

# BOOKS

*Lemon City: Pioneering on Biscayne Bay, 1850-1925.* By Thelma Peters. Banyan Books, Miami. 302 pages. 130 photos. \$8.59.

Thelma Peters, president of the Florida Historical Society, has written what the Miami *Herald* has called "a model local history." Her subject is Lemon City, her home town. Strictly speaking, however, Lemon City was never a real town but, rather, a settlement of varying boundaries that was eventually engulfed by the City of Miami.

At one time Lemon City was also the home of the Cromartie family and the scene of Ivy Cromartie's marriage to Frank Stranahan. The Cromarties built a home along a sand trail on a ridge near the present-day intersection of NE 66th Street and Second Avenue. On September 22, 1899, the Miami *Metropolis* announced that Ivy Cromartie would be going to Fort Lauderdale to teach and that "she would be greatly missed." There in Fort Lauderdale Ivy met Frank Stranahan, whom she married at the Cromartie family home in Lemon City on August 16, 1900. Dr. Peters writes, "The *Metropolis* reported that the marriage came as a surprise to their friends."

Lemon City was once a thriving settlement on Biscayne Bay, a major part of what would eventually become Miami. Never a town as such, it nonetheless had a school, post office, churches, stores, library, even a community improvement association.

But "unlike Coconut Grove, it hadn't kept its identity," observed Dr. Peters, who has now proceeded to do something about that deficiency. "Lemon City had a different cast of characters from the Carl Fishers, the Peacocks, the Munroes. But the pioneers who settled Lemon City deserved recognition, too."

Dr. Peters has researched her subject by interviewing old settlers and their descendants, studying the public documents and exploring newspapers from an earlier era, such as the *Indian River Advocate* and the *Tropical Sun*. All too often research this thorough emerges as nothing more than a lifeless, excessively detailed chronology. *Lemon City*, however, is what a local history should be, a story about people and their life-styles told with humor, warmth and genuine affection.

Stuart McIver

*Napoleon Bonaparte Broward*, Samuel Proctor, University of Florida Press, 1950, 400 pp.

Samuel Proctor's highly readable biography is worthwhile on two counts. Primarily, he recounts the life of Napoleon B. Broward and his family from the grandfather's migration to Spanish Florida in 1790 through Broward's own substantial contribution to Florida through the early 1900's. Secondly, the author gives a good account of the times of Napoleon B. Broward without dwelling single-mindedly on the influence and accomplishments of the man.

Broward's life is an adventure in itself. Coming from an established and financially comfortable family, the Civil War reduced Napoleon B. Broward and his brother Montcalm to scratching out a meager existence as farmers in northern Florida. Later, by taking jobs on river steamers and lumber schooners he made his way to Massachusetts and, after shipping out on fishing boats for two years, he finally made his way back to Florida. Once home he worked his way into being a wealthy and respected river captain. Unexpectedly appointed sheriff of Jacksonville, he gained a following and reputation by being dismissed for taking an unpopular stand. In the early 1890's he gained state and national notoriety by running guns and insurgents to Spanish-dominated Cuba on his tugboat "The Three Friends." Using this new fame he again involved himself with Jacksonville politics, gradually building statewide influence as a liberal. His election to governor in 1904 began a period known as the "Broward Era" and was marked by his battles against the railroads and larger corporations and by his efforts for better education and drainage of the Everglades. Although his enemies were many and strong, the Broward influence molded the progressive ideas which set the stage for Florida's growth in the 20th Century.

Proctor's secondary thrust, and one which he handles very well, is the story of Florida's political growth and development from the mid-1880's to 1910. Admittedly a period closely tied to Broward, the political man, the author gives a fair view of the times. On a level where local histories assume overbearing proportions, Proctor places emphasis on the main events and gives a proportionate nod to local shows. An excellent example is that of the Everglades drainage project, often claimed as a South Florida exclusive, is taken not only as a

major and important part of Broward's progressive program, but as a reflection of a national attitude and southern trends in liberalism and populism. This approach is truly an unusual and welcome asset to any biography.

Well written, despite being somewhat overly detailed, the only limitation of Proctor's book is that of time. First published in 1950, *Napoleon Bonaparte Broward* does not enjoy the full impact of the post-World War II boom which so drastically changed the face of southern Florida, fulfilling the promise Broward saw half a century earlier.

As an aside, the footnotes and research notes at the end of the book are well worth the looking, in many cases giving a brief epilogue to minor incidents.

James Moses

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### *THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA: TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION*

Preparation is now under way for the twentieth anniversary celebration of the organization of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The festival will be held on Saturday, August 20, 1977, at the Reservation on Sixty-Fourth Avenue between Sheridan Street and Stirling Road in Hollywood.

Chairman of the Tribal Council Howard Tommie said, "This year's exposition is planned as a family affair where residents of Broward County and the surrounding area can come for entertainment and to learn about the Seminoles' heritage and traditions. There will be authentic tribal dances and ceremonies as well as exhibitions of Seminole handicrafts and artifacts."

Civic and service groups are invited to call Joe Dan Osceola at 961-8620 to discuss their own participation.