

WEST JUPITER QUICK TAKES

Reminiscences of the African American
and the Seminole in a Hideout

THRIFTBOOKS

SAMUEL A. HAY

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and the Seminole in a Hideout

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Preface

West Jupiter Quick Takes is a smattering of word drawings by some pleasant and tough African Americans. They belong to the first three generations of low-income workers in West Jupiter, Florida, which is about sixty miles due north of Miami and close enough to the Atlantic Ocean to smell it. The area is an unincorporated country place in northern Palm Beach County.

The main purpose of this slim volume is to help raise developmental funds for West Jupiter. The secondary objective is to briefly introduce you to some good people and some startling stories, recollections, and religious practices. And hard labor, leisure, learning, and politicking. We might begin by sharing a historical sketch of the land, which is a battlefield. It was settled by the Seminole and their African warriors and slaves. Its known history dates to 1817, when runaway slaves fled south after the massacre of Africans in the Negro Fort near Apalachicola. The Seminole defended the Africans against the Americans, which led to the First Seminole War (1817–1818). Later facing defeat, the Seminole, too, hid out throughout South Florida. Some joined the Africans in what would be later called West Jupiter and would be centered in what is now The Shores of Jupiter. It was simply called the reservation. The Africans later named the place Reservation. It turned into the part of a battlefield of two other wars between the Seminole and the Americans.

Preparations for the Second Seminole War began

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The Pioneers

TAKE 1. West Jupiter strangely celebrates William Bostick (1869–1963) as the first-known African American settler in the Jupiter area. Most people historically have not known or cared—spending most time grubbing out a living. The latest argument about him is where exactly he is buried in the Mount Carmel Memorial Park, which, until about 1968, was but a grassland burial ground with mostly unmarked graves. Therefore the disagreement between some Bostick descendants and the church cemetery committee, which, by the way, keeps the graveyard faultlessly. Some in the family believe that Bostick lies right next to a large stump in the first row. But Willie Hinson Jr., the committee chair until mid-2009, holds that the grave is a few yards away.

Bostick probably delights in the confusion, which is quite similar to that created by him about his date and place of birth. The obituary in his funeral program lists July 4, 1865, with no birthplace given. Several federal and state records give strikingly original versions. The U.S. Census for the first four decades of the 1900s says that he was born (a) in 1872 in Florida (1900 Census); (b) in 1874 in Florida (1910 Census); (c) in 1863 in Florida (1920 Census); and (d) in 1880 in Virginia (1930 Census). The Florida State Population Census for 1935 and 1945

“How you get it?”

“One day back home in Carolina, I was passing a graveyard,” he said. “A ghost asked me for a piece of bread. I told him that I didn’t have any. He then choked me.”

TAKE 8. The smallest communities were The Bama, in terms of land, and Out in the Back Woods, when counting heads. Like Across the River, The Bama was about a five-acre African American island, perched in a white area. That community—now the site of the Solitron Corporation on Indiantown Road—consisted of four rental properties, which were starter houses built around 1902 for the workers at Pennock’s dairy and fernery. During the twenties and thirties, The Bama grew a reputation for its weekend-long “tea parties”—“tea” being moonshine. Jefferson Frinks’s group sometimes provided live music so that some people could show off their versions of the Jitterbug, the Cakewalk, the Hucklebuck, along with other popular dances. (The people had learned them from relatives and friends in Harlem, Chicago, Pittsburgh, or other stops along the Great Migration.) Several whites, interestingly enough, regularly attended these parties, which spilled from house to house. This gave The Bama its reputation—and name—as a country place full of loud and hard-nosed drinkers who loved “hanging out.” By 1938, batches of deeply religious churchgoers invaded The Bama, making later generations wonder how in the world this quiet place got such a reputation.

