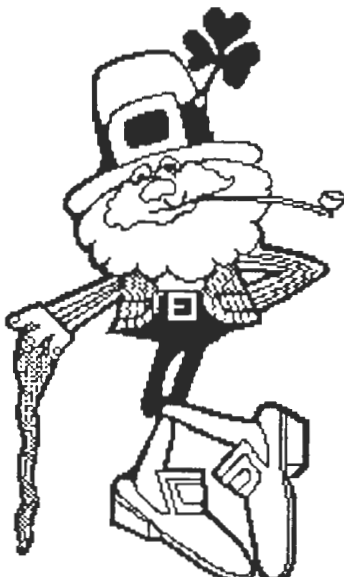
### March General Meeting

The March General Meeting will be held Friday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Simpson Park which is located at 55 S.W. 17th Road, Miami. (The Park is just off South Miami Avenue, close to the I-95 exit. Call 856-6801 for directions.)

Steve Poznanski is well known to our group, both as an expert in the field of psychometry and as a former member.

Steve will explain the various forms of the science of psychometry or "devination of facts concerning an object or its owner through contact with or proximity to the object." This is the psychic ability to conduct readings by holding significant objects, including photographs, and identifying the owner and, in some cases, the whereabouts of the owner.

You might recall the experiences of the late Peter Hurkos in the "Boston Strangler" case. Steve invites you to bring to the meeting artifacts of interest to you for his psychic reading. Steve's ability should make for an exciting meeting.



*Happy Saint Patrick's Day!*

### March Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, March 17, 1989  
1489 S. Miami Avenue  
6:00 p.m.

Our regular March Board of Directors Meeting will be held at **Beth Read's** office, immediately prior to the March General Meeting at Simpson Park. All board members are urged to attend. Interested members at large are invited and welcomed.

### Items of Interest

This past weekend **Mary and Stan Kiem, Bob Carr, Seth Lefkow, John Carruthers, Jean McGuire and Irving Eyster** participated in the dig in Marathon at Crane Hammock.

The group unearthed a great deal of cap rock at the site. Also uncovered was a well which smelled of rotten eggs and contained deteriorated pieces of milled lumber.

**Seth Lefkow** bravely tasted the water and determined that it was fresh!

**Chuck Olson, Ph.D.**, permitted four members of our group to use the main house on the property as accommodations in the area are difficult to come by.

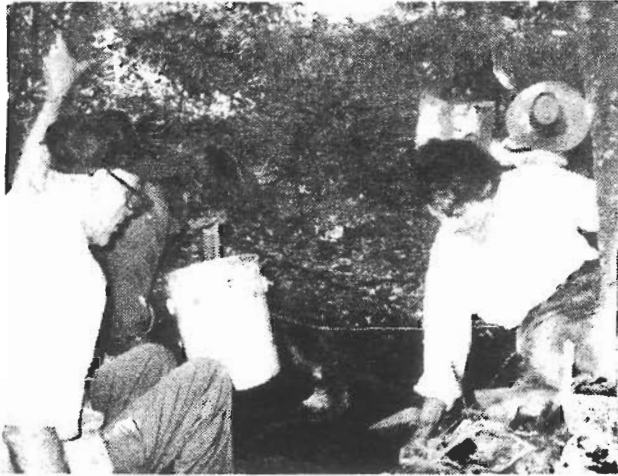
John Carruthers

We all enjoyed **Ray Stewart's** program very much at the February meeting.

A sincere thanks to **Ray and his wife, Anne**, for the generous donation they presented to A.S.S.F.

*See  
You at Our  
March Meeting!*

## Crane Hammock Dig



*Island Navigator* photo by Sandy Barrett

From left: Stanley and Mary Kiem, and Barbara Rooney, members of the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, explore amongst tree roots, finding historic artifacts. See story on page four.

## Notice to Members

### Elections

Mark your calendar. April is election and pot luck dinner month. The new slate of officers, with a bio of each candidate, will appear in the April newsletter.

### Dues - Dues - Dues

Remember, in order to vote for the new slate of officers, your annual dues must be paid at the rate of \$12 for individual membership and \$15 for family membership.

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### A.S.S.F. Board Members

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*President, Beth Read*  
*Vice President, John Ayer*  
*Treasurer, John Carruthers*  
*Secretary, Vivian Peters*  
*Directors:*  
*Bob Carr*  
*Debra Goldman*  
*Seth Lefkow*  
*Jim Lord*  
*Barbara Tansey*

## Archaeological Society of Southern Florida - Membership Application/Renewal Form

**OBJECTIVE:** To provide a formal means by which individuals and institutions interested in archaeological and anthropological studies in South Florida and related areas may come together for mutual benefits.

### CODE OF ETHICS:

1. Members of the society agree to promote archaeological site preservation and conservation, to excavate only endangered sites as part of a qualified research group, to not excavate archaeological sites for the unscientific collecting of artifacts.
2. All artifacts and material recovered from society projects are the property of the society.

