

NAMES	MILITARY BRANCH	DECEASE	DISCHARGE/ RETIRED	ACTIVE
Joseph Broughton	Navy		X	
Zarlie Williams	Army	X		
Jessie Williams	Army	X		
Tommie Williams	Navy/Air Force		X	
Albert Pender	Army	X		
Lonnie Chester, Jr,	Army		X	
Willie Ross, Jr.	Air Force		X	
Earnest Ross, Sr.	Army		X	
Darnell L. Ross	Army		X	
Michael Ross	Army		X	
Earnest Ross, Jr.	Air Force			X
Alan Ross	Marine			X
Samuel White	Marine	X		
Charlie White	Army		X	
James Clark, Jr,	Air Force		X	
Tyrone Clark	Army		X	
Kent Clark	Army		X	
Dyke White	Army		X	
Daniel Williams	Navy		X	
Kenneth Merricks	Navy		X	
Dennis Parker	Army		X	
Roger Franklin	Army		X	
Eddie Parker	Army	X		
Butler C. Hagins, Jr.	Air Force		X	

NAMES	MILITARY BRANCH	DECEASE	DISCHARGE/ RETIRED	ACTIVE
Frank Chester	Army	X		
Isaac Chester	Army	X		
Ester Chester	Air Force	X		
Tommy Chester Brown	Air Force	X		
Charles Dixon	Army	X		
Charles Allen Johnson	Army		X	
Archie Lee Chester, Jr.	Army		X	
Jimmy L. Chester	Army		X	
Richard A. Murphy	Army		X	
Isaiah Murphy	Army		X	
Audie D. Murphy	Army		X	
Johnny J. Murphy	Army		X	
Rudolph Green	Army		X	
Randolph Green	Army	X		
Wiley Henry, Jr.	Army	X		
David Henry	Army		X	
Richard "Raleigh" Henry	Army		X	
Stephen Bailey	Army	X		
Hubert Bailey	Army/Air Force	X		
Leroy Bellamy, Jr.	Air Force		X	
Randolph Bellamy	Air Force		X	
Lonnie Bellamy	Army		X	
James Key	Army		X	
Alan Broughton	Army		X	
Alfred Broughton, Jr.	Army		X	

NAMES	MILITARY BRANCH	DECEASE	DISCHARGE/ RETIRED	ACTIVE
Joe R. Parker	Army		X	
Richard Proctor	Army	X		
James W. Proctor	Army		X	
Glenn Williams	Army		X	
George Davis	Army	X		
James E. Grice	Army		X	
Michael Redding, Jr.	Army		X	
Samuel Grice	Army	X		
Herman King, Sr.	Army		X	
Sandy Weaver, II	Army		X	
Sandy Weaver, III	Navy		X	
Camelia Weaver Rosemond	Army		X	
Alfred Broughton, Sr.	Navy	X		
James M. Harris	Army	X		
Harry Tenner	Army		X	
Jimmie L. Weaver, Sr.	Army/Air Force	X		
Johnny L. Weaver	Army	X		
Johnny L. Thomas	Army		X	
Robert Perryman	Army		X	
Theodore Perryman	Army		X	
Isaac Gibbs	Air Force		X	
August G. Gibbs, II	Army	X		
Clarence E. James	Air Force	X		
Candice Wright	Air Force			X

NAMES	MILITARY BRANCH	DECEASE	DISCHARGE/ RETIRED	ACTIVE
Louis C. Wilson	Army	X		
Johnny Pressley	Army		X	
Johnny King Jr.	Army		X	
Sarah L. Brooks	Army		X	
Andrew James	Army		X	
Richard E. Jackson	Army		X	
Nathaniel Williams	Army	X		
Lance Goolsby, Sr.	Navy			X
Everge Smith Sr.	Army		X	
Dorothy Smith			X	
Albertha Smith Johnson		X		
Melvin Simmons	Army		X	
Allen Simmons	Army		X	
Coy Simmons	Army		X	
Wayne Simmons	Army		X	
Robert Simmons, Jr.	Army			X
Albert Todd Strange	Army		X	
Lloyd Houston	Army		X	
Reuben (R.L.) Green	Air Force		X	
Marion Carol Boatwright	Army		X	
Larry Tribble, II	Army		X	
Larry Tribble, III	Army		X	
Wendel Alexander	Army		X	

NAMES	MILITARY BRANCH	DECEASE	DISCHARGE/ RETIRED	ACTIVE
Douglas Alexander	Army		X	
Earnest Tribble	Air Force		X	
Robert J. Gaines, Sr.	Navy		X	
Leroy Leaks, Jr.	Army		X	
Dennis Houston	Army		X	
David Houston	Army		X	
Sharon Houston Bostic	Army		X	
Douglas Alexander, Jr.				X

Oscar Hopkins migrated from the West Indies, as a tender on a banana boat. He and his parents and six brothers settled in Brunswick, Georgia around 1870.

He relocated to Florida around 1910 where he worked as a turpentine clipper. Some years later he became an independent cedar cutter. His products were used to manufacture pencils. He cut palmetto palms which were converted into brooms and brushes. The cedar hardwood he harvested was converted to cedar oil. Oscar was assisted in his harvesting of wood by his men "Brendy" and Dave.

At the ripe age of 57 he met and married Fiskie Mack and three children were born.

Two of his sons entered the wood industry. Oscar Jr. became an independent logging contractor, while Willie became a Pulpwood contractor.

1855 - 1944



90/22

BLACK COMMUNITIES

Mt. Carmel African Methodist Church Floral City

Russell Hill - Settled by former slaves under Federal Grants
in the 19th century.

"Back Home" - Hampton Dunn - Page 72

The Black families in the community of Pleasant Grove during the early 1900's were Lib. Beaver, his sons Dave and Babe, Gillim Washington, whose grandson was Robert L. Collins. The Brown Mayo family also lived in this area.

Success and inspiration



Home Health Services, Inc.



Benjamin Henry Matchett, with an unidentified white fisherman in Crystal River, shares the weight of a red fish caught in King's Bay one day in 1923.

By Steve Arthur
Chronicle columnist

OF ALL THE HUMAN lives that have been lived out on this sandy limestone patch of earth called Florida, we know the stories of only a few.

Though our knowledge of the past is imperfect and incomplete, fragmented, the hard-won achievements and failures of those who have preceded us are exceedingly valuable still, for from such are lessons we learn and become better.

Back in 1926, a man named Carter G. Woodson created Negro History Week and 50 years later that week became a month, February, Black History Month.

It is a time set aside to preserve and recollect the stories of the men and women of African American heritage who have struggled against great odds to achieve success. Their successes add to what we share in common as Americans.

We study their lives which are filled with examples of bravery and perseverance because, though some Americans have been more privileged than others, all of us are engaged in singular struggles toward a shared destiny.

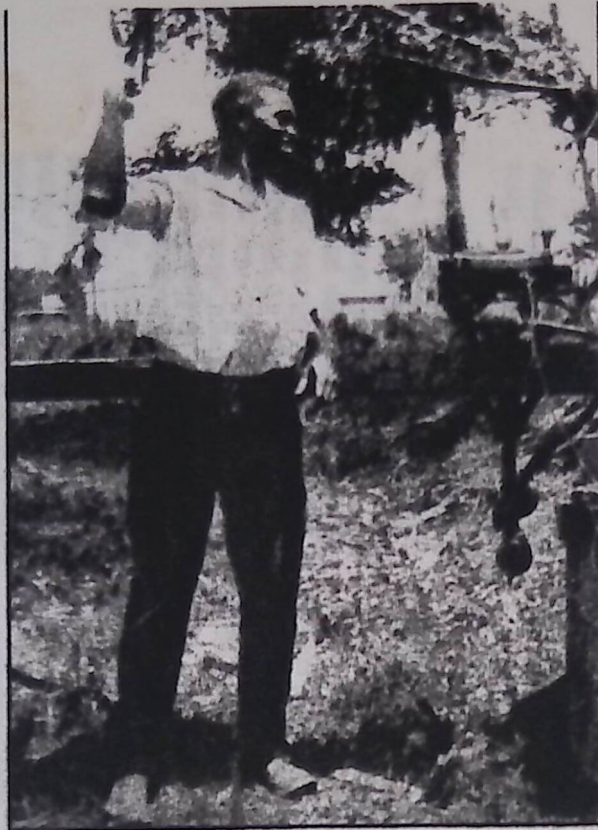
One such imperfectly understood story of a man's struggle is that of Benjamin Matchett, who was a fishing guide in and around Crystal River, in the 1920s.

