



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:

»» Chambers Collection

Born Mary Lavenia Lambert (1908-2007) in Ironton, Ohio, "Vee" Chambers came to Hobe Sound in 1929 with her husband, Teddy Roosevelt Chambers (1902-1978), an electrician and owner of Chambers Electric. She was very active in her community, serving in several charitable organizations, including serving on the Martin County School Board, several boards associated with Indian River Community College, the board of the Elliott Museum, and as president of Stuart Business and Professional Women's Club. In addition to the photographs are a group of letters, nominating Vee for "Mother of the Year," an annual award given by radio station WSTU, which detail the kindness she showed people in her Hobe Sound community. This collection was contributed by Sandra Thurlow.



Vee Chambers (front row, second from left) was among the "post engineers" at Camp Murphy in May 1944.



Vee Chambers (left) with Historical Society of Martin County director Janet Hutchinson (1917-2006), who frequently wore gowns and long gloves at Elliott Museum events, 14 Nov 1980.

McNabb-Dyer Collection

We're very pleased to be able to offer photos from the Dyer family, many taken by Flora Frazier Dyer (1878-1937). Flora arrived in Stuart in 1887 with her parents Reuben Russell Frazier and Margarette Frazier, siblings Almeda Belle (1876-1938) and Frank (1884-1966), household goods, piles of lumber, forty chickens, and three beehives. The Fraziers planted pineapples and the path through the fields became Belle Flora Avenue, later renamed Colorado Avenue. Flora married Harry Armstrong Dyer (1872-1934) in 1897. Dyer originally homesteaded land near Palm City in 1891, but the family moved across the river to the Stuart area in 1904. They had three girls, Florence (1898-1982), Myrtle Mabel (1899-1993), and Hazel (1902-1990), and then two more children a few years later, Harry (1910-1984) and Virginia (1912-2010). While Harry Jr. and Myrtle remained single, the other girls married into other pioneer families. Harry Armstrong planted pineapples, worked as a sales rep for Armour Fertilizer, and served as mayor of Stuart (1928-1931). He also opened Dyer Dry Goods at Confusion Corner, downtown Stuart in 1914, which remained open for 68 years; the last manager was daughter Myrtle. Harry was a long-time sufferer of tuberculosis, and spent months at a time in New Mexico seeking a cure. While he was traveling for work or convalesced in New Mexico, his wife Flora managed the pineapples, the home, the children, and the store. Later in life, she also started a commercial nursery business, Virginia Gardens. While she had little formal education, Flora was obviously a very capable woman. She also played piano, painted, and took excellent photographs. This collection was provided by Heidi Brock McNabb; Virginia was her grandmother.



Myrtle Mabel Dyer (1899-1993), Hazel Marion Dyer Cressler (1902-1990), and Florence Dyer Ricou (1898-1982), c. 1904



Standing, left to right: Myrtle Mabel Dyer (1899-1993) and Hazel Marion Dyer Cressler (1902-1990). Seated: Virginia Dyer Brock (1912-2010) and Florence A. Dyer Ricou (1898-1982), 1941



Harry Frazier Dyer (1910-1984), and sister Virginia Dyer Brock (1912-2010) with their puppy



The Stuart Band provided entertainment at the flag raising ceremony on 23 February 2016 at the Stuart School. Left to right: Jack McDonald, age 16; Darrel Smith, aged 16; and Leeson Hogarth, aged 15.



Man pushing a motorized scooter, 1941



Stuart High School Basketball Team, 1929

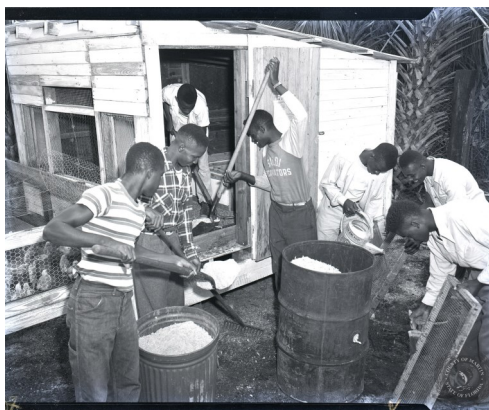
We're proud to offer selected images from Sandra Thurlow's Ruhnke collection. So far, we have access to images featuring Hobe Sound and East Stuart.

Arthur Ruhnke (1912-1986) moved to Stuart in March, 1948, when he purchased an Osceola Street photo shop from Kenneth Wright. Over the next two decades, he took thousands of photographs of important and unimportant events, ordinary people, prominent people, streets, and buildings.

Ruhnke also acquired photographs and glass negatives from several pioneer photographers who preceded him, including Willis A. Ball, Fred Hancock, and Edith B. Coventry. He realized the historic value of the images entrusted to him and gave a number of them to the Historical Society of Martin County. Some historic photographs remained in his possession and were included when he sold the business and much of his own collections to Roger Conant in 1968. The Ruhnke / Conant negatives, including prints from other early photographers and some items by Conant, were purchased by the Thurlows in 1989, Arthur Ruhnke having died August 6, 1986 in North Carolina.



Stuart Training School Cheerleading practice, 1963



Stuart Training School student group, the New Farmers of America, c. 1955



Stuart Training School student group, the New Homemakers of America officers, 1951



Left: Three women at Guy Davis's Bar and Lounge, 1954. Middle: Fishing Rodeo on Jensen Beach Causeway, c. 1955. Right: Thompson's The Sixpence, a gathering place managed by Leolia Thompson, at the corner of Spruce Avenue and Lake Street, 1962. These buildings were demolished by the city to make way for the housing authority buildings between Church and Lake Streets.

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- All photos in this newsletter available at <http://tinyurl.com/yb6bbb8m>