Vintage Images of Wilton Manors

- A visual chronical from its beginnings through the booming 1950s -

1926 South Entrance to Wilton Boulevard

© Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

-A WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION FOR THE-

2022 Broward County Pioneer Day

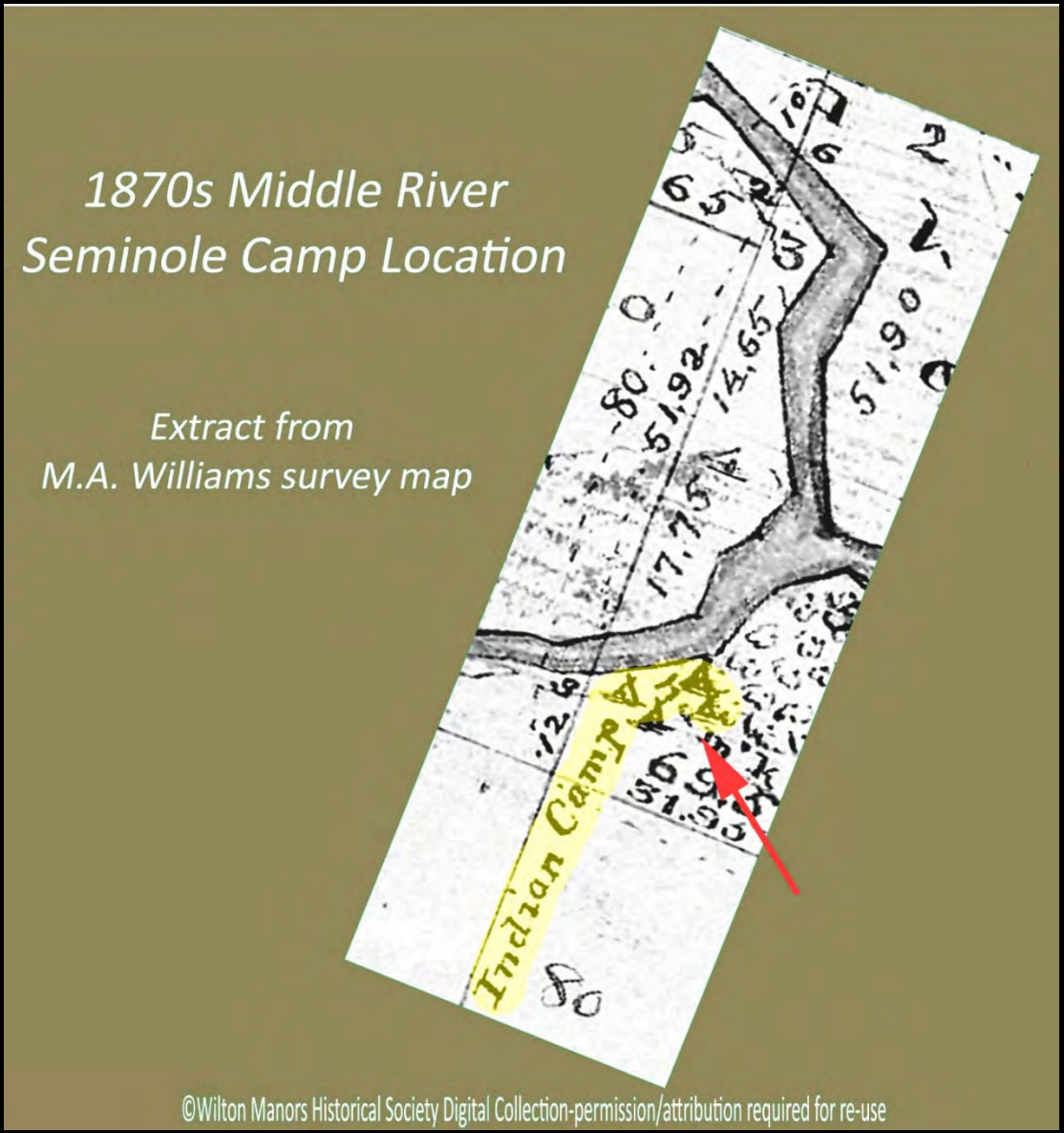
Curated by Ron and Mary Ulm

Comments, Questions or Need Additional Information? Email: wmhs@wmhistory.org

THIS PRESENTATION AND INCLUDED IMAGES ARE ©WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Please respect our intellectual property rights—permission and attribution are required for any re-use.

An ***1870s*** map documents the ***first permanent settlement*** in the Wilton Manors-area; a ***Seminole camp*** on the south fork of the Middle River (near 26th St and Federal Highway). The ***first permanent white settler, W.C. Collier***, purchased his nearby farm on the north fork of the river in ***1893***.



