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The Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS) is the 501(c)3 non-profit organization that operates Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum.

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Jupiter Inlet Light Station in 1891, viewed from the waterfront in the northwest corner of what later became Suni Sands. Colorized version of a George Barker stereoview. (Library of Congress)

Suni Sands Midden

Native Americans have lived along the Loxahatchee River for over 5,000 years. The Suni Sands Midden is part of a recognized Jupiter Inlet Complex of archaeological sites, including the DuBois Mound and the waterfront midden in front of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. These sites have suffered various levels of disturbance since the beginning of pioneer settlement.

The Suni Sands Midden was apparently overlooked by archaeologists until the 1990s. Following an investigation by LRHS Curator Elizabeth Kehoe and archaeologist Jim Pepe, three parts of the site were added to the Florida Master Site File in 1992: Suni Sands Midden (8PB7718), Suni Sands Staircase (8PB7719), and Sperry Boathouse (8PB7720). Panamerican Consultants, Inc. conducted an assessment for the Town of Jupiter in 2004.

Bob Carr's Archaeological & Historical Conservancy (AHC), hired by the present property owner-developer, conducted the first extensive archaeological survey of Suni Sands, between 2014 and 2022. Previous

archaeological study was severely hampered by the presence of an active trailer park. Carr and his team identified the boundaries of the principal mound and a surrounding area of intact midden. The archaeologists also found redeposited or otherwise disturbed midden across much of the site, stemming from when some portions of the midden were leveled and/or used for fill.

Evidence of Native American occupation of the Suni Sands property goes back approximately 3,000 years (1000 BC) and as recent as 1200 AD. The native peoples on the site were the ancestors of the Jobe and Jeaga. Archaeological finds included early fiber-tempered pottery fragments (sherds), shell tools, shark teeth (some drilled to make tools or jewelry), faunal bone pins, and three basalt tools. The stone tools – a celt, axe, and hammer – are especially rare finds as greenstone and other basalt must have been traded from outside Florida. Only a few similar artifacts have been found at the DuBois Mound or Lighthouse Midden.



One of the earliest photos showing the Suni Sands Midden, 1903-1906.
The Sperry Family stands on the concrete staircase which survives to this day. (LRHS Sperry Collection)

Suni Sands: The Jupiter Townsite

In the early 1880s, William and Sarah Gleason purchased much of what is now eastern Jupiter from the federal government. They platted the area in 1891 as the first Jupiter townsite. Among the early purchasers of their land was Charles R. Carlin, who bought the land immediately east of the future Suni Sands. The Carlin House was completed in 1887 and Mary Carlin, Charles' wife, became Jupiter's first postmaster. The house also served as a hotel. A small part of the Carlin property did extend into the later trailer park; it contained a



This wharf, located near the future Suni Sands dock, connected the steamboats with the Celestial Railroad. An extra steamboat was often moored at the dock to serve as a floating hotel. (Florida State Archives)

garden and the Carlin family's primary well for drinking water.



William Henry Jackson's famous photo of the Jupiter & Lake Worth Railway. Parts of the Suni Sands Midden are visible. The railroad's roadbed was repurposed for a street last known as Anchor Way.
(Library of Congress / colorized by Ginger Pederson)

Regular steamboat service to Jupiter began in 1885, followed shortly thereafter by a cleared trail to the north end of Lake Worth. The trail was mostly used by a "hack line" carrying passengers and "bull trains" – oxen pulling a freight wagon. In 1889, the Indian River Steamboat Company constructed a narrow gauge railroad along the same route, connecting the small but growing community of Jupiter with the new county seat of Juno. With two flag stops along the way at Venus and Mars, the Jupiter & Lake Worth Railway was subsequently nicknamed the Celestial Railroad. The steamboat wharf and little railroad station were soon joined by stores, houses, more lodging, and a saloon. The wharf was in the northwest corner of the Suni Sands property and the railroad ran diagonally across the property, cutting along the western edge of the principal shell midden.

