

A HISTORY OF CORAL COVE

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THE CORAL COVE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Compiled by Col. John P. Eckert

1 January 1966

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INTRODUCTION - A public record called an Abstract of Title comes into the hands of each of us when we buy into Coral Cove. This tome shows the transfers of ownership of the land since 1877. If one is interested in what happened earlier, he can find histories of Sarasota that go back to Ponce de Leon and Hernando de Soto. The account given here starts with the year 1952, when the Miller interests were inspired to transform a wilderness.

From 1957, the history is presented as a chronology of Civic Association affairs, the reader being reminded that every Board of Directors remains in office until a new slate is elected in mid or late January.

Space does not permit naming the dedicated individuals who served on the standing and special committees. All we can do here is render them a grateful general salute, as we do to the cheerful workers of the Dirty Pants Club.

Certain social activities, such as the Bridge Tournament group and the Book Review Club, were organized and managed by individuals or their own elected officers, rather than by the Association, but they were open to all members, and were of such benefit and scope that a history would be incomplete if it omitted them.

1952 - The story begins on October 1, 1952, when the Spencer A. Miller interests of Norwell, Mass., acquired the land from the A. E. Cummers of Sarasota, and announced their intention to develop a high grade residential community. At that time the only such development on the south side of Sarasota was Oyster Bay.

The original plans contemplated much more territory than the present confines of Coral Cove, but the developers were thwarted by the unreasonable prices set by owners of adjoining holdings. Not until some years later was the tract to the south acquired and developed by the Millers as Southpointe Shores.

Before engineering began, there were no roads or lagoons. Except for one slight bulge, the bay shore ran in a fairly continuous line from the mouth of Matheny Creek to Elligraw Bayou. Where Units 1-H and 2 now stand there were only mangrove islands and oyster shoals extending westward to the channel at Crisp Point. Matheny Creek was a small fresh water stream, arched over by trees, the happy home of alligators and moccasins. Highway 41 was a two-lane road.

The area now called Unit 1 was grassland, with scattered clumps of trees - scrub and live oaks, persimmons, bays and palmettos, most of them choked with Spanish Moss and strangler vines. Unit 3, just south of Matheny Creek, was an impenetrable thicket.

However, the locality had not always been a complete wilderness. On the land that is now Southpointe Shores there had once stood a dwelling, probably of northern type, because it had a brick foundation, a cellar, and a steam or hot water heating system. The grounds, which extended widely, had been planted with exotic palms and trees, flowering shrubs, and citrus. In its day it must have been a lovely estate, but some years before Coral Cove began, the house, then unoccupied, had burned to the ground, killing two magnificent live oaks nearby. During subsequent years of neglect, the jungle had reclaimed its own.

Throughout the Coral Cove area a great deal of wild life flourished - otters, raccoons, opossums, skunks, rabbits and rodents, predatory birds, quail, song birds, water fowl and snakes. A rangy spotted bobcat, as big as a setter, had its den there, and was frequently seen at dawn and dusk on its hunting prowls. Some of the early residents mistook this big cat for a panther. It remained a distinguished citizen until the spring of 1956, when it ran afoul of an automobile on the Trail.

1953 - On February 10, 1953, the Millers conveyed the property to a corporation called Coral Cove, Inc., in which they retained the controlling interest. Their son, Mr. Spencer A. Miller, Jr., was named President and active manager. On March 2, 1953, Sarasota County approved a plat for Unit 1, and on the 4th the first set of restrictions was filed. Clearing and digging began.

In those days Coral Cove was very much "in the raw." But prospective buyers were impressed by the high, well-drained terrain, proximity to the bay and gulf beaches, the graceful curves planned for the roads, the wide waterways, the restrictions, and the low taxation.

1953 saw the completion of the roads and the digging of the lagoon for Unit 1. Spoil was dumped on the mangrove islands to build up a peninsula towards Crisp Point. In digging the lagoon the contractor encountered hard rock not anticipated, necessitating blasting, and he struck a water vein connected with the one supplying the Pinehurst Springs, causing the spring to go dry until the rupture had been cemented over. The excavating unearthed interesting fossils; one could find mammoth tusks, ossified bones and shark's teeth in nearly every truckload.

By the end of the year a number of lots had been sold, and ground was broken for the first homes. An attractive entrance gateway was erected, coral in color, and a huge advertising sign picturing the future Coral Cove was set up. The sales office was in a small frame building south of the gate.

1954 - The first homes were completed in the spring of 1954. The pioneers were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Jensen and their son Victor, who moved into their house on Pandora Drive in February. They were followed by Col. and Mrs. John P. Eckert in March. Not long afterwards came the Albers, the Howard Davis', the Ralstons, Mrs. Rose Wilson (of Pandora Drive), and the Spencer A. Millers, Jr. One of the earliest homes, but not at once occupied, was the stone residence now owned by the Holas'. By December, others were under way, including the Scotts, Von der Velde, and the "Bali House", first occupied by the Don Wilsons, now by the Worssams.

Residents were consulted regarding names for the streets; seacoast terms were preferred. The one east of the lagoon was first called Driftwood Drive, but when it was learned that the name was being used elsewhere in the County, the Eckerts' suggestion of "Cove Terrace", was adopted.

In the early days, the residents had to put up with some primitive conditions. There was no telephone service; for two years mail had to be collected from boxes on the Trail; mail time was an occasion for togetherness at the main gate. As the houses were few and mostly well separated, nobody complained when we disposed of trash and tree-cuttings by burning.

The stone seawall was only half completed when unprecedented torrential rains in April and May cut gullies through many lots and washed tons of top soil into the lagoon. Where the channel was obstructed, the developer sent in dragline equipment to return the soil to the land.

Those were the days when the widening of the Trail between Bee Ridge Road and Stickney Point Road was highly controversial. Our young developer engaged in a hilarious newspaper battle with those opposed to the improvement, especially Dixie Lee Eggers, proprietor of a bar and package store. Half page spreads appeared, in which the opponents verbally belabored each other, and such edifying epithets as "whiskey peddler" and "cow pasture peddler" were exchanged, while Sarasota guffawed. Naturally, we denizens of the cow pasture loyally supported our champion, while Eggers continued to denounce the improvement as a "boondoggle".

Almost at once there were attempts to break or evade the restrictions. One of the very first residents set up in her house a large loom, explaining that weaving was a hobby. Nobody gave it a second thought until the lady placed an advertisement in the newspaper announcing a showing of her products for sale, and Pandora Drive became cluttered with the cars of customers. The other residents, realizing that this was a critical test, promptly protested. The lady was ordered to cease and desist, which she did, indignantly bewailing the "interference with her rights". After some time, convinced that we meant business about those restrictions, she sold her house and moved away.

A couple on Caribbean Drive gave folk dance and square dance lessons at their house for elderly enthusiasts. At first the gatherings seemed to be just social affairs, but eventually it was discovered that the guests were paying a fee. As at first this couple had no near neighbors, and conducted operations on the bay side of the house, it was only a minor nuisance. We didn't like the idea, but were loath to protest. If one had a boat and cruised along the seawall, it was quite a sight to see those devotees of Terpsichore, with determined and unsmiling faces, hopping about on the shuffleboard court, to the music of a record player. Happily, in the course of time, the dancers abandoned Coral Cove.

The young developer was inconsistent in supporting the restrictions, and in building his own home he set a poor example. As an inflexible adherence to prescribed distances might work a hardship to owners of pie-shaped lots, the restrictions permit waivers to be granted, when such do not materially affect the rights of others. This leeway was unduly taken advantage of by young Miller. Nobody noticed it at the time, because the adjoining lots were still unsold, but later it created problems, and resulted in litigation.

Problems also arose over faulty or disputed surveys.

1955 and 1956 - During these years Coral Cove enjoyed a slow but steady growth. The quality of the homes built was high, and the tone was set. Erosion ceased when the seawalls were completed. The Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay was opened; no longer did we have to cross by ferry when going to St. Petersburg or Clearwater. Delivery of mail to homes began on June 30, 1956. The widening of the Tamiami Trail shortened the driving time to Sarasota, while new shopping centers on the south side of town brought the shops and bank closer to us.