Although we know little of the facts of his life — and wish to know more — and nothing of his inner-life, as we study the photographs his family has loaned us, we know that Benjamin Henry Matchett must have had a strong character.

He was, after all, a black man in a white man's world, a respected fishing guide for winter visitors to this verdant corner of the American south.

Putting his achievement into perspective, he was living at a time and in a place when black people were forbidden to eat their ice cream cones at the drug store counter; when they were expected to step down from the sidewalk into the street when white people passed; when they were ordered to enter doctor's offices through the rear

Please see SUCCESS, Page 6C



In 1923 Benjamin Henry Matchett was a success story — a black man who made a name for himself in Crystal River as a fishing guide for wealthy northern tourists.

Saturdays of childhood years warmly recalled

By Helen Rushing
Special to the Chronicle

Cecil was my very best friend in all the world. Her folks lived across the street from my folks in a tiny fishing village on the gulf coast of northwest Florida, a town called Crystal River.

Cecil spent about as many overnight sleep-ins at our house as she did at her own. Mr. Jim, Cecil's dad, was a buckrah, but Mama said he was a real good carpenter when he wasn't drinking and her mom, Mrs. Bert, was the prettiest little woman I had ever seen. She always wore high heels shoes. Even her houseslippers were high-heeled with little fur puffs across the top.

"When I am grown up, I'm going to wear high heels all the time like Mrs. Bert."

I was an only child and was so glad when Cecil's family took the house across the street. At age 5 we became close friends right away. I think we both

Please see RECALL, Page 6C

Mama's love means more than Poro curls

By Helen Rushing
Special to the Chronicle

The entire Sunday school class, youngsters and adults alike, always made big plans for Easter Sunday services. That was the day that we had our Resurrection Play.

Some people said they liked the Christmas plays better but I always preferred Easter. Maybe it was the dresses that Mama made for me and her younger sister.

Aunt Teddie, as everyone called her, was nine years older than me, and seemed more like a big sister to me. I guess that was because after their mother died, my mother and father asked her to come and live with us.

So I shared my room and my bed with my aunt. She called me "the baby," and on cold winter nights, she'd iron our bedsheet so that the bed

Please see CURLS, Page 6C

RECALL

continued from Page 1C

felt like we were really sisters.

We enjoyed reading the funnies on quiet Sunday afternoons. Cecil liked "Ella Cinders" and "Buck Rogers"; I liked "Tillie, the Toiler," and "Flash Gordon." We both liked "Gasoline Alley" and "Dagwood and Blondie."

On school evenings, we'd jump double-dutch and play hop-scotch and jacks with soda water tops until it got too dark outside to see. We played across the ditch from our house.

Lorene and Louise were our other two friends who played with us regularly on the dusky Florida evenings. Soon we'd hear Mrs. James calling Weezie, "You better come in. It's time for you to get to bed!" Louise lived next door with her mother and grandmother. Lorene would cut through our back yard and go to her home. Cecil crossed the street to Mr. Jim and Mrs. Bert, her father and step-mother.

Saturdays, we played "Little Sally Walker" on the school grounds a little way down the street. The boys had a baseball team and they played there on Saturdays, too.

Some Saturdays we'd go to our

favorite spot on the vacant lot next to Mrs. Beelyers. There was tall saw-grass. We'd clear a space between the gently waving blades of grass, then lying on our stomachs, Cecil, Louise and Lorene would produce the brown paper bags and from their skirt pockets — bags that contained lumps of Argo starch which they all shared with me. We giggled and ate pieces of starch which they'd raided their mothers' laundry cabinets to get.

My mother used Faultless starch so I never had the good Argo that we liked so much. Sometimes, I would bring a little bag with Rumford Baking Powder in it and after all the starch was gone we'd blow baking powder bubbles.

That was a lot of fun.

When we went home, everybody's mouth was white all around. We probably looked like we'd all had convulsions or something, but nobody seemed to mind. It was so much fun!

Once in a while, Grandma Lockley would let Cecil and me sit on her front porch in the special swing that was the only one of its kind in town. The swing was made like this: there were two seats across from each other, a slatted platform and a curved roof that covered the top. The seats would rock gently back and forth. Sometimes, the chain-gang people would be working on the railroad

that ran right along the outside of the picket fence that enclosed Grandma's property. Even though their legs were shackled with leg irons as they wielded the heavy iron picks, the guard was always there with his shotgun at his side. Cecil and I watched as the men worked in the hot tropical sun, their striped "chain-gang" uniforms sticking with perspiration to their backs and legs. Sweat ran down their faces and dripped from their chins.

"Let's ask Grandma if we can give them some water," Cecil said.

Grandma let us pump cool water from the backyard pump into a bucket and take the big old gourd dipper that she kept on a hook near the pump. Cecil ran ahead with the bucket of water, sloshing it as she ran. She was a heavy biscuit-colored girl with straight brown hair growing thickly on her arms and legs. I ran along behind with my little brown stick arms, bringing the dipper. We went through the gate, as Grandma watched for us and the guard allowed us to give the men cool water which they all took turns drinking thirstily from the old gourd dipper. The two white convicts even poured a dipperful of water over their heads.

As we went back to our front porch swing Cecil and I felt pretty good.

CURLS

continued from Page 1C

wouldn't be so cold.

My mother was a seamstress and she made all of our school clothes. But the Easter dresses, well, they were really special. She must have started weeks before that special Sunday because there was hand-embroidery on the collars and sleeves and lots of lace and pleated eyelets at the hemlines. I especially loved the pale, billowy fabric. Mama said it was voile.

The one thing that Mama would

not allow me to have was the Poro curls that most of my friends would wear underneath their pastel straw hats.

We called Mrs. Lizzie, who lived next door, the Poro Lady because she was the one person in town who specialized in Madam C.J. Walker's method of curling.

She pressed and curled all the ladies' and young girls hair in our community. Sometimes Mama would let me go next door and watch Mrs. Lizzie work.

She'd dip the big heavy Poro irons in a vat of fragrant oil and painstakingly press a few strands of hair, starting near the scalp and slowly descending to the end of each strip. The customers were

always draped in a sheet of bright-colored oil-cloth to keep the hot oil from dripping on their arms and clothes.

After the ordeal, those ladies would emerge one by one from Mrs. Lizzie's with beautiful shiny curls that would spring with each step they took. Most of my friends would come to church on Easter Sunday morning swinging those beautiful, black, shiny curls with their pastel straws perched on top.

But Mama said, "No," her little sandy-haired baby girl didn't need those Poro curls because — she kissed me — "My baby's got good hair."

I felt like a princess.

SUCCESS

continued from Page 1C

door; when black people had to endure many such day-to-day indignities.

Looming in the background of their lives too was this harsh fact: In the same year the two photos you see on this section front were taken, in January 1923, only a few miles north of Crystal River, a black settlement of about 120 souls called Rosewood was the scene of a racial massacre — at least eight black people were slain there.

In such a time and place, his daughter Helen Rosa, remembers Benjamin Matchett owned his own boat and he owned a Chrysler car and he dressed in silk-on-silk shirts and wore patent leather shoes with buttons on the side and he made a success of himself in an endeavor that was dominated by white men and a white culture.

Helen Rosa Matchett Rushing — who will be 75 on March 25 — knew her father only a few years before his untimely death at age 36. He died of a heart attack. She has fond early memories of her childhood in Crystal River which she has kindly shared on these pages.

On a national scale, Black History Month is a time to examine the lives of African Americans and their struggle to achieve in a society that has only slowly and often unwillingly opened the doors that have allowed more and more determined souls to succeed.

