



March - April 2014

## Town Crier

City of Wilton Manors 2020 Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305 Official Newsletter for the City of Wilton Manors

## Retired Basketball Coach Recalls Early Fort Lauderdale/Wilton Manors

by Mary Ulm, Wilton Manors Historical Society



Coach Bill Huegele at Everglades Junior High
Wilton Manors Historical Society Collection - permission required for reuse.

Bill Huegele, one of Broward's most successful coaches, fondly remembers riding his bicycle at age 12 to play golf at Richardson Public Golf Course on Wilton Drive. "The course was mucky and I'd hit the ball and duck when the mosquitos got stirred up," laughs Huegele. The year was 1946. A year later the Village of Wilton Manors was formed.

"With a population of less than 30,000, Fort Lauderdale was one big community," says Huegele. "If my buddies and I decided to go horsing around downtown, my mother knew about it before I got home."

Bill explains that social activities revolved around the old Fort Lauderdale Central High School that spanned the area between NE 3<sup>rd</sup> and S. Federal Avenues and Broward and Las Olas Boulevards. The Friday night ritual was to go out to dinner and then the football game. Often a bonfire would be built at the High School and someone would start a "snake dance" that wound around for several blocks. The school was built in 1915 in the Mediterranean Revival style by famous South Florida architect, August Geiger. Dances were often held outdoors in the elaborately arched courtyard.

Other memories include time spent at the popular Casino Pool, the first Olympic-sized pool in Florida. Bill says that in 1946 A1A ended at the pool site, as shown in the photo at right. Another memory is of the bunkers from World War II located where Harbor Beach is now. And, he tells of watching in fascination as the New River Tunnel was built in the late 1950s. "It is really not a tunnel, but a tube, because the engineers building it never found the river bottom and water flows under the structure." Some long-time residents continue the tradition that started in the 1960s of honking their car horns as they go through the tunnel

Attending movie theatres on Saturday mornings was a popular past-time. Bill recalls how the Duncan yo-yo company held contests at the Rialto theatre. Yo-yo

salesmen dressed in colorful Hawaiian shirts would carve a beach scene on the freshly-sold yo-yos.

Bill grew up in the era before automated home washing machines and dryers were common. One of Bill's chores was doing the family's laundry at the "Helpy-Selfy" Laundromat on State Road 84. The women in the Laundromat were quick to offer him advice. A "Helpy-Selfy" Laundromat opened in Wilton Manors on Wilton Drive in 1949. A Laundromat remains in business on the site today as "Laundry Lounge".

Bill is a 1954 graduate of Fort Lauderdale High. He was a member of the "Flying L's" team that won the 1953 state basketball championship.

Upon graduation from High Point College in North Carolina, Bill returned to Fort Lauderdale as coach at the newly opened Everglades Junior High School (now W.C. Dandy Middle School). A year later he moved to Fort Lauderdale High where he served as Junior Varsity Basketball coach until he was named head basketball coach for the 1965/66 season, a post he held for 596 games. His teams won four district titles.

And what was his favorite pre-game meal? "A chili-dog and blizzard from the Dairy Queen on Wilton Drive, of course," he says with a chuckle.

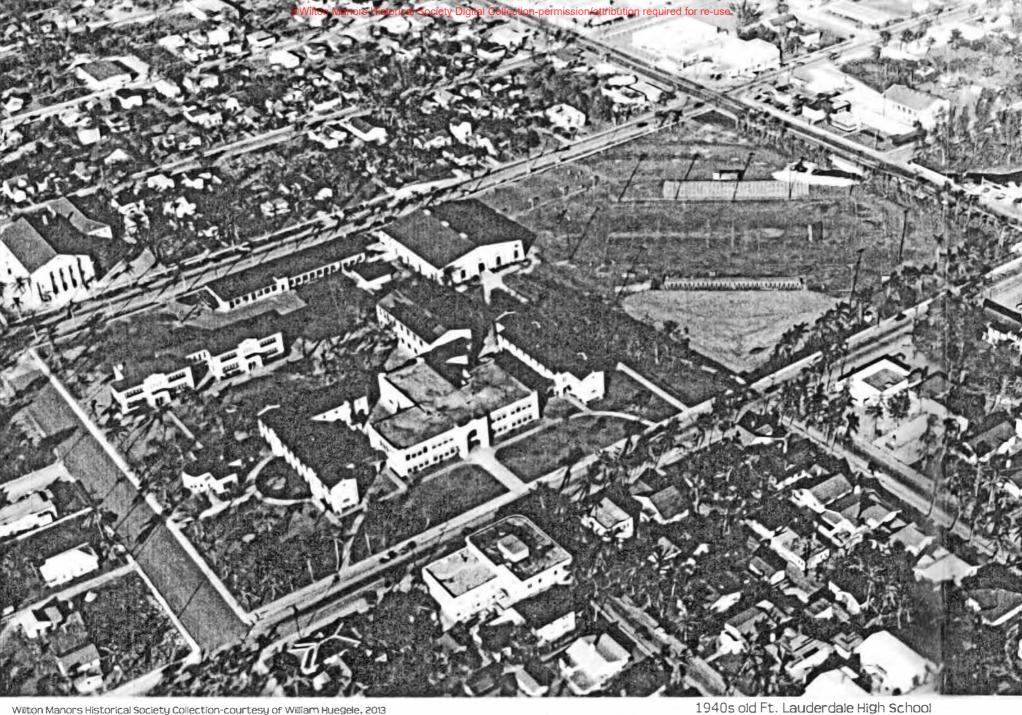
Huegele retired from the Broward County School System in 1995. An avid tennis player, he continues to play to this day, and he taught tennis for almost two decades at Holiday Park with Jimmy Evert, father of Chris Evert.

