

WILTON MANOAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORICAL NOTES

Wilton Manors City Pioneers from 1972

By Benjamin Little and Paul A. Kuta Wilton Manors Historical Society

Wilton Manors City Pioneers 1972 to Date

From 1972 to 2014, the Broward County Historical Commission held an annual Pioneers' Day Ceremony to honor Pioneers from all Broward Cities. After the Commission was disestablished by the County Board in 2014, no Pioneers' Day ceremony was held for the following two years. In 2016, the event was reinstated under the auspices of the Broward Historic Preservation Board.

The nomination process required submitting some sort of resume and a reason the person(s) were being nominated. We have many of these, courtesy of the Broward County Historical Commission, which are on subsequent pages. We do not have biographies for all listed as noted by an asterisk. Many of these are documented elsewhere on the website. Pioneers after 2006 are documented individually in the Pioneers Articles Section of this website. These are noted with an double asterisk.

When both husband and wife are listed, it is assumed that each is an honoree.

Most of the below was copied from poorly preserved brochures prepared for each event, scanned, and OCRed. There are undoubtedly some errors.

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1973 – Turner, Dave *
1974 – Boyd, James (Anne) *
1974 - Mickel, Perry (Dorothea) * - See People Articles
1975 - Hagen, Alvar * - See People Articles
1975 - Newton, Grace * - See People Articles
1975 – Slagle, Merle
1976 - Sargent, Alice *
1976 - Stafford, Marcia * - See People Articles
1976 - Starling, J. Frank * - See People Articles
1977 - Hartman, Virginia Bell and Wallington (Duke)*
1977 - Saxer, Arlene Henerlay and Charles *
1978 - McJunkin, Neville and brother Roy - See Also
Reminiscences Articles
1978 – Williams, Helen King
1979 - Coupanger, Nell Hudlow
1979 – Haun, Vada Elder
1979 – Hooper, Billie K. M.
1979 – Ratliff, Marjorie Elmore
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1980 – Nerber Angela Speranza

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1980 - Reed, Dorothy Sutcliffe
1981 – Miller, John S. *
1981 - Paine, Windsor Freeman *
1983 – Bryan, Dorothy E.
1983 - Kenneth, Christine Bryan
1984 - Thompson, Dianne Richardson and Gerald F.
1985 - Clinton, Frank H. *
1985 - Gordon, Esther Clinton *
1986 - Harvey, Mary Harrell
1986 - Turner, David William
1987 - Karsten, Ada Marie and Wilfred Cordner (Bill)
1987 – Miller, Ruth Anna Groff
1988 - French, Edward A. & wife, Jean Walker French
1988 – Zuffelato, Marie (Joanne) Comly
1989 - Bush, Marvin *
1989 - Chabot, Arthur and Margaret *
1989 - Richardson, George and Helen * - See People
Articles
1989 - Stafford, Leslie *
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1990 – O'Gorman, Stella Marlon Paulanski

1990 - Dean, James Creighton

1991 - Oshsenknecht, Helen Margaret Franck

1992 - Sutton, Grace Erwin

1993 – Bellissimo, Nicholas B.

1993 - Peck, Viola L. Westrick

1994 – Goodwine, Ralph A.

1994 - Speck, Harry Bruce

1995 - Schotanus, Wayne E.

1995 - Westervelt, Nina E.

1996 - Barnes, Anne Kobal

1996 - Mehner, Bill Robert

1997 - Welling, Sr., Arthur J. and wife Phyllis

1998 – Barry, Margaret Mary

1998 – Pearce, Robert Warren - See Also People

Articles

1999 – Barone, Anthony J

2000 - Kalis, Edward

2001 - Cline, Diane - See Also People Articles

2002 - McCrary, Eda Eileen

2003 - McGivern, James Bernard

2004 - Peak, Vernon Randolph

2005 - Peak, Margaret Ruby

2006 - Lunsford, Ann Lee and Ron Eugene

2007 - Thuma Young, Cynthia and mother Madgeline **

2008 - French, Jean Walker and son Robin Edward **

2009 - Fiore, Angela and son, John Roy **

2010 - Nolen, Richard and Shirley **

2011 - Stafford, Tracy and Nancy **

2012 - Pearce, Ginny **

2013 – Steen, Sandra Jedlika **

2014 - Wilkinson, King **

2015 - No County Pioneer Day held

2016 - No County Pioneer Day held

2017 - DePalma, M. E. **

2018 - Lancaster, Arlene **

2019 - Donald Scott Newton **

2020 - No County Pioneer Day held

2021 - No County Pioneer Day held

^{**} Biographies Available in Pioneers Articles

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1978

Roy McJunkin

Neville McJunkin

ROY McJUNKIN and NEVILLE McJUNKIN were born in South Carolina in 1891 and 1893, respectively. Known as the "Gold Dust Twins" to their peers, one day in 1912 they flipped a coin to see if they would travel by train to Virginia for a job or head south. This time the South won! Arriving in Tavares after dark, they were surprised the next morning to find buzzards roosting on roof tops. Surprise turned to dismay when they learned all the drinking water came from cisterns that caught the rain water from the roofs. In 1912 Fort Lauderdale had one paved street two blocks long and alligators roamed there at night. Neville served in France during the war where he became a three stripe sergeant. Roy was deferred because of his farming. Roy and his wife, Myrtle Shealy, had no children but became known as "Uncle Roy" and "Aunt Myrtle" to the community. Neville and his wife, Jessie Pitts, had one daughter, Kathryn. Even though times were hard, Lady Luck has shone on the "Gold Dust Twins" and now in their eighties, they drive twin Cadillacs!

Helen King Williams

HELEN KING WILLIAMS was born in Rogers, Arkansas on January 16, 1903. Graduating from high school as valedictorian, she received a scholarship to the University of Arkansas. Her parents didn't approve of the "wicked" dancing, card playing, etc. that took place on campus so they sent Helen to a Baptist girl's college in South Arkansas. She met her husband, Gex, on a blind date. He was employed by the Federal Reserve Bank. They were married in 1925 and drove to Florida on their honeymoon. The highways were not too good at that time and the car got stuck in red clay along the route. Helen had two children, Gex, Jr. and Helen (Mrs. George Richardson) who were born in Fort Lauderdale and are still residents. Gex was proud of being the first to build a pasteurization plant in Fort Lauderdale which was later sold to Borden.

