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Beach Shop

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Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Turtle Times

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

As we approach the end of 2023, our Treasure Chest is offering up some FUN FACTS. Here in Martin County, along with Indian River and St. Lucie Counties, we are known as "The Treasure Coast" due to the treasure-laden shipwrecks of the Spanish fleet during a hurricane in 1715. Interestingly, the various regions of Florida have nicknames. Some are obvious and some are kind of humorous, but overall, each refers to the unique character of their locale. All of these labels are a part of the culture and history of Florida. I've done a bit of research to find those designations that tell a little about each area of our "Sunshine" State. Along that research path I learned a lot of interesting facts about Florida. The more I read and learn about it, the more I am amazed at what a unique history our state actually has.

The state name "Florida" comes from the Christian holiday known as Easter. When Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon arrived on the shores of St. Augustine in 1513 it was during the Easter season. He was so taken with the colorful plant life of the region that he chose the name "Pascua Florida," a Spanish phrase for the Easter season which when translated means "Feast of Flowers." It is the oldest placename in the United States with European origins and is the oldest region in the continental U.S. to be visited by Europeans.

Surprisingly, among other "firsts," the first recorded Christmas celebration in the "New World" took place in Tallahassee in 1539 by Spanish explorer and conquistador Hernando de Soto along with members of his expedition. With the discovery of ancient artifacts found during a church excavation, historians were able to figure out how that first Christmas was celebrated. Naturally, it was not like what we traditionally think of as a Christmas observance. There was no snow, no candy canes, no stockings stuffed. It did involve a religious ceremony and the women did the cooking. It is believed that the meal consisted of a pig roast (pig bones were found in the excavation), local vegetables and fruit, and, of course, seafood.



Hernando de Soto

Florida was admitted as the 27th state on March 3, 1845, and the state motto is the same motto as that of the whole United States, "In God We Trust." Another fun fact about Florida is that it is the flattest state. Yup, even flatter than Kansas. Florida has the smallest difference between its high and low points with only a 345-foot difference in elevation across the whole state. Its mean elevation is only 100 feet. And did you know that Florida has the most lightning strikes in the U.S.? Although Tampa is referred to as the "Lightning Capital of the World", Daytona Beach, Fort Myers, Key West, Miami, Orlando, and Tallahassee are among the most lightning-strike prone cities on the continental United States. Speaking of "most", it is reported that in all of North America the most varieties of seashells can be found on the beaches of Fort Meyers, Captiva Island, and Sanibel Island.

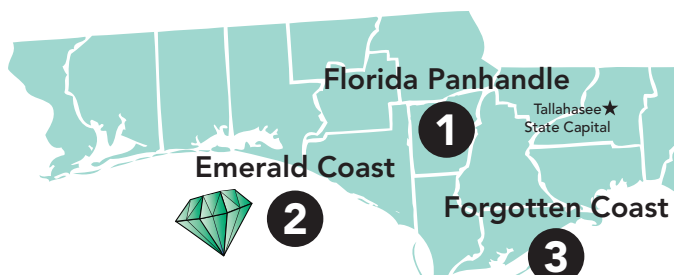
Florida has more than 300 miles of inland waterways that can be navigated by boat, thus giving it the nickname of the "Venice of America." The currently recognized nickname for the State of Florida is The Sunshine State – do we really need to explain why? But....other Florida nicknames include: The Alligator State; The Everglades State; The Orange State; The Flower State; The Peninsula State; and The Gulf State. Certainly, none of these need to be explained either.



And let's note other fun designations given to various regions in our state:

1 The Panhandle extends 200 miles west to east and 50-100 miles south to north. That is the Alabama border on the west, Georgia on the north, and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. The east border of the Panhandle is arbitrarily defined and is east of Tallahassee. Fun fact: the Panhandle of Florida is in the Central Time Zone while the rest of the peninsula is in the eastern standard time zone.

2 Emerald Coast Gulf of Mexico – Includes 5 counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay



3 The Forgotten Coast aka the Armpit of Florida. Includes Franklin, Gulf, Jefferson, and Wakulla counties known for unspoiled, pristine Gulf Coast beaches historically left out of Florida tourism Promotions.