Suni Sands: Western Union

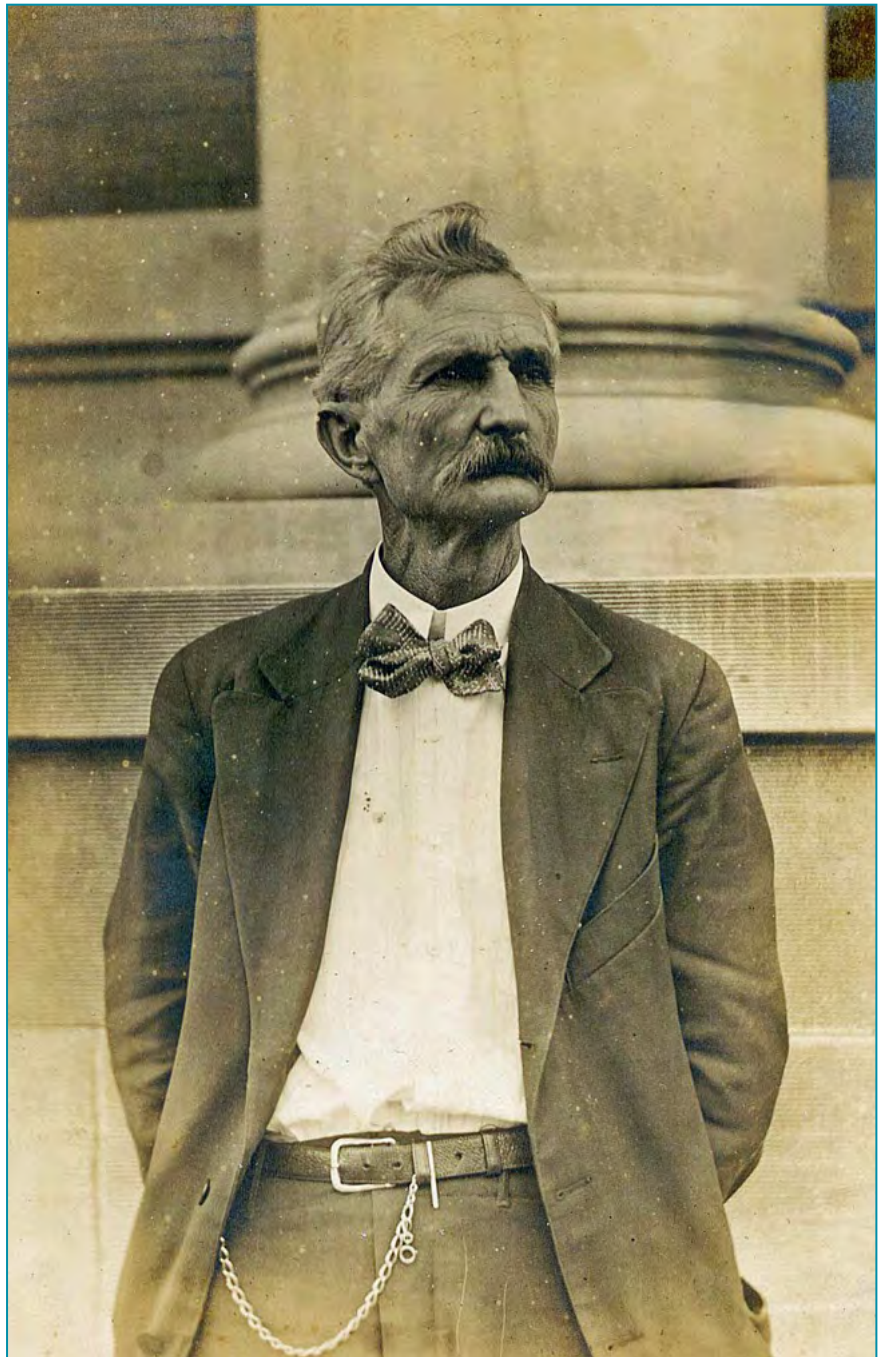
During the winter of 1891-1892, Western Union brought the first non-government telegraph line to southeast Florida. A work crew of 17 men with 8 double wagons built the line south from Orlando to Jupiter via Kissimmee, Fort Drum, and Indiantown. The route was dubbed the Wire Trail. Later, as the true origin faded from memory, the telegraph line was incorrectly attributed to the Seminole Wars and Fort Jupiter.

Simultaneous to the overland line, the British cable-laying ship *Westmeath* placed the first international telegraph line to the Bahamas. The underwater cable ran from Nassau to Jupiter, coming ashore where Carlin Park is today.

Western Union established its Jupiter office on the northeast corner of what later became Suni Sands. The company put E. B. "Ned" King, whom the *Jacksonville Metropolis* called "one of the most expert telegraphers in the country", in charge of the new office, with Charles Birckner as his assistant. The two men boarded at the Carlin House for about a year until Western Union built a duplex for them next to the telegraph office. King ran the station until 1905, when he transferred to the Western Union office in Havana, Cuba. Fred Magill, Ned's brother-in-law, came to Jupiter as well and farmed pineapples on property west of Suni Sands later acquired by the Sperry family.

Herbert R. Johnson, grandson of longtime Jupiter Lighthouse Keeper James A.

Armour, succeeded King and ran the Jupiter Western Union station until it closed around 1914. Herbert must have been a remarkably talented telegrapher considering he was entrusted with the station at age 18!



Ned King, longtime Western Union telegrapher.
Date and location unknown.
(Courtesy of Donald King, Ned's great-grandson.)

Suni Sands: St. Martin's Episcopal Church

Shortly after the Octagon School opened, Jupiter residents organized the community's first religious congregation which held weekly Sunday School services at the schoolhouse. Visiting pastors or bishops occasionally conducted services.

An Episcopal congregational officially organized in 1896 and raised \$400 for a new church, with Henry Flagler contributing the last \$100. In August 1899, T. D. Brown of Titusville began construction of St. Martin's Episcopal Church. In March 1900, Bishop William C. Gray and Archdeacon B. F. Brown consecrated the new church. The *Florida Star* newspaper described the building as "a neat gothic structure in wood and is a great credit to the new faithful people who have labored so diligently and with such generous self-sacrifice to build themselves this house of worship."

Ed King and Charles P. Jackson conducted services as lay readers, except when a traveling Episcopal pastor passed through. Jackson had worked as a doctor, pineapple farmer, teacher, and schoolboat captain before becoming ordained priest. He served as St. Martin's pastor

until moving to Homestead in 1910. Two of the Carlin daughters were married at St. Martin's, and William Carlin White was christened there.



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

In 1905, William Sperry purchased the church lot at Suni Sands, and the building was barged over to what is now Town Hall Ave. The congregation dissolved around 1911 replaced by a Sunday School. In 1921, the church building was barged to Fort Lauderdale to become All Saints Episcopal Church.

In 1956, a meeting at the Suni Sands Recreation Hall established a new Episcopal congregation. This group quickly grew into Tequesta's Church of the Good Shepherd.

Suni Sands: The Sperry Winter Estate



William Sperry and guests on the front porch of the Sperry House, circa 1907. (LRHS Sperry Collection)

Sometime around 1900, Edwin S. Hooley of New York City built a winter home atop the Suni Sands Midden. Among the guests were his friends, William and Emily Sperry. Hooley was hit hard by the so-called “Rich Man’s Panic” of 1903 and sold his winter home to the Sperrys to help recoup his financial losses. The new owners dubbed the estate “Suni Sands.” (Hooley would recover and buy what is now Anchorage Point for a new winter estate.) William M. Sperry was a New York City businessman and financier whose brother, Thomas, founded S&H Green Stamps with Byron Hutchinson in 1896. William succeeded Thomas as president of S&H a few years later.

William Sperry almost immediately hired Jupiter resident F. C. “Conn” Aicher to be his winter estate manager. Aicher had worked as a dentist in the Midwest before moving to Florida for his health. He was also married to Ella Carlin, daughter of the Carlin House owners. Aicher supervised numerous improvements to Suni Sands. He oversaw the expansion of the main house and the addition of five guest cottages and numerous outbuildings. An 8,000-gallon water tower was built primarily for fire safety. Two small orange groves and decorative gardens were planted, while a dozen wells provided plenty of water.

