

# EARLY PIONEERS

## The Allen and Miller Families

*Educators and Entrepreneurs*

At the turn of the 20th Century, the racially segregated South was a formidable environment for blacks -- and Martin County was no exception. Yet born into black labor as the eight of ten children and with only a fourth grade education, Tom Allen grew and prospered to become one of Martin County's leading businessmen, landowners and leaders who gained the respect of blacks as well as whites in the local community.

Thomas Joshua Allen Jr. was born on February 24, 1906 or 1907 in Titusville, Florida. In the early 1920s, young Tom and several of his male relatives left Titusville traveling south by boat, coming ashore near the site of today's Cleveland Clinic Martin Health in Stuart. They found work in the pineapple fields and shelter in an abandoned house. Eventually, they purchased property of their own. By 1923, other family members including Tom's parents, Thomas Sr. and Margaret, had also relocated to Stuart.

About 1927, Tom married Lizzie Mae Berryhill. They had four daughters, Lizzie Mae, Dorothy, Charlotte, and Ernestine. Tom's sister married a Bahamian, Lincoln L. Miller. Their only child, Gilbert Allen Miller, was born June 28, 1924. Tom and Lizzie's four daughters attended the all-black Stuart Training School, along with their cousin Gilbert.

Tom Allen led an accomplished and remarkable life and made significant contributions to the early development of Martin County.

Known for his straightforward honesty, he held a variety of jobs and owned a number of successful businesses. One of his many businesses included the collection and hauling of building materials for local construction projects including Witham Airfield. He built private roads and driveways, owned a lumber and sod business, was a drag-line operator and potato farmer.



Tom and Lizzie Mae Allen's daughters, Charlotte Merrick and Ernestine Arrington pose with the historical marker erected in front of their childhood home when it was dedicated as a Historical Property, October 19, 2018.

Martha and Lincoln Miller joined friends and Bahamian relatives to purchase land tracts bordering the Intercoastal Waterway in Gomez. They called their adjoining properties "The Hammock," where most of the families were related by blood or marriage. They farmed their land and were employed by the wealthy residents of Jupiter Island. The Millers were the last family to hold on to their Hammock property. Lincoln died in 1953, but Martha remained in her home until 1993, when the property was purchased by the State of Florida for a preserve. Community activist Tony Anderson purchased the Miller house and moved it to New Monrovia in Port Salerno.



Left: Thomas Joshua Allen Jr. (Tom Allen). Above: Tom Allen (1906-1974) working in his lumber yard.

In 1938, Tom Allen had a house constructed on Lake Street in East Stuart, by local builder Steven Blasco Jr. The home was restored and in 2018, became the first private residence to receive historic designation from the City of Stuart. Tom passed away December 18, 1974 and Lizzie Mae passed away June 29, 1977. Tom left behind a legacy of community charity in Martin County.



The home of Lincoln and Martha Miller, once located in the Hammock, has been preserved and relocated to New Monrovia in Port Salerno.

After graduating from Stuart Training School, Gilbert Miller attended Florida A & M University. After the close of his first year, he enlisted in the U. S. Army and served in Europe during WWII. After the war, Gilbert attended Bethune Cookman College, where he met and married Dollie Squire. Gilbert and Dollie both became educators and pursued advanced degrees. The Millers had two children, Barnette and Gilbert Jr., and the family lived in the Banner Lake region of Hobe Sound, where Gilbert began his teaching career at the Dunbar School. Dollie was a guidance counselor at Jensen Beach Elementary. A respected leader, Gilbert Miller was a levelheaded man with great foresight. Gilbert ultimately became Assistant Superintendent of the Martin County School District, and in the 1970s, he helped facilitate the smooth and virtually violent free integration of Martin County Schools. Gilbert Jr. studied to be an attorney and their daughter, Barnette became an educator.



Dollie Squire Miller (1925-2017)



Gilbert Allen Miller (1924-2010)



Dunbar School in Hobe Sound, a Martin County historic site.

## The Crary Family

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Lawrence Evans Crary (1905-1968), the second child and only son of Perley Frederick Crary and Alice Lewis Crary, was born and raised in Tampa, Florida and was already a third generation Floridian on his mother's side of the family. In 1927, he graduated from University of Florida Law School in Gainesville, and joined City of Stuart Attorney Edwin Bobolston to practice in recently formed Martin County.



Photo of Evans, Talley, and their four children.

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The Evans Crary Sr. House, known as "The House of Refuge," is now a museum and Martin County's beloved icon.



Evans Crary Sr. as Speaker of the House, 1945.



Evans Crary Sr. and Larry Crary during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new bridge over the St. Lucie River.



Three generations of Crarys, standing under the original bridge over the St. Lucie River.



Crary Family Thanksgiving, 1944.

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ELLIOTT MUSEUM      PHONE: (772) 225-1961  
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STUART, FL 34996-1696



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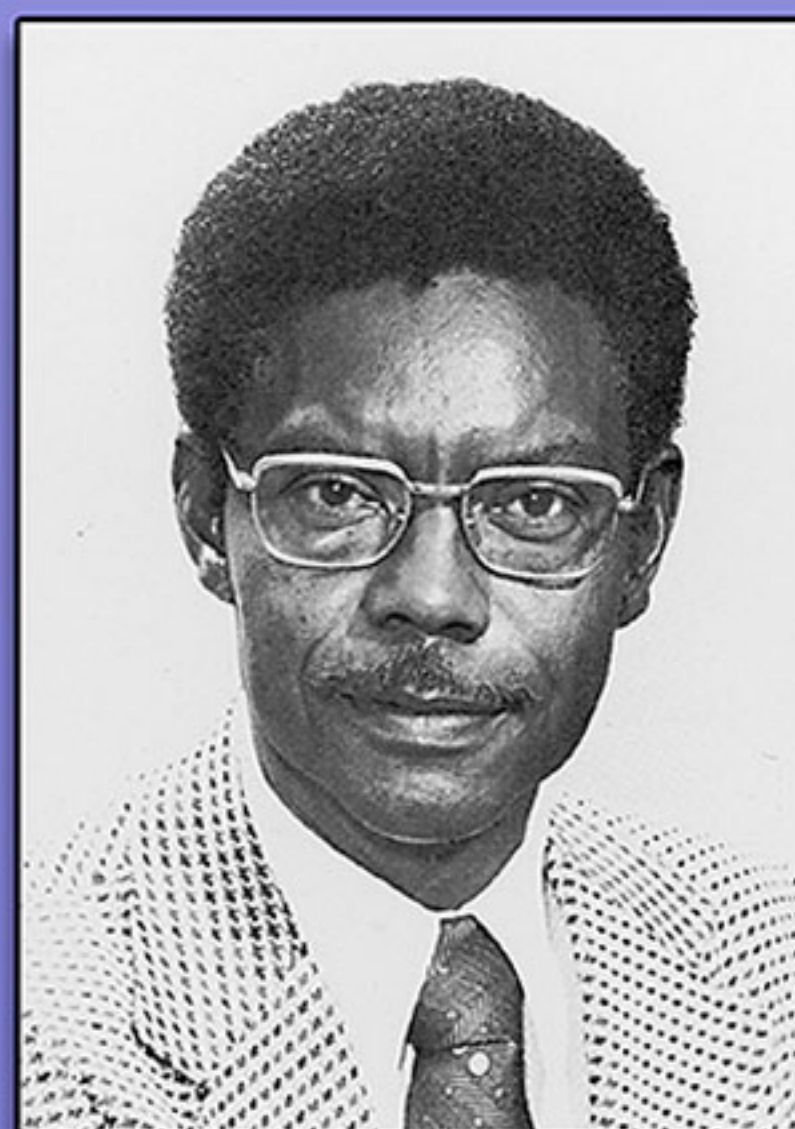
Martha and Lincoln Miller joined friends and Bahamian relatives to purchase



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Dunbar School in Hobe Sound, a Martin County Historic Site.



