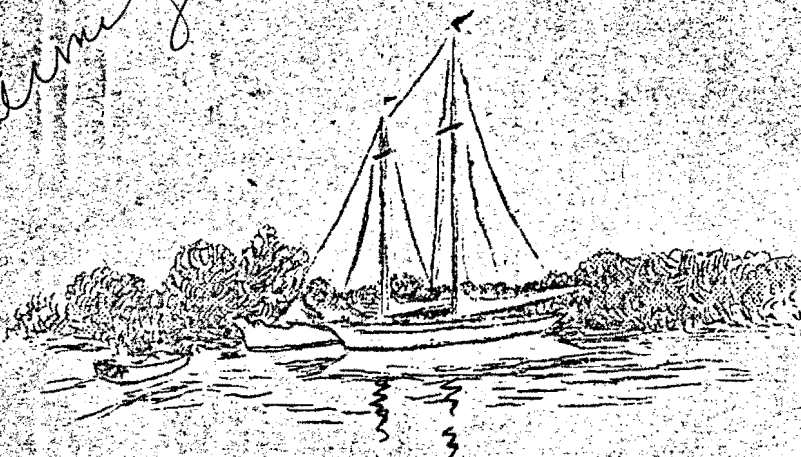


A BOATER'S PARADISE -----

ELLIOTT KEY PARK



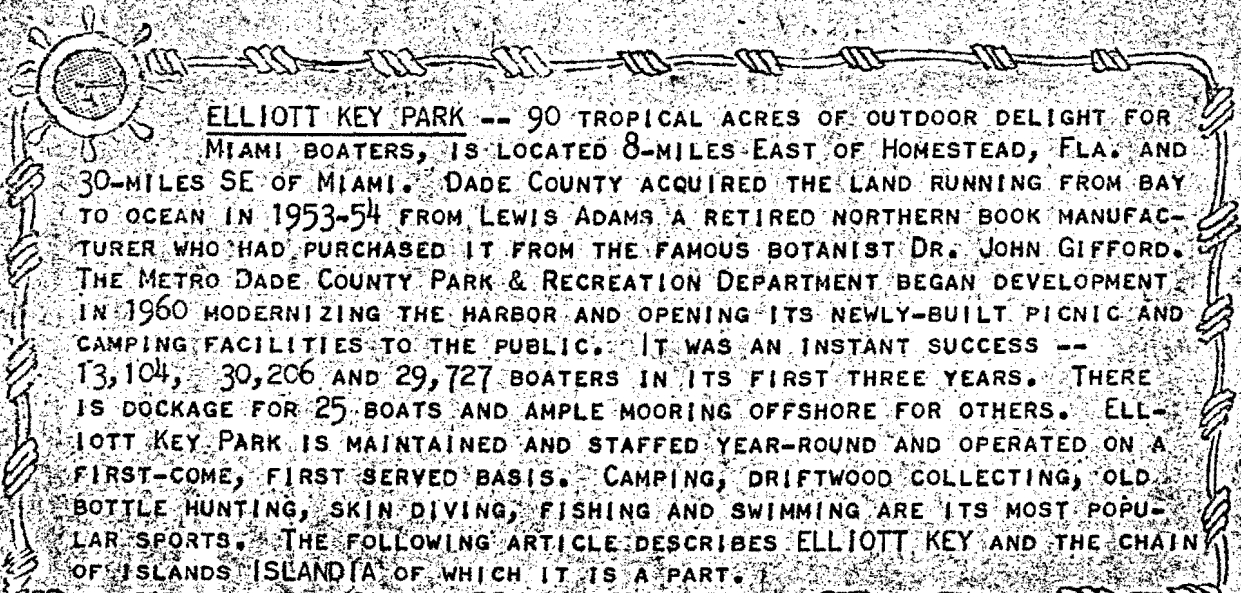
A PROFILE OF HISTORY COMPILED BY ISLANDIA-HISTORIAN

JANE NORDT

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METRO DADE COUNTY PARK & RECREATION DEPT.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
50 S.W. 32 Rd. --- MIAMI, 36, FLA.

**ELLIOTT KEY PARK** -- 90 TROPICAL ACRES OF OUTDOOR DELIGHT FOR MIAMI BOATERS, IS LOCATED 8-MILES EAST OF HOMESTEAD, FLA. AND 30-MILES SE OF MIAMI. DADE COUNTY ACQUIRED THE LAND RUNNING FROM BAY TO OCEAN IN 1953-54 FROM LEWIS ADAMS A RETIRED NORTHERN BOOK MANUFACTURER WHO HAD PURCHASED IT FROM THE FAMOUS BOTANIST DR. JOHN GIFFORD. THE METRO DADE COUNTY PARK & RECREATION DEPARTMENT BEGAN DEVELOPMENT IN 1960 MODERNIZING THE HARBOR AND OPENING ITS NEWLY-BUILT PICNIC AND CAMPING FACILITIES TO THE PUBLIC. IT WAS AN INSTANT SUCCESS -- 13,104, 30,206 AND 29,727 BOATERS IN ITS FIRST THREE YEARS. THERE IS DOCKAGE FOR 25 BOATS AND AMPLE MOORING OFFSHORE FOR OTHERS. ELLIOTT KEY PARK IS MAINTAINED AND STAFFED YEAR-ROUND AND OPERATED ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. CAMPING, DRIFTWOOD COLLECTING, OLD BOTTLE HUNTING, SKIN DIVING, FISHING AND SWIMMING ARE ITS MOST POPULAR SPORTS. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE DESCRIBES ELLIOTT KEY AND THE CHAIN OF ISLANDS ISLANDIA OF WHICH IT IS A PART.

SOME EARLY HISTORY OF ISLANDIA

BY JANE NORDT
HISTORIAN - CITY OF ISLANDIA

WHAT IS ISLANDIA? SOME FRIENDS SAY THAT OUR CITY IS A BEAUTIFUL CHAIN OF 33 TROPICAL ISLANDS. ISLANDIA HAS BEEN RECENTLY GRANTED A MUNICIPAL CHARTER IN DADE COUNTY. THIS LITTLE COMPLEX OF CORAL ISLANDS IN SOUTH BISCAYNE BAY IS BORDERED ON THE EAST BY HAWK CHANNEL ON THE WESTERN EDGE OF THE GULF STREAM. BY SOME COMPELLING INFLUENCE OF TIDES AND CURRENTS, THE KEYS OF ISLANDIA CONFORM TO THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE MAINLAND SHORE.

BECAUSE WE LOVE THESE FLORIDA KEYS AND THE CLEAR GREEN WATER OF THE BAY, WE'VE LOOKED INTO RECORDS OF HISTORIANS AND CARTOGRAPHERS TO LEARN A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE PICTURESQUE PAST. WE'VE FOUND FORMER PLACE NAMES AND A FEW RECORDS OF THE FIRST SETTLERS WHO LIVED HERE BEFORE WE DID.

OUR ISLANDS ARE RICH IN HISTORY AND LORE. STRANGE AND DANGEROUS EVENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE HERE. SPECTACULAR VILLAINS AND COURAGEOUS PIONEERS HAVE CHALLENGED THE OFFSHORE REEFS, EXPLORED AND USED THE HIDDEN CHANNELS, DUG IN THE LAND FOR TREASURES AND GRAVES, CULTIVATED THE SOILS FOR EXOTIC FRUITS AND CUT DOWN THE TREES FOR HOMES OR FOR PROFIT.

DAVID O. TRUE, AUTHORITY ON FLORIDA HISTORY AND ESPECIALLY THE CHARTS OF THE EARLY NAVIGATORS, TELLS US, "THE CALOOSA INDIANS AND THE TEQUESTAS, A RELATED TRIBE, LIVED... ON THE KEYS LONG BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE EUROPEANS."

THEIR SOCIETY WAS GOVERNED BY VARIOUS CHIEFS KNOWN AS CACIQUES AND THE TRIBES WERE FREQUENTLY AT WAR. THEY LIVED FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE LAND AND THE SEA AND CRISSCROSSED FROM KEY TO KEY WHERE INDIGENOUS COCONUTS WERE FOUND GROWING ALONG THE BEACHES AND BANKS OF THE INLETS. OF NECESSITY, THE INDIANS HAD TO LOCATE ALL THE SOURCES OF FRESH

WATER WHICH WERE MOSTLY POCKETS OF SURFACE RAIN WATER, OCCASIONAL SPRINGS DISCOVERED IN THE BAY AND AN OVERFLOW FROM THE 'GLADES IN RIVULETS LIKE CHI'S CUT, YEARS AGO, ON THE MAINLAND SOUTH-EAST OF PRESENT HOMESTEAD.

FISH, CONCH, TURTLE AND CRAWFISH WERE IMPORTANT FOODS AND HUNTING REWARDED THE BOW AND SPEAR MARKSMEN WITH BEAR, RACCOON, DEER, POSSUM, BIRDS AND ALLIGATORS. AMONG THEIR CROPS IN SETTLEMENTS WERE COONTIE AND MAIZE, CULTIVATED WITH FARMING TOOLS FASHIONED FROM SHELLS. THEIR HOMES WERE ROUND AND THATCHED AND THIS DESCRIPTION FITS NICELY THAT OF THE SQUAWS.

JOHN CABOT (WHO DISCOVERED NORTH AMERICA), RETURNING FROM MEXICO, SAILED BY CAPE FLORIDA, PERHAPS DRY TORTUGAS, ON APRIL 25, 1499, AND REACHED THE PRESENT MIAMI RIVER FIVE DAYS LATER. HE HAD BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE ISLE OF SEVEN CITIES OR ISLARIO.