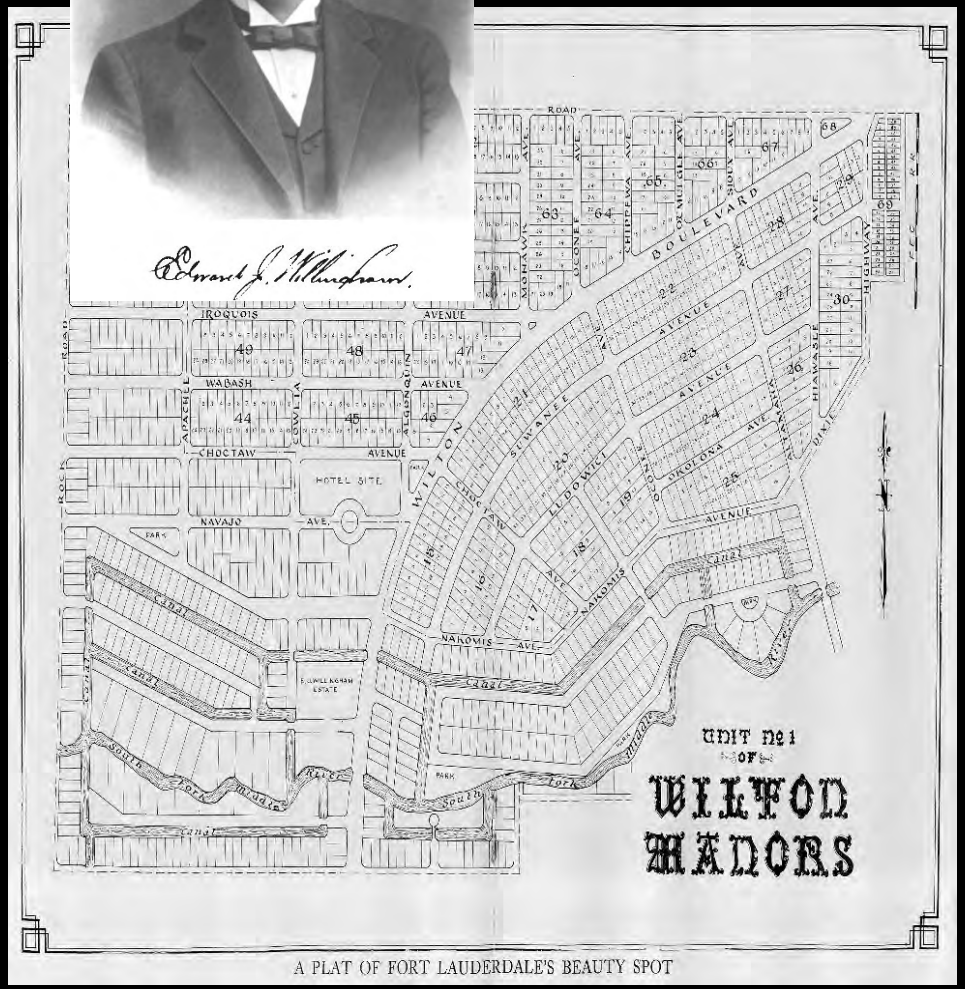
By the ***early 1900s*** the area had developed into the farming community of ***Colohatchee***. Colohatchee spanned roughly the area of today's Wilton Manors and Oakland Park.

The social and business hubs of the community were the ***Woman's Club*** (above) and ***FEC railway depot*** (located near the now 24th St & Dixie Highway.