The names of Americans like the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, Oprah Winfrey, Bill Cosby, Spike Lee, Maya Angelou, Alex Haley, James Baldwin, Arthur Ashe, Shirley Chisholm, Jesse Jackson, Thurgood Marshall, Colin Powell, Toni Morrison and Louis Farrakhan are familiar to many millions around the world today.

Young people, though, may never have heard of Malcolm X, Rosa Parks and Elijah Muhammad or Mary McLeod Bethune, Jesse Owens or Langston Hughes.

Likewise, the names of Washington Carver, Frederick Douglass and W.E.B. Du Bois may be unfa-

miliar to young Americans to be affected in one way or another. remarkable people pressed into the consciousness like seeds into warm, black soil.

At the heart of Black History Month is the question of race relations in America, a question that will not go away until the hearts of the many are softened and changed in the spirit of acceptance.

Concerning what it might take to bring the races toward mutual appreciation and acceptance, we might recall Booker T. Washington's pragmatic observation in the September 1896 issue of *Atlantic* magazine.

He wrote: "Friction between the races will pass away in proportion as the black man ... can produce something that the white man wants or respects in the commercial world."

Two examples: Have you ever heard of a black man named Garrett Morgan? In 1923 he invented the traffic light.

Or, how about Charles Drew? Drew, who died in 1950 at the age of 46, (he died in a car crash) came up on his own from a Washington, D.C., ghetto and by dint of brains and perseverance, worked his way through medical school and became head of surgery at Howard University for a time.

He is credited with discovering the modern process for preserving blood for transfusion. Recognized for his brilliant achievements, Dr. Drew was named head of the National Blood Bank during World War II.

He held that post until he learned that it was official government policy to segregate blood; blood donated by black people could only go to black people, and the same for whites. He resigned to protest that policy, but went on to other responsible medical posts.

We can expect that the ultimate rewards of reconciliation will be great and liberating for all Americans.

It was W.E.B. DuBois who wrote and spoke at length about the American dilemma of race relations.

He said: "Someday, on American soil, two world races may give each to each those characteristics which both so sadly lack."

ROSEWOOD

Families gather to remember Rosewood

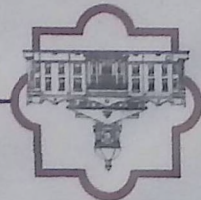
Associated Press

WEEKI WACHEE — As 100 people gathered Saturday to remember family slain in the Rosewood massacre, they also announced plans to erect a memorial — a think tank to justice in a tiny town wiped out by injustice.

Survivors of the Rosewood massacre and their descendants held their 17th annual reunion, remembering the six black and two white people killed in that quiet African-American community by a white mob who burned the town to the ground during a shameful period of Florida history 77 years ago.

“Our ancestors built a community out of swamp, against all odds, and they were massacred,” said Arnett Doctor Sr., whose

*Please see **ROSEWOOD**, Page 9A*



ROSEWOOD

continued from Page 1A

ancestors were the founding families of Rosewood in 1845.

Now it's our responsibility to build another community — not physically, but mentally — that says we cannot tolerate hate crimes and that people must become more tolerable to other people's differences," he said.

Racial violence broke out on New Year's Day 1923 in Rosewood after a white woman emerged from her home bruised and beaten. She claimed she had been attacked by an unidentified black man.

Witnesses, however, said they saw a white man, believed to have been her lover, leave the house.

In a week of destruction, white vigilantes laid siege to the community, torching nearly every structure as the 120 residents fled barefoot and in night clothes into the woods.

There they hid, one survivor said, living on berries and water from a creek, until soldiers came and put women and children on a train to Gainesville.

In those days, Rosewood was a thriving, rather comfortable community of turpentine and saw mill workers, masons, craftsmen and fruit farmers.

Today, the town is no more. Only road signs mark its spot, nine miles east of Cedar Key along Florida's Gulf Coast.

Those who fled never returned out of fear. Descendants say some families were so intimidated they even changed their names.

Doctor's vision is of a Rosewood Justice Center. He says ground is expected to be broken this year on a 22-acre site in Rosewood. The center is to serve a threefold purpose:

- a memorial to honor the founding families and those who lost their lives in the massacre;
- a think tank for different ethnic groups to come together to exchange ideas to eliminate bigotry and racism;
- an African-American owned and controlled hotel-restaurant complex with picnic areas and botanical gardens.

Doctor, 57, hosted this year's reunion at Weeki Wachee Resort, noted for its underwater shows where mermaid-clad swimmers perform in clear, natural springs.

"The reunions are important. They give a sense of history, a sense of connection, and of love, protection and caring," Doctor said.

The state acknowledged the atrocity in 1994 and the following year paid survivors and descendants \$2 million.

Under the late Gov. Lawton Chiles, Florida also issued an apology for the events at

Rosewood.

Survivors and descendants gathered at the site 65 miles northwest of Tampa for a barbecue of ribs, chicken, hamburgers, beans and cole slaw at a picnic spot overlooking a beach and water slide. Restaurants donated food; the resort provided the cooks and servers and the Hernando County Tourist Development Council paid the park fees.

Among the attendees were the oldest and youngest survivors —

Willie Evans, 93, and Vera Hamilton, 79.

"The reunion means a lot to me," said Hamilton, who was 2 in 1923. Her sister was Philomena Goin Doctor, Doctor's mother.

Hamilton, who came to the

reunion with four generations of her family, remembers stories about her grandmother, Sarah Carrier, who refused orders to send her son out to the angry mob of men.

They kicked in the door, shot Hamilton's uncle and killed Carrier. The rest of the family escaped through a back door.

"Out of all what happened none of our parents taught us to hate anybody — and they burned the town down," Hamilton said.

Survivors gather to remember massacre

Associated Press

MIAMI — As a child, Sandra Maxwell heard hushed stories about women and girls forced to hide for a week in a cold Florida swamp with only palmetto brush to keep their nightgown-clad bodies warm.

It was then she began to learn about the tragedy in Rosewood, where at least six blacks were killed and the town destroyed when a white mob set upon the predominately black enclave in 1923.

Seventy-six years later, the wounds of the attack still remain, even for those who did not live through it.

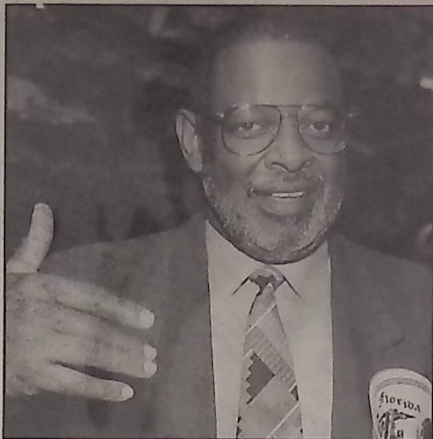
"I know what I feel now and I was not even there," said Mrs. Maxwell, now 52.

Dozens of descendants, survivors and relatives, some in their 80s and 90s, still meet each year to remember the massacre, and to honor those who helped win reparations for remaining victims.

This weekend, the annual reunion is being held in Miami. The mood of the gathering is characterized by the logo emblazoned on the red T-shirts worn by attendees: "Although justice was slow, victory is sweet."

The horror began New Year's morning 1923, when a married white woman, Fannie Taylor, emerged bruised and beaten from her home and accused a black man of beating her without giving a name, descendants said.

Witnesses Sarah Carrier and her 11-year-old granddaughter, Philomena Goins, watched



Arnett Doctor Jr., chairman and CEO of Rosewood Justice Center, talks to a reporter in Miami Thursday. Survivors and descendants of the 1923 massacre are having a reunion in Miami this weekend.

silently as a white man, believed to be Mrs. Taylor's lover, left the house. They told a sheriff, but he admonished them and told them to go back home to Rosewood.

As word spread, angry whites besieged the town of about 120, burning nearly every structure in a week of destruction. The number of

people killed during the massacre remains controversial. State records say six blacks and two whites were killed while descendants speak of mass graves containing as many as 37 bodies of women and children.

Today, Rosewood is little more than a marker on State Road 24, southwest of Gainesville, although it once was a place where black families owned acres of land, black women taught school and black men worked as engineers.