1979

Nell Hudlow Coupanger

NELL HUDLOW COUPANGER was born in Covington, Virginia, coming to Ft. Lauderdale in the fall of 1926. She was graduated from National College of Education in Chicago in 1923. She says she arrived in Fort Lauderdale for a teachers' meeting, staying at the Broward Hotel, but the 1926 Hurricane hit, quite an introduction to Florida. She taught in Dania, the school having been damaged by the hurricane, she taught on one end of a closed porch of Dania Community House until Dania Elementary was repaired. After the 1919 depression she left Florida for Mayslick, Ky. where she opened her own private kindergarten. Eventually she came back to Pompano Beach Elementary school, then to Wilton Manors, retiring in 1968.

Vada Elder Haun

VADA ELDER HAUN was born in 1907 at Alvy, West Virginia. Vada came to Broward County in 1951, teaching at Oakland Park Elementary, Pompano High School and then Wilton Manors Elementary, until her retirement in 1967. One amusing incident she remembers — over the loud speaker the school secretary's voice announced a mother was on her way to visit me. One of the boys said very seriously, "Mrs. Haun, if we are going to have company, you had better put on some lipstick. You look like you are dying."

Billie K. M. Hooper

BILLIE K. M. HOOPER came to Wilton Manors from Vero Beach, Florida in 1947 with her husband. She was graduated from Florida State College for Women, majoring in elementary education. She began

her teaching career here at Oakland Park School, later transferring to the new Wilton Manors School as fifth grade teacher. During this time she was awarded the Career Increment award for two years and the Florida Competence award for three years. Billie has been active in Grace Lutheran Church, Kappa Alpha Theta, Ft. Lauderdale Panhellenic Assn., Broward County Retired Teachers' Assn., past-president of American Legion Auxiliary, charter president of Wilton Manors Auxiliary to Barracks #2731 VWW1, has worked as a volunteer in the Thrift Shop and Red Cross. She retired in 1966.

Marjorie Elmore Ratliff

MARJORIE ELMORE RATLIFF was born in Delavan, Illinois in 1907. She was graduated from Lake Forest College in 1928 and taught at Wilton Manors Elementary until retirement in 1969. She relates an experience about her class. Her son returned from Taiwan and taught her class one day calling it "Oriental Day". They dressed in Oriental costumes, learned how to count to ten in Chinese, spelling included English and Chinese words —every subject emphasizing the Orient and the luncheon featured Oriental foods. The program was so successful that every year they had Oriental Day. One day a student asked "Mrs. Ratliff, when is Oriental Day?" She explained she had not set a date, to which he replied, "Mrs. Ratliff, how can you change the date of a national holiday?"

1980

Angela Speranza Nerber

ANGELA SPERANZA NERBER, "well over 21," was born in Rochester, New York. A graduate of Lockport High, Mrs. Nerber attended the Bryant & Stratton Business College and the University of Buffalo. In the fall of 1952, she and her husband drove down here in their Nash sedan. They opened a public accounting and bookkeeping office on Wilton Drive. At the time, their monthly rent was \$25.

Dorothy Sutcliffe Reed

DOROTHY SUTCLIFFE REED, born on May 5, 1903, in Buffalo, New York, moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1944 via Michigan. From March 1953 to January 1964, Mrs. Reed operated one of the first specialty stores, "Reed's Children's Shops." on Wilton Drive in Wilton Manors. Now retired, Mrs. Reed was active in merchants' associations. She is the mother of two sons, Clark S. and David V. Reed.

1983

Dorothy E. Bryan

DOROTHY E. BRYAN, the sister of Christine B. Kenneth and Frank W. Bryan, was born in Fort Lauderdale in 1925. A graduate of Fort Lauderdale High School, she worked first for the telephone company and then, in 1945, began working for the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Broward County where she still is employed. Ms. Bryan has been active in the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, the Volunteer Firemen's Auxiliary, the library and the Tennis Club in Wilton Manors, where she has lived since 1958.

Christine Bryan Kenneth

The parents of CHRISTINE BRYAN KENNETH came to Fort Lauderdale, where she was born in 1920, before Broward County was formed. Her father Frank was the first County Clerk in 1915 and her mother Fay was one of the first school teachers. Mrs. Kenneth moved to Wilton Manors with her husband Fred after World War II. She is a charter member of the Junior Woman's Club and a member of the First Christian Church of Wilton Manors and has worked at Holy Cross Hospital for the past ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth are the parents of Scott, Stephen and Susan.

1984

Gerald F. Thompson

Gerald F. Thompson was born in Arrow, Pennsylvania, in 1926, and moved to Broward County twenty years later, after serving in the Air Force at the end of World War II. His first job after his arrival was at Eddie's and Jimmie's, a popular cocktail lounge on Oakland Park Boulevard, owned by his stepfather, Edward V. Patterson. In 1954, while attending night school at the University of Miami, he began his long association with Carter Pools, starting as a laborer and working his way up to vice president of the company.

In 1950, Mr. Thompson had married Dianne Richardson, and in the ensuing years the Thompson family grew to include five children. As his children grew up, Mr. Thompson became increasingly active in the civic affairs of his adopted hometown, Wilton Manors. He became involved with the Cub Scouts, Little League, and Jaycees, in addition to serving as a volunteer fireman and Sunday school teacher.

In 1964, Mr. Thompson was elected to the Wilton Manors City Council. He served in that capacity for ten years, and six, from 1968 to 1974, as mayor. He was elected to the Broward County Commission in 1974, receiving more votes than any other candidate in that election. In his ten years on the Commission, Mr. Thompson has served on numerous committees, and received a number of awards and honors. He currently serves as chairman of the Saw-grass Expressway Authority, and as director of the National Association of County Officials, the Southern Association of County Commissioners, and the Florida League of Cities.

Dianne Richardson Thompson

Dianne Richardson Thompson, a native of Broward County, was born in 1929 in Fort Lauderdale, where her family had resided since 1912. Her mother and older brother and sister had arrived the night much of the city's downtown was destroyed by fire, and her stepfather, Clinton Stone, operated the boat *Passing Thru*, which took passengers up the north New River Canal to Lake Okeechobee and back during the late 1910's and early 1920's. In the 1930's, he also served as harbor master at Port Everglades.

