Archives Spotlight

The Story Behind Robert Milton Wilbur, Jr: The Hijacked Eastern Air Lines Pilot

Gilbert Gott, Plant City Photo Archives & History Center



Foreword: Over the years the Photo Archives had collected numerous photographs relating to the extended Wilbur family. It was not until recently, however, that we became aware of the hijacking of Captain Robert M. Wilbur, Jr., and were able to piece the story together.

This is what happened. On a relatively calm St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1970, Captain Robert M. Wilbur was piloting the Eastern Air Lines Flight 1320 from Newark to Boston. A passenger became unruly, broke into the cockpit and demanded the pilot turn eastward toward the Atlantic. Suddenly, he began shooting, striking the co-pilot and the pilot. The co-pilot fought back, and shot the assailant before slipping into unconsciousness, and Captain Wilbur, with bullets into both arms, brought the DC-9 smoothly into Logan Airport before being taken to the hospital. He was a hero in headlines across the nation and the world.

Who was he? Born in Plant City March 30, 1934, Robert Milton Wilbur, Jr., grew up in the Coronet Village section of Plant City, the son of Robert Milton Wilbur, Sr., an engineer at Coronet mines, and who later became its General Manager. Young Bob left Plant City to attend Riverside Military Academy in Gainesville, Georgia and, following graduation in 1952, attended the University of Florida.

Message from the President

Dear SFA Members.



With hurricane season ending, I hope that everyone and all of the institutions fared well and remained dry. If your institution has been impacted, please do not hesitate to contact SFA at societvofflarchivists@gmail.com or through the listserv.

Mary Rubin

SFA President

SFA has formed a 2019 Disaster Ad-Hoc Committee with Gerrianne Schaad (Chair),

Jay Sylvestre, Hannah Davis, and Alexandra Curran. The committee is charged with deciding how to best spend the \$1000 that we currently have in the budget, which is the \$500 from last year and the \$500 from this year, as well as creating a page on our website that explains our disaster fund.

In October, we celebrated Florida Archives Month. I want to thank all of the members that contributed content. It was great seeing all the varying events, collections, and projects occurring across the state. I also want to thank the committee, which diligently shared throughout the month. Kudos to Tveler McLean, Mindy Berg, Jessica Orozco, and Krystal Thomas for their work! In case you missed the opportunity to share during October, I want to remind you that you can share new collections or initiatives through our newsletter throughout the year.

If you are interested in becoming involved with SFA, please look for an email from me through the listsery in December. I will begin filling the committees for the first half of 2020. Committees that I am seeking volunteers for include the Audit Committee, the Awards Committee, the Judith Beale Scholarship Committee, and the Nomination Committee.

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Complete listing:

http://www.florida-archivists.org/about

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Samantha Hagar, Student

Jeffery Hartley, National Archives and Records Administration

Christine Jones, Senior Records Specialist, Johnson County (Kansas) Government

Isabel Medina Pascu, Assistant Archivist and Museum Coordinator, Archbishop John C. Favalora Archive & Museum, St. Thomas University Library

Marie Penny, Archivist, Norton Museum of Art

Arthur Quinn, Archivist, St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary

Gregorio Rivera, Composer, Gregorio Music Books

Alison Simpson, Department of Military Affairs, Florida

Matthew Wilcox, Student

Erika Alfieri, Archival Consultant

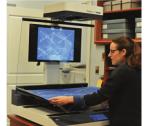
Katrina Patchett, Archivist, Director of Library Services, and Director of Bookstores at Ransom **Everglades School**



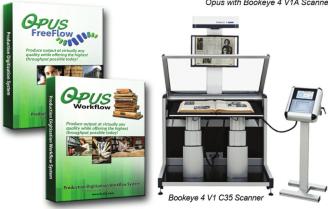
Essential Digital Age Tools for Archivists

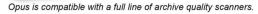


- Design & manage digitization projects
- Implement & manage a data migration plan
- Create course curriculum materials
- Host 3-D collections on the web
- Print books on demand



Opus with Bookeye 4 V1A Scanner







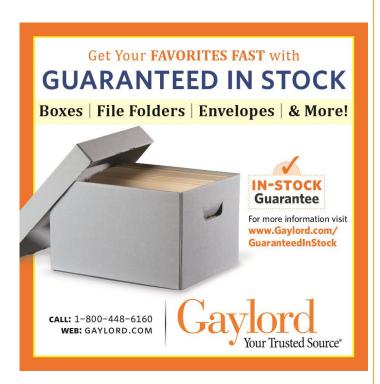
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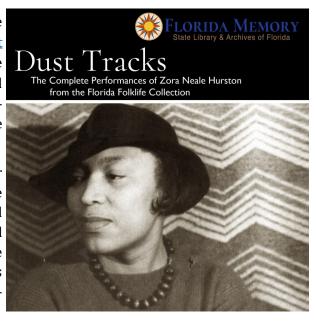