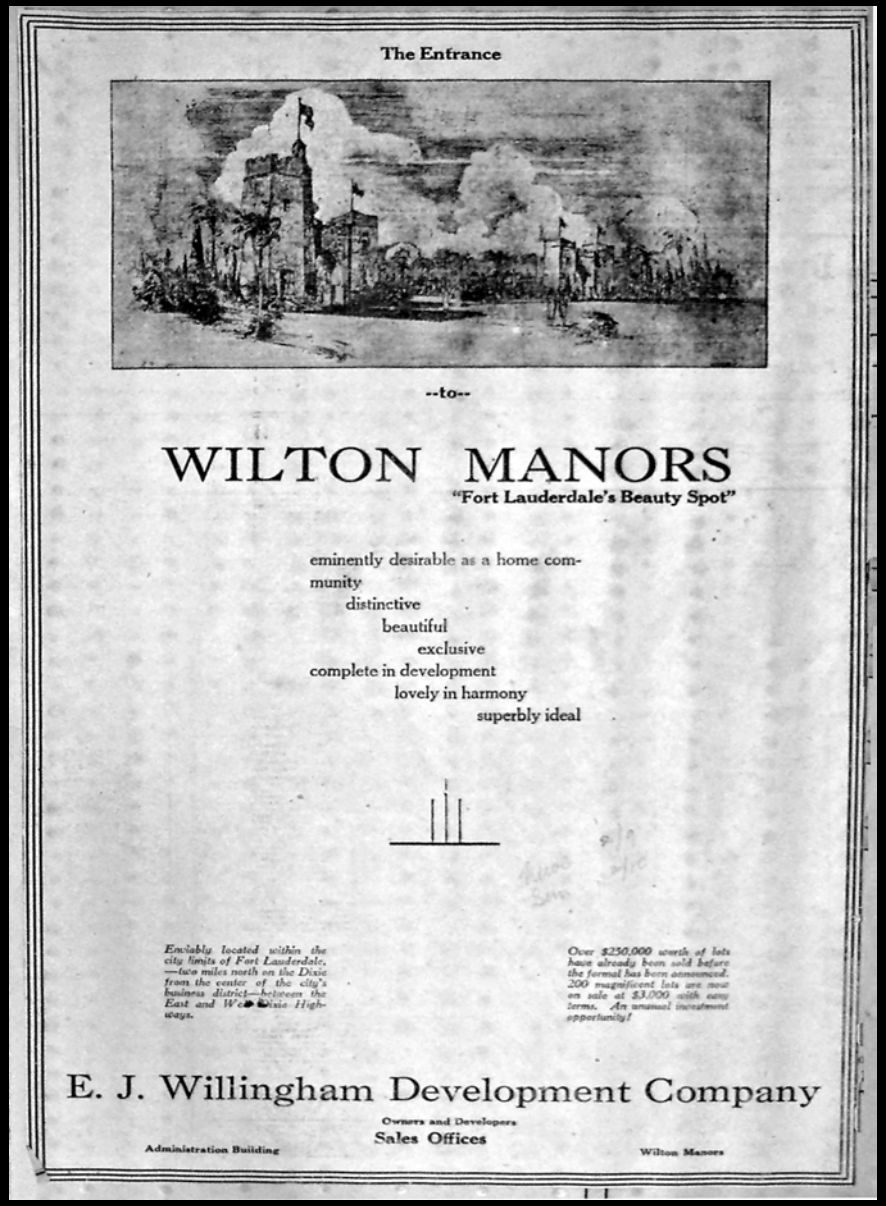
photo illustration based on a typical FEC depot

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

In *1925 E.J. Willingham*, a successful Georgia entrepreneur, platted 345 acres of Colohatchee as ***Unit 1 of Wilton Manors--"Fort Lauderdale's Beauty Spot"***. Willingham had earlier platted *Lauderdale Beach.*

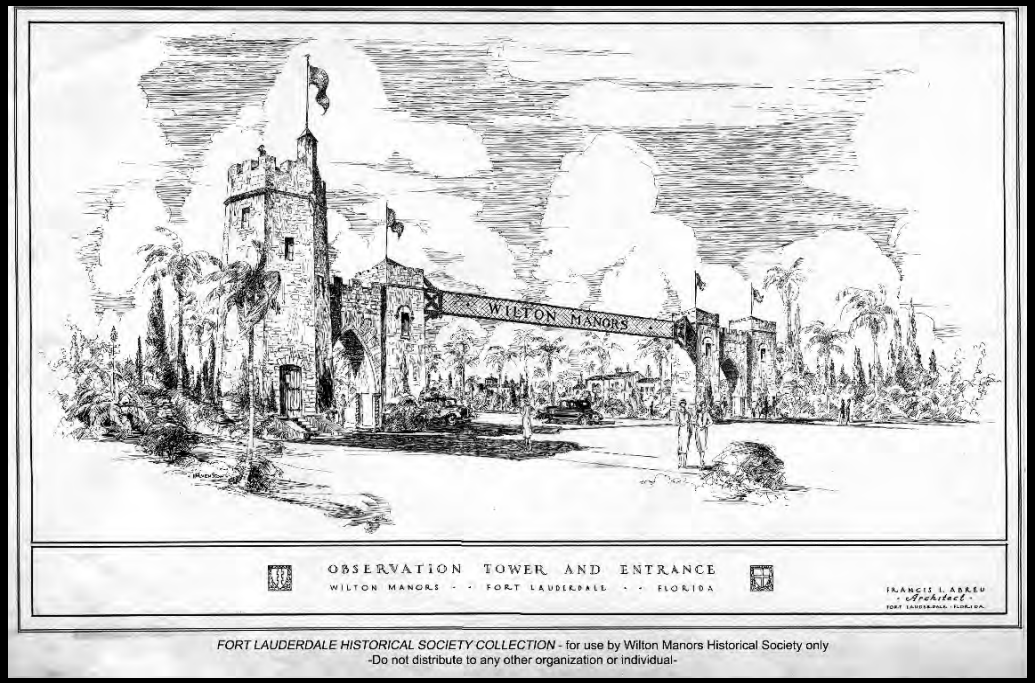


A PLAT OF FORT LAUDERDALE'S BEAUTY SPOT



©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

Noted architect ***Francis Abreu*** designed the ***entrance to Wilton Manors***--on Wilton Boulevard at Dixie Highway. Included were a sales office, entrance gateway and observation tower. While the entrance was completed, the rest of the project fell victim to the 1926 hurricane and *The Great Depression*.