The Sperry Winter Estate... continued



Dining room of the Sperry House, 1912. "Suni Sands" is written on the mantel in seashells. (LRHS Sperry Collection)

In 1906, a two-story boathouse was constructed on the waterfront. It housed a cabin cruiser, an electric boat, and the speedboat *Dorothy* built by Charles R. Carlin. Canoes and a dinghy were also stored inside. The upper floor of the boathouse was a single open room used for dance parties and other events where the Sperrys entertained friends and guests. Joseph Eilbacher was brought in from a New York City construction firm to build reinforced concrete seawall on the waterfront at Suni Sands in 1911. The pilings were placed 8-10 feet deep.

In 1925, a group of investors led by Felix Doubleday spent a million dollars to purchase the entire Sperry holdings at Jupiter for development, dubbed Palm Beach Point. William and Emily Sperry acquired a new winter estate on Jupiter Island, which they confusingly also called Suni Sands.

William died in 1927. With the collapse of the Florida Land Boom, Doubleday's group defaulted on their payments and the Jupiter property reverted to Emily. She placed the holdings under Jupiter Inlet Estates, Inc. and filed a plat under that name in 1931. The Great Depression meant there were few prospective buyers. Frank and Lola Haas purchased the land south of modern A1A (then US Highway 1) in 1942. William M. Clemones of Georgia purchased the land north of the road, including the Sperry winter estate, in 1947.



Living room of the Sperry House, 1912. It was one of the first buildings in Jupiter with electric lights. (LRHS Sperry Collection)

Suni Sands Trailer Park

Shortly after his purchase from Mrs. Sperry, William Clemones opened Suni Sands Motor Court. It was originally aimed primarily at short-term tourists and seasonal winter residents. Clemones added a small motel to the property, which eventually became an apartment building. He is also likely responsible for rebuilding the upper story of the Sperry Boathouse, which he divided into several apartments. The Clemones family spent their winters in the former Sperry House atop the midden.

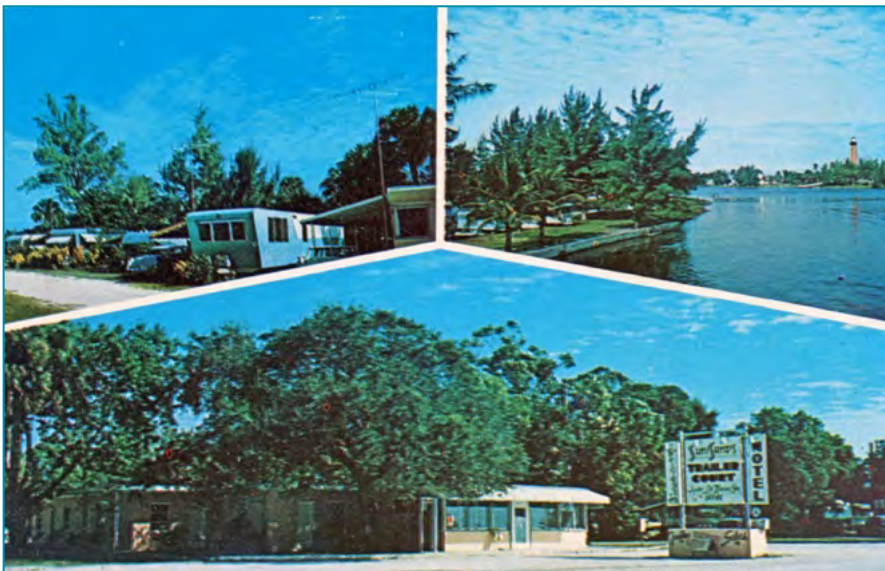


One of the earliest postcards promoting Suni Sands, circa 1951.
(LRHS Drake Collection)

In 1949, William Clemones replatted Jupiter Inlet Estates as the Suni Sands subdivision. The plat included five streets: Juno Street (now Anchor Way), Clemones (now Clemons), Loveless (now Love), Cromer (later Cramer, now Lighthouse Promenade), and Yarbrough (now Yarborough). The first street was named in reference to the Celestial Railroad

roadbed. The other four streets were named after family members. Despite all the creative explanations over the years, the real reason for the name “Loveless Street” is very simple: it was Mrs. Clemones maiden name.

Two couples – Lester & Fern Wells and Hamilton & Verda Rutherford – purchased the Suni Sands motor court, restaurant, dwelling, and boathouse in 1954. (Lester and Verda were siblings.) The first couple ran the trailer court while the second ran the restaurant. In 1957, they formally registered the business name “Suni Sands Motor Court and Trailer Park.”



Suni Sands Trailer Court postcard, 1960 (LRHS Gladwin Collection)

In September 1958, the Broedell family, under the business name Suni-Sands Jupiter Lite Marina, Inc., purchased the trailer park and restaurant for \$220,300. The following year, Frank Broedell moved into the Sperry House and ran the motor court.

Suni Sands Trailer Park...

continued

Irving Schechter purchased Suni Sands in 1962. He demolished the Sperry House and the remaining cottages from the winter estate era, and added more lots within the trailer park. Schechter rebranded as “Suni Sands Motel & Mobile Home Park” and later “Suni Sands Kampground.” He was also the first owner to attempt redevelopment of the trailer park. In 1973, the Jupiter Town Commission approved Schechter’s request to rezone the property to Residential Planned Development, which would have allowed 15 residences per acre. However, the rezoning was contingent on giving the residents four months’ notice and removing all the trailers within a year; this didn’t happen.

In 1976, the property officially became Suni Sands Mobile Home Park when it was purchased by Angelo Falconi’s corporation of the same name. Falconi unsuccessfully sought to rezone the entire property to commercial in 1988.

In the late 1990s, the Town of Jupiter began planning the redevelopment of the A1A corridor, dubbed Jupiter Inlet Village, which would be

linked by the new Riverwalk. Planners deemed Suni Sands underutilized as a mobile home park and the town council mulled rezoning. Past and present residents protested any redevelopment that would throw senior citizens out of their homes, especially for the sake of commercial development. Town Manager Lee Evett warned in a Letter to the Editor in 1997: “No one should ever assume that rental facilities, such as Suni Sands, will endure indefinitely.”

