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Volume 4 • Number 2 • March 2023

Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Turtle Times

Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Twenty-One *By Jan Otten*

It is often said, "the best things come in small packages." So true when it comes to a "little gem" in our Hobe Sound History Treasure Chest! Resting on Dixie Highway sits the tiny PETTWAY GROCERY. Who in Hobe Sound hasn't popped in there from time to time for a quick pick up of some basic grocery item needed NOW? Open 365 days a year it's definitely the place to go to get what you need in a hurry. And then very often there's the inviting aroma of yummy barbecue in a smoker strategically placed on the lot just beside the shop.

When one opens the door and enters the wee little grocery store you are greeted by a cheerful "Hello, how can I help you?" from a smiling delightful woman affectionately known to all as "Peaches!" Her given name is Annie Mae Pettway, daughter of Willie Ends Pettway and Mattie Mae Pettway. The Pettway family has been an integral part of Hobe Sound since the 1920s. A legacy forever entwined in the history of this lovely seaside village.

It was the mid 1920s in Alabama when things were not good, especially in the south, for people of color. Willie E. Pettway was a young man with a young family and sadly somehow accidentally killed a dog. It was imperative that he "get out of town" immediately. He hopped a train headed for Florida and got off in Hobe Sound. His three children and his wife, Mattie Mae, remained in Alabama. Willie was a very industrious and clever young man. He began working for the railroad as a cook, but he was diligent with his dollars and was soon able to bring his family to Hobe Sound, as well as his mother, Annie Pinder, and his two brothers and a sister.

The family first settled on land near where the VFW sits today close to where the railroad tracks cross Dixie Highway. As time went on more children were born to Willie and Mattie Mae. In fact, the family added 11 more for a total of 14 children. No, there were no sets of twins. Willie was a hard worker and innovative in finding work to care for his growing family.

continued on page 5



Picture courtesy of Annie Mae Pettway, Artist Suzanne Briley

Suzanne Briley

Here They Come!

The South Florida version of spring is here, usually noted by the blankets of tree pollen that accumulate on our parked cars, and of course, the return of the turtles! This nesting season has already begun, this year February 15th was the date of the first turtle nest; it was an impatient leatherback who just didn't want to wait any longer. As we've described before, sea turtles often reproduce in much different places than where they may lead their normal lives, which we refer to as their 'foraging grounds'. Both males and females undergo nesting migrations to and from their foraging grounds, often congregating together at or near their original point of origin, where the females will remain through the course of several weeks until they've completed egg deposition.



Photo by Larry Wood. Nesting green turtle returning to the water early in the morning on Singer Island, Florida.

Though the regular annual routine of leatherback, loggerhead, and green turtle nesting in Florida is pretty familiar to us, we actually nowadays have a pretty unusual mix of species from the global perspective. Leatherback turtles have huge ranges, often traveling back and forth from the cold waters of the North Atlantic to reproduce in the tropics but have traditionally passed right by Florida to get to Central America and the islands of the Caribbean. When I began counting nests in northern Palm Beach County in the early 90s, leatherback nests were extremely rare anywhere in Florida, and it was widely recognized that Florida just wasn't part of their nesting range. Then, around the year 2000, the leatherback nesting population began to gain some traction, and has steadily increased since then. What was extremely rare just a few

decades ago has now become a regular part of the sea turtle nesting season, and even though our beaches still don't contribute substantially to the overall Atlantic population, it's sure great to have these behemoths here. They had an exceptional year in 2022, leaving 1,825 nests on Florida's beaches.

Similarly, green turtles have also shown an impressive resurgence in nesting numbers over the last 20 years, but unlike the leatherbacks, are more reflective of a true 'recovery' of a previously larger nesting population that does in fact have a more significant regional impact. Since the pressure of green turtle harvest has eased since the 1970s, the green turtle population has had the time to rebuild itself, and we're just now reaping the benefits of long-term conservation measures. Green turtles nest throughout the Caribbean and Central America, and as herbivores are very important to the health of seagrass ecosystems throughout the region, much like hoofed animals on grasslands. They, however, were also the turtle-of-choice for their meat and fat, so were sadly nearly extirpated entirely. Green turtles are tough competitors, and we're seeing not only more nests, but also increasing populations of young ones in our lagoons and waterways. Green turtles did not break any records in 2022 but did leave us with over 36,000 nests Statewide. Not bad!