# The Rue and Luckhardt Families

## Constructing Martin County

Luckhardt.....why is that name so familiar in Martin County?



Henry Rue in the 1930s.

Alice and Greg Luckhardt are noted local historians who work tirelessly to promote and preserve Martin County history. Greg is a descendant from the Rue family of Martin County pioneers. Inspired by the treasured family photos, scrapbooks and interesting stories of life in Stuart collected by Greg's parents, Roy and Leona, Greg and Alice have pursued their passion to preserve local history. Greg has compiled a Digital Community Scrapbook which includes thousands of images, articles, obituaries, and information pertaining to all aspects of Martin County's community heritage. Alice has authored several books and magazine articles. They coauthor a weekly series of historical vignettes for the *Stuart News*. Alice is a well-known speaker on the Martin County of days gone by. In 2013, Greg and Alice were recognized as the *Martin County Preservationists of the Year*.



Harriet Rue in 1928 surrounded by pineapples.

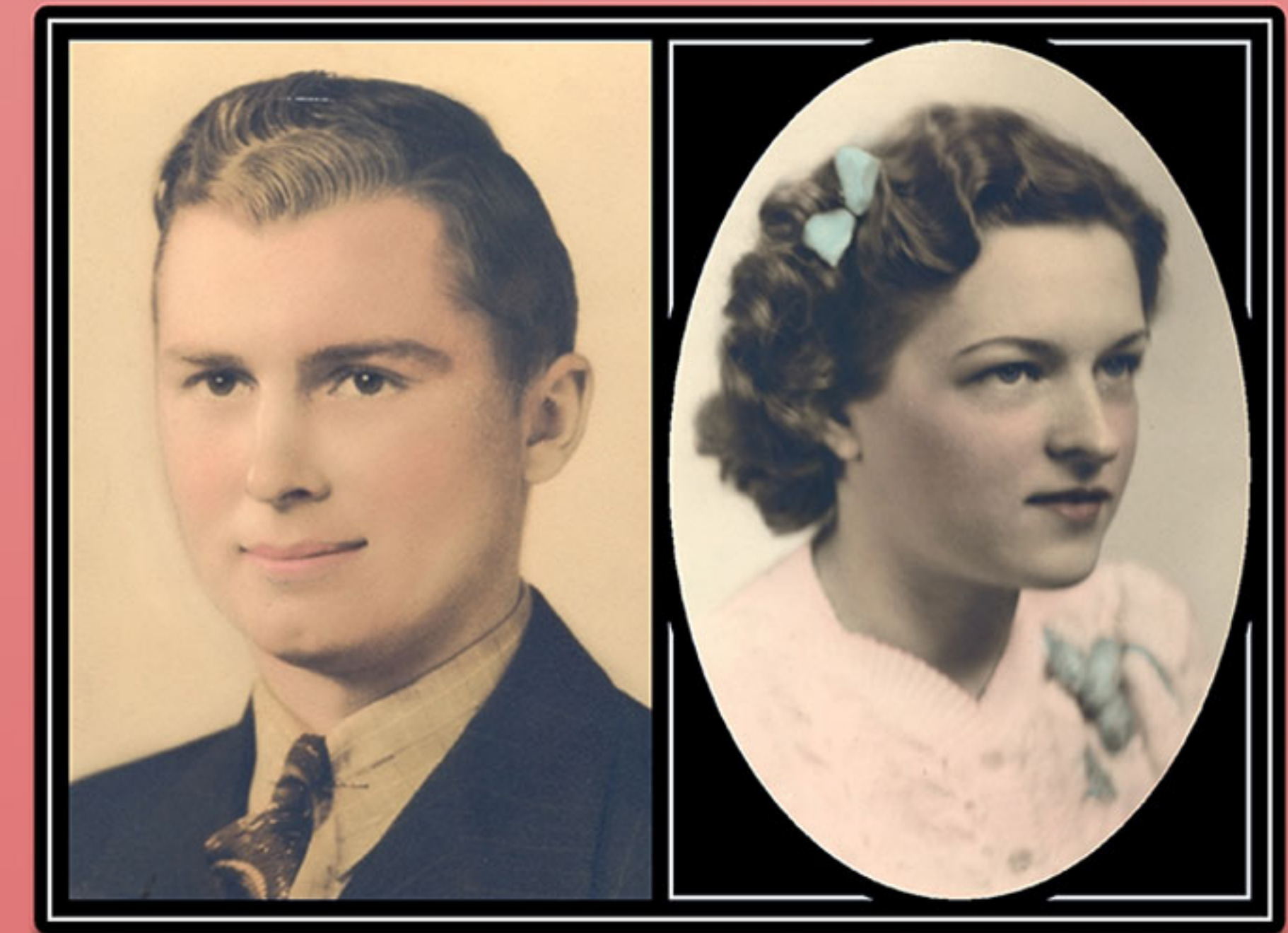
Luckhardt Street, located south of Stuart off US Hwy 1, goes back to the early 1970s. It was then that Roy Luckhardt opened one of Stuart's first flea markets on 11 acres that he owned. After Roy's death in 1984, son Greg and his wife Alice continued to manage the flea market until April of 2000.

The family history in Martin County began in 1924-25, when Henry (1862-1937) and Harriet Rue (1862-1957) along with their adult sons, Charles (1897-1968) and Fred (1899-1967), relocated from Michigan, to Stuart. The Rue's purchased the *Butter Kist Shoppe* from Nathen Hickey and renamed it *Rue and Sons Sweet Shop*. The business was a successful addition to Stuart's newly developing downtown. Henry passed away in 1937 and the sweet shop closed in the 1940s; Harriet went on to own *Friendly Tavern*. In 1957 at the age of 95, Harriett passed away as Stuart's oldest resident.

From 1932-1953, son Fred owned *Stuart Paint Store*, while his wife Viola served as the county tax clerk.

Son, Charles Rue was a civic leader and deeply involved in community affairs. He rose to serve as Master of the Masonic Lodge in 1930, and President of the Kiwanis Club in 1950. Through Martin County's formative years, Charles had an interesting and varied career as a sign painter, carpenter-cabinet maker, bookkeeper, manager or salesman for several businesses including Texaco, Pontiac, Firestone, Luckhardt Construction, and the *Stuart News*. When elected Chairman of the Martin County School Board in the 1930s, he traveled to Ohio to pick up and drive Martin County's first school-owned bus back to Stuart. Charles and his wife Lois also organized a small "orchestra" ensemble, which entertained at many local functions. Lois served as president of PTA in 1935.

During WWII, Charles received a citation for work as a civilian carpenter in the Engineers Corps at Camp Murphy. He designed and built one of the first observation towers for the war effort on Hobe Sound Beach. Lois also volunteered her services at Camp Murphy as a seamstress.



Roy Luckhardt in 1938 and Leona Rue in 1937.

Charles and Lois were founding members of the first St. Mary's Church on 3rd St. The couple was instrumental in facilitating the construction and growth of the parish. in the 1930s they established the first Sunday School and Children's Choir. Lois was the church organist. Charles was actively involved in the new church on 4th Street-East Ocean Blvd. when it was built in 1949.