The Town established the Jupiter Inlet Village Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) on 8 Jan 2002. The [last amended version of the CRA plan from 2012](#) anticipated a future sale of Suni Sands MHP to an owner that would redevelop the property for mixed residential and commercial use. However, other than a small waterfront portion designated for the Riverwalk, the MHP retained its residential zoning.

In 2013, Charles Modica purchased Suni Sands through an LLC. Residents were evicted in 2016 and all trailers removed. The future of the property remains undetermined.

Suni Sands Service Station



SUNI-SANDS SERVICE — U. S. HIWAY NO. 1 — JUPITER, FLORIDA

A gas station opened adjacent to Suni Sands in 1948 and remained in business until at least 1960. It subsequently became Suni Sands Auto Repair. Schooner’s Restaurant opened in the remodeled service station building during the winter of 1983-1984 and remains in business today.

Postcard advertising Suni Sands Service Station
(LRHS Drake Collection)

Suni Sands Restaurants

Perhaps no local restaurant has gone through more names and owners than the one at 997 N A1A, in the southwest corner of Suni Sands.

Suni Sands Restaurant opened in 1947 and passed through a series of proprietors: Bill Ahtes, Byron S. Tripp, and Hamilton & Verda Rutherford. From 1958 to 1966, the restaurant was called Jupiter Lite Marina Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge, corresponding to a corporation that owned the trailer park. After a change of ownership followed by renovations, the restaurant became Suni Sands Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge. Numerous clubs and civic groups held meetings at the restaurant in the 1960s. The various incarnations included not only a bar, but also a “package store” (i.e. liquor store).



Jupiter Lite Marina Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge, 1960 postcard.
(LRHS Gladwin Collection)



Suni Sands Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge, late 1960s postcard.
(LRHS Gladwin Collection)

Later establishments:

Gerard's Restaurant, 1986-1991 (Andre Gerard)

Pierre's Restaurant, 1992-1997 (Pierre Dalos)

Jimmy V's, 1998

Latitude 27, 2000-2006

As of 2023 the building is occupied by Cones & Coffee and Blueline Surf and Paddle.

Starting in 1969, the restaurant moved in new directions, reflecting the shift of the adjacent property from motor court to trailer park. From 1969-1971, the restaurant was Siggys Town House. Starting in 1972, it spent a decade as Lord Chumley's Pub, a British-themed establishment. Chumley's was a local chain owned by Peter Makris with other locations in Stuart and Palm Beach Gardens. Around 1982, a new Lord Chumley's in Tequesta's County Line Plaza replaced the Jupiter location.



Postcard advertising Lord Chumley's Pub in 1975.

Jupiter Civic Center

Among Jupiter's losses to the 1928 Okeechobee Hurricane was the beach pavilion at the end of Jupiter Beach Road. Originally constructed by the Jupiter Woman's Club, no funds were available to replace the popular structure.

In 1927, the federal government donated five acres of beachfront to the Town of Jupiter – a small part of the Jupiter Inlet Life Saving Station Reservation, which later became Carlin Park. Although this area ensured public beach access, it had no facilities until the Depression Era works projects began later. Although often attributed to the Works Progress Administration, the original civic center building was actually funded in 1933 by a different agency, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and completed before the WPA existed. Town Commissioners E. F. Bowers and R. E. "Pete" Damon were in charge of the project.

The building was originally called the Jupiter Log Cabin because of its appearance. A similar structure was built around this time period in Stuart, albeit not on the beach. The original layout featured a 30x50 ft main hall on the upper floor and changing rooms for women on the lower floor. A picnic pavilion and 500-ft boardwalk were constructed as part of the same project.

The Jupiter Town Commission leased out concessionaire operation of the Jupiter Log Cabin - first to Gustav Sands then Lester McGehee. The main hall served as a simple lunch and dinner restaurant, and

frequently hosted Saturday night dances.

In 1940, in violation of the spirit (and perhaps the law) in which the building had been funded and constructed, the Town Commission leased the Log Cabin to Dr. Jack Roberts of Waukesha, WI. Roberts was a colorful character: veterinarian, stunt double for cowboy actor Tom Mix, and most recently operator of a Wisconsin tourist camp. He set about converting the beachfront property into a small tourist camp, dubbed Ocean Village. He intended to divide most of the main building into apartments and to build two dozen tourist cabins on the small property. He was required to still allow free public beach access and maintain restrooms for beachgoers. The camp was short-lived, closing due to World War II – if not for loss of tourist revenue then because the government used the surrounding property for an annex of Naval Radio Station Jupiter.



Postcard promoting Robert Colpitts' Ocean Side Bar & Grill

Jupiter Civic Center... continued

In 1945, the Town again leased the Log Cabin, this time to Robert Colpitts who operated it as the Ocean Side Bar & Grill restaurant. The lease cost \$3,500 up front plus \$750 per year. Colpitts purportedly spent \$5,000 renovating the Log Cabin back to a restaurant configuration and repairing damage caused by the wartime abandonment. The lease caused public outcry because it was for 99 years. Petitions circulated for and against; William and Alice Benton sued the Town. Circuit Court Judge Curtis E. Chillingworth overturned the lease in July 1946. The Town of Jupiter negotiated a new 19-year lease with Colpitts which more clearly identified him as a concessionaire.

In 1953, Jack Schieff of Miami offered to pay the Town \$2,500/year to lease the park. Schieff planned to build a motel and swimming pool on the property. The Town Commissioners, most of whom had not been in office during the previous lease agreements in 1945 and 1946, apparently considered breaking the lease, only upon further review to conclude the 19-year lease had exceeded the previous Town Commission's authority! After losing the legal battle, Colpitts moved to South Palm Beach and opened a new Ocean Side Bar & Grill. In a letter to historian Bessie Wilson DuBois in 1979, the restaurateur was still bitter about the whole affair and how he was "sold a bill of goods." According to Colpitts, "[I] paid off the entire bonded indebtedness of the town before the governor had a chance to cancel [my lease]."

