

# The Palm Coast Historian

Published by the City of Palm Coast Historical Society Editor: Debby Geyer Issue 13 October-December 2005

<http://community-2.webtv.net/pchistorical/TheCityofPalmCoast/>

Jan - May 2006

## WHO HAS LIVED IN PALM COAST THE LONGEST?

By Arthur E. Dycke

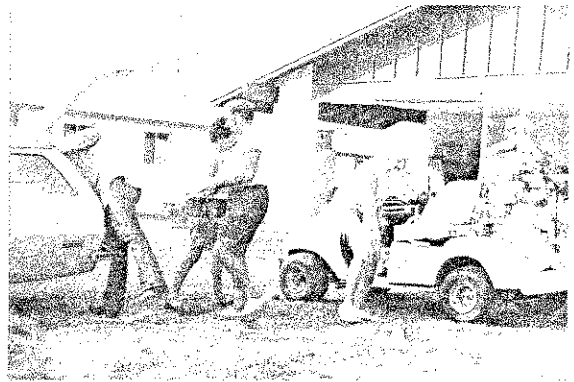
Author of Images of America: Palm Coast

First I must explain to my readers that Palm Coast did not exist prior to 1969 when it was named by the ITT (International Telephone and Telegraph)// Levitt subsidiary after ITT/Rayonier had accumulated 68,000 acres of land to construct a major development in Flagler County, Florida.

With apologies to the very few persons who lived or worked in "the big pine covered swamp" that was to become Palm Coast, I began my search for our community's most long term residents by researching the first land and home purchases recorded by the ITT Corporation starting in January, 1972. The records showed that the first 25 lots sold were deeded to: Alex Korn, Matthew Sheehan, Atlantis Development Corporation, Ed White, Ed DiLeone, Vincent Moor, Charles Konopasek, Harry Fischer, David Barber, Sand and Tile, Inc., Henry Paoline, Douglas Guiler, Herbert Heckman, William Struby, Leroy Laig, Walter Kopecky, Ed Goodwin, William Loeb, Lynn Wicklan, Caleb Swink, **Bernadette and William Collier** (May 19, 1972, Lot 4, Block 7, Palm Coast CCC (Country Club Cove), S-8, Nunzio Palladino, Joseph Malatino, Donald Miller and Alexander Korn.

In my book, under the caption, "The Pioneers Arrive 1972", the story continues. One of the most exciting days in Palm Coast's short history took place on January 21, 1972, when Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Sheehan proceeded to move into their new home as Palm Coast's first residents " They were followed by Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Moore and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Konopasek. I have spoken to many of our earliest residents and they have told me that all but one of the first 25 property owners listed above have moved or passed away and a recent check of the Flagler telephone book seems to confirm that the above mentioned Bernadette and William Collier are indeed the couple who have lived in Palm Coast the longest.

There are many worthwhile stories to be told about how our earliest settlers coming from all parts of the country survived in a strange environment with very few services available at first. I offer this picture from The Flagler Tribune, dated December 28, 1972 as evidence that many like the Collier's immediately immersed themselves in community activities.



"Mrs. William (Bernadette) Collier (right) and Mrs. Jack Dunn spearheaded the Palm Coast Civic Association drive to provide some Christmas toys for underprivileged children in Flagler County. The toys collected from the new Palm Coast community in a golf cart are being loaded into the back of a station wagon driven by George Moreman for delivery to Bunnell's First Baptist Church".

Bill Collier was a real estate salesman at a time when a four bedroom home in Palm Coast sold for \$39,900. He is shown here with Jack Dunn, our communities first doctor, as the two competed against others in the areas first Life and Breath Tennis Tournament in October of 1974.



When ITT opened it's Palm Coast Yacht Club facility in December of 1972 it created a religious, political and social center for the entire community. There were parties, dances, club socials, art shows, charity benefits and a variety of dignitaries and entertainers brought in by ITT to showcase their new planned community. A photo in my book (not reproduced in this article) shows Bernadette Collier with

movie celebrity Barbara Britton who was filming an ITT commercial in 1973. Other early Palm Coast visitors included Merve Griffin, James Garner, Duke Snyder, Truman Capote and Gloria Steinham.

The following photo shows William and Bernadette Collier relaxing on their patio with their lovely daughter Sally. Pioneer romance blossomed when Sally met Dr. Jack Dunn's son Robert. The wedding took place on September 17, 1977 at St. Mark's By The Sea (Palm Coast's first church) with pastor Mark Otterbein co-presiding. Robert and Sally Dunn still own property in Palm Coast.

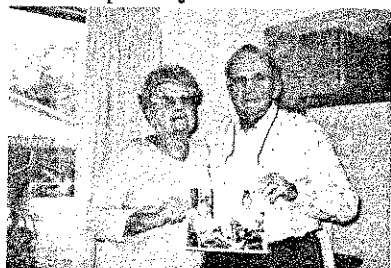


*Sally Collier, Robbie Dunn Wed At St. Marks*



NEW YORKS—Mr. and Mrs. Robbie Dunn after their marriage at St. Mark's By The Sea.  
PALM COAST — St. Mark By The Sea Lutheran Church was the scene of the wedding of Sally Collier and Robert Dunn on Saturday, September 17.  
Officiating at the wedding were Pastor Mark Otterbein and Rev. Gary Johnson of Temple Beth El, City of Palm Beach.  
Members of the wedding party, were: maid of honor, Ardena Howard and best man, Robbie Dunn. Officiants were: Lyle Dunn, Robbie Dunn, Lyle Hobbs and Lyle Pease.

The photo shown below, was taken at the home of Bernadette and William Collier during an interview there in 2004. At the time, I hoped that we would be able to pursue in greater detail the families rich full lives in our community. Unfortunately serious illness has befallen William and the family has made the request that no further information be asked of them at this time. We must all honor their desire for privacy.



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*Please contact the author with additional information, corrections, comments and/or information regarding this article, Images of America: Palm Coast or Historical Calendar at [artedski@bellsouth.net](mailto:artedski@bellsouth.net).*

**Editor's Note:** The City of Palm Coast Historical Society mourns the recent death of Dr. Jack Dunn, our community's first doctor, and extends its sympathy to his family and friends.

## 2006 Meeting and Event Calendar

**January 19 – Palm Coast Yacht Club**

**5:00 pm – Palm Coast's 6th Birthday Celebration** - sponsored by the Palm Coast Historical Society.

~~January 25~~ <sup>Feb. 22</sup> – **Palm Coast Community Center**

**7:00 pm – A History of Palm Coast for Newcomers (and Old Timers are Welcome Too).** There will also be a presentation and discussion of a "Palm Coast Loop" as part of a proposal to designate selected Flagler County roads to become part of the Florida Scenic-Highway Program.

**March 8 - Flagler County Library**

**\*3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Membership Meeting** – guests are always welcomed. **Speaker:** John Jackson, Director of Recreation & Parks

**March 11 and 12 - Palm Coast Community Center**

**10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Art in the Park.** We will display historical data.

**August 9 - Flagler County Library**

**1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. Happy Birthday to all Members** – Celebrate your birthday with us. Guests are always welcomed.

**October 11 - Flagler County Library**

**\*3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Membership Meeting** – guests are always welcomed.

**December – Holiday Luncheon**

\*Our usual meeting time of 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm is not available. Only time available for the second Wednesday of the month is 3:00-5:00. If you know of another meeting place available at our usual time, please call Debby at 446-9031.