During these years Mr. Spencer A. Miller, Jr., disassociated himself with Coral Cove, Inc., and with two partners undertook to develop Southpointe Shores. He was succeeded as manager of the Cove developing corporation by Mrs. Cleo Groven.

This period saw the settlement of a long hassle between the developer and the County Engineer over drainage. The authorities maintained that the provisions for run-off were inadequate, and they refused to assume the upkeep of the roads until matters were corrected to their satisfaction. There was something to be said for their position considering the wash-outs in 1954, but there was no justification for the excessively deep ditches they required, especially the one across Block 1-D, from Starfish Drive to Cove Terrace. The controversy was known as the "Battle of Ralston's Gulch"; all the property owners in that block were up in arms. Precious little water ever flowed in the ditch, and in subsequent years it was unobtrusively reduced to a reasonable depth. Out of all this we did gain some needed drain pipes and culverts.

In 1956 the development of Unit 3 was undertaken by Norwell Associates, Inc.; a new corporation set up by the Miller interests on December 3, with Mrs. Cleo Groven as manager. At that time there were about twenty houses in Unit 1.

1957 - On the 8th of February, 1957, a group of residents met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Torrington, and after some discussion decided to proceed with the organization of a civic association. Mrs. Groven, representing the developers, had been invited to attend, and actively participated. Col. Eckert was elected temporary chairman, and a committee was named, consisting of Messrs. Marshall (chairman), Bell, Boenker, Raney, Koch and Eckert, to draft a constitution and by-laws. At a second full meeting of the residents, on March 8th, 1957, a revised draft was unanimously adopted. At these meetings the ladies were present and joined in the discussions and voting.

The nineteen families represented at this historic gathering were the charter members of the Coral Cove Civic Association. Their names are Alber, Bell, Boenker, Davis, Eckert, Eicher, Germann, Irwin, Jensen, Koch, Marshall, Miller, Snyder, Raney, Scott, Taylor, Torrington, Von der Velde, and Don Wilson. Mrs. Groven was not present on March 8th, but assured us that the developer was in accord.

The first Board of Directors was elected, to serve one year. As provided by the by-laws, they elected the officers from among themselves. The lineup was:

John P. Eckert - President  
Forest Marshall - Vice-President  
Harry Alber - Secretary-Treasurer  
Roy L. Raney  
Walter D. Koch  
William A. H. Boenker

The question of incorporating had been discussed, but the majority felt that for a year or two we had best operate less formally. Six standing committees were organized.

As the developers, now operating as two separate corporations, Coral Cove, Inc., and Norwell Associates, Inc., still reserved all powers and responsibilities for enforcing restrictions, the function of the Civic Association at first was largely advisory, but our recommendations were usually heeded and as time went on, the developers leaned more and more upon us.

The principal matters that engaged our efforts in 1957, in addition to the perennial task of checking on restrictions, were the improvement of utilities and services, the maintenance of roads and waterways, the installation of street signs, and beautification. From the very first it was realized that the quality of Coral Cove depended on keeping the vacant lots tidy and mowed.

At public hearings at the County Court House the residents could speak as a unified body for the first time. Our spokesmen strongly supported the Planning and Zoning Commission in its efforts to prevent the Tamiami Trail becoming a wilderness of tawdry signboards and junky commercial enterprises. We backed the developers in preventing the establishment of a trailer park on the north bank of Matheny Creek. Bill Boenker carried the ball in getting telephone service improved and extended. Our constitution and by-laws were mimeographed and distributed to all property owners.

In March of 1957 a couple moved into the Cove who were to contribute mightily to the advancement of our community, - Alice and Clare Burpee. Not only have they served every administration by voluntary service on committees, but they personally organized and directed social activities of lasting value.

There was tremendous excitement in Coral Cove on the 23rd of October, 1957, when the home of Mr. Spencer A. Miller, Jr., on Periwinkle Drive, was destroyed by fire. Because of party line difficulties on the telephone, there was delay in getting the alarm call through. By the time the Volunteer Fire Department arrived at the scene, the flames were beyond control. The house, of cypress construction, was gutted within half an hour, and everything was lost, including the family clothing. Covians took a new look at their insurance policies, and those who had not done so, subscribed to the South Trail Volunteer Fire Department.

On two successive nights, the 12th and 13th of December, 1957, Florida suffered its worst freeze in 22 years. All tropical, and much of the sub-tropical vegetation was destroyed.

Coral Cove opposed the efforts of the then developers of South-pointe Shores to create long fills of land out into the bay. In connection with this matter, Mr. James Neville, of the Board of County Commissioners, addressed a meeting of our Board. We withdrew our objections only when the length of the fills was drastically reduced.

By the end of 1957 the widening of Matheny Creek and the paving of roads in Unit 3 was well along. Among our residents there were no more otters or wildcats, but the alligators were still around, and were sallying forth from Matheny Creek to explore other waters. One day Walter and Mary Koch went to the Everglades to study the wild life. Nary an alligator did they see. Upon returning home they found an eight-footer under their boat dock. After Matheny Creek had been dredged, one could usually see three or four gators sunning themselves upon the north bank. As the children in the Cove often swam in the lagoons, when the largest of those reptiles resumed his peregrinations, the alarmed citizenry removed him, permanently.

By the end of 1957 the Association had 44 paid-up members, of whom 31 were residents.

1958 - The second annual meeting was held on 9 January, at the Lions Club Hall, about two miles south of the Cove. About 30 attended. It was a bitterly cold night, and we nearly froze, but Emma and John Von der Velde restored us with warm refreshments. A new slate was chosen:

Forest Marshall	-	President
Walter Koch	-	Vice President
Ken Torrington	-	Secretary-Treasurer
Arnold Irwin		
Ray Roberts		
Jack Eckert		

The year saw many improvements and a steady growth. We continued our support of the Zoning Commission, and held the line against renewed efforts to establish a trailer park north of Matheny Creek. This was the first year that the County had a definite zoning plan.

In the community park a shell road was put down, many truck loads of top soil were hauled in, and grass seed was sown. Trees and shrubs were planted to supplement the existing vegetation. The developers contributed \$700.00 towards these improvements. A boat dock and launching ramp were built. We published our first directory, under the editorship of Clare Burpee. It included a map of the Cove and an air photo shot by Ken Torrington. The first picnic, a big success, was held in the community park on May 16th. Members brought their own food and refreshments.

When Mr. Spencer A. Miller, Jr. began to rebuild his home, it was noted with alarm that the violations of restrictions were being repeated. By this time the adjoining lots had been sold, and the owners appealed to the developers for relief. Legal action was brought, but a circuit court judge ruled that as no action had been taken when the original house had been built, it was too late to restrain the offender. The lesson learned in this case was that action against violations of restrictions must be taken promptly.

Deciding that the time might be ripe for incorporating, the Board, at the April meeting, designated three of its members, Eckert (chairman), Marshall and Koch, to study the matter and make recommendations. The committee submitted an affirmative report and recommended that a charter and by-laws be presented for consideration at the next annual membership meeting. The Board approved.

1959 - The third annual meeting was held at the Lions Club Hall on 14 January, with about 75 present. The slate elected was:

Glenn M. Pratt	-	President
Roy Raney	-	Vice President
Mrs. Cleo Groven	-	Secretary
Clare Burpee	-	Treasurer
Ken Torrington		
H. L. McLean		

Ill health forced Doc McLean to resign in September. We had done so well with our first woman member that we appointed another, Mrs. Ercie K. Lowry.

At the annual meeting the membership unanimously approved the charter and by-laws for incorporating, and Mr. Graham, attorney, (now Judge Graham), was engaged. On 10 March 1959, the Coral Cove Civic Association, Incorporated, was formally registered as a non-profit corporation under the laws of Florida.

On the 13th of July 1959, the developers deeded to the property owners title to the community park, and on 3 August, delegated to the officers of the Association their powers and authority to enforce the restrictions. We assumed responsibility for the upkeep of the park, including the real estate tax and insurance. The entrance parkway was deeded to the County, but we agreed to maintain it and mow the vacant lots. For the latter, an assessment of \$18.00 per year was to be made against the owners. The developers agreed to pay the cost of mowing the Trail frontage and unsold residential lots.