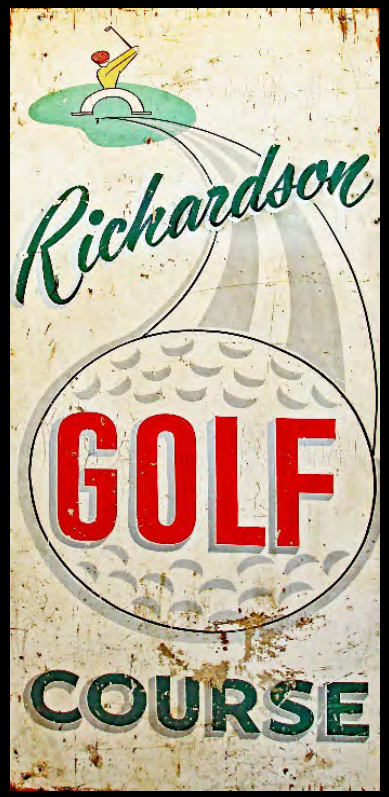
FORT LAUDERDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION - for use by Wilton Manors Historical Society only
-Do not distribute to any other organization or individual-

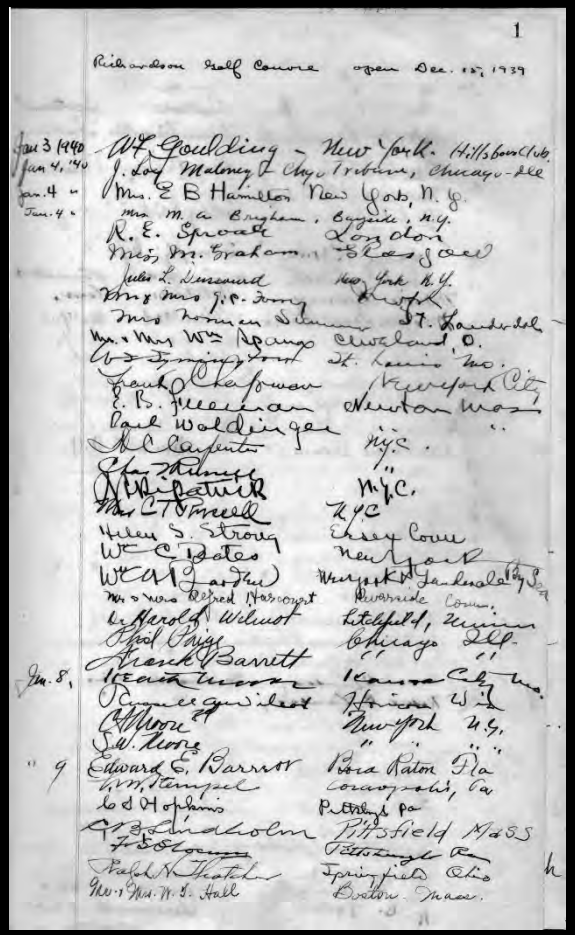
1929 school field trip to visit the Towers

Willingham's sales brochure cover

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

In ***1938***, with the Great Depression ending, golf course builder ***George Richardson*** purchased 40 acres, including Willingham's estate home; and the family ***established Broward County's third golf course***.





1939 first players sign-in sheet

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

The end of World War II finally brought renewed development to Wilton Manors. In ***1946 Alvar Hagen*** purchased land and ***built the first commercial buildings on Wilton Drive***.

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

In ***1947*** the ***Wilton Manors Civic Association*** petitioned to incorporate as the ***Village of Wilton Manors.*** The Village did not tax real property. Revenue came from a cigarette sales tax and utility franchise fees.

