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*A Supplement of the Englewood Review*







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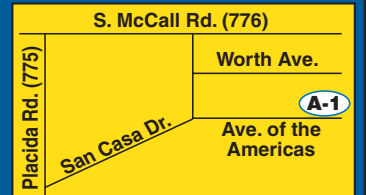


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# From the Publisher

A Pioneering Spirit was a driving force for those individuals who first settled in this area we call Englewood. Everyone helped everyone get through difficult times. And that sort of spirit continues today through the generosity of the residents, businesses and organizations.

That Pioneering Spirit is the driving force behind the Pioneer Days Committee. The past couple of years has presented them with significant challenges, and 2021 threw them a new curve ball. So we are left with looking ahead until next year for a super spectacular Pioneer Days. I'm sure the Pioneer Days committee will be up to the challenge.

We at the Englewood Review had the challenge of doing a special section without the main purpose for the publication. Without the Pioneer Days, what should we do? Well, we decided to focus on the Pioneer Spirit, as that was really the focus of Pioneer Days anyway. And so we enlisted the help of Don

Bayley. He took the interesting approach: Pioneer Names and Places.

Then we had Nita Edmonson-Cole research the history of the Englewood Water District and how Englewood Pioneers saw the need. Despite the area being unincorporated and needing a special exemption from the state, they persevered, and today we have the benefit of their hard work.

Sharyn Lonsdale had a lot of fun getting people's memories of bygone restaurants. And finally, we are re-running an article of how Englewood's first ambulance service got started.

I encourage you to take some time regularly and venture down to Dearborn Street and support these hard working businesses. They will need all of the support they can get as they try to survive this construction period.

*Tom Newton*

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## On Our Cover

During the 1920s, Yale Street was considered the business district. This group of "old-timers", or Pioneers, as we might call them today, gathered in front of a business for this photo in 1923. Pictured here by numbers are; 1-Robert Platt, 2-Buster Lampp, 3-Don Platt, 4-Earl Lampp, 5-Everett Platt, 6-Doris Lampp, 7-Dorothy Platt, 8-Stanley Lampp, 9-Pat Lampp, 10-Carl Magnum Biorseth, 11-Carrie Biorseth, 12-Mrs. Drewly, 13-Mr. Drewly, 14-Lottie Lampp, 15-Grace Platt, 16-Edith Lampp, 17-unknown, 18-Mr. Chapman, 19-unknown, 20-Grandma Kelly, 21-Pauline Biorseth, 22-Irwin Biorseth, 23-Bob Bouham, and 24-unknown.





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# Construction, Not COVID, Cancels Pioneer Days This Year

By Sharyn Lonsdale

Every Labor Day weekend thousands of locals and visitors flock to Englewood on Labor Day weekend for Pioneer Days. They enter their kids in the Diaper Derby and Little Miss and Mister pageants, grow beards and eat watermelon. They dance, listen to bands, and build cardboard boats.

However, Englewood's biggest annual festival has not had it easy the past few years. In 2018, red tide hit, forcing the committee to move the popular cardboard boat race from Indian Mound Park to Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park in East Englewood, which did work out well. In 2019, the path of Hurricane Dorian wreaked havoc on the parade and other events, leading to the 2019 Pioneer Days "Hurricane Reboot." Then in 2020, well you know, and now in 2021, a major renovation project on West Dearborn Street has forced the festival's organizers to once again cancel the late summer celebration of all things Englewood.

In a June 17 press release, the Englewood Pioneer Days Committee announced that with the construction on Dearborn and the work on Pioneer Park Plaza and the amphitheater on the 300 block of the street, scheduled to hit during the parade and festival, they had no choice but to cancel Pioneer Days for the second year in a row. "The Committee has looked into other options and avenues—quite literally—but there is not another safe option as far as the festival and parade are concerned," read the release at: [www.EnglewoodPioneerDays.com](http://www.EnglewoodPioneerDays.com).

The major project would also have impacted the chalk festival



Construction has started on West Dearborn Street.

held at the Englewood Recreation Center on Orange Street, and the car show. With Charlotte County passing on Pioneer Days events this year, and the temporary closure of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the cardboard boat race couldn't happen, even at its new location.

While the timing of the project may not be optimal, Chris Phelps, Chair of the all-volunteer committee, said that the end result of the project "will be a good foot forward for our community including Englewood Pioneer Days."

In one piece of good news, The Lemon Bay Sunrise Rotary will be holding its annual Youth Fish-a-thon, at 7 am on September 18 at the Anger Fishing Pier at Tom Adams Bridge. The popular event is free to youth 12 and younger and reservations are not required.

The Committee already has dates for several events next year, with Little Miss and Mr. Englewood Pageant kicking things off on August 20, 2022, The Chalkfest on August 27, and the Cardboard Boat Race on September 3. The Pioneer Days Festival runs from September 4-5, and will feature a car



show, children's activities and entertainment at the new amphitheater. The 66th Pioneer Days Parade is scheduled, on Labor Day, September 5.

Phelps and her committee are already planning for "the best parade Englewood has ever seen," in 2022 and is hoping that the two-year gap will bring out more people and more volunteers. "There is more to a parade than just lining up a few floats," said Phelps. "It takes a village."

For more information on supporting and volunteering for the 2022 Pioneer Days festival and events, visit [www.EnglewoodPioneerDays.com](http://www.EnglewoodPioneerDays.com) or Englewood Pioneer Days on Facebook or email, [info@englewoodpioneerdays.com](mailto:info@englewoodpioneerdays.com)

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# ENGLEWOOD

## *Pioneer Places and Names*

by Don Bayley

Have you ever wondered where the names of Englewood streets, parks and buildings come from? Many are named for our pioneers. Webster defines a "pioneer" as a person who is one of the first to settle in an area or a person who begins or helps develop something new. In honor of Englewood's Pioneers let's take a look at the origin of several Englewood place names.

### Grove City and Lemon Bay

There are no lemon groves around here. Where did these names come from? Back in 1886, scurvy was a very serious problem. Lemons were the prescribed treatment. But they were pricey and had to be imported from Spain. An English agriculturalist named Joseph Cross believed lemon trees grown in Florida would be a viable crop and provide financial support for new settlers. The game plan was to sell residential acreage on which to build homes, but the buyer had to agree to also buy another 10 acres of grove land on which to grow lemons. Everyone was to make money; Cross on his real estate sales and the buyers on the lemons they would produce. He named the area Grove City and it is said that to attract settlers to the area Cross renamed "Mangrove Bay" to "Lemon Bay."

### The street names: Dearborn, Wentworth, Yale, Harvard and Perry

To promote Grove City, Cross had an exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair (AKA the Columbian Exposition) in 1893, extolling the beauties and benefits of buying land in SW Florida. Brothers Herbert, Howard and Ira Nichols (who lived in Englewood, IL) read a brochure at the exhibit: "Here is a land where lemons will thrive, where the bays teem with fish in countless millions, where the climate is second to none, and where