Lastly, the staple of Florida's nesting turtles are the loggerheads. To us, they're so common we don't think much about how special a place this is for them. When I was a young biologist working on the beach, we'd count thousands of loggerhead nests, and we'd go diving and see dozens at a time. For a very long while I thought this was the norm pretty much everywhere until I started attending international conferences only to find that loggerhead nesting is quite rare elsewhere, and are typically in the minority rather than majority on the more noted nesting beaches around the world. Turns out, about 90% of all of the loggerheads in the Atlantic basin use the SE United States to reproduce (about 90% of that occurring in Florida), so we have a very special responsibility to maintain and encourage the long-term health of this population, there's no backup. Amazingly, over 116,000 loggerhead nests were documented in Florida in 2022, which translates to around 11.6 million eggs! Go ladies! Turtle trivia: where's the world's other major loggerhead nesting rookery?

It's important to remember that nest numbers are useful for interpreting long-term trends in sea turtle populations but are not always reflective of the overall success of a season. Many factors along the way are disruptive to the nests themselves, and the eggs and hatchlings are often lost to storms and predators both on the beach and once in the water. Only a small fraction of those 11 million+ eggs will someday become adults, but still, strong annual nest production evens things out down the road. Droughts, storms, and warming temperatures are adding increased pressure, and Florida's coastline is becoming more vulnerable to erosion from rising waters. Sea turtles are amazingly resilient; they've pretty much seen it all in their long history, but not the likes of us! Their fate is in our hands, and I think overall we've been doing a pretty good job at giving these fascinating creatures a renewed shot at survival. Enjoy the nesting season, and remember, no lights on the beach, they're scary! BTW, Oman is the answer to the trivia question - did you get it right? ;-)

Submitted by Larry Wood, Ph.D.
Research Coordinator
National Save The Sea Turtle Foundation
www.savetheseaturtle.org



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The Scrub-jays of Jonathan Dickinson State Park

The Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*) is noteworthy for several reasons. It lives nowhere in the world except for Florida, it has a complicated social structure, it has been the subject of very detailed field studies, and it is threatened by loss of habitat.

Aptly named, the Florida scrub-jay lives in the Florida scrub – an area of short scrubby oaks growing on sandy soil. Jonathan Dickinson State Park has approximately 3,000 acres of scrub. As you drive through the ranger station and into the park, you will see rolling sand dunes with short oak and sand pine trees. Many other unique plants can only be found in this habitat, like scrub rosemary and four petal pawpaw.

Scrub-jays live in family groups and are cooperative breeders. Each nesting territory is occupied by an adult pair and often by one to six “helpers”, usually the pairs’ offspring from previous years. “Helpers” assist in defending the territory and feeding young. Scrub-jays eat insects and acorns. They will occasionally eat berries, reptiles, amphibians, rodents, and eggs. Acorns make up a major part of their diet. They will even cache or bury acorns in the fall in preparation for scarce food in the winter. These jays remember where most of those caches are. The ones that are forgotten about will grow into scrub oak trees. While



Scrub Jay Photo by Park visitor, Sal De Fini

the family forages for food, a sentinel or look-out will be perched high on a tree (usually a snag – dead pine tree) keeping a watchful eye out for predators. Predators can include red shouldered hawks, swallow-tailed hawks, great horned owls, raccoons, and snakes. If one is spotted, the sentinel gives an alarm call, and the family will flutter into the safety of the scrubby bushes.

The scrub ecosystem and the Florida scrub-jays are intimately knitted together. Unlike its other Corvid relatives, blue jays and crows who thrive in urban environments, the Florida scrub-jay has not successfully survived in another ecosystem. As scrub was developed and wildfires were suppressed, the Florida scrub-jay populations drastically declined in the state. Pristine Florida oak scrub is maintained by occasional, naturally occurring fires. Wildfires clear out undergrowth and recycle nutrients to the sandy soil. Many scrub plants depend on fire to reproduce. Sand pine trees will only open their pinecones when fire melts their waxy coating, allowing the seeds to fall out. Wiregrass will only produce seeds after a fire. These eco-relationships have been working together for millennia. Now that we understand these relationships, it's our job to restore that balance.

In the 1980s, as the benefits began to be learned about periodic fire, the Florida Park Service ramped up their

prescribed burn program throughout the state. Not only can fire restore habitats but it can also protect the human communities that surround a park. Prescribed fire can prevent deadly wildfires by removing dead material and excess plant matter. The benefits of fire can help both people and habitats.