To get the approval of the membership on these commitments, a special membership meeting was called on September 16th. This was the only special membership meeting the Board has ever found it necessary to call to date. Approval was voted. It is of note that the Board has never asked the membership to pay the full assessment of \$15.00 per year per member, as authorized by the by-laws. We have always gotten along with \$10.00. A contract was entered into with Mr. Milo Cinader for the mowing of the vacant lots, at a reasonable figure.

The Dirty Pants Club became a permanent organization of voluntary workers, under the initial leadership of Jack Eckert. A call from him usually turned out from ten to fifteen willing mowers and tree-butchers.

Coral Cove benefited when in 1959 the U. S. Congress appropriated funds for the widening and deepening of the Intercoastal Waterway. Four-laning of the Tamiami Trail north of Stickney Point Road was in progress, and the project for widening it south thereof was assured by a bond issue. As in previous years the spokesmen for Coral Cove supported the zoning regulations for the long-range good of the County. The firm but reasonable positions of the Civic Association was ably presented by Glenn Pratt to the Commissioners.

Because of ill health, Mrs. Cleo Groven resigned her post with the developers. She had occupied a difficult position, being at the same time a loyal property-owning resident and the executive of the developing corporations. That she wore both hats with distinguished success is testimony to her tact, fairness and common sense.

The spring picnic having been so successful, it was decided that in future years we would have two a year - one in the spring, another in the fall. By the end of the year the membership had reached 82.

1960 - The annual meeting was held on January 18th. The initial slate was:

John P. Milar	-	President
Ed Colladay	-	Vice President
Ercie K. Lowry	-	Secretary
Arnold Irwin	-	Treasurer
Glenn Pratt		
Mrs. Cleo Groven		

Death and illness brought changes to the Board. In June, Ercie Lowry passed away, a shock to Coral Cove, as she was a dynamic personality. She was replaced by Helen Marshall. In September, Cleo Groven sold her home and went north, being replaced by Ed Holas. In November, when his term was almost over, physicians ordered John Milar to give up his duties. Ed Colladay succeeded him; Jim Fyfe was brought to the Board and elected Vice-president.

As of June 1960, Mr. Harold Ross became the local representative of the Miller interests in Coral Cove. The Association was confronted by a very touchy situation regarding the zoning classification of the Trail frontage lots. We failed in our efforts to have the existing classification of R-3 adhered to, but succeeded in having special restrictions filed.

The joint efforts of the Association and the developers, and the support of other civic associations in the vicinity, thwarted an attempt to put a drive-in movie directly across the Trail from the Cove. By voluntary contributions a mimeograph machine was added to our assets, and we began to publish The Covian, with Clare Burpee a one-man editor and print-shop. An improved bookkeeping system for the Treasurer's accounts was set up.

In July Hurricane Brenda merely sideswiped the Cove, but we were clobbered by Donna on the 10th of September. A large part of Sarasota remained a shambles for weeks, but in Coral Cove an energetic campaign resulted in having the debris removed in six days. Money was cheerfully donated by absentee lot owners as well as residents.

At the fall picnic we used the services of a caterer for the first time. It vastly reduces the labors of the committee.



1961 - At the fifth annual meeting on January 24th, we picked a new first team:

David W. Smith	-	President
Jim Fyfe	-	Vice President
Percy Lowry	-	Treasurer
George Northington	-	Secretary
Arnold Irwin		
Ed Colladay		

By this time the widening of Highway 41 had reached Coral Cove. Unfortunately, the sixty additional feet of right-of-way were taken from the west side, which resulted in the destruction of our entrance parkway. The problem of replacing it confronted the Board, because the developers declined to do so, although they agreed to make a modest cash contribution.

In collaboration with the Siesta Heights Civic Association, we were successful in forcing the Gulf Gate developers to place their sewerage disposal plant in a location less objectionable than the one they had selected.

We had a vexing situation with one resident, a plumber, who, after building a fine home, proceeded to use it as a place of business, parking his trucks on the driveway, so that he could use his garage as a warehouse. The problem carried over into the next year, but was solved when the house was sold and the offender moved away.

The year 1961 saw the inauguration by Clare Burpee of a bridge tournament, which has become a Cove institution. Two leagues were organized, with 36 players. Play continued through the winter. A new directory was distributed, listing 145 property owners, of which 93 were residents.

1962 - Out of the annual meeting on 29 January came the following slate for the Board:

Tod Cheney	-	President
Jim Fyfe	-	Vice President
Fred Connors	-	Secretary
Percy Lowry	-	Treasurer
Dave Smith		
Goodwin Howe		

As his wife, Ercie, had done in 1960, Percy Lowry died in office. His post as treasurer was taken over by Fred Connors, in addition to his normal duties. Jim Fyfe resigned and was replaced by Col. Russ Harris, who became Vice-president.

Alice Burpee organized a Book Club, which got under way on February 12, with 35 members. Alice was elected President, Dr. Dawn Miller Vice-president, and Helen Marshall Secretary-Treasurer. This club met monthly, at homes of the members, except in mid-summer. At the spring picnic, with the Milars in charge, on 8 April, a new record for attendance was set - 107. The Bridge Tournament ended in a blaze of glory. Roseanna Tymerson and Catherine Crane had high score in the Sand Spur League; the Burpees were high in the Ear Wigs. In the playoff, Roseanna and Catherine won and were acclaimed Grand Champions at a banquet at Martines on 1st of May.

This year saw an active participation in community affairs by members on the "north side". The Cove had the usual restrictions problems, but all were happily resolved. But now a new and formidable issue arose -- it literally reared its ugly head -- over the placing of spoil from the Inland Waterways dredging. The contractors had dumped the shell and sand in an unsightly pile off shore, creating what the County called "Island 34". In the Cove it was facetiously dubbed "Tobias Island", because Russ took the lead in protesting the abomination. It took a lot of doing by the Board before the County agreed to remove it, by slow stages.

The widening of the Trail and the sewerage from Gulf Gate continued to vex us, and the threat of a trailer park on the north side of Matheny Creek popped up again. The opening of an Oyster Bar on the Trail frontage brought problems. The Association induced the proprietor to erect a screening fence, for which the developers paid half the cost.

On the social side it can be recorded that 100 attended the fall picnic on November 10, with the Cheneys in charge. Connie's seating arrangements, and her sand-bag and candle lights, are a happy memory. The Bridge Tournament began a new season. There was a marked stepping up of such extra-curricular activities as sewing groups, beach parties, and bowling.

Plans for a new entrance parkway were approved, and work was begun. Four issues of the Covian were published, edited by Dave Smith.

On 13-14 December, 1962, the area suffered a devastating freeze, far worse than that of December 1957. On the first night the thermometer went down to 23 degrees. Tropical vegetation that had survived the earlier freeze was largely wiped out, as elsewhere in central Florida. It took this second blow to convince the constitutional optimists that exotics such as coconut and royal palms, royal poincianas and mangos are not for this latitude.

An amendment to the by-laws was distributed for consideration at the next annual meeting, which would increase the Board of Directors from six to eight members, with two-year terms, but staggered to provide fresh blood as well as continuity.

During the year nine new homes were built, and there were eight transfers of ownership, bringing many new faces to the community.

1963 - At the annual meeting on January 8, the by-laws were amended as proposed. With eight members on the Board, the policy was changed so as to have Board members serve as chairmen of the standing committees. The composition of the enlarged Board was:

Russ Harris	- President
Russ Tobias	- Vice President
Chal Cooper	- Secretary
Roseanne Tymerson	- Treasurer
Ray Worssam	- Chm. Maintenance & Improvement Com.
Clare Burpee	- Chm. Community Affairs Com.
Goodwin Howe	- Chm. Safety Com.
Fred Connors	- Chm. Road & Waterways Com.

As before, the President, Vice-president and Treasurer make up the Restrictions Committee, which is charged with approving building plans and enforcing restrictions.

During the year Roseanne Tymerson resigned; Lee Kemp took over as Treasurer. Clare Burpee prepared a loose-leaf directory, with map and airplane photograph, a vast improvement over previous directories. The South Trail Volunteer Fire Department proved its worth by promptly extinguishing a fire in the home of Hazel Abraham and Rhoda Martin. Under the editorship of Malcolm Chandler, The Covian expanded to a four-page bulletin, with a staff of lady reporters. Because of the mimeograph burden with our limited facilities, the Board reluctantly discontinued the inclusion of private social activities.

