



Project Updates

- We added 266 items to the online project in February 2025, chiefly photographs from Sandra Thurlow's Runke/Ricou collection. Thank you to all participants!
- Our photos are increasingly used on social media within groups. We're glad the word about the project is getting out there!
- Online exhibits are slowly expanding. I'm working on short histories of buildings in the area.
- The project now has over 8,000 items on the Digital Public Library of America

Uploads to martindigitalhistory.org:

Thurlow/Ruhnke/Ricou Collection

Thank you to Sandra Thurlow, who has contributed more images from her collection of photographers Arthur Ruhnke (1912-1986) and Earl Ricou (1923-2011). The material added this month includes chiefly portraits and storefronts, offering a rare glimpse of an earlier Martin County.



A voting machine, c. 1955



The City of Stuart purchased the 1922 Kitching building and renovated it to be their city hall, fire department, and police station in 1955.



Poor Bob's Bar, Lounge and Package Store, 1957
Located at the Jensen Beach causeway, Robert W. Weisenberger opened Poor Bob's in 1952; it closed in 1983.



Martin County Elementary School principal, Tom Crook and teacher Dora Lowery consult with a child, 1954



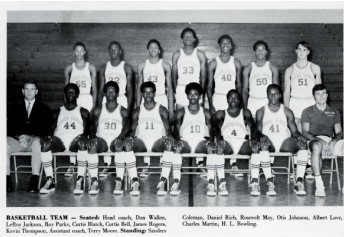
Spectators watch a parade down Flagler Avenue, c. 1950

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School Yearbooks Collection

Our collection of school yearbooks is growing. So far, we've added:

- Stuart High School: 1926, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1946
- MCHS: 1947, 1948, 1949, 1954, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1967, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973
- Stuart Training School: 1945, 1952



BASKETBALL TEAM — Stand: Head coach, Don Wiles; Left: Jackson, Ray, Fink, Gabe Black, Gabe Bell, James Rogers, Kevin Thompson, Assistant coach, Terry Moore. Standing: Center: Coleman, David Rich, Russell May, Ole Johnson, Albert Love, Charles Martin, R. S. Bowling.



BARBARA—Senior



WITH EXTENDED lunch periods students often choose to study in the library.



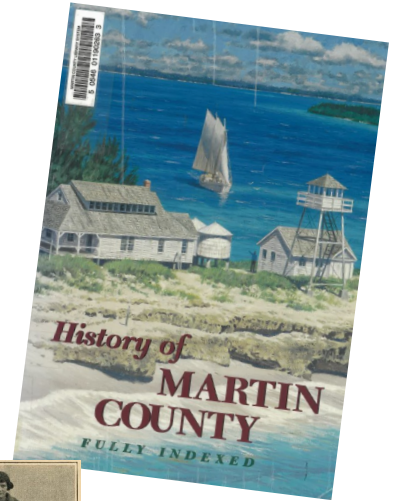
CLASS OFFICERS



Uploads to martindigitalhistory.org:

History of Martin County

History of Martin County complete text is now available online! Compiled by Janet Hutchinson, edited by Emeline K. Paige, in 1975. Indexed added in 1998. Offered with the permission of the HSMC.



Martin County Celebrates its Centennial in 2025! Check out the website for events and information!

martincounty100.com

Stuart Heritage Museum Event *History of Palm City Roundtable*

March 11, 7PM,
Flagler Center, 201 Flagler Ave.

HSMC

*Rumrunning Trade Roared
Along Florida's Treasure
Coast, lecture by John
Tichy. March 3, 2pm, House
of Refuge.*

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history? Visit and subscribe to
Sandra Thurlow's

Sandy
History Lady
Blog



What is the Martin Digital History Project?

The mission of Martin Digital History (MDH) is to encourage the appreciation of Martin County's unique history by collaborating with community members and local organizations to collect, present, and interpret relevant digital content. This project, orchestrated by the Martin County Library System, is the result of the planning teamwork of several far-sighted community members and organizations, including Sandra Thurlow, Black Heritage Initiative, Stuart Heritage, the Historical Society of Martin County, the Library Foundation of Martin County, and many others. It is open for public participation.

- This newsletter will attempt to keep all informed about the project, including new participants and accessions, plans, events, etc. [Click here to subscribe to this newsletter.](#)
- More information: martindigitalhistory.org
- Feedback, comments, questions? Contact the archivist: Georgen Charnes, gcharnes@martin.fl.us



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