New Zora Neale Hurston Playlist on Florida Memory

Elizabeth Loeffelman, Social Media Coordinator State Archives of Florida

"Dust Tracks: The Complete Performances of Zora Neale Hurston from the Florida Folklife Collection" is the <u>latest playlist</u> from Florida Memory, a digital outreach program at the State Archives of Florida. Hurston, famed author of the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, spent years as an anthropologist and folklorist documenting African-American culture in the South.

She performed the 21 tracks on this playlist while working for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s. These tracks range from railroad work songs to children's songs and represent the complete recorded performances of Hurston held by the State Archives. In addition to the tracks, there are playlist liner notes describing Hurston's accomplishments as an author and anthropologist. Visit FloridaMemory.com to listen to and download "Dust Tracks."



54th Georgia Archives Institute

June 7-18, 2020 — Atlanta, Georgia

Designed for beginning archivists, manuscript curators, and librarians or those whose positions have expanded to include the management and care of their organization's archives or manuscript/history collection, the Georgia Archives Institute provides general instruction in core concepts and practices of archival administration and the management of traditional and modern documentary materials. Recipient of the **2016 Society of American Archivists' Distinguished Service Award**, the Institute is a two-week program held at the Georgia Archives in Morrow, Georgia, near metro Atlanta, which includes six days of classroom instruction and a three-day internship.

Instructional topics include appraisal, accessioning, arrangement and description, reference and outreach, security, copyright, born-digital records; as well as a whole day on the preservation and care of archival materials. To link archival theory with real-world application, students will also participate in individualized, three-day internships at local archival repositories. The internship provides an opportunity for students to observe the operations of an archival facility combined with hands-on experience processing archival collections.

Pam Hackbart-Dean is the Head of Special Collections & University Archives at the **University of Illinois at Chicago**. She has worked at Special Collections Research Center at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Special Collections & Archives at Georgia State University and for the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Study at the University of Georgia. She has conducted a number of workshops on arrangement and description, as well as published articles and books on the subject. The Preservation of Archival Materials day-long session will be taught by **Tina Seetoo**, Preservation Manager at **Delta Flight Museum**.

Tuition is \$500 and enrollment is limited to 20 students. **Deadline is midnight on March 15, 2020** for receipt of application and \$75 application fee (which is refunded if not admitted to the Institute). Tuition scholarships are available from the Society of Georgia Archivists (SGA) (http://sogah.org/programs/dunaway-scholarships/hart) and the Friends of Georgia Archives and History (http://fogah.org/programs/dunaway-scholarship/). Successful applicants, who are not members of the Society of Georgia Archivists, will receive a free membership for one year.

For an application to the Institute, detailed schedule and additional information, please visit our website at www.georgiaarchivesinstitute.org or contact us at georgiaarchivesinstitute@gmail.com.

Third Annual Archive Day @FIU Libraries

On October 3, 2019, Florida International University Libraries Special Collections and University Archives hosted the 3rd annual Archive Day. Various museums, historical societies, universities, and library professionals from all across South Florida gathered to share information about the rare and unique items in their collections.

Participants included The Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc., Digital Library of the Caribbean, Government Resources and Information Department at FIU Li-



braries, Digital Collections Center at FIU Libraries, The Wolfsonian-FIU, FIU Sound & Image, Florida Memorial University Library Special Collections, Historic Homestead Town Hall Museum, Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archives, Miami-Dade Public Library System Special Collections and Archives and the Digitization Division, Miami Military Museum and Memorial, Monroe County Library, Nova Southeastern University

- University Archives, the South Florida Collections Management Center Everglades National Park, the University of Miami Cuban Heritage Collection.

Each participant institution had a table which included brochures, digital collections, and highlights from the collections. Students, faculty, staff, and the community were able to discover new places and be introduced to unique collections in South Florida. Future plans for Archive Day include presentations and a keynote speaker.