After graduating from Fort Lauderdale High School, Dianne Richardson married Gerald Thompson in 1950. The following year they moved to Wilton Manors, then a tiny community separated from Fort Lauderdale by open countryside. Raising a family of five involved Mrs. Thompson in several community activities, including P.T.A., Cub and Girl Scouts, Soap Box Derby, Garden Club, and Mother's Council. She was also a charter member of the Junior Welfare Society, and helped found the Wilton Manors Historical Society, serving as that organization's first president. Recently, she has devoted her time to her grandchildren and to craft work such as ceramics, sewing, quilting, and making antique doll reproductions.

1986

Mary Harrell Harvey

MARY HARRELL HARVEY was born in Bainbridge, Georgia. In 1924, Mary Harrell Harvey moved to Florida with her family when she was nine months old. Receiving a high school and business college education, she was employed as a secretary for military personnel with the Army Engineers in Washington, D.C., from 1942 to 1946. She moved to Broward County in April 1946, arriving by automobile in Fort Lauderdale, where she was employed as a legal secretary from 1947 until 1977.

From December 1950 to March 1952, Mrs. Harvey served as Village Clerk of Wilton Manors. She and her husband raised three sons in Broward County, and presently reside in Wilton Manors.

1987

Ada Marie Karsten

Ada Marie Karsten was born in 1917 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and received her education there at Delta Collegiate, McMaster University, and Hamilton Teachers College. She taught public school in Canada before moving to Fort Lauderdale with her husband Bill in October 1947. After moving to Florida, she worked for the Fort Lauderdale News from 1948 to 1951, and then went to work at the Wilton Manors City Office, where she was employed for twenty years before retiring. A resident of Wilton Manors, Mrs. Karsten has worked as a volunteer at AMI Northridge Hospital for the past four years.

Wilfred Corner (Bill) Karsten

Wilfred Corner (Bill) Karsten was born in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, in 1916. He received his education at Delta Collegiate in Hamilton, and served in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He and his wife Marie moved to Broward County in October 1947, arriving by automobile in Fort Lauderdale. After moving to Florida, he worked writing specifications for the Broward County schools until his retirement in 1977. Long interested in knives, Mr. Karsten has written approximately 100 articles for a hobby paper, Knife World, and has also written a reference book, Silver Folding Fruit Knives. The Karstens make their home in Wilton Manors.

Ruth Anna Groff Miller

Wilton Manors resident Ruth Anna Groff Miller was born in 1923 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Lebanon High School in June 1941. In May 1953, she moved to Broward County, arriving in Wilton Manors by automobile. Mrs. Miller was active as a Brownie Scout leader in Wilton Manors from 1957 to 1966, and as a member and past president of the Wilton Manors Fire Department Auxiliary. She has been a member of the First Lutheran Church since 1956, having transferred from Salem Lutheran Church of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. She taught Sunday school in both churches. Mrs. Miller and her husband, John S. Miller, are the parents of six children.

1988

Edward A. French

Edward A. French was born in 1916 in Monterey, Indiana. When he was two years old, his father died, and in the early 1920s, his mother Mamie, and her second husband Lew Warner moved to Broward County, where they farmed south of Fort Lauderdale near what is today Port Everglades. Although Edward came to Broward County several times during the 1920s, he was raised by a great aunt in Indiana, and graduated high school there, at Culver, Indiana, in 1936.

After completing school, he moved to Florida and found employment in the hotel business, working at the Great Southern Hotel in Hollywood during the winters and at a hotel in Asbury Park, New Jersey, during the summers. After his marriage to Jean Walker, he worked as a painter for George Young in Fort Lauderdale, and moved to Connecticut during World War II, where he worked for four years in a war plant. In 1946, the Frenches returned to Broward County and settled in the then-tiny community of Wilton Manors.

Mr. French founded his own painting business, Ed French Painting, and became involved in community activities, and particularly working with children. He served as president and boys' work chairman for the Optimist Club of Wilton Manors, and founded Farm League Baseball (now T-ball) for boys too young for Little League. Now retired, Mr. French divides his time between his homes in Wilton Manors and Franklin, North Carolina, and enjoys fishing and golf.

Jean Walker French

New England native Jean Walker French was born in Quincy, Massachusetts, in 1920. When she was six her family moved to New York state, and when she was sixteen, they moved to Fort Lauderdale, driving down U.S. Highway 1 in a Stutz Bearcat. Upon her arrival, Jean enrolled in Fort Lauderdale High School and graduated in 1939. She also studied at Broward Business College and has rounded out her education with several courses from Broward Junior College (now Broward Community College).

For several years she worked at Broward General Hospital and for Dr. Paul G. Shell. In 1942, with her husband Ed French, she moved to Connecticut. The Frenches returned to Broward County in 1946, and moved to Wilton Manors.

Mrs. French recalls that Wilton Manors was then a very small town with unpaved roads, rural mailboxes, and chicken farms. In 1953, Mr. and Mrs. French moved into their present Wilton Manors home. Mrs. French soon found herself taking a position as playground superintendent for the City of Wilton Manors, and that job led to a similar one with the City of Deerfield Beach.

In 1963, she was employed by the City of Plantation as Assistant Recreation Director, a position she held for fifteen years until her retirement in 1978. The mother of two sons, Mrs. French now spends much of her time doing oil painting and enjoying her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She and her husband have lived at the same home in Wilton Manors for 35 years, and also have a home in Franklin, N.C.

Marie (Joanne) Comly Zuffelato

Born in Philadelphia, PA in 1942, the daughter of Bud and Edna Comly, Marie Comly Zuffalato, known to her many friends as Joanne, moved to Broward County with her family in 1950. The Comlys came south in a 1937 LaSalle automobile, and lived in Pompano for one year before resettling in Wilton Manors. Marie graduated from Fort Lauderdale High School in 1960 and married Joseph Zuffelato, a native of Massachusetts. They now have two children and three grandchildren.