4 Nature Coast – Perhaps the biggest regional nickname in area – 8 counties, Wakulla, Jefferson, Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco – encompassing approximately a million acres with dense forests, prairies, blackwater rivers all for trail hiking, kayaking, bicycling, fishing, bird watching and more.

5 Suncoast – Tampa, St. Petersburg, Bradenton, Clear Water

6 Cultural Coast – St. Petersburg, Anna Maria Island, Siesta Key, and Lido Key.

7 Circus City – Sarasota, due to once being the winter home for Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey

8 Shark Tooth Capital of the world – Venice

9 Lee Island Coast – there is no Lee Island (SW Florida has hundreds of small islands in Lee County) apparently this is “The Island Coast” and happens to be in Lee County.

10 Paradise Coast – Naples

11 Alligator Alley – Route #75, Fort Lauderdale to Naples.

12 Gold Coast – Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Miami-Dade, Broward – Refers to “golden” real estate opportunities due to wealth and swanky tropical lifestyle.

13 Treasure Coast – Martin, Indian River, St. Lucie – Particularly due to the 1715 Fleet shipwrecks along the coast.

14 Space Coast – Cape Canaveral, Brevard, Titusville, Cocoa, Merritt island, Cocoa Beach, Palm Bay. Naturally, this refers to Cape Canaveral for all things launched into outer space. After the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Cape Canaveral was renamed Cape Kennedy. However, that name was not popular in Florida. It had been Cape Canaveral since the 16th century. Due to public pressure, the name was officially changed back to Cape Canaveral in October of 1973.

15 Fun Coast – Daytona Beach in Volusia County. Since the 1920s the world's most famous beach due to racing and testing of automobiles.



16 Surf Coast – Flagler County.

17 Psychic Capitol of the World – Cassadaga, above Deltona - a lot of psychics and mediums live there.

18 First Coast – St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Flagler, Duval, Nassau, and Clay.

19 Historic Coast – Orange Park, Fernandina.

Continued on page 5

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Siblings Sweets

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Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Twenty-Five continued from page 3

Florida is home to 67 Counties. In case you are interested here they are:

- Alachua County
- Baker County
- Bay County
- Bradford County
- Brevard County
- Broward County
- Calhoun County
- Charlotte County
- Citrus County
- Clay County
- Collier County
- Columbia County
- DeSoto County
- Dixie County
- Duval County
- Escambia County
- Flagler County
- Franklin County
- Gadsden County
- Gilchrist County
- Glades County
- Gulf County
- Hamilton County
- Hardee County
- Hendry County
- Hernando County
- Highlands County
- Hillsborough County
- Holmes County
- Indian River County
- Jackson County
- Jefferson County
- Lafayette County
- Lake County
- Lee County
- Leon County
- Levy County
- Liberty County
- Madison County
- Manatee County
- Marion County
- Martin County
- Miami-Dade County
- Monroe County
- Nassau County
- Okaloosa County
- Okeechobee County
- Orange County
- Osceola County
- Palm Beach County
- Pasco County
- Pinellas County
- Polk County
- Putnam County
- Saint Johns County
- Saint Lucie County
- Santa Rosa County
- Sarasota County
- Seminole County
- Sumter County
- Suwannee County
- Taylor County
- Union County
- Volusia County
- Wakulla County
- Walton County
- Washington County

As I researched in many different places for this Chapter in our history, I found lots of facts to capture my interest and spur me on to look more in-depth at some of them. I have to add one here – what is a Florida Cracker? Where did that nickname come from? It comes from the 1800's mule drivers cracking their whips. You'll find reference to that in the wonderful book, *A Land Remembered* by Patrick D. Smith. If you've never read this amazing book, I highly recommend it! Another recommendation is *The Great Book of Florida* by Bill O'Neill – A Trivia Nerds Guide to the History of the United States, Vol. 4.