"They had the luxury life that a lot of blacks would like to have today," said Mrs. Maxwell. "And then for all of it to be taken away for a lie. Totally wiped out on a lie."

When Ms. Goins grew up and became a mother, she told the story of Rosewood to her 5-year-old son Arnett Doctor in 1948, against the wishes of his father.

Since then Doctor has kept true to what he said has been his duty: remembering Rosewood.

Doctor, along with other families, helped fight for state hearings that resulted in the Florida Legislature approving a \$1.5 million bill that awards nine survivors as much as \$150,000. The remaining money was used for scholarships.

Doctor has traveled the world telling people the story his mother gave to him. He now heads the Rosewood Justice Center in Spring Hill, funded in part by donations from the 1997 John Singleton film "Rosewood" that depicted the massacre.

MOVIE REVIEWS

'Rosewood' tells story of racial hatred in 1920s Florida

Associated Press

In January 1923, a violent gang of poor white thugs ravaged the prosperous black community of Rosewood, Fla., burning it to the ground and slaughtering many of its residents. The mob had been incited by a white woman's false accusation that a black stranger raped and beat her.

The residents who survived the attack fled to the swamps and never again returned to their homes or their land. And for more than 70 years, their story remained a dark and tragic secret.

Now, John Singleton ("Boyz n the Hood") retells that brutal slice of American history in "Rosewood."

What richly deserved to be a powerful story, however, is greatly diluted in Singleton's Hollywood distillation. His use of a mysterious stranger who rides into town and helps save Rosewood's women and children turns the movie into a formula, and he weakens things even further by adding a lame romantic subplot.

Worse still is his reliance on stereotypes, right down to the obligatory "mammy" — in this case, Esther Rolle as family matriarch Sarah Carrier — and cartoon white bigots. These guys were crazed and frightening terrorists, but Singleton's whites are straight out of central casting.

The movie opens with a sweeping shot of the pristine village of

The mob had been incited by a white woman's false accusation that a black stranger raped and beat her.

Rosewood, with its neat, wooden houses and vegetable gardens made up of tidy, straight rows. The streets are clean and uncluttered, the houses well-maintained. Inside the Carrier house, a china closet holds blue china and fine crystal, and an upright piano stands in the living room.

The white residents of Sumner hate, and are jealous of, thriving Rosewood, and any excuse to obliterate the town will do. They find their answer when Fanny Taylor, a white married resident who

sleeps around, is beaten by her white lover. She claims a black man did it. And though everyone knows this is not the case, her allegation provides a reason to destroy Rosewood.

Also near the forefront are the romance between Mr. Man (Ving Rhames) and Scrappie (Elise Neal), a young schoolteacher, and the story of John Wright (Jon Voight), a white shopkeeper who lives in Rosewood.

Wright recently has remarried after his first wife's death and is

struggling to deal with his new relationship, as are his sons. He absorbs the collective guilt of his white neighbors and becomes a buffer between their rage and the defense of the Rosewood blacks. In the end, he teams with Mr. Man.

As the mysterious stranger, Rhames is a strong, attractive presence. But is he a romantic leading man? More compelling is Don Cheadle ("Devil in a Blue Dress") as Sylvester Carrier, a gentle piano teacher who stands up for his rights and those of his family. But by putting the focus almost entirely on the destruction of the community and a few, mostly superficial, characters, Singleton misses a big opportunity for a more dramatic presentation: the

story of the survivors.

Why didn't they seek outside help and get back their land from the whites who stole it from them? And what was the journey to some small form of justice such as for Arnett Doctor, the son of a survivor who finally got the state of Florida to make reparations?

Still, "Rosewood" is a movie that deserves to be seen, because the story it tells must stay alive.

"Rosewood" was produced by Jon Peters with Penelope L. Foster as co-producer and Tracy Barone as executive producer. The script by Gregory Poirier is weak, but Johnny E. Jensen's excellent cinematography deserves a mention. The movie is rated R for violence.

Rosewood massacre witness dies

Associated Press

ORLANDO — Ernest J. Parham, whose testimony 71 years after a massacre of blacks in Rosewood helped survivors collect compensation, has died.

Parham was a witness to the five days of violence that wiped out the black community in north Florida in 1923.

He died Saturday after suffering a massive stroke. He was 93.

As an 18-year-old, Parham had stumbled across an angry white mob stringing a black man, Sam Carter, from a tree.

Someone in the mob shot and killed Carter, triggering the violence that destroyed the community of about 120 people.

At the Movies: 'Rosewood'

AP Special Features

MOVIE REVIEW

Friday, March 14, 1997 Citrus County (FL) Chronicle

In January 1923, a violent gang of poor white thugs ravaged the prosperous black community of Rosewood, Fla., burning it to the ground and slaughtering many of its residents. The mob had been incited by a white woman's false accusation that a black stranger raped and beat her.

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The movie opens with a sweeping shot of the pristine village of Rosewood, with its neat, wooden houses and vegetable gardens made up of tidy, straight rows. The streets are clean and uncluttered, the houses well-maintained. Inside the Carrier house, a china closet holds blue china and fine crystal, and an upright piano stands in the living room.

Rosewood is a prosperous, proud community, very unlike the poor enclave of nearby Sumner.

The white residents of Sumner hate, and are jealous of, thriving Rosewood, and any excuse to obliterate the town will do. They find their answer when Fanny Taylor, a white married resident who sleeps around, is beaten by her white lover. She claims a black man did it. And though everyone knows this is not the case, her allegation provides a reason to destroy Rosewood.

Much of the two-hour and 22-minute movie is devoted to the burning and destruction of the town and the slaughter of its resi-

dents.

Also near the forefront are the romance between Mr. Man (Ving Rhames) and Scrappie (Elise Neal), a young schoolteacher, and the story of John Wright (Jon Voight), a white shopkeeper who lives in Rosewood.

Wright recently has remarried after his first wife's death and is struggling to deal with his new relationship, as are his sons. He absorbs the collective guilt of his white neighbors and becomes a buffer between their rage and the defense of the Rosewood blacks. In the end, he teams with Mr. Man.

As the mysterious stranger, Rhames is a strong, attractive presence. But is he a romantic leading man? More compelling is Don Cheadle ("Devil in a Blue Dress") as Sylvester Carrier, a gentle piano teacher who stands up for his rights and those of his family.

But by putting the focus almost entirely on the destruction of the community and a few, mostly superficial, characters, Singleton misses a big opportunity for a more dramatic presentation: the story of the survivors.

Why did they remain silent for so many years and how did they cope with the terror that haunted them? Why didn't they seek outside help and get back their land from the whites who stole it from them? And what was the journey to some small form of justice such as for Arnett Doctor, the son of a survivor who finally got the state of Florida to make reparations?

Still, "Rosewood" is a movie that deserves to be seen.

"Rosewood" was produced by Jon Peters with Penelope L. Foster as co-producer and Tracy Barone as executive producer. The script by Gregory Poirier is weak, but Johnny E. Jensen's cinematography deserves a mention. The movie is rated R for violence.

'Rosewood' tells story

Sunday, February 23, 1997 Citrus County (FL) Chronicle

MOVIE REVIEWS

of racial hatred in 1920s Florida

Associated Press

In January 1923, a violent gang of poor white thugs ravaged the prosperous black community of Rosewood, Fla., burning it to the ground and slaughtering many of its residents. The mob had been incited by a white woman's false accusation that a black stranger raped and beat her.

The residents who survived the attack fled to the swamps and never again returned to their homes or their land. And for more than 70 years, their story remained a dark and tragic secret.

Now, John Singleton ("Boyz n the Hood") retells that brutal slice of American history in "Rosewood."

What richly deserved to be a powerful story, however, is greatly diluted in Singleton's Hollywood distillation. His use of a mysterious stranger who rides into town and helps save Rosewood's women and children turns the movie into a formula, and he weakens things even further by adding a lame romantic subplot.

Worse still is his reliance on stereotypes, right down to the obligatory "mammy" — in this case, Esther Rolle as family matriarch Sarah Carrier — and cartoon white bigots. These guys were crazed and frightening terrorists, but Singleton's whites are straight out of central casting.

