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Book Notes

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Alberta and Nell Colcord as children playing on Fort Myers' McGregor Boulevard.

Photograph from *Early Fort Myers*.

BOOK NOTES

Early Fort Myers: Tales of Two Sisters. By Alberta Colcord Barnes and Nell Colcord Weidenbach. Punta Gorda, Florida. 1993. viii, 168 pp. Illustrations. Index. Paper \$12.95.

The Colcord sisters' book is a collection of entertaining historical vignettes portraying life in Fort Myers from the 1890s to the 1930s. Although some of the stories have previously appeared in modified form in such publications as the *Caloosa Quarterly* and *Miami Herald*, much of the material appears here for the first time. In writing the book, the third-generation Fort Myers natives drew not only on their personal memories of the 1920s and 1930s, but also on the tales of pioneer life told by their mother and grandmother. Additionally, during her years of service as a registered nurse, Alberta Colcord Weidenbach was able to record firsthand the memories and reminiscences of many elderly Fort Myers pioneers.

The book is divided into three sections, entitled "Personages From the Past," "Events of Yesteryear," and "Reminiscences." From the 1890s equestrian ring tournaments that gave the name of the city's Tournament Street to the eight "commandments" for coping with the omnipresent Florida cockroaches of pre-Orkin-Man days, the individual chapters give a diverse series of snapshots illuminating the tribulations and rewards of living in early Fort Myers. The book also contains a sixteen-page photographic section that illustrates the various stories.

The book is available from the Southwest Florida Historical Society, and should be enjoyed by anyone interested in what daily life was like in Fort Myers in the "Old Days."