Charles and Lois had two daughters, Leila (1917-2001) and Leona (1919-2015). Leona remained in Stuart and married Roy "Lucky" Luckhardt (1921-1984) in 1947. They raised three children - Grant, Greg, and Elisa. Roy owned *Luckhardt Construction*, a heavy equipment construction company and other businesses in Stuart over the years. Roy's businesses were responsible for many noteworthy projects in Martin County and in the 1960s, his company did extensive work on Alligator Alley.



At the Lighthouse Restaurant in Stuart, 1952, the Rue /Luckhardt family celebrates Harriet M. Rue's 90th birthday. Left to right are: Viola Rue, Fred Rue, Greg Luckhardt, Leona R. Luckhardt, Hattie M. Rue, Roy Luckhardt, Grant Luckhardt, Charles H. Rue and Lois R. Rue.

The Luckhardt family continues to call Martin County home, promoting and preserving its unique history by sharing it with locals and visitors alike.



Both Photos: *Luckhardt Construction* with its heavy equipment was instrumental in building the infrastructure of Martin County. Above: a new sign is installed over the Arch in Jensen Beach, 1954.



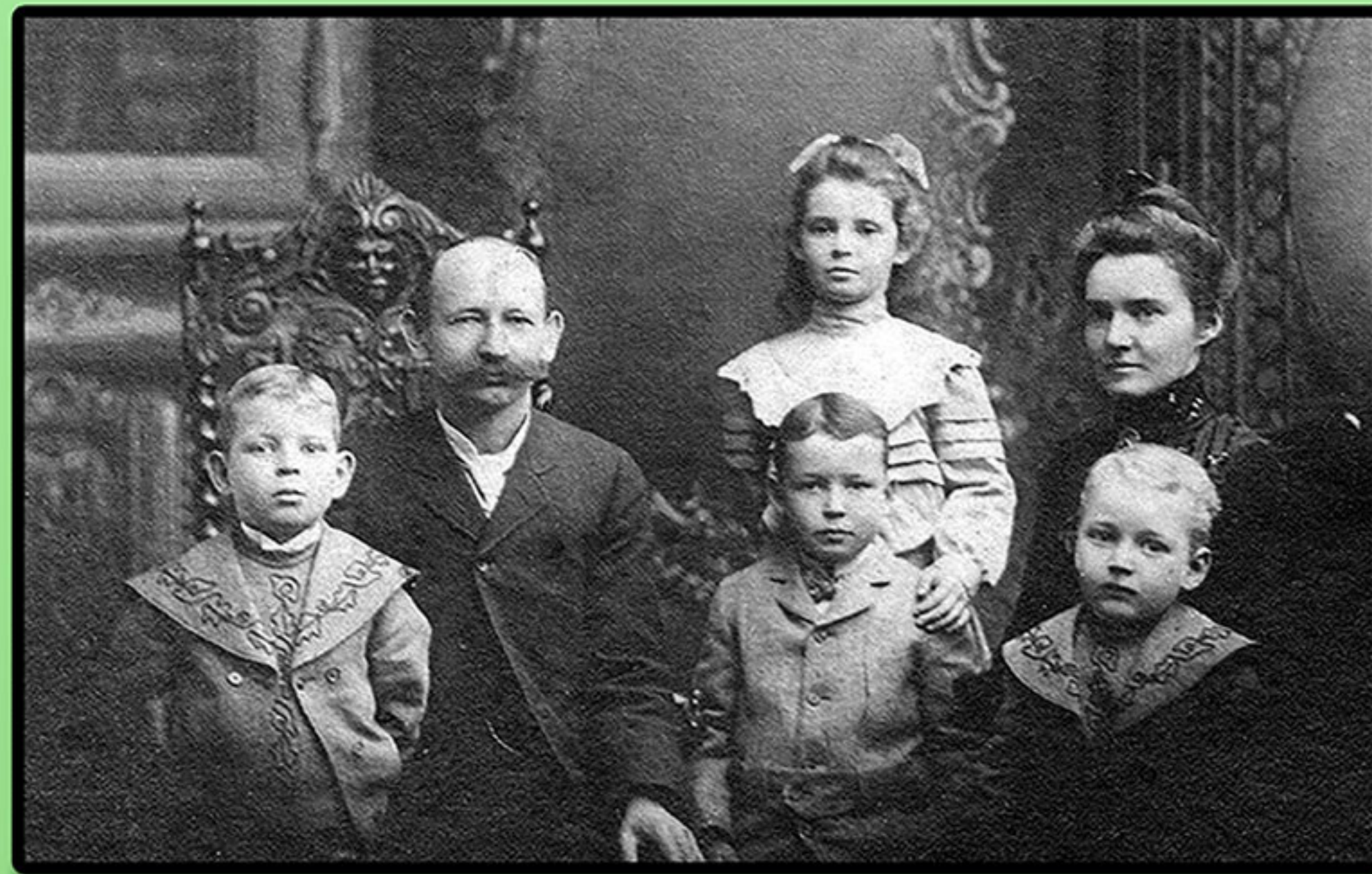
# The Krueger Family

## Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders

Albert Rudolph Emil Krueger (1859-1922) from Berlin, Germany, immigrated to the United States in 1880, settling in New York City. After becoming a naturalized citizen in 1886, he traveled south by train and boat to help his friend Ed Glutsch, who had homesteaded along the St. Lucie River in Rio. Krueger stayed and grew his first pineapples on land borrowed from Ernest Stypmann. After a profitable first crop, Krueger traveled to Jacksonville and purchased his own 80 acre homestead at \$1.25 an acre. The property is situated along what is today East Ocean Boulevard Krueger dredged the creek on the property, making it navigable to the St. Lucie River. Krueger was Nicknamed "Dude" by locals because he continued to wear his derby hat, stiff collars, and fancy ties for many years.



A. R. Krueger and party, 1890, returning from "Proving Up" trip to Jacksonville. Two witnesses were required to testify that he had lived on the property for one year.



Front left to right: Karl John, Father Albert Rudolph, Albert (Bert) Paul, and George Peter. Janet Theresa and Mother Annie Krueger are in the back right.

Annie Donaldson Kincaid Speirs (1869-1945) of Glasgow, Scotland arrived in Potsdam from Canada in 1891 to fill a teaching position in Waveland. She resided with her Uncle and Aunt, Capt. Benjamin and Annie Hogg. Albert met and courted Annie, and they were married March 6, 1896. They originally resided in a small cabin among the pineapple fields, built from locally milled lumber. In about 1904, Albert had a new home constructed. The vernacular frame home sat on the bluff overlooking Krueger Creek, surrounded by 53 acres of pineapples, tropical and sub-tropical plants, citrus trees, and flowering plants. Albert named it "Burn Brae Plantation" which in Scottish means "house on the hill by the water". Burn Brae Plantation remains in the Krueger family today. It was lovingly restored by Billy and Anne Krueger Stimmell from 1997-2002 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Burn Brae 2019

Annie and Albert raised four children at Burn Brae: Janet Theresa (1894-1967), Karl John (1885-1959), Albert (Bert) Paul (1896-1972), and George Peter (1897-1948). Janet married Carroll Duncscombe, an attorney, businessman, and pineapple grower. Duncscombe was the cousin of Stuart's namesake, Homer Hines Stuart, Jr. All three Krueger boys served in WWI. Karl John became a successful businessman, developer, and flower farmer. Bert returned from the war as a pilot. When air travel was still in its infancy, he started the first local airline, offering passenger service using two Curtiss Flying Boats. He opened Krueger Municipal Airport in 1928, building a runway and two hangers. George, an electrical engineer, ran a garage and machine shop in downtown Stuart. Many descendants of pineapple farmer, Albert Rudolph, still call Stuart home. Their family tree is deeply rooted in Martin County's soil and its branches include many other pioneer families, such as the Duncscombes, Bruners, Stimmells, and Pecks. The Kruegers continue to influence Martin County as entrepreneurs, community leaders, and elected officials. Kenneth Stimmell and Karl Krueger Jr. each served three terms as Mayor of Stuart. Stimmell served ten termson the City Commission and Krueger served seven terms.