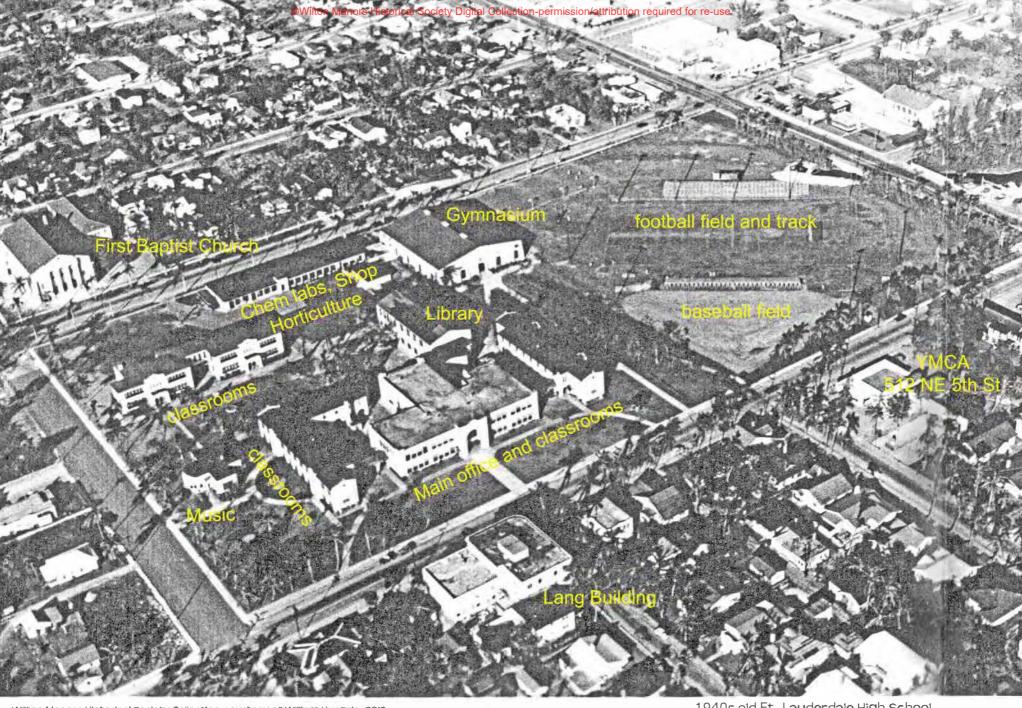
Shown below is one of a series of vintage lithograph photos that Bill Huegele generously donated to the Historical Society.

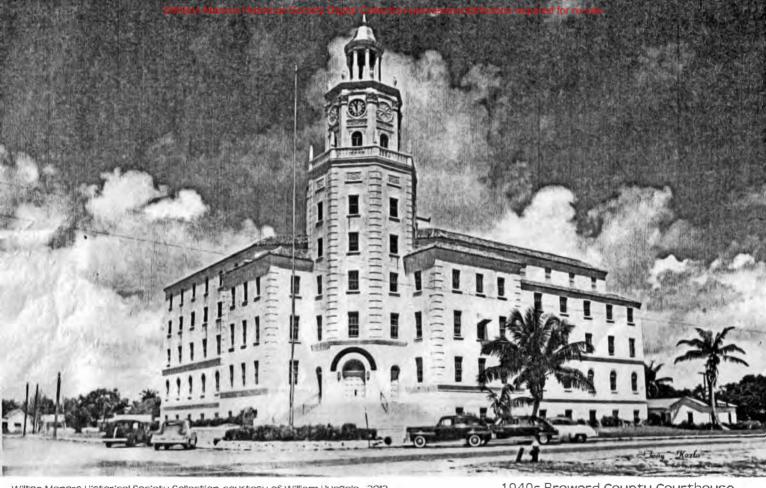


Highway A1A ended at the Casino Pool and Beachfront.
Photo is circa 1940s.