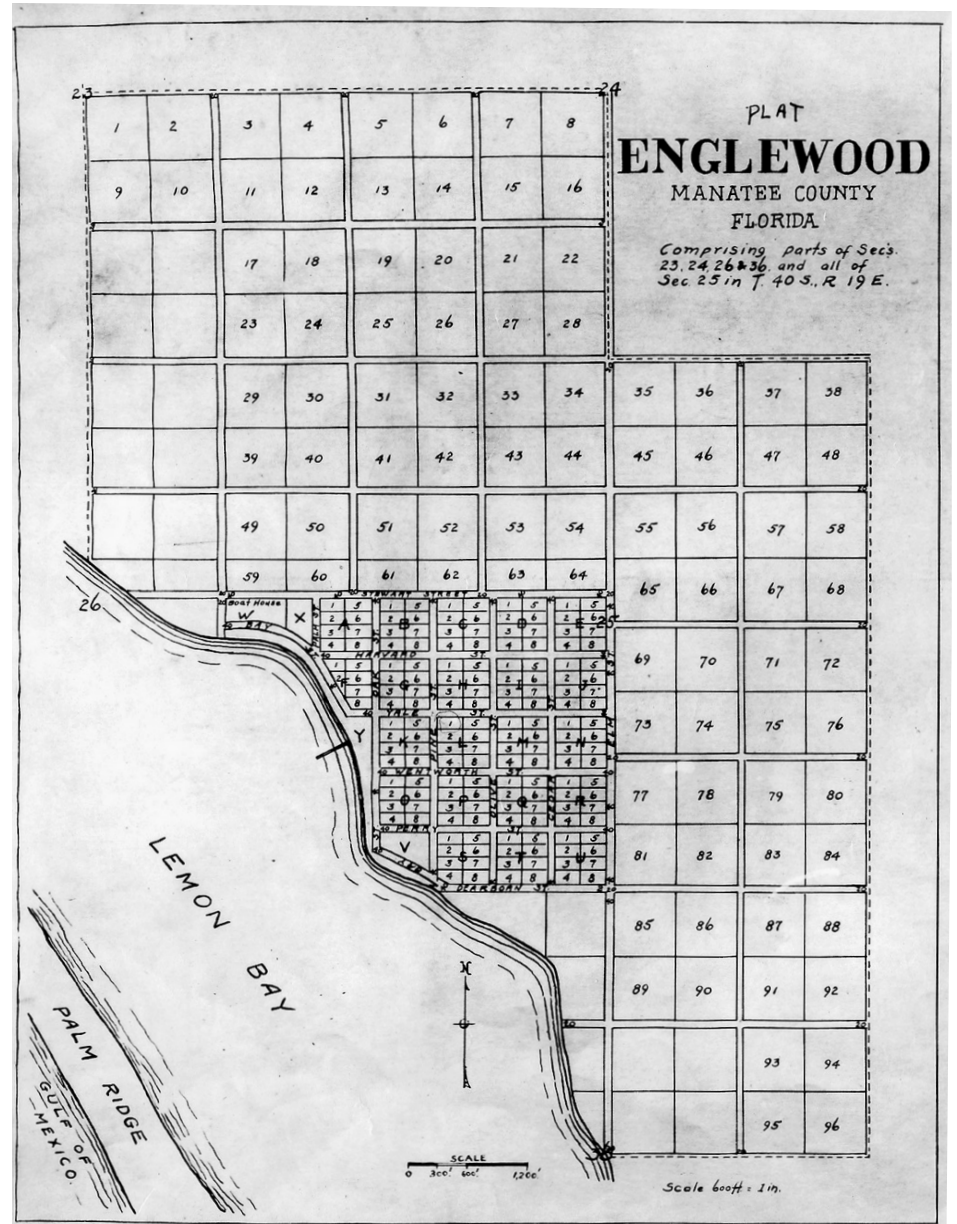
game is more plentiful than anywhere on earth."

Inspired, the Nichols brothers bought land just north of Grove City and planned to also cash in on the high demand for lemons. Many small citrus trees were actually planted in the area. Those already growing in Grove City were thriving, their branches bowed under the weight of their vitamin-rich fruit. Everyone agreed it was a grand scheme, except Mother Nature.

In December of 1894, the Great Freeze hit the area and continued throughout January of 1895. All the lemon trees were killed and with them died the Nichols brothers' dream. But the Nichols brothers didn't give up. They modified their sales campaign. No mention of lemons was made; instead they listed the pleasures to be found here: "Tarpon fishing, mind resting, deer stalking, surf bathing, quail shooting, duck hunting, health restoring, and boat sailing in a climate that can be described in a single word: superb."

In 1896, they had a Chicago engineer draw up a street plan for their new town. They named the town "Englewood" after their hometown, Englewood, Illinois. They also named many of the new streets after those in the Chicago suburb (Dearborn, Wentworth, Yale, Harvard and Perry).

It's hard to believe today but the commercial center of the new Englewood town was Yale Street. There the brothers opened a combination post office and general store and named it the Lemon Bay Trading Company. In 1898, they built the Englewood Inn on Perry Street, a beautiful 16-room upscale hotel complete with a 250-foot dock and a ballroom overlooking Lemon Bay,



The original plat of Englewood was filed and recorded August 17, 1896. The small lots in the center of the map were home sites; the larger lots were for citrus groves. Elm Street, running north and south, separated the two sections. Note that the only named streets in the residential area, Stewart, Harvard, Yale, Wentworth and Perry, ended at Elm Street. In later years these streets were extended east across Elm, but in each instance, a jog in the road was required because of the difference in size between the one-acre home lots and the 10 acre grove lots. All streets were 20 feet wide.

catering to wealthy and adventurous tourists.

First the dead lemon trees and then fire: In 1909, the Englewood Inn burned to the ground due to the large amount of dry timber in the area. The brothers tried in various ways to make Englewood attractive to home buyers, but it was only really accessible by water. There were no good roads and no railroad. The wealthy sun-seekers chose to move to Sarasota or Punta Gorda instead. And so, the Nichols brothers departed for the gold fields of California.

### Buchans Landing

Born in Orange County, Florida in 1871, Peter E. "Pete" Buchan (pronounced Buck-an) arrived in Englewood in 1902. Peter first worked as a bookkeeper for the Chadwick Fish Company. He married Florence Jerome in 1904. In 1908, he worked for the Nichols brothers at the Lemon Bay Trading Company.

When business came to a standstill, he left the area, but returned in 1912. As soon as Pete entered the store (on Yale St.) H.K. Nichols exclaimed, "Hi. Have you come back to buy the store?" It was an offer Peter couldn't refuse. He got the business and the entire inventory for \$315! He would, however, have to pay the \$10 per month rent.

Preferring to own rather than rent, in 1916, Pete purchased land at the end of Dearborn Street and what was then a continuation of Olive Street (today's Old Englewood Road). He built the 2-story building which is still there today. The lower level was his new store and post office and the 2nd story, living quarters. He also built a 250-foot pier out into Lemon Bay. At the time, all supplies came into Englewood by boat. Much later, when home mail delivery began, the location was named "Buchan's Landing." Pete's store here marked the beginning of Dearborn Street's reign as



ENGLEWOOD INN. *from Ernest Biessels* ENGLEWOOD, FLA.  
The Englewood Inn was built by the Nicols brothers and was at the end of Perry Street on Lemon Bay.



# The J.D. Anderson Family Has Proudly Served The Englewood Community Since The 1880s.



Early Englewood settler, J.D. Anderson stands in front of his boys Stuart, Charlie, Phillip and Clyde on their 100 acre family farm east of Manasota Beach Road and SR 776 in the early 1900s.



Stuart Anderson formed the Lemon Bay Fisheries in the 1920s. After operating from a couple of locations the fishery finally ended up at the end of Wentworth Street as seen in this 1940s photo. Lemon Bay Fisheries operated until the late 1960s.

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*The Lampp family on Yale Street. Pat, Edith, Buster and Lottie, Doris and Earl in back.*

*Continued from page 7*

the commercial center in Englewood.

#### **Buchan Airport: From Movie Stars to Mosquitoes**

During the heyday of land speculation in the 1920s, a development of 98 acres was planned along today's Old Englewood Road. Designed as a mecca for vacationing stars and the wealthy, it was to be called Hygeia. Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford planned to build 30-room homes right here. When the Great Florida Land Boom suddenly ended, Hygeia was all but forgotten; the land sat unused for many years. But in 1949, a new development came to the area due to a very influential player in Florida's history: the mosquito.

Once the link between malaria and the mosquito was discovered, Pete Buchan (then Sarasota County Commissioner) helped the county acquire the land here in 1949 for just \$100 to build an airport to facilitate aerial spraying. Later, the county commissioners named the airport to honor Mr. Buchan.

#### **Lampp House**

The Lampp House is on Perry Street, and is home to the Englewood Museum. It was built in 1928 by Pat Lampp for his family. He also worked on the construction of the Lemon Bay Woman's Club's new building on Coconut Street, donating his services for free. Today both buildings have the distinction of being registered as historical places.

Pat was one of four Lampp brothers who were significant contributors to the growth and development of Englewood.

How did they get here? Back in 1875, Jesse Thomas Lampp, a homesteader and citrus grower in Apopka, Florida, married Pete Buchan's sister, Sarah. They were divorced and in 1899, Sarah Buchan Lampp and her second husband,

Henry Kelley, moved to the newly created Englewood. They brought with them their four Lampp sons: Pat, "Hamp", Wilbur and Stanley. We've mentioned Pat, what about the other three sons? Well...

Hamp was the captain of a schooner. He sailed back and forth from Englewood to Tampa, bringing supplies for his uncle Pete Buchan's store. Boats were the only link to the outside world at the time since there were no roads.