In 2007, to increase the scrub-jay population at Jonathan Dickinson State Park, a few things happened: the jays were rigorously studied all year including genealogy studies, mortality rate, and family size; scrub was scheduled to be treated by prescribed fire to increase usable scrub-jay habitat; and scrub-jays were translocated to the Park from other healthy populations. This multi-agency cooperative effort would pay off. In 2007, Jonathan Dickinson State Park documented 35 scrub-jays. In 2022, the population census was 121! Our hope for our Florida scrub-jay population is to double in size in the next decade. We hope that over time they will naturally disperse to nearby, smaller suitable public lands (areas currently without scrub-jays) – hopefully connecting the JDSP birds to the Savannas Preserve State Park population to the north and repopulating some of the northern Palm Beach County scrub lands to the south.

The JDSP Florida scrub jay population recovery is an amazing success story that combines resource management, research, and community awareness. For without the Park Biologists and Park Rangers that write and implement the burn prescriptions, the researchers that band and study the scrub-jays, the Park Rangers and Volunteers who educate the public about these imperiled species, and the community who advocates to protect this species and its habitat – the scrub-jays would not be able to survive.

Our research shows that prescribed burns result in an increase in scrub-jay population. Rebuilding the population took many years and dozens of prescribed burns. We are extremely proud of the work we have done to bring back this iconic bird to the Park. These charismatic creatures can be spotted along the Scrub-jay Trail and the Green Trail. We also offer Guided Scrub-jay Walks on the first and third Wednesday of every month between October and May. Be sure to visit Jonathan Dickinson State Park to see the scrub-jays for yourself, who represent an amazing success story for conservation.

Sources:

- Audubon Florida
- Rob Rossmann – JDSP Park Biologist
- Jay Watch managed by The Nature Conservancy (2002-2010), FWC (2011), and Audubon (2012-present).
- Demographic monitoring project began in 2019 and is ongoing. Research conducted under state and federal permits. Surveys and monitoring conducted by Natasha Lehr, Research Technician, W.K. Kellogg Biological Station-Michigan State University
- FWC translocated 1 family group (3 birds) in 2019 and 2 family groups (5 birds) in 2020 from Ocala National Forest to JDSP. Led by Karl Miller, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

Sara Luering

Park Services Specialist at Jonathan Dickinson State Park



The Pros and Cons of HOAs

Love them or hate them, I would like to take the time to review the benefits and the negative side of HOAs which are extremely prevalent in Florida.

More than 1 in 3 (35%) homeowners in a recent survey said they belong to a homeowners association (HOA), and 57% said it makes their lives easier, according to a new report from LendingTree.

- Of those who reported HOAs make their lives easier, they see their dues go to neighborhood landscaping (64%), security (44%), personal landscaping (34%), and sports and leisure amenities (31%).
- Meanwhile, 23% of homeowners said their HOA makes their life harder, with 15% having received a violation before. The most common violations are landscaping (34%), design changes (23%), fencing (23%), and trash pickup (21%).
- While 63% of homeowners feel their fees are fairly priced, 35% think their HOA is too expensive to justify the benefits.
- The annual dues for an HOA average \$291 a month—or about \$3,500 a year. Men reported they spend more monthly on HOA fees than women—\$317 versus \$245, on average.
- Almost half (45%) of HOA members report their dues increased over the past year, and nearly 3 in 4 (73%) members who feel they're overpaying saw their HOA fees increase in the past year.
- Of those who feel their benefits are too expensive, 33% said their HOAs have neglected maintenance responsibilities.

Major takeaway:

LendingTree's Senior Economist Jacob Channel explained that homeowners seek out HOAs because "They believe their HOA can help them protect and grow the value of their home. Because an HOA can compel members to keep their homes to certain standards, they can help make a neighborhood seem more appealing and, as a result, help maintain or increase property values."

Channel added that fees can be a downside to HOAs, however. "This can be especially true for recent homebuyers who had to deal with high rates and home prices that left them with little money," said Channel.

When it comes to violations, Channel said they "can vary depending on the specific rules of your HOA. Common violations include improper landscaping, not disposing of trash regularly or properly, having unruly pets, parking your car in the wrong place or painting or decorating the exterior of your home in a way that hasn't been approved."