Krueger Airlines Curtiss Flying Boat.



The Krueger Building opened in 1925 and was the largest building in Stuart at that time. Located west of the railroad tracks it encompassed an entire city block.



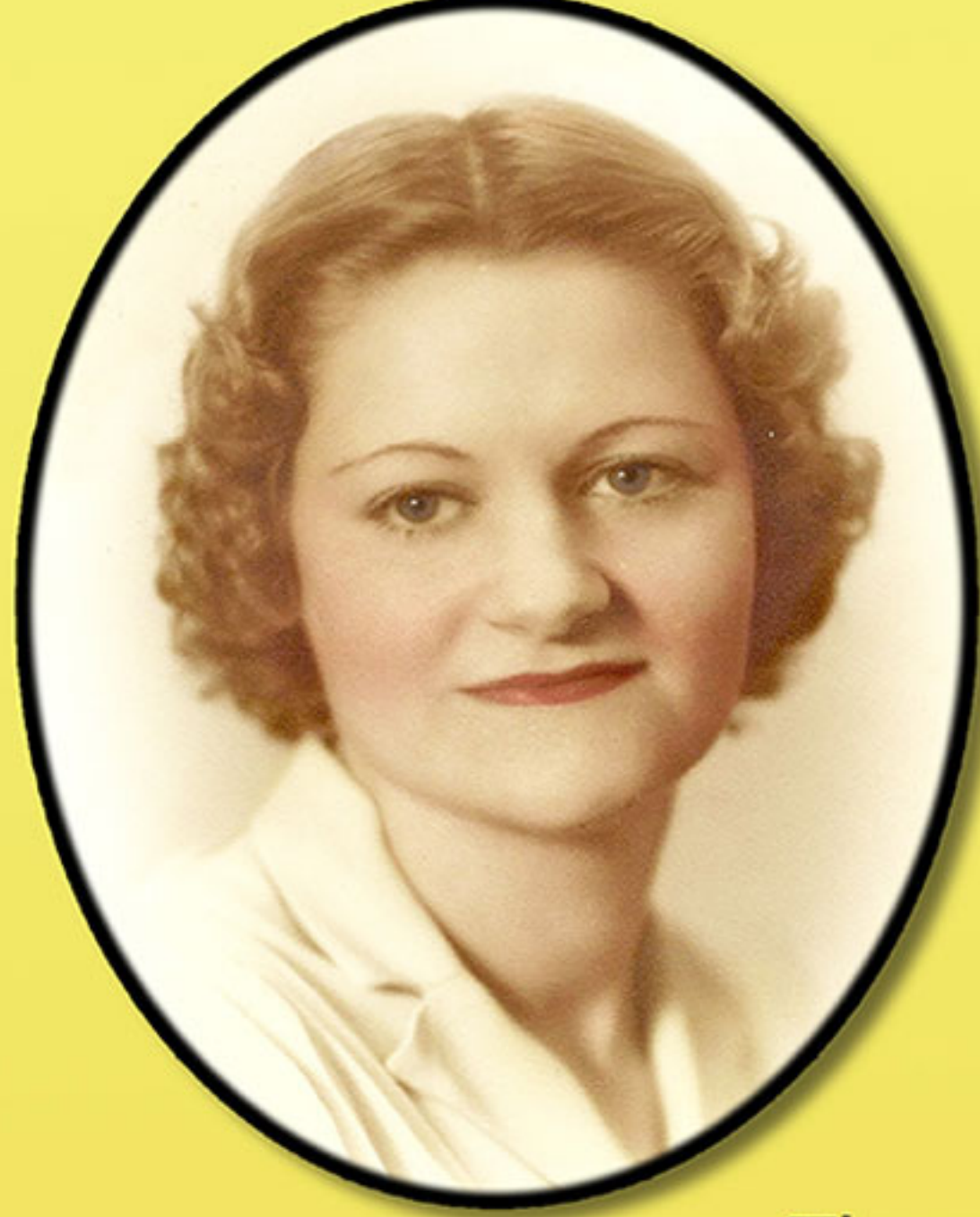
The Kruegers were one of the the first commercial flower growers in Martin County. Shown here in 1967 Karl Krueger Jr. and Edward Smith pack flowers for shipment throughout the north east.



# The Crary Family

## *A Legacy of Community Service*

Lawrence Evans Crary (1905-1968), the second child and only son of Perley Frederick Crary and Alice Lewis Crary, was born and raised in Tampa, Florida and was already a third generation Floridian on his mother's side of the family. In 1927, he graduated from University of Florida Law School in Gainesville, and joined City of Stuart Attorney Edwin Brobston to practice in recently formed Martin County.



Talley Crary, 1945

Talley McKewn (1905-2002) was born in Orangeburg, SC at the plantation home of her Grandfather, John H. Dukes, a former Confederate Calvary Officer. Talley grew up in Tampa spending her summers in South Carolina. The McKewns lived two doors down from the Crarys in Tampa. Talley and Evans dated on and off from the time they were fourteen. On Saturday, February 4th, 1928, Talley accompanied Evans to retrieve his car which had broken down in Dunnellon. The two stopped off in the small town of Brooksville, where Evans had a judge waiting to marry them. She returned home as Mrs. Evans Crary!



Alice, Evans, Laura, and Perley F. Crary

The political career of Evans Crary, Sr. began in 1929 when he was elected municipal judge.

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Evans Crary, Sr. as Speaker of the House, 1945