The Jupiter Log Cabin was never again used for a restaurant (a proposal in 2009 to do was strongly opposed by the public), and the park property was never again considered for a motel, although the nature of its public use would vary. The same year the Town voided their lease, Palm Beach County purchased the rest of the former Jupiter Inlet Life Saving Station Reservation as a public park. In 1970, at the suggestion of historian Bessie DuBois, it was renamed Carlin Park. The name honors Capt. Charles R. Carlin, keeper of the lifesaving station which had been located near the south end of the property.

In 1957, the Log Cabin was renamed the Jupiter Civic Center, a name it retains to this day. (The later Log Cabin restaurant was unrelated and located elsewhere.) The local Ground Observer Corps – a civil defense organization – held meetings in the Civic Center and manned an observation tower in the northeast corner of the park. The tower was replaced by the Jupiter Gap Filler Annex, a U.S. Air Force radar station, in the 1960s and station personnel used the Civic Center. In 1964, the proposed American Museum of Marine Archaeology sought a lease on the Civic Center for a local office while attempting to raise funds to build a permanent museum in Carlin Park; the museum venture never broke ground. In the 1970s, a daycare center operated in the building. Deterioration necessitated \$90,000 of renovations in 1985.

The Jupiter Civic Center is now a locally-designated historic building and serves as an event rental venue.

Jupiter Hotels & Motels 1945-1985

In past issues we've covered the Carlin House, Wayside Inn, and Shuey's. This issue wraps up the series with Jupiter's hotels and motels after World War II. Suni Sands included a small motel, as mentioned earlier in this issue.

Seahorse Ranch Motel / South Seas Motel

The little Seahorse Ranch Motel opened for the 1948-1949 winter season on the beachfront less than a mile south of Jupiter Civic Center. At the time there were no residences or businesses on Ocean Drive between the Civic Center and the equally new Ocean Terrace Motel (across from where the Juno Beach Pier is today). Ocean Drive was a decade away from being A1A; it was still US Highway 1!

After one season, the unknown original owner sold the property to Mayne Reid Coe Sr., who was retiring from a federal government job. Coe promptly raised the building's insurance coverage. The day after the insurance increase, a Category 4 hurricane hit Jupiter and wrecked the motel. After a substantial payout, Coe rebuilt the motel, now dubbed the South Seas Motel. His son, Mayne Jr., helped run the business. A two-story building across

the street served as a small bar and restaurant, often leased to someone else to run (the upstairs was an apartment for the proprietor).

At the time Jupiter existed almost entirely west of the Intracoastal so the South Seas Motel was a member of the Juno Beach Association and often advertised as being in Juno Beach, then a fledgling community synonymous with oceanfront motels.

The construction of the Juno Ranch Motel next door cost the South Seas Ranch a significant part of their beach access and ocean view, and caused erosion problems. After stabilizing the motel from a partial collapse (which led to a lawsuit by Coe against Juno Ranch) and having been bypassed by the new US Highway 1 to the west, Coe sold the motel in 1959.



South Seas Motel in 1950, not long after it was rebuilt. (LRHS Coe-Foster Collection)

Juno Ranch Motel / Jupiter Ranch Motel / Jupiter Reef Club

The Juno Ranch motel was built on the oceanfront over a span of five months in late 1952 for a Massachusetts syndicate, just south of the South Seas Motel. The C-shaped one-story building had 51 rooms, a saltwater swimming pool, and a restaurant and bar. Construction by contractor Sanford Kay of Miami cost \$350,000. Juno Ranch was built on fill contained by a seawall projecting out to the high tide mark. People joked you could fish from the windows. 25 years later, when the State of Florida passed new coastal construction setback laws, Gov. Reuben Askew specifically cited the Ranch as one such building that should have never been built where it was.

The motel was nearly destroyed before it could open. In early January 1953, with construction

just completed, a winter storm began to collapse the 350-ft long, 10-ft tall reinforced-concrete seawall. The wall was hastily rebuilt and the building survived. Problems continued when managers Ned and Betty Davis and maintenance man Anker G. Pedersen sued the motel's owners for breach of contract after those three resident employees were abruptly fired in October, only a few months into their one-year contracts. The frustrated syndicate soon sold the motel. Adrian Hooper and Max Yaffe were among the subsequent owners during the 1950s.

In 1959, Byron and Sally Cain purchased the business which they renamed The Jupiter Ranch - often informally called the Jupiter Ranch Motel or Jupiter Ranch Resort.



1950s aerial of the Juno Ranch motel, with the South Seas Motel in the upper left. (LRHS Wehage Collection)

Jupiter Hotels & Motels...

continued



Postcard showing the ocean side of Juno Ranch motel (LRHS Gladwin Family Collection)

Under its various managers, the restaurant hosted many civic organization meetings, including the Kiwanis Club and Lions Club. In the 1950s, local residents could also pay a day-use fee for pool access.

The motel had its share of tragedies. In 1955, illness claimed the life of the motel's manager, Frank Clement Rosenbauer. In 1965, 7-year-old Alice Shepard fell against an air conditioning unit while still wet from swimming in the pool; she was fatally electrocuted. Alice's father sued Ellard Clarke, then owner of the motel, for negligence. In 1976, motel manager Edward Wheeler was shot dead in his office.

In 1979, the business was sold to David and Pauline Montwill of Jupiter. The new owners renovated and redecorated with a nautical theme. The motel was renamed the S.S. Jupiter

Seas Resort. The restaurant was dubbed The Quarterdeck, featuring a seafood-heavy menu and live music. The new establishment only lasted a few years.

In the early 1980s, the Town of Jupiter discussed how to handle "interval ownership" aka timeshares, a concept first introduced to the USA in 1974. The motel converted to this new ownership model, being granted the lone exception from the otherwise restrictive local ordinances because they already had several other exemptions as a non-conforming building due to the 1950s construction. Henceforth called the Jupiter Reef Club, the property remains a timeshare resort in 2023. It also remains one of only two properties in the county north of the Palm Beach Inlet that projects out into the surf (the other being Ocean's Edge condominiums on Singer Island).