Channel concluded, "HOAs can provide you with the peace of mind that comes with knowing that your neighbors probably aren't going to do anything crazy, like regularly throwing all-night parties or painting their home bright pink. But HOAs aren't for everyone, and people who aren't particularly concerned with regularly mowing their lawn or who want to maximize their freedom to do with their home what they please should probably avoid them."

Good or bad it's your personal choice! It's hard to please everybody, be thankful we are all individuals and over all seem to get along and mostly do the right thing with respect to each other!

Just sayin !

Rich

Rich Otten, PSA, C2EX

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Did you know that the date of Easter Sunday is determined based on the cycles of the moon? Easter occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which is the first full moon on or after the Spring Equinox.



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Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Twenty-One continued from page 1

It was believed that for a time he worked for the Hobe Sound Company and was a sharecropper in a community garden located in what is now known as Loblolly. There he grew fresh vegetables for his family to eat. And still he was careful with his earnings and purchased land, eventually owning approximately 40 acres for which he paid \$25 per acre. He built a small house on what is now the corner of Dixie Highway and Pettway Street. One of his sons would set up a table on the side of the highway and sell vegetables and various grocery items. Finally, they moved that enterprise into the house. Eighty years later the grocery store still exists under the careful watch of Willie's daughter, Annie Mae.

As his family continued to grow, in order to feed them, Willie had a garden as well as chickens and hogs in the yard behind his house. A family legend says that one of the hogs ambled up to one of Willie's daughters and bit off her little toe. Ouch!

Willie owned a sandpit in the area now known as The Soundings. One of his main sources of income was a trucking business. He began hauling sand and acquired a few more trucks and in addition to hauling, he built roads and parking lots in the community and created jobs for locals needing work.

Willie added another dwelling next to the small house for his family and also ran it as a rooming house. Sadly, in 1949 a hurricane destroyed the house on the corner and the family moved into the house that remains today as the Pettway Grocery. By that time the older children had married and moved away leaving only 8 of the 14 living at home in the little house. It was a grocery store by day and their home by night. That building has withstood many hurricanes and storms and was, in fact, a refuge for neighbors when storms would suddenly come ashore. Willie built that small building strong and mighty (like himself!)

Eventually Willie built another residence he called the "big house" further up on Pettway Street where today exists the



Willie Ends Pettway, Picture courtesy of Annie Mae Pettway



parking lot for the New Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The big house was a "shotgun" style structure with the kitchen, dining room and living room in the center with three bedrooms on each side. There was a bathroom at the back of the house and another room for washing. Before the big house was finished in 1951, at the young age of 48, Willie died after suffering a stroke.

The father of 14 was known in the community as a kind man, always doing whatever he could to help his neighbors while raising his own large family. If he knew someone was in need of work, he would hire them, giving them a fair wage, or he would pick up available workers and drive them out to the farms west of Hobe Sound and drop them off there to work. The farmers would give Willie the money for the labor, and he would then portion it out among the workers.

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One of his favorite happy deeds was to take a busload of kids, every Saturday, to the Lyric Theatre in Stuart and treat them to the movies. At the time it was 9 cents per person. Oh, how those kids loved that special treat!

During the early days when segregation was still prevalent, the Pettway children first attended school in a one-room schoolhouse, Gomez Elementary, located on the spot that is now Pettway Park & Playground. It was for grades 1-6 and after it was closed, they attended the Dunbar Elementary School in Banner Lake and then upper grades at the Stuart Training School, referred to as STS.

The mother of Willie E. Pettway, Annie Mae Pinder, was a midwife and ran a small nursing home. She taught her family a valuable lesson that has guided them all: "It's not what you make, but how you take care of it that matters." Peaches says, "It's not just about money, but also how you treat others."

Willie and Mattie Mae Boykin were married at home in Alabama by the Reverend Gordon Wright on December 23, 1920. If they were alive today, they would be so very proud of the accomplishments of their family. Among them, several became teachers, as well as pursuing other entrepreneurial endeavors. All held the same work ethic as their parents. Sadly, only 4 of the 14 are still alive at this moment in time – Jack, Sam, Alice, and Annie Mae "Peaches." When I asked Annie Mae how she came to be called "Peaches," she related that she was named for her grandmother, her father's mother, Annie Mae Pinder, and because she was such a pretty baby, they nick named her Peaches. The family members all agree that Peaches very much resembles her namesake grandmother. With 14 children, naturally there are a boodle of grandchildren – 40 to be exact. And too many great grands to count.