After working as a waitress for many years, Mrs. Zuffelato opened a flower shop, the Posy Patch Florist, in Wilton Manors in 1974. In addition to running her business, she stays busy with a number of civic activities. For six years she served on the Wilton Manors Civil Service Police Board. She is a member of the Wilton Manors First Christian Church, the Wilton Manors-Oakland Park Chamber of Commerce, the Soroptimist Club, and the Broward Business Association.

Mrs. Zuffelato is extremely proud of her home town. She says that growing up in Wilton Manors when she did was one of the most wonderful experience a child could have. She remembers it as a friendly small town where everyone looked out for everyone else. Although the city has undergone a number of changes since those days, Mrs. Zuffelato says she still would never want to live anywhere else.

1990

Stella Marlon Paulaski O'Gorman

Stella Marion Paulaski O'Gorman was born May 7, 1913 in the City of Amsterdam, New York. She came to Broward County during May 1954. Her parents are Frances Marion Paulaski and Paul Paulaski. Her brother is William Paulaski. She received her education in Pontosic School High School. She and her husband, Joseph O'Gorman, Jr. have two children, Joseph O'Gorman, III and Jay O'Gorman.

She was postmistress in Wilton Manors for 20 years (from 1954-1974). She is a charter member of the Wilton Manors Woman's Club, and a member of St. Clements Church Woman's Club (33 years). She likes to bake and antique browse.

James Creighton Dean

James Creighton Dean, son of James Thomas Dean and Sarah Viola

(Reagan) Dean, was born December 15, 1912, in Ashland, Alabama. He graduated from high school and completed two years of college. On Thanksgiving Day, 1935, at the age of twenty-two, he moved to Fort Lauderdale, where he went into the life insurance business.

After serving in the Air Force during World War II, where he received seven Theater of Operations medals, six Bronze Stars, and one Silver Star, he returned to Broward County and began searching for a place to build a home. He found the spot he was looking for in Wilton Manors, then still unincorporated. He bought two and a half lots on Wilton Drive and built a "dream house" for himself and his bride, LaWayne Chaplin Dean, whom he married on October 27,1946.

From 1952 to 1955, Mr. Dean worked as the developer of Middle River Estates, Coral Estates, and the Manor Gates Shopping Center. He was also a founder of the Wilton Manors National Bank, where he served on the board of directors, and the executive and loan committees. In 1953 and 1954 he built the Boca Villas development in Boca Raton - some 600 homes which doubled the population of that city. Also, in 1954 he founded the Florida Sun Life Insurance Company, on which he served for a number of years as president and chairman of the board.

During the early 1960s he helped found and served as an officer of the Lauderdale Beach Bank and the First State Bank of Lantana. In 1971 and 1972 he was selected as a member of an international consortium commissioned to develop and build a housing project in the Republic of Angola in southwest Africa designed to accommodate a population of 250,000 to 300,000, complete with roads, utilities, schools, churches, shopping centers, and a transportation system to move 100,000 workers per day.

In addition to his many business ventures, Mr. Dean has remained active in a variety of civic affairs, serving on the Wilton Manors City Council in 1953, and on a number of city committees and boards through the years. He served as finance chairman for the campaigns of Governors Dan McCarty, LeRoy Collins, Haydon Burns, and Reuben Askew. He has also been active with the Broward Hospital Commission and the Boy Scouts of America. He and Mrs. Dean are the parents of five children and continue to reside in Wilton Manors.

1991

Helen Margaret Frank Oshsenknecht

Helen Margaret Franck Ochsenknecht was born July 18, 1915 in St Louis, Missouri. She arrived in Broward County by car in May 1955; her destination was Wilton Manors. Her parents were George and Josephine Franck. She was married to Walter Ochsenknecht and they had two children, Ronald of East Lyme, Connecticut and Sandra Kline of Davie, Florida. ¹

Helen is a "Seamstress," housewife, mother, food demonstrator, and enjoys crafts.

1992

Grace Erwin Sutton

Born in Harbor Springs, Michigan, Grace Erwin Sutton is the daughter of Charles Fayette Erwin and Alice Clementine (Young) Erwin. She received her A.B. degree from the University of Michigan. In 1953 she and her husband, the late Theron Sutton, traveled to Broward County by automobile, settling in Fort

¹ Actually, her husband, Walter, built the library shelfs in the first Library, but he was not interested in any recognition for this.

Lauderdale. In October 1955 they relocated to Wilton Manors, where Mrs. Sutton has made her home since.

Mrs. Sutton has worked with the State Agency for Vocational Rehabilitation, is a life member of the League of Women Voters, has worked in voter registration, and also at checking ballot boxes on election eve. She is also interested in environmental regulations and enjoys gardening, reading, and knitting.

1993

Nicholas B. Bellissimo

Nicholas B. Bellissimo was born in Chicago in 1922, the son of Anna Semmerling and Vincent Bellissimo and the brother of Vincent (Coatesville, PA), Joseph (Glenview, IL), and Anthony (Wheeling, IL). Having graduated from Lane Tech High School and the U.S. Navy Technical School at the University of Kansas, he served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-45. He arrived in Port Everglades in October 1944. From 1947-1983 he worked for Pure Oil Company, now Unocal.

He and his wife, Anita Hambright, have six children, Carole Cox, Elizabeth, Frank, Nicholas, Mia McCarthy and Joan Watlord. Mr. Bellissimo retired earlier this year from the Wilton Manors Planning and Zoning Board after thirty years of service. He is a member of St. Clement's Church and Men's Club, Propeller Club (Port Everglades) and the Wilton Manors West Neighborhood Association. He enjoys gardening, fishing, and spending time at the health club and spa.

Viola Westrick Peck

Viola Westrick Peck was born in Putnam County, Ohio on January 14, 1914. Her parents were Margaret Cecelia and Adam Henry Westrick. She married Quimby Brat Peck and has a daughter, Mary Eileen Peck.

Viola came to Broward County with her husband by car in November 1971. Her daughter had moved here earlier, and they missed her so much that Mr. Peck, "out of the clear blue sky," announced that they were moving to Florida. She loves basketball and enjoys taking her grandchildren out to eat.

1994

Ralph A. Goodwine

Ralph A. Goodwine came to Broward County by car in December 1952. Born in Illinois in 1907, he is the son of Vonie Stark and Elmer E. Goodwine and the brother of Blanche, Frieda, Eva, Ema and Grace Goodwine. A 1925 graduate of Finville High School in Michigan, Ralph served in the Navy during World War II and was stationed in San Francisco. For most of his professional life he has been a painting, carpentry and general maintenance contractor.

