

Dear Reader,

If you've been wondering why you haven't received this issue before now, we admit we've been "goofing off"—getting married and going on a honeymoon. We'll consider your patience a wedding gift. By the way, Yesterday In Florida, Inc. is now a true family business. Grady Smith, Sr. and I are the happily wed couple, and Grady Smith, Jr., my step-son.

Now I know you're dying to know where we went for our honeymoon. Let's see if you can guess. The first morning, we settled into lounge chairs under palm trees facing the ocean, and ordered fresh fruit smoothies to go with the novels we were reading. In the afternoon we watched people swimming with dolphins. The next day it rained, but I certainly didn't mind shopping, especially since I forgot to put sunscreen on my legs the day before! The next day we were quite adventurous as we signed up for a three hour cattle drive! We had a great time playing wrangler—whooping and hollering all the while. The third morning we were ready for more sun and fun and went out to sea in a large, smooth sailing catamaran, stopping to snorkel along the coast, where we were served a beautiful buffet. A thrilling bonus came in the "person" of two dolphins who raced beside the boat for miles and miles. (I decided then and there that if I could be any other creature in the world, I'd like to be a dolphin! No matter that another time I said I'd like to be an eagle soaring.)

Have you guessed Key West? Wrong. Sanibel? Wrong again. Fernandina Beach? Destin? Longboat Key? Miami? Not quite. You've got the wrong body of water! Do flowers strung together, volcanoes and the hula make you shout "Hawaii"?

Yes, we admit we left the State, but don't think of us as traitors. What we were doing was "comparative research." After all, I am reporting back to our readers. (Note to self: Check with accountant to see if our honeymoon could be tax deductible.)

While I'm proud to say we could have done just about everything we did "in state," I have come to accept that there is no way we would have stopped working unless we went out of state! We also want to report in Florida's favor that gasoline in Hawaii costs 50 cents more per gallon, a medium box of cereal was \$7 and a gallon of milk was \$8! Most residents seem to have to work two jobs in order to support themselves. For tourists, hotel prices, meals and tours were much higher than Florida's. (Another note to self: Thank Hilton for the exceptional accommodations at the Waikaloa and Hilton Hawaiian Village, paid for with our Hilton Honor Points that we earned in Florida.)

All in all, after a wonderfully relaxing and romantic honeymoon, we're glad to be back enjoying all that Florida has to offer—including producing Yesterday in Florida. But most of all, Grady missed sweet ice tea and grits. I married a true north Floridian!

Mary Lou Merritt

Mary Lou Merritt
Publisher



Grady Smith, Jr.; Grady; Mary Lou; Melissa and David Merritt.



Mary Lou



She was born an African princess, became a Florida slave and made history as a plantation and slave owner.

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Cocoanut or Coconut? 5

When Miami was just a pioneer settlement, Coconut Grove was already welcoming world-famous visitors and establishing itself as a jewel in Florida's tropical crown.



No make-up, no boys 16

No make-up, no jewelry, no crinolines and no boys spelled paradise at Everglades School for Girls.



Glamour for the common folks

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Resplendent curtains, plush carpeting, gargoyles, tapestries—this was the sight that first greeted movie goers in the 1920s.



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Publisher/President

Mary Lou Merritt

Editor

Grady W. Smith, Jr.

Graphic Design

Chiaki Kinoshita

Vice President, Sales

Grady W. Smith, Sr.

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