Talley and Evans, 1936, in front of their house on Cardinal Way

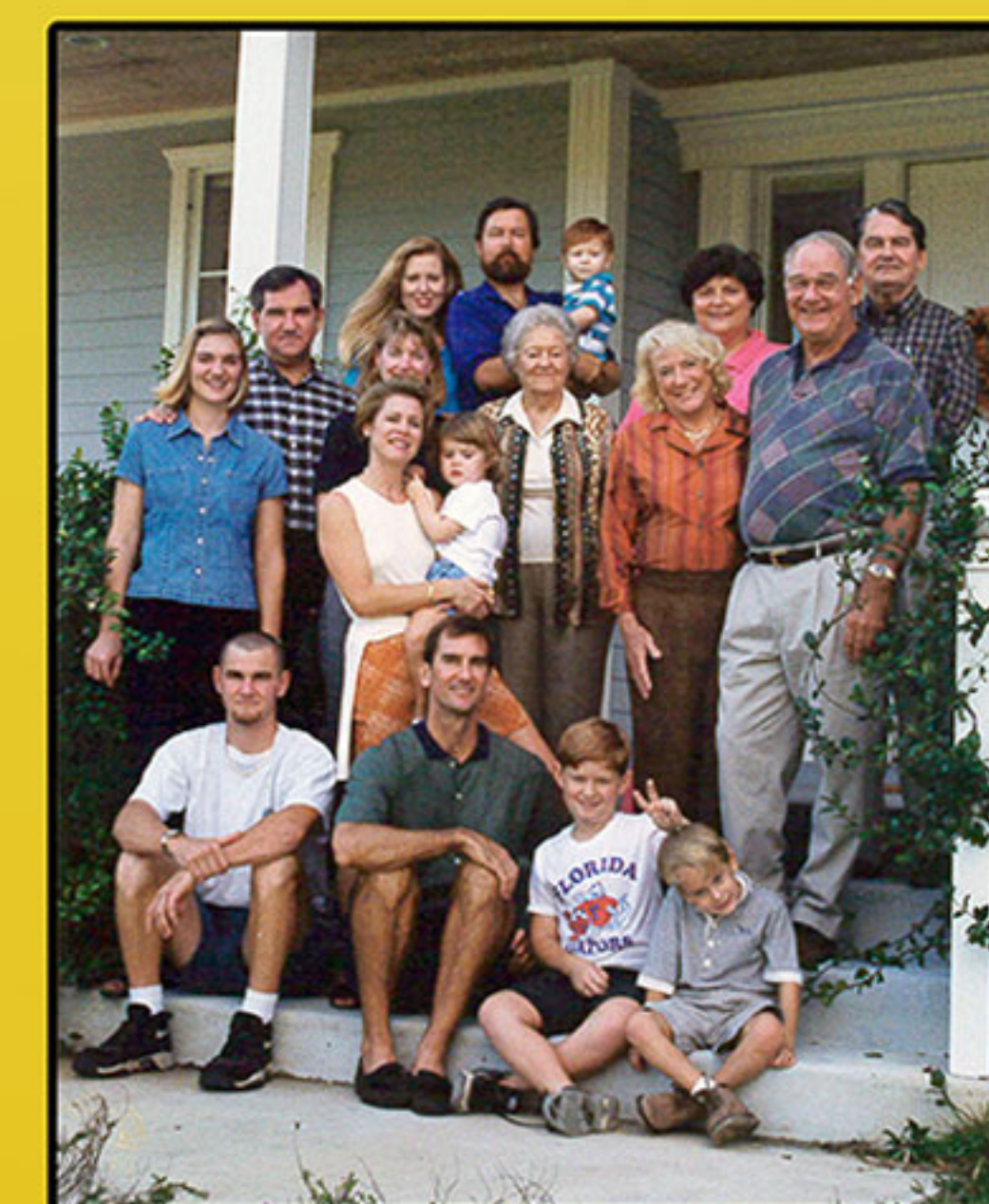
One of Crary's most impactful accomplishments was to obtain funding necessary to construct "the Bridges to the Sea" across Martin County's St. Lucie and Indian Rivers. This connected the mainland to Hutchinson Island and opened Sewalls Point and Hutchinson Island for development. This bridge brought growth, prosperity, and people to Martin County. The ribbon cutting was January 8, 1958. It was not until February 19, 1966, that the bridge over the St. Lucie River was dedicated as the Evans Crary, Sr. Bridge. The original drawbridge was replaced with a fixed span bridge and dedicated May 6, 2001.



Evans Crary, Sr. and Larry Crary along with former Governor Martin cut the ribbon, January 8, 1958 to open the bridge over the St. Lucie River.



Three Generations of Crary Attorneys. Standing under the portrait of Evans Crary, Sr. are (left to right) Larry, Evans Jr, Rick, William F., and Mike Crary



Crary Family Thanksgiving, 1998

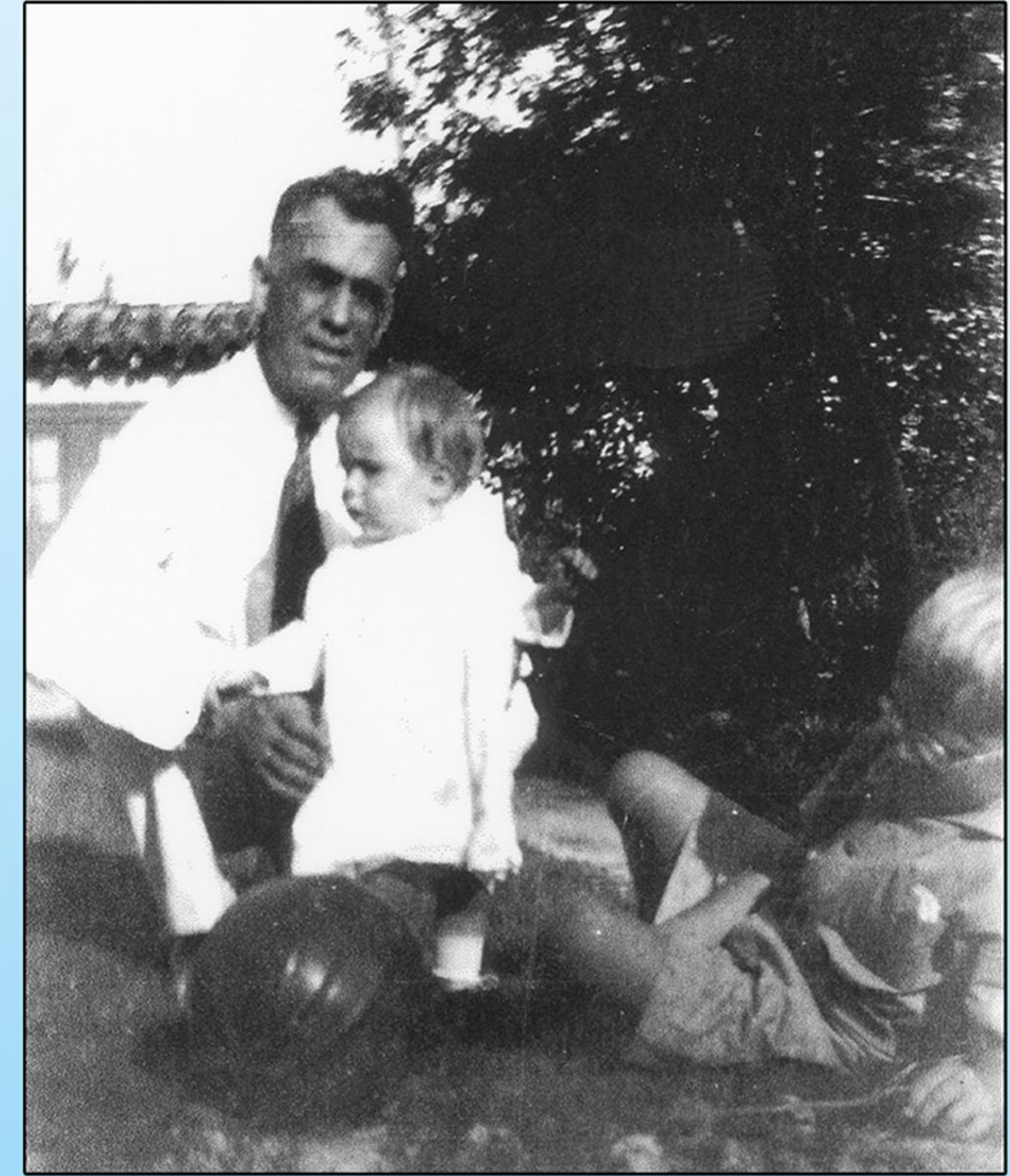
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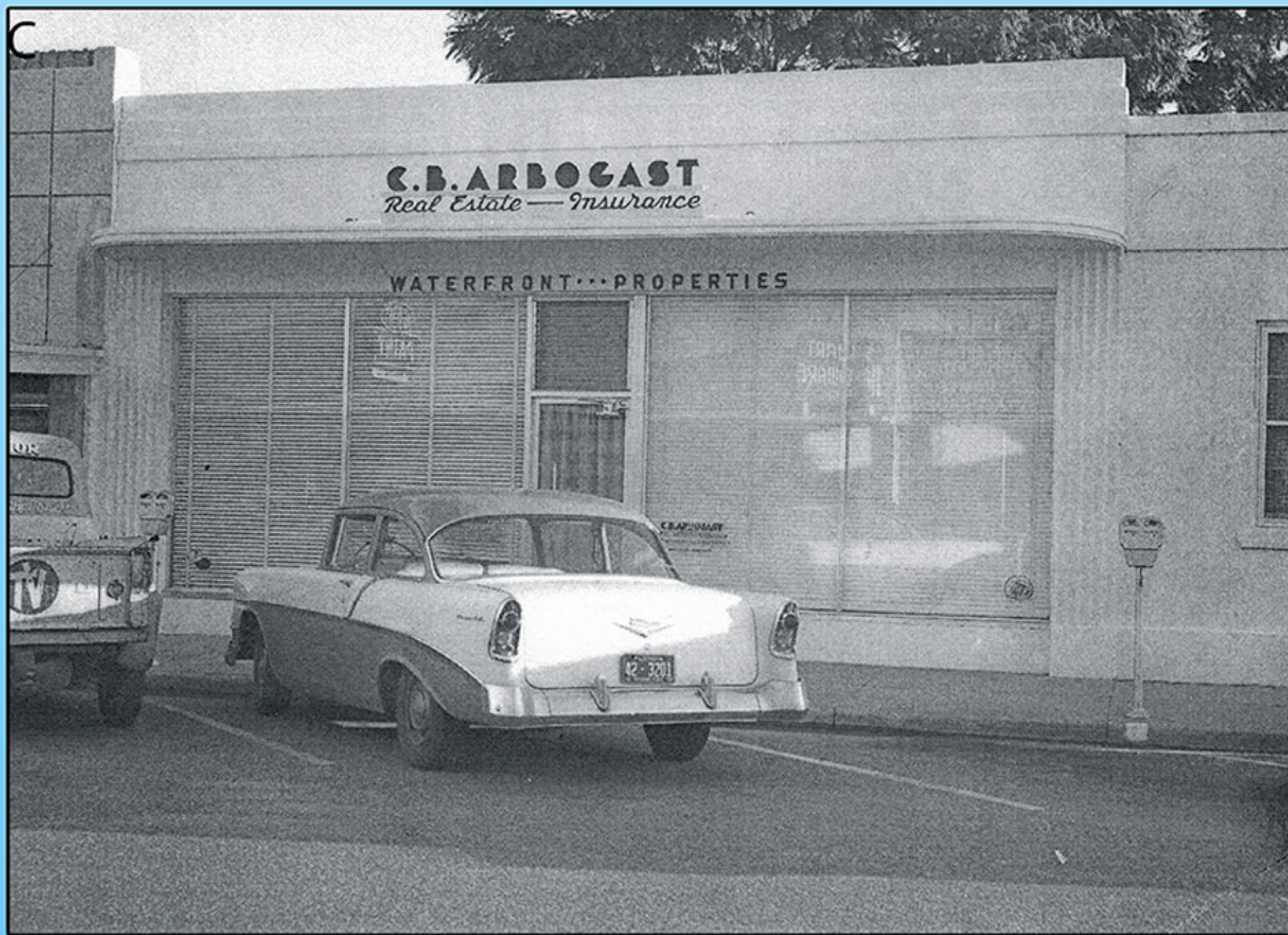
# Charles Benjamin Arbogast Sr.