The Sweets (Jimmie Ruth, b. ca. 1900, and George, b. ca. 1896) lived in the easternmost Bama house, which was about five miles from the Atlantic Ocean. They had come to Reservation in the twenties from North Florida,

lured by W. C. Davis, who had married George's sister, Jazy, and had homesteaded eighty acres in 1915. The Sweets had nine children: James, Roscoe, Clifford, Flossie, Anita, Dorothy, Wester, Margie, and "Wilamena," who insisted that I use *her* spelling instead of the traditional "Wilhelmena." The importance of this family was not only that all of the children became professionals but also that George Sweet became the first-known African American to establish and lead self-help programs that completely changed reservation life. (The programs, as well as the family, will be discussed later.)

Maebell Glover Hay (1912–1970) and Thomas Hay Jr. lived about forty yards west of the Sweets. A close-up sketch of the Hay house and family might help to understand the typical Reservation worker housing and family life. The Hay house was the smallest of the four—about six hundred square feet—because there were only my parents and me when we moved there in 1939. The house was long and skinny, made of rough-cut pine siding with a corrugated tin roof. A screened front porch, with a swing for three suspended from the ceiling, faced the two-lane Indiantown Road. The front door of the house led into a combination living room and bedroom, which was about nine by nine. A sheet or bedspread on a wire, which ran the length of the room, separated the two spaces. The bedroom had a double bed shoved tightly against the northwest corner. A window in the west wall overlooked a small oak tree, from which I saw the birth of my youngest brother, James Thomas III, in 1942.

Clothes, covered by a sheet, hung on a wire strung from the west wall to the south wall of the bedroom. Boxes with Mom's "belongings" were stacked on shelves and under-the-bed spaces. The living room consisted of a chif-

schools the Rosenwald School because the Sears and Roebuck philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, 1862–1932, donated the money for it, as well as five thousand others for poor, rural, African American youth throughout the South.) Carrie’s principal, Anne Hogan Brewer, recognized early her musical and acting talents, and she cast Carrie as the star in several plays and skits. Music, drama, and chemistry remained her favorite subjects. After graduating from Jupiter Colored, she caught the bus to Industrial High, which she attended during 1937–1940, becoming the star student in Bertha S. Parrish’s English class and Maggie Dell Austin LeFleur’s science class. Carrie sang lead soprano solo in the glee club, directed by the legendary Maria (pronounced *ma-RYE-ah*) Gilliam. Carrie loved playing basketball, doing crochet, dancing, and fishing. She quit school in the eleventh grade because “riding that bus every day simply wore me out.”

Carrie did “day work,” until she married Dozier Hunter (1916–1972). She loved the hours spent in her gardens and with the farm animals, which made it almost unnecessary to purchase food. She and Dozier eventually had three sons (Dozier Jr., James, and Vincent) and six daughters (Iris, Velma, Christine, Deborah, Faye, and Wilma). Carrie began directing the Mount Carmel choir in 1950 and the Church of God choir in 1954. Among her other long-term jobs was school bus driver, which she enjoyed because she got to interact with young people. Her oldest child, Iris (later Etheredge), desegregated Jupiter High in 1962. Some students, parents, and teachers terrorized her. (See James D. Snyder, *Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee*, 2003.)

Joshua Dillard Sr. (1908–1981) and his wife, Bertha (1904–1987), helped to settle Out in the Back Woods as managers of the Lainhart Groves. He had first come to

Reservation from Havana, Florida, in 1920 with his father, William "Willie," Dillard, a widower, who had followed his friend George Sweet. In 1922, Willie married Mattie McGriff Thompson (1881–1948), widow of Troy Thompson (d. 1922), whom Willie had known in Havana. Willie became stepfather to her nine children (Johnnie, Peaches, George, Troy, Leonis, Annie Jane, Darlene, Bessie Mae, and Lillian). Like Bostick, Willie loved "keeping a move on," often "catching a bus to anyplace." His son Joshua Sr. returned to Havana, where he married Bertha and reared three sons (Joshua Jr., 1935–2008, Addison; and Matthew "Bay"). The family returned to Reservation in 1945, where Joshua Sr. and Joshua Jr. became the only father–son treasurers of Mount Carmel (Joshua Sr. 1966–1973, and Joshua Jr. 1973–1983). Joshua Jr. also chaired the deacon board (1992–2001) and headed the Sunday school (1988–1990). He and his wife, Myrtle Green Dillard, a noted baker of gingerbread houses, relocated to Havana, Florida, in 2001.