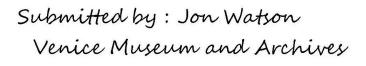


Please contact Annia Gonzalez at aalfonso@fiu.edu for more infor-

2019 Florida Archives Spotlight

Florida Archives Spotlight

After months of hard work planning and executing multiple collections moves, the Venice Museum & Archives is pleased to announce the opening of the Julia Cousin Laning and Dale Laning Archives and Research Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony set for October 17. The facility will house the City of Venice's over 30,000-piece historical collection, featuring negatives, microfilm, newspapers, postcards, manuscripts and correspondences relating to the area's local history. SpaceSaver mobile shelving units will house the bulk of the archival collection while there will be additional dedicated space for three dimensional artifacts, textiles, maps, and lateral files. Besides collections storage, the Julia Cousin Laning and Dale Laning Archives and Research Center includes a reading room where the public can make requests by appointment to research the material within the collection. Finding aids along with the museum's Past Perfect Online website (https://venicefl.pastperfectonline.com) will serve to help patrons examine the collection before coming in to research. The facility was made possible by a very generous donation by Mrs. Julia Cousins Laning, and we are forever grateful for her contribution in helping us preserve, maintain, and provide better public accessibility to the collection. To schedule an appointment please call 941-716-7255.



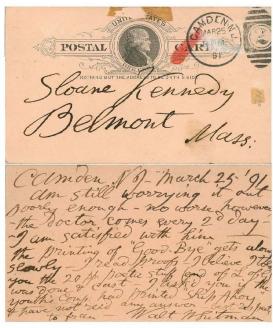
Florida Archives Spotlight

The William Sloane Kennedy Memorial Collection of Whitmaniana In 1879, after joining the staff of the American in Philadelphia, William Sloane Kennedy (1850-1929) began a career as a journalist and literary figure. He later worked for the Boston Evening Transcript, where he developed a friendship with Walt Whitman that led to many visits and an extended correspondence. Kennedy's scholarship on Whitman includes The Reminiscences of Walt Whitman (1896), Walt Whitman's Diary in Canada (1904), and The Fight of a Book for the World (1926). After Kennedy passed away, his bequest of \$10,000 established sustained funding for Rollins to buy books by and about Walt Whitman. The year 2019 marks the bicentennial of Walt Whitman's birth, and we are very pleased to partner with the college museum in sponsoring "Ut Pictura Poesis: Walt Whitman and the Poetry of Art." The Rollins Archives features one of the country's most extensive collections of original materials including a first edition of Leaves of Grass, as well as personal papers and correspondence.

Submitted by: Wenxian Zhang, Olin Library, Rollins College







On March 25, 1891, one year before his death, Walt Whitman wrote this postcard (one leaf, 13 x & cm). On the front: "Sloane Kennedy, Belmont, Mass;" transcript on the back: "Camden NJ - March 25, '91. Am still worrying it out poorly enough - no worse however - the Doctor comes every 2d day - Lam satisfied with him - the printing of 'Good-Bye' gets along slowly - Lread proofs - Lbelieve Ltold you the 20 pp: Poetic stuff (end of L of G) was done & cast - Lask'd you if the youth's Comp: has printed 'Ship Ahoy' and have not rec'd any answer - best respects to frau - Walt Whitman."

Florida Archives Spotlight

The State Archives of Florida, in collaboration with the Florida Folklife Program, is excited to introduce their Oral Tradition and Urban Legends project, highlighting the cultural significance of urban legends and the oral tradition. This two-part project consists of a radio feature on the subject of the oral tradition in Florida, as well as the establishment of a new collection of oral histories contributed by Floridians. Throughout the month of October, the Archives is accepting submission of urban legends, ghost stories and other Florida lore to be added to this new collection. Recordings can be uploaded and shared on social media under the hashtag #TalesFromFla or emailed to TalesFromFla@gmail.com.



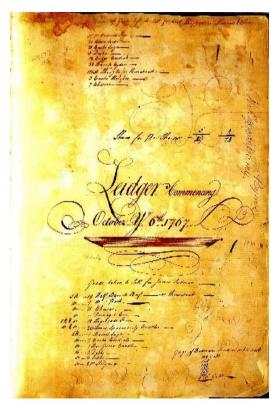


Submitted by: State Archives of Florida

Florida Archives Spotlight

Pensacola became the capital of British West Florida in 1763 and remained under British rule until 1783, when the Treaty of Paris returned Florida to Spain. The Carpenter brothers offered a variety of products to residents and supplies for ships sailing into the Port of Pensacola. Among other necessities, their inventory included candles, sugar, and spirits. Rum and wine were some of their big sellers. The fact that they sold spermaceti candles indicates there were people of means living in Pensacola during this time. This ledger from the British Pensacola Company of Richard and Caleb Carpenter (1767-1769) does not belong to the University of West Florida Historic Trust, but the owner allowed us to scan the entire ledger and wishes for it to be make available to anyone interested in British commerce in Northwest Florida. A pdf of the complete ledger may be downloaded from https://ir.uwf.edu/islandora/search/?f%5B0%5D=RELS_EXT_is MemberOfCollection_uri_ms%3A%22info%3Afedora/uwf%3Are search%22&parent=true&cp=uwf%3Aresearch.