Fishing, hunting, gardening, and club and civic involvement are important activities to Ralph. He is a member of the Coral Ridge Kiwanis Club, the International Association of Cancer Victors and Friends, Inc., as well as the Broward County Chapter of the American Pistol and Rifle Association. In 1986 and 1988 he served as President of the Wilton Manors Civic Association.

He and his wife, Lilly, have watched Wilton Manors grow from a town of 400 to a city of 12,000 and they enjoy living in that "great little City!"

Harry Bruce Speck

Harry Bruce Speck was born in Pompano on November 7, 1926. He is the son of Clara V. and Arthur J. Speck, Sr. and the brother of Arthur J. Speck, Jr., Clifford W., Earl W., and Doris Speck Holland. A 1944 graduate of Fern Hall School in Ft. Lauderdale, he took various banking and real estate courses in college.

From 1944 to 1946 he served in the U.S. Navy. He is the father of Kathy, Nancy, Glenn and Norman. He and his wife, Helen, were married in 19??.

For twenty-five years he was the owner of Speck Electric, electrical Contractor, in Wilton Manors and from July 1977 until March 1990 supervised construction of new banks and remodeling for Sun Bank/Florida and he retired as Vice President. Harry has been a member of the Electrical Board Wilton Manors, the Electrical Board Pompano Beach, the Volunteer Fire Department/Wilton Manors and from 1956 to 1994 a member of the Board of Adjustment Wilton Manors (charter member). He is past president and charter member of the Wilton Manors Jaycees, past Associate Director of the Broward Builders Exchange, and past Vice President of the South Florida Electrical Association.

He enjoys fishing in his spare time. Harry remembers that what is now Broward Boulevard, between Federal Highway and Andrews Avenue, was a canal in the 1930's. At fourteen he obtained his drivers license and that was the first year Florida issued drivers licenses. He reminisces that the intracoastal waterway used to be so clean and clear you could see the bottom!

1995

Wayne E. Schotanus

Wayne E. Schotanus was born in Highland Park, Illinois in 1935 and came to Broward County by car in June 1972. He is the son of Edythe and Henry Schotanus. A 1957 graduate of Michigan State University, Wayne served in the Army from 1957 to 1959 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Fort Lewis, Washington. He is married to Marlene J. and has three children, Michael, Page Lachance and Marc Wayne.

At the present time he serves on the Wilton Manors Library Board and Budget Review Committee and previously served on the Recreation Board and coached Little League. He is also a member of the Wilton Manors Friends of the Library. Wayne has worked as a supervisor for Health Care Administration/State of Florida as well as an editor for Harper-Row Publishing and an executive editor with Burgess Publishing.

Wayne enjoys golfing, swimming and reading. Recalling the family oriented atmosphere of Wilton Manors, he has fond memories of a small town environment and the friendliness of its citizens and elected officials.

Nina E. Westervelt

Nina E. Westervelt was born in Brunswick County, Virginia in 1908 and arrived in Broward County by car in December 1976. She is the daughter of Lillian Aldhizer and William Werner Pennington and the sister of Everette, Edward, Aubrey, Emma Barker and Lucille Overton. Nina attended school in Blackstone, Virginia. Married to Warren Herbert Westervelt, Sr. (deceased), she is the mother of Bettie Franco and Warren Herbert Westervelt, II (deceased).

During her career, Nina has been co-owner of a convalescent home, a bookkeeper, practical nurse, homemaker. She has also worked in sales. She has been a political activist in Wilton Manors and Fort Lauderdale, as well as in New Jersey. She is a member of the Wilton Manors Civic Association, AARP, Fort Lauderdale Beach Coalition and has been a condo president. Nina enjoys helping others and trying to improve the area.

Her fondest memories are of helping to create a home for elderly people with positive living conditions at Pines Rest Home in New Jersey.

1996

Anne Kobel Barnes

Anne Kobel Barnes was born in Ohio on August 7, 1920 and came to Broward county in a trailer home in November 1948. She is the daughter of Anna and Frank Kobal and the sister of Elaine Kobal Lex. A

graduate of Collinwood High School in Cleveland, Anne and her husband, Ralph E. Barnes, Jr., have two children, Robert Russell Barnes and David Barnes.

Through the years she has worked in sales in the Manor Curtain and Fabric Shop, Britts, Manor Curtain and Ford Shades and Draperies. Anne's community involvement for many years included PTA, Cub Scouts and high school band while her children were growing up. She also is a member of the Federated Garden Club and Tropical Pines Civic Association. When she has spare time, Anne enjoys gardening, camping and hiking.

After spending their honeymoon in Fort Lauderdale in 1947, Anne and her husband chose Broward County as home because of its small town, friendly atmosphere. The hurricane of 1949 caused water to spill over onto N.W. First Avenue and people crossed a pontoon bridge at New River near Rodi Yacht. She remembers the circus coming to town in the 1950s and she watched the elephants parade from the train station to Holiday Park. There were Wilton Manors Barbecues, which she first attended in 1949 where they sat on hampers from the Pompano Farmer's Market. Anne reminisces about a time when she watched manatees and alligators at the south fork of Middle River, children trapping crabs and fishing in the river, boating without the congestion, and family picnics on Fort Lauderdale beach.

Bill Robert Mehner

Bill Robert Mehner was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1922 and arrived in Broward County by car in 1957. He is the son of Lorraine and William Mehner and the brother of Betty. He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1949 from Marquette University in Milwaukee after serving in World War II in the European theatre. He and his wife, Janet, have a daughter Sandra Welsh.

In 1985 he retired from his position as City Engineer for Fort Lauderdale. Over the years he has been active on various County and School Board committees and served eleven years on the Wilton Manors Code Enforcement Board. In his free time Bill enjoys cooking and golf. His memories include a time when there was no I-95, when Powerline Road did not extend north of Oakland Park Boulevard and when the intersection of Route 441 and Oakland Park Boulevard was two, two lane asphalt roads with one bare 200 watt bulb hanging at a Texaco station. Bradley Airport was where Mills Pond Park is now. Bill also recalls when there was no air conditioning and "no-see-ums" came through the screens.