Charles Benjamin "Charlie" Arbogast (1890-1974) earned a successful living while making his mark on Stuart's formative years of real estate development. He moved from Miami to Stuart in 1925, at the age of 35. Before relocating to Florida, Charlie was in the grain and coal businesses and served in the Naval Air Corps during World War I. It was Florida's real estate boom that lured him to Stuart. At the time, there were more than 25 real estate firms in Stuart. Charlie entered into a partnership with Theodore Dehon, Sr., who was also a pioneer in the Stuart real estate market.

From the moment he came on to the Stuart real estate scene, Charlie recognized and espoused the intrinsic value of the area's rivers, bays and ocean, and foresaw the potential of the then-undeveloped Hutchinson Island. In his property advertisements, he often used phrases like "Along the Gulf Stream," "Where the Caravels Sailed" and "Where the Trade Winds Blow." His main office was in Stuart, located at 301-303 St. Lucie Avenue. Through Charlie's efforts, three prime oceanfront recreational tracts were secured for Martin County and are enjoyed by the public to this day: Jensen Beach, Stuart Beach and the House of Refuge and its adjoining properties.



Charles Arbogast Sr. with young sons Charles Jr. (Ben) and Middleton.



1926 was an auspicious year for Charlie. He married 24-year-old Eva Dehon (1902-1994), who was the daughter of his partner, Theodore Dehon. The couple had two sons, Charles Jr., known as "Ben" (1928-), and Middleton (1932-1955). 1926 also saw an unfortunate series of natural disasters that were coupled with human blunders; thus began the downturn that eventually turned the economic "boom" to "bust." Subsequently, the Dehon/Arbogast partnership was dissolved in 1928. Charlie then established his own business, C.B. Arbogast Real Estate and Insurance, which survived the Depression and participated in the revival of land values after World War II.

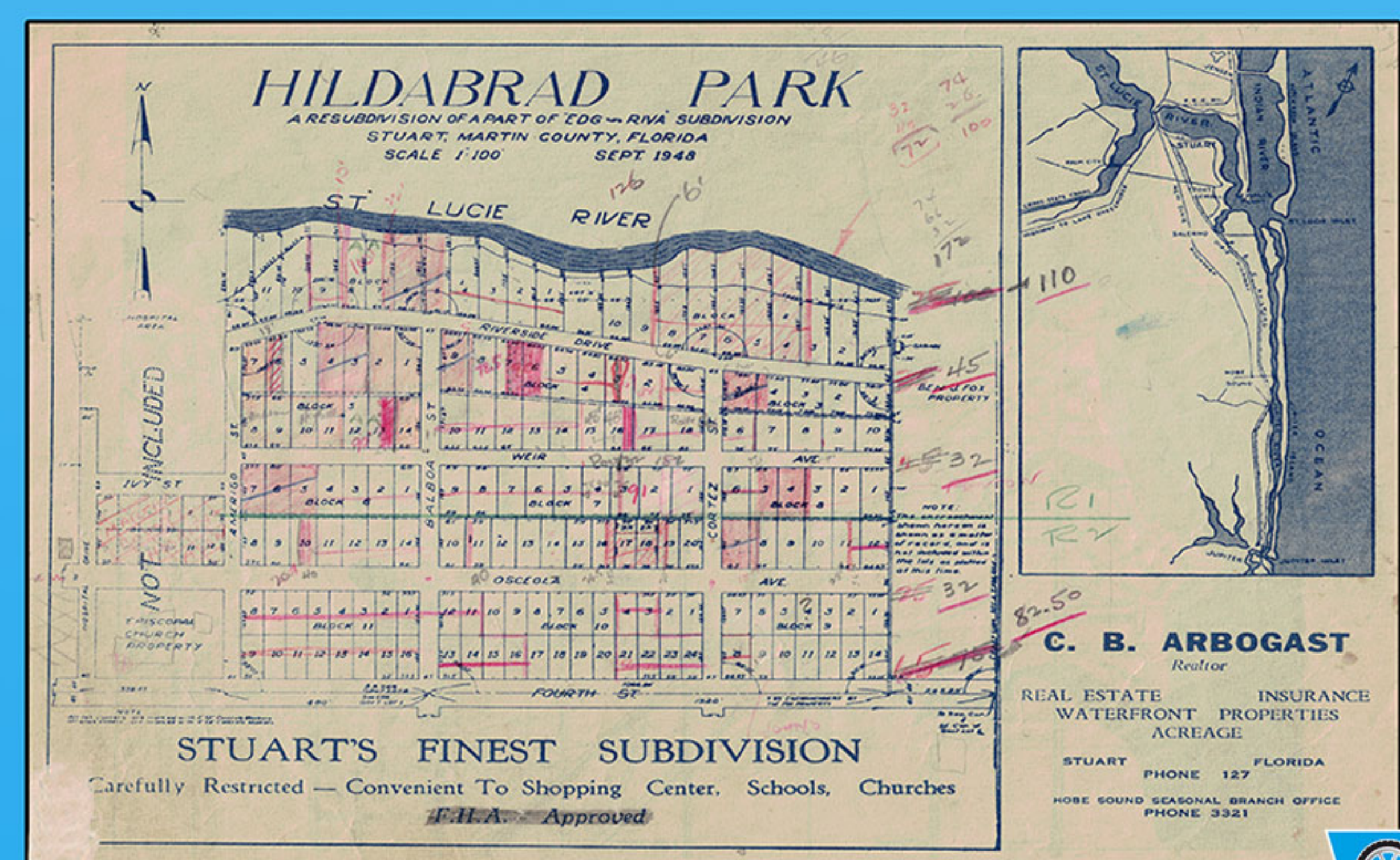
Charlie Arbogast was involved in scores of area developments including the Hobe Sound Company, which owned a resort at

