



# The Archaeological Society of Southern Florida

## Chapter, The Florida Anthropological Society

Volume 14 Number 12  
President: Beth Read

December - 1989  
Editor: Pat Cervi

## December General Meeting

### December Holiday Dinner

As is our custom, the December 15th meeting consists of a dinner which starts at 7:30 p.m., during which we can enjoy the company of friends, talk of future plans, re-hash the past year, and feed our faces.

This year we will hold our dinner meeting at the Doubletree Hotel (nee Coconut Grove Hotel) at 2649 South Bayshore Drive in Coconut Grove. The view is terrific and the room is lovely.

Parking is available at the hotel for a fee, or park on the street or at Merrill-Stevens just across Bayshore Drive. The menu will be a full London broil dinner, salad, dessert, coffee, for \$19.00 (tax and tip included). Jackets please, tie optional.

We think this year's holiday dinner will be as good if not better than previous dinner meetings. We would love to have you join us. Remember: RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST. Call Beth at her office 374-5699 or her home 361-2102 by December 10th. We hope to see everyone there.

### Board of Directors

President - Beth Read  
Vice President- John Ayer  
Secretary - Vivian Peters  
Treasurer - John Carruthers II

#### Directors

Bob Carr Jim Lord  
Caridad Planas  
Barbara Tansey  
Sonja Noah Seth Lefkow  
Pat Cervi

## NO DECEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### It's dues time!

**Reminder:** Please pay either \$12 for an individual or \$15 for a family membership to **Beth Read**, 1489 S. Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33131, or give your dues to treasurer **John Carruthers**, by January 1, 1990.

## Items of Interest

Welcome to new member, **Katy Richardson**.

**Sue Goldman**, who recently moved to Indian Rocks Beach, was made a life member of our Society. Sue's new address is: 900 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, FL 34635

A big "Thank You" to **Barbara Tansey** for refreshments.

**Jim Lockwood** presented us with a donation which will help defray newsletter expenses.

**Stan and Mary Kiem, Barbara Tansey, and Aaron Read** made donations to our project fund.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Harvest booth so successful, especially **John Ayer**, chairperson, **Aaron Read, Judy Trimble, Vivian** and **Walt Peters, Sonja Noah, Seth Lefkow** and **Beth Read**. A special thank you to **Barbara Tansey** and **Bob Freer** for their donation of the hot air balloon ride.

**Mary Kiem** is responsible for the interesting donations to our raffle during the past three meetings.

The site excavation committee has been appointed for the projected excavation in January near Krome Avenue and Kendall Drive. **Barbara Tansey** is the chairman, **Bob Carr** and **Jim Lord** also serve on the committee. Details of the schedule will appear in the January newsletter.

Best wishes to **John Carruthers** for a speedy recovery from his recent illness.

**Jim Lord** and **Wes Coleman** have articles in the current issue of *Florida Anthropologist*.

Continued on page 4

# Preservation must encompass landscape

by Beth Dunlop  
Architecture

Miami Herald, Sunday, November 19, 1989

In South Florida, we seldom think of history in terms of much more than a single century, and yet, that is not the case: There are places where geology, ecology, archaeology and architecture all converge.

At first there is the land and little else. Then - beginning 10,000 or more years ago - the first Indians arrived to make their homes along the bluffs and ridges that rose out of the watery landscape, the high points overlooking the bay, along the rivers and streams.

Even then, this was prime real estate. It is no coincidence that our most-coveted land is also the ground with the richest history.

But if it is desirable, it is also endangered. Its fragility was made clear earlier this month when a segment of the remarkable coral bluff along South Bayshore Drive collapsed during excavation for a swimming pool.

Throughout South Florida, preservationist, archaeologists and environmentalists rush to document, dig and conserve.

"This is it. This is the only opportunity to preserve what we have left," said Dade County Archaeologist **Robert Carr**. "This is why it's such an intense and frustrating struggle."

Often we think of historic preservation as a building-by-building task. But our concern ought to encompass more than just stucco and stones for the picture to be complete. To see the past whole we must look at the natural landscape, and at the imprint left by early settlers on the land.

In generations past, the new was layered on the land gently without disturbing what had come before. Now, too often, the path is one of destruction.

The contrasts are stunning: Step in front of Cocoplovis, one of the last

Boom-Era mansions on Brickell Avenue, and there are steps carved gently into the bluff. But up and down the bayfront, buildings sit on fill; parking lots have flattened the natural terrain.

At Arch Creek Park in North Miami, a nature trail guides visitors through hammock and pineland, across a site where the Tequesta Indians lived for 1,800 years, and past an excavated coontie mill, a remnant of a settlement that dates back to the Indian wars of the mid-1800s. It is an extraordinary enclave where history and nature converge...

Government, which ought to be a caretaker of our heritage, is sometimes its enemy. Two years ago, county road crews uprooted 162 pine, holly, gumbo limbo, seagrape and cocoplum trees on Crandon Boulevard on Key Biscayne before a public outcry stopped the destruction; the

Continued on page 3.