1997

Arthur James Welling, Sr.

ARTHUR JAMES WELLING SR. was born in Toledo, Ohio on January 19, 1919, and came to Broward County by automobile in April 1958. The son of Martha Ann Shirkey and James Reed Welling and the brother of Norman Eugene, Frank Wesley, and Gerald R. (all deceased), Arthur attended public schools in Toledo and graduated from Syracuse University with a B.S. in Business Administration in 1940. During World War II he served as a pilot, flying in China, Burma, and India, and returned to civilian life in 1945.

He and his wife, Phyllis Irene Dutton Welling, are the parents of Arthur James "Jim" Welling Jr. and Jeffrey Reed Welling.

His career encompasses employment with Devilbiss Paint Spray, Studebaker Panamericana Mexico, Brown Trailers, and general real estate, with which he is still involved. He has been a commander in the Air Force Association, served on the Wilton Manors Beautification Committee, been president of the Wilton Manors Kiwanis Club, and served as chairman of the Political Committee of Realtors. A two-term mayor of Wilton Manors, Arthur has also been Vice-President of the Broward County League of Cities.

His hobbies include bowling, golfing, fishing and shell collecting. When reminiscing Arthur recalls when his son, Jim, attended school at the Naval Air Station, his family being the first residents on N.E. Ninth Terrace in Wilton Manors, fishing from bridges in the city, driving his mother and father over the Federal Highway bridge the last day it was open before the tunnel, running for mayor against Jerry Thompson (and

losing), the Cuban missile crisis when trains ran night and day, completion of the East Commercial Bridge to Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, elimination of municipal courts, his son practicing football on the hard field at 'old' Fort Lauderdale High School, Hurricane Betsy, son Jeff winning "Shell of the Show" at the Broward Shell Club 1976 and 1977, and "having the honor of being bicentennial mayor of Wilton Manors."

Phyllis Irene Dutton Welling

PHYLLIS IRENE DUTTON WELLING was born September 1, 1924, in Lima, Ohio and arrived in Broward County by automobile in April 1958. A graduate of Waite High School, Phyllis is the only child of Alice F. and Gerald A. Hawkins. She and her husband, Arthur, are the parents of Jeffrey R. and Arthur J. Welling. Now retired, Phyllis has worked for a title company, as a receptionist, and later as a check processor.

Her diverse community involvement includes being a den mother, president of the Sinawiks for two years, and a member of the Wilton Manors PTA. She has worked on many political campaigns, from her husband's to those of Senator Jim Scott, Tom Gustafson, and E. Clay Shaw. Her spare time is spent enjoying fishing, shell collecting, snorkeling, swimming, playing cards, and doing needlepoint. Phillis remembers the first bad hurricane she experienced, Betsy in 1965, and the time 8-year-old Jeff found a gold and diamond ring on a shelling trip to Cozumel. When she moved to Wilton Manors there was hardly any development on Federal Highway. Reminiscing about good neighbors and the people she has met in politics, Phyllis recalls the fun she and her husband have had campaigning and the friends they have made over the years in Broward County.

1998

Margaret Mary Barry

MARGARET MARY BARRY arrived in Broward County by train in January 1946. Born in Philadelphia in 1919, she is the daughter of Mary A. and John T. Murphy and the sister of John T Murphy Jr., killed in World War II. In Philadelphia she attended John W. Hallahan's Catholic Girls High School. Margaret Mary is the widow of George B. Barry. For 10 years she worked for Bell Telephone Company of Philadelphia and then spent 39 years with Sun Trust Bank. Margaret Mary is a member of the St. Clement's Woman's Club, the Holy Cross Hospital Auxiliary, and the Coral Ridge Woman's Club. She enjoys playing duplicate bridge.

Watching Wilton Manors grow from a town to a city, the opening of 26th Street to Federal Highway, and other changes are some of her memories of life in Broward County. Margaret Mary also remembers the Gateway Towers at Five Points in Wilton Manors.

Robert Warren Pearce

ROBERT WARREN PEARCE was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1921 and came to Fort Lauderdale in August 1954 by automobile. He is the son of Bertha Yanke and Owen C. Pearce and the brother of Richard M. He attended Indiana State University and Mississippi State University and from 1942 to 1955 served in WW II as a bombardier and gunnery officer in the Eighth Air Force in the United States and England. Married to Mary Jane Powers, he is the father of Douglas, Kevin, Bradley, and Gregory.

For 25 years Robert owned and operated Pearce 5 & 10 in Wilton Manors. He was a founding member of the Wilton Manors Library, a member of the Special Police Commission, a founder and treasurer of the original Wilton Manors Chamber of Commerce, and president of the Wilton Manors Improvement Association. His hobbies include fishing and gardening.

Recalling Wilton Manors' population of 2,500 in 1954, Robert has witnessed the widening of Wilton Drive from two to four lanes and the building of a city hall, which also housed the fire station and volunteer fire department. He remembers the twin towers at Five Points, one of which was occupied by the "Bird Lady."

When the Wilton Manors National Bank was formed with Dave "Bulldog" Turner as president, local merchants purchased stock before groundbreaking to help get it started. Robert reminisces about the children who came in his store years ago to spend their allowances and now their children do the same thing. He sees the "continuity of a community" such as Wilton Manors, as well as the growth. His friends used to ride their horses along Sample Road and he remembers when Plantation was "too far to commute."

During the 1950s and 1960s the retail area along Wilton Manors Drive was vibrant. There were businesses to satisfy almost every need, from electronics parts, hardware, and insurance to furniture, antiques, and appliances. A post office, restaurants, dry cleaners, upholsterers, bars, supermarkets, and more served the citizens. Robert has pride in his community and has never regretted his decision to "settle in Wilton Manors and beautiful, sunny Florida!"

1999

Anthony J. Barone

Anthony J. Barone was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1923 and came to Broward County by automobile in March 1967. He is the son of Antoinette and Joseph Barone and the brother of Josephine (deceased). After attending school in Baldwin, New York, Anthony served in the Air Force from 1943 to 1963. His tour of duty included World War II and the Korean War, and service in western Europe, north Africa, the Far East and Latin America. From 1968 until 1983 Anthony was with the Eaton Corp. in Fort Lauderdale. He has been involved in the Wilton Manors Budget Review Committee, the Civic Association and Veteran's Park.

