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Florida Collection

Introduction

Welcome to our third newsletter! In this issue you will find articles on how older material in the Florida Collection still connects to our daily lives, some hurricane history, an introduction to topographic maps, and another preview of a forthcoming addition to our Digital Collection.

Please be sure to forward this newsletter to anyone you know who may have an interest in the Florida Collection. You can subscribe to this bimonthly dispatch and view past issues by visiting our [Newsletters web page](#).

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Sunshine Storm Season

Signs of autumn: the last, lazy days of summer, the changing colors of leaves, the ringing of school bells, and those violent, severe storms which seem to erupt out of the depths of the warm waters of the tropics, which we have given the name "hurricane."

A hurricane is an intense, low pressure system of sustained winds exceeding 74 mph. that forms over warm waters. The winds move in a counterclockwise direction around an "eye." Hurricane force winds surround the eye and are called the wall cloud or eye wall. Wind speeds help us to classify hurricanes into five categories, ranging from Category 1 (74-95 mph.) to Category 5 (winds over 155 mph.). The period of activity for these storms basically runs from the beginning of June through the end of November, although some storms have formed earlier, and some have appeared later in the year. The month of September is, generally, when most of the storm activity occurs.

The word which we use to describe these violent storms can be attributed to the Spanish explorers. There are two possible origins for the word "hurricane." The first possible origin is derived from the Spanish word "huracn," which comes from the Carib (Taino) Indian word meaning "God of Evil." Secondly, some scholars believe this term is derived from the Mayan god called "Huracan" or "Hurakan," who was a weather god - "named the one-legged" of wind, storm, and fire.

Word origins aside, Florida has experienced some of the most violent hurricanes ever to hit the mainland, with more storms hitting Florida than any other U.S state. Some of the most notable hurricanes to hit the state during the twentieth century are the following: 1) September 9, 1919 storm smashed into the Florida Keys, causing heavy damage, especially losses to shipping; 2) September 18, 1926 storm - a category 4 - caused severe destruction in the Miami area, leaving thousands homeless and damages in the millions; 3) September 17, 1928 - called the Okeechobee hurricane - made landfall between Jupiter and Boca Raton and then crossed the state, causing flooding when dikes broke on the lake, inflicting massive damage, and over 2,500 deaths; 4) the 1935 Labor day hurricane - a category 5 - was one of the most intense storms ever to hit, with winds over 250 miles per hour, causing extensive damage, and deaths -(hundreds of World War I veterans were killed in the Keys who were working to build the railroad); 5) Hurricane Donna in 1960 was a deadly storm which hit the Keys and then moved through the central part of the state, causing heavy rainfall, crop losses, and other significant damage; and 6) Hurricane Andrew - a category 5 - in 1992 destroyed the Homestead and southern Miami-Dade areas, which caused over 26 billion dollars worth of damage.

From the description above, one can see that Florida has been hit by some very destructive, terrifying storms. So what about Jacksonville? When compared to other east coast cities we have experienced less

damage. Jacksonville has been hit by hurricanes and tropical storms coming across the state from the Gulf of Mexico, and we have been brushed by storms moving north or south from the Atlantic. However, the only direct hit to Jacksonville with sustainable hurricane force winds has been Hurricane Dora - a category 2 - in 1964. The reason why we usually keep out of harm's way during the storm season is that Jacksonville has a unique geographical position. According to Tim Deegan, chief meteorologist at WTLV Channel 12 News, "we are at 30 degree latitude . that is the average position of a global high that keeps most cold storms north of us and tropical cyclones south. When the high does break down the tropical cyclones go north, so those with southward facing coasts are in jeopardy. Those storms hit areas south of us and weaken. It is the rare cyclone that goes west at our latitude."

Let's hope Jacksonville's good fortune continues to hold. So make your hurricane preparations early by getting batteries, flashlights, and canned goods . and just to hedge your bets say a few kind words to "Hurakan."

Map Corner: Topographic Topics

Do you know what a "topo" map is? Topo is short for topographic in map speak. Its origins date from the late 17th century when French Finance Minister Jean Baptiste Colbert contracted Jean Dominique Cassini and family to produce maps of France including both natural and man-made features. Today, the topographic map is the type most often produced and published by the United States Geological Survey, USGS, and the National Mapping Program of the United States Federal Government.