Derrick Cottages / Baron's Landing

In 1951, Albert Derrick purchased property from C. J. Walker that fronted what was then US Highway 1 (now A1A) and backed up to an old bend in Lake Worth Creek. The land included a house and cottage, both built about a decade

earlier. Derrick added additional cottages and opened Derrick Cottages as a small motel.

Andre and Carol Baron purchased the motel in 1970 and renamed it Baron's Landing. As of 2023, the couple are still operating it.

Pa-Ja Villas

In 1958, Albert Derrick sold the western part of his property to Jack and Patricia Arnsperger. The Arnspergers built a two-story motel that opened for the 1961-1962 winter season.

Jack was said to be a close relative of Bill Arnsperger, defensive coordinator for the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins. Genealogy research reveals they were actually fourth cousins, once-removed.

The Arnspergers sold the motel in 1970 to Francis and Jeanne Brooks, who resold it two years later to Darl and Dee Musgrove. Uncommonly, the motel retained its original name all the way until it closed in 2012. The building was demolished the following summer and the site remains vacant as of 2023. The Musgroves donated photos and ephemera from the motel.



Split postcard showing views of Pa-Ja Villas from A1A and Lake Worth Creek.
(Courtesy of Darl & Dee Musgrove)

Jupiter Beach Resort



1970s postcard showing the Jupiter Holiday Inn, before the construction of Ocean Trails.

The first hotel taller than two stories ever built in the Jupiter-Tequesta area is still standing, between Jupiter Beach Park and Carlin Park. Kassuba Development Corporation, owned by Walter J. Kassuba, constructed the hotel; it was the tenth Holiday Inn that Kassuba owned. Kassuba Development subsequently built the enormous Ocean Trails condominium towers immediately north of the hotel.

The hotel held its grand opening celebration on 31 Mar 1973. It originally featured 194 rooms, two restaurants, meeting and banquet rooms, a heated pool, and tennis courts. Cornelius McGillicuddy III, grandson of baseball player great Connie Mack, was the first manager.

Kassuba sold the hotel to Marshall Field in 1979. As part of extensive renovations in 1984 and 1985, the Jupiter Holiday Inn became the Jupiter Beach Hilton. In 1992, the hotel became the independent Jupiter Beach Resort & Spa, and remains so today.

More Recent Hotel & Motel Construction

1987: Best Western Intracoastal Inn, US Highway 1

1989: La Quinta Inn, East Indiantown Road

2000: Fairfield Inn & Suites, West Indiantown Road

2004: Comfort Inn & Suites, West Indiantown Road

2014: Courtyard By Marriott, Abacoa Town Center

2014: Wyndham Grand Jupiter at Harbourside Place

Jupiter Farms History: Philo & Rood

Edgar Woodruff Philo (1863-1937) was a successful poultry farmer in Elmira, NY who came to some national acclaim by publishing a booklet, The Philo System of Progressive Poultry Keeping. Philo originally came to Florida in the early 1910s, one of several Elmira residents who moved to Lemon City (near Miami). He went into business with John Brand (1855-1932), an experienced real estate speculator from Elmira.

In 1912, Philo and Brand incorporated the Jupiter Fruit Farms Company, along with several other shareholders from Elmira. The company purchased 30,000 acres west of Jupiter. The northern portion, bisected by Jupiter-Indiantown Grade, was subdivided into 10 and 20-acre agricultural tracts and promoted as Philo Farms. It was just another real estate investment for Brand, but Philo intended to heavily market his poultry system to the new residents who would buy chickens and equipment from him. Philo owned a small two-story hotel in the community. It hosted new and prospective residents until they finished building their houses, and was a common overnight stop for people traveling between Jupiter and Indiantown via horse and wagon. The hotel also hosted the community's civic meetings.

Philo Farms never sold as well as Philo and Brand expected. The location was probably a little too rural to be enticing (6-8 miles from the Jupiter railroad station on a shellrock road) and too far

ahead of the big Florida land boom of the 1920s. Most importantly, little work was done to drain the land, which was mostly pine flatwoods prone to seasonal flooding. As has long been all too common in Florida, most of the residents were newcomers from Northeast and Midwest who bought their property sight unseen. The residents quickly became frustrated with Philo's failure to properly develop the community. Herbert J. Wilkinson arrived in Jupiter with 4,000 chickens only to find his 10-acre lot flooded. Wilkinson immediately demanded a refund from Edgar Philo (allegedly at gunpoint) and settled elsewhere in Jupiter. There are about two dozen known farms, although information on the community's earliest years is scant. Some of the farmers initially found moderate initial success raising vegetables and citrus.

The largest family in Philo Farms was that of Homer and Sophia Rood, who moved there from Wisconsin in the winter of 1914-1915. They came to Florida with seven children and added two more to the family while living in Philo Farms. The final two Rood children were born after the family moved into Jupiter, for eleven total.

When the community applied for a post office they decided to name it after the Roods rather than Philo. The Rood post office operated 1915-1934. All postmasters were women: Pearl Damon (1915-1917), Anna Griffith (1917-1934), Pearl Sands (1934). During Griffith's time as postmaster the post office was located at her home. Charlie Carlin was the mailcarrier on the Jupiter-Rood-Indiantown route starting in 1916. Sophia Rood got the mail route contract after her husband's death in 1924, with eldest son Harlow Smith Rood usually handling the duties.



Philo Farms center point survey post, made from pine heartwood.
Placed in 1912 and removed in 1977 by surveyor Dan Dailey.
Donated to LRHS by Gary Garrison.

Jupiter Farms History... continued



Sophia and Homer Rood, 1923
(Courtesy of Jacqueline Rood Leopold)

Residents formed the Rood Mutual Association in 1916, with Stuart C. Davis as President and Homer Rood as Vice President. There was also a Rood Women's Canning Club and a Sunday School. Anna Hinds taught a one-room public elementary school with as many as 15 children for at least two school years (1915-1917). After 1917 the remaining children took a bus to the school in Jupiter. The community had a sawmill operated by John and Pete Damon, but apparently no stores.