The movie opens with a sweeping shot of the pristine village of

The mob had been incited by a white woman's false accusation that a black stranger raped and beat her.

Rosewood, with its neat, wooden houses and vegetable gardens made up of tidy, straight rows. The streets are clean and uncluttered, the houses well-maintained. Inside the Carrier house, a china closet holds blue china and fine crystal, and an upright piano stands in the living room.

The white residents of Sumner hate, and are jealous of, thriving Rosewood, and any excuse to obliterate the town will do. They find their answer when Fanny Taylor, a white married resident who

sleeps around, is beaten by her white lover. She claims a black man did it. And though everyone knows this is not the case, her allegation provides a reason to destroy Rosewood.

Also near the forefront are the romance between Mr. Man (Ving Rhames) and Scrappie (Elise Neal), a young schoolteacher, and the story of John Wright (Jon Voight), a white shopkeeper who lives in Rosewood.

Wright recently has remarried after his first wife's death and is

Rosewood riot hits big screen

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — For decades the tiny black village that disappeared was Florida's dirty little secret. This week, it comes to the silver screen all over the country.

The racial hatred that led to the murders of black residents and the razing of their homes 74 years ago is now the stuff of a major Hollywood release: "Rosewood," which will open Friday in many cities.

And for Arnett Doctor, whose great-grandmother was the first woman killed in the massacre, the opening means a major part of his life's work has been accomplished.

"Rosewood has been a lifelong endeavor on my part," Doctor said

The incident took place in January 1923, when a white, married woman accused a black man from Rosewood of assaulting her, when in fact she had been beaten by her white lover.

Sunday from his Spring Hill home. "I am very pleased and very proud."

Doctor, 54, was the prime mover behind the state's 1994 law providing \$2 million compensation to the nine remaining survivors and dozens of descendants of the massacre. He then served as consultant to John Singleton, the acclaimed director of such movies

as "Boyz N the Hood" and "Higher Learning."

The incident on which the film was based took place over the first days of January 1923. A white, married woman from a neighboring town accused a black man from Rosewood of assaulting her, when in fact she had been beaten by her white lover.

Her words created an angry mob that went to Rosewood to search for her attacker, and wound up murdering residents and burning their homes to the ground.

The massacre was all but forgotten for nearly 60 years, when a newspaper reporter wrote an article about the town.

That led to other articles, an official state investigation that determined that six blacks and two whites had died and, eventually, the Legislature's action in 1994.

"We are talking about a part of African-American history in the state of Florida," Doctor said.

But not everyone associated with Rosewood the village is happy with Rosewood, the movie.

Extras sought for Rosewood film

Associated Press

ORLANDO — The producers of a movie about the 1923 Rosewood massacre plan to hire 2,000 extras for the story of the predominantly black community that was wiped out by a white mob.

State employment offices in Central Florida began accepting applications Friday for the motion picture set to begin filming in mid-January in Lake County.

"Normally we'd go through

talent agencies," said extra casting director Mark Mullen. "But this movie takes place in a hard time, and we want the faces in the movie to reflect that."

In recent weeks, producers have been building replicas of Rosewood and the nearby community of Sumner in a remote area in Lake County.

The movie is based on the real story of the racial violence that destroyed Rosewood, which was southwest of Gainesville. At least six blacks

and two whites died.

The incident began on New Year's Day 1923 when a white mob from the Sumner area went on a rampage after a fruitless search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. The mob burned virtually every building in the community.

In 1994, the Legislature decided the government had failed to protect Rosewood's residents and awarded \$2 million to survivors and scores of descendants.

Rosewood filming to begin

Associated Press

ORLANDO — Oscar-winner Jon Voight will be one of the stars in the motion picture about the Rosewood massacre set to begin filming in January in Central Florida.

The Warner Bros. movie will be based on the story of the black settlement near Cedar Key that was wiped out in January 1923 by a white mob

in search of a black man accused of assaulting a white woman.

At least six blacks and two whites died and virtually every home and building was burned. In 1994, the Legislature awarded \$2 million to the survivors and descendants of Rosewood.

Director John Singleton will direct the film and another lead actor will be cast.

Book details Rosewood's destruction, compensation

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Like most people, Michael D'Orso had never heard of the black town of Rosewood that disappeared in a swirl of racial fury more than 70 years ago.

But as the efforts of a few elderly survivors to get compensation from the state of Florida attracted national attention two years ago, D'Orso knew it was a story he wanted to write.

"There were many incidents like Rosewood all across the country during this time," D'Orso said last week. "This was the lynching era in America."

The destruction of Rosewood was "the only incident of this scope that received almost no attention in the history books," he said. "For more than half a century, it was as if it never happened."

D'Orso's new book — "Like Judgment Day: The Ruin and Redemption Of A Town Called Rosewood" — details the destruction of Rosewood, why the victims stayed silent for decades, the legislative battle to compensate the survivors, and how the search for justice affected family members and descendants.

The 362-page book, published by Grosset/Putnam, will be released Tuesday.

D'Orso, 42, has coauthored four non-fiction books. His most recent, "Rise and Walk," was with former New York Jets football player Dennis Byrd and was about his recovery from paralysis he suffered while playing.

The Rosewood book is the first D'Orso has penned alone. He also is a journalist for The Virginian-Pilot newspaper in Norfolk, Va.

"Like Judgment Day" begins with events that led to the destruction of the black community that had existed between Gainesville and Cedar Key. All that remains today are road signs along State Road 24.

The violence started New Year's Day when a group of whites searching for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman degenerated into a mob. The whites rampaged through the town of about 120 people, burning homes and churches.

A week later, at least six blacks and two whites were dead and the community was in ashes. Everyone else had fled, forced to start their lives over from scratch.

Rosewood victims receiving payments

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The state is wrapping up its compensation payments a year after Florida lawmakers approved \$2 million for survivors and descendants of the Rosewood massacre 72 years ago.

Between 60 and 70 descendants whose families lost property in the black community after a racist mob's murderous rampage will share \$500,000 set aside by lawmakers, officials said Monday.

Nine elderly survivors received \$150,000 apiece from the state at the beginning of the year.

Since then, the attorney general's civil rights office has spent months poring over records and checking out hundreds of claims from people who said their families were driven from Rosewood by several days of violence that started on New Year's Day 1923.

Officials hope to close out the final part of the compensation plan by the end of the month or early June.

"We probably were dealing with more than 1,000 names in the family trees," said Gregory Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office. "We never anticipated it was going to be this involved."

Rosewood's demise began when a group of whites, frustrated after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman, destroyed almost every building in the commu-

nity of about 120 people.

Descendants verified by the attorney general's office will receive anywhere from \$145 to \$5,000 each under the property compensation plan, said Guy David Robinson, an assistant attorney general. The claims cover 18 families who lost property in Rosewood after the violence.

Arnett Doctor, who has represented the Rosewood families in the legislative proceedings and compensation program, said he doesn't yet know how much he or the others will receive. Doctor, 52, is the great-grandson of Sarah Carrier, who was killed during the violence.

"There is a wide range of reactions to the length of time it has taken," Doctor said.

"Some people are, quite frankly, a little upset. Others are a little skeptical. I am cautiously optimistic the attorney general will expedite it and do that which is right."

Today's survivors were children when Rosewood was wiped out. Most kept the memories of violence, gunshots and burning houses to themselves until they began speaking out in the early 1980s.

Last year, a handful recounted their memories of the Rosewood massacre before the state Legislature. Lawyers for the victims said the state owed them financial compensation because authorities failed to protect the families from the violence.

Survivors received \$1.5 million while the balance was earmarked for families that lost property.

Today, the only reminders of the community are small roadside signs on either side of State Road 24 between Gainesville and Cedar Key.

Tuesday, May 23, 1995 Citrus County (FL) Chronicle 3A

Citrus County (FL) Chronicle Saturday, July 22, 1995

Descendents of Rosewood reunite after settlement

Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Forgive Arnett Doctor for being a bit patriotic Friday.