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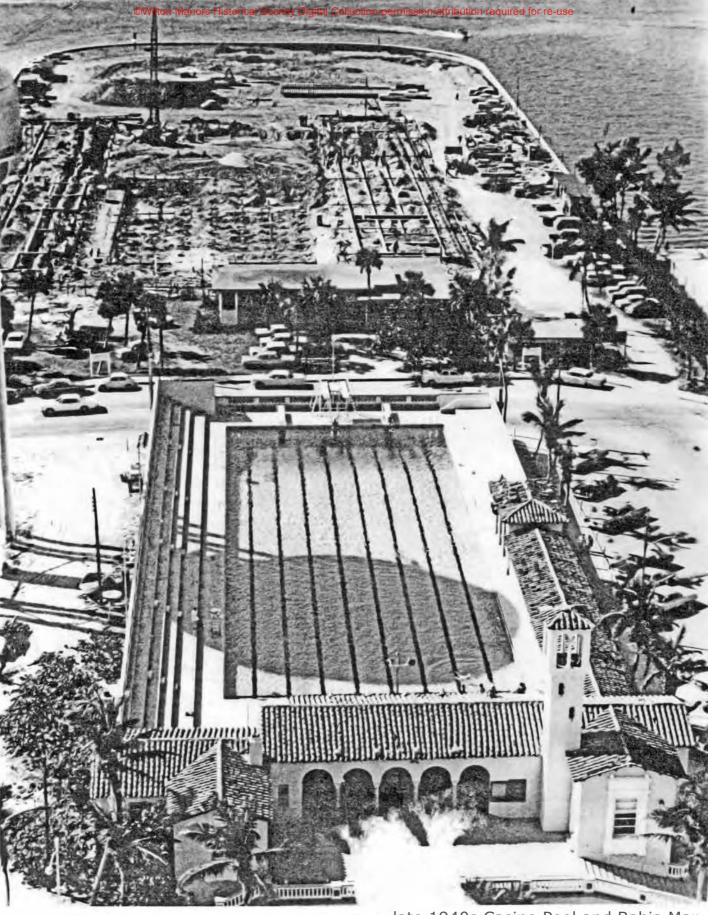


Wilton Manors Historical Society Collection-courtesy of William Huegele, 2013

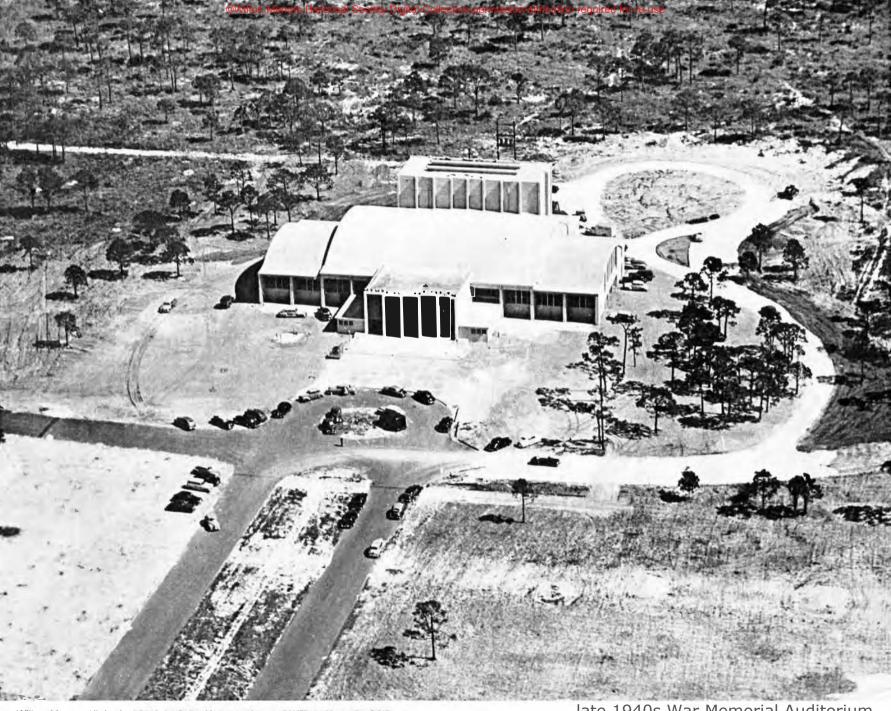
1940s Broward County Courthouse







Wilton Manors Historical Society Collection-courtesy of William Huegele, 2013 late 1940s Casino Pool and Bahia Mar