Submitted by: Jackie Wilson,
University of West Florida Historic Trust

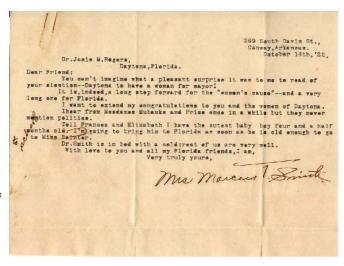


Florida Archives Spotlight

Last year, the State Archives of Florida accessioned the Rogers Family Papers (N2018-15) that document the numerous activities of one of Volusia County's most notable pioneering families. In 1874, David Dunham Rogers moved with his wife and infant son to Daytona from Plainfield, New Jersey. In 1876, D. D. Rogers was one of the 25 city council members who incorporated Daytona Beach, and he was one of the first land surveyors in Volusia County. Over the next 100 years, D. D. Rogers and his children became some of the most prominent and influential members of the community.

Mary Josie Rogers, daughter of D. D. Rogers, was born in 1876 in Daytona Beach. In 1907, she became one of the first female physicians to practice in Florida, focusing her practice on holistic rather than traditional medicine and meeting with patients in the house her father built on Beach Street. In 1922, Dr. Rogers was elected as the first female mayor of Daytona Beach and one of the first in the southern states. By 1946, she was Chief of Staff of Halifax District Hospital. She died in 1975 in Daytona Beach after a long and prolific life of medical practice and political activism.

The collection contains a variety of records that document more than a century of Rogers Family history in Daytona Beach and the surrounding areas. It contains letters between family members and friends, personal diaries and day books, genealogies of several branches on the Rogers family tree, materials related to the various hobbies of the Rogers family, and business records from D. D. Rogers' profession as a land surveyor and civil engineer.



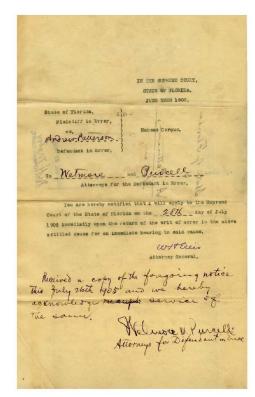
Submitted by: State
Archives of Florida

2019 Found it in Florida Archives

I found it in our Florida Archives:

The State Archives of Florida is reprocessing the early case files in Series S49, Florida Supreme Court Case Files, 1825-2013. Due to three distinct filing systems and no descriptive information, these files have been inaccessible and largely unused. Archives staff are indexing the cases, and in the process are locating interesting ones such as State v. Patterson. This case was a result of the passage of the Avery Law, which mandated state-wide separation of white and African-American passengers on streetcars. However, in the ground-breaking decision issued on July 29, 1905, Justice Taylor of the Florida Supreme Court found the Avery Law to be in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and, therefore, void. The Court's decision made national headlines and was an important, if short-lived, challenge to Florida's Jim Crow laws. Researchers can view the record on appeal in State v. Patterson, as well as thousands of other historic case files in Series S49.

Submitted by: State Archives of Florida



I found it in our Florida Archives:

On December 18, 1976, a unique exhibition or "happening" occurred at the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach. An Atmospheric Sky Sculpture, described as a transient art exhibition created by Professor Howard Wood, of the University of South Carolina, was launched on the front lawn. Participation from the audience was required, and anyone who spotted the flight pattern of the sculpture was requested to report the sighting to the local news. The mylar sculpture measured 10 x 10 x 40-feet and was filled with helium. The sculpture could travel from 20 to 400 miles depending on the weather.

Contemporary Art was shown at the museum in 1974, but this appears to be the first interactive contemporary activity. This particular activity required the participants to not only install the work but to photograph it and report it. Of course, there is the 1970's style of the community and also some of those from the earlier generation in their ties and hats that I find fascinating. The man off to the right with the camera around his neck made me think about the ever-present iPhone in today's images.