Hobe Sound and Jupiter Island, where Charlie served as its resident manager. Among the subdivisions he developed were Coconut Park and North River Shores, Hildabrad Park, Seven Oaks Island on Jupiter Island, and Indian Hills. Additionally, Charlie was involved with Bessemer Properties in the acquisition and development of High Point on Sewall's Point. Through this company, he purchased and subdivided "Mandalay" on the Point, the original Hugh Willoughby estate. Charlie became a land investment counsel/advisor to many national figures, including Willard Kiplinger (1891-1967), who purchased Bay Tree Lodge on Sewall's Point.

Charlie has a long list of service to the community. He was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, was active in the early days of the American Legion, was a member of the Forty and Eight, was a founding member of the Stuart Rotary Club, as well as active in the early Stuart Chamber of Commerce and Boy Scouts. Professionally, he was a former president of the Stuart Board of Realtors. Charlie served two terms as a Martin County commissioner.

Charlie's son Middleton became a real estate broker and insurance agent by the age of 18, and was associated with his father's firm until his tragic death in a 1955 car crash. Ben graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., in 1949 as a civil engineer. From 1949 to 1954 he worked as an engineer for Shell Oil in Puerto Rico. He returned to Stuart in 1954 as partner of Greenlees, Arbogast and Associates Inc., Engineers. He also succeeded his father, Charlie, as president of the realty and insurance firm. He served as a director of the Board of Realtors in Stuart. Ben was a captain in the United States Army Reserves, as well as active in civic and social organizations. He eventually retired to Tucson, Arizona.

In 1936, Charlie and Eva purchased their 1,500-plus-square-foot home at 216 SE Oriole Avenue in St Lucie Estates/Section Three. The 1925-built home was a "kit" house, common in the era, where the plans were purchased from a catalog and provided to a local contractor for construction. The couple lived there until their deaths, Charlie at 85 in 1974, Eva at age 91 in 1994.





# The Armellinis

*A Journey of a Lifetime*



Sarah and Toots in 1943.



Innovation has kept the Armellini name in the forefront of the trucking industry for over 75 years and established the Armellinis as one of Martin County's greatest "American Success" stories.

The story began with Julio (Jules) "Toots" Armellini and Sarah Dauito, high school sweethearts in Vineland, New Jersey. Toots was on the football team and Sarah attended all the football games and school functions. The two were both first generation Americans from Italian immigrant families. Toots visited the Dauito family home as the delivery driver for his cousin's meat and produce business. As Sarah's parents did not permit her to date in high school, she and Toots began a quiet courtship. After high school, Sarah attended St. Mary's Nursing school in Philadelphia. In 1943, Toots enlisted in the U.S. Navy, becoming a Seabee. He was stationed in Okinawa, Japan and on August 9, 1945, Toots felt the ground shake when the United States dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan. While he was home on leave, Toots and Sarah married on February 4, 1945.

Toots's first trucking route was driving for his brothers, delivering chrysanthemums and gladioli to New York and Philadelphia. Toots worked six nights a week at \$5.00 a trip, loading flowers, driving, and maintaining the truck. Toots found his niche-- and Armellini Express Lines was born. Sarah worked days as a nurse and did the company bookkeeping at night. The first "terminal" was an old barn located on property belonging to Toots's mother.

In 1949, Armellini managed to get a foothold in Florida. Toots hauled gladioli out of Belle Glade and pom poms grown in Stuart. Early on, Toots invented new ways to refrigerate and pack the trucks, keeping the flowers fresher and better protected. Growers appreciated his efforts to extend the shelf life of their product and the business grew.



Armellini added trucks to its fleet and in 1953, the company incorporated. In 1959, Toots bought out a competitor, Holland Highway Express, which provided the opportunity for Armellini to expand into international transport. Armellini was now in the game to export freight from New York to ports of entry in South Florida, and became a vital transport connection between northeastern industries and Latin America. In 1976, Armellini Express Lines, Inc. relocated its headquarters to a 15-acre, 30,000 square foot complex in Palm City. The hub of the Armellini operation now included an administrative office, a 22-door insulated flower and plant terminal, and a 15-bay maintenance shop.

Toots and Sarah were blessed with five children: Richard (1948), Judith (1949), William (1952), Stephen (1956), and David (1961). All were raised in and around the business, and their parents encouraged them to perform small tasks in the daily operation while still at a young age. Eventually, the hands-on involvement of the Armellini offspring evolved into management roles in the company. Today, the second and third generations of Armellinis keep the company running and expanding its services.

Sarah and Jules Armellini always played an active part in their church and community. Jules was recognized by many floral and import/export organizations for his contributions to the industry. In 1964, Armellini came to the aid of the fledgling Historical Society of Martin County in its efforts to convert the abandoned House of Refuge property into Martin County's first museum. Armellini Express Lines transported over two tons of surplus Navy equipment from the Northeast U.S. to fill the Stuart museum.

Today, Armellini Express Lines has rebranded as Armellini Logistics. No longer just a flower shipper, the company is recognized as a leader in the international transportation industry with services including U.S. Customs brokerage, air freight, brokered truckloads, warehousing, container transport, and storage. As of 2020, Armellini Logistics employs 239 personnel in Martin County, and 433 fulltime employees throughout its international enterprises.

Together Toots and Sarah enjoyed a rich and fulfilling 63-year partnership in marriage, family life, and business. Toots passed away on August 15, 2013 at age 90.



Above: Toots and Sarah with their Children  
Right: Toots and Sarah in the cab of one of their semi trucks





# Thank You

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Sarah and Toots in 1941.



Innovation has kept the Armellini name in the forefront of the trucking industry for over 75 years and established the Armellinis as one of Martin County's greatest 'American Success' stories.

The story began with Julio (Jules) "Toots" Armellini and Sarah Dauto, high school sweethearts in Vineland, New Jersey. Toots was on the football team and Sarah attended all the football games and school functions. The two were both first generation Americans from Italian immigrant families. Toots visited the Dauto family home as the delivery driver for his cousin's meat and produce business. As Sarah's parents did not permit her to date in high school, she and Toots began a quiet courtship. After high school, Sarah attended St. Mary's Nursing School in Philadelphia. In 1943, Toots enlisted in the U.S. Navy, becoming a Seabee. He was stationed in Okinawa, Japan and on August 9, 1945, Toots felt the ground shake when the United States dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan. While he was home on leave, Toots and Sarah married on February 4, 1945.