THE ALBERT CANTINO MAP OF 1502 FIRST SHOWED FLORIDA AS A PENINSULA, HOME OF THE EARLY INDIANS WHO CAME FROM THE CARIBBEAN AND FROM LANDS WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI. THE MAINLAND FROM THE MIAMI RIVER SOUTHWARD WAS NAMED "C DO FIN D ABRILL" AND WHEN SAILORS 'STOOD OVER' FOR THIS COUNTRY, HAVING SAILED FROM ANOTHER PORT, THIS WAS WHERE THEY HOPED TO SIGHT LAND. CONNELO, WHICH WE BELIEVE MEANS HARDWOOD TREES, WAS THE FIRST NAME OF PRESENT METROPOLITAN MIAMI, SOUTH OF THE RIVER

PONCE DE LEON NAMED THE FLORIDA KEYS, LOS MARTIRES, IN 1513, AND IT WAS DURING THAT EARLY PERIOD OF EXPLORATION THAT THE KEY INDIANS FIRST BECAME EDUCATED TO THE USE OF METALS THAT THEY FOUND IN THE WRECKS OF EUROPEAN SHIPS SO FREQUENTLY AGROUND ON THE OFFSHORE, UNCHARTED REEFS.

A YOUNG SPANISH BOY, ESCALENTE DE FONTENADA, TAKEN PRISONER FROM ONE OF THOSE WRECKS, WAS HELD IN SOUTH FLORIDA BY THE INDIANS FOR 17 YEARS BEFORE MAKING HIS ESCAPE. HIS MEMOIRS GIVE US THE FIRST WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA NATIVES. THE NAME OF BISCAYNE MAY HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM THE NAME OF THE VISCAYNO, HELD CAPTIVE WITH FONTENADA BUT FOR WHOM OUR HISTORIAN HAD LITTLE LIKING.

PEDRO MENENDEZ DE AVILES ARRIVED IN SAINT AUGUSTINE AND NAMED THE SETTLEMENT IN 1565. HE HAD BEEN SENT BY THE KING OF SPAIN TO CONVERT THE INDIANS AND TAKE FLORIDA FROM THE FRENCH. MENENDEZ ENCOURAGED CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES AND PRIESTS WITH THEIR WORK BUT THE INDIANS ON THE SOUTHERN MAINLAND AND ON THE KEYS WERE FRIENDLY ONLY UNTIL NEWS CAME OF THE ARRIVAL OF SLAVERS WHO HAD RECENTLY RAZED THE BAHAMIAN POPULATION.

AN ENTRANCE BETWEEN ISLANDS, POSSIBLY AT BEAR CUT, NORTH OF KEY BISCAYNE, WAS CHARTED AS VOCASSE DE MIGUEL MORA ON ONE OLD MAP, AND LEMOYNE, IN 1591, WROTE "SCOPULI DICTO MARTYRES" ALONG THE KEYS. THE HERRERA MAP SHOWS "CABECA DE LA MARTIRES." THE GULF STREAM FORMED A PERFECT SHIPPING LANE THOUGH BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HAD NOT YET GIVEN IT THAT NAME. TREASURES FROM THE NEW WORLD WERE TAKEN BY THIS ROUTE TO SPAIN IF THE TRADE WINDS BLEW FAVORABLY, BUT MUCH WAS LOST ON THE OCEAN FLOOR WHEN GALLEONS FAILED TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THE UNMARKED CHANNELS BETWEEN THE REEFS. CONTENTS OF THOSE WRECKED VESSELS ATTRACTED OUR EARLIEST BEACHCOMBERS. MEN WERE OFTEN PUT ASHORE TO SET FIRES ON THE HEADLANDS TO WARN THE SHIPS AWAY FROM THE REEFS.

ONE EARLY SPANISH MAP SHOWS THE WESTERN SHORE OF OUR PRESENT SOUTH BISCAYNE BAY, WHERE SAILORS AND PIRATES FILLED THEIR WATER CASKS, AS VOCA DE BIA NUEVA. BORDERED ON ONE SIDE BY THE NARROW BAY AND ON THE OTHER BY PROTECTIVE CORAL REEFS AND NOW FAMOUS SEA GARDENS, THE SOUTHERN PART OF WHICH IS NAMED THE JOHN PENNEKAMP CORAL REEF PRESERVE, AN INLET BETWEEN ELLIOTT AND OLD RHODES KEY WAS A REFUGE FOR THE BLACK CAESARS.

MANY PIRATES MADE THESE KEYS THEIR BASE OF OPERATIONS FROM WHICH THEY PILLAGED. MR. TRUE NOTES THAT "BLACK CAESAR WAS WRECKING OUT OF AN INLET DOWN THE BAY FROM 1716-1718, WHEN THE PARADING OF PIRATES TOOK PLACE IN THE BAHAMAS, AND AGAIN FROM 1818-1821. THE EXPLANATION FOR THE WIDELY SEPARATED DATES IS THAT THERE WERE TWO PIRATES WITH THE SAME NAME. ABOUT 1717, TEACH (BLACKBEARD) WAS OPERATING OUT OF THE BAHAMAS UNTIL (GOVERNOR) WOODES ROGERS DROVE HIM OUT. TEACH DECIDED TO ATTACK CHARLESTON AND EFFECT A BLOCKADE OF THE WHOLE SOUTHEAST COAST. HE TOOK WITH HIM A HUGE NEGRO NAMED BLACK CAESAR. IN 1718, BLACKBEARD WAS KILLED ABOARD HIS SHIP, REVENGE, IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT WHILE THE FAITHFUL CAESAR WAITED WITH LIGHTED MATCH IN THE HOLD AND INSTRUCTIONS TO BLOW UP THE SHIP IN DEFEAT. CAESAR WAS PREVENTED FROM DOING THIS AND TAKEN TO VIRGINIA WHERE HE WAS HANGED.

R. AND I. OTTENS' NOVA TABULA OF 1730 SHOWS THE NATURAL CHANNELS AND HARBORS OF ISLANDIA AS ABRA DE MONTANG AND ABRA MOURE. A CHART SHOWING THE ROUTE OF THE SPANISH PLATE FLEET FROM ARCHIVO GENERAL DE INDIAS IDENTIFIED THE KEYS AS MASCARAS AND PLAYUELOS.

ENGLAND GAINED CONTROL OF FLORIDA FROM SPAIN IN EXCHANGE FOR HAVANA IN 1763 AND WELCOMED NEW COLONISTS OF ALL RACES AND RELIGIONS, INCLUDING A GROUP OF INDIANS WHO WANDERED HERE FROM THE NORTH. THESE INDIANS, MERGING WITH ABORIGINES, BECAME OUR FIRST SEMINOLES.

IN 1771, GERARD DE BRAHM CHARTED "THE ANCIENT TEGESTA NOW PROMONTORY OF EAST FLORIDA AS IT CAN BE ASCERTAIN'D TO HAVE BEEN IN FORMER AGES... TO THE BETTER DISTINGUISHING HAWKE CHANNEL." A SOUTH PENINSULA IS OFFSHORE OUR PRESENT ISLANDIA AND A DOTTED LINE ALONG THE REEF EXPLAINS "SOUTH OF THE LINE THE CURRENT OF THE FLORIDA GULF STREAM SETS ALWAYS NORTHWARDLY."

ENGLISH FAMILY NAMES OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE APPEARED ON MAPS OF THIS

PERIOD. KEPPEL INLET, JUST NORTH OF THE THEN UNNAMED RAGGED KEYS, WAS SO CALLED AFTER AN ENGLISH ABSENTEE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA. BULLER INLET MARKED OUR PRESENT CAESAR'S CREEK. A LATER DE BRAHM MAP SHOWED BISCAYNE BAY AS SANDWICH GULF. SANDWICH WAS LORD COMMISSIONER OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS, WHITEHALL, ENGLAND. BISCAYNE BAY AS IT IS KNOWN NOW, WAS POSSIBLY NAMED FOR THE BAY OF BISCAY, BETWEEN FRANCE AND SPAIN, AND EARLY FISHERMEN AND SAILORS FROM THERE MAY HAVE LEFT THEIR VISITS RECORDED ONLY IN THIS WAY.

LOS PARADISOS REFERRED TO INDIAN MOUNDS ON THE ISLANDIA KEYBOARD. POLLOCK INCLUDED THE RAGGED KEYS WHICH WERE PROBABLY NAMED LATER FOR AN ISLAND IN THE BAHAMAS. SANDS KEY WAS CHARTED AS POWNALL ISLAND AND ELLIOTT KEY AS ELLIS ISLAND WITH BISCAYNE RIFF AND LITBURY RIFF OFFSHORE. A MAP OF THAT PERIOD BY JOHNSON AND WARD, OWNED BY MRS. CARL DUNAWAY OF MIAMI, SHOWS ELLIOTT KEY AS ELLICOTT KEY. ANDREW ELLICOTT SURVEYED THE LINE OF THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY OF SPANISH FLORIDA FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN 1800.

VOLUME 11 OF KINFOLKS BY BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM CURRY HARLLEE, USMC, INCLUDES GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORDS OF THE FIRST HOMESTEADERS ON THE FLORIDA KEYS. THE NAMES OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THE FIRST FAMILIES FROM THE BAHAMAS WHO MOVED TO KEY WEST AND SETTLED ALONG THE KEYS ARE FAMILIAR IN SOUTH FLORIDA NOW BUT THE FIRST JOSEPH CURRY CAME FROM SCOTLAND TO NORTH AMERICA TO FIND "TURMOIL AND INTENSE ANTAGONISM." BEFORE THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR HE WAS A DEPUTY SURVEYOR UNDER GEPARD DE BRAHM. JOSEPH CURRY'S FIVE SONS MOVED TO THE BAHAMA ISLANDS JOINING THE EARLIER INDEPENDENTS, AMONG THEM, THE RUSSELLS, SWEETINGS, SAUNDERS, ROBERTS, FINDERS AND THOMPSONS, WHO HAD MIGRATED FROM ENGLAND AND BERMUDA IN THE MID-1600'S.