In 1918, Jupiter Fruit Farms Company sold 12,000 acres south of the Philo Farms subdivision to Samuel Lansky of Chicago. That would lead to the development of Jupiter Farms & Groves by the South Indian River Company in the 1920s (a subject to be covered in the next issue).

Philo Farms had a very brief resurgence in the immediate aftermath of World War I, but it didn't last and the Jupiter Fruit Farms Company dissolved at the end of 1919. By that point most of the residents were gone. A few, like the Roods

and Damons, moved into Jupiter, but most simply returned north. By the time the community was a decade old the only remaining residents were the Taylors and Griffiths. William and Amalie Taylor were among the first settlers and stuck around until 1937. Edwin and Anna Griffith lived there until their deaths, in 1950 and 1938, respectively.

By the 1980s, the Griffith and Taylor Houses were still standing, but long abandoned and in severe decay. Today the only structure remaining from Philo Farms and Rood is the ruins of the Griffith House chimney, which collapsed in 2023.

There are no known photos of Philo Farms.



The lone chimney in Cypress Creek Natural Area - formerly mistakenly attributed to the Rood House or the Philo Hotel, but more recently determined to be from the Griffith House. Unfortunately, it collapsed in 2023.

After Rood: Cecil Johnson, Culpepper Ranch, and Cypress Creek Natural Area

Cecil Columbus Johnson (1909-1983) moved from Arcadia to Jupiter Farms not long after being discharged from Army service during World War II. He moved into one of the old houses (possibly the Taylor House) in the ghost town of Rood and took up ranching on the property for the next several decades. Cecil was a committed bachelor, proud Florida cracker, and perpetually barefoot even on horseback. Cecil hired various young men, sometimes teenagers, as cowhands. [You can read the reminiscences online of one of them, Eddie Bivens.](#) Locals who knew Cecil Johnson describe him as a very kind man, and those who worked for him in their youth remember that time fondly.

Florida ended open range cattle ranching in 1949, one of the last states to do so. Cecil fenced his property using pine heartwood posts. He built a concrete cattle dipping vat to treat his livestock for ticks and dug ditches between the larger wetland areas to increase drainage of the flood-prone pine flatwoods into Cypress Creek. Drainage got a further boost in 1972 when the Cypress Creek Canal was dug along the north side of the construction of Ranch Colony Estates. Unlike many other ranches, Cecil Johnson never improved his pastures with non-native grasses or clover.

In the 1960s, Gulfstream Citrus established a large grove on previously uncultivated land on either side of the Florida Turnpike, and built Gulfstream Road to access it. A separate pepper farm was established immediately north of the county line, extending from Gulfstream Road to the Turnpike.

By the mid-1980s, Cecil Johnson was dead (purportedly from injuries suffered while working cattle) and the MacArthur Foundation had acquired the former Philo Farms property as a real estate investment. In 1986, the Culpepper Cattle

Company began leasing the land for their cattle operations. The Culpeppers re-fenced the entire property with modern posts and barbed wire, and cross-fenced the interior west of Gulfstream Road into four paddocks. The lease also included the land east of Gulfstream Road, although that part was deemed inadequate for pasture. The Culpeppers were able to lease the land for nominal cost because ranching kept the land's agricultural exemption active.

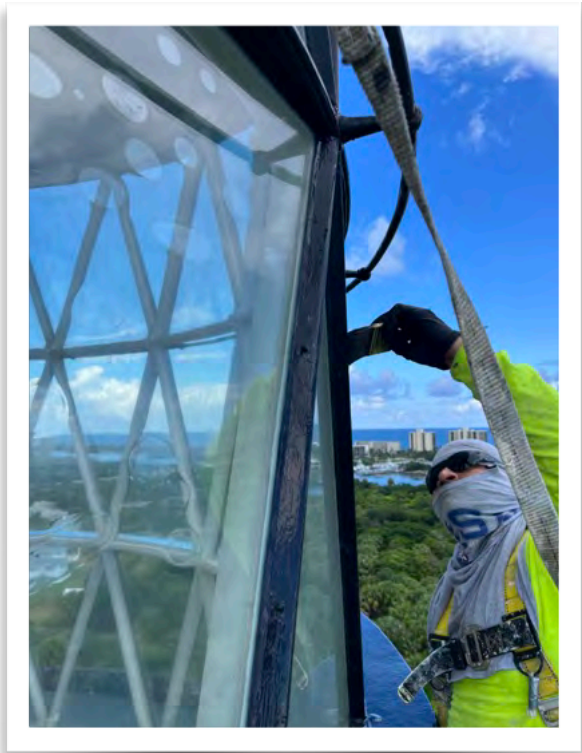
There were several development proposals for the land. In 1988, the Norton Foundation for the Arts seriously pitched a 5,000-acre arts village, university, and research & development park. A later unrelated proposal called for a golf course maintenance training facility in the southwest corner of the property.

In the 1990s there was a lot of interest in acquiring the Cypress Creek property for preservation. The MacArthur Foundation decided to sell off its Jupiter Farms holdings in 2000 to Indiantown Realty Partners, a real estate investment firm connected with Jim Moran. Martin County, Palm Beach County, and the South Florida Water Management District teamed up to acquire the property. Robert Culpepper states he helped negotiate the deal.

Palm Beach County purchased Philo Farms south of the county line, which became Cypress Creek Natural Area. Environmental Resources Management backfilled the drainage ditches, removed invasive plants that had grown on former farmland, and restored a large wetlands area east of Gulfstream Road. Old Jupiter-Indiantown Grade has become a popular multipurpose trail. Someday the historic trail will hopefully be restored to public use all the way to Indiantown.

Lighthouse Keeping

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum closed for two weeks in September for annual maintenance. Our coastal environment batters the exposed tower with bright sun, heavy rain, and wind-blown salt and sand. We strive to ensure the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse to always be one of the best-kept in the country.



The tower interior walls and stairs need repainting every year or two due to the tens of thousands of annual lighthouse climbers. This year, the stairs leading up the hill to the lighthouse were also repainted. The safety railing along the sidewalk leading into the Keepers' Workshop building was repaired and extended.