When Anthony passed through Broward County in February 1943 on a military troop train for Army Air Corps training in Miami Beach, the weather was cold! In December 1967 he bought his home in Wilton Manors when Gerald Thompson was mayor. Anthony remembers sewers being installed in Wilton Manors in 1968 and when State Road 7 was considered the "western limits of the built-up area." In 1976 or 1977 he recalls the snowfall and during those years he enjoyed fishing off the Dania and Pompano piers.

Since retiring from Eaton Corporation in 1983, he has been able to become more active in civic affairs and enjoys participating in the annual Veterans Day ceremonies. Anthony has witnessed tremendous grow in Broward County and takes pride in the revitalization of Wilton Manors, "which still has a 'small-town' atmosphere."

2000

Edward Kalis

Edward Kalis came to Broward County on September 1, 1953 by automobile. Born in Greensboro, Pennsylvania in 1927, he is the son of Katherine and Joseph Kalis and the brother of Joseph (deceased), Margaret Kalis and Mary Ann Surprenant. During 1945/1946 he served in the United States Navy aboard the USS Midway. In the late 1940s Edward attended Duquesne University in Pittsburgh and also the Mortuary School. Edward and his wife, Mary, are the parents of Kathy Dunkel, Michael Kalis, Edward Kalis, and Karen Kokines.

With a fifty-year career as a licensed funeral director and embalmer. Edward is also a member of the Fort Lauderdale North Rotary, the Wilton Manors-Oakland Park Chamber of Commerce, the Elks, the American Legion, the Moose, the Knights of Columbus, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Wilton Manors FOPA and the National Funeral Directors Association.

Edward remembers picnics at Galt Ocean Mile when it was just a beach and when U.S. 1, Oakland Park Boulevard and Sunrise Boulevard were just two lane roads. When he arrived, Fort Lauderdale was a town of about 40,000 and Wilton Manors was "just a small country town." Ed remembers that doors did not have to be locked when he first moved to Wilton Manors, you knew your neighbors and it was a wonderful place to raise children. He served on the Wilton Manors Police Civil Service Board for ten years and met a lot of people. A member of the Wilton Manors' Jaycees, Ed recalls painting the school cross walks. On holidays and special occasions the city always had parades and other civic events for residents to attend. "We are so grateful that we chose Broward County for our home. We've had a wonderful life here!"

2001

Diane Cline

Diane Cline came to Broward County by car September 1977. Born in Columbus, Ohio in 1933, Diane is the daughter of Mary McMahon and Chet Renollet and sister of Patricia Peters, Dan, Dave and Scott Walker. She attended Oberlin College in Ohio from 1952 to 1954. Married to Earl R., Diane is the mother of twins Brent and Brenda, Tricia and Trace, and Brock, whose triplet brothers Brad and Brett are deceased.

Her career has included being a homemaker and General Manager of a fruit shipping company. She is a member of Wilton Manors Civic Association and enjoys reading, volunteering, and her eleven grandchildren.

Diane served on Wilton Manors City Council from 1982 to 1986, was elected President of the City Council, held that position for two and a half years and after the City Charter changed, was elected the first Vice Mayor in the history of Wilton Manors. For six years she served as Chairperson of the Community Affairs Advisory Committee. Diane has also been President of Wilton Manors Civic Association, Chairperson for Eastward Ho and served on the city's 50th Birthday Committee.

Her interest in local history has led her to work on the Bi-Centennial Quilt and become a collector of Wilton Manors' history. The new library will store articles and photographs for future generations to understand the heritage of Wilton Manors. Today there are four time capsules in the replica of the Gateway Towers that were once at the entrance to the city. They will be opened in twenty-five, fifty, seventy-five and one hundred years.

Diane recalls when she first moved to Broward County, it took her six months to realize that she lived in Wilton Manors, not Fort Lauderdale. Dedicated to Wilton Manors, Diane wants "to promote the past and encourage the idea of us being an Urban Village."

2002

Eda Eileen McCrary

Eda Eileen McCrary came to Broward County in 1940 by automobile. She was born in 1921 in Higginson, Arkansas to Lucy and Clarence Hudgins. After graduating in 1939 from school in Griffithville, Arkansas she worked at the Rex Bassett Factory that made radio crystals. She was a Broward County School bus driver from 1953 to 1983 and worked for Broward County Senior Citizens for two years after that. With her late husband, Herschell, she had two children, Charles McCrary and Kathleen Martin. When they first came to Broward County they lived in Fort Lauderdale; later they moved to Highland Estates which is now Wilton Manors. When gas began to be rationed during World War II they moved back to Fort Lauderdale. After the War they moved back to the same house in Highland Estates at 2609 NE 8th Ave. and in 1945 they purchased it for \$1,200.00. In 1973 she sold the house for \$53,000. She took care of the books for Highland Estates while her husband was in charge of reading the meters which recorded the water coming from Oakland Park. Her husband helped build the first "fire truck" in Highland Estates, a trailer which could be pulled from a car that housed a large soda and acid fire extinguisher. She is a member of Women

of the Moose, and has been the secretary, vice president and is now the president of the Young at Heart Club. When not socializing with the many dear friends she has made over the years, she enjoys gardening, sewing and dancing.

2003

James Bernard McGivern

James Bernard McGivern was born in 1911 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts to Bernard J. and Anna E. Fallon McGivern. He graduated high school in Pittsfield in 1928. After enlisting in the Army in1941 he served in the European Theater during World War II in the 79th Infantry Division. He came to Broward County in 1950 by automobile. He and his wife, Nancy McGivern, have a daughter, Donna Castro. They also have four grandchildren and a great grandchild. He worked as a salesman and a lifeguard and was the longtime recreation director of the City of Wilton Manors and then the private Wilton Manors Athletic Club. There, he enjoyed meeting people who had come from all over the county. His recreation program was supported by many prominent men in Wilton Manors. His most cherished memories were his work with the children of Wilton Manors and he hopes he may have had a small part in shaping some of their futures. The towers at Five Points, former mayor Harold Price's gas station on Wilton Drive, and former mayor and city clerk Frank Starling's grocery store on the Drive, all survive in his memories. Along with tennis, golf and swimming, Mr. McGivern is a member of the Rotary Club, Kiwanis and the Elks.