Arrangements were made to have the Sanitation Corporation pick up yard trimmings on designated days for those who subscribed for the service. Thereafter, the burning of trash was banned.

A major accomplishment of the year was the completion of the front entrance parkway ahead of schedule. A new well and pump were installed to provide an adequate water supply. The work was directed by Russ Harris, assisted by John Milar, Fred Connors, Jim Miller, and Harry Alber. These improvements cost about \$3600.00. The funds were raised by voluntary donations, by contributions from the Bridge Tournament and the Book Club, a surplus from the fall picnic, and a \$200.00 donation by the developers. The main entrance being completed, we turned our attention to the north approach.

The Association induced the postal authorities to put a collection box on the Trail near the north gate. The spoil island in the bay began to disappear, slowly but surely. In October, Anita Kemp took over the Covian.

In the Bridge Tournament, the Pfleiderers and Colladays were victors in their respective leagues, and the Colladays went on to take the Grand Championship. Forty-four participated. The May 15 banquet was at Martines. In the Book Review Club, Arnold Irwin became President, Helen Cooper Vice-president, and Christine Tweit Secretary-Treasurer. There were 46 members in 1963. The annual dinner was held on December 18, at the Yacht Club on Anna Maria Island. The spring and fall picnics were the usual successes. At the spring affair the Milars, Raney and Bells were in charge. The fall party, managed by the Cheneys, with Hazel Abraham and Rhoda Martin in charge of food, was an Italian Fiesta. An all-time record for attendance was achieved, 125, and a surplus of \$100.00 was turned over to the entrance parkway fund.

1964 - The administration elected at the 10 January meeting was:

Ray Worssam	-	President
Russ Harris	-	Vice President
Chal Cooper	-	Secretary
Arnold Irwin	-	Treasurer
Clare Burpee	-	Chm. Community Affairs Com.
Lee Kemp	-	Chm. Maintenance Com.
Ralph Dunn	-	Chm. Roads and Waterways Com.
Russ Tobias	-	Chm. Civic Relations Com.

When death took Lee Kemp, Ev Sherman was appointed to fill the vacancy. Lee's memory will always remain green in Coral Cove for his devoted services, especially with the Dirty Pants Club, which conducted the greatest clean-up campaign in the history of the Cove.

At the north entrance we had set up an ornamental wall and name plate. Opposite the main entrance, six sabal palms were placed in the medial strips on the highway. In the community park we provided a well and pump, a coffee stand, and electrical outlets. Russ Harris was the spark plug on this. By voluntary contributions, the Association acquired a public address system, invaluable at picnics and other large gatherings. Russ Harris assumed leadership of the Dirty Pants Club. The Titgemeyers showed their beautiful slides taken on the African safari, and the receipts, amounting to \$103.00, were turned over to the Beautification Committee. Clare Burpee's new directory was completed.

In the Bridge Leagues the Worssams and Cosaarts took the prizes, and the Cosaarts became Grand Champions. The banquet was held at the Sarasota Yacht Club. After another highly successful season, the Book Review Club elected Dave Smith President, Dorrit Worssam Vice-president, and Ruth Connors Secretary-Treasurer. The Christmas party was held at Holmes Beach.

The Book Club and the Cove lost one of its most distinguished members when Dr. Dawn Miller died. Ever since the Book Club was formed, she was its guiding spirit. She was prominent in civic and social activities, both in and out of the Cove, and her loss was keenly felt.

Partly as a result of a large turnout of Cove residents at the courthouse, a ruling favorable to Coral Cove was made by the County Commissioners in the Reno de Francis trailer park issue, when the County Attorney was directed to take legal action against Mr. de Francis for violating the zoning regulations.

The picnics were highly successful, with the Milars running the spring gathering, the Courtois the fall. Ralph Dunn persuaded the County to pave the entire main entrance area.

1965 - The initial composition of the Board elected on January 15, with a record attendance of 92 voting, was:

Ralph Dunn	-	President
Ray Worssam	-	Vice President
Arnold Irwin	-	Treasurer
Al Ripley	-	Secretary
Russ Tobias	-	Chm. Civic Relations Com.
Olaf Tweit	-	Chm. Maintenance Com.
Ev Sherman	-	Chm. Roads and Waterways Com.
Jack Eckert	-	Chm. Community Affairs Com.

Minor changes to the by-laws were approved. In February, because he would be abroad for the greater part of the year, Ray Worssam tendered his resignation, his place being taken by Dr. Jim Miller, who became chairman of the Community Affairs Committee when Jack Eckert was made Vice-president and Historian. In May, during the absence of the Secretary, Wally Stenhouse served as Secretary pro-tem.

Members of the Board were designated as District Representatives to interview residents, to hear complaints and solicit suggestions. The Board reassured members that the District Representatives were only an additional channel through which they may transmit their ideas; members with suggestions or grievances may contact any member of the Board, or present their ideas to the entire Board at the monthly meetings, which are open, and are usually held on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month.

Olaf Tweit took over the leadership of the Dirty Pants Club. The Bridge Club banquet on April 29 was at the Sarasota Yacht Club, where the tournament winners, the Worssams and Gerlachs, were awarded prizes. The Worssams were the Grand Champions. Olaf Tweit extended the electrical facilities in the community park, and Don Cosaart, at his own expense, repaired the seawall for us. After additional work by the Dirty Pants Club, the spring picnic was held on May 1, with 107 in attendance. A surplus of \$38.96 was turned over to the Treasurer by the committee chairman, Jack Eckert.

As a matter of interest, our neighbors to the south, Southpointe Shores, formed a civic association. Our Board continued to press for steps to eliminate contamination of Matheny Creek, and to have the silt removed therefrom. We received assurances from the County that these conditions would be corrected.

A considerable sum was raised by voluntary contributions, to which the Board added an additional amount, for the improvement of the north entrance to the Cove. An agreement was reached with Mr. Smithers, proprietor of the Oyster Bar, by which he will set in palms and other vegetation, including palms in the highway medial strip. Mr. Ross agreed to propose to the developer that he also contribute to this beautification plan. The Oyster Bar promised to keep the area of the restaurant in a better state of tidiness.

The financial affairs of the Association at the close of the year were in the best condition in our history, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Treasurer, Arnold Irwin. He had succeeded in obtaining contributions from practically all vacant lot owners, and maintenance contributions from many of the residents, who, for one reason or another, have declined to join our association.

The fall picnic, which featured an art exhibit of the works of several gifted members, was the usual success, in spite of a downpour of rain. With Jim Miller, Russ Harris, the Cheneys and Connors in charge, a partial return to the pre-caterer system was tried. Hamburgers were cooked by the boys. There was a demonstration by Clare Nickels, a professional artist and teacher. The attendance almost broke the record.

Probably the most memorable and successful social event that our community has ever staged, was the annual banquet of the Book Review Club at Whispering Sands on November 13th. Ninety-nine attended. Kay Tobias was mistress of ceremonies, assisted by Mesdames Dunn, Milar, Hawes, Koch, Smith, Ripley and Gerlock; and Ralph Dunn was an ideal Santa Claus. There was a fine musical program, and favors and prizes were liberally awarded.

As of 6 January, 1966, the Association has 116 members, of whom 97 are residents. Only eight residents are non-members, and of these, three pay the maintenance fees. Nineteen non-resident lot owners belong to the Association. There are only 9 unsold lots.

SUMMARY:- As of January 1966, the Coral Cove community is almost thirteen years old. The Civic Association has been in existence nine of those years. The former "cow pasture" has 119 fine homes, built or building, and ranks in quality second to none in Sarasota County.

Many factors have contributed to this happy situation, of which the unique natural advantages of the locality is only one. The human factors have been predominant.

First, the policies of the developers on the whole have been benevolent and sound. Their restrictions, in spite of some built-in weaknesses, have served us well, and have been generally respected. It is true, we have not seen eye-to-eye with the developers in all matters; nevertheless, the overall picture has been one of goodwill and cooperation.