So much a part of Hobe Sound history and so respected, the Pettway family has a street named for them, a park on Pettway Street, and the new Habitat for Humanity community that is under construction now is called Pettway Village.

Willie was a descendant of slaves from the Pettway Plantation in Gee's Bend, Alabama. An interesting fact about their name "Pettway" comes from the tradition of slaves being given the name of the family that owned them. Gee's Bend is famed for the innovation of the people living there during the depression years. The women began making quilts from whatever scraps of fabric they could find. Most included using the clothing of people who had passed away. The quilts are so notable that the U.S. Post Office issued stamps picturing many of the famous quilt designs.

Next time you are in the area don't hesitate to stop in and say hello to Peaches. She is a delightful woman to share time with and as well as being the Pettway representative in the grocery store, she does alterations for her clientele who need pants let out, jacket linings mended, dresses taken in, curtains





2006 United States Postage Stamps featuring Gee's Bend Quilts



Mattie Mae Boykin Pettway, Picture courtesy of Annie Mae Pettway

shortened, and more. Like her father and mother before her, Peaches is industrious, caring, cheerful, and a sparkling part of the treasures of Hobe Sound.

Research for this chapter in our history included the book, *Images of America, Hobe Sound*, by Jennifer Gilliland, and an article by Leo Arbezniuk included in a 2014 Community Resource Directory. And most importantly, the privilege of delightful and insightful conversations with Alice Pettway Ware and Annie Mae "Peaches" Pettway.

Some trivia of interest:

- There were 8 boys and 6 girls making up the 14 children of Willie E. and Mattie Mae Pettway. The boys: Thomas, Willie, Thornton, Eddie, James, Soney, Sam, and Jack. The Girls: Bessie, Alice, Ollie, Hazel, Annie Mae (Peaches), and Ethel.
- Shotgun style architecture is described as being a narrow house characterized by the arrangement of its rooms in a linear sequence from front to back. The rooms are passed through from one to the next, with no hallway, with a door in the front and back allowing for excellent air circulation. This construction style was prevalent in African American communities in New Orleans and other areas of the southern United States. Shotgun houses generally consist of a gabled front porch and two or more rooms laid out in a straight line. It was sometimes said that a bullet shot from the front door would pass through the house without hitting anything and exit through the back door.
- When the one-room schoolhouse on Pettway Street was closed, Willie traveled to Tallahassee to find out why. He was told that there were too few children to keep it open. The children then attended the Dunbar School in Banner Lake.
- Mattie Mae Boykin Pettway passed away in 1966.
- Gertrude Pettway was married to Eddie Pettway. Humpty Dumpty Kindergarten, was founded in 1962 by Gertrude Pettway for about a dozen toddlers, including her two daughters. Today it is the Hobe Sound Early Learning Center. In its early days, a group of Jupiter Island residents concerned about day care for the children of their domestic workers took an interest in the school. Eventually the group took over control when the Martin County School District hired Pettway as a teacher. She spent a year at J.D. Parker Elementary before staying 28 years as Hobe Sound Elementary's first kindergarten teacher.
- The Pettway family had a 1959 Packard and that was the automobile in which the younger children all learned to drive.



