

building.

After World War II was over the hotel was conveyed to Waterman Steamship Company, Mr. Roberts' Company. A marina, two tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, and a 750,000-gallon swimming pool were built. There were specialty shops for the guests, garage accommodations for those who drove to the hotel and quarters for servants who accompanied guests.

Ten cottages were added during the 1950's.

In 1955 Waterman Steamship sold the hotel to Southern Industries. Then in 1966 James K. McLean purchased the hotel. During Mr. McLean's ownership he added the hotel's current Bay House. At that point the hotel had grown to 172 guestrooms.

In 1967 a second 9-hole golf course and the first conference center were added.

In 1979 Hurricane Fredrick closed the hotel for seven months. Roofs were damaged, Julep Point was totally destroyed, and 5,000 trees on the golf course were lost. True to its nature, the Grand Hotel overcame still another disaster and reopened on April 10, 1980.

In 1981 the Marriott Corporation bought the Grand Hotel. Shortly after the purchase the Marriott added two buildings, the North Bay House and the Marina Building, bringing the total guestrooms to 306.

In 1986 the old Gunnison House was taken down to make way for the Grand Ballroom to accommodate the many group conventions that are held there today. Marriott added an additional 9-hole golf course to make the total 36 holes.

In 1999 the Grand Hotel was purchased by the Alabama Real Estate Holdings which is financed by the Retirement Systems of Alabama. During the next few years the hotel was revitalized by a \$50 million renovation. A 20,000 sq ft European spa, an indoor pool, fitness center, movement studio, new guest rooms, a family water complex and additional meeting space were built. Renovations took place in our guest rooms, restaurant, lounges, meeting space, golf course and other areas throughout the resort.

The Fall of 2005 brought Hurricane Katrina, with a storm surge that reached over 12 feet at some points the hotel was temporarily closed. In April of 2006 the Spa and Marina guests rooms were reopened along with the Grand Spa and the outdoor water complex. It took another 7 months before the entire hotel was reopened on November 1, 2006. Almost 70 million dollars was spent on the renovation to the buildings, grounds, golf courses and meeting space to bring the "Queen of Southern Resorts" to her original and in some cases improved state.

Time and improvements march on, as does the tradition of the Grand Hotel. You can ask any of our over 400 associates you meet and almost all of them can share with you some small story of our hotel. Some of our older associates with 35 or 40 years of service have almost grown up here. If you have time, ask them for a story and we believe you will truly understand why we are so proud of the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa and the tradition that lives on.



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