Wilbur was one of the area's earliest mail carriers. The mail came to a landing just south of today's El Jobean. Wilbur met the mail boat and delivered it to the area post offices by horseback.

Stanley opened the Tamiami Lodge, which had the first electric lights in town. He also had the first car, a Model T. He started the first sub-division in the area, between Dearborn and today's Cherokee Street. He called it "Englewood Park", and in 1922 he developed New Point Comfort.

There is a lot more to tell about the Lampp family. If you are interested, visit



*Pete Buchan's Store and Post Office in 1916.*

the Englewood Museum at the Lampp House.

#### **Ainger Creek**

The creek was named for Lorin Alexander (L.A.) Ainger, Sr., who arrived in 1898. The following is a portion of an interview conducted by Bud Mizell in early 1992 with L.A. Ainger, Jr. about his memories, opinions and thoughts of the development of Englewood.

"Was Ainger Creek named after your dad?"

"Yes, he homesteaded on Ainger. Back then you called a creek by who lived on it. He lived on it so it's called Ainger. Gottfried settled on Gottfried Creek. Homesteading at that time was quite common in Florida. The state wanted to get this land on the (books), so if you lived on it and developed it, in three years they'd give you a deed. Of course, then you'd start paying taxes on it. So he homesteaded this piece of property and built a barn."

"I remember playing in it as a kid. They cut trees on the homestead and took them down to the river and had them sawed up at the sawmill. They would cut you whatever lumber you wanted and you got half and they got half. They rafted it

back up the bay and creek and built the barn and built a house."

"Tell me a little bit about growing up and education."

"There was a one-room schoolhouse. It was about a mile and a half or two miles away. A lot of those days I walked 5 miles or maybe 6 or 8 miles to get to school for the simple reason, there were no fence laws in Florida. Cattle ran free and the turpentine still (required) a lot of mules and they'd turn them loose and they'd run free. Well, you know, I was scared of cattle, being six years old. I was scared of them big ol' bellowin' bulls and those mules that would come down the road four abreast. You better give them plenty of room. I'd walk a million miles around a bunch of cows and those mules. I went to that school for the first three years."

"Is it anywhere near where 776 is now?"

"It's pretty much the same roadway. The school was this side of where Tiffany Square is now. 'Vineland' ran past where the Tringali Center is now and came back this way to Ainger Creek."

"Did they move that school or did it burn down?"

"All of the early buildings were built out of pine and they all had cypress shingles. Well, the cattlemen ruled the roost as far as land was going, and they wanted pasture land. There was no fence law. If you didn't want the cattle getting in your garden, then you built a fence to keep them out. That's the way it was. The cattlemen burnt the landscape every year in the winter when everything was dry. They just set fire and they didn't care where it went. If you didn't want your house burnt down it was up to you to keep it out. Our house caught fire three or four times. It wasn't unusual. You didn't take a garden hose. You just got up there with a bucket. Our house caught fire one time and it took six rows of roofing. We thought the whole house was going to burn

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*A Tamiami Lodge ad from the Sarasota Times, January 22, 1920.*

*Continued on page 11*



# Englewood's Real Estate **EXPERT**

Susan Porter has been a resident of southwest Florida for nearly forty years and spent the last two decades calling Englewood home. She loves sharing her passion for the region with her customers, whether they are buying a vacation condominium, equestrian estate, or building their dream home.

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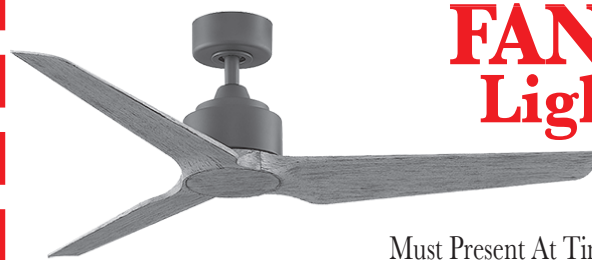
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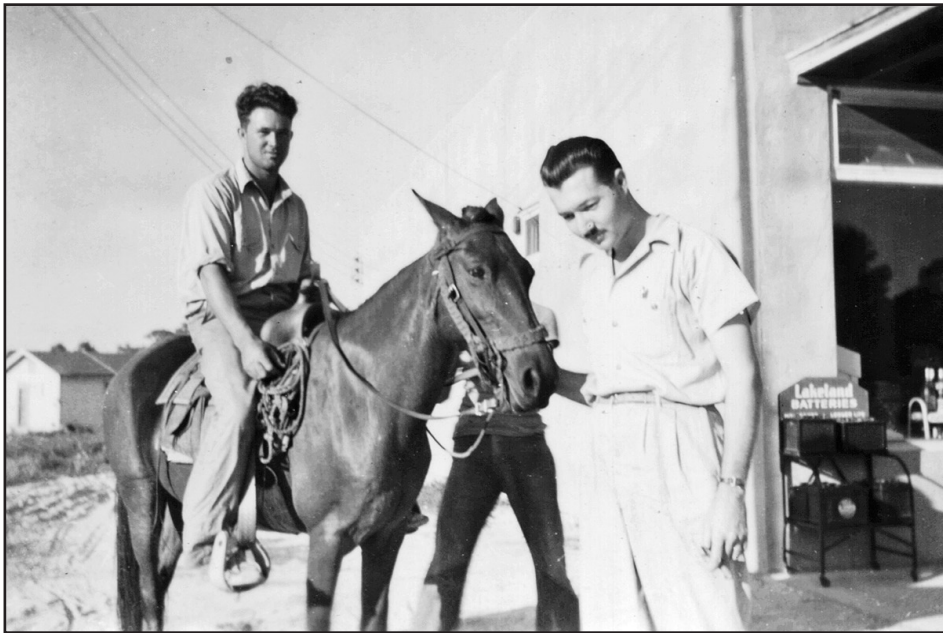
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Bill Anger (L), son of Burt Anger, and nephew L.A. Anger, Jr. (R), at the Anger store in 1949. Note the difference in the spelling of Anger (Anger). L.A. Anger, Sr. changed the spelling along the way in order to better align the spelling with the pronunciation.

Continued from page 9

down.” (It is likely the Vineland school house burned in one of these fires.)

“Where did you complete your education?”

“I never did complete it. We moved to Englewood and my father built a house. The location is where the True Value Hardware Store is (now Gulf Coast Hardware). The house was where the parking lot is now. After a year or so, father, who had been in the mercantile business before, decided to open a store in the house.”

By 1937, L.A. Anger Jr. and his wife, Muriel, had taken over the ownership and operation of the store and enlarged it. The Anger Store – or just L.A.’s as it was usually called — stayed open till the 1970s and was a prominent landmark in town.

#### L. A. Anger Middle School

L.A. Anger Jr. was a strong advocate for better local education. In the 1992 interview, he was asked about his thoughts on education: “We had a school. My daughters went to that school. There was only a public school when I went to school. The Venice High School took our high school students. We had an elementary school here in Englewood. We wanted our kids to stay here in Englewood and go to school here, but we didn’t have a high school. I was on the school board at the time. I served six four-year terms and was very interested in getting a school in Englewood.”

After serving 24 years on the school board, L.A. was honored by having a school named after him – the L.A. Anger Middle School.

#### Anger Fishing Pier

Herbert Harvey “Bill” Anger (1915-1990) was a grandson of L.A. Sr. He was a commercial fisherman and Charlotte County Commissioner. When the

Intracoastal Waterway came through in 1964, workers cut through the middle of the old wooden bridge over Lemon Bay to replace it with the Tom Adams Bridge, a movable structure to accommodate larger boats. Bill worked to save part of the old bridge to be used as a fishing pier. Today the pier bears his name. He is buried in the historic Lemon Bay Cemetery with a unique boat-shaped grave marker. (Note: The spelling of the original Anger name was changed to Ainger by L.A. Anger, Sr.)

#### Gottfried Creek

As you cross the bridge on 776, just past McDonald’s, there is a sign: “Gottfried Creek.” There is another sign on E. Dearborn on the way to the Methodist church. You may have wondered where the name came from. Who were these Gottfrieds?

Once again it was the Columbian Exposition in Chicago that started it all. In 1893, Ferdinand Gottfried, from Milwaukee, saw the exhibit on Grove City, Florida at the fair. There was talk that the railroad was coming through and lots of money could be made owning groves of citrus, lemons and pineapples.

