

Timelines of Early Englewood Area History

*In Celebration of
The first Annual
Englewood History Week
February 8 - 15, 2003*



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Reference Services
Elsje Quirk Public Library
Manasota County Library System
100 West Dearborn Street
Englewood, FL 34223*

- 1878 William & Mary Goff become Englewood's first Caucasian settlers, purchasing 60 acres of land for \$90 (Dearborn, Green and Cherokee St. area)
- 1886 Town of Grove City is platted
Nancy Jane Bowman, daughter of William Goff, dies in childbirth at age 16; she is the first person buried in Lemon Bay Cemetery
- 1887 First post office opens in Grove City with Postmaster Robert B. Smallwood
- 1893 Tarpon Hotel is built in Grove City (present location of Park Pointe Mobile Park)
- 1894 Herbert K., Howard S., and Ira Nichols buy 2,000 acres on the bay to develop lemon groves
- 1895 Englewood Post Office opens;
A 14-degree freeze kills all the lemon groves
- 1896 Town of Englewood is platted by the Nichols brothers and filed on August 17. (Goff's oxcart path becomes Dearborn St.)
Mrs. Quimby's Boarding House for Ladies and Gentlemen is built (now the Rinkard House at the end of Dearborn)
- 1896 Hurricane strikes Englewood area on October 9; localized flooding is reported
- 1897 Englewood Inn is built by the Nichols Bros.
- 1907 The Hermitage on Manasota Key is completed by Carl G. Johanson
- 1909 Englewood Inn is destroyed by fire
- 1913 Peter E. Buchan is appointed a member of the Englewood School District by Manatee County

- 1917 Buchan's Landing is built for supply ships
from Tampa
- 1918 Manasota Lumber Co. in Woodmere creates
1,500 jobs (present location of
Englewood Disposal on 776)
Lemon Bay Women's Club is organized by
Dr. Mary Wolcott-Green and 8 other
women (originally called "Mother's Club")
- 1921 County of Sarasota is formed and Pete Buchan
is appointed Englewood's first County
Commissioner to represent District #4
- 1922 J. D. Anderson becomes Sarasota County
Commissioner
- 1924 The road from Venice to Englewood is
designated as Hwy. 311, part of the
Tamiami Trail from Tampa to Miami
The Royal Casino is built out over Lemon Bay,
connected to land by a long pier; the
24ft. x 30 ft. building, site of band
concerts, dances, and chamber of
commerce events, survives until 1932
- 1925 Englewood is incorporated, making it the second
largest city in Sarasota County (13 square
miles)
Construction is completed on the Lemon Bay
Women's Club clubhouse at Maple & Coconut
(now on the National Register of Historic Places)
- 1926 Devastating "Miami" hurricane hits September
18-21, shearing its way through Miami

at 132 mph, then striking Moore Haven,
the Everglades, and Boca Grande. . . .

The storm surge inundates the

Englewood area with several feet of water

1927

First bridge is built across Lemon Bay by the
Chadwick brothers

1928

Tamiami Trail opens with a motorcade led
by Governor John W. Martin which
stops at the Englewood Hardware store
on Dearborn; officials pledge that the
Trail will never be taken away

1928

Englewood has too much leveraged debt to
survive and the incorporation is
dissolved, taking the new Englewood
State Bank down with it (in large part
because Abner Silkey, the Cashier
embezzled money from it).

The Trail becomes U.S. 41 and politicians
subsequently bow to the federal
government to shorten the route, thus
bypassing Englewood

Englewood Elementary School is built on
Perry Street and used until 1978

1928

Construction is completed on Englewood's first
church building, now located at 416 West
Green Street

1929

Stuart Anderson rents the Royal Casino and turns
it into a fish house

- 1931 L. A. Ainger, Sr. and his 3rd wife, Ora, build the Ainger General Store (included Texaco gas pumps)
- 1933 J.D. "Jack" Tate opens his general store at Buchan's Landing (also included Texaco gas pumps)
- 1936 The Hermitage on Manasota Key becomes a family nudist resort
- 1943 Road at Blind Pass washes out and is impassable for the next 12 years
- 1944 Hurricane hits Englewood area October 18-19, destroying the boats of the newly-formed Englewood Fishing Cooperative as well as several homes--damaging winds of 50 mph are reported
- 1945-6 Stuart Anderson builds Lemon Bay Fisheries at end of Wentworth Street; in 1946, his brother, Oscar, buys a one-half interest
- 1949 Ainger's General Store burns down; L.A. Ainger rebuilds a 28 x 54' store (present location of True Value hardware)
- 1951 Fire Station #1 is built on Indiana Avenue
- 1956 Jo Cortes, Englewood Herald's first editor, initiates Pioneer Days in honor of Englewood's 60th anniversary
- 1962 Jo Cortes, Leah Lasbury, and Lois Potter obtain the first funds--\$4,000--Sarasota County ever allocated for a library. Wellington and Elsie Quirk donate the land for the "Elsie Quirk Public Library."