

6-1-1982

***Surf, Sand and Post Card Sunsets* by Frank T. Hurley, Jr.**

Ken Ford

Heritage Park Historical Museum, Largo, Florida

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Recommended Citation

Ford, Ken (1982) "*Surf, Sand and Post Card Sunsets* by Frank T. Hurley, Jr.," *Tampa Bay History*. Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol4/iss1/12>

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Airplane spraying canal choked with hyacinths in 1946.

Photograph from *Beyond the Fourth Generation*.

active consideration. It would have been interesting to discuss with the author, now deceased, what his thoughts and comments would be with regard to the present situation of Florida's water resources.

Although some readers may not agree with the reasons why or with what has been done in the management of south Florida water resources, the book is an excellent look at the history of water management in south Florida and the motivations behind the historical events. Hopefully, we have learned from the experiences of the past generations and will apply those experiences to the management of Florida's water resources in the next generation.

William Courser

Surf, Sand and Post Card Sunsets. By Frank T. Hurley, Jr. St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, 1977.
Frank T. Hurley, Jr. Photographs.

Writing interesting local history is no easy task, and Frank Hurley is to be commended for his efforts in producing one of the most informative and enjoyable monographs on local history in the Tampa Bay area. The bibliography is impressive and should be of considerable help to future historians exploring these waters.

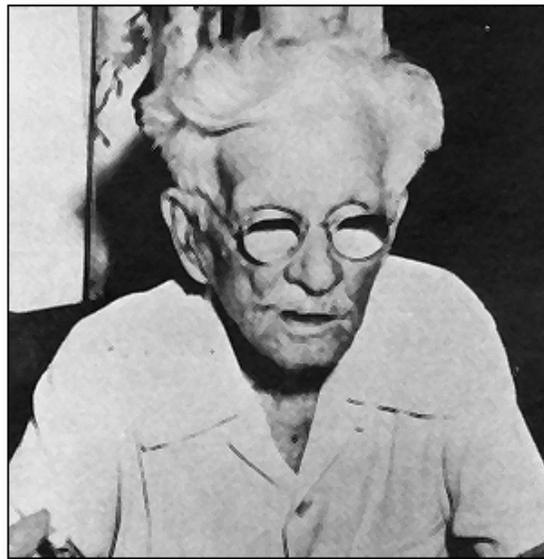
The book follows a chronological development of the beaches with particular emphasis on Pass-a-Grille. The first chapters deal with Indians and *conquistadores* in which he describes the islands as a “Pre-Columbia Supermarket” satisfying the Lucullan dining habits of the Timucuan. The results of these habits were numerous deposits of artifacts, bones, and shell mounds for future study by archeologists. The *conquistadores* or “Spain’s Paladins of Discovery” left little impact on the shores of the gulf beaches except to decimate the Indian population on the islands.

After briefly touching on British lack of interest in the area and the “unpleasantness at Lexington and Concord” which sparked the American Revolution, we find the islands were uninhabited until Florida was purchased by the United States, and fishermen began using the islands for “fish ranches.” Most of the fish were sold to Cuban plantations to feed the *campesinos*.

The beaches remained a place to fish and hunt not to live, until the latter part of the nineteenth century. The first permanent resident on the Keys was Zephaniah Phillips who homesteaded on Pass-a-Grille in the late 1880s. In 1898, the army began construction of Fort DeSoto on Mullet Key, and George Lizotte, a tour guide from London, made his first trip to the island.

Lizotte was to become one of Pass-a-Grille’s most famous residents when he opened the first hotel, the Bonhomie, on the gulf several years later. Lizotte’s hotel, rustic as it was, would become well known along the gulf coast as a place to fish, swim, and enjoy the culinary delights prepared by Lizotte himself.

The middle chapters are perhaps the most interesting in tracing the slow but relentless development of the beaches by those hardy pioneers that withstood the heat, mosquitoes, and lack of cultural amenities in return for the serenity and solitude that the islands could provide. This section also traces the settlement and growth of the north islands, particularly Indian Rocks Beach. Descriptions of the first automobile, bridge, streetcar, and other such mundane events can make for dull reading, but Hurley documents such occurrences with enough anecdotes and local folklore that make it interesting and entertaining.



George Lizotte built the first hotel on the gulf beaches in 1901, and was Pass-a-Grille’s first postmaster. For a short time he was also mayor.

Photograph from *Surf, Sand and Postcard Sunsets*.

Particular attention was given to the construction of the fabled Don CeSar Hotel and some of the prominent guests who stayed there during the thirties. The guest register of the Depression Era included such names as Clarence Darrow, Walter Mayo, Henry Doherty, Senator Harry Byrd, and F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. The hotel remained solvent through the depression attesting to the popularity of the gulf beaches in spite of the economic disaster that gripped the nation. World War II was a busy time on the islands as men camped on the beaches and the Don CeSar was taken over by the government to house troops. Eventually it became a convalescent hospital and later, after the war, the VA Administrative Center for the west coast of Florida.

After World War II, there was a boom as servicemen returned home and remembered the time spent, however brief, on the gulf coast. Many returned to live in Pinellas County and some, of course, on the sun drenched islands. The postwar boom created a new demand for waterfront living, and the result was a new era of dredge and fill. The more recent history of the beaches is developed thoroughly but is less interesting, particularly for those of us that have lived through the condominium era. His monograph certainly merits the attention of any serious scholar of local history, and those interested in a good story.

Ken Ford

Land into Water – Water into Land: A History of Water Management in Florida. By Nelson Manfred Blake. Tallahassee, 1980. The University Presses of Florida. Pp. 344.

The growing concern about the natural environment of Florida and in particular its water resources has generated a number of studies. *Land into Water – Water into Land* provides an informative historical perspective on the management of water resources of the state. The title of the book refers to the ubiquitous developer's dream of dredge and fill operations in forging ahead in the name of progress.

According to the author, the book was written to answer a number of questions pertaining to the management of the state's water resources: "How did Florida get this way? Why and when were the waterways, canals, and the ditches dug? Why and when were the swamplands drained? What visions of progress danced before the eyes of the settlers and influenced the early politicians? What dreams of profit impelled succeeding generations of businessmen to concoct vast schemes for cutting up the landscape? [And] why did the shifting goals of the populace – private aggrandizement, agricultural expansion, reclamation, flood control, conservation, environmentalism – favor a certain public policy at one time and quite different ones during later periods?"

In coming to grips with these questions many important government reports have been used as well as outstanding books on the subject such as Carter's *The Florida Experience*. A number of maps and photographs of landscapes aid in comprehending the topic.

The twelve chapters take the reader from a discussion of the early perceptions settlers had of the state, to the beginnings of planning and development of canals and other waterways and to early outside investors in land and water projects (ch. 4).