As defined in the Index to topographic and other Map Coverage, November 1990, a topographic map "accurately represents the natural and manmade features of the land. USGS topographic maps are compiled to National Map Accuracy Standards using modern mapping techniques. The shape and elevation of the terrain are portrayed by contour lines and specific features such as roads, towns, water areas, and vegetation are portrayed by map symbols and colors." Naturally, current examples of such "modern" maps may be found in our Government Documents division of Special Collections. Maps also make up a large portion of the Florida Collection, including historical topographic maps.

Our USGS topographic map collection, currently numbering 199 and counting, covers Florida as well as Georgia and dates from as early as 1890 up to 2003. The vast majority of these maps are examples of what are known as 7.5 Minute Series which refers to the map scale or 1:24000, where 1 inch represents 2000 feet. The area covered can range from 49 - 71 square miles and the paper size measures 22 inches by 27 inches. Contours and elevations are usually shown in feet.

Others types of topographic maps produced include the 7.5 x 15 Minute Series, the 15 Minute Series, the 30 x 60 Minute Series and the 1 x 2 Degree Series. For comparison, 128 of the 7.5 Minute Series Maps would be required to cover the area encompassed by the scope of one 1 x 2 Degree Series Map. It follows, then, that there are more 7.5 Minute Series Maps produced than any other.

You may easily view any of our topographic maps in Special Collections during regular library hours on the fourth floor of the Main Library. Also, please note the only true USGS produced topographic map in the Ansbacher Map collection on permanent display in the Map Room: [AMC 215, Mayport Quadrangle, Florida](#) (1932). It is along the bottom row of South - Wall 8. And, coming soon, look for it as well as the entire Ansbacher Collection digitized online in our electronic catalog.

Hidden Gems: The Habit of Saving

Saving may be summed up in the one word, "habit." No matter how much is preached about the value and necessity of saving money, unless one acquires the distinct habit of saving nearly all such advice is lost.

Saving is one of the things that does not come in fits and starts. To put a certain amount away each week or each month soon becomes a distinct part of an individual and practically all accumulation of any value is the result of just such a form of habit.

It grows and cannot be destroyed. Habitual savers feel a distinct sense of loss when anything happens that prevents them from putting away money at regular intervals. Their one object is to make up for the deficiency at the earliest possible occasion and thus the important habit of saving grows in strength and the fortunate possessor of it is assured success not only in this one undertaking but in practically all his work. For saving money means not only the accumulating of actual currency but, far more important, it brings with it the growth and development of all the principal virtues on which moral and material welfare are founded.

This was found in *Progress*, a monthly magazine "devoted to the interest of Jacksonville" in January 1912. *Progress* was published by the Guaranty Trust & Savings Bank. The bank was located on 101 East Bay Street in the building now known as the Bostwick Building - the one with the Jaguar mural peering out of the windows.

This small but interesting magazine, spanning from 1911 to 1915, can be seen almost as a precursor to today's *Florida Trend*, *904 Magazine*, and other similar economic lifestyle

periodicals. Browsing through the Periodicals section of the Florida Collection often uncovers such fascinatingly similar, yet different publications that have informed us over the years.

Digitization Sneak Peek: Photograph Collection Renovation

JPL's "Florida Photographs" online archives have been an ongoing project, and while there are already thousands of Florida- and Jacksonville-related photographs available for viewing on the Florida Collection website, it is only in a browsing capacity that they can be accessed. The photographs fall into three separate headings, "Jacksonville," "Non-Jacksonville," and "Jacksonville Public Library." Each heading is broken down into subject areas, e.g. "Animals," "Buildings," "People." The subject areas are helpful, but each subject area contains many photographs that are, for the time being, not searchable in any other way-which means, if you are looking for a particular photo you would have to slog through all the photos in a subject area until you find the one you are looking for. This is an accessibility issue we hope to address in the near future, but at the moment our main focus is making the pages as informative as possible.

For example, if you were to access the Florida Collection area of the JPL website looking for a digitized photograph of, say, the remains of the St John's Episcopal Church after the fire of 1901, you'd get [this](#), a great image of an old photograph, but without information in the "description" fields. We are now working on, and hope to finish ASAP, including as much descriptive information as possible on the page along with each individual photograph, so that, for instance, the St Johns Church photograph you were looking for would look more like [this](#). Scroll down the page to really notice the difference.

In doing this we hope to make an already great digital resource even more useful. In the meantime, don't hesitate to browse the photo collection as it is. There are hundreds of historically-significant Jacksonville and Florida photographs, ranging from portraits of prominent Floridians and Jacksonvillians to candid shots of fisherman cast-netting for mullet along the shorelines of Bahia Honda Key.

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