Ferdinand and his brother, Otto, decided to give it a try. They arrived in late 1893 and lived in a palmetto shack located where New Comfort Road now intersects S.R. #776. They bought 30 acres of land between Placida Rd. and Lemon Bay and planted pineapples with great results. When the price dropped they grew cabbages and potatoes. Other family members soon joined them, and around 1900, they built a fine 2-story house on what was then called Deer Creek. The creek is now named for them. The Gottfried’s next cash crop was celery. Their flourishing field thrived well into the 1920s. It was located behind where Merchants Crossing is now.



L.A. Anger’s Suprex Market in the 1950s.

#### Leach’s Key

In *The History of Early Englewood*, Jo Cortes writes, “In compiling a chronological listing of arrivals in Englewood, the earliest known to the shores of Lemon Bay was Capt. Joseph C. Leach...he first settled here in 1861 with his wife and five children. Very little is known of Capt. Leach except that by the time Carl M. Biorseth and his family arrived in 1894, Capt. Leach had two houses and no family.”

It’s a mystery why his wife and children left, but the loneliness of being the sole residents of this vast area may have contributed to Mrs. Leach’s decision to leave these shores.

“Mrs. Grace Platt recalls that the mainland home of Capt. Leach was located near what is Forked Creek today, facing the bay, and his other home on Palm Ridge (now called Manasota Key) was directly opposite on the other side of the bay, not very far north of Blind Pass.

“Grace recalls knowing Capt. Leach very well when she was a little girl and remembers how kind and gentle he was. She and a friend often visited his cabin on the beach where he displayed a large collection of Indian relics.”

The Platts and Biorseths were other early settlers. We hope to detail them and several other pioneers in another article.

Per a Sarasota Coastal Zone Survey: “Capt. Leach...fished on Manasota Key, then known as ‘The Palm Ridge.’ The Key was later renamed Peninsula Key, and still later, Manasota Key.” (Manasota is a contraction of Manatee and Sarasota.) Maps today list “Leach’s Key” just north of Blind Pass Park (aka Middle Beach).

Leach was born in Boston in 1839, died in 1906, and is buried in Rosemary Cemetery, Sarasota, next to his caregiver Benjamin Stickney who took care of him after his stroke. There is a Leach Street in Englewood off North Elm.

#### CONCLUSION:

Susan Ainger Cowart in her book on the Ainger family Pioneer West/Pioneer East sums it all up nicely: “Pioneer women such as Sarah (Buchan Lampp) Kelley helped knit together the fabric of Englewood’s social and historic history. From the Woman’s Building at the corner of Cocanut and Maple to the houses built by the Lampp brothers, the present generation can appreciate the contributions of ‘those who came before. Before the high-rise condominiums, shopping centers and WalMarts, Englewood was once the stage where pioneering families acted out their daily lives, unaware that those lives would become the stuff of Englewood’s legacy.”

#### SOURCES:

Carol Buchan Tate (granddaughter of Pete Buchan); Esther Ainger Horton (granddaughter of Lorin Ainger, Sr.); Florida Mosquito Control District website, [keysmosquito.org](http://keysmosquito.org); Diana Harris, “Englewood Lives;” Newton Studios, “Englewood, the First 100 Years;” Lindsey Williams, Writer At Large, Sun Coast Media Group; Buchan Airport website, [buchanairport.weebly.com](http://buchanairport.weebly.com); 1900 Federal Census, Orange County, FL; Jo Cortes, “The History of Early Englewood;” Susan Ainger Cowart, “Pioneer West/Pioneer East;” Sarasota History Alive, “The Nichols Brothers of Englewood;” “Century of Progress World’s Fair, 1933–1934.” University of Illinois-Chicago. January 2008; “An Historic Resources Survey of the Coastal Zone of Sarasota County,” Florida March, 1990; Sarasota Times, 21 Dec 1916; Walter Roberts, pamphlet on Manasota Key; <https://www.compassrosehistory.com/2019/07/09/the-secret-of-the-shared-headstone>



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# The Englewood Water District Is Created

By Nita Edmondson-Cole

Anyone who has ever tasted “real” Florida water, knows how far we have come in the quality of the drinking water we are so fortunate to have now in the Englewood area. The Englewood Water District (EWD) started with a handful of people in 1955 trying to provide water to a small community—eventually growing into a multimillion dollar business faced with unending challenges. It is one of only 2 water/sewer districts enabled by the State of Florida. Even though water has been essential to our community’s growth, archives and historical information are limited.

As I read about the many successes, I was amazed that a small community like Englewood, which is divided between two counties, could accomplish so much, especially at that time, with no internet or cell phones for communication, no e-mail for communication, and no cable news shows to provide updates. But they did see the “big picture” and eventually realized the efforts were not for any one individual, but for everyone and the future of the Englewood area. It’s an interesting story; compelling, educational, and at the same time, a type of *deja’vu*, because some things, as you’ll read, never change, even throughout the EWD history.

In the beginning, it was like any other community. The people in Englewood knew what they needed, but the knee-jerk reaction to the cost was “NO WAY!” One of the earliest articles I found about the new water district in 1958 quoted a civic club representative speaking out against the whole idea of a water district, “...we don’t need it!” they said.

Meanwhile, a small group of members from the Englewood Chamber of Commerce had already formed a “water committee” in 1955 to look into the water ‘situation’. During the next 4 years, they had the perseverance, determination, and dedication to make the Englewood Water District a reality. They fought the odds, and the obstacles, because they saw the need to develop a high quality, clean water system that would provide for the present and future Englewood. As they moved forward in their efforts, they learned the water and sanitary system could be owned and managed by the people of Englewood and not an outside source. They realized not only would residents’ health conditions be jeopardized without a water and sanitary system, but also the Lemon Bay environment. The area’s underground water tables were being contaminated during high rains with septic systems leaching into well water. The projected growth and more septic tanks could only



**ENGLEWOOD CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS** discuss the 1.25 million water plant and system contracts to be let here, in the hope of finding means to keep any parts of the contracts which can be handled locally in the Englewood area.

Shown are (seated left and right) Lee Holmbeck, secretary and Joe Czerwinski, president; with (standing from left) John Keaser, Clayton Wiggins, Don Beans, Bill Nicol, Duane Keaser, Al Lundwall and Floyd Potter. *Aug. 10 - 1962*

*This newspaper clipping is from the August 10, 1962 Englewood Herald.*

make things worse. But not everyone wanted change. It took a lot of one-on-one contact with neighbors and friends to educate the people in the area.

An achievement like that doesn’t just happen. Many people had to give up a lot of time with their families, and their businesses, to accomplish all they did. It would be unheard of to live in any area that didn’t provide clean water or sewer, especially in low lying areas around the coast. So it had to start somewhere. Today, we benefit from Englewood’s early Pioneers’ sweat equity in many ways, but the water quality does seem to be one we all take for granted.

A private group of Sarasota and New York investors offered to provide water service but Englewood was unincorporated, and situated in two counties. Adding to the complications, neither county had authority to grant a franchise that could serve both areas of Englewood. Legislation was passed allowing Charlotte County to bring water to the county line where it could be distributed to Sarasota County residents. But after several meetings, residents felt it might be better to work with a private company that could serve both counties, and legislation had already been passed allowing Charlotte County to grant a franchise anyway, so why not the Sarasota County portion, as well?

According to an article in the Englewood Herald, October, 1958, the Englewood Chamber of Commerce’s

water committee members: W.C. Troendle, William A. Smith, Jr., Merton Kluge, and William L. Hart, proposed a seven-step plan for the Englewood Chamber’s Board of Directors’ consideration. The group had studied and rewritten the plan for “several years” and felt it was ready to be presented to the Englewood Chamber of Commerce board for approval.

The first objective in the plan was to “Provide a dependable supply of consistently high quality water for drinking and other domestic and public uses.”

The second objective stated, “Protect the individual and community health from contaminated water supply. Safeguard against epidemics.” Apparently, there had been an outbreak of typhoid in 1957, and septic tank effluent was a concern, especially during heavy rains.

Other considerations were fire protection, economic development, a future sanitation system, and enhanced value of individual property. These discussions also brought about the first mention of the need for a hospital in our area.

W. L. Wright, Health Officer for Sarasota County Health Department issued a letter of support. It stated, “We, in the Health Department, have been concerned about the water supply for your community, and have often wished that some group would look into the problem of obtaining an adequate source of

satisfactory drinking water, with the idea of establishing a community water system.”