BERNARD ROMANS' CHARTS OF 1774 SHOW FOOL'S CAPE OR FALSE CAPE, NORTH OF OUR PRESENT ISLANDIA, AND PARIDA WITH MASCARES ON THE BAY SIDE OF THE ISLANDS.

SAUNDERS (SANDS) CUT IS SHOWN. THE SAUNDERS FAMILY EVIDENTLY HAD EXPLORED THIS REGION WELL. FAMILIES ON ELLIOTT KEY LATER CALLED THE CUT BETWEEN THE RAGGED KEYS AND SANDS KEY, LEWIS CUT, BUT WE HAVE FOUND NO EXPLANATION FOR THAT NAME. ROMANS SHOWS BLACK CAESAR'S CREEK FOR THE FIRST TIME. HIS NATURAL HISTORY OF FLORIDA GIVES SOME DIRECTIONS FOR NAVIGATING THE REEFS. THESE KEYS HAD BEEN INCORRECTLY INCLUDED AS PART OF KEY LARGO AND ARE CALLED PAU LAS AND HIJOS LLONGO LARGO ON ONE OLD MAP. ROMANS NOTED SEVEN ROCKS COVERED WITH MANGROVES JUST PAST THE SOLDIERS KEYS. THEIR "TRENCHING" WAS NEARLY SSW. PAST THESE WAS THE KEY WITH TWO SMALL HILLS ON IT WHICH THE SPANIARDS NAMED LAS TETAS OR THE PAPS UNTIL THE PROVIDENCE PEOPLE CALLED IT SAUNDERS KEY. A VESSEL DRAWING ABOUT FOUR FEET COULD ENTER THE SOUND BETWEEN THESE KEYS AND THE FRESH WATER ON THE MAINLAND. HE DESCRIBED THE UPPER FLORIDA KEYS WITH THE MIDDLE ONE, PERHAPS KEY LARGO, AS THE HIGHEST ONE NAMED "CABEZA DE LOS MARTIRES" AND CHARTED CAPE FLORIDA OPPOSITE THAT DANGEROUS REEF NOW MARKED BY CARYSFORT LIGHT. WHEN THE SCOW, LEDBURY, JOHN LORRAIN AS MASTER, WAS GROUND-ED ON ELLIOTT KEY A LITTLE NORTH OF CAESAR'S CREEK DURING A HURRICANE IN 1769, HE WRITES OF THE SWELLING OF THE WATER WITHIN THE REEF TO A HEIGHT OF 30 FEET.

THOMAS JEFFREY'S CHART OF 1775 SHOWED ISLANDS IN THE PRESENT SAFETY VALVE NORTH OF ISLANDIA AS OSWALD AND LAURENCE. ELLIOTT KEY IS SHOWN AND JENYN, ALSO KNOWN AS JENNINGS, WAS THE NAME OF OLD RHODES KEY. HENRY JENNINGS, PRIVATEER, MUST HAVE BASED SOME OPERATIONS FROM THERE, SALVAGING WHAT HE COULD FROM THE SPANISH GALLEONS LOST OFF THE COAST IN 1715. OLD RHODES KEY MAY HAVE BEEN NAMED FOR THE FAMOUS ISLE OF RHODES OR ROSES, IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, OR FOR ROSE ISLAND ROCKS IN THE BAHAMAS.

EVEN BEFORE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, LOYALISTS WHOSE DESCENDANTS WOULD HOME-STEAD ON THE UPPER KEYS LEFT THE UN-TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF THE COASTAL CITIES IN GEORGIA AND THE CAROLINAS WHEN THEIR PROPERTY WAS CONFISCATED "ON A MERE SUSPICION OF DISLOYALTY."

LEGARE ANCHORAGE OFF ISLANDIA CAME FROM AN OLD CHARLESTON NAME. THOSE FAMILIES BELIEVED THE KING TO BE MORE FAIR THAN THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENTS AND THEY MOVED TO SAINT AUGUSTINE AND ENGLISH FLORIDA. WITH THE ATTRACTION OF LAND GRANTS IN THE BAHAMAS, MANY MOVED TO THE ISLANDS. MARINERS, SAILORS AND FISHERMEN CROSSED THE GULF STREAM OFTEN AS THEY BECAME MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE FLORIDA KEYS.

GEORGE GAULD, SURVEYING FOR THE ADMIRALTY BEFORE 1775, WROTE, "THE KEYS ARE STREWED WITH FRAGMENTS OF WRECKS AND SELDOM A YEAR PASSES WITHOUT ADDING SOME TO THEIR NUMBER." HE LOCATED THE "OUTSIDE OF THE REEF IS NO WHERE ABOVE 6 OR 7 MILES DISTANT FROM THE RANGE OF ISLANDS, (WHICH) YOU MAY SAFELY, IN THE DAY TIME, APPROACH NEAR ENOUGH TO MAKE THE LAND DISTINCTLY, WHICH IS A VERY MATERIAL POINT FOR THOSE THAT ARE BOUND THROUGH THE GULF. THE REEF ITSELF APPEARS VERY PLAINLY OF A BROWN COLOUR MIXT WITH WHITE SPOTS." HE MENTIONS THE "RESORT FOR THE PROVIDENCE WRECKERS," AND THE "LITTLE CHANNELS BETWEEN THE BANKS THROUGH WHICH FISHERMEN FROM THE BAHAMAS SAILED IN THEIR SMALL TURLING VESSELS."

GOVERNOR JAMES GRANT OF EAST FLORIDA WROTE OF THE SPONTANEOUS GROWTH OF CITRUS ON THE KEYS AND THE GREAT QUANTITIES OF MAHOGANY AND OTHER TIMBER TO BE FOUND THERE. PRINCIPAL HARBORS WERE UNSOUNDED AND UNSURVEYED. A FRENCH CHART OF FLORIDA, 1780, SHOWS PLAYUELOS AND LAS TETAS AND CAYE LARGE S OF I DE BISCAYNO. THOMAS KITCHINS' MAP OF 1781 SHOWS PLAYUELOS AND LAS TETAS AS PRESENT ISLANDIA, NORTH OF CAYA LARGOS DE DOCE LEGUES.

EAST FLORIDA, WITH ITS GROWING POPULATION OF PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONALITIES, WAS CEDED BACK TO SPAIN IN 1783 AND ENGLISH LOYALISTS IN FLORIDA AGAIN MOVED ACROSS THE GULF STREAM TO THE BAHAMAS AND TO OTHER ISLANDS IN THE CARIBBEAN. JOHN CARY'S CHART SHOWS ISLANDIA AND KEY LARGO AS GREAT ISTHMUS.

JAMES GRANT FORBES, AUTHOR OF SKETCHES, A HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL OF THE FLORIDAS (1821), VISITED THE KEYS IN 1803 AND

PREDICTED THAT "INSTEAD OF BEING HAUNTS OF PICAROONS OF ALL COUNTRIES, THEY WILL BE CHANGED INTO THE RESIDENCE OF SOME INDUSTRIOUS PEOPLE." HE NOTED "THE MOUTH OF BLACK CAESAR'S, NEAR KEY LARGO, OR AS CALLED BY SOME BLACK SARAH'S CREEK, WHICH IS THE ONLY ENTRANCE INTO AN EXTENSIVE SOUND, BETWEEN THE KEYS AND THE MAINLAND, FURNISHES EXCELLENT WATER. THE SIDES OF THE CHANNEL ARE ALMOST PERPENDICULAR. THE WRITER, ON A VOYAGE IN THE SHIP RUFUS KING, DRIFTED AMONG THESE KEYS, WHICH HE CANNOT BUT CONSIDER THE MORE DANGEROUS, AS THE CURRENTS BAFLE ALL CALCULATION."

"ALONG THE FLORIDA REEF AND AMONG THE KEYS, A GREAT ABUNDANCE AND VARIETY OF TURTLE AND FISH MAY BE TAKEN... BESIDES THE GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE KEYS, OR ISLANDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRIVATEERING AND TURLTING, TO WHICH THEY HAVE LONG BEEN SUBSERVIENT, THEY WERE FORMERLY WELL TIMBERED... BUT THEY HAVE BEEN CUT AND CARRIED OFF BY THE WRECKERS... WHO SINCE THE WARS HAVE CEASED TO YIELD THEM THEIR USUAL HARVEST, HAVE DEPENDED FOR THEIR SUPPORT, IN A GREAT MEASURE UPON THIS ENCROACHMENT ON SPANISH TERRITORY. IN ADDITION TO THIS, THEY RECEIVE THEIR TURTLE FROM THIS QUARTER, HAVING CRAWLS WHICH THEY OCCUPY PERIODICALLY, ABOUT NOVEMBER WHEN THE TURTLES APPROACH THE FLORIDA SHORES IN IMMENSE GROUPS, AND BECOME AN EASY PREY TO THE DARTS OF THE TURLTLERS... IT IS CONFIDENTLY ASSERTED THAT THE INDIANS (CAME) TO THE EASTERN COAST TO WRECK."