Undoubtedly the fine spirit among the people of Coral Cove has been the secret of our success. Among ourselves, to be sure, we have had sharp clashes of opinion at times, because persons with identical aims will not always agree on methods, but the differences have always been dispelled in the spirit of good-fellowship. We have entrusted our community affairs into the hands of elected leaders, and they have not failed us.

In looking over the composition of our nine Boards of Directors, it is difficult to single out individuals for special mention. It was largely a matter of teamwork. The resident with the longest service on the Board is Arnold Irwin, who has served five times. During three of those years he has held the vital post of Treasurer.

It is vital to the well-being of Coral Cove that we continue to elect to the Board of Directors individuals who have the time, the vitality, the enthusiasm and the temperament to discharge their duties properly. Having elected them, we must give them our full support. The best way we can express our thanks to those dedicated men and women is to be a voting member of the Association.

CORAL COVE CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Sarasota, Florida

A CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORY OF CORAL COVE

Compiled by C.E. "Red" Sampson, January 1978

The historical records of Coral Cove appear to have been neglected during the several years following the interesting compilation by Col. John P. Eckert which covered the period from the Cove's first inception in 1952 to the end of the year 1965. We have attempted to reconstruct the events of the ensuing years from bits of information gleaned from the somewhat incomplete records in the Association's Secretary file. Conspicuously absent will be the personal items which would not ordinarily appear in the Board of Directors' business records. Our fiscal year ends with the annual meeting of the Association which is held sometime in January. Some items which occurred in a calendar year will be shown under the fiscal year but should not distort the overall picture.

1966 - At the annual meeting held January 21, 1966, Erville Sherman, Dewey Gerlach, Ed Courtois, and Wally Stenhouse were the new directors elected for a two-year term. Col. Russ Harris was elected to fill the unexpired term of Col. Eckert who resigned because of unexpected active assignments in the Military Order of the World Wars. Sixty members of the Association attended the annual meeting. Officers and Committee Chairmen for the year were elected as follows:

Russ Harris	- President
Dewey Gerlach	- Vice President
Al Ripley	- Secretary
Erville Sherman	- Treasurer
Olav Tweit	- Chm. Maintenance
Russ Tobias	- Chm. Civic Affairs
Wally Stenhouse	- Chm. Community-Public Relations
Ed Courtois	- Chm. Roads & Waterways

In addition to routine Cove business the Board spent most of its time during the year to following up on the cleanup of Matheny Creek, opposing the use of the Reno de Frances property for a trailer park, and the removal of the junk yard across Route 41. Matheny Creek was promised attention by the new County Commissioner. De Frances trailer park case was to go to court the first week in March 1967, and the junk yard situation was in court.

On the social side, the spring picnic, held May 7 under the able direction of Mary Pratt, was a huge success. The Bridge Club ended its winter season with a dinner at Martine's Restaurant on April 14. The fall picnic, held on October 29, heralded the beginning of winter activities of the Book Club and the Bridge Club.

Plans for three new homes were approved and six newly completed homes were occupied during the year. At the end of 1966 there were 126 homes (including three under construction) and the Association had 116 members. Just prior to the annual meeting Ev Sherman tendered his resignation as Treasurer due to pressing personal reasons.

1967 - The annual meeting was held January 10 with 72 members present. The nominating committee, headed by Glenn Pratt, presented the following slate: Russ Carper, William Cole, John Copeland, and Lew Knickerbocker for two-year terms, and William Muller to fill the unexpired term of Ev Sherman. Officers and Committee Chairmen were elected for the coming year -

William Cole	- President
Dewey Gerlach	- Vice President
William Muller	- Secretary
Lewis Knickerbocker	- Treasurer
John Copeland	- Chm. Maintenance
Russell Carper	- Chm. Civic Affairs
Wally Stenhouse	- Chm. Community-Public Relations
Ed Courtois	- Chm. Roads & Waterways

At the first meeting of the new Board of Directors, Erville Sherman was appointed Assistant Treasurer without voting status.

The number of problems that effect the Coral Cove community were increasing with the growth and development of adjacent areas. To keep abreast of these developments the Board recognized that it must closely monitor actions and plans of the County Commissioners, private property developers and commercial interests, to protect the stature of the community in general and the rights and interests of individual residents of the Cove.

The Board was successful in prevailing upon the owner of the Oyster Bar Restaurant to replace the fence surrounding the rear of his establishment. He also promised to do some landscaping around the parking area and service entrance.

Vigorous opposition was made at hearings of the County Commissioners on the petition of the Florida Cities Water Company for an extension of its franchise to provide water and sewerage to an area which includes Coral Cove. Consensus of opinion in Coral Cove and other effected communities favored such service rendered by facilities owned and operated by the County. Despite the opposition of those concerned in the effected area, the County Commissioners granted the extension of the franchise at a subsequent unadvertised meeting and without further hearings.

Efforts were finally successful in reducing the speed limit on U.S. 41 between Holiday Harbor and Stickney Point Road.

The annual Bridge banquet was held on top the Sarasota Motor Hotel on April 13. The Community Park was the scene of two delightful picnics, one on May 6 and the other on November 4.

Three house plans were approved during the year for new homes in the Cove. At the end of the year there were 129 homes including those under construction.

1968 - The twelfth annual meeting of the Association was held January 6 at the First Federal Savings and Loan building and was attended by 58 members. New directors elected were: Russ Betts, Glenn Hancock, Ed Lynch, and Homer Hayward. The new administration set-up for the year was:

Russ Betts	- President
William Cole	- Vice President
Glenn Hancock	- Secretary
Lewis Knickerbocker	- Treasurer
John Copeland	- Chm. Maintenance
Russ Carper	- Chm. Civic Affairs
Homer Hayward	- Chm. Community-Public Relations
Ed Lynch	- Chm. Roads & Waterways

Bill Cole resigned in April and Harry Weegham was appointed in July to fill the directorship vacancy. For the remainder of the year Ed Lynch acted as vice-president in addition to his other duties.

A petition was filed to downgrade the de Frances property north of Matheny Creek and rezone the major part of this property from "single family residential" to "multiple use residential", and a small part along Route 41 from C-1 to C-1A Commercial. Representatives from the Cove attended several public hearings in opposition to the proposal. De Frances later withdrew his request for trailer park zoning and presented a development plan designed by Kincaid & Associates which appeared acceptable to the Association members at a special meeting held September 26.

We were advised that the junk yard across Route 41 would be removed and replaced with a show room for automobile sales.

Our main entrance was the subject of much public criticism from Mr. Ben Stahl of the Museum of the Cross. Mr. Stahl wanted the brick walls removed and the whole entrance revamped. However, the matter was finally dropped since the Museum of the Cross was not financially able to carry out its plan.

The Bridge League ended its season with their annual dinner on April 18 at Forest Lakes Country Club. The Dickinsons won in the "Pelican" group and the Burpees were on top in the "Sea Gulls". Two highly successful picnics were held. The spring one on April 27 and the fall picnic on October 26.

Home building took an upward surge with eleven new house plans approved during the year. At the end of 1968 there were 140 homes in the Cove including those under construction.

1969 - The Community Room in the First Federal Savings and Loan Association's building was again the scene of the annual meeting held January 11. Forty-eight members were present and nominees for new directors were: Lou Mersey, Walt Rothenbach, Dick Weston, and Ray Worssam. Officers and Committee Chairmen were elected as follows:

Glenn Hancock	- President
Ray Worssam	- Vice President
Louis Mersey	- Secretary
Dick Weston	- Treasurer
Walter Rothenbach	- Chm. Maintenance
Russ Betts	- Chm. Civic Affairs
Homer Hayward	- Chm. Community-Public Relations
Ed Lynch	- Chm. Roads & Waterways

1969 was a busy year. Perhaps the toughest job was reworking the Cove Restrictions. Heretofore, four sets of Restrictions were on record covering the different sections of the subdivision as they were platted and recorded. A great deal of similarity existed in the original sets of Restrictions and these were combined, reworded for clarification, and issued as one set of Restrictions applicable to all of the residential part of the subdivision. Some opposition was voiced by a few of the residents but the revised Restrictions were adopted by the Board and put on record in the County Clerks Office.