The first step in the plan addressed the formation issues - and the facilitation of steps 2 - 7 started with a nine-member board to represent sections of the Englewood area by “residence and interests.” This board would then take over the Chamber’s water committee and become the first Englewood Water District Committee.

After interviewing numerous private firms, the water committee felt the project would have better success if set up as a local governmental body that belonged to the people of the Englewood area. “Direction and management of the operation will remain in the hands of the Englewood people vitally interested in a successful accomplishment of the project.” There were many complications in solving the water problem in Englewood, since water was needed for residents in Sarasota and Charlotte counties, but they felt special legislation could eliminate the difficulties caused by the county line. A preliminary survey had been taken of the area by a Tampa engineering firm who foresaw the available water coming from the Manatee basin water supply. Basing their estimates on this recommendation, they felt the cost, initially, would be a minimum of \$5 per month per service contract, which would be reduced as soon as growth of subscribers increased. This amount would cover usage of up to 6,000 gallons per month.

*Continued on page 15*



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*Continued from page 13*

The Englewood Chamber of Commerce approved the plan, and elected the first water board members. They were: W. C. Troendle, Chairman; L. H. Simonson, Vice-Chairman; W. L. Hart, Secretary; Donald W. Adams, Cecil Duff-Stevens, Niels Engleson, William R. Lethbridge, Clarence F. Marx, and Ralph E. Horton.

The first order of business after the new board was elected was to start a public information campaign to educate the public. The first organization to endorse and join the effort to petition citizens for a water district was the West Charlotte Civic Association, and the first to object to the tax increase was the Englewood Civic Council.

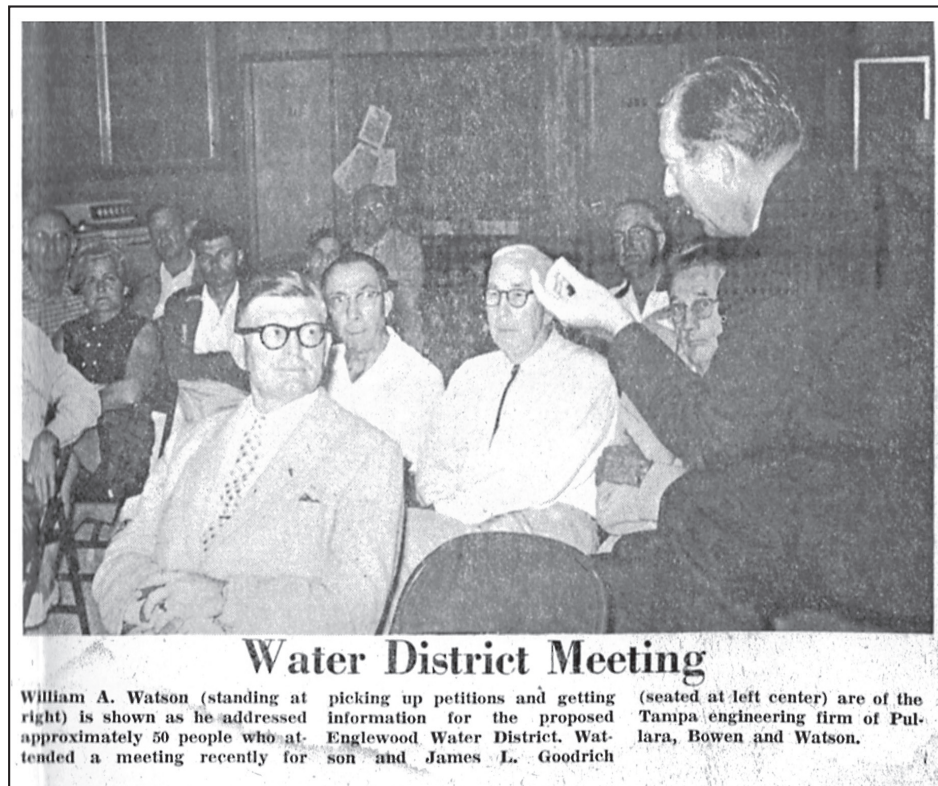
Petitions to state legislators were organized by approximately 50 residents. Sarasota County officials issued a proclamation of support in November, 1958. Charlotte and Sarasota County Commissioners issued a resolution to the State urging and endorsing the creation of the Englewood Water District later in the month. The water district boundaries were described as Buchan airfield to Florida Avenue in Grove City.

Not wanting to be overly optimistic, Mr. Troendle was quoted in a newspaper article December, 1958, "...even after the enabling act is passed by the State Legislature, the proposal will have to be approved by the voters in referendums in the affected areas. If those are approved, a board of trustees will be appointed by the governor to guide construction and operation of a water system."

Another article that month stated there would be test drillings for a water source in the area. The Englewood Chamber of Commerce presented a public meeting in which South Sarasota County Health Official Charles Holmes and Bill Thomas of Charlotte County Health Department reported 30% of the well water in the area exceeded the health department bacteria count standards.

Even though all the required signatures were not collected on the petition in December, 1958, the committee moved ahead approving contracts with financial firms B. J. Van Ingen and Adams Sloan and Co., of New York City and Sarasota.

Their roles were to assist as fiscal agents, drafting the legislation wording, and gathering economic information necessary to promote the sale of the bonds after the legislation and referendums were passed. Plans were completed for the presentation to the Legislature and reviewed at a meeting at Chairman W.C. Troendle's home in February, 1959. It was expected, at this point, that the proposed water district act would be a major item on the legislature's agenda. People who had not signed the petition or the service



*This newspaper clipping is from the Englewood Herald.*

contracts were encouraged to stop at the Chamber of Commerce office to sign them. It was reported that no attempt would be made for legislation unless the majority of residents favored the proposal. "It would be foolish to ask the state to pass a law we can't make use of," said committee member William L. Hart.

Wording of the petition read: "We, the undersigned citizens of the Englewood area, do hereby petition you, our state legislative delegation in the Florida State Legislature, for a special act of the Legislature creating a Water and Sanitary District for the Englewood area of Charlotte and Sarasota Counties. It being specially understood that this special act should be subject to a referendum and drawn in compliance with the constitutional laws of the state of Florida. Respectfully submitted."

Over 50 people volunteered to collect signatures on the petitions. "Without the help of the volunteer workers who have given their time and effort at a personal sacrifice to their families and jobs, this could never have been accomplished," said Mr. Troendle.

Meanwhile, during the public campaign, the water board members made a bid for a federal saline plant, which would convert sea water to fresh water. They met with E.A. Calwallader from the Department of the Interior in Washington D.C. The experimental process would treat brackish water through a membrane system, and seawater by a freezing and distilling method. Only 5 plants would be permitted at that time in the U.S.

In 1984, William Hart recollected to a Herald Tribune reporter, "EWD developed strictly by chance, or a result of a series of happenstance." Hart was president of

the Englewood Chamber of Commerce in 1957. When he built his home, he said he had difficulty finding a suitable source of water. "A Venice company offered to provide water but needed assurance that 1,400 connections would be guaranteed," he added. They knew they couldn't guarantee those numbers, so they pushed on for their own water system.

Tuesday, October 6, 1959, voters overwhelmingly approved the creation of the Englewood Water District. Articles indicate a rallying of the community was sparked by an injunction filed by Venetia, Inc., and Manasota Water Front, Inc., who sought to halt the referendum as unconstitutional. That is what made the vote such a landslide victory. Poll workers said many voters told them earlier they were willing to let the majority rule, but after learning about the injunction, they were so angry with "outsiders" trying to tell them what to do, they were motivated to go to the polls. The injunction ultimately was dismissed by Judge John D. Justice. Sarasota County voters voted "better than two to one," while "Charlotte County voters voted a solid five to one" to form the water district. The legislatures did not wait until the referendum, because records show that the State House of Representatives approved the Enabling Act May 19, 1959, and the State Senate approved it May 23, 1959. Governor Leroy Collins passed the act into Law on June 2, 1959.

Neighborhood concerns for hook-ups continued throughout the next ten years.