THE UNITED STATES ACQUIRED FLORIDA IN 1821. ABOUT THIS TIME, WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BOWLES, AMONG HIS OTHER PROJECTS, INTERVENED FOR THE SEMINOLES' CONTROL OF THEIR LANDS. BOWLES BANK MAY HAVE BEEN NAMED FOR HIM. MORE THAN ONE TREASURE IS HIDDEN AMONG THE WOODED KEYS OF ISLANDIA. THE MANY OUTLETS OF CAESAR'S CREEK PROVIDED A PERFECT RETREAT FOR BLACK CAESAR THE SECOND, WHO LOWERED HIS MAST, TIED TO AN IRON RING ANCHORED TO A ROCK IN THE CREEK AND HID BEHIND THE TANGLE OF THE ISLANDS. CAESAR KEPT PRISONERS ON ELLIOTT KEY, WHICH MAY BE WHY INDIANS BELIEVED IT TO BE HAUNTED.

DAVID TRUE TELLS US THAT WHEN AMERICAN AUTHORITIES WERE PLANNING TO GET RID OF CAESAR, WORD REACHED HIM WITH MYSTERIOUS PROMPTNESS. HE SAILED WITH SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS IN GOLD BUT LEFT 24 TONS OF SILVER IN BISCAYNE BAY. HE JOINED OTHER PIRATES ON THE WEST COAST OF FLORIDA. RETURNING FOR THE SILVER HE WAS CAPTURED AND TAKEN BY THE NAVY TO KEY WEST. ACCORDING TO LEGEND, HE WAS TRICKED BY A RUSE OF THE WIDOW OF A METHODIST MINISTER WHOSE EYES HE HAD PUT OUT. IN KEY WEST HE WAS BURNED AT THE STAKE, THE WIDOW LIGHTING THE FAGGOTS. HIS SILVER TREASURE WAS SUNK BY HIS OWN ORDERS IN THE WATER AT CAESAR'S CREEK "WHERE ROCKS ARE BESIDE IT."

CAESAR'S CREEK MAY HAVE BEEN A SAFER PLACE FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF THE SECOND BLACK CAESAR BUT PIRACY IN GENERAL INCREASED AMONG THE FLORIDA KEYS. THE YOUNG FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TOOK STEPS TO SUBDUCE THESE "BRETHREN OF THE COAST."

A WEST INDIAN SQUADRON WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE NEW NAVAL BASE IN KEY WEST WITH COMMODORE DAVID PORTER IN COMMAND. IN SPITE OF YELLOW FEVER, THE PIRATE FIGHTERS WON THEIR BATTLES. THEY FOUGHT WITH SMALL SCHOONERS AND FERRY BOATS, MANEUVERABLE IN EITHER DIRECTION. AMONG THEIR SHIPS WAS THE SEAGULL, THE FIRST STEAM-PROPELLED VESSEL USED BY THE AMERICAN NAVY.

AN 1823 MAP BY H. S. TANNER SHOWS LES PARADIS AND SAUNDERS CUT IN ISLANDIA WITH STIRRUP BIGHT IN THE SOUTHWESTERN PART OF THE BAY. FINLEY'S MAP OF 1827 SHOWS SANDWICH GULF AND ELLIOT'S ISLAND.

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE BIRDS AND TROPICAL FORESTRY OF THE ISLANDS WHEN HE MADE A TRIP FROM ST. AUGUSTINE TO DRY TORTUGAS ABOARD THE CUTTER MARION IN 1832. HE DESCRIBED THE REEFS WHICH PROTECT THE KEYS AND THEIR HARBORS AS HAVING THE APPEARANCE OF "A HUGE WALL BUILT BY AN ARMY OF GIANTS." HE AROSE AT 3 O'CLOCK EACH MORNING AND HUNTED AMONG THE MANGROVES OF MANY KEYS TO SKETCH THE PLANTS AND BIRDS.

FOLLOWING THE EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN THE BAHAMAS IN 1834, AND THE FAILURE OF MANY PLANTATIONS, PIONEER FAMILIES WHO HAD ORIGINALLY EMIGRATED FROM GEORGIA AND THE CAROLINAS TO THE BAHAMAS, GREEN TURTLE CAY AND GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, AGAIN CROSSED THE GULF STREAM AND HOMESTEADED ON THE FLORIDA KEYS. RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES, THEY LIVED ALONG THE SEASHORE. BEFORE THE ORGANIZATION OF OUR COAST GUARD, THESE SETTLERS RESCUED MANY MEN AND SHIPS FROM THE REEFS BORDERING HAWK CHANNEL.

AN ANONYMOUS BRITISH MAP OF 1834 SHOWS BLACK SARAH'S CREEK AS CAESAR'S CREEK. JOHN LEE WILLIAMS CHARTED HIS MAP OF FLORIDA IN 1837 AND THE NAMES OF LA PARIDA AND MASCARAS NO LONGER DECORATIVELY DESCRIBED ISLANDIA IN PICTURESQUE SPANISH. SANDWICH GULF, OUR PRESENT BISCAYNE BAY, EXTENDED FROM THE MANGROVE FRINGE OF KEY LARGO TO RIO RATONES (MIAMI RIVER) ALMOST 40 MILES NORTHWARD. IT WAS SEVEN TO NINE FEET DEEP, THE BOTTOM COVERED IN PLACES WITH SOFT MUD. PAPO WAS THE NAME OF A SMALL GROUP OF ISLANDS THEN IN EXISTENCE NORTHEAST OF THE RAGGED KEYS, AND CASTOR AND POLLUX BORE THE PSEUDONYMS OF TWO PRIVATEERS ACTIVE IN THESE WATERS. BLACK CAESAR'S, SAUNDERS AND FOWEY WERE THREE INLETS FROM OCEAN TO BAY. WILLIAMS WROTE THAT THE EASTERN SHORE OF ELLIOTT KEY WAS COVERED WITH LUXURIANT HARDWOOD TREES AND THAT WRECKAGE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, CARRIED BY THE WAVES, COVERED THE SHORELINE. ALMOST OPPOSITE THE SOUTHERN KEYS OF ISLANDIA BEGAN CARYSFORT REEF, EXTENDING TO THE SOLDIERS KEYS. WILLIAMS THOUGHT IT THE MOST DANGEROUS PART OF THE WHOLE REEF AS MORE SHIPS WERE WRECKED THERE THAN ALONG THE FLORIDA COAST.

FLORIDA'S RENOWNED NATURALIST AND PROFESSOR OF FORESTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, DR. JOHN GIFFORD, WROTE OF THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SEMINOLE WARS, IN PROGRESS AT THIS TIME. HIS MANUSCRIPTS TELL OF THEIR EFFECT ON RESIDENTS OF THE KEYS. "THERE WAS TURMOIL FOR A LONG TIME...WE HAD ONE HUNDRED

AND FIFTY FORTS AND ALMOST AS MANY BROKEN TREATIES... (AND) DROVE THE INDIANS INTO THE SWAMPS OF THE SOUTH IN ORDER TO SEE THE LAND GET BACK THE PURCHASE PRICE."

SLAVE RAIDS AND HUNGER PLAGUED THE INDIANS ON RESERVATIONS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA. SCATTERED TRIBES, REFUSING TO CEDE THEIR LANDS, FOUGHT FOR SURVIVAL. HOME-STEADERS ON THE KEYS MOVED SOUTHWEST TOWARD KEY VACA AND KEY WEST WHEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE INDIANS FAILED AND RETURNED TO THE UPPER KEYS ONLY WHEN THE INDIANS RETREATED INTO THE 'GLADES. COLONEL WILLIAM HARNEY CAPTURED AND KILLED CHAKIKA, LAST OF THE SEMINOLE CHIEFS AND LEADER OF THE PERRINE MASSACRE ON INDIAN KEY (FORMERLY NAMED MATANZA BY THE SPANISH AND KAY COMFORT BY THE ENGLISH).

COLONEL ROBERT E. LEE VISITED BISCAYNE BAY IN 1849, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM GENERAL JOSEPH TOTTEN (TOTTEN KEY), CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, WASHINGTON, AND THE WAR DEPARTMENT, TO CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY OF LOCAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. CAPTAIN M. C. MEIGS (MEIGS KEY) WAS LATER CAPTAIN OF ENGINEERS BASED AT KEY WEST DURING THE CIVIL WAR. KEY WEST WAS THE LARGEST SALVAGE CENTER IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN 1856, LIEUTENANT J. C. IVES COMPLETED HIS FAMOUS FLORIDA MAP AT THE DIRECTION OF JEFFERSON DAVIS, THEN U. S. SECRETARY OF STATE. IVES SHOWS A "PEARL OYSTER BANK" NORTH OF ISLANDIA AND "ELLIOTT'S KEY" INCLUDES SEAGRAPE POINT. "KOOTIE AND HUNTING GROUNDS" ARE ON THE MAINLAND WHERE COCONUT GROVE IS NOW.

KINFOLDS, BY BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM CURRY HARLEE, TELLS OF THE LOYALTY OF "PEACEABLE AND INDUSTRIOUS" CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS FROM THE KEYS. WITH THE FEDERAL OCCUPATION OF KEY WEST, CONFEDERATE SYMPATHIZERS LEFT THE ISLANDS VIA THE BAHAMAS TO JOIN SOUTHERN FORCES IN NORTH FLORIDA. ONE JOHN CURRY, WHO MOVED HIS FAMILY TO MANATEE IN 1860, HELPED THE CONFEDERATE SECRETARY OF STATE, JUDAH P. BENJAMIN, ESCAPE FROM FLORIDA.

DR. A. J. HANNA WRITES IN HIS FLIGHT TO OBLIVION THAT GENERAL JOHN BRECKIN-

RIDGE, CONFEDERATE SECRETARY OF WAR, SAILED DOWN BISCAYNE BAY TO ELLIOTT KEY AND ESCAPED THROUGH CAESAR'S CREEK, TAKING WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE CONFEDERATE TREASURY TO SAFETY. ONE DIARY OF THAT ERA RECORDED THAT "SCORES OF FLAMINGOES, VERMILION SCARLET" WERE ON ELLIOTT KEY. PRESENT MIAMI WAS OCCUPIED BY VERY ROUGH MEN.