Two suits were filed in the courts against residents for violations of restrictions on signs. The suits were later withdrawn after the signs were removed.

Early in the year the Circuit Court entered a Final Judgment ordering Reno de Frances to remove the trailer from his property, and ending the long controversy over the zoning for this area.

The County Health Department directed the Oyster Bar to make necessary changes in their sewerage system to eliminate the complaints of objectional odors.

New style loose leaf Cove Directories were printed and distributed.

The beautification program was expanded to include new landscaping at the north entrance on Upper Cove Terrace and the circle at the west end of Caribbean Drive. Overall original program had to be curtailed due to lack of funds.

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Stahl issued an invitation to Cove residents to visit the Museum of the Cross. About 72 Covians spent a pleasant and interesting evening on February 21 viewing the exhibits.

The spring picnic was held on May 3. For the fall picnic, held on October 25, no tickets were sold and everyone brought his own food with coffee and ice cream furnished by the Association.



Coral Cove community suffered a tragic blow upon the passing of Alice Burpee on September 28. She and Clare were the most active "founders" of many good things that have happened in the Cove.

Elsa Dickinson was named President of the Book Club for the 1969-70 season with Christine Stenhouse Vice-President, and Margaret Davis as Secretary-Treasurer. The Christmas Party by the Book Club was held December 17 at the Sarasota Yacht Club and a jolly time was had by all.

Misuse of our Community Park continued to give problems and it became necessary to post regulations prohibiting parked cars after dark and camping without prior permission for the remainder of the year.

Plans for three new homes were approved bringing the total number of residences occupied and under construction to 143 at the end of the year.

1970 - Sixty-six members attended the annual meeting held January 29 and the new directors elected were: Herb Bassett, Ray Graham, Don Herridge, and Roy Thomas. Composition of the Board for the coming year was -

Louis Mersey	- President
Ray Worssam	- Vice President
Don Herridge	- Secretary
Roy Thomas	- Treasurer
Walter Rothenbach	- Chm. Maintenance
Ray Graham	- Chm. Civic Affairs
Dick Weston	- Chm. Community-Public Relations
Herb Bassett	- Chm. Roads & Waterways

Proposed conversion of the Museum of the Cross building to a theater-restaurant threatened the Cove with parking and other problems. Strong opposition was voiced to the County Commissioners and to the County Health and Building Departments resulting in a suspension of the project until State and County requirements could be met.

All of the streets in the Cove were resurfaced with hot asphalt pavement which was a welcome improvement over the patchwork quilt we had been living with. Matheny Creek was widened and deepened to improve the flow.

Our social activities were again high lighted by two most enjoyable picnics, one on May 23 and the other held on October 24. The Book Club officers for the 1970-71 season were: Ruth Herridge, President and Florence Howard, Vice-President. The Bridge Club activities came under the able supervision of Elsa and Al Dickinson. This year the Book Club Christmas Party was held in Davey's Locker of the Windjammer restaurant on December 14 under the superb direction of Connie and Tod Cheney.

Another boom in home building in the Cove saw ten new house plans approved during the year. By the end of the year there were 148 homes occupied with five under construction.

1971 - On January 16 the Association held its fifteenth annual meeting with 58 members present. Ed Lynch, reporting for the nominating committee, presented a slate for new directors composed of Winn Wright, Carl Sampson, Paul Romance, and Al Dickinson. Officers and Committee Chairmen for the year were elected as follows:

Herbert Bassett	- President
Roy Thomas	- Vice President
C.E. Sampson	- Secretary
Winslow Wright	- Treasurer
A.C. Dickinson	- Chm. Maintenance
Ray Graham	- Chm. Civic Affairs
Don Herridge	- Chm. Community-Public Relations
Paul Romance	- Chm. Roads & Waterways

During the year the "Dirty Pants Club" was revived by Al Dickinson and was responsible for a general cleanup of the front entrance including revamping and improving the lighting arrangement. Dock facilities in the park were given a much needed repair job. New sod was installed on the circle at the west end of Caribbean Drive.

It was decided to extend all membership privileges, except voting, to renters where the Association membership dues were paid by the property owner.

By midsummer changes in the directory had become so numerous that it became desirable to update and reissue the Cove Directory. In all, during the year, eight families moved into newly completed homes and twenty existing residences changed ownership.

Representatives from the Board attended two public hearings on a proposed housing and motel development by David Shapiro & Company on the east side of Route 41 and north of our Upper Cove Terrace entrance. Our principal concern was the added highway traffic problem and possible problems arising from sewage disposal and water supply.

The building formerly used by the Museum of the Cross was taken over by Green Tree Communities, a real estate development company, and converted to an office for their use. This ended the threat of a theater-restaurant at this site.

The Bridge League held its end-of-season banquet on April 23 at Forest Lakes Country Club.

The spring picnic, held on May 22, attracted over a hundred Covians, and the fall picnic on October 30 was the third largest in Cove history with 109 in attendance.

The Book Club opened their activities on October 11 at the home of Florence and Saul Howard. Officers for the 1971-72 season were: Frances Hancock, President - Lillian Sampson, Vice-President - and Mary Pickering, Secretary-Treasurer. Most delightful was the Christmas dinner party held on top of the Sarasota Motor Hotel on December 15 under the capable direction of Anne Clark.

Three times during the year sadness invaded the Cove with the passing of Helen Bassett, Fred Watson, and Wally Stenhouse. Wally served on the Board of Directors as Chairman of Community-Public Relations for two years during 1966 and 1967.

Eight new house plans were approved during the year. At the end of the year there were 156 occupied residences in the Cove, 153 by owners and three by tenants. Five new houses were under construction with completion scheduled for early 1972. This left only about 20 vacant lots that could be considered as potential residence sites.

As the year closed, the old problem of misuse of the Community Park by the younger generation reared its ugly head again. A workable solution to this problem was a priority item for the new Board of Directors.

1972 - The annual meeting of the Association was held in the Community Room of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association on January 14. Seventy members were present with 48 being represented by proxies. The nominating committee, headed by Glenn Hancock, presented the following nominees for new directors: Guy Byassee, Len Leonardow, Lou Mersey, and George Pickering. The new Board elected Officers and Committee Chairmen for the coming year as follows:

Winslow Wright	- President
Louis Mersey	- Vice President
C.E. Sampson	- Secretary
Guy Byassee	- Treasurer
A.C. Dickinson	- Chm. Maintenance
Paul Romance	- Chm. Civic Affairs
George Pickering	- Chm. Community-Public Relations
Len Leonardow	- Chm. Roads & Waterways

George Pickering headed up a committee, which included Gerald Walton and John Weh, to study the Community Park situation. A letter was distributed to all Cove residents establishing certain regulations applying to use of the park.

The Bridge League ended its season with a delightful dinner atop the Sarasota Motor Hotel on April 5. The Byassees' were high for the Hurricanes and the Dickinsons' won in the Tornados. In the league team playoff the Hurricanes won.

Our hats are off to Mary Pickering and her helpers who engineered two enjoyable picnics. The spring picnic was held on May 20 with 77 in attendance and the fall picnic with 83 Covians was held on October 28.

We felt the side effects from Hurricane Agnes in mid-June. Considerable damage was inflicted along the south shore of the Caribbean Drive peninsula.

John and Linda Weh became the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy on July 13, achieving a "first" for Coral Cove.

Paul Romance tendered his resignation as Director in June and was replaced by Roy Rollins.

Florence Howard was named President of the Book Club for the 1972-73 season with Margaret Davis, Vice President, and Mary Pickering as Secretary-Treasurer. An outstanding success was the Book Club's Christmas Party held at Martine's on December 4 under the able leadership of Elsa Dickinson.

The Board spent much of its time during the year developing an approach to extending the expiration date of January 1, 1975 for the present Cove Restrictions. Letters were sent to all property owners outlining the situation and requesting their feeling toward a 20-year extension of this date. Results of this poll were very discouraging as 13 voted against extension of expiration date and 51 failed to reply. Legal opinion was that 100% of property owners must agree to extend present restrictions or to establish new restrictions that would be effective after January 1, 1975.

The grim reaper took his worst toll in years with the passing of Galen Clark, Ralph Moran, Mrs. Marion Lusin, Elsa Knappe, Evelyn Shands, and Richard Murray.