Image: Far left Norton Museum Director Richard Madigan (1974-1989), Professor Howard Woody (third from left) preparing the sculpture with members of the community. The original entrance to the Norton Museum of Art is in the background. Photograph by Lee Brian.



Submitted by: Mary Penny, Norton Museum of Art

I found it in our Florida Archives:

The Charlotte Scarborough Taylor Workbooks (currently stored in the archives located in Englewood Charlotte Public Library) were saved from the scrap pile in 1964. The two extremely rare workbooks dating from the mid-1800s were recently restored and conserved. The workbooks contain almost 90 pages of intricately painted specimens of insects and botanicals. These specimen workbooks were painted by Charlotte Scarborough Taylor, one of the earliest female entomologists in the Americas. Taylor was also the mother of Virginia Taylor Trabue, wife of Isaac Trabue the founder of the City of Punta Gorda.









Submitted by: Terri Crawford Libraries and History of Charlotte County

I found it in our Florida Archives:

Few organizations had a greater impact on the development of Delray Beach than the Ladies' Improvement Association. They built the first Town Hall in 1904, helped design Atlantic Avenue and its bridge, and are best known for establishing the Delray Beach Public Library in 1913.

The Delray Beach Historical Society is proud to hold the records of this influential organization, including minute books since its founding in 1902, correspondence and publications, and this autograph book from their annual New Year's Reception - bound entirely by palm tree bark! Now the Woman's Club of Delray Beach, the association continues to support community activities and organizations.



Submitted by: Chloe Elder Delray Beach Historical Society

I found it in our Florida Archives:

The JM Family Enterprises Corporate Archives is on high alert to find any historical material the company might still have hidden in drawers, file cabinets and old scrapbooks. One such lucky drawer was discovered in late 2018 containing 1,243 never seen before photographs out of our Jacksonville operations. The process of identifying these photos was a tall task, but a possible one. The archivist first scanned the photos and then printed them on copy paper for identification. The printed pages were then shared among JM Family's retiree groups to identify and provide descriptions. This process is still underway, but the relationship with retirees has grown stronger and provided additional contributions to the company's archives.

The photo is an aerial view of our Port operations in Jackson-ville in 1970. The ship located near the bottom of the photo is the site of our operation, which began in 1969 importing



Toyota vehicles by ship. The 17-acre property was completely renovated in 1972. This location also served as the vehicle parts distribution operations until we built a dedicated facility in the Baymeadows area of Jacksonville in 1979.

Submitted by: Michael Zaidman

JM Family Enterprises Corporate Archives

I found it in our Florida Archives:

Before the vuvuzela made its US debut in 2010 we had the kazoo! These "Askew Kazoos" are part of the political memorabilia collection in the Dr. Edna Louise Saffy Papers at the University of North Florida. Dr. Saffy was active in many political and social movements for over 40 years and served as a delegate for the Democratic Party. Each kazoo features a sticker from the 1984 Reuben Askew Presidential Campaign and come in a variety of vibrant colors. You can view more of the Saffy Papers on UNF Digital Commons, https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/saffy/.



Submitted by: Jennifer Bibb Thomas G. Carpenter Library, University of North Florida

I found it in our Florida Archives:

Recently, the Lake Wales History Museum has discovered an early 20th century wicker coffin in one of our collection rooms.

The coffin was built by the Frigid Fluid Company of Chicago which was founded in 1892. These coffins were popular in the late 19th, early 20th century for moving bodies or while waiting for a doctor to pronounce the body dead. They were cheaper to produce than wooden coffins and much lighter for carrying the deceased. The date estimate for this coffin is about 1915-1930. It was donated by a local funeral home.



Submitted by: Bartholomew J. Delcamp Lake Wales History Museum

... Continued

Spotlight continued from front page



Bob Wilbur, Jr., entered the Aviation Cadet School at Enid, Oklahoma, and earned his "wings" in 1955, entering the regular Air Force as a 2nd Lt. Following training at Bainbridge Air Force Base, Georgia, Bob flew C-119s and C-130s with the 61st Troop Carrier Squadron, Stewart AFB, Smyrna, Tennessee. From 1956

until 1959, Wilbur, as a 1st Lt. and aircraft com-

mander, flew troop carriers in Europe and between Lebanon and Germany.

After his discharge, Wilbur returned to Plant City for a short period before accepting a position as pilot and pilot engineer with Eastern Air Lines, then the most prominent commercial carrier in the US. He was stationed in New



York, living in Flushing, NY. He married Anita DeCicco, an Eastern Air Lines stewardess, in 1965, and they moved to Fairlawn, New Jersey. Wilbur had just become Captain shortly before the horrible hijacking

incident on the Newark to Boston run.