IN 1886, JEREMIAH SAUNDERS FROM GREEN TURTLE CAY IN THE BAHAMAS, WAS GRANTED LAND ON ELLIOTT AND ADAMS KEYS BY THE UNITED STATES WHOSE PRESIDENT WAS THEN GROVER CLEVELAND. HE WAS A PLANTER AND LIVED ON THE OCEAN SIDE OF ELLIOTT KEY, A MILE NORTH OF CAESAR'S CREEK, WITH HIS WIFE, MARIAN, AND THEIR TWO SONS, EDWIN AND HERMAN.

EDWIN MARRIED SARAH MAGDALINE ROBERTS, DAUGHTER OF JOHN AND MARGARET (PINDER) ROBERTS, OF GREEN TURTLE CAY AND CHEROKEE SOUND. SHE WAS THE GRAND-DAUGHTER OF JOHN WILLIAM AND SARAH (RUSSELL) ROBERTS AND GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER OF WILLIAM AND JANE (CURRY) RUSSELL.

WE VISITED SARAH MAGDALINE IN HOMESTEAD IN 1961. AFTER EDWIN'S DEATH, SHE HAD REMARRIED; SHE WAS NOW MRS. R. C. PINDER. SHE AND HER BROTHER-IN-LAW, HERMAN, AND HIS WIFE HAD SOLD THEIR ELLIOTT KEY PROPERTY IN 1909 TO FRANKLIN COLEMAN BUSH, THEN A WEALTHY RESIDENT OF COCONUT GROVE.

HER REMINISCENCES OF THE OLD HOME ON ELLIOTT KEY WERE WARM AND HAPPY, ILLUMINED BY A LOVELY SMILE. SHE REMEMBERED THAT THEIR ATTIC WAS "JUST LIKE A LITTLE STORE, DON'T YOU KNOW...WE BOUGHT EVERYTHINK IN QUANTITIES--BARRELS OF SUGAR AND CASES OF CANNED GOODS--AND HAD ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS FROM THE SEA--TURTLES, FISH AND CRAWFISH." IN THOSE DAYS THE BIGGEST CHORE OF THE WIVES WAS FEEDING THE LABORERS WHO WORKED FOR THE SEASIDE FARMERS.

WELL-KNOWN FAMILIES IN MONROE AND DADE COUNTIES TODAY, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM ARE DISTANTLY RELATED, PLANTED THEIR PINEAPPLE PLANTATIONS AND THEIR LIME GROVES IN THE ROCKY, RICH SOIL OF THE

IN THOSE DAYS, THE LAND GREW LARGE TREES, SOME "TWO FEET IN DIAMETER AND A HUNDRED FEET TALL." THE PLANTERS CUT OUT AREAS OF SMALL TREES AND "LAID THEM ALL ONE WAY" TO DRY AND SEASON FOR FUTURE BUILDING AND FIREWOOD, THEN BURNED THE CLEARED LAND. "THE ROCK WENT TO LIME AND PINEAPPLE SLIPS WERE PLANTED IN THE POWDER." ALMOST ALL THE HIGH LAND WAS EVENTUALLY BURNED BUT THEY WERE CAREFUL NEVER TO START A FIRE NEXT TO AN ESTABLISHED PLANTATION "UNLESS THE WIND WAS RIGHT." LABORERS HARVESTED THE PINES, COUNTED THEM BY TALLIES AND CARRIED THEM IN BASKETS TO THE BARGES AT THE SHORE WHICH FERRIED THE FRUIT TO WAITING SCHOONERS. IF THE WINDS WERE NOT FAVORABLE, "THE SCHOONERS DIDN'T GET VERY FAR AND THE PINES WERE LOST AND THROWN OVER," PERHAPS A TOTAL LOSS FOR THE PLANTERS.

PINEAPPLES RIPENED ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF MAY AND WERE PICKED BY JUNE THE 10TH. FAMILIES ON ELLIOTT KEY WOULD HAVE THEIR BELONGINGS ALL PACKED AND BE READY TO LEAVE IN THEIR SAILBOATS AND SPEND THE SUMMER VISITING WITH FRIENDS IN CUTLER, ALONG THE KEYS AND IN KEY WEST UNTIL THE HURRICANE SEASON WAS PAST. ACCORDING TO OBSERVANT PIONEERS, HURRICANES WERE A THREAT FROM MID-JULY UNTIL THE OCTOBER FULL MOON.

NEAR THE SOUTH END OF ELLIOTT KEY, ALMOST OPPOSITE BILLY'S POINT, LIVED WILLIAM D. ALBURY WITH HIS FAMILY. PART OF THIS PROPERTY WAS LATER OWNED BY DR. JOHN GIFFORD. "UNCLE BILLY" ALBURY HANDLED MOST OF THE LEGAL AFFAIRS OF THE ISLANDERS AND AT ONE TIME WAS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. HE HAD A COCONUT GROVE HOME NEAR THE PRESENT BANK BUILDING.

ON NEIGHBORING LAND ALONG THE OCEAN FRONT LIVED HIS PARENTS, THE DAVIS ALBURYS, WITH THEIR SON, JOE, AND HIS WIFE, CATHERINE, NEE SWEETING. FOR YEARS THESE FAMILIES COMMUTED TO KEY WEST FOR IMPORTANT FAMILY EVENTS--MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND THEIR FEW SERIOUS ILLNESSES.

ON THE NORTHERN END OF ELLIOTT KEY, ABOUT WHERE THE T. V. MOORE HOUSES ARE NOW, LIVED THE HENRY FILERS. SOUTHWARD ALONG THE BEACH WAS THE LAND OF GEORGE

SWEETING AND HIS WIFE CORNELIA. HER PARENTS WERE WILLIAM HENRY RUSSELL AND ELVIRA (LOWE). WILLIAM'S PARENTS WERE JOSEPH AND SARAH (CURRY) RUSSELL, DAUGHTER OF BENJAMIN CURRY, PLANTER ON GREEN TURTLE CAY AND MARY CURRY FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

GEORGE SWEETING BUILT THREE SIZEABLE SHIPS, ONE OF 44 TONS, TO TRANSPORT HIS FARM PRODUCE FROM THE ISLAND TO THE MARKETS ON THE MAINLAND AND ON THE LOWER KEYS. HIS INVESTMENT IN HIS LAND WAS \$1,600, BUT WHEN HENRY FLAGLER WAS BUILDING HIS HUGE ROYAL PALM HOTEL IN MIAMI HE BOUGHT 800 COCONUT TREES FROM SWEETING FOR A DOLLAR A PIECE AND THEY WERE TRANSPLANTED TO LANDSCAPE THE HOTEL GROUNDS.

ELLIOTT KEY ONCE GREW LOVELY LARGE MADEIRA TREES, A HARD WOOD RESEMBLING MAHOGANY. ONE DAY A THREE-MASTED SCHOONER ANCHORED OFF SHORE AND MEN LANDED ON THE ISLAND WITH THE PURPOSE OF BUYING MANY OF THESE TREES. THEY BOUGHT ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR EACH, HAD THEM CHOPPED DOWN, SAWED IN HALF AND DRAGGED BY MULES TO THE BEACH, WHERE THE LOGS WERE FLOATED OUT TO THE SHIP AND LOADED ABOARD. FEW OF THE SMALLER TREES SURVIVED THE 1906 HURRICANE.

THOMAS SWEETING AND HIS WIFE, MARY ANN (ALBURY--SHE WAS A SISTER OF UNCLE BILLY ALBURY), LIVED NORTH OF SEAGRAPE POINT NEAR THE COVE THEY CALLED "LITTLE BEACH." THEY HAD FOUR SONS--NORMAN, HOMER, SEELY AND BEN. THOMAS' FATHER ASA LIVED WITH THEM; ASA'S WIFE DIED DURING THE YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC OF 1887. HOMER SWEETING MARRIED ARENA THOMPSON WHO HAD MOVED TO ELLIOTT KEY WITH HER PARENTS IN 1884. NORTH OF POINT ADELLE, THOMAS AND GEORGE JOHNSON BUILT THEIR HOME, AND SOUTH ALONG THAT COAST LIVED ARENA'S PARENTS, ROBERT AND MARY THOMPSON. THE THOMPSONS, WITH MARY'S FATHER HENRY PINDER, DEEDED A HALF ACRE OF THEIR LAND IN 1891 TO THE DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THE CHILDREN FROM THE KEYS WENT TO SCHOOL IN KEY WEST DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, DADE COUNTY WAS AWARE OF THE INCREASING NEED FOR A SCHOOL ON ELLIOTT KEY.

AS FAR BACK AS 1887, AT ITS SEPTEMBER 10TH MEETING, THE BOARD HAD DECLARED A NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BE KNOWN AS NUMBER FOUR AND TO SERVE "ELLIOTT'S KEY" AND ADJACENT ISLANDS. HENRY FILER WAS NAMED TRUSTEE FOR THE DISTRICT.

A FRAME BUILDING WAS BUILT ON THE DONATED LAND IN THE CENTER OF HAMMOCK. IT WAS USED NOT ONLY FOR CLASSES ON WEEKDAYS BUT SERVED AS A CHURCH FOR METHODIST SERVICES. THE EARLIEST TEACHERS IN THE NEW SCHOOL WERE MAUDE KNAPP, ANN SINGLETON AND A MR. HARRIS.

CHILDREN WALKED "MANY A ROCK" FROM HOME TO SCHOOL THOUGH A FEW SAILED THEIR OWN DINGHIES. IN LATER YEARS SCHOOL ATTENDANCE WAS NOT ALWAYS UP TO THE SCHOOL BOARD'S STANDARD OF 10 PUPILS FOR EVERY SCHOOL. ANOTHER SMALL SCHOOL HOUSE WAS BUILT CLOSER TO THE BEACH BUT IT WAS USED FOR ONLY A SHORT TIME.