The most important part of this year's preservation work this year involved the lantern. Experienced contractors from Razorback LLC donned safety harnesses and sun protection to treat rust on the ironwork, then repaint all the metal with durable



Tnemec paint. Three parts of the lantern were targeted by this work. First, the lantern gallery - the catwalk just above visitors heads which is entirely the original ironwork from 1860. Second, the astragals - the triangular framework that holds the three rows of exterior lantern glass in place. Rust prevention is especially important here to avoid cracking the glass. Third, the lantern roof, which is mostly original ironwork.

Lecture Series

Join LRHS Historian Josh Liller to learn more about local history in these free presentations.

Pennock Plantation *Friday January 5 @ 12:00 Noon, Loxahatchee River Center*

The Pennock Plantation fernery and dairy was a major part of Jupiter in the first half of the 20th century. Their agribusiness, civic leadership, and Quaker values are an important part of Jupiter's history. Seating limited – RSVP with the River Center

Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee *Wed January 10 @ 6:30 PM, Hobe Sound Library*

Learn about what went into the Revised Edition of the best available history book about the Jupiter-Tequesta area, published in 2019. The presentation will be highlighted by photos new to this edition and an overview of the history covered. Part of the Martin County Library System Chataqua South author series.

The Spanish-American War *Friday January 26 @ 2:30 PM, Jupiter Library*

In 1898, the United States went to war with Spain over Cuba. Learn about the “splendid little war” that made Theodore Roosevelt famous, with an emphasis on Florida's role in the conflict.

Black Jupiter: Untold Stories *Friday February 23 @ 2:30 PM, Jupiter Library*

African Americans have a long history in the Jupiter area, especially the Limestone Creek community of western Jupiter. From Black Seminoles to homesteaders to the modern day, they are an integral part of our heritage.

Spencer Stereoviews *Wednesday March 6 @ 9:30 AM, Blowing Rocks Preserve Visitor Center*

Between 1876 and 1889, lighthouse keepers Fredrick Whitehead and Melville Spencer took some of the earliest photographs of southeast Florida. See the history and natural beauty they chronicled.

Tales of the Lighthouse Keepers *Friday March 22 @ 2:30 PM, Jupiter Library*

Nearly 200 civilians and military personnel served at some point as a keeper at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. Hear some of their stories.

True Crime in Jupiter, Tequesta, and Juno *Friday April 26 @ 2:30 PM, Jupiter Library*

From unsolved murders to the first documented lynching in South Florida and a serial killer, shine a light on some of the darkest parts of local history.

2024 Lighthouse Events Schedule

Mark your calendars!

More details - and online registrations, where applicable - will be available on www.jupiterlighthouse.org/calendar/ as the events get closer.

Schedule subject to change.

Major Events

Sat	Jan 20	Family Adventure Day
Sat	Apr 13	Wild & Scenic Film Festival
Sat	Jul 13	Loxahatchee River Heritage Day
Sat	Nov 23	Rendezvous at the Light
Sun	Dec 15	Holiday Event (tentative)

Youth Programs

Lighthouse Storytime:

3rd Saturday, for preschool and Kindergarten children

Feb 17, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, Aug 17, Oct 19, Nov 16, Dec 21

Lighthouse Explorers Club:

2nd Saturday, for elementary children (1st – 3rd grade)

Feb 10, Mar 9, May 11, June 8, Aug 10, Sep 14, Nov 9

Homeschool Mornings:

1st Thursdays, for homeschool children, especially 4th graders

Feb 1, Mar 7, April 4, May 2, Sept 5, Nov 7, Dec 5

School Field Trips:

We host field trips for public and private schools throughout the year, primarily 4th Graders studying Florida History.

Other Programs & Events

Sunset Tours	most Wednesdays.
Sunrise Tours	Mar 16, 17, 23, & 24 and Oct 19, 20, 26, & 27
Moonrise Tours	monthly
Twilight Yoga	most Monday evenings
ONA Day	Wednesday May 8
Armed Forces Day	Saturday May 18

Your donations help fund our programs.

[Donate here!](#)

Keepers' Update

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum is open Tuesday-Sunday. Admission is sold each day 10AM-4PM and the Gift Shop is open until 5PM. Access for daily admissions and all programs is through the former PX gate on the east side of the Lighthouse Park parking lot. Due to weddings, we will close one hour early on Sat Jan 13, Fri Jan 26, and Sat Jan 27.

The lighthouse remains open for climbing during the US 1 bridge project. Once the piledriving is completed, the first-order Fresnel lens will be unwrapped and placed back in service. This will include the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team installing a new LED light source, replacing the current system of incandescent bulbs. This is expected to occur in January 2024.

The **historic World War II Navy housing building on the waterfront is closed until further notice** also due to the US 1 bridge project. Lighthouse Park, operated by the Town of Jupiter, remains open normally.

Holiday Hours: Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Day.

Specialty Guided Tours: In addition to our general tours at 12 PM and 2 PM Tuesday - Friday, we now offer weekly specialty tours at 1 PM. Tuesdays: Native Plants. Wednesdays: Military History. Thursdays: Native Americans. Fridays: Lighthouse Keepers. General and specialty guided tours are free with daily admission.

Staff Changes: Lisa Ridgway has retired after nearly 20 years as the LRHS Bookkeeper, and will be greatly missed. She will continue to help make our popular First-Order Fudge. We wish her the best in her semi-retirement! Margie Johnson has joined LRHS as our new Bookkeeper & Office Manager, bringing many years of experience with nonprofit organizations.

Jewell Carver started volunteering with LRHS this summer after she graduated from Southeastern University. She has been hired as part-time Program Assistant and will be helping with a variety of projects.

New Board Members: CWO James T. Mullinax (USCG-ret), archaeologist Sara Ayers-Rigsby, LRHS volunteer Kay Scott, and Lorraine McDonough have joined the LRHS Board of Directors. This brings us up to 15 total members, our largest Board in over a decade.

Rendezvous at the Light: This year's event was our most successful yet. From the gorgeous weather, delicious restaurant tastings, live music, and sparkling silent auction it was a night to remember. A big thank you to all of the sponsors and attendees!

Stay connected with us through your social media outlet of choice:



Newsletter Credits

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