A little history. The Wilbur family ancestral homestead was in Missouri, where James Harvey Wilbur and Ella Madeline Russell Wilbur raised their children. A daughter, Dymphana, nicknamed Dimple, made the move to Plant City about 1920. She liked Florida and soon her older sister Vaviel followed. They found jobs. The sisters invited their young brother, Robert Milton Wilbur, Sr., to come to Plant City, which he did, and he attended Plant City High

ROBERT WILBUR
"Bob"
"In the course of one revolving
moon.
He was chemist, fiddler, and
buffoon."
P. C. H. S. 4. High School
Orchestra: Carnival Coronation: Football Minstrel: VicePresident of Science Club: Senior Play.



School, graduating with the class of 1926.

Robert Wilbur, Sr., played the violin at PCHS along with Quintilla Geer, and pianist Elsie Greene, whose

father Henry F. Greene was manager at the Coronet Phosphate Company. In 1927 Robert Wilbur, Sr., received an appointment to the U.S.



Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. He and Elsie remained in contact and in 1931, following his graduation at the Academy, they were married. Wilbur moved back to Plant City and served in the Navy Reserve. He later entered the U.S. Army and as a 2nd Lt. was assigned to the 116th

Field Infantry working with Milton Hull in Plant City.

By this time Bob Wilbur, Sr., was a mechanical engineer at the Coronet plant. When World War II began, Wilbur refused his discharge and remained in the Army, serving in Persia (today's Iran), and other areas.

He was assigned to the Field Artillery, 31st Chemical Brigade, and rose to the rank of Colonel. While overseas, Elsie and their children (Robert, Jr., and Charlotte) moved to Lakeland, moving back to Plant City when Bob, Sr., returned in 1945.



Bob Wilbur, Sr., and Elsie Wilbur were known as a

dashing sophisticated couple in the Coronet community and throughout Plant City. Bob was a Board member at Hillsboro Bank; Elsie was known for her exquisite piano melodies and Gershwin tunes. He retired in 1975 to their Plant City home on Woodside Road. Elsie died in 1979 and Robert Wilbur, Sr., in 1987.

The hijacking incident was newsworthy the world over, but Bob Wilbur, Jr., talked little about it. The copilot that day on Eastern Flight 1320 was Jim Hartley, who Bob said was the real hero. The assailant did not stand out at first. In those days, passengers boarded the plane and paid while in flight. Passenger John DiVivo refused to pay and demanded to see the Captain. He entered the cockpit and shouted, "take me east." Captain Wilbur, who had begun his approach to Boston's Logan Airport, stated they did not have enough fuel and DiVivo started shooting, hitting both Hartley and Wilbur. Hartley was able to fight back, wresting the .38 from DiVivo and shooting him. Both lay unconscious in the cockpit.

Wilbur prepared for landing when suddenly DiVivo regained consciousness and started at the Captain; Wilbur grabbed the gun and struck the assailant on the head, putting him down again. He radioed the tower that the co-pilot was shot, and they needed an immediate landing and medical attention. He made a steep approach and landed on the runway smoothly, taxiing to a stop where the police and medics were waiting. Wilbur, Hartley, and DiVivo were rushed to the hospital; Hartley, however, died before he could receive medical attention.

Bob Wilbur, Jr., spent weeks in the hospital and recovered fully. He was greeted as a hero by Eastern Air Lines, government officials, and the public. He retired from Eastern Air Lines after 30 years of service and flew for Saudi Arabian Airlines for four years before retiring fully in 1994. Bob and Anita live in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Sources: Quintilla Geer Bruton and David E. Bailey, *Plant City; Its Origin and History*; Wallace W. Prophet, *Coronet; A Personal Reminiscence;* ancestry.com; newspapers.com; Plant City Photo Archives & History Center collections.

Captain Jamie Verner and Photo Archives intern Mitchell Thoeni assisted in this article.

President's address, continued from front page

Lastly, please do not forget about the **Society of Florida Archivists Journal** which offers an outlet to contribute to the profession through rigorous research and scholarship.

I wish you all a fun-filled holiday season and best wishes for a happy New Year!



Society of Florida Archivists P.O. Box 5645 Tampa, FL 33675

The Society of Florida Archivists seeks to connect, educate, and empower archivists and those working with historical records to preserve and promote Florida's documentary heritage.





www.florida-archivists.org