Matthew Dillard, like Zed Sapp and Carolyn Williams, became a first-rate musician and choir director. After teaching himself to play bass guitar, organ, and piano, Matthew played for the Spiritual Knights quartet, led by Martin "Boy" Hogg. Matthew later played for the Souls of Harmony, led by James Thomas Hay III. Matthew resurrected and directed the choir at Mount Carmel, as well as at several other churches.

Nancy Hooks (b. ca. 1898) and Oscar Hooks (b. ca. 1892) were mainstays of Out in the Back Woods. Arriving from Georgia around 1930, they had five children (Eloise, Eva, Oscar Jr., Evelyn, and Ernest), all of whom loved the sciences, probably the result of their having managed Judge Curtis E. Chillingworth's orange grove during 1935–1953. It was not surprising, therefore, that—with

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Politics

TAKE 5.1. West Jupiter started a volunteer fire department in 1958 and had gotten so confident by 1964 that it started competing with the white department in Jupiter to see who would be the first at the scene of a West Jupiter fire. There was soon big trouble, which started over a fire in Over the River. Grace Simmons Carter called both departments. The first engine sent by Jupiter broke down. West Jupiter, with a 1952 Chevy fire truck bought from the Fort Pierce Fire Department, pulled around the Jupiter truck. West Jupiter had the fire under control when the Jupiter volunteers finally got there. This stirred hard feelings because West Jupiter was outside of its tax district. Jupiter decided that it had better set this upstart operation straight, and it demanded a meeting at the West Jupiter Fire Hall.

West Jupiter sensed trouble and packed the place. Jupiter asked to see the West Jupiter charter, and the Jupiter firefighters were surprised to find that West Jupiter's charter was identical to Jupiter's. John Ziegler, the pioneer white attorney and son of the turn-of-the-century grocer Thomas Ziegler, had drawn up the Jupiter charter. When Hay Jr. asked Ziegler to write the West Jupi-

ter charter, Zeigler decided to save them some money by having Hay Jr. copy the Jupiter charter, making the necessary substitutions. This discovery at the meeting really “threw the fatback on the fire,” as Hay Jr. put it. Tempers flared as the whites lectured the African Americans on what they had better do and stop doing.

“Just who do you think you are?” asked Allie Hunter, chairman of the West Jupiter Board of Supervisors.

“You’d better listen to what we are telling you.”

“And who do you think you’re talking to? You’re not talking to a bunch of children out here,” Hunter said.

“West Jupiter is under Jupiter,” shouted the Jupiter chief.

“There’s no such thing. Ain’t nobody out here under you. And we’re not going to be under you because we don’t need a thing you have. And we don’t need to hear a thing you have to say. So you’d better just get from out here and stay from out here, if you know what’s good for you,” Hunter said.

“Now, listen—”

“Naw, you listen. We got our charter and we can take care of ourselves,” Hunter replied.

Assistant Chief Henry Stafford turned on his tape recorder and cursed the whites out, ending with, “And don’t make me have to go out to my truck.”

TAKE 5.2. Allie Hunter had learned well how to deal with such situations. He had worked and studied with George Sweet in 1948, when Sweet organized the West Jupiter Voters League. In addition to Hunter, Sweet recruited the Reverend J. T. Stafford; his son, the Reverend Jesse Stafford; and Thomas Hay Jr. to be on the Voters League board. They led drives to get out the vote and de-

feat racist politicians—sometimes by trickery. One white politician, known for his Ku Klux Klan sympathies, sought West Jupiter's help in winning a seat on the Palm Beach County Commission. He paid the Voters League well to distribute his campaign literature and transport his supporters to the polls. The league took the money, burned the material, and showed the people how to vote for the man's opponent, who won.