January, 1971, Joe Czerwinski reports, "The Water District is growing at a fabulous rate. We are now installing 60 meters per month. Next year, we expect about 100 per month. The bonding limit

*Continued on page 19*

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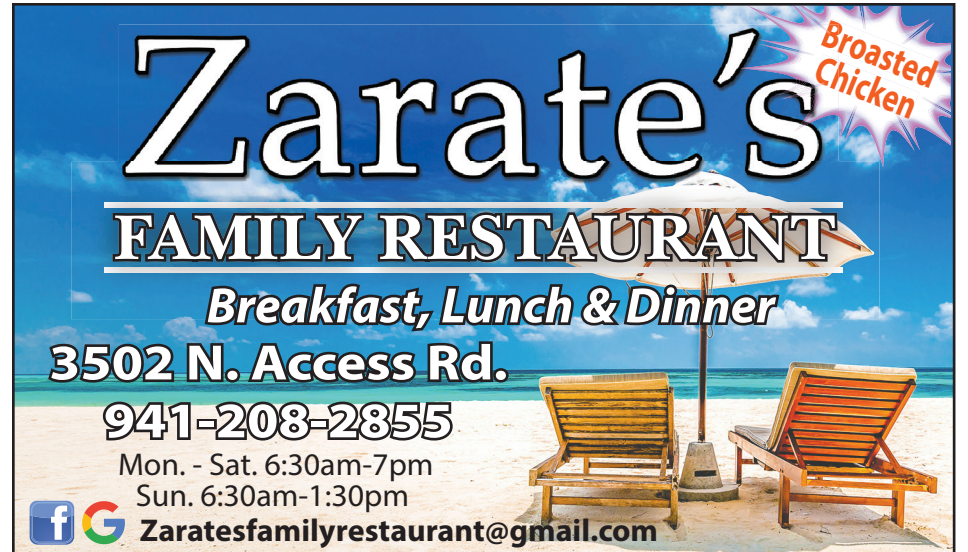
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Mike Ray at the reverse osmosis plant in 1982. Picture from the Englewood Herald.

Continued from page 15

can be increased from \$2 million to \$6 million (because of this growth). If this happens Overbrook can count on getting water.”

The Board voted to buy West Charlotte Utilities sewer system after a judge approved in 1994, and EWD now had its own centralized sewer system.

This same month, Englewood Water District received an award from Environmental Engineering section of the Sarasota County Health Department. The award stated, “The Englewood Water District plant, managed by Wayne Roddey reflects a high degree of efficiency in operation and management.”

The water quality was the best in SW Florida. For example, in May, 1997, Kevin Zee opened a micro-brewery, Bootleggers on Dearborn Street. He reported that he sent water samples to an independent national lab for analysis and the water was determined to be in the top 10% of the country for purity.

When streets flood, most areas can still flush toilets thanks to a successful vacuum sewer system. A delegation of water engineers from Japan visited EWD in July, 1997 to tour and learn about the world renowned system with EWD Administrator Jim Elder and Jonathan Cole from Giffels Webster Engineers.

If one simply looks at EWD today and realizes there was no running water in homes in 1959, a lot had to be accomplished. For a mid-size utility, the EWD has been a leader in the industry in many ways. The Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant was one of the first R.O. plants constructed in the nation in the early 1980s. Many of the lessons learned in this facility have been incorporated

into other facilities worldwide. The EWD, at one time, had the largest vacuum wastewater collection system in the world; if not still the largest, it remains at least one of the largest. Over the years, newer systems have benefited from the many improvements made by EWD staff to the vacuum system.

Englewood Water District started with a small group who steadfastly believed in fulfilling a need for all of us. They pursued it even when it meant putting their personal lives and finances on the line. Employees like Wayne Roddey spent 33 years with EWD, and mortgaged his home to help finance EWD in the early years to make it a reality. Many more people have served on the Board of Trustees for EWD, and there are over 78 full time employees who work there today.

Current administrator Ray Burroughs says, “Englewood Water District has grown in many ways since our last update. Reuse water has been a major factor in our growth. We’re proud to say that we recycle nearly 100% of our wastewater for irrigation purposes. We also anticipate major growth in the coming years as 10,000 homes will come into our service area from Wellen Park. This will necessitate a brand new state of the art Waste Water Facility in the northern region of our service area. We’re dedicated to serving the Englewood Community with the best drinking water and wastewater services in SW Florida, while maintaining affordable prices for our customers.”

Thanks to the hard work and perseverance of early Englewood Pioneers, we have some of the best drinking water in southwest Florida. Today, EWD also provides 16,067 sewer connections, and 18,294 water hookups in the community.



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# MEMORIES OF CAJUN CLUB, SHIP'S LANTERN, MAD SAM'S AND MORE

By Sharyn Lonsdale



*Mad Sam's*



*Bootleggers*

The members of the Facebook group “Remember in Englewood When...” really remember their restaurants.

They say they can still taste the wings at Charley's, rice pudding from Howard's, ice cream at the Dairy Freeze, pies at Miller's, barbecue at Food is Love and chocolate chip pancakes at Coney Island, “the only reason I'd ever wake up early for high school,” said Cheyenne Alford.

From Barnacle Bill's and Beaches to El Matador and Mad Sam's, they shared their favorite dishes and fondest memories, of not only dining, but working at gone but not forgotten restaurants. Many, like Jaime Thomson DuPree, worked at three or more places and knew each other from working together. We wish we had room to share all their stories. Here are a few.

Of all the restaurants, The Cajun Club inspired the most memories and seemed to employ half the people in the group. Ryan Birdsey knows all about the North Englewood institution. His grandfather, Fran Matherne, opened the restaurant with wife Maryan in 1964. “It started as a pool hall,” said Birdsey, with the Louisiana-born Matherne cooking his “legendary gumbo” for his friends. “I think the Cajun Pie was my grandmother's recipe and I know for a fact the stuffed flounder on the buffet was.” Cheyanne Smith joked that Ryan's grandfather's gumbo was responsible for “almost 10 pounds around my waist. It was soooo good.” Anyone craving the gumbo is in luck. Scott Kommersmith

was a chef there for 17 years and says he can still make the Gumbo and Crab and Cheese soup. He even got his hands on the original Cajun Pie recipe.

“We would go to the Old Cajun Club every Friday night,” said Sheryl Albrecht Strall. “We would walk in and Kathy Patterson Brobst always had my dad's beer waiting on the table! We felt special!!” Mandy McWilliams recalled her grandfather bringing her family to the Cajun Club when he visited from Michigan. “I tried frog's legs there for the first time when I was 7 or 8 and loved them.” Jaimie Exner had her first Fuzzy Navel there at 14. Veronica Driscoll remembers sipping Shirley Temples at six and the “giant block of cheddar cheese” on the buffet.

Barnacle Bill's got credit for its food and portions, including plate-sized hamburgers, seafood chowder, cornbread and, according to Julie Jean Robertson, “grouper sandwiches as big as your head.” People also recalled the crowds. Van Hubbard said he'd get there at 11 am to avoid the wait.

Do you remember Famous Recipe Chicken? Kim Hite Schad does. “My mom and I went there at least once a week.” Kim Kazanecki Toth, who worked there, muses “The best chicken ever and homemade coleslaw.” Jill Kazanecki also worked there and shared one of the more colorful memories. “At night, when we put the leftover chicken in the dumpster, the humongous raccoons would stand on top of each other to open the top and pass out the chicken down the line. It was hilarious.”

Entertainment also played a big part in peoples' memories. Diane Statler Barton said her father, Joe Statler, played the keyboard at El Matador in 1978 and her uncle, Will Statler, played guitar at the Englewood Elks. Donna Manga remembered Diane herself playing at Ship's Lantern, where Christine Marchessault played guitar for the first time. “I was so nervous and my guitar was out of tune, but nobody seemed to notice,” she said.

The “small-town” life in Englewood and its extraordinary people came up again and again.

“I bought a house on Coconut Ave in 1991, a literal stone's throw from Fideli's,” said Ann Marie Lupica. “We would go at least once or twice a week, and became good friends with Carol and Fidel.” Lupica remembered the “delicious homemade food, live music and impromptu dancing,” and a crowd that “liked to stay up past 9.”

Todd Tyler recalled his first job at Barnacle Bill's, washing dishes by hand for \$3.25 an hour. “But Annette (Verdon) was so good to me, fed me steak dinner nearly every night and made sure I always had a roof over my head. She was the best boss that I have ever had. I loved that place and the people I worked with were then, and still are, family to me.”

Rachel Hager Youngblood said her grandparents managed the Round Robin in the early 1970s, and her mom and other family worked there. No babysitter, no problem. “They set up a high chair in the kitchen for me.”