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

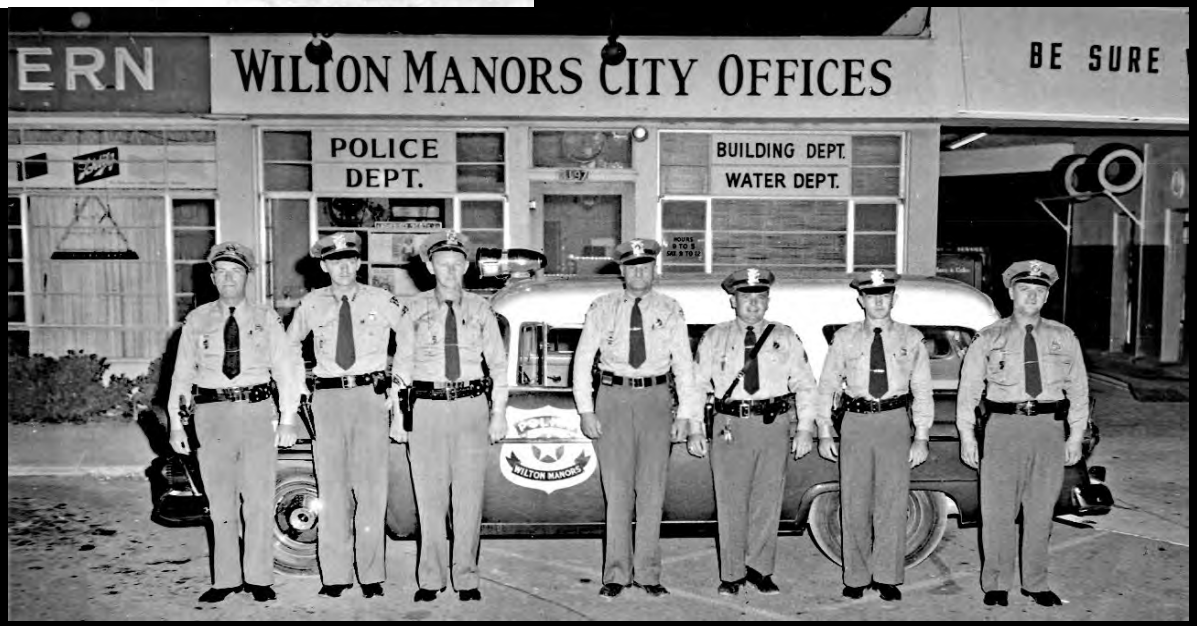
In ***1949*** pioneer ***Dave Turner*** donated land for a ***Village Hall***. It was built by Civic Association volunteers, and paid-for by various fund-raising events; including the famous Village barbeques.

VILLAGE HALL — A tribute to the civic pride of rapidly growing Wilton Manors is the village hall, shown above. The building was constructed by the labor of the villagers, who spent their off time on Saturdays in working on the building. Wilton Manors is claimed by Mayor David Turner to be the fastest growing community in Broward county. At left is a new model home typical of those being built daily in the community.

Turner (left) with Chairman of the Wilton Manors Civic Association, Norman Malcolm, at Village Hall groundbreaking)

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

In ***1952***, the Village's ***first police and fire services*** were established. By **1955** Wilton Manors was a "City" rather than a "Village". City offices operated from a storefront at 2197 Wilton Drive.



©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

1952 also marked the opening of the new ***Wilton Manors Elementary School.***

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

Also in ***1952***, to spur growth on the east side, developers ***built a bridge that linked Wilton Manors with Fort Lauderdale***; via "Galt Boulevard" (now N.E. 26th Street) to the Federal Highway.