Doctor has had an emotional few months as one of the leaders in the battle to win compensation from the state of Florida for survivors and direct descendants of black families driven from their Rosewood, Fla., homes by an angry white mob in the 1920s.

Some Rosewood family descendants, here for their annual

reunion, began receiving checks last week as part of Florida's \$2 million settlement in the case in which eight people were killed and the small town was burned to the ground.

The weekend reunion got off to a slow start Friday afternoon after a mixup with a charter bus company in Florida left about 50 descendants more than 12 hours behind schedule.

They were scheduled to arrive about midnight.

Film to tell Rosewood saga

By ADAM YEOMANS
of The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The story of Rosewood, a black community in Central Florida destroyed by racial anger in 1923, may be coming next year to a theater near you.

Hollywood filmmakers plan to retell the violent episode that left at least six blacks and two whites dead and took the state more than 70 years to officially recognize, according to those involved in the project.

Lawmakers last year agreed the government failed to protect Rosewood residents and awarded about \$2 million to elderly survivors and scores of descendants of the small settlement west of Gainesville.

Director John Singleton, whose credits include "Boyz 'N The Hood," "Poetic Justice" and this year's "Higher Learning," will soon begin scouting for locations in Florida, said James Padofore, assistant to co-producer Penelope Foster.

The Warner Bros. project also will be produced by Jon Peters, whose films include "Batman" and "Rain Man."

The film's budget and cast has not been announced. Shooting is

expected to begin sometime this fall.

"You can say it's a big budget film. It's certainly not a low budget one," said Greg Galloway, an Orlando entertainment lawyer who negotiated the deal on behalf of the survivors and family members.

The movie deal has been in the works for the past year after lawmakers passed the precedent-setting compensation package.

Initial details were released last weekend during a Rosewood family reunion in Fayetteville, N.C., as the state was preparing to conclude payments to descendants whose families lost property.

"It's going to be done in an extremely tasteful manner," said Arnett Doctor, who represents Rosewood family members and whose great-grandmother, Sarah Carrier, was killed during the violence. He declined to say how much filmmakers paid for the rights.

Rosewood's destruction began on New Year's Day 1923 when a group of whites, unsuccessful in hunting down a black man accused of accosting a white woman, turned violent. At least six blacks and two whites died and almost every building was torched.

Hollywood plans to remake 1920s racial attack

Associated Press

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The Warner Bros. project also will be produced by Jon Peters, whose films

include "Batman" and "Rain Man." Foster produced "Operation Dumbo Drop," opening this week.

The film's budget and cast has not been announced. Shooting is expected to begin this fall.

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Monday, July 24, 1995 Citrus County (FL) Chronicle

Rosewood movie nearing production

Compiled from wire services

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The story of Rosewood, a black community destroyed by racial anger in 1923, may be coming next year to a theater near you, courtesy of **John Singleton**.

The director, whose movies include "Boyz 'N The Hood," "Poetic Justice" and this year's "Higher Learning," will soon begin scouting for locations in Florida, said **James Padafore**, assistant to co-producer Penelope Foster.

The cast hasn't been announced. Shooting is expected to begin in the fall.

A group of white men torched Rosewood, southwest of Gainesville, after they couldn't find a black man accused of accosting a white woman. At least six blacks and two whites were killed.

State lawmakers last year agreed the government failed to protect Rosewood's residents and awarded \$2 million to elderly survivors and scores of descendants of the small settlement.

Citrus County (FL) Chronicle Wednesday, July 26, 1995

NEWS

DIMENSIONS

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Reparations in hand, Rosewood survivors look to future

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—
Gnawing memories of racist violence that wiped out the black community of Rosewood 72 years ago are finally being soothed.

The state is wrapping up its \$2 million program to compensate nine survivors of the Rosewood violence and several dozen descendants of families driven from their homes. The last payments are expected to be made in the next week or two.

And the families, who gather for their summer reunion later this year, have the satisfaction of knowing that what happened during the first week of January 1923 is no longer a dark secret.

"It should be behind us by that time. We should be able to move on with our lives," said Arnett Doctor, whose great grandmother was killed by members of the white mob that attacked the community east of Cedar Key.

Still in the works are a book, a movie deal and a permanent memorial.

The violence began on New Year's Day 1923 when a group of whites, angry after a fruitless search for a blackman accused of attacking a white woman, rampaged through the community of about 120 people. At least six blacks and two whites died. Almost every building was burned.

Rosewood faded from public memory until 1982, when Gary Moore, then a reporter for the St. Petersburg Times, wrote about the community and its end. After that, elderly survivors began speaking out.

State lawmakers passed a precedent-setting compensation plan in 1994, agreeing that government had failed to maintain law and order and protect Rosewood's residents.

As a result, nine elderly survivors received \$150,000 apiece from the state.

But it has taken months for the attorney general's office to sort through hundreds of claims from others who say their families lost property.

"I've handled a lot of different cases in my life. I have never had as difficult a time as Rosewood, or one as rewarding, either," said Gregory Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office.

Assistant Attorney General Guy David Robinson and investigator Frank Beisler conducted their own probe, following in-depth studies by Moore and then a group of university researchers.

Robinson created a family tree of 18 families who owned property in Rosewood and went through the painstaking process of identifying descendants. The chart covers a wall in the attorney general's Hollywood office and contains more than 1,300 names.

Now that the search for See Rosewood pg. 15

ROSEWOOD from page 9

descendants is finally over, 60 to 70 descendants will receive payments ranging from \$145 to \$5,000, Durden said.

Doctor, who heads the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, said he now is satisfied with the state's handling of the compensation plan.

"Everybody received something out of this process. Everybody in the family had a chance to experience some sort of gain from this process. No one can say they were not helped from this process," he said. "We didn't get everything we wanted, but we got more than many people expected."

Now Rosewood moves into new arenas.

Greg Galloway, an entertainment lawyer in Orlando who represents the Rosewood families in the film deal, said he believed Rosewood is a compelling tale that would translate easily to the big screen.

"The state pays damages for a race-based hate crime. That's never happened in this country," he said. He said a film producer involved in the project doesn't want details released yet. Author Mike D'Orso of Norfolk, Va., is wrapping up a book on Rosewood that he expects to be published in early 1996.

And Doctor has plans for a memorial at the spot where Rosewood once stood, now marked only by road signs.

"I'm committed to showing the best light on Rosewood that we can possibly bring to bear," he said. "There was a lot of richness there at that time that's been lost for the most part."

Rosewood descendants, state wrangling over massacre payments

By ADAM YEOMANS
of The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Lengthy delays in compensating the descendants of the Rosewood massacre are starting to fray the nerves of some family members.

Attorney General Bob Butterworth was enlisted Friday to help referee a squabble over payments to descendants of families who lost property after a racist mob wiped out the black community near Gainesville more than 72 years ago.

The attorney general's office is trying to wrap up a program to reimburse descen-

dants up to \$500,000. The money is part of a \$2 million package approved more than a year ago by lawmakers for survivors and descendants.

Rosewood was destroyed in January 1923 when a group of whites, angry after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman, destroyed almost every building in the community of about 120 people. At least six blacks and two whites died.

On Friday, representatives of descendants issued a press release that accused the attorney general's office of dragging its

feet in approving payments. It also accused the state of planning to pay less than half of the \$500,000 to descendants. Any unspent balance would revert to the state.

The attorney general's office said it never intended to send any money back to state coffers.

Officials said they submitted names Friday of 80 descendants who will receive anywhere from \$500 to \$1,200 apiece next month. Another 40 to 45 descendants will share the balance of the \$500,000.

Nine elderly survivors already received \$150,000 apiece from the state at the begin-

ning of the year.

Shortly after the critical statement Friday afternoon, Butterworth was on the phone with attorneys for the Rosewood families and his office to try to clear up any misunderstanding.

"He made it clear that it's been a goal all along of his to get the money out," said Steve Hanlon, a Holland & Knight lawyer representing the Rosewood families.

Gregory Durden, the chief of the attorney general's civil rights office, said the investigation into family lineages to ensure applicants are eligible for compensation

has been in-depth and complex.