VISITING MINISTERS FROM MATTECUMBE OR LEMON CITY STAYED OVERNIGHT AT THE PLANTERS' HOMES DURING THEIR VISITS AND THE FAMILIES WOULD ROTATE THEIR HOSPITALITY TO THE WELCOME CLERGYMEN. WHEN THERE WAS NO MINISTER TO CONDUCT THE SERVICES, SOME OF THE PATRIARCHS, LIKE ROBERT THOMPSON, HENRY PINDER AND JEREMIAH SAUNDERS OFFICIATED AS LAY LEADERS.

ONLY ONE OF THE ORIGINAL SETTLERS' HOMES REMAINS TODAY ON ELLIOTT KEY. IT WAS BUILT BY ARTHUR AND EDGAR HIGGS. IT IS NOW THE PROPERTY OF ISLANDIA COUNCILMAN LEWIS M. ADAMS.

LONG REMEMBERED HAS BEEN THE SEA TRAGEDY THAT CLAIMED THE LIVES OF ARTHUR HIGGS, HIS THREE SMALL SONS AND YOUNG DAUGHTER. THE HIGGS FAMILY HAD BEEN THE OVERNIGHT GUESTS OF THE HENRY FILERS. NEXT MORNING, SAILING TOWARDS HOME, THEY ROUNDED THE POINT IN A STRONG NORTH WIND AND THE BOAT JIBED OVER AND CAPSIZED. THE FATHER AND HIS FOUR CHILDREN WERE BURIED JUST SOUTH OF THE FILER HOME.

ALFRED ACHESON, WHOM HIS COLLEAGUES NICKNAMED "BUBBA SMART," HAD BUILT HIS HOUSE NORTH OF PETREL POINT, PERHAPS TO WATCH FOR SHIPS APPROACHING THE CORAL

REEFS. HIS PROMPTNESS AND EXPERT SEAMANSHIP IN SALVAGING DISTRESSED SHIPS AND RESCUING THEIR CREWS EARNED HIM LOCAL FAME AS A SALVAGER. IN LATER YEARS ACHESON SOLD HIS LAND TO W. R. HARNEY. IN THOSE EARLY TRANSFERS OF PROPERTIES IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE HOW OFTEN THE ABSTRACTS INCLUDED "ENTIRE PINEAPPLE PLANTATIONS" IN THE SALES AND RESTRICTED THE BUILDING OF COMMERCIAL FISH HOUSES.

THE FIRST FAMILIES BUILT THEIR HOMES ON THE NATURAL RIDGE ALONG THE ISLAND COAST FACING THE OCEAN. WRECKAGE SALVAGED FROM THE TIDES OFTEN SERVED AS MATERIALS IN THE WOODEN HOUSES BUT SOME ENTERPRISING BUILDERS, LIKE JOHN WATKINS, BOUGHT LUMBER AND HARDWARE BY SAILBOAT FROM KEY WEST. WITH A NATURAL WALL OF SAND DUNES BETWEEN THE RIDGE AND THE OCEAN, THERE WAS PARTIAL PROTECTION FROM ABNORMAL TIDES, AND THE FRAME HOUSES WERE GROUND-PINNED TO THE ROCK TO WITHSTAND HIGH WINDS. THIS WAS THE TECHNIQUE OF ANCHORING THE FRAMEWORK OF THE HOUSE TO HARDWOOD LOGS BURIED IN DITCHES AT THE CORNERS AND PARALLEL TO THE SIDES. UNLIKE THE HOMESTEADERS ON MOST OF THE OTHER KEYS, THE ELLIOTT KEY SETTLERS BUILT THEIR HOMES WITHOUT FRONT PORCHES.

OF COURSE THEY DEPENDED ON THE RAINS FOR THEIR FRESH WATER. BEFORE CISTERNS WERE INSTALLED, THEY USED BARRELS TO CATCH AND STORE THE RAINWATER. DAVIS ALBURY INGENUOUSLY USED A BUOY THAT HAD FLOATED ASHORE. HE REMOVED THE TOP PLATE, PLANTED IT NEAR THE HOUSE AND RAN LEADERS FROM THE ROOF GUTTERS INTO THE CONTAINER. TO AUGMENT THIS SOMETIMES INSUFFICIENT SOURCE OF FRESH WATER, THE PIONEER MEN WOULD SAIL TO THE MIAMI RIVER, WHERE THEY FOUND CLEAN FRESH WATER ABOUT WHERE THE RAILROAD BRIDGE NOW CROSSES. OR THEY WOULD SAIL ACROSS THE BAY TO THE CANALS OF THE MAINLAND, WHERE THE EARLY PIRATES AND SAILORS FILLED THEIR JUGS. LIKE THE EARLY ADVENTURERS, THEY TOO, FOUND A FRESH WATER SPRING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BAY. TO SUPPLY WATER FOR THE LABORERS, THE SETTLERS WOULD PURIFY THE WATER THEY HAD COLLECTED WITH CHARCOAL OR SULPHUR. USUALLY THEY TRANSPORTED FRESH WATER IN FOUR

CASKS IN THE BOTTOM OF A DINGHY, TWO ON EITHER SIDE.

EVERY HOME HAD ITS DOCK, WITH ITS SLOOP OR DINGHY AND PERHAPS A SCHOONER ANCHORED NEARBY. WHETHER THEY WERE PLANTERS, FISHERMEN OR SHIPBUILDERS, THEY SOUGHT THEIR LIVELIHOOD FROM THE PRODUCTS OF THE SEA--FISH, CRAWFISH, TURTLES AND SPONGES--WHICH AT THAT TIME WERE PLENTIFUL AROUND THE KEYS, THE BETTER QUALITY BEING FOUND ON THE BAY SIDE. AS EXPRESSED BY ONE OLDTIMER, "WE WENT FOR WHATEVER THERE WAS A NICKEL TO BE GOTTEN OUT OF."

THEY DELIVERED THEIR SPONGES AND TIMBER TO COMMERCIAL CENTERS AND THE PERISHABLE SEAFOOD AND FARM PRODUCE TO LOCAL MARKETS BECAUSE THEY HAD NO REFRIGERATION. CRAWFISH THRIVED ALONG THE SHORES AND ANY NIGHT YOU COULD CATCH A SKIFFLOAD WITH THE LIGHT OF A KEROSENE LANTERN. THE MARKET PRICE THEN WAS ABOUT FIVE CENTS A POUND.

GREEN TURTLES WERE CAUGHT ON THE REEF WITH LARGE-MESH NETS, SUPPORTED BY CORK FLOATS BUT WITH NO LEADS. ONE NET, WHICH HAD BEEN ANCHORED FOR A WEEK, SNARED NINE GREEN TURTLES. ABNER SWEETING REMEMBERS THAT EACH OF THESE PRIZES FROM THE SEA WEIGHED FROM 250 TO 300 POUNDS WHEN THEY WERE FINALLY WEIGHED-IN AT THE KEY WEST CRAWLS.

SOME OF THE EARLY SETTLERS USED THEIR SCHOONERS DURING THE OFF PERIODS OF FARMING TO FERRY FREIGHT FROM KEY WEST TO HAVANA. IN THOSE EARLY LEISURELY DAYS, SAILBOATS WERE THE PIONEERS' ONLY COMMUNICATION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. TWO SMALL SCHOONERS, BUILT ON PLANTATION KEY--THE ISLAND HOME AND THE NEWPORT--MADE WEEKLY TRIPS FROM KEY WEST TO SOUND POINT ON KEY LARGO. FROM THE INDIAN RIVER SECTION, TWIN BOATS OF ABOUT 10 TONS, THE ARDELL AND THE DELLIE, BROUGHT SUPPLIES, FREIGHT AND PASSENGERS TO ELLIOTT KEY. THEY SAILED THE INLAND WATERWAY AND USED BOTH EAST AND WEST CHANNELS OF THE FEATHERBED BANKS. FREIGHT AND MAIL WERE BROUGHT TO ELLIOTT KEY FROM COCONUT GROVE AND BUENA VISTA BY THE SCHOONER HARRY'S BROTHERS.

FAMILIES ALWAYS GOT TOGETHER FOR HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS. THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS AND OTHER FESTIVE OCCASIONS WERE THE TIMES FOR SUMPTUOUS FEASTS TO WHICH THE WIVES BROUGHT SAVORY ROAST CHICKENS, CRAWFISH AND ROASTING EARS OF CORN WITH SUCH GOURMET DELIGHTS AS LIME PIES AND COCONUT CAKES. FOR COOKING FIRES WOMEN USED CHIPS FROM BOAT BUILDING AND BUTTWOOD BRANCHES.

SOUTH FLORIDA'S HARDY COCONUT TREE HAVE BEEN A GOOD FRIEND TO MAN. DURING THE EARLIEST RECORDED DAYS OF THE SPANISH MISSIONS, ONE MISSIONARY BROTHER WROTE OF THE INDIANS CROSSING BISCAYNE BAY IN THEIR CANOES TO GATHER COCONUTS FROM THE ISLANDS. HURRICANES MAY TWIST THE TREES, BLOW THEM OVER AND COVER THEM WITH TONS OF SAND BUT EVENTUALLY THE TREES SURVIVE AND COCONUTS GROW AGAIN. THE KEY PIONEERS LEARNED THAT CHICKENS LAID BEAUTIFUL EGGS ON A DIET OF FRESH OR DRIED COCONUT. WHEN THE MOSQUITOES WERE BAD, SMUDGE FROM BURNING COCONUT HUSKS AND BUTTWOOD KEPT THEM AWAY. EVEN THE CHICKENS LEARNED TO WALK UP THE RAMP THROUGH THE SMOKE TO THE CHICKEN HOUSE.