Chapter Twenty-One Crossword

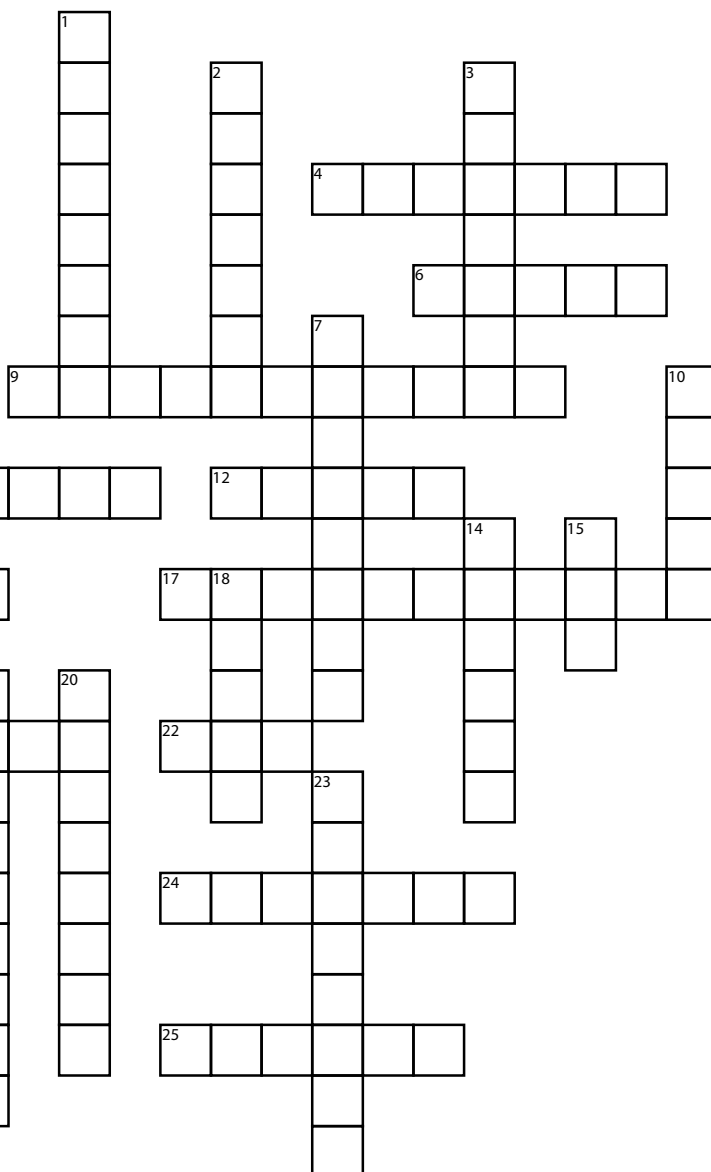
Hint: All Answers Can be Found in the *Chapter Twenty-One* Article.

Across

4. What resource did Willie have from the area now known as The Soundings?
6. How many boys did Willie & Mattie Mae have?
8. Willie's main source of income was what type of business?
9. Annie Mae Pettway was named for what relative?
11. Willie was a descendant of slaves from what plantation?
12. How many grandchildren did Willie & Mattie Mae have?
16. The "big house" was what type of architecture?
17. Besides running the grocery store, what other occupation does Peaches have?
21. Which Pettway founded the Humpty Dumpty Kindergarten?
22. How many girls did Willie & Matie Mae have?
24. In what state will you find Gee's Bend?
25. Gee's Bend is known for what creation?

Down

1. In what month were Willie and Mattie Mae married?
2. In what kind of car did the Pettway children learn to drive?
3. Annie Mae Pinder's role in the Community
5. What grade did Gertrude Pettway teach?
7. Willie & Mattie Mae had how many children?
10. Willie built parking lots and what other major community need?
13. What cost 9 cents per person?
14. What was printed to honor the women of Gee's Bend?
15. What animal bit off one of Willie's daughter's little toe?
18. To what theatre in Stuart did Willie take the children?
19. What destroyed the house Willie used for a rooming house?
20. Several of Willie & Mattie Mae's children had careers as what?
23. In what present day location was there a community garden?





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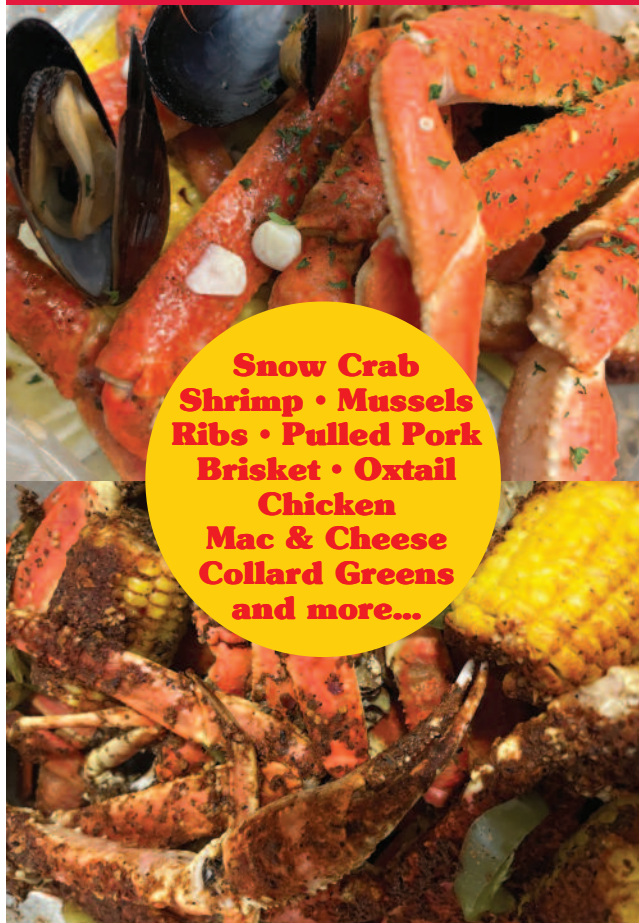
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2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:


1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

YOUR GARDEN MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

**THEN: Water freely
with patience and
cultivate with love** 

Borrowed from:
<http://Kubik.org/lighter/garden.htm>

Chapter Twenty-One Answers

Across

4. What resource did Willie have from the area now known as The Soundings? SANDPIT
6. How many boys did Willie & Mattie Mae have? EIGHT
8. Willie's main source of income was what type of business? TRUCKING
9. Annie Mae Pettway was named for what relative? GRANDMOTHER
11. Willie was a descendant of slaves from what plantation? PETTWAY
12. How many grandchildren did Willie & Mattie Mae have? FORTY
16. The "big house" was what type of architecture? SHOTGUN
17. Besides running the grocery store, what other occupation does Peaches have? ALTERATIONS
21. Which Pettway founded the Humpty Dumpty Kindergarten? GERTRUDE
22. How many girls did Willie & Mattie Mae have? SIX
24. In what state will you find Gee's Bend? ALABAMA
25. Gee's Bend is known for what creation? QUILTS

Down

1. In what month were Willie and Mattie Mae married? DECEMBER
2. In what kind of car did the Pettway children learn to drive? PACKARD
3. Annie Mae Pinder's role in the Community MIDWIFE
5. What grade did Gertrude Pettway teach? KINDERGARTEN
7. Willie & Mattie Mae had how many children? FOURTEEN
10. Willie built parking lots and what other major community need? ROADS
13. What cost 9 cents per person? MOVIES
14. What was printed to honor the women of Gee's Bend? STAMPS
15. What animal bit off one of Willie's daughter's little toe? HOG
18. To what theatre in Stuart did Willie take the children? LYRIC
19. What destroyed the house Willie used for a rooming house? HURRICANE
20. Several of Willie & Mattie Mae's children had careers as what? TEACHERS
23. In what present day location was there a community garden? LOBLOLLY



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Visit 1206922.toastmastersclubs.org

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A little Trivia from Dictionary.com:

pizazz [puh-zaz] noun

liveliness; vitality; vigor

*You'll find that the experience of shopping at the **Hobe Sound Beach Shop** is full of **pizazz**!! Stop in to see what's new and exciting. There are lots of items to add **pizazz** to your gift-giving list for the upcoming season of special occasions: Easter, graduations, Mother's Day, Father's Day, birthdays and anniversaries. There's something for everyone and to fit every budget.*



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Shine the Light on Solar

In 2011 I travelled to Nigeria to help install a solar powered water well pumping system that was powered by Solar panels. This solution was meant to replace a conventional water well in a schoolyard that serviced approximately 150-180 women and children.

These wells pumped water up to elevated storage tanks where the people in the school simply had to turn open a faucet to obtain water, day, or night instead of waiting for a heavy bucket of water to be drawn up from the well.

This simple application of providing power for the pumps and storing the water in elevated tanks has changed their lives dramatically. In addition, I supplied them with a small portable solar panel system that was connected to a battery, and this enabled them to have enough power for 6 laptop computers where students could learn how to use a computer for employment training.



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These two applications made me realize how the sunlight we take for granted every day can be employed for many benefits. Today I still am involved with solar energy for applications such as power for boats, trailers, RVs, or emergency power during weather related disruptions. Having a solar system that can provide power for computers, for fans, for refrigerators or lighting is easy and safe and it is only a matter of combining the right components for a reliable and cost-effective solution.

I look forward to helping anyone who is interested in understanding what is necessary and what is the best system. Feel free to call on my experience and knowledge in this exciting and growing solar energy field.

Barry McLaughlin
President Infinity NRG Systems
Cell / Text 561-701-5445
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Workson Louis-Jeune

Turtle Times Design

Nancy Lee, Brown Bird Studio



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