"We're not stalling anything at all," Durden said. "They don't understand."

Durden had hoped to conclude the process, which included checking out more than 1,000 individuals, by early June. But the number of potential descendants increased, forcing his office to continue their probe. He hopes to complete it next month.

Arnett Doctor, who has represented the families in legislative proceedings and the compensation program, said he issued the news release through Holland & Knight because he was frustrated with the delays.

State nears completion of pay for victims of Rosewood riots

What happened 72 years ago is no longer a dark secret for survivors who fled their homes in the wake of racial violence.

By ADAM YEOMANS
Associated Press Writer

TALLAHASSEE — For survivors and descendants of Rosewood, the gnawing memories of the racist violence that wiped out the tiny black settlement 72 years ago are finally being soothed.

Many will be richer after the state wraps up its \$2 million program to compensate nine Rosewood survivors and several dozen descendants of families who lost property. The last payments are expected to be made in the next week or two.

All have the satisfaction of knowing that what happened to Rosewood is no longer a dark secret for a few survivors who were children when they fled their homes during the first week of January 1923.

When family members gather for their summer reunion later this year, they can look ahead knowing the story has been told.

"It should be behind us by that time. We should be able to move on with our lives," said Arnett Doctor, whose great-grandmother was killed by members of a white mob that burned almost every building and drove families from their homes in the community east of Cedar Key.

Even with the payments, the saga of Rosewood is far from over.

In the works are a book, a motion picture deal and a permanent memorial where the hamlet once existed.

The violence began on New Year's Day when a group of whites, angry after a fruitless search for a black man accused of attacking a white woman, rampaged through the community of about 120 people. At least six blacks and two whites died.

In 1982, Gary Moore, then a reporter for

the St. Petersburg Times, wrote about Rosewood, sparking interest that smoldered over the next decade until it ignited. Elderly survivors, one by one, began speaking out about the incident that had faded from public memory.

State lawmakers passed a precedent-setting compensation plan in 1994. They agreed government authorities had failed to maintain law and order and protect Rosewood's residents.

As a result, nine elderly survivors received \$150,000 apiece from the state.

But it has taken months for the attorney general's office to sort through hundreds of claims from people who say their families lost property. The Legislature approved \$500,000 to be paid to the Rosewood survivors and descendants.

"I've handled a lot of different cases in my life. I have never had as difficult a time as Rosewood or one as rewarding either," said Gregory Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office.

The search for descendants is now over.

Within the next week or two, between 60 and 70 descendants will receive a share of the \$500,000 in amounts ranging from \$145 to \$5,000, Durden said.

Doctor, who heads the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, has criticized state officials for moving too slowly at times. But he said he now was satisfied with how state officials handled the compensation plan.

"Everybody received something out of this process. Everybody in the family had a chance to experience some sort of gain from this process. No one can say they were not helped from this process," he said. "We didn't get everything we wanted, but we got more than many people expected."

With the state's role just about over, Rosewood takes on a new dimension.

Greg Galloway, an entertainment lawyer in Orlando who represents the Rosewood families in the film deal, said he believed Rosewood offered a compelling tale.

"The state pays damages for a race-based



Associated Press Photo

Gregory Durden, left, of the attorney general's civil rights office, and Guy David Robinson, assistant attorney general, pose among genealogies.

hate crime. That's never happened in this country," he said. "It's an opportunity for filmgoers to see what Rosewood was — a relatively prosperous black community in the South."

A prominent Hollywood producer plans to make the film, but the movie maker doesn't want details of the project released at this time, said Galloway.

In Norfolk, Va., author Mike D'Orso is wrapping up a book with the working title, "And God Was All Around Us: The Story of the Rosewood Massacre." He said he expected it to be released in early 1996.

Doctor has his own plans to establish a memorial at the site where the community existed about nine miles east of Cedar Key along State Road 24.

Said Doctor: "I'm committed to showing the best light on Rosewood that we can possibly bring to bear."

Rosewood survivors, families look ahead

Associated Press

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"I've handled a lot of different cases in my life. I have never had as difficult a time as Rosewood or one as rewarding either," said Gregory Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office.

To determine who had legitimate claims

to the money, assistant Attorney General Guy David Robinson and investigator Frank Beisler conducted their own investigation.

It followed in-depth probes by Moore and then a group of university researchers as well as a review by the attorney general's office, which originally represented the state in opposing the claims bill last year.

Robinson created a "family tree" of 18 families who owned property in Rosewood and went through the painstaking process of identifying descendants. The chart covering a wall in the attorney general's Hollywood office contains more than 1,300 names.

To confirm who deserved property compensation, Beisler traveled to Levy County and surrounding areas several times to review records and try to uncover new documents that could confirm their findings.

In one visit, the investigator found records from the 1920s stored in an old school bus barn. Pages literally crumbled when he tried to turn them. Such documents helped to reduce the number of supposed heirs because they showed some families did not live in Rosewood.

Rosewood victims receiving payments

Associated Press

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Tuesday, May 23, 1995 Citrus County (FL) Chronicle

Descendants verified by the attorney general's office will receive anywhere from \$145 to \$5,000 each under the property compensation plan, said Guy David Robinson, an assistant attorney general. The claims cover 18 families who lost property in Rosewood after the violence.

Arnett Doctor, who has represented the Rosewood families in the legislative proceedings and compensation program, said he doesn't yet know how much he or the others will receive. Doctor, 52, is the great-grandson of Sarah Carrier, who was killed during the violence.

"There is a wide range of reactions to the length of time it has taken," Doctor said. "Some people are, quite frankly, a little upset. Others are a little skeptical. I am cautiously optimistic the attorney general will expedite it and do that which is right."

Today's survivors were children when Rosewood was wiped out. Most kept the memories of violence, gunshots and burning houses to themselves until they began speaking out in the early 1980s.

Last year, a handful recounted their memories of the Rosewood massacre before the state Legislature. Lawyers for the victims said the state owed them financial compensation because authorities failed to protect the families from the violence.

Survivors received \$1.5 million while the balance was earmarked for families that lost property.

Today, the only reminders of the community are small roadside signs on either side of State Road 24 between Gainesville and Cedar Key.

Payments set to be made to 9 Rosewood survivors

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The state of Florida is ready to send checks to nine survivors of the racial violence that destroyed the black community of Rosewood almost 72 years ago.

The elderly survivors, who were children when a white mob drove their families from the community

near Gainesville, already have received \$50,000 each from the state and will get another \$100,000 apiece in January, officials said Wednesday.

"We're winding it down," said Guy David Robinson, an assistant attorney general handling the compensation plan.

Last spring, lawmakers passed a \$2 million compensation plan, in-

cluding \$150,000 each for anyone who could prove they fled the violence.

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A mob burned almost every home and building in the community of about 120 people nine miles east of Cedar Key.

At least six blacks and two whites died.

The state received 21 applications from people who claimed to be survivors but only nine have proved they lived in Rosewood during the violence, said Robinson, who is handling the payment plan with Greg Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office.

State moves to expedite Rosewood payments

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida attorney general's office said Wednesday it wants to expedite payments to several elderly survivors of the racial violence that wiped out the black community of Rosewood 71 years ago.

Advocates for Rosewood's survivors have been urging a fast pay-out because they fear beneficiaries of a \$2 million compensation plan might die if they have to wait for the official deadline at the end of the year.

"I just don't see this happening fast enough," said Arnett Doctor, chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee. "What we are afraid of, they might very well pass on without receiving the benefit of the legislation that the governor signed."

Guy David Robinson, an assistant at-

torney general working on the claims process, said the office is seeking partial payments of \$50,000 right now to each of four elderly survivors named in the claims bill. They would get the rest of the money later.

The bill says Minnie Lee Langley, 81; Arnett Goins, 80; Wilson Hall, 79; and Willie Evans, 86, should receive \$150,000 apiece because their testimony proved they were present when Rosewood was wiped out.

"That's been a concern from the beginning," Robinson said. "These people are up in age. We would like for them to enjoy the benefit of the legislation."

