



# Martin Digital History

## »»» NEWSLETTER «««

Thank you for your interest in Martin Digital History! This newsletter will attempt to keep all informed about the project, including new participants and accessions, plans, events, etc. If you would like me to include links to relevant events, please let me know.

## Recent uploads to the website:

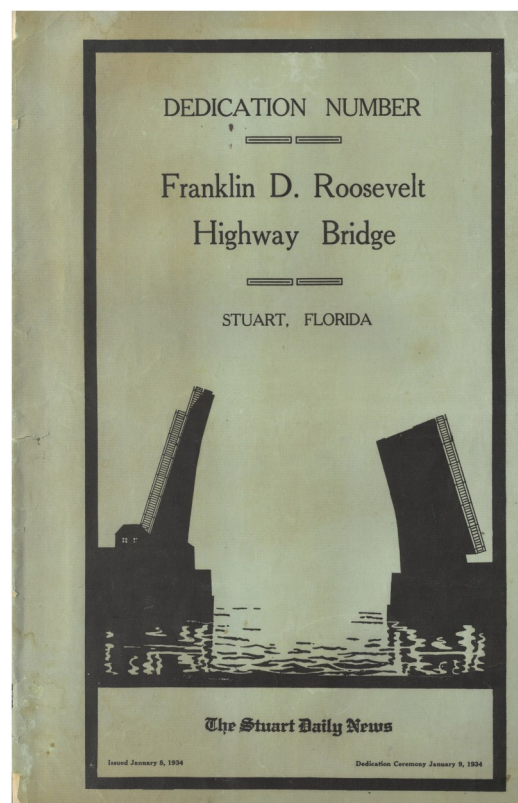
### »»» **Program for the Dedication of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Bridge, 1934**

Published by *The Stuart Daily News*, issued January 8, 1934 for the dedication Ceremony, January 9, 1934. Includes the program of events for the dedication ceremony; ads for businesses including those in Jensen, Stuart, Ft. Pierce; descriptions of Stuart attractions and information; and articles on the history of the construction of the new Franklin D. Roosevelt Bridge, and the history of transportation in Stuart.

The previous auto bridge (officially named the "Flagler Memorial Bridge," but never referred to as anything other than the "Stuart Bridge," in the newspapers) was opened to traffic on 30 January 1918, with a dedication celebration on February 11th, after two years of work. The project was beset by many problems, including issues with getting steel during war-time, barges with supplies sinking several times, including once when the guys watching the pumps left to go drinking. There was a lot of criticism of the contractor, Evert P. Maule of WPB and Ojus, it was referred to as a "scandal" by the newspapers. The bridge was ready for use by January 16th, but Maule kept it closed to use until a disagreement with the county commissioners was resolved.

When the new Roosevelt bridge was built, the old one was demolished and the waste used as riprap on the St. Lucie Canal.

The Roosevelt Bridge had its own share of problems during construction. In July 1933 a fire destroyed the Stuart FEC railroad depot, including the storage rooms where all the bridge electrical equipment was stored. On July 31st, 1933, a rain storm dumped 20 inches and the site had to be shut down for a couple of days. On Labor Day 1933, a hurricane swept through. Still, the bridge was built. The dedication ceremony this program was created for was covered by the newsreels. There was an auto parade, a schoolchildren parade, a boat parade, and



aerial displays, including the Goodyear Blimp. Free ice cream was made available at the Rexall Drugstore.

In 1964, the Old Roosevelt Bridge became the northbound lane and a second bridge was built as the southbound lane. When the New Roosevelt Bridge was opened in 1997, the northbound lane, the 1934 Roosevelt Bridge, was torn down.

## ➤➤➤ Parlin Negative Collection

The Parlin Negatives from the HSMC include chiefly family photographs from the Andrews and Tietig families on Sewall's Point. Palmetto Hall, built by Albert Lewis Andrews in 1904 was a large estate with buildings for caretakers, staff, guests, and a boathouse. Many of the images you'll have seen in several publications, including Capt. Henry Sewall's house, the George Valentine wreck, and the Racey home (site of the Ais mound and later the Tuckahoe Mansion). There are also some rare images of the house's caretakers, the Christie family and staff. These photos really offer some views of early life on Sewall's Point, a way of life that has faded away.



**>>> HSMC Local Historical Photo Collection**

This collection contains many early images of the area, and we'll be adding to it over the next few weeks.



Governor John W. Martin, center, signing legislation bill creating Martin County, 30 May 1925.



Citrus processing plant



John Isaac "Ike" Craig at top, Caesar Dean on far right. Craig's 40 acre pineapple field was located near the intersection of today's (2023) Monterey Road and Kanner Highway. Caesar Dean was a boat captain, diver, and agricultural worker, and appeared in the 1917 silent film "Robinson Crusoe" as Friday, which was filmed chiefly in Stuart.



Pitchford Auto Camp in Jensen Beach, c. 1935



Benjamin W. Mulford (1868-1926), significant in developing Port Salerno

More Postcards

We've scanned and added online many postcards from Stuart Heritage Museum, and will continue to scan and catalog these over the next few weeks.