2004

Vernon Randolph Peak

Vernon Randolph Peak was born in 1919 in Calhoun, Kentucky to Vernon Payton Peak and Louella (Logston) Peak. He and his wife, Margaret Ruby (Miller) Peak were married in 1921 and have three children: Linda, Donald and Judith. He served his country in World War II in China, India and Burma. When he came to Broward County in 1951 there was nothing past 441 except cow pastures and there was only one street light on Broward Boulevard in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Later they put up signs for sales of land and his business, Rudy's Stone Company, started building houses and water fountains. Their first fountain was at the Mai Kai restaurant. From 1954 to 1975 he had 20 to 30 men working for him doing special work in different places in Florida.

Mr. Peak is a member of the Kiwanis Club, the Wilton Manors Historical Society and the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station History Association. He has served on juries and worked in real estate. He sang in the Wilton Manors Baptist church choir and worked with children there. He is now in the ancillary of the Knox Theological Seminary and was until three years ago in Phi Sigma Alpha.

2005

Margaret Ruby Peak

Margaret Ruby Peak was born in 1921 in Owensboro, Kentucky to Lillian and Alvis Miller. She graduated from Daviess County High School in 1940. For several years she worked for the General Electric Company in Owensboro.

She and her husband, Vernon Randolph Peak, were married in 1921 and have four children, Linda, Donald, Judith and Gayle. Mr. Peak is involved in the Kiwanis Club, the Wilton Manors Historical Society and the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station History Association. In 1968, Mrs. Peak was the president of Sinawik, the Woman's auxiliary of the Kiwanis Club. Mrs. Peak has visited every state in North America. She has traveled to 16 countries.

She took her young children to the school on 14th Avenue in Wilton Manors. The school was called the Little People's School. She drove boys in swimming teams to different places from Fort Lauderdale; she also drove Gerry Zimmerman to Bible study. She bought her son a piano and had to be on television to advertise selling pianos in 1953.

Mrs. Peak worked at Burdines Department Store when it was located in downtown Fort Lauderdale. Mrs. Peak has sung with the choir at the Wilton Manors Baptist Church and with the Sweet Adeline's all over Florida. She also worked with children at the church and helped the Girl Scouts with arts and crafts in South Florida. She is a member of Phi Sigma Alpha. She has stuffed bulletins on Friday mornings at the Knox Theological Seminary Auxiliary C.R.P.C. Today, Mrs. Peak enjoys visiting and helping people at a local nursing home where she worked in 1970.

In 1988 she received a City of Wilton Manors "Certificate of Appreciation to Beautification Award Nominee" for keeping Wilton Manors beautiful.

2006

Ann Lee Lunsford and Ron Eugene Lundsford

Ann Lee Lunsford was born in 1942 in Mt. Vernon, Ohio to Genevieve and William Parker. She first came to Broward County in the late 1940s on a family summer vacation. The automobile pulled a small house trailer. They drove to Broward County to visit relatives. The family was greeted with sea breezes, sunny weather and coconut palms and thought it was paradise. At that time the city of Fort Lauderdale's growth was to the north. Upon crossing the South Fork of the Middle River on Old Dixie Highway, they found Wilton Manors, an island of open pine trees and palmettos.

In 1949, on a 32-degree snow covered morning, the family left Mount Vernon, Ohio. Gen and Bill Parker and their daughters, Ann and Rita Jo, left their old home for a new one pulling a new 32-foot-long trailer to Trailer Oldsmobile where Mr. Parker would work. Wilton Manors served as their temporary home while they looked over various home developments. At that time Mrs. Lunsford and her classmates would walk under the old historical city gates (castles) on each side of her main street on their way to Oakland Park Elementary School.

Back then Wilton Manors had one open air produce market, one golf course, one nursing home, one church and one gas station. Soon a strip mall appeared that included a dental office, doctor's office, Real Estate office, hardware store and Mrs. Lunsford's favorite, a Ben Franklin's 5 & 10 Store.

In 1950, Wilton Manors started its first major home development. The development, located west of Dixie Highway on N. E. 26th Street, had two and three-bedroom homes (with assorted extras), which could be purchased from \$9,500.00 to \$12,500.00. The family found their dream house.

Wilton Manors Elementary School was under construction at that time just two blocks away. The school was the heart of the city for children as well as the adults. It offered baseball leagues, basketball leagues, large playground, carnivals, Boy and Girl Scout meetings and city/civic meetings. Everyone knew everyone else

Ann Lee Parker met Ron Eugene Lunsford riding his horse in the pastures on the west side of town; he was twelve years old. His first job was delivering newspapers in Wilton Manors. Many of the teens in the area attended the city's sponsored Teen Club at the new Food Fair market parking lot. It was a fun opportunity to meet others and learn to rock and roll. The Lunfords both attended Stranahan Junior High School and started a long relationship. She attended Fort Lauderdale High School and he went to Pompano Beach High School, after which he attended Florida Atlantic University.

In 1960 Mr. Lunsford started working for Lunsford Plastering, the family business, which was established in 1945. They were married in 1961 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Wilton Manors.

The large historical castle-like gates, which were once featured in the city seal, were torn down to make way for a new A&W Root Beer Drive-in at Five Points. Mr. Lunsford built a replica of the gates for the city's 50th birthday celebration in 1997.

Mr. Lunsford became a Certified General Contractor in 1981 and served as Chairman of the Wilton Manors Code Enforcement Board for several years. He was an adult vocation teacher for twelve years. He is a member of the Wilton Manors Civic Association and enjoys car racing, boating and traveling.

Mrs. Lunsford worked as a secretary and bookkeeper for the plastering business and M.R.C. General Contractors. She is a member of the Wilton Manors Civic Association, the Wilton Manors Historical Society and serves on the Community Affairs Advisory Board. She enjoys civic activities, her family and traveling.

Their daughter, Rhonda, and her husband, David Jimenez, with two grandchildren Olivia and Alexander and their son Kevin and his wife Heather all reside in Wilton Manors on the same street.

Biographies for Pioneers 2007 and after may be found in the Pioneer Articles Section

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