Sweet trained his board in the tactics that he had picked up from Ulysses B. Kinsey, an elementary school principal and founder of the West Palm Beach Voters League. A native of Fort White in North Florida and a graduate of Florida A&M, Kinsey came up with the idea for the league while listening to prosecutor Earl Roebuck try a case, using "nigger twenty times," said Kinsey. Although he persuaded Judge Edward G. Newell to stop Roebuck from using the word, Kinsey decided that real change in public behavior and policy depended on "sweeping such politicians out of office like flies." He brought together leaders from throughout the county to form a board, which included Sweet as the representative from North County because he had organized every political self-help group in West Jupiter prior to 1950: the first parent-teacher association; the Civic Carpool, which carried voters to the polls; the local Red Cross, which had held workshops and raised funds during World War II; and the Grange Group. (This organization took its name from the white lodges of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, a national fraternal association founded in 1880 for agricultural interests. But Sweet's group discussed current events that affected "Colored people in and around the Jupiter and the Hobe Sound areas," according to Josephine Bostick Lyons, who, with her husband, Charles, "never missed a meeting.")

After joining the West Palm Beach Voters League board, Sweet—along with the dentist Robert L. Smith, grocer Carl Robinson, and dentist John H. Terrell—threw himself into organizing. They expanded the board with the Reverend Randolph Lee of Boynton Beach, the radio programmer Harvey J. Poole and the funeral director Willard C. Taylor of Belle Glade, and the educator C. Spencer Pompey of Delray Beach. With the help of the Reverend Daniel Conner of the New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in West Palm Beach, Kinsey and the board packed semi-monthly meetings. The Voters League caused dramatic changes throughout the county. In West Palm Beach, for example, Prosecutor Roebuck lost his office to the more enlightened H. Harold Williams. The first African Americans were elected to District Nine of the Palm Beach County Board of School Trustees. The new trustees were funeral director Norman Bonner and community organizer Cornelius Richardson, whose grandson, Herman McCray, led drives to make equally as profound changes in Riviera Beach during the seventies and eighties. Bonner and Richardson demanded—and got—better-prepared teachers, increased supplies, and new textbooks. The league worked with the trustees to ban shortening African American school terms so that students could harvest crops. Segregated water fountains on school property disappeared. The league spearheaded the election of a new West Palm Beach police chief, Truman Matthews, who added African American officers.

The league made so many political gains that white opponents paid some African Americans to inform on the group. This seriously hampered some league programs. The informants, in fact, were very so effective at one point that the board had to stop its open public meetings and meet, instead, in a car as it drove along the beach on

Singer Island. The board later saved money by meeting among the dead at the Bonner Funeral Home.

TAKE 5.3. It was no surprise that as soon as Sweet arrived in West Jupiter, he started fighting for people to organize in order to take care of themselves and to stop depending on their white bosses. Such self-reliance was “in his blood,” having come from an “uppity” family. Sweet was the youngest of Luvenia Cooper Sweet and Webster Sweet’s four children, who lived on a two-hundred-acre farm outside of Havana, Florida. He helped his family turn the farm into a smooth-running business specializing in turkeys, vegetables, pecans, and dairy products. At eighteen, he visited his sister Jazy, who had married the farmer and carpenter W. C. Davis in West Jupiter. Sweet returned to Havana in 1917 and eloped with his childhood sweetheart, Jimmie Ruth Wester, a warm and engaging woman.