Janice Parks Alston remembers Pete's Tavern as “the only place in Englewood to get pizza” in the 60s. “Since it was a tavern, some people couldn't or wouldn't go inside to get their pizza, so they would bring it out the west door to your car.”

“I remember the Oyster Bar where Howard's (Artur's) is now,” said Jill Giuliano Dudley. “My dad owned Jack's Plumbing and used to barter work for food! They must have had terrible plumbing as we ate there quite a bit.”

Of course, there were plenty of firsts. Kelly Killam's first job was bussing at the Flying Bridge. Donna Manga sang karaoke for the first time at Mad Sam's. Christine Marchessault had her first legal drink at Ship's Lantern and got her first job in Florida at the Captain's Club. Mischelle Nicol Rozier's first job was prep cook at the Oyster Bar, and years later, she had her first drink at a bar there.

Midge Platt Orren said her dad, Don Platt, brought her and twin sister, Tammy, to the Oyster Bar for their first drink. “When we ordered, Dick looked at Dad and said, “I don't know Don, but one of them has been coming here for a while now.” I said, “Not me, I party at the beach.”

These stories are memories and are not meant to be seen as a fact-based recounting of the history of the businesses mentioned by the participants. You can find the Remember in Englewood When group on Facebook.





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# Englewood's First Ambulance

By Warren Richardson

*Editor's note: This article was written for the 1993 November/December Images magazine. All information was accurate at that time.*

**911 emergency service did not exist in the Englewood of the late 1960s.** A forty minute drive brought the nearest ambulance from Venice, too far for emergency relief. Persons with station wagons who happened to be near an emergency often became a Good Samaritan. Ironing boards served as a stretcher. Sandbags immobilized an injured neck or limb.

This predicament was the downside of Englewood's blissful coastal lifestyle as the town prepared to enter the 1970s. The population was growing, causing more emergencies to arise. Foresighted men recognized that things could not continue as they had. With their nucleus in the Englewood Volunteer Fire Department, a group, lead by Reverend Arlo Leinback, Bob Scott, and Wendell Hicks, began planning to purchase an ambulance for Englewood. It was their experience with the dying man on the floor of the Pantry Pride Grocery Store that led Bonnie and Clyde Jennings to join the group.

It took a year's worth of planning and fund-raising. The group solicited donations of cash and materials from the community. In 1970, the dream became reality when they purchased two Ford vans, a half-ton and a three-quarter ton, for \$6,600. The volunteers stripped the vehicles, built cabinets inside and supplied them with \$14,000 worth of surplus government equipment purchased in Stark. A third ambulance was acquired when Ross Funeral Home in Venice donated a hearse to the group.

"We carried our water in milk cartons," recalls Jennings, "and we used pillow cases for rags. That's what we ran with hoping, that eventually, the young people would get the schooling they needed. They did, and now they're running the ambulance. That was our main goal."

All the participants in the ambulance service traveled to the Venice hospital to receive Emergency Medical Training and CPR. The training sessions continued in the group's weekly meetings. There they learned a variety



*Margaret "Bonnie" and "Clyde" Jennings joined the team dedicated to bringing emergency service to the community.*

of techniques, such as the proper manner to remove an auto accident victim from the vehicle.

In several cases, others besides the townspeople became involved with the fledgling service. "Many people who came down here to visit in those days were kind enough to assist us," Jennings says, "because it was our people who gave them the chance to enjoy their vacations. And many of these strangers would help us on a run and some of them had training that they passed on to us."

Sometime in 1970, the group became operational, and ironically, the first call they handled was for Reverend Leinback's wife.

When they were on duty, Bonnie and Clyde kept an ambulance at their house on Oxford Drive. If an emergency arose, they were contacted by beeper or phone. And they arose all the time. "We'd take the ambulance to the grocery store," says Jennings, "because we were running night and day and couldn't leave it. We carried our beeper inside and bought our staples first. If it went off, we left our groceries where they were and went. We'd return later and finish. They were never bothered."

Confusion often occurred over the location of calls because the village

straddled the county line and residents selected their own house numbers. For example, Jennings relates, there was a Green Street located at each end of town and the ambulance was delayed getting there because they were on the wrong Green Street.

Most of the emergencies the crew handled involved auto accidents. When one occurred, the operator transmitted a Code Fox call and everyone responded. Jennings and Scott both agree on the worst accident they handled during their tenure. It happened at the north end of town near Green Thumb Nursery. A young man and woman riding a motorcycle had flown up the road and struck a vehicle heading to Sarasota. The collision killed the three people.

The threat of a serious storm also involved the ambulance service. "They evacuated the beach every time," says Jennings, "and the residents stayed at the fire hall. The only ones allowed in the area were ourselves, the police, firemen and the power company. We were like an early Disaster Preparedness Team.

Bonnie Jennings recalls one incident where a storm had hit the beach area but a young couple had remained behind trying to sandbag their house to save it. "Their car was sitting there, waiting,"

she remembers, "but the water rose so fast, they had no time to get to it. They could just grab their baby, and we had to run them out of there. "Every situation was different," she says. "You had to make a decision right there on the spot."

On the other hand, there were those emergencies that were a true joy. For example, Jennings relates a story about a run they made on their next to last day with the service. "No one delivered babies except at the hospital in Sarasota. We had this call from a woman who was expecting her third child. She'd been waiting for her husband to come home and take her, but he hadn't arrived. We drove her into Sarasota but discovered that construction had closed the road at Stickney Point. We had to detour from one road to the next to make it to the hospital. All the while I'm holding her legs and saying 'Breathe deep, dear, breathe deep,' and Clyde's getting ready to make the delivery, which we had never done before. We never had to, but when we reached the hospital, they rushed her upstairs, and a few minutes later the baby was born." Jennings pauses, then chuckles. "When the poor husband arrived, he was so excited he could hardly sign the slip stating we had taken her to the hospital."

Yet, while some memories may be grim, both Jennings and Scott agree that they provided a needed service to the community. "This is not I done, this is WE done," says Jennings. "Englewood was like a big family back then. We cared about our neighbors and friends."

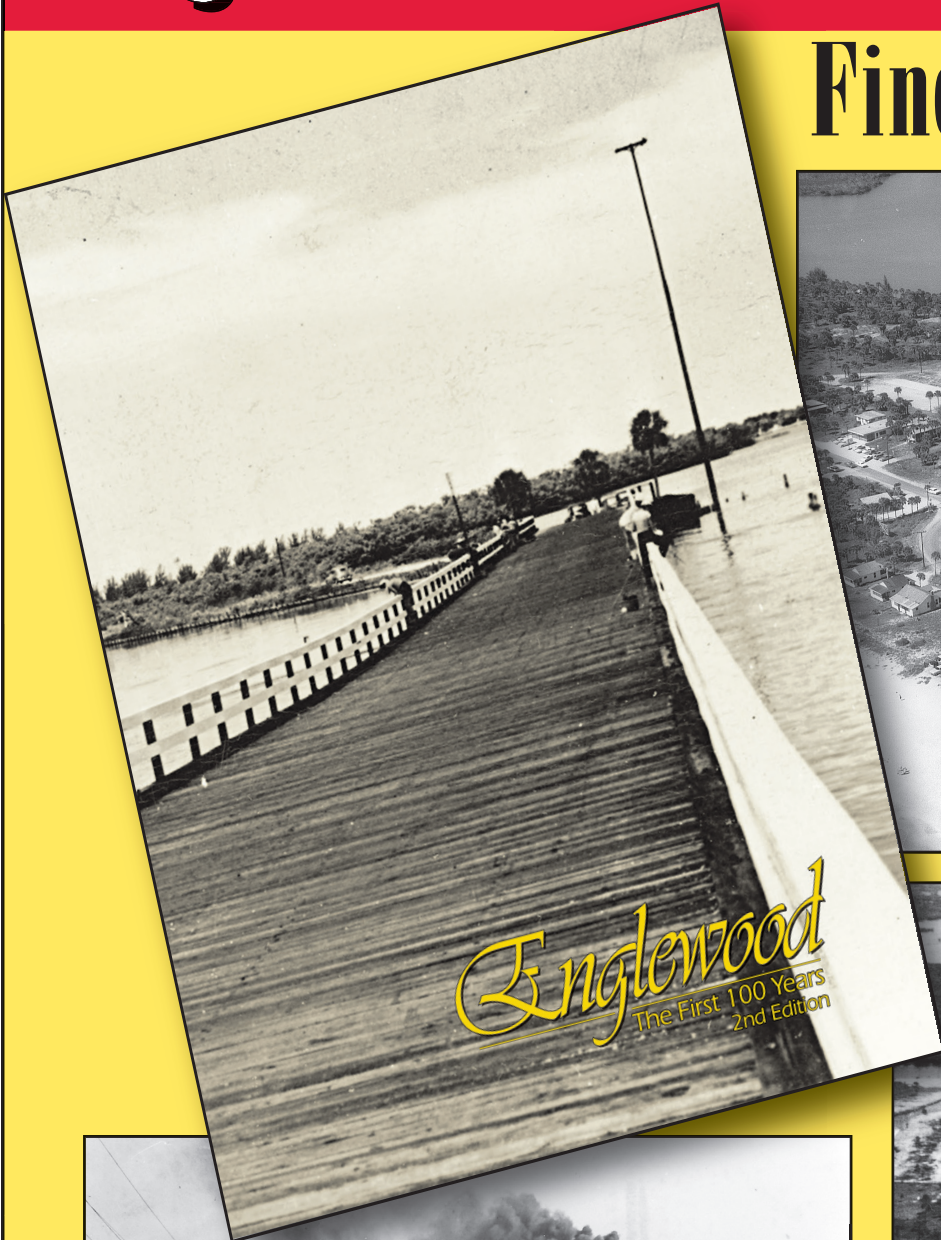
Scott agrees. "Everyone cooperated," he says, "because we wanted to provide a first class ambulance service to the community."

