



# WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Historical Notes

August 2007

### CSI:Wilton Manors

### The Case of the Big Fins

by Benjamin B. Little

Wilton Manors Historical Society

New Yorker impales Falcon! No, put down the tabloid! Wilton Manors Police Chief Richard Perez has made “crime scene” photographs taken in the 1950’s and 1960’s available to the Wilton Manors Historical Society. They are, for the most part, minor traffic accidents, which does not keep the viewer of a certain age from crying at the wounded DeSoto, Imperial, Packard, my grandfather’s Oldsmobile, and endless Chevrolets and Fords. Fins Rule! Global warming? Bring back Fins!

Looking past the motorcycle that didn’t make it through the intersection (didn’t look serious) the caption on the back of the picture is Northwest 9<sup>th</sup> Ave and 31<sup>st</sup> Street. That’s Powerline and Oakland Park Boulevard! Two two lane roads intersecting, no visible traffic light (and no visible stop signs!), and nothing as far as the eye can see other than the feeble entrance to a Phillips 66 station. We’re in the middle of nowhere, folks. This isn’t the Powerline and Oakland Park Blvd we know and love, backed up all over the place at 8:00 on a work day!



This is a real treasure trove of what we looked like in the 1950’s and 1960’s. In the “not much changes” department, we have a 1960 Chrysler New Yorker which has put itself through the plate glass window of the Little German Bakery at 2287 Wilton Drive three

days before Christmas, 1959. The Historical Society thanks Chief Perez, who is an active member of the Society, for his thoughtfulness.

The Society has pictures of Wilton Manors dating back to the 1940's, and have located a picture of E.J. "Ned" Willingham, founder of Wilton Manors in 1925.

We are trying to get pictures of all elected and important figures back to the beginning. In some cases, we are reduced to old newspaper clippings. .

Photos from our 2007 Photograph Contest have added both old pictures and new pictures of important landmarks to our collection.



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