The marriage united two relatively well-off families. Jimmie Ruth, the youngest of Minerva Ziegler Wester and James Warren Wester’s eighteen children, could pass for white. Their 602-acre farm, whose principal crop was tobacco, had everything from a gristmill to smokehouses. Jimmie Ruth’s mother made and sold popular jellies. The importance of all of this was that when Jimmie Ruth and George settled in West Jupiter, they brought the tradition of expecting no handouts, which Sweet hoped to pass on to West Jupiter. The early results were mixed, unlike those in his own family. He continually preached to his four sons and five daughters that they had to “get something in your head.” All became professionals: With the exceptions of the two oldest daughters (Flossie, a nurse, and Anita, a seamstress for the wealthy on Jupiter Is-

land), the daughters became educators (Dorothy and Margie high school counselors, and Wilhelmena a principal). Sweet devised a unique plan to educate them on a very limited budget. Everybody "pitched in" to put the oldest daughter through the Phillips Nursing School in Virginia. Each daughter, thereafter, supported a sister as she worked for a year before entering college. When the coed ran out of money, the sisters resumed their support as the student again worked and saved for another year.

The sons followed suit, although along different lines. The oldest, Wester, left West Jupiter to live with his maternal grandparents in Havana when he was twelve. He finished high school and became a World War II marine in the South Pacific during 1943–1946. He used the GI Bill to finish the University of California–Berkeley and the Hastings School of Law in San Francisco. He had in 1992 one of the leading practices in Northern California—representing the likes of Rock star Tina Turner. When his brother James Warren finished Florida A&M and returned from Korea in 1959, Wester took care of him in San Jose, California, and helped to educate him for a career in science. James was in 1992 the supervisor of a biochemical laboratory. James assisted Roscoe in starting a business, Sweet's Demolition, which made him the "wealthiest of the lot." Wester, who had left home in 1937 because he got tired of changing his youngest brother Clifford's diapers, helped him to finish San Jose State and Lincoln University Law School in San Francisco. Clifford was in 1992 the executive attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Alameda County. God answered George Sweet's weekly Sunday morning prayer: "Dear Lord, help me live long enough to get my children out from under the foot of man."

TAKE 5.4. George Sweet taught West Jupiter the power of community organizing, which the people continued after he had moved to Riviera Beach in 1950. West Jupiter started a preparatory school, an improvement association, an educational fund, a political action group, and a volunteer fire department. Carol Mulready started Jupiter Prep—now the Thelma B. Pittman–Jupiter Preparatory School. A Connecticut Yankee, whose husband, Richard, worked as an engineer at the Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Division, Mulready noticed that her gardener, Leroy Rollins, brought his young sons, Albert and Theodore, to work with him every day. She asked Rollins why he did not put them in kindergarten, and he told her that no place in the area accepted African American children. Mulready talked to Marshall Benjamin, who with his wife, Nancy, had established the highly respected Benjamin School in North Palm Beach in 1959. In a first-time move in the Jupiter area, Mulready invited to her home in the upscale Jupiter Inlet Beach Colony five African Americans: Ella and Leroy Rollins, Thelma and Charles Pittman, and Thernell Henry, sister of Phoebia Hunter. They, along with Mulready and Benjamin, pre-planned for weeks around her dining room table. Ponzell and Marvin Davis, L. M. Davis's grandson, later enlarged the circle. Others dropped in periodically. The group eventually grew so large that it moved to the Fire Hall, where the people drafted a charter, drew up plans for a permanent space, and collected a “few dollars” to begin operating.

Mulready acted as “administrative head” of the school for its April 20, 1966, opening. Wanda Ellis, founding teacher, welcomed twenty African American and white preschoolers to a backroom in the Fire Hall, making Jupiter Prep the first racially integrated private school