## 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

Continued from page 2

state Department of Transportation once tried to remove the banyans from Coral Way...

Just off South River Drive and Northwest 27th Avenue is a small and unadorned park that marks the beginning of development in modern Miami. It is called Miami River Rapids Park, and it sits in virtual abandonment, with only a sign and a low wooden fence to mark it.

Until this century, the Everglades ended and the Atlantic coastal ridge began here as the river started its rush to the ocean. In the 1840s George Washington Ferguson and Thomas Jefferson Ferguson built a mill on the site, one of the region's earliest industries; in 1908 the river was diverted in the first draining of the Everglades.

Now all that is left is a trickle of water flowing past rocks and pond apple trees, garbage and debris. It ought to be a major interpretive site, one that schoolchildren study and historians visit. But the story of the rapids is not a simple, or a smooth, one.

The state acquired the property on either side of the park so that Miami could expand and improve it, but city commissioners instead voted to lease the land to Miami Bridge for the construction of a halfway house. The state turned down that plan, but the city is appealing the decision.

Tuesday afternoon, the Miami Heritage Conservation Board will consider recommending the designation of the park as an official archaeological zone, which would mean that no excavation or tree removal could be undertaken without the recommendation of the Dade County archaeologist. Even so, the halfway house could be built.

Surely, there's an alternative site for it: There should be no question about its importance.

Cities are not like chalkboards erased with each new subject. They are complex repositories of history and civilization, and they deserve our respect.

Now, at best, preservation is a matter of negotiation. Witness what happens:

When he built his house in Cutler Ridge, Charles Deering did not disturb the fossils on his land.

Now most of his estate is in public hands, but the fossil site adjacent to it - the location of Indian settlements that are 10,000 years old - is for sale. Two years ago, the Metro Commission turned down plans for a shopping center there, now the county wants to buy the Cutler Fossil Site and is hoping that the state will help with half of the \$3.5 million asking price.

The old Perry Farm at the Dade-Broward line, which archaeologists suspect was also the location of an ancient Indian encampment, is soon to become the Oaks of Miramar housing and shopping complex; the terrain rises there to what once was an island in Snake Creek. Archaeologists will get a chance to explore the site before construction begins; the developers were also required by the city of Miramar to create a two-acre park of a 100-year-old oak hammock.

The old Glenn Curtiss mansion, home of the aviation pioneer who dreamed up the pueblo-styled town of Miami Springs, has just been sold; its grounds - where once flamingos, swans and African crested cranes nested - may be filled with 90 condominiums by its new owner, Biscay Development. That of itself doesn't alarm preservationists, although Miami Springs' historical society had hoped to acquire the house as a museum. Still, the land can be developed sensitively or with complete disregard for the historic landscape. "It could be very nicely done," said Dade's Historic Preservation Board director Ivan Rodriguez...

"We can't save everything," said Carr. "It's just finding the balance between development and preservation."

The public mandate here ought to be identify and conserve the most important sites, the best examples of life in South Florida, from prehistory

to recent history, and those sites that communicate the historic natural environment...

State funds are available for endangered lands, but the demand for that money - about \$40 million this year - is so great that it could be spent a dozen times over. That is another reason why it is so important to establish priorities.

Without the tangible record of settlement in South Florida we will never be able to grasp our history fully. In many ways, this is the last stand. If we destroy what is left, we'll take with us a millennia, and that would be a loss of monumental proportions.



TAMARA VONINSKI / Miami Herald

**Miami River Rapids Park:** Once the point where the river began its rush to the ocean, the park is now strewn with trash.

## T-shirts - Hats T-shirts - Hats

A.S.S.F. T-shirts in red, light blue, silver and pink with a black logo, will be on sale for \$10.00 each at every meeting.

Light blue hats with a black logo are available for \$7.00 each.

Continued from page 1.

Our Yard Sale is scheduled for the weekend of February 3rd and 4th. The location will be announced in the January Newsletter.

Please save any interesting items you may have for the Yard Sale. Remember, last year this was a real money-maker for the Society.

Another thank you to **Mary** and **Stan Kiem** for the interesting beach fossil display created for our Harvest

booth and for the donation of their beach fossils which were given as gifts to those new members who joined our Society at Harvest.

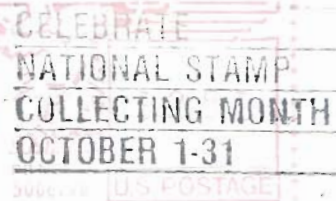
On October 1, 1989, **Jim Lockwood** was honored with a feature in his hometown paper, the Rockford, Illinois *Register Star*, for his latest adventure in philanthropy - adopting the Children's Farm in his home town. The article, entitled "Indiana James," contains information concerning

Jim's numerous world-wide adventures. See our bulletin board at the January monthly meeting.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



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