COCONUTS AND SEAGRAPES STILL GROW ALONG THE SHORE OF ISLANDIA, AND THE COOL HAMMOCK FOREST IN THE DEEP HUMUS OF THE INTERIOR OF THE ISLANDS, BLACK OLIVE AND SATINLEAF TREES GROW WILD. DR. JOHN GIFFORD WROTE THAT HAMMOCK LA IS THE FOREST THAT MANGROVE AND PINELA WOULD BECOME IF UNDAMAGED BY FIRE OR FLOOD.

LOW HEDGES OF AUSTRALIAN PINES WERE PLANTED TO SERVE AS WINDBREAKS AND ARE NOW ROWS OF TALL TREES. IN THE RO SOIL OF THE KEYS WINTER TOMATOES AND SUMMER MELONS GROW AND LITTLE CULTIVATION IS NEEDED TO PRODUCE YAMS, BANANAS, PAPAYAS, GUAVAS AND SUGAR APPLES. CITRUS THRIVES AS IT HAS FOR CENTURIES. THAT "LAND MAKER," THE MANGROVE, IS STILL EXTENDING ITS EXPLORING ROOTS INTO THE SHALLOW WATERS OF ISLANDIA'S SHORES AND ANCHORING ITS SHOOTS IN NEW BASES. AS IT GROWS NEW ROOTS IN COMPLEX PATTERNS THE DRIFTING SILT, LEAVES, TWIGS AND

SAND ARE TRAPPED TO FORM NEW LAND AND A NEW REFUGE FOR OTHER FORMS OF LIFE. WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSELY INTO THIS TANGLE OF GROWTH YOU MAY STILL FIND A PRIZED MIK-RIMAK SNAIL CLINGING TO A SHADY ROOT.

OUR PRESENT ISLANDIA WAS NOT ALL SUITABLE FOR FARMING, SANDS KEY, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS NOT FARMED BY THE EARLIEST SETTLERS BECAUSE THEY CONCLUDED THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH "LIVELIHOOD" THERE. THE RESTLESSLY CRUISING PIONEERS KNEW ALL THE CHANNELS AND SHORES OF THE RAGGED KEYS. COMMODORE RALPH MUNROE OF COCONUT GROVE WROTE THAT BRAINERD AND CHARLEY BALL ONCE OWNED THE RAGGED KEYS AND THAT A MR. SIEBERLING EXTENSIVELY IMPROVED THE ISLAND NAMED BOCA CHICA. BUT THE INDIVIDUAL ISLES OF THE RAGGED GROUP HAD NO IDENTIFYING NAMES UNTIL RECENT YEARS.

DURING THE CUBAN INSURRECTION AGAINST SPAIN, THE KEYS' SETTLERS WERE SYMPATHETIC WITH THE CUBAN PATRIOTS AND OFTEN AIDED THE GUNRUNNERS WHEN THEY ANCHORED OFF ELLIOTT KEY. A NOTED GUNRUNNER OF THAT TIME WAS THE THREE FRIENDS, WHOSE SKIPPER WAS THE SPECTACULAR NAPOLEON BONAPARTE BROWARD. BROWARD HAD THE DEEP-SEA TUGBOAT BUILT. HE RAISED THE MONEY IN JACKSONVILLE NEEDED TO CONSTRUCT HER AND HAD AN ADVENTUROUS CAREER WHICH EVENTUALLY LED TO HIS OFFICE AS GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA. THE STEPHEN R. MALLORY RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE THREE FRIENDS OFF ELLIOTT KEY DURING MANY ADVENTUROUS TRIPS CARRYING AMMUNITION, GUNS AND VOLUNTEERS TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE. THE SHIP WAS BUILT BY CAPTAIN JOHN LOWE. EUPHEMIA, CAPTAIN LOWE'S DAUGHTER, MARRIED WILLIAM CURRY, WHO AS A YOUNG MAN HAD COME FROM THE BAHAMAS TO SEEK HIS FORTUNE IN KEY WEST. HE WAS UNPRETENTIOUS THOUGH HE ASTONISHED NEW YORK WHEN ONE DAY HE WALKED INTO TIFFANY'S AND ORDERED A GOLD DINNER SERVICE. THE FABULOUS GOLDEN WARE WAS USED CASUALLY BY THE FAMILY IN THE COMFORTABLE BUT MODEST KEY WEST HOME. WHEN HE DIED IN 1896, WILLIAM CURRY WAS THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN FLORIDA.

EUPHEMIA AND WILLIAM CURRY HAD EIGHT CHILDREN. SEVERAL OF THE SONS OWNED ACREAGE ON ELLIOTT KEY--AMONG THEM, HENRY

FRANKLIN CURRY WHO MARRIED SUSAN FLETCHER PINDER. THEIR SON EDISON, WHO IN 1 WAS LIVING IN BRADENTON, REMEMBERED SPENDING MANY BOYHOOD VACATIONS ON THE FAMILY PINEAPPLE PLANTATION ON ELLIOTT KEY.

FRANK BUDGE, WHO OPERATED PROSPEROUSLY MIAMI'S FIRST HARDWARE STORE, OWNED A PINEAPPLE PLANTATION AND A GRAPE-FRUIT GROVE ON TOTTEN KEY. TO MOVE HIS PRODUCE TO THE SHORE FOR TRANS-SHIPMENT ON BARGES TO THE MAINLAND MARKETS, MR. BUDGE BUILT A RAILROAD TRACK FOR FLAT CARS. AS HE WAS ALMOST READY TO HARVEST HIS FIRST CROP, A DAMAGING HURRICANE SWEEPED THE KEY AND HE ABANDONED HIS VENTURE.

ANOTHER EARLY SETTLER ON THESE KEYS WAS THE TALL, BEARDED PARSON ISRAEL LAFAYETTE JONES FROM RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA. WITH HIS BRIDE, MOZELLE, HE MADE HIS FIRST HOME ON THE DAVIS GRANT ON KEY BISCAIYNE. COMMODORE MUNROE, SUPERVISOR OF THE PROPERTY, BECAME A FRIEND OF THE PARSON'S.

WIRTH MUNROE, THE COMMODORE'S SON, REMEMBERS PARSON JONES AS BEING MORE THAN SIX FEET TALL, WITH A GREAT BEAR AND A DEEP VOICE. TWO SONS WERE BORN IN THE JONES FAMILY--ARTHUR AND LANCELOT. LANCELOT WAS NAMED BY MARY ANN DAVIS AND ARTHUR JONES WAS GIVEN THE NAME SUGGESTED BY ALFRED MUNROE, THE COMMODORE'S UNCLE.

ABOUT 1899 THE JONES FAMILY HOME-STEADED ON PORGY KEY. IN 1912 THEY BUILT THEIR PRESENT COMFORTABLE HOME, WHERE ARTHUR AND LANCELOT, EXPERT FILING GUIDES, STILL LIVE AND ENTERTAIN FRIENDS WITH THEIR FASCINATING STORIES OF THE OLD DAYS. EDUCATED IN ST. AUGUSTINE, THEY HAVE EARNED MUCH RESPECT AS STUDENTS OF FLORIDA HISTORY.

WIRTH MUNROE RECALLS THAT PARSON JONES MADE A TRIP TO PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK JUST BEFORE THE END OF THE BOOM, TO CALL ON SOME OF HIS MANY TERTH FRIENDS, INCLUDING THE PROCTOR OF SOAP FAME. ON HIS RETURN, WIRTH MET HIM IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI AND NATURALLY

ASKED HIM HOW HE'D ENJOYED THE TRIP. "WELL," SAID THE PARSON IN HIS DEEP VOICE, "THE PARSON BELONGS RIGHT HERE AT CAESAR'S CREEK."

"WE HAD A LOT OF PRINCIPLES," JOE ALBANY AND OTHERS WILL TELL YOU. "HE WAS VERY CONSCIENTIOUS." THEY REMEMBER VISITING HIS HOME ON PORGY KEY AS CHILDREN, THE HOSPITALITY AND THE CLEAN, CLEAN FLOORS.

WHEN HENRY FLAGLER PROPOSED TO EXTEND HIS FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY FROM MIAMI OVER THE KEYS TO KEY WEST, HIS FRIENDS AND BANKERS CALLED IT "FLAGLER'S FOLLY," BUT THE KEY SETTLERS WERE DELIGHTED WITH THE PROSPECT OF RAIL SHIPMENT FOR THEIR PRODUCE. AS THE EXTENSION GREW IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THIS CENTURY, IT BROUGHT NEW ACTIVITIES AND A NEW ERA TO THE KEYS. CAMPS FOR WORKERS AND ENGINEERS WERE ESTABLISHED ALONG THE ROUTE CHARTERED BY THE SURVEYORS. EVEN THOSE ISLANDS NOT ON THE RAILROAD'S RIGHT-OF-WAY WERE AFFECTED BY THE GIGANTIC PROJECT.

SUPPLIES FOR THE CAMPS HAD TO BE BROUGHT BY WATER. ONE TRAGIC INCIDENT OCCURRED ON THE BAY SIDE OF ELLIOTT KEY. THE SAINT LUCIE, A STERN-WHEELER, LOADED WITH SUPPLIES FOR A CAMP, FOUNDERED AND SANK IN A TERRIFIC STORM ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE NORTHWEST OF BILLY'S POINT. THAT WRECKAGE EVENTUALLY BECAME A REFUGE FOR GREEN AND LOGGERHEAD TURTLES. AND IT EXISTED UNTIL VERY RECENTLY.