At the close of 1972 we had 158 owner occupied homes in the Cove and 3 tenant occupied. Four new homes were under construction, leaving 17 vacant lots that could be considered as potential residence sites of which two already had approved plans for residence construction. During the year 7 house plans, 3 swimming pool plans, and 8 plans for other structural additions were approved by the Board. During 1972 there were 20 newcomers to the Cove, 16 purchasing existing homes and 4 moving into recently constructed homes.

1973 - On January 12 the Association held its seventeenth annual meeting with 63 members present. Roy Thomas, reporting for the nominating committee presented a slate for new Directors: Anita Kemp, Robert Lawsen, Lambert Pursell and Ronald Stahl for 2-year terms, and Roy Rollins for one year to fill the unexpired term of Leonard Leonardow. Ted Thompson was nominated from the floor for a 2-year

term by Gerald Walton. Officers and Committee Chairmen for the coming year were elected as follows:

Guy Byassee	- President
Roy Rollins	- Vice President
Anita Kemp	- Secretary
Lambert Pursell	- Treasurer
Robert Larsen	- Chm. Maintenance
Louis Mersey	- Chm. Civic Affairs
Ronald Stahl	- Chm. Community-Public Relations
George Pickering	- Chm. Roads & Waterways

During the year a concerted effort was made by the Board to have the County Commissioners force Florida Cities Water Company to serve Coral Cove as provided under their franchise. The County Commissioners agreed to look into the matter and take such action as seemed advisable and legal.

All residents of the Cove were contacted regarding the extension of our Restrictions which were due to expire at the end of 1974. Non-resident owners were sent letters regarding same. Nearly 90% of the property owners agreed to the extension for another 20 years.

The Bridge League ended its season with a delightful dinner at Martine's on April 24th.

Our picnics are getting bigger and better. The spring picnic was held in the park May 12th with about 120 in attendance. The fall picnic on October 27 attracted well over 100 Covians and their guests.

During the summer the county took over the mowing of the front entrance on Caribbean Drive, the circles and triangle on Periwinkle Drive, and the circle at the west end of Caribbean Drive.

Officers for the Book Review Club for the 1973-74 season were: Margaret Davis, President; Hazel Weston, Vice-President; Mary Ruth Wright, Secretary-Treasurer. Frances Copeland was made Chairman of Membership. Margaret Jones directed the Christmas Party held on December 14th at the Golden Apple Dinner Theater.

Death claimed Clare Burpee, one of our beloved residents and an old-timer to the Cove. Clare was very active in the early development of the Cove Association. During the year the Cove also lost William Elliott, Wanda Matthews, Willard Smith, and William Bell.

Residential building boomed in 1973 and at the end of the year there were only seven vacant building lots.

1974 - The annual meeting of the Civic Association was held on January 18 in the Community Room at First Federal Savings & Loan Association's South Gate Office. 71 members were present with 56 represented by proxies. Red Sampson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate for new Directors: Arnold Mason, Ed McAuliffe, William Shunck, and Ed Pineault. There were no floor nominations and the slate was declared elected. The new Board then elected the following officers, and department heads were appointed by the new president.

William Shunck	- President
Ronald Stahl	- Vice President
Anita Kemp	- Secretary
Lambert Pursell	- Treasurer
Arnold Mason	- Civic Affairs
Robert Larsen	- Community-Public Relations
Ed McAuliffe	- Maintenance
Ed Pineault	- Roads & Waterways

Early in February the Sarasota County Commissioners told Florida Cities Water Company that, according to the terms of their franchise, they must provide water to any street in Coral Cove on which 50% or more of the property owners request the service. Later on in the year

Florida Cities did send out questionnaires to Coral Cove residents to determine if sufficient number wanted the water and sewer connections.

The Bridge League held its annual "end-of-season" banquet at the Holiday Inn south of Osprey on March 30.

The County Commissioners finally decided to go ahead with the dredging and cleaning of Matheny Creek and bill Florida Cities with the cost. Bids were solicited for the work in September.

A record breaking crowd of 133 attended the spring picnic held in the park on May 18. The fall picnic on October 26 was also well attended with over 100 Covians and friends.

For some time the Board had prevailed on June Muck and Carolyn Obenshain, owners of property at 1917 Upper Cove Terrace, to comply with our Restrictions and remove their recreational vehicle from their driveway. They refused to do so and the Board then decided to file suit in court against these owners for violation of our Restrictions. A hearing was set for October 3 but no decision was handed down.

Hazel Weston was elected President of the Book Review Club for the 1974-75 season with Marjorie Pursell, Vice President, and Christine Stenhouse, Secretary-Treasurer. The Christmas Dinner Party was held at the Crown House Restaurant on December 16 and a merry time was had by all.

This year the Cove was saddened by the death of Edward Courtois, Dewey Gerlach, Nellie Potts, Henry Workman, and Helen Hayward.

After a very few revisions, the Board adopted a new set of Cove Restrictions with an expiration date of January 1, 1995 and were put on record in the County Clerk's Office. Signatures approving the new restrictions were obtained from about 95% of the property owners in the Cove.

1975 - The Community Room of United First Federal's South Gate office was again the scene of the annual meeting of the Civic Association held January 17. In attendance were 55 members and 58 represented by proxies. New Directors elected were: Tom Bennett, Georgette Braun, Margaret Davis, and John Kleeb for 2-year terms, and Roy Rollins for one year to fill the unexpired term of Ed Pineault who had resigned. President Shunck announced that a Board meeting would be held within the next few days to decide the officers and department heads for 1975.

At the Board meeting on January 20 the following was established:

Tom Bennett	- President
William Shunck	- Vice President
Margaret Davis	- Secretary
Georgette Braun	- Treasurer
Arnold Mason	- Civic Affairs
Roy Rollins	- Community-Public Relations
Ed McAuliffe	- Maintenance
John Kleeb	- Roads & Waterways

Georgette Braun resigned in mid-summer and Arlene Owens was appointed in September to fill the vacancy.

On January 30 Judge Schaub ruled against us in the case of Coral Cove Civic Association vs: Muck & Obenshain. His decision seemed to be based on the fact that the Cove Restrictions had expired January 1, 1975. The Board decided to appeal the court decision since it was felt that the extended restrictions put on record in December of 1974 were valid. The appeal was filed in February.

The Bridge League celebrated the finish of another very enjoyable bridge year with a dinner at the Crown House on April 8.

The Board decided not to sponsor a spring picnic as it appeared to some of the Directors that people were losing interest in the affair. However, a relatively large group of Covians did assemble in the park on May 31, brought their own lunches, and had a very enjoyable time. The fall picnic was sponsored by the Board and was held on October 25.

During the early summer the Board circulated petitions and found 172 property owners, or 94% of the Cove, who wanted Manatee water to be furnished by the County. After several meetings of the County Commissioners, which were well attended by Covians, the Commission removed Coral Cove, along with 10 other areas, from the Florida Cities Water Company franchise. The basis for their action was the fact that Florida Cities refused to furnish the Cove water after more than 50% had signed up for it. Coral Cove then became part of the North County Water District and would be furnished Manatee River water by the county.

The Book Review Club held its initial fall meeting on October 13 at the home of Frances Copeland. Officers for the 1975-76 season were: Marjorie Pursell, President; Patricia Jacobsen, Vice President; and Edith Byassee, Secretary-Treasurer. The Christmas Party was again held at the Crown House on December 8 under the able direction of Marian Johanson. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to do a little dancing.

Sadness again invaded the Cove with the passing of Frances Carroll, Frances Bell, James Gadsby, Ray Reithmiller, and Henry Tacheny.

Amendments to the By-Laws were distributed in December for consideration at the next annual meeting. These amendments would (1) increase the Board of Directors from eight to nine members; (2) members not paying dues and assessments by February 1 would be considered delinquent; and (3) remove the right of the Board to accept or reject applicants for membership in the Association, i.e. ownership of property in the Cove automatically qualifies owner for membership.

At the end of 1976 there were only four vacant building lots. Lots 37 and 38 in Block 3C had been zoned for business and were no longer considered as part of Coral Cove residential area.