in Palm Beach County. Mulready stuck by them “until the school got up on its feet. Then she backed off,” said Thelma Pittman, whom the charter board coaxed into being the first director. Hay Jr. chaired the founding board, composed of a well-balanced mix of the four Jupiter-area political camps: (a) The African American Pioneers, who were New Deal Democrats, included Ella and Leroy Rollins, Thernell Henry, John Henry Hinson, Andrew Hogg, Phoebe and Allie Hunter, and Maebell and Thomas Hay Jr. (b) The Post-1950 African American Democrats were Howard Miller, Lucy and Eli Mitchell, and Thelma and Charles Pittman. (c) The White Pioneers were Donna and Ives Cary (publishers of *The Jupiter Courier* newspaper) and Anna Minear (wife of Lloyd Minear Sr., owner of Pennock Dairy). And (d) the Post-1950 Whites included Martha Klitgaard, Pat Mahar, Carol Mulready, Adelaide North, and Catherine Swallow. The significance of this group was that it was among the earliest racially integrated education boards in Palm Beach County.

The board constructed a school building within three years, thanks to cash-and-service donations (a) from prominent individuals (Roy Rood, for example, donated the roof), (b) from businesses (Lainhart and Potter supplied lumber), (c) from public organizations (United Way gave generous grants), and (d) from private groups (The Travelers Palm Gardens Club designed and executed the landscape). Hay Jr. presided over the February 7, 1971, dedication program, which featured Congressman Paul G. Rogers. The school flourished, increasing its enrollment within two years to forty-five, where it had to be capped. The student body consisted initially of 55 percent African Americans—rising to 65 percent in 1992, when it added to its name that of its first director. The importance of the school was that after twenty-six years

in 1992, it had on its board not only distinguished early-childhood educators and psychologists but also one of its first graduates, Stephen C. Hunter, son of Grace and Louis Hunter. Area businesses and community organizations continually answered Thelma Pittman's calls to increase the enrollment, the endowment, and the space.

TAKE 5.5. Thomas Hay Jr. organized the West Jupiter Educational Fund, which incorporated as a nonprofit in 1986. He saw in late 1984 that African American students were dropping out of high school in record numbers. In an effort to stem this, he started the fund, which offered small cash incentives for students to graduate. The group's logo was a diploma and a graduation cap. The motto stated that "Without a vision, the nation will perish." The founding officers vigorously pushed its purpose of keeping children in school. President Hay Jr. wove it into every talk, regardless of the occasion. Vice President Thelma Pittman invited potential dropouts to speak to her students at Pittman-Jupiter Prep about the importance of a high school education. Secretary Alfred B. Pleasure—now a pastor in Huntsville, Alabama—was elected financial secretary. Idella Simmons Connaway and treasurer Alex Hazel visited the homes of failing students to discover what the fund could do to help the family keep the children in school. Joining this effort were the founding members: Ben Connaway, a building contractor and entrepreneur; Joshua Dillard Jr., a farmer and church leader; Myrtle Dillard, a baker and homemaker; Lillie M. Hay, a church organizer; George King, a landscape businessman; Carolina Miller, an entrepreneur and homemaker; Howard Miller, a construction contractor; educator Charlayne Pittman; community and church organizer

Charles Pittman, and homemaker Mary Pleasure.

The historic importance of this group was that it was the first organizational attempt in West Jupiter to actively assist in public education. The members prided themselves on making this solely a community self-help effort, without any financial solicitations from outside of West Jupiter. The members taxed themselves \$25 monthly and charged new members only a dollar for membership. Sixteen students received donations for the 1984–1985 school year: Sabrina Beasley, Phyllis Bradley, Clementine Brown, Lisha Dillard, Trisha Dillard, Ronald Hatcher, Milton Hazel, Donald Hodges, Camille Hogg, Darlene Jones, Ollie Jones, Otis McGee, Tina Mills, Melissa Pressey, Angie Rollins, and Juanita Roussaw.

The seventeen recipients for 1985–1986 were Vanessa Baker, Generia Bedford, Guyette Duhart, Joseph Everette, Tracy Fleming, Raven Glover, Willie Hatcher, James T. Hay III, Belinda Hogg, Kevin Holland, Tracy Hunter, Rodney Jarrette, Darlesa Jones, Darlene M. Lee, Willie Riggin, Lucretia Williams, and William Young. Several of the students enrolled in post-secondary programs and opened businesses.

