



Sun-Tattler Collection

In Memoriam:
Stuart B. McIver
(1921-2008)

The Historical Commission mourns the loss of Stuart Betts McIver, one of South Florida's most prolific and popular historians, who passed away on April 24. Author of fourteen books on Florida history, Stuart was born on Christmas Day, 1921, in Sanford, North Carolina, to Dr. Lynn McIver, a physician, and Maude M. McIver (Betts). After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Stuart worked as a journalist for *The Greensboro Daily News*, *Charlotte News*, and later for the *Baltimore Sun*, before moving with his wife, Joan, to South Florida in 1962. They have been residents of Lighthouse Point since 1968. He is survived by his wife and five children: Stuart Jr., Jan Hammett, Laurel McIver, Barbara McIver, and Margery Horrigan.

Author of *Death in the Everglades: The Murder of Guy Bradley, America's First Martyr to Environmentalism* (2003), Stuart also wrote *Fort Lauderdale and Broward County: An Illustrated History* (1983) and *Glimpses of South Florida History* (1988) as well as hundreds of stories for local publications, including *Sunshine* magazine, and authoritative community histories for the cities of Plantation, Coral Springs, and Wilton Manors. In 1990 and 1991, he received the Florida Historical Society's Golden Quill Award for his historical series, "The Way We Were." He served three years as president of the Florida Chapter of the Mystery Writers of America, served as regional vice president, was president of the Book Group of South Florida, and served on the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society.

In 2002, Stuart was appointed to the Broward County Historical Commission by Broward County Commissioner Jim Scott and was re-appointed by Commissioner Ken Keechl. In 2003, the Broward County Historical Commission presented Stuart with the Dr. Cooper Kirk Memorial Award. Named in honor of the first Broward County Historian, the award was first given in 1992 and traditionally presented to prominent local history writers and significant persons involved in preserving our history. Past recipients include Donald Lester, Cathleen Anderson, Joe Knetsch, Patricia Smith, Gerald Thompson, Ray Collier, Lowell Showalter, Carmen McGarry, the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Julia Jones, Gypsy Graves, Susan Gillis, and Joan Mickelson.

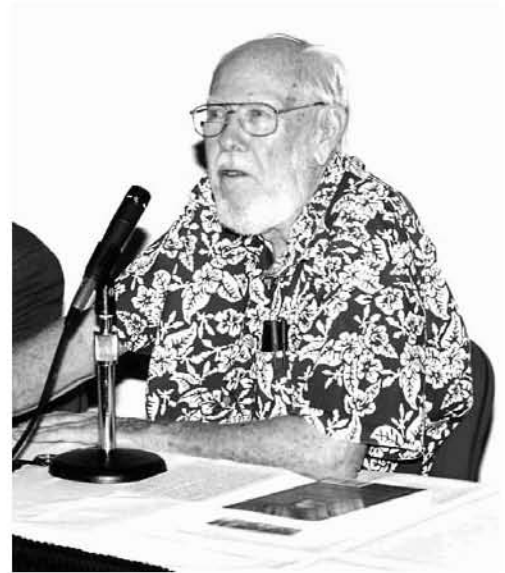
In addition to his book and newspaper writing, Stuart wrote scripts and directed more than eighty documentary films, one of which received a Silver Medal at the Venice Film Festival. He made films for many organizations such as the Florida Department of Transportation and Florida Development Commission, Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, Sikorsky Aircraft, and Perry Submarines.

Over the years, Stuart unstintingly volunteered his time to speak to the community on a variety of subjects. Almost without exception, Stuart would tell a story or two about some of the “Dreamers, Schemers, and Scalawags” who contributed to our local history and who even provided the title of a book he published on many of them in 1994. Stuart always loved a good story. At age 81, Stuart contributed to the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society as a panel member at one of the Society’s “Hotels of Fort Lauderdale” lunchtime programs on October 7, 2003. His story about Tom Watson and the Las Olas Inn ranks among his very best: short, concise, descriptive, and a great punch line. Stuart always told a good story.

All of us in the historical community admired his warm smile, gentle manner, and ready wit, Stuart will be sorely missed but not forgotten.

William G. Crawford, Jr.

Past President, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society



Stuart McIver. From the collection of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.