IN 1912, THE FIRST TRAIN, WITH FLAGLER HIMSELF ABOARD, STEAMED INTO KEY WEST. AS THE ISLAND GROWERS BEGAN TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE RAILROAD, HOWEVER, THEY BECAME DISSATISFIED. THEY FOUND THAT THEY WERE PAYING HIGHER FREIGHT RATES THAN FOREIGN SHIPPERS FROM THE WEST INDIES, WHO SENT THEIR CROPS BY BOAT TO KEY WEST FOR SHIPMENT TO NEW YORK. THE ISLAND PLANTERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH GROVES AND PLANTATIONS ON ELLIOTT KEY AND KEY LARGO, BLAMED THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION FOR THIS UNJUST PREFERENTIAL FREIGHT RATE. THE KEY FARMERS SUSPECTED THAT THE ICC WAS TRYING TO SQUEEZE OUT SOUTHERN SHIPPERS BY REQUIRING HIGHER FREIGHT RATES FOR TRANSPORTATION WITHIN FLORIDA.

LIME GROWERS ALONG THE KEYS RESENTED THE SIGHT OF FRUIT SHIPMENTS FROM THE ISLE OF PINES AND SANTO DOMINGO ROLLING THROUGH THEIR GROVES EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK. PLANTATION OWNERS A. BATES CURRY AND GEORGE SWEETING WERE LESS TROUBLED BY RAILROAD RATES BECAUSE THEY OWNED A FLEET OF SHIPS WHICH CARRIED THEIR PRODUCE TO THE NORTHERN MARKETS. MANY KEY FARMERS, DISCOURAGED BY ANOTHER OBSTACLE TO ANTICIPATED PROFITS WENT OUT OF BUSINESS.

WITH THE COMING OF THE RAILROADS TO FLORIDA, POPULATIONS INCREASED AND THE TIDE OF TOURISTS TRICKLED SOUTHWARD. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BEGAN IMPROVING THE SAFETY OF THE COASTS WITH ADDITIONAL LIGHTHOUSES, BUCYS AND MORE ACCURATE CHARTS FOR THE SKIPPERS OF THE VESSELS. SALVAGING SHIPS AND CREWS WAS NO LONGER AN IMPORTANT OCCUPATION.

TWO OF THE LAST REMEMBERED WRECKS OFF ELLIOTT KEY WERE THE ANNA M. BELL AND THE ALICIA. THE ALICIA WAS A GREAT STEEL SHIP STRANDED ON LONG REEF, ABOUT 2½ MILES OFF SHORE, FILLED WITH A RICH CARGO. ABNER SWEETING TELLS THAT SOME PEOPLE SAID SHE HAD EVERYTHING ON HER, EVEN GOLDEN IMAGES.

CARL FISHER, WHOSE IMAGINATION AND DYNAMIC ENERGY STARTED CREATING MIAMI BEACH OUT OF A SWAMPY PENINSULA, ENVISIONED A SPECTACULAR FUTURE FOR OUR KEYS IN DADE COUNTY. C. W. CHASE, MR. FISHER'S CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, TOLD US THAT THE GREAT DEVELOPER BOUGHT ADAMS KEY IN 1917 AND STARTED FILLING IN THE LOW PARTS. THE FOLLOWING YEAR FISHER STARTED CONSTRUCTION OF THE COCOLOBO CAY CLUBHOUSE, FACING SOUTH ON CAESAR'S CREEK. IT STARTED OPERATION IN THE WINTER OF 1920, A UNIQUE HIDE-OUT FOR MILLIONAIRES. IT WAS ACCESSIBLE ONLY BY WATER. PRESIDENT-ELECT HARDING AND A GROUP OF HIS FRIENDS WERE ENTERTAINED THERE. ITS GUEST BOOK EVENTUALLY LISTED SOME OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED NAMES IN THE COUNTRY.

JANE FISHER, CARL'S WIFE, MADE THE FIRST DRAPERIES FOR THE BEDROOMS--THE SEVEN OR EIGHT--THAT OPENED OFF THE MAIN UPSTAIRS HALL. IN ONE OF HER

NEWSPAPER COLUMNS THAT WE READ IN RALPH FOSSEY'S SCRAPBOOK, MRS. FISHER WROTE, "ELLIOTT KEY... WAS INHABITED MANY YEARS AGO BUT WHEN THE BOOM DAYS WERE ON, THE YOUNGER ONES OF THE COLONY INDUCED THEIR ELDERS TO MOVE TO MIAMI, BRIGHT LIGHTS AND FORTUNES... SO THEY ABANDONED THEIR LIME GROVES, THEIR HOMES AND THEIR SCHOOLS..."

THE COCOLOBO CAY CLUB FLOURISHED UNTIL THE LATE 1930'S, WHEN IT WAS SOLD TO ONE OF ITS MEMBERS, GAR WOOD.

DR. JOHN GIFFORD, WHOSE WRITINGS INTERESTED SO MANY PERSONS IN SOUTH FLORIDA'S BEAUTY, HAD A LIME GROVE AND COTTAGE ON ELLIOTT KEY. HE WROTE OF THE BEAUTIFUL OFFSHORE SEA GARDENS. IT WAS DR. GIFFORD'S FIRM CONVICTION THAT THESE SEA GARDENS, TOGETHER WITH THE "CLAN BEDS, CORAL REEFS, SEA ISLANDS WITH OTHER FORMS OF SEA LIFE, CONSTITUTE, NEXT TO CLIMATE, OUR GREATEST RESOURCE." HIS SINCERE WORDS SEEM MORE IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT TO US TODAY.

BOTH MR. FISHER AND DR. GIFFORD EXPRESSED THEIR HOPES FOR THE FUTURE OF THESE KEYS. DR. GIFFORD'S THE CORAL TRAIL VOICED HIS HOPE FOR AN EVENTUAL ROAD FROM SANDS KEY TO KEY WEST, AND MR. FISHER WROTE IN 1936 THAT THE SCENIC HIGHWAY ALONG THE KEYS HAD BEEN NEEDED FOR 10 YEARS.

THE PRESENT ELLIOTT KEY HIGHWAY WAS CLEARED IN 1938, READY FOR FUTURE EXPANSION. WALKING ALONG THE BULLDOZED RIGHT-OF-WAY, THREE OF SOUTH FLORIDA'S CHAMPIONS--R.V. WATERS, F. W. CASON AND P. H. ARTHUR--WERE CONFIDENT IN THEIR PREDICTION THAT SOME DAY THIS ROAD WOULD BE A HIGHWAY SPANNING THE LENGTH OF THE ISLAND.

ANOTHER WEEKEND RESIDENT OF ELLIOTT KEY WAS J. ARTHUR PANCOAST OF MIAMI BEACH. HE MOVED AN OLD BUS TO THE KEY OCEAN FRONT, HAD ITS WHEELS REMOVED AND CONVERTED IT INTO A CABANA. HE ALSO BUILT THE FIRST PERMANENT DOCK ON THE BAY SIDE WITH ROCK FILL; IT WAS SO DESIGNED IN RELATION TO THE SHORELINE THAT IT FORMED A QUIET HARBOR FOR HIS BOATS.

ALWAYS INTERESTED IN GROWING FRUITS, MR. PANCOAST REACTIVATED SEVERAL LIME GROVES ON ELLIOTT KEY, GREW PAPAYAS AND PINEAPPLES, AND EXPERIMENTED IN GRAPE CULTURE. FROM THE ARBOR OF ARTHUR AND LANCELOT JONES HE HAD OBTAINED GRAPE CUTTINGS, WHICH HE DEVELOPED INTO PRODUCERS OF PHENOMENAL 10-POUND BUNCHES. THEY WERE A KEY WEST VARIETY, TASTY AND SOLID, BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR DIFFERENT PROCESS OF RIPENING THEY WERE NOT MARKETABLE.

MR. PANCOAST'S INTERESTING CONTRIBUTION TO THE FAUNA OF ELLIOTT KEY WAS THE INTRODUCTION OF BLACK SQUIRRELS WHICH HE HAD IMPORTED FROM MEXICO. ORIGINALLY HE HAD INTENDED THEM FOR HIS PANULETA FARMS, TOGETHER WITH SPECIES OF RED AND GRAY MEXICAN SQUIRRELS. THE REDS AND GRAYS THRIVED AT THE FARM, BUT HE SENT THE BLACK ONES TO ELLIOTT KEY. THE KEY'S MARINE CLIMATE AND SALT AIR AGREED WITH THE SQUIRRELS; THEY MULTIPLIED HAPPILY AND TO THIS DAY THEY ARE LIVELY LITTLE SHADOWS AMONG THE TREES.

IN THE YEAR 1938 CHARLES BROCKFIELD AND WADE STILES DISCOVERED THE BRITISH FRIGATE WINCHESTER, ABOUT TWO CENTURIES OLD, SUNK ON THE REEFS NEAR ELLIOTT KEY. WITH THE AID OF COMMODORE HUGH MATHESON OF COCONUT GROVE, THEY OUTFITTED AN EXPEDITION WHOSE DIVERS RECOVERED AN HISTORIC COLLECTION OF ANCIENT BRITISH CANNON. THE FASCINATING STORY OF THIS DISCOVERY AND RECOVERY FROM THE SEA WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN ILLUSTRATED ARTICLE IN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE OF DECEMBER 1941.

A MAP FROM VENUS (ALAU MAGNUS CAETA MARINA, 1539) SHOWS ISLANDIA AS ISLAND AND ON ITS RIGHT, MARE GLACIA. ISLANDIA WAS IDENTIFIED WITH THE ULTIMI THULE OF THE ANCIENTS, AND MEANS A GOAL AND PERHAPS THE END OF THE EARTH.