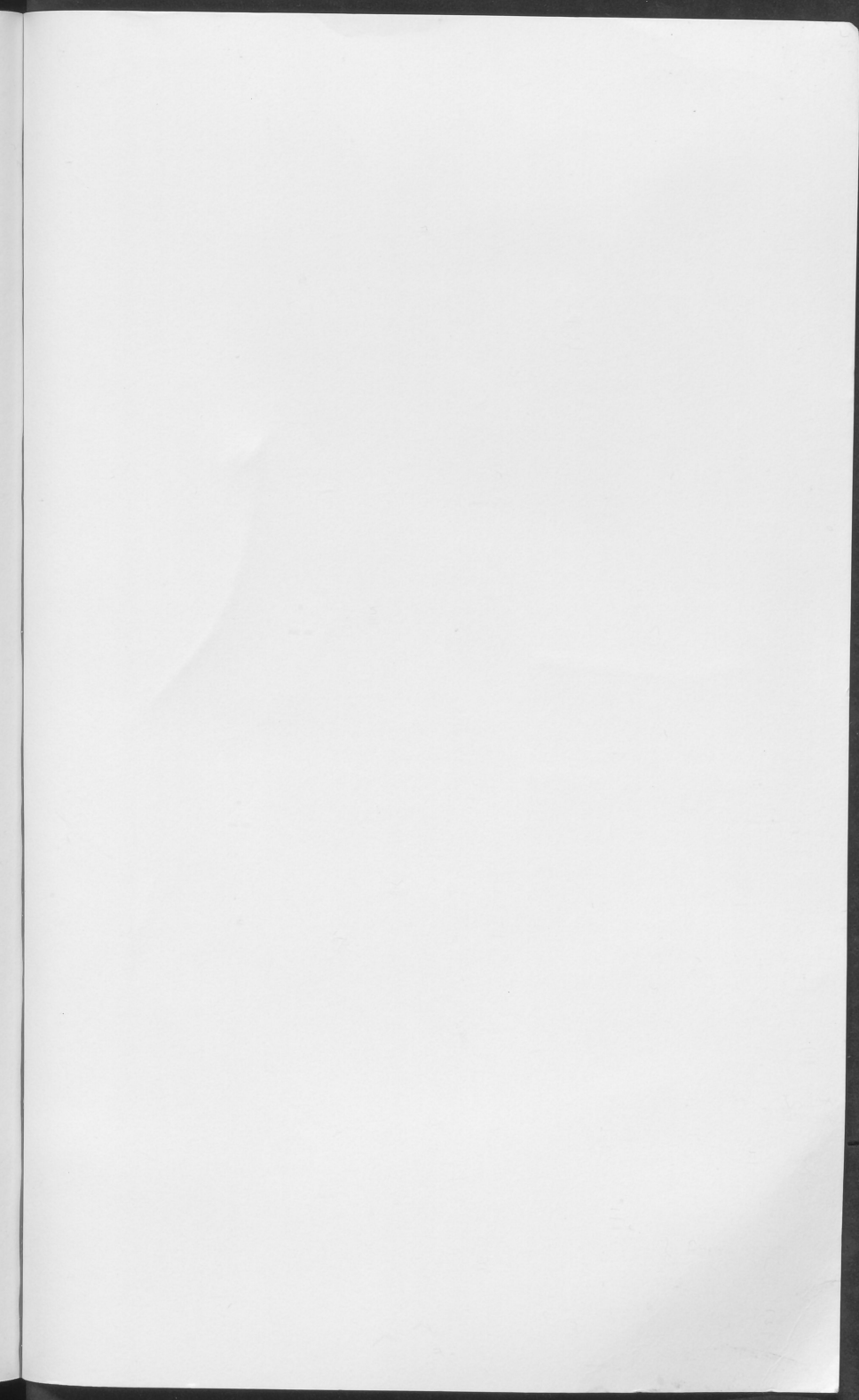
The surviving members of the original board of directors decided in 2009 to reestablish the fund. Idella Conaway, Alex Hazel, Howard Miller, and Deacon Charles Pittman will again give awards to students for post-secondary education. The initial funding will come from some of the proceeds from this book.