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Collection

WILTON SUN OAKLAND

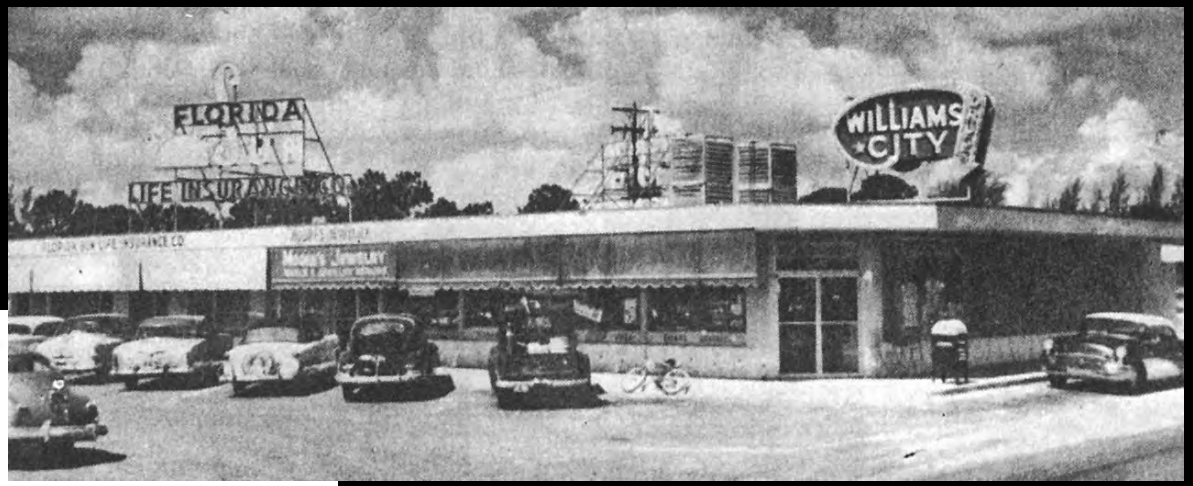
Volume 1 — Number 16

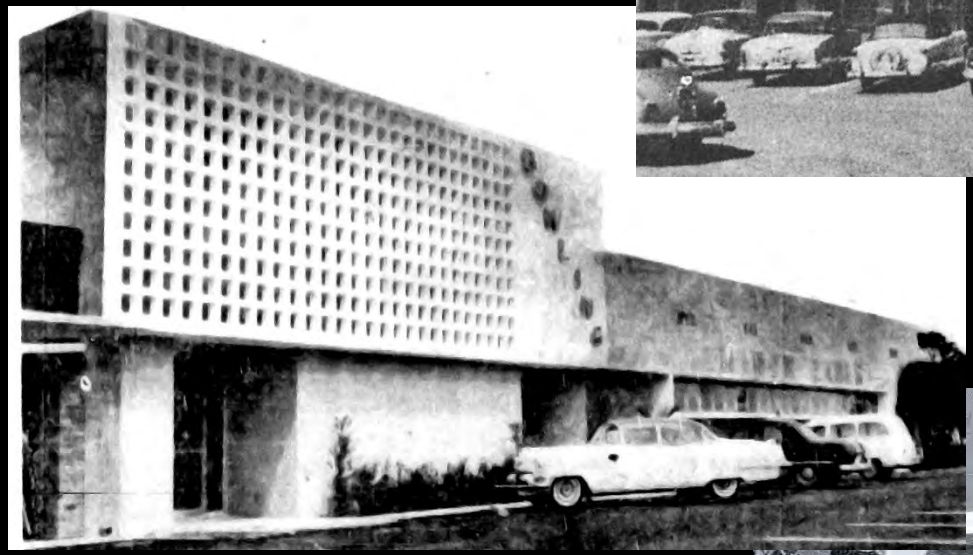
Thursday, December 25, 1952

This is only part of the crowd of many hundreds jamming the new 26 Street-Galt Blvd. bridge over Middle River Sunday afternoon for the grand opening of the new span which now gives Wilton Maonrs a direct connection with Federal highway and a shorter route to the beach. Completion of the bridge is expected to quickly accelerate the alrady rapid dvelopment of this entire aera.

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

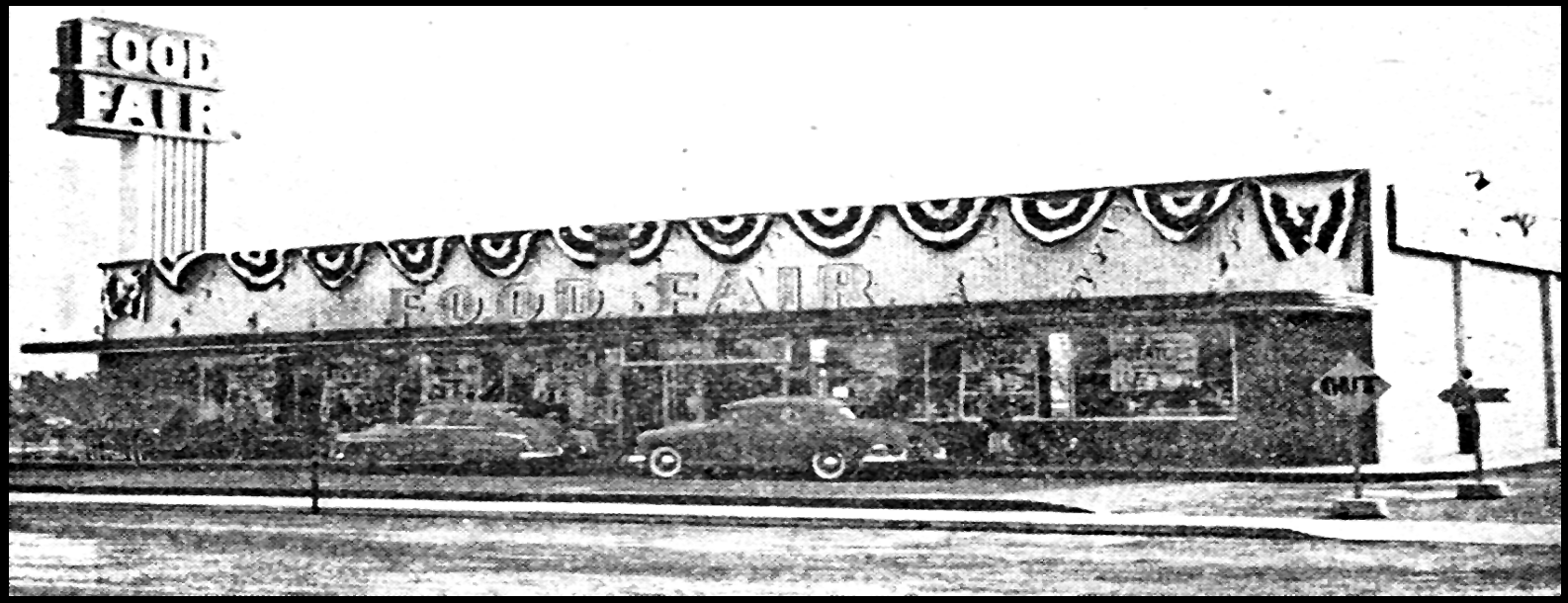
With completion of the bridge, ***1953*** saw ***extensive commercial development*** along **"Galt Boulevard".**





©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

1953 also brought the ***first chain supermarket***, ***Food Fair***, to Wilton Drive. This prompted a major modernization of the venerable mid-1940s ***Manor Market*** **.** By ***1957*** they were joined by ***Stevens Market*** on Wilton Drive and ***Grand Union*** on Dixie Highway.