I hereby apply for membership in the Archaeological Society of Southern Florida:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$12.00 Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Family \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check or money order to: The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida, 1489 S. Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida 33131

# Trust Buys Tropical Forest

**Island Navigator/Jan., 1989**

**by Sandra Kay Barrett**

A dream came true for the Florida Keys Land Trust recently, in the form of the real-estate closing for purchase of the Crane Hammock property in Marathon.

**Crane Hammock.** The 63-acre tract has an extensive shoreline extending out into Florida Bay, and Sombrero Road intersects approximately in the center of its frontage on U.S. Highway 1. While the property contains a number of structures, including tennis courts, most of it remains in a natural state. More than half of the acreage is composed of palm hammock, the largest-remaining continuous area of a forest type once common from Long Key through Vaca Key.

According to Roland Fisch, director of the Middle Keys branch of Florida Keys Community College, 50-60 different species of trees can be found on the Crane Hammock property, many of which are unique to the Florida Keys and tropical America. Land Trust literature notes that the site provides habitat for a variety of rare animals, including the Key Vaca Tree Snail and contains archaeological artifacts dating from prehistoric Indians to early 20th century settlers.

**The Purchase.** A distinguished group - including Monroe County Mayor Mike

Puto and Mayor Protem Gene Lytton, State Representative Ron Saunders, and new County Sheriff (and Land Trust President) Alison DeFoor - gathered at the northern entrance to Crane Hammock on December 22 to celebrate the closing for the property, amidst clicking camera shutters and champagne.

DeFoor enthusiastically praised successful fund-raising efforts, which collected \$250,000 during the last six months toward the 1.2 million dollars required to accomplish the sale. "No one has ever raised this much money in the Keys before, even United Way," he observed.

The County Commission acting as the Monroe County Land Authority, a board created by the Florida Legislature in 1986, loaned another \$700,000 to the Land Trust to purchase a conservation easement for the property. Land Authority Director Charles Pattison explained to the *Island Navigator* that purchase of an easement, rather than direct purchase of property, was necessary to fall within requirements of State law for use of Land Authority money in this situation, but that the easement could eventually be repurchased and extinguished.

While \$950,000 brought the Trust more than 75 percent of the way toward purchase, the

deal could not go through without the full amount. Trust Executive Director Chuck Olson, Ph.D. said that, with the deadline of December 19 fast approaching, the Marine Bank of Monroe County gave the Trust a short-term loan for the balance. Within six months, \$1.2 million had been raised.

**Fund Raising Must Continue.** "Now we can go out and get other contributions from foundations and such," Olson continued, noting that the tremendous community support would provide a good basis for grant applications.

Diane Chaplin, a Marathon real estate agent, told the *Island Navigator* that she is donating \$1,000 to the Trust, and is working with Olson to develop a challenge program for realtors to continue the fund raising process. "We are concerned that people will stop working now that the closing has occurred," she said, explaining that the momentum must continue to pay back the bank loan and the Land Authority.

**Plans for the Property.** The Trust proposed to build a museum of Keys natural history and children's museum at the location of an existing small museum site on U.S. Highway 1. The Monroe County Tourist Development Council recently approved an allocation of \$200,000 to facilitate the

museum project.

Other physical facilities proposed include a marine science and education center where the existing main house is located on the point; and restoration of an existing Bahamian house, which, according to Roland Fisch, is the

oldest house in the Keys outside of Key West.

Expansion of an existing tropical plant arboretum on the point, and presentation of much of the property as a native tree arboretum, are planned, as well as continued

archaeological digs.

For further information concerning the Florida Keys Land Trust and the Crane Hammock project, write either P.O. Box 536, Marathon, FL 33050, or P.O. Box 1432, Key West, FL 33041; or call (305) 745-1110.

## Hammock Dig Begins

Archaeology buffs from around South Florida began work unearthing the legacy of history at the Crane Hammock property in Marathon December 10 and 11.

**Bob Carr**, founder and president of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, Inc., brought several workers down from Dade and Broward counties; accompanied by members of the Archaeological Society of South Florida, including their president, **Beth Read**. Local expert and Upper Keys resident **Irving Eyster**, known for his extensive work on Indian Key, also joined the crew as they began test pits in several different locations.

The work was initiated by and coordinated with the Florida Keys Land Trust, which has since purchased

the Crane Hammock property.

One location unearthed bits of pottery and other evidence indicating a house platform dating to the 1880's or 1890's. When asked what Keys life was like back then, Eyster said that a Mrs. Russell, who was a resident of the area at the time, wrote in her diary that her worst problem was keeping bears out of the melon patch.

Another site, near the shoreline mangrove fringe, revealed rich, black earth, leading Carr to believe they had found a site where buttonwood had been cut and burned to make charcoal.

The groups expect to return after the holidays to continue their exploration of earlier times in Marathon.

Sandra Barrett/Island Navigator/January, 1989



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