Bonnie Jennings is proud of the four and a half years Clyde and she spent working with the ambulance service. Today she is employed at the Englewood Hospital and occasionally runs into someone whom she remembers from an emergency. It gives her a good feeling to know the service she provided to that person. It all goes back to that night in the Food Pantry. "What're you gonna do?" she says. "It was needed."

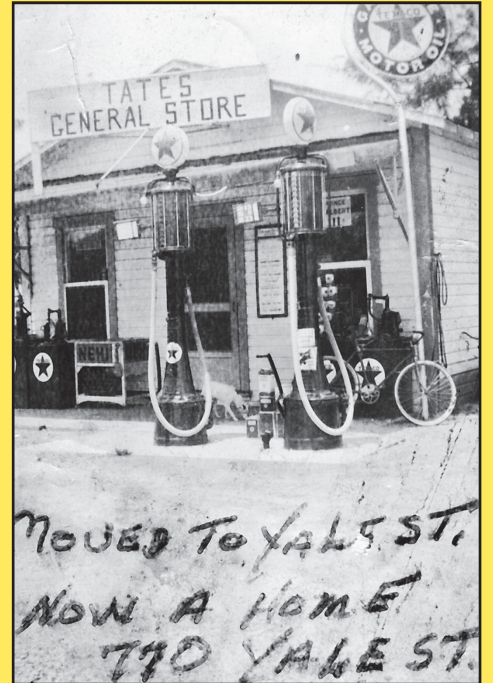


# Englewood: The First 100 Years, 2nd Edition

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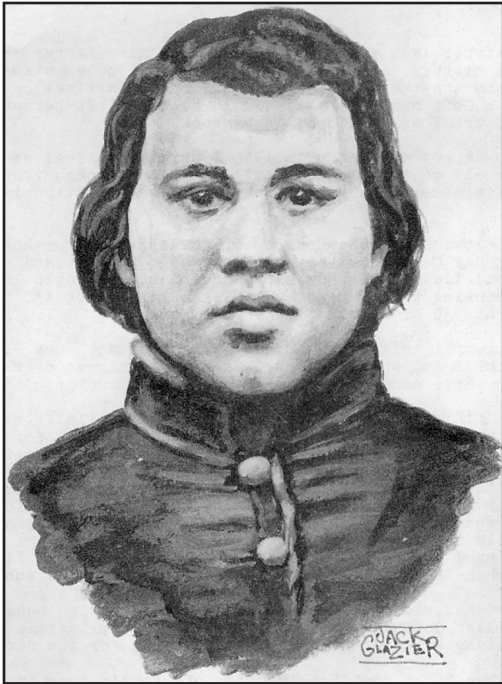
This beautiful pictorial history book is 160 pages and has over 600 photos. It has been reprinted for the 20th Anniversary of the original publishing. The original 144 pages have been updated, there are 10 additional pages of new history photos from the past 20 years and there is an index with the names of everyone identified in the book and the page(s) where they can be found.

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*William Goff (1845-1919) was a sea captain before he came to the Lemon Bay area. He and his brother, Dempse, along with their nephew, Jim, worked the land in Vineland. William is credited as being the first settler in the Englewood area, arriving in 1878.*



*Ellie Goff Conway (daughter of William and Rebecca Goff) is the first known white child born in Englewood. She is pictured here with her husband, Clyde, and their children. L-R: Effie, Clyde, Raymond (held by Clyde), Nettie, Ellie holding Leasie, and Fern. Photo circa 1913 in McCall.*



*In the late 1910s a turpentine truck that serviced the stills in Vineland and Woodmere. Unidentified man and woman.*



*J.D. "Jack" and Margaret (Buchan) Tate inside Tate's General Store in 1939.*



*L.A. Ainger, Sr. and his third wife, Ora, moved into town and built a new home and opened, Ainger General Store, next to their new home*



*L.A. Ainger, Sr. and Ora Ainger standing in front of their home.*





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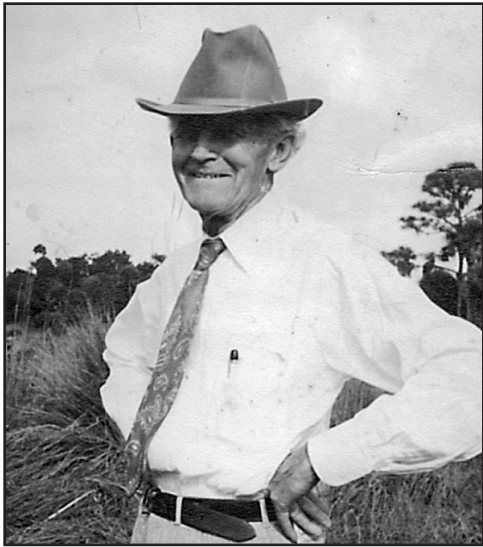


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*James Elwood "J.E." Bartlett (1872-1951) was responsible for bringing the army barracks to Englewood from the Venice Airbase. He and H.P. Kuykendall owned the Venice Bay Trailer Park where they rented trailers to lower-ranked G.I.s, at affordable rates for their families. J.E. was very involved in developing the Englewood area. Note the two ads on the right.*

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*Bob and Becky Bailey at the Cape Haze entrance to Rotonda in the early 1970s.*



*The Lock 'n Key on Manasota Key in 1967.*



*Polio immunizations being administrated at the American Legion on McCall Road during the 1950s.*



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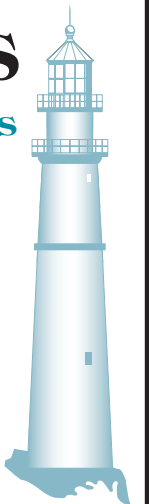
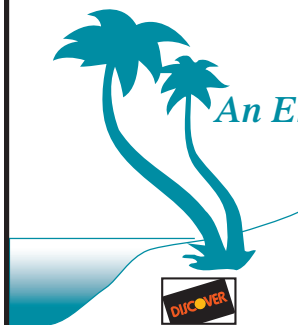
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*The hurricane of 1926 swept through Englewood. This photo shows Buchan's Landing with the Royal Casino visible in the bay.*



*The Englewood Post Office, which was originally an army barracks at the Venice Airbase, was located at the northwest corner of Elm and Dearborn Streets.*



*Guests at Angler's Resort in 1958 had a good day fishing.*



*The busy corner of Elm and Dearborn looking northwest in 1958.*



**Bridge Across Lemon Bay - Englewood, Fla.**

*Some called this the Chadwick Bridge, though it was never officially named. The Chadwick family built two bridges across Lemon Bay in the 1920s at a cost of \$48,000, and collected a 50 cent toll which the locals thought was expensive. After the land bust in 1926 and the*

*stock market crash in 1929, the Chadwicks lost everything and Charlotte County acquired both bridges. The Tom Adams and Swepston Bridges replaced the old wooden bridges. This photo is taken from the main bridge looking southwest. Circa late 1940s.*



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