©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

In ***1955***, to accommodate the numerous and varied businesses along Wilton Drive and to facilitate the movement of traffic in and out of the City, ***Wilton Drive was expanded from two-lanes to four***.

TOMORROW IS THE BIG DAY!

WILTON MANORS

FIESTA

Celebrating the FORMAL OPENING *of* BEAUTIFUL

NEW FOUR-LANE WILTON DRIVE

TONIGHT and TOMORROW

Come on out and see our beautiful new 4-Lane Drive from Middle River to Oakland Park. You'll enjoy the ease of driving, the ease of parking, and most of all it makes shopping a pleasure with no congestion.

Attend Our Big Celebration Tonight and Tomorrow and see more reasons why the finest home with and every day is See you – Wilton Manors!

INVESTIGATE WILTON MANORS AS THE PLACE TO LIVE AND SHOP

Comparative Growth of Wilton Manors Since Incorporation

	1947	Now
Population	300	over 5000
Churches	1	6
Schools	1	2
Businesses	5	95

Building Permits for 1st Quarter of 1955 Exceeded $1,000,000

HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS OF DOOR PRIZES GIVEN AWAY
STARTING AT 5 P. M. SAT.

Baby SHOW
AND
DIAPER DERBY
3 P. M. SATURDAY, MAY 7th AT WILTON DR. AND 21st CT.
3 CLASSES
Infants to 1 Year — 1 Year to 2 Years — 2 Years to 3 Years
6 AWARDS IN EACH CLASS
All Are Wilton Manor Merchant Adopt Baby Week

FIESTA BOOTHS AND CONCESSIONS
HAMBURGERS By Woman's Club
FISH POND and BALLOONS By Junior Women's Club
COKES and DART GAME By Cub Scouts
DUNKING GAME By Jaycees
HOT DOGS and POPCORN By P.T.A.
CAKE WALK By St. Clement's Parish

PARADE! 4 P.M. SATURDAY, MAY 7th
Crowning of Queen

KIWANIS CLUB
Bar-B-Q
RIBS and CHICKEN
5 to 8 P.M.
SATURDAY, MAY 7th

DANCE 8 P.M.
SATURDAY—NO ADMISSION
Music by JESSE HOWARD'S RAMBLIN' NIGHT HAWKS
SQUARE and ROUND
NOVELTY AND EXHIBITION DANCES
BIG CARNIVAL RIDES

BIG CARNIVAL RIDES
SPONSORED BY
LIONS and J. C.'s
Fun for both adults and kids — Roller Coaster — Loop - A - Plane — Ferris Wheel and 3 Novelty Rides for the Kiddies.

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

Also in ***1955,*** pioneer ***Al Hagen*** donated land for a ***public park and community center***; as well as the site on which the ***Woman's Club*** would be built. In that same year, for a lease of $1.00 per year, pioneer ***Perry Mickel*** provided land for use as the City's ***first Little League baseball field***.

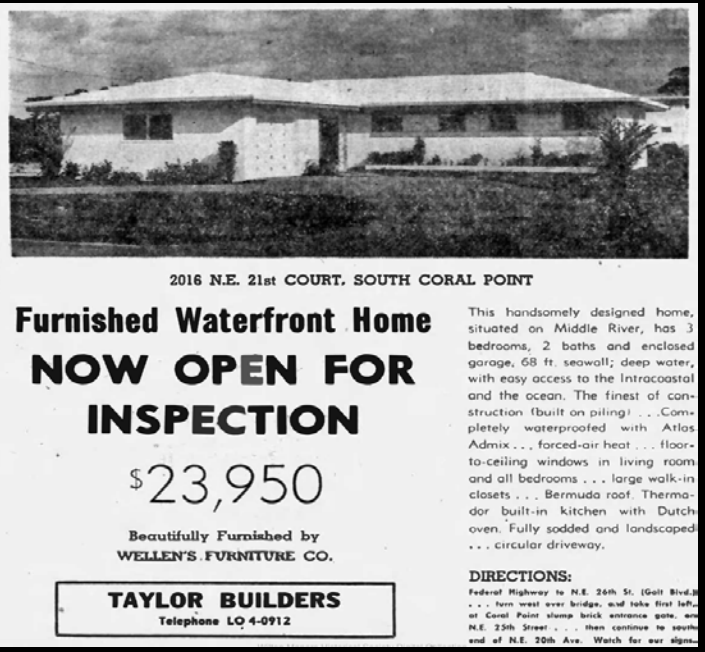
1955 ca Hagen Park Community Center

1955 ca Wilton Manors Woman's Club

David French when Mickel Field was under construction

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

From the ***late 1940's through the 1950's residences*** in Wilton Manors included trailers, homebuilt cottages, traditional wood-frame houses; and post-war contemporary concrete block homes.