Toots' first trucking route was driving for his brothers, delivering chrysanthemums and gladioli to New York and Philadelphia. Toots worked six nights a week at \$5.00 a trip, loading flowers, driving, and maintaining the truck. Toots found his niche - and Armellini Express Lines was born. Sarah worked days as a nurse and did the company bookkeeping at night. The first "terminal" was an old barn located on property belonging to Toots' mother.



Armellini added trucks to its fleet and in 1953, the company incorporated. In 1959, Toots bought out a competitor, Holland Highway Express, which provided the opportunity for Armellini to expand into international transport. Armellini was now in the game to export freight from New York to ports of entry in South Florida, and became a vital transport connection between northeastern industries and Latin America. In 1976, Armellini Express Lines, Inc. relocated its headquarters to a 15-acre, 30,000 square foot complex in Palm City. The hub of the Armellini operation now included an administrative office, a 22-door insulated flower and plant terminal, and a 15-bay maintenance shop.

Toots and Sarah were blessed with five children: Richard (1948), Judith (1949), William (1952), Stephen (1956), and David (1961). All were raised in and around the business, and their parents encouraged them to perform small tasks in the daily operation while still at a young age. Eventually, the hands-on involvement of the Armellini offspring evolved into management roles in the company. Today, the second and third generations of Armellini keep the company running and expanding its services.

Sarah and Jules Armellini always played an active part in their church and community. Jules was recognized by many floral and import/export organizations for his contributions to the industry. In 1964, Armellini came to the aid of the fledgling Historical Society of Martin County in its efforts to convert the abandoned House of Refuge property into Martin County's first museum. Armellini Express Lines transported over two tons of surplus Navy equipment from the Northeast U.S. to fill the Stuart museum.

Today, Armellini Express Lines has rebranded as Armellini Logistics. No longer just a flower shipper, the company is recognized as a leader in the international transportation industry with services including U.S. Customs brokerage, air freight, brokered truckloads, warehousing, container transport, and storage. As of 2020, Armellini Logistics employs 239 personnel in Martin County and 433 fulltime employees throughout its international enterprises.



Heather Toots and Sarah with their children.



Together Toots and Sarah enjoyed a rich and fulfilling 63-year partnership in marriage, family life, and business. Toots passed away on August 15, 2013 at age 90.

## Charles Benjamin Arbogast Sr.

Charles Benjamin "Charlie" Arbogast (1890-1974) earned a successful living while making his mark on Stuart's formative years of real estate development. He moved from Miami to Stuart in 1925, at the age of 35. Before relocating to Florida, Charlie was in the grain and coal businesses and served in the Naval Air Corps during World War I. It was Florida's real estate boom that lured him to Stuart. At the time, there were more than 25 real estate firms in Stuart. Charlie entered into a partnership with Theodore Dehon, Sr., who was also a pioneer in the Stuart real estate market.



Charles Arbogast Sr. with young sons Charles Jr. (Bert) and Middleton.

From the moment he came on to the Stuart real estate scene, Charlie recognized and espoused the intrinsic value of the area's rivers, bays and ocean, and foresaw the potential of the then undeveloped Hutchinson Island. In his property advertisements, he often used phrases like "Along the Gulf Stream," "Where the Caravels Sailed" and "Where the Trade Winds Blow." His main office was in Stuart, located at 301-303 St. Lucie Avenue. Through Charlie's efforts, three prime oceanfront recreational tracts were secured for Martin County and are enjoyed by the public to this day: Jensen Beach, Stuart Beach and the House of Refuge and its adjoining properties.



1926 was an auspicious year for Charlie. He married 24-year-old Eva Dehon (1902-1994), who was the daughter of his partner, Theodore Dehon. The couple had two sons, Charles Jr., known as "Bert" (1928), and Middleton (1932-1955). 1926 also saw an unfortunate series of natural disasters that were coupled with human blunders; thus began the downturn that eventually turned the economic "boom" to "bust." Subsequently, the Dehon/Arbogast partnership was dissolved in 1928. Charlie then established his own business, C.B. Arbogast Real Estate and Insurance, which survived the Depression and participated in the revival of land values after World War II.

## The Krueger Family

*Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders*

Albert Rudolph Emil Krueger (1859-1922) from Berlin, Germany, immigrated to the United States in 1880, settling in New York City. After becoming a naturalized citizen in 1886, he traveled south by train and boat to help his friend Ed Glutsch, who had homesteaded along the St. Lucie River in Rio. Krueger stayed and grew his first pineapples on land borrowed from Ernest Stypmann. After a profitable first crop, Krueger traveled to Jacksonville and purchased his own 80 acre homestead at \$1.25 an acre. The property is situated along what is today East Ocean Boulevard Krueger dredged the creek on the property, making it navigable to the St. Lucie River. Krueger was Nicknamed "Dude" by locals because he continued to wear his derby hat, stiff collars, and fancy ties for many years.



A.R. Krueger and party, 1890, returning from "Proving Up" trip to Jacksonville. Two witnesses were required to testify that he had lived on the property for one year.



Front left to right: Karl John, Father Albert Rudolph, Albert (Bert) Paul, and George Peter. Janet Theresa and Mother Annie Krueger are in the back right.

Annie Donaldson Kincaid Speirs (1869-1945) of Glasgow, Scotland arrived in Potsdam from Canada in 1891 to fill a teaching position in Waveland. She resided with her Uncle and Aunt, Capt. Benjamin and Annie Hogg. Albert met and courted Annie, and they were married March 6, 1896. They originally resided in a small cabin among the pineapple fields, built from locally milled lumber. In about 1904, Albert had a new home constructed. The vernacular frame home sat on the bluff overlooking Krueger Creek, surrounded by 53 acres of pineapples, tropical and sub-tropical plants, citrus trees, and flowering plants. Albert named it "Burn Brae Plantation" which in Scottish means "house on the hill by the water". Burn Brae Plantation remains in the Krueger family today. It was lovingly restored by Billy and Anne Krueger Stimmell from 1997-2002 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Children at Burn Brae: Janet Theresa (1894-1967), Karl John (1885-1959), Albert (Bert) Paul (1897-1948). Janet married Carroll Duncanson, an attorney, businessman, and pineapple grower. Karl John was a pilot, a businessman, developer, and flower farmer. Bert returned from the war as a pilot. When air travel was slow, he started the first local airline, offering passenger service using two Curtiss Flying Boats. He opened Krueger Municipal Airport in 1928, building a runway and two hangars. George, an electrical engineer, ran a garage and machine shop in downtown Stuart. Many descendants of pineapple farmer, Albert Rudolph, still call Stuart home. Their family tree is deeply rooted in Martin County's soil and its branches include many other pioneer families, such as the Duncansons, Bruners, Stimmells, and Pecks. The Kruegers continue to influence Martin County as entrepreneurs, community leaders, and elected officials. Kenneth Stimmell and Karl Krueger Jr. each served three terms as Mayor of Stuart. Stimmell served ten terms on the City Commission and Krueger served seven terms.



Krueger Airlines Curtiss Flying Boat.



The Krueger Building opened in 1925 and was the largest building in Stuart at that time. Located west of the railroad tracks it encompassed an entire city block.



The Kruegers were one of the first commercial flower growers in Martin County. Shown here in 1967 Karl Krueger Jr. and Edward Smith pack flowers for shipment throughout the north east.



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