TAKE 5.6. Lee Arthur Turner (1909–1972) founded the West Jupiter Improvement Association (WJIA) in 1966 in order to clean up the environmental pollution. Solid waste littered almost every neighborhood, thanks to

some thoughtless people and a neglectful county. Turner resolved to correct this, and he was just the man. A native of Vidalia, Georgia, a World War II veteran, and a retired New York City butler/chauffeur, he came to West Jupiter with his wife, Ida Ford Turner, the daughter of first-generation pioneer the Reverend C. Ford. The Turners, like George Sweet, believed strongly in education, self-help, and service—as seen in the occupations of their six children: a missionary, teacher, engineer, nurse, entrepreneur, and business executive. Hoping to transfer to his neighbors his family's work ethic and drive, Turner called on them to meet with him at the Fire Hall, where he spelled out his mission and his vision.

The group endorsed Turner's views and elected him president. Other officers included Willie Hinson Jr., first vice president; Margaret Stafford (wife of Henry C.) second vice president; Earnest Pearson, treasurer; and Luttilla Sanders, secretary. The founding members were Ella Preston Rollins, Matthew Dillard, and Phoebe Hogg Williams (adopted granddaughter of Allie Hunter). WJIA planned for months its area-wide cleanup campaign, called Operation Pride. *The Beacon News* and *The Courier Highlights* newspapers heavily publicized the event, which was held on Saturday, June 12, 1971. Participants from almost all of West Jupiter's 340 families moved 169 junked cars, as well as a "fantastic amount of trash": bottles, cans, papers, household appliances, auto tires, as well as every other thing found on Noah's boat.

Scores of young people, headed by Delores Hinson's Girl Scouts, listened to the teen band the Ivory Greens as they carried the waste from the neighborhood side streets to thirty pickup trucks, which were coordinated by Willie Hinson Jr. The pickups took the trash to Indiantown Road, where Robert J. Nichols's sanitation



\$14.95

The community of West Jupiter, Florida, is facing changes and challenges unique in its history. At this crossroads, it's critical to understand the town, its people, and its past. How has West Jupiter reached this point? What people and events have created and shaped it?

West Jupiter Quick Takes—written by town son Samuel A. Hay—offers a portrait of this unusual community, told in the words of its own citizens. Through decades of research and conversations with residents who know and trust him, Hay has compiled an oral history of the community that is both intimate portrait and love letter. You'll read of West Jupiter's earliest days (when it was known as "Reservation"), meet the tough hardworking African American farm families who've anchored the town for decades, learn the inside story of West Jupiter's churches, schools, and politics. The picture that emerges from these pages is of a place shaped by tragedy, triumph, and human resilience.

Samuel Hay's *West Jupiter Quick Takes* is written with respect for the past and its significance, hope and commitment for the community's future, and deep, abiding affection for home.

SAMUEL A. HAY, PH.D. was born in Barnwell, South Carolina, and reared in West Jupiter, Florida. The author, an independent scholar, is retired from positions as professor of African American Studies at Washington University in St. Louis and at Purdue University. He chaired the theatre departments at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and at Morgan State University in Baltimore.

Among the latest of Hay's seven books are *African American Theatre: A Historical and Critical Analysis* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), and *Ed Bullins: A Literary Biography* (Wayne State University Press, 1997). His essays and reviews have appeared in scores of books, journals, and periodicals. Among his many honors and awards are the Harvard University Foundation Medallion and the North Carolina A&T Theatre Division's Distinguished Scholar Award.



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