2016 N.E. 21st COURT, SOUTH CORAL POINT

Furnished Waterfront Home

NOW OPEN FOR INSPECTION

$23,950

Beautifully Furnished by
WELLEN'S FURNITURE CO.

TAYLOR BUILDERS
Telephone LO 4-0912

This handsomely designed home, situated on Middle River, has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and enclosed garage, 68 ft. seawall; deep water, with easy access to the Intracoastal and the ocean. The finest of construction (built on piling) . . . Completely waterproofed with Atlas Admix . . . forced-air heat . . . floor-to-ceiling windows in living room and all bedrooms . . . large walk-in closets . . . Bermuda roof. Thermador built-in kitchen with Dutch oven. Fully sodded and landscaped . . . circular driveway.

DIRECTIONS:

Federal Highway to N.E. 26th St. (Golf Blvd.) . . . turn west over bridge, and take first left . . . at Coral Point stump brick entrance gate, on N.E. 25th Street . . . then continue to south end of N.E. 20th Ave. Watch for our signs.

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

And as the **rapid-growth 1950's** came to a close, a proper municipal building, accommodating ***City Hall*** *and* ***Police and Fire Stations,*** was built to provide necessary services to an ever-increasing population.

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection

And we close with these lifestyle images of Wilton Manors from the 40's and 50's:
"When Life Was Just Simpler Here"

BARN DANCE TONIGHT
And Each Saturday
Beginning 7:45 P. M.
in
WILTON MANORS
at
N. E. 4th Ave. and 20th St.
with
FRANK HAINEY
AND HIS HOEDOWN GANG

2 FOR 32

A Big Juicy
HAMBURGER
And A Cool Bottle
Of Your Favorite
BEER
Both for..... **32¢**
TROPICAL CLUB
BAR AND LOUNGE
N. E. 4th Ave. & 20th St.
WILTON MANOR

SPECIALS For THURS.—FRI.—SAT.

VELVETA	79¢
Large Rinso	27¢
2 lb. Can Bakerite	99¢
Carnation	3 For 38¢
SAVO BLEACH	9¢ Qt.
Chuck Roast	59¢ Lb.
Sirloin or T Bone Steak	69¢ Lb.
Marcuiti's SLICED BACON	59¢ Lb.
Stirred Grade "A" Medium Eggs	66¢ Doz.

Meat of the Week
BY MARY LEE TAYLOR
Pork Gems with Creamed Peas
Glazed Sweet Potatoes
Grapefruit Salad
Hot Rolls
Butter or Margarine
Orange Sherbet
(with Halloween "Faces" of raisins and candied cherries)
Recipe for one cup of the cook serves 4 or will make the rest.
Pork Gems with Creamed Peas
Broadcast: October 30, 1948
1 lb. ground, lean pork
1 cup Pet Milk
1 cup cooked oats
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon sage
½ cup finely chopped onion
¼ cup minced parsley
¼ teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons vinegar
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons catsup
Turn on oven; set at slow (325° F.). Combine pork, Pet Milk, oats, salt, sage, onion, parsley, pepper, vinegar, sugar and catsup. Form into ground oven. Bake 45 minutes, or until brown. Remove oven from oven; place each apple into 4 slices. Dip both sides of apple rings in sugar. Brown apple rings in hot fat. Remove meat from oven and top with the apples. Fill centers of apple rings with cooked raisins or use other. Serve with creamed peas. Makes 4 servings.
You Will Needs
PET MILK 3 cans 11c
Canned Peas ..2 for 25c

Miracle Whip	55¢ Quart
All Popular Brands Cigarettes	$1.81 Carton
Skyline Apple Juice	2 Quarts for 25¢
Green Hard Head Cabbage	5¢ Lb.
Iceburg Lettuce	2 Heads for 25¢
Tokay Red Grapes	2 lbs. for 19¢
Sunnyland, Colored, in Quarters Oleo	53¢ Lb.

MANOR MARKET
2205 WILTON DRIVE WILTON MANORS
STORE HOURS
7 a.m. to 7 p.m.——Week days
7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.—Fri. and Sat.
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING SPACE

GET "MOSQUITO-PROOFED"
Bothered By Skeeters? We Got the Solution!
ATOMIC REPELLENT
ONE WEEK ONLY **9¢** Bottle
WE MAKE IT OURSELVES — YOU KNOW IT'S GOOD
WILLIAMS CITY DRUGS
1402 N. E. 26th Street LO 4-4531 Ft. Lauderdale

©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection