

Dear Readers,

We enjoy receiving your comments, questions and suggestions, but don't despair if we don't get right back to you. Look for a response in "Letters to the Editor" or, if you have suggested an interesting topic, we will endeavor to research and write an article addressing that topic. Be patient though, as it might take a while to find appropriate space. As an example, some time ago, one of our readers suggested that we write about the 1920s hurricanes. As the topic definitely tied in with our "Florida's Land Boom" article which was already slated for our editorial calendar for this issue, we have included an article about it on pages 46-48.



Mary Lou

Speaking of editorial calendars, it is time to address the year 2004! We would love to hear any suggestions you have for next year's articles. Check out our 2004 editorial calendar on our website www.yesterdayinflorida.com. Let us know what you want.

You will notice in this issue, we have many more contributing writers. It is so good to receive articles from our readers. We prefer short articles (approximately 200-500 words), particularly first-person stories including photographs. Sending it in a Word format on a disc is preferable, but we will consider a typed or legibly written story. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope, and a brief biographical sketch of the author, including phone numbers and other pertinent contact information.

One of our goals is to invite Florida authors or known historians to participate in growing Yesterday In Florida. To my delight, at the 2003 Florida State Historical Society meeting, several offered to contribute an article. Additionally, we plan on launching a reference recommendation page in upcoming issues to acknowledge and recommend the books we have particularly enjoyed in researching each issue. If you have read any publications, magazine or newspaper articles regarding a fascinating Florida topic, we would appreciate it if you would send us a copy or citation.

In researching the article on state universities, I read a quotation from Dr. Fred Gainous, President of Florida A&M University, which I couldn't agree with more: "To me, the greatest part ... is learning just as much as the students!" The best part about publishing Yesterday In Florida, is learning so much about Florida's heritage. Readers, I hope you feel the same way. And hurry with your suggestions for the coming year's topics.

Very truly yours,

Mary Lou Merritt

Mary Lou Merritt
Publisher



Stormsong by sculptor Hugh Nicholson was unveiled in August. Rep. Katherine Harris addresses the crowd at the Capitol. Who's the empty chair for? Our publisher who was researching articles for Yesterday.



She had everything a woman could want 34

Born in Long Island, New York in the midst of the Depression, Lillian Lee McKim traveled to Palm Beach in high society with her mother. That was just the beginning.

Yesterday in Florida™
Number 13, September/October, 2003
ISSN 1546-0061

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Yesterday in Florida is published bimonthly by Yesterday in Florida, Inc. Post Office Box 38546, Tallahassee, FL, 32315. Visit our web site: YesterdayinFlorida.com. Contact us at YesterdayinFL@aol.com or call us at 850/878-2525. ©Copyright, 2003.

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The Land Boom 5

Florida's land boom was called "The world's greatest poker game, played with building lots instead of chips."

FAMU comes of age 14

Founded in 1887, with just fifteen students, Florida A&M received university status in 1953 and enrollment increased to 3,500, including graduate students.

Football classic 21

The First Annual New Year's Day Football Classic was held in 1933 between the University of Miami and Manhattan College at Moore Park.

Artist celebrates 31

For more than forty years, Edna Hibel has been one of America's best loved artists.

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