



WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORICAL NOTES

JULY 2017

Reminiscences of Eileen Durham MacKay

Edited by Benjamin B. Little
Wilton Manors Historical Society

These reminiscences are hand written in light pencil on yellow lined paper. Minor spelling and punctuation corrections have been made for clarity. There is no date. Foot notes have been inserted by the editor to clarify some of the references.

I remember when Wilton Manors¹ was a place where you could find anything and everything.

There were several food stores. You could have your choice. The Grand Union was where the Social Security² is. Piggly Wiggly³ was at the Old Florida Seafood restaurant, Food Fair⁴ next to the Royal Castle which is now Siam Cuisine. Braddy Butcher⁵ north side of Wilton Drive across from the mall.

Bob Pierce had a variety store⁶ just north of Rothe's garage. It carried anything from shoe strings to lamp shades.

Nostalgia Modern was Wilton Manors furniture store a good selection of furniture and accessories.

Manor Curtain and fabric shop was on 26th Street.

Old Bills Bar on Wilton Drive was a favorite spot to shoot pool and throw darts. There was a sail fish on the wall, someone had put false teeth in its mouth which drew attention. People would go in just to take a look at the fish.

When Wilton Manors was still in the county, Bob Durham Sr. and his wife Fredia had a chicken and

¹ She pretty consistently spells "Manors" as "Manar."

² Shoppes of Wilton Manors

³ Which became an A&P.

⁴ Food Fair was at 2020 Wilton Drive. It was the first chain supermarket. It opened in 1953. It became Frederichs. The "F" fell off the building one day and killed a man. In 1975, it was going out of business and City Council President Sam Stevens urged the City to buy it. The City did, including 4.5 acres, at under the appraised value. It became the location of the new City Hall, at 2020 Wilton Drive.

⁵ This was Manor Market, Wilton Manors' first food store. Alvar Hagen gave the land to Lamar Braddy in 1946 on the condition that he be paid when the food store got on its feet. Hagen was selling home lots to people who would need a place to buy food.

⁶ Now the location of The Gables.

pigeon⁷ farm somewhere near the location of Kmart.

The only way you could get to it was by a dirt road through sandburs, palmettos, and huckleberries off of Dixie Highway. No other north and south roads.

No electricity and the water had to come from a pump and the taste was terrible.

The outside plumbing was built over the river. Alligators had been seen swimming in the river.

One evening they came home and found most of their chickens and pigeons had been killed by some wild animal. Wasn't long after that they moved into town.

Frank and Hazel had a beer tavern – a very interesting place to stop in for a bit of gossip.

Wilton Manors can boast of a dentist and doctor's office which has always been here.

There are notes in ink at the end:

Eileen Durham and Joe MacKay – married 1943

Lived in Ft Laud/W Manors area since 1926

My sister Carolee Durham Crego had a home on NE 16th Place, WM for 40 years which she sold and moved into Wilton Tower in 2000.

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⁷ This is the first reference the Historical Society has seen to pigeons at this farm.