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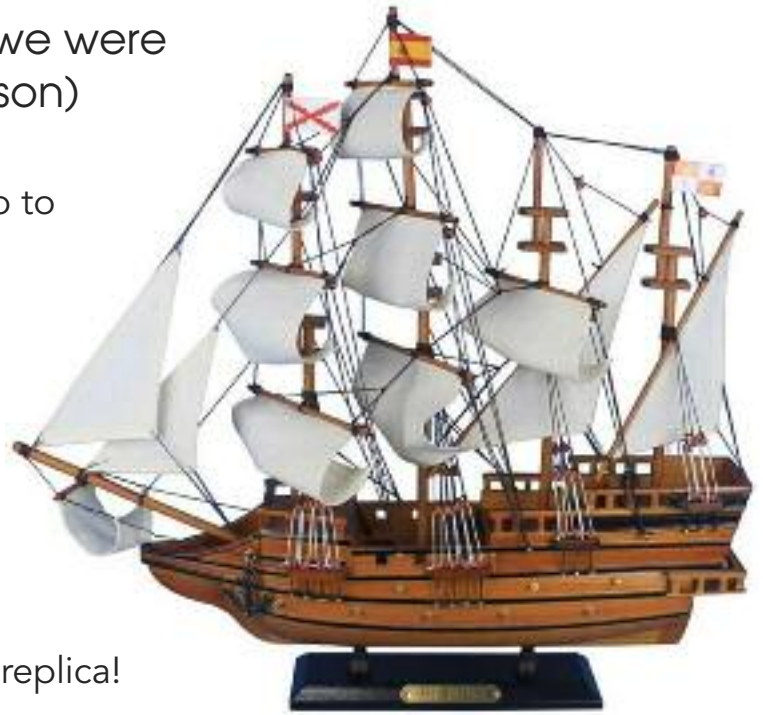
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We've drawn a winner (we were waiting for the end of hurricane season) **and the winner is Colton Whitmore.**

Please come by the Hobe Sound Beach Shop to pick up your prize.

After several Turtle Times feature articles about the shipwrecks on the treasure coast we have awarded a Spanish Galleon to one of our faithful readers! If you look closely you can see great detail on this galleon! It has cannons, stairways, hatches, port holes, detailed ships wheel and sails. A remarkable replica!



Merry Christmas Around the World

Spanish – ¡Feliz Navidad! • French – Joyeux Noël! • German – Frohe Weihnachten! • Italian – Buon Natale! • Portuguese – Feliz Natal!
Romanian – Crăciun Fericit! • Swedish – God Jul! • Norwegian – God Jul! • Danish – Glædelig Jul! • Finnish – Hyvää Joulua!
Icelandic – Gleðileg Jól! • Polish – Wesółych Świąt! • Dutch – Vrolijk Kerstfeest! • Croatian – Sretan Božić! • Czech – Veselé Vánoce!
Japanese – メリークリスマス! (Merikurusumasu!) • Chinese – 圣诞节快乐! (Shèngdàn jié kuàilè!)
Korean – 메리 크리스마스! (Meli Keuliseumaseu!) • Latin – Felicem Natalem Christi! • Irish – Nollaig Shona!



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Addendum to Chapter 25 – Another Hobe Sound art gallery not mentioned in Chapter 25 regarding the artists of Hobe Sound is that of H. Allen Holmes, 8998 SE Bridge Road, Hobe Sound.

H. Allen Holmes, Inc. is a state licensed, full-service commercial and residential interior design firm. If you visit his Bridge Road location you will have to decide if you are visiting an art gallery or a museum. It is filled with some of the most amazing pieces of art and history.

Regular hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, but I recommend calling Allen at 772-245-8586 to be sure the gallery is open when you plan to visit or to set up a time with him to tour his facility under his guidance.



Christmas Trivia What was the first Christmas carol broadcast from space?

"Jingle Bells" was played on December 16, 1965, during NASA's Gemini 6A space flight. Astronauts played it on harmonica backed by miniature sleigh bells. Those instruments are now on display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Our Turtle Times contributing writers will be back in the next issue. Each one wishes you a happy holiday season and a prosperous New Year:



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National Save The
Sea Turtle Foundation



Steven W. Landwersiek,
LPL & President, Investment
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Rich Otten, PSA, C2EX, Keyes
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