1976 - On January 16 the Association held its twentieth annual meeting with 70 members present and 41 represented by proxies. The amendments to the By-Laws were adopted as proposed. Guy Byassee and Arnold Mason were given a rising vote of thanks for the time and effort they had spent on the water project. The composition of the new Board for 1976 was as follows:

John Kleeb	- President
Clemens Kammerer	- Vice President
Margaret Davis	- Secretary
Arlene Owens	- Treasurer
Carl Sampson	- Civic Affairs
Dr. Pentti Kokko	- Community-Public Relations
Ed McAuliffe	- Maintenance
Paul Jacobsen	- Roads & Waterways
Tom Bennett	- Directory & Membership

Coral Cove was declared a Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary. Suitable signs were ordered for the three entrances and in the triangle near the park.

The DOT refused to recommend a traffic light at the intersection of Caribbean Drive and U.S. 41 but did erect a "NO U-TURN" sign at the intersection for south bound traffic.

Bridge League members and guests, totaling 54, attended the annual season-end dinner at the Greenhouse Restaurant on March 25. Marjorie and Lambert Pursell with Hilda and John Pelletti volunteered to take charge of game arrangements for the season of 1976-77. Don Herridge agreed again to serve as treasurer and chief scorekeeper.

The year saw the happy ending to two long fought for projects. Matheny Creek was dredged and cleaned up. The County completed installation of distribution lines in the Cove for Manatee water. This also included a system of fire hydrants. Water was promised to be available soon after the first of the year when necessary clearances were obtained from health and sanitary agencies of the county and state.

Both the spring picnic on May 15 and the fall picnic on November 16 were well attended and enjoyed by all.

The District Court of Appeals upheld the lower court's decision in our appeal of the case against Muck & Obenshain regarding violation of Cove restrictions. The Board decided to accept the decision and not spend any more for legal fees pursuing the case further.

The grim reaper was again active in the Cove claiming Hugh Bailey, Peggy Cossaart, James and Hazel Fyfe, Dr. James Miller, Col. Russ Harris, Don Beidleman, and Homer Hayward.

The Book Review Club began activities with their opening meeting on October 11. Officers for the 1976-77 season were: Margriet Kammerer, President; Florence Shunck, Vice President; and Marian Johanson, Secretary-Treasurer. A most delightful Christmas Party was held at the Gulf Gate Golf Club on December 13 with Margaret Eadie in charge. Singing the old familiar songs led by Tod Cheney, and dancing to live music featured the evening's entertainment.

At the end of the year all but six property owners had signed the new Restrictions. There were 171 owner-occupied residences, 8 rental properties, and 4 vacant lots.

Arlene Owens and Paul Jacobsen tendered their resignations as of the end of the 1976 year.

1977 - The place for the annual meeting was changed to the Community Room at the United First Federal Savings & Loan building, Siesta Key Branch, on Stickney Point Road. The meeting was held January 17 on a blustery cold night with 59 members present and 30 sending proxies. President Kleeb said that it might be necessary to raise the maintenance assessment by \$5 for the year 1978. This charge had not changed since the Association was formed and the rising costs of all maintenance activities was eating into our reserves at an alarming rate. Altho the Board, under the existing By-Laws, was authorized to implement an increase of such magnitude, the assembly was asked how they felt about the matter. The members voted 54 to 5 in favor of the increase if found necessary.

Lou Mersey, reporting for the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate for new Directors: William Eadie, Melvyn Payne, Phil Koch, Dr. John Barner, and Ruth Lynch. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was declared elected as read. The Board for 1977 was set up as follows:

John Kleeb	- President
Clemens Kammerer	- Vice President
Carl Sampson	- Secretary
William Eadie	- Treasurer
Phil Koch	- Civic Affairs
Dr. Pentti Kokko	- Community-Public Relations
Melvyn Payne	- Maintenance
Dr. John Barner	- Roads & Waterways
Ruth Lynch	- Directory & Membership

Early in February residents of the Cove received notices from the county water department advising that Manatee River water was available to Coral Cove. Within a week some residences were hooked up and others followed soon afterwards. No more worries about rainless spring months and salt water intrusion!!

The rapid development of businesses in the Coral Cove Mall created new traffic hazards at their service road intersection with our Caribbean Drive entrance off US-41. The developer agreed to install a "YIELD" sign on the service road to regulate the exit traffic. The opening of an "Adult Book Store" in this business area caused considerable concern to the Cove residents. County Commissioners passed a new zoning ordinance which will prevent any new "Adult Entertainment" establishment from being opened in this area but will not operate to close the present one.

Soon after the opening of the new Sarasota Square Mall the speed limit on US-41 from a point south of Beneva Road to Stickney Point Road was further reduced to 45 MPH.

The Bridge League held its annual spring banquet at the Hyatt House on March 26 and was enjoyed by all Cove Bridge Leaguers and their friends.

One hundred and eleven Covians attended the spring picnic held in the Community Park on May 14. The fall picnic, held October 29, also attracted 110 Covians and friends. Much praise goes to Dr. Kokko for putting on two highly successful and enjoyable picnics.

Vandalism still remains a serious problem in the Cove. For the most part perpetrators are non-residents of the Cove and come from nearby subdivisions. Additional pole lighting was installed in the Community Park to discourage vandal activity in this area.

The Book Review Club opened their activities on October 10 at the home of Ruth Pearson. Officers for the 1977-78 season were: Marianne Conrey, President; Ruth Pearson, Vice President; Florence Benham, Secretary-Treasurer. The Christmas Party was held December 13 at the Country Club of Sarasota under the able direction of Marian Johanson. A most enjoyable time was had by all with good food and dancing to live music. Party was attended by 95 Covians and friends.

This year Covians were saddened by the death of Alfred Norwood, Fred Dauchert, Peggy Patch, Pauline Gadsby, Jay Henneberry, Margaret Eadie, and Kay Powers.

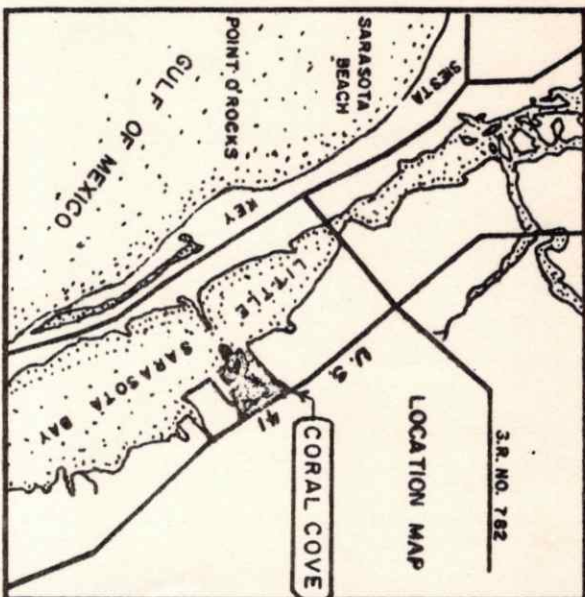
During the year 24 residential changes took place involving 17 owner-occupants and 7 renters. At the end of the year there were 169 owner-occupied residences, 8 rental families, 2 vacant houses, and 4 vacant building lots.

Phil Koch tendered his resignation effective the end of the 1977 year.

1978 - The Community Room of United First Federal Savings & Loan, Siesta Key Branch, was again the scene of the twenty-second annual meeting of the Civic Association, held on Tuesday, January 17. In attendance were 64 members with 25 owners being represented by proxy. Guy Byassee, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave quite a speech as he introduced the slate of candidates for new Directors for 1978. Directors elected were: Paul Boehringer, Ed Graham, Margaret Mason, Frances Copeland, and Frank Ogonowski. Officers and department heads for the coming year were as follows:

Edward Graham	- President
Frank Ogonowski	- Vice President
Margaret Mason	- Secretary
William Eadie	- Treasurer
Dr. John Barner	- Civic Affairs
Ruth Lynch	- Community-Public Relations
Melvyn Payne	- Maintenance
Paul Boehringer	- Roads & Waterways
Frances Copeland	- Directory & Membership





Coral Cove Civic Association  
*Coral Cove*  
 Sarasota, Florida  
 1966