Wilton Manors Historical Society Collection-courtesy of William Huegele, 2013

late 1940s War Memorial Auditorium

Nineteen Hundred and Sixty One



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John Holt Physical Education Drivers Education



William Huegele Physical Education

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J. Bradley

E. Brestel

K. Clark

L. Freed

S. George



S. Hall



Coach Huegele



D. Carter



D. Hopkins



M. Kleber



B. Langstram



R. Merwin



D. Miner



C. Munro



G. Pope



D. Rasku



D. Wilson



J. Wolfe

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Fort Lauderdale High School Fort Lauderdale, Florida ©Wilton Manors Historical Society Digital Collection-permission/attribution required for re-use Geldbaugh, George: Utilities Engineer- Haynes, Charles: Florida State Univer-

Geldbaugh, George: Utilities Engineering Institute, Fairmont State Teachers College. West Virginia University, A.B., M.A.; English; Foreign Language; Faculty Chairman.

Gibson, Fletcher: Southern Methodist University, Columbia University, B.S., M.A.; Physical Education.

Gidlund, Bobbie: George Peabody College. B.A.: Business; Sponsor of Senior Tri-Hi-Y.

Gillette, Robert: Georgetown College, University of Kentucky, B.S., M.S.; Science; J.V. Football Coach, Flying L Coin Club Sponsor.

Gilmour, Robert: Otterbein College, Ohio State University, Kent State University, Southern Illinois University, A.B.: Foreign Languages; German Club Sponsor.

Harper, Max: University of Missouri. University of Florida, Central Missouri State Teachers College, Barry College, A.B., M.A.; Social Studies; EBB TIDE, Quill and Scroll Sponsor.

Hatley, James: Duke University, A.B.; English; Junior Class Dance, and Future Teachers of America Sponsor.

Haynes, Charles: Florida State University, B.S., M.S.; Driver Education; J.V. Football Coach.

Holt, Veasy: Broaddus College, West Virginia Institute of Technology, A.B.; Guidance.

Huegele, William: High Point College, B.S.; Physical Education; Sponsor of Boys L Club.

Hughes, Mary: Educational Television Secretary.

Ickes, Norma: Trenton State Teachers College, B.S.: Business; Future Business Leaders of America Sponsor.

Jacobs, Susan: Barry College, A.B.; English. Foreign Language; Nauti-Nymphs Sponsor.

Jennings, Gary: University of Florida, B.S.E.; Mathematics; Sponsor of Interact Club.

Jett, Doris: Florida Southern University, A.B., M.A.; Foreign Language.

Jones, Teddy: University of Tennessee, University of Florida, B.S., M.A.; Mathematics.



George Geldbaugh



Bobbie Gidlund



Robert Gilmour



Fletcher Gibson



Robert Gillette



Max Harper



James Hatley



Charles Haynes



Veasy Holt



William Huegele



Mary Hughes



Norma Ickes



Susan Jacobs



Gary Jennings



Doris Jett



Teddy Jones



President Gary Pope



Vice-President
Tom Dunn



Secretary Ed Gernon



Treasurer
Larry Lawrence



Sponsor Coach Huegele



Sponsor Coach Tschirret



Front row: C. Gamble, J. Bush, J. Heatley, D. Miner, D. Hopkins, C. Bard, S. Hamilton. Second row: M. Mitson, R. Tanner, J. Van Wyk, T. Dunn, B. Crossman, W. Racavich, R. Engler, E. Ware, D. Palencia. Third row: T. Noonan, S. Maguire, G. Pope, J. Sanders L. Lawrence, C. Fowlkes, R. Alfonso, R. Brown, J. Elliot, J. Kane, H. Gray. Fourth row: J. Bundy, W. Gaisford, P. Regensdorf, E. Brestel, J. Darr, L. Freed, D. MacDonald, G. Hinchcliffe, W. Powell, R. Farwell, H. Rountree.