The attorney general's office is responsible for verifying applicants seeking payments under the claims bill while the comptroller's office issues the checks. The official deadline for applicants is Dec. 31, 1994.

Rosewood payments accelerated by state

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — A handful of elderly survivors who fled racial violence that destroyed the black community of Rosewood 71 years ago will receive expedited payments from the state, officials said Thursday.

Four survivors named in a claims bill passed this year will receive \$50,000 apiece in the next few days, or about one-third of the total approved by state lawmakers.

The bill says Minnie Lee Langley, 81; Arnett Goins, 80; Wilson Hall, 79; and Willie Evans, 86, should receive \$150,000 each because their testimony proved they were present when Rosewood was wiped out.

Supporters of the survivors have been urging a faster pay-out because they fear beneficiaries could die before the official deadline at the end of the year for pay-

ing them under the \$2 million compensation plan.

The comptroller's office, which handles payments in claims bills, agreed to the partial payments Thursday after the attorney general's office and legislative officials said it didn't violate the law.

"In the next couple of days, we will issue the checks," said Terry McElroy, spokesman for Comptroller Gerald Lewis.

The deadline for applying for compensation is Dec. 31, 1994.

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A posse turned into a mob that burned down almost every house and building in the community of about 120 residents, nine miles east of Cedar Key.

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COMING SUNDAY



Rosewood: Black residents were run out of town and their homes torched. Now the survivors want compensation, and historians want answers. Sunday BayLife



Seventy years ago, the Klan was on the rise, and a tiny Levy County community named Rosewood was on the decline. But no one expected it to end in fire.

Razed by racism

STORIES BY SUZIE SIEGEL

Rosewood is being rebuilt. Not with hammers and nails, but with words and documents. Historians hope to compile a record of Rosewood and its times so that others will understand how a town can be burned off the map.

Seventy years ago, a white mob ran off black residents and torched their homes in this Levy County town. Those seven days fell into obscurity, meriting no mention in history books.

Elderly survivors who want compensation brought attention to the story this year. People have gleaned details from interviews with those now dead, from those who were children at the time or from those who remember family stories.

Historians hope to fill in the holes and clear up the inconsistencies.

Some accounts say 100 blacks were slain. Arnett Doctor, whose mother survived the mob, says his family talks of 40 blacks and 19 whites.

Author Gary Moore, who has researched Rosewood for 11 years, wrote in the Miami Herald that he can document eight deaths but figures the count may be 2.

Tom Dye, who wrote a master's thesis on the Cedar Key area, considers deaths of six blacks and two whites likely.

He says one man reported seeing 17 blacks in a mass grave, and another put the figure at 26. That man told Dye: "For the next four or five years, they picked up skulls and things all around there in the woods and up the creek."

The two men are dead now, a mass grave has never been found and no one knows who might be buried there. A forensic archaeologist could be hired to search for a grave if the state Legislature approves money for a study, Dye says.

People also have different views of Rosewood in 1923. Doctor describes it as a thriving, upper-middle-class community. "Rosewood was nicknamed the 'Black Mecca.' Rosewood was to the Southeast, and especially Florida, what Atlanta is today. Two hundred to 300 people lived in Rosewood in 60 to 70 well-built homes with manicured lawns."

Dye says the record shows Rosewood was in decline in 1923, with not nearly that many people or fine homes. No one in the countryside had manicured lawns, he says, and he has found no record of the nickname.

"Everyone paints a picture, and they come out with different colors and styles. We may never know all the facts," Dye says.

Records indicate a white developer founded Rosewood, possibly in the 1870s, he says. People came after the Civil War to cut cedar for pencil factories.

Rosewood reached its economic heyday in the late 1880s and early 1890s, and two-thirds of its population was white, Dye says. The Ford Hotel rented rooms for \$2.50 a night, including a meal and care for your horse.

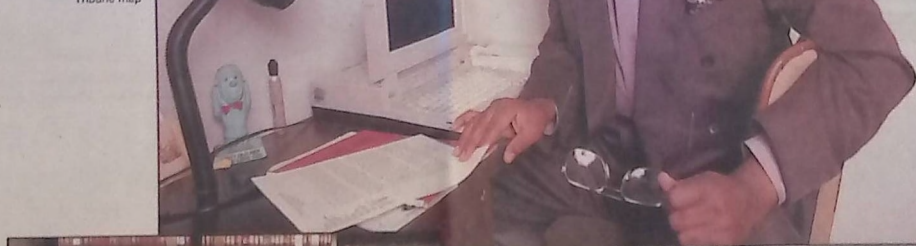
Island had black mayor

Cedar Key thrived as the largest Gulf port in Florida. At the turn of the century, it had nearly a thousand people. The first railroad to cross the state arrived in 1861, and railroad jobs also brought blacks to the

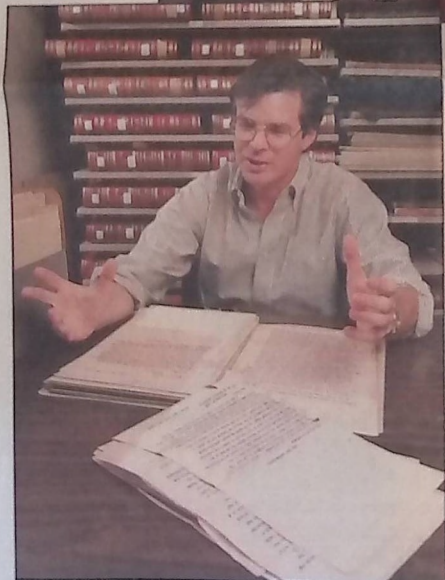
See HISTORIANS, Page 7



ESSEX JAMES/Tribune map



BOB WESTENHOUSER/Tribune photo



COLIN HACKLEY/Tribune photo

At top, what's left of the Rosewood black community smolders after the rampage. Above, Arnett Doctor of Tampa is a descendant of an original Rosewood family and is chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, a group that wants society to repay the families for a tragedy that has touched generations. At left, Tom Dye, a doctoral student at Florida State University, did his master's thesis on the history of the Cedar Key-Rosewood area. Below, a lone sign welcomes people to Rosewood.



ANDY JONES/Tribune photo



Photos from Literary Digest

A white mob torched the homes of black people in Rosewood during a New Year's Day rampage.

Terror ruled for a week 70 years ago

Jan. 1, 1923 — For Sarah Carrier, New Year's Day dawned like any other. She left her Rosewood home to do laundry for white people in Sumner, a mill town three miles west. By her side was her 13-year-old granddaughter, Philomena Goins.

The two watched through a window as Fannie Taylor quarreled with a train engineer in her Sumner home. Carrier knew they were having an affair.

Later, the engineer slipped out the back door, as he always did. Taylor came out bruised and bloodied, screaming that a black man had beaten her. Carrier and Philomena protested that a white man did it, but neighbors told them to shut up.

The women are dead now, but their story is told by Arnett Doctor, Philomena's son. He says Taylor could not admit to the affair because her husband was abusive. He figures she blamed a black man out of racism.

Some whites believe Taylor. They insist Carrier did not go to work that day, according to a report by the law firm of Holland & Knight, which represents the Rosewood families.

About 20 white men with bloodhounds tracked Taylor's attacker to Rosewood, says Tom Dye, who wrote his master's thesis on the area. The men assumed the attacker was Jesse Hunter, a black convict who had escaped a road crew.

The scent led to a wagon owned by Sam Carter, and the posse strung him up in a tree. The men took the law — and the sheriff's gun — into their own hands, Dye says.

The woods were known for whiskey stills, and moonshine fueled the vigilantes, he says. Carter was tortured and shot for refusing to divulge whom he had helped.

The men hacked off his fingers, ears and nose and stole possessions, such as his watch, the Holland & Knight report says. "Even years later some of the mob members would show off their 'souvenirs' and brag about their acts."

That's possible, Dye says, but he cannot substantiate it.

See WEEK, Page 8

Descendants demand compensation

TAMPA — His mother might have gotten a good job. After all, the family owned their homes and a turpentine mill. He might have had a comfortable childhood, with college assured.

But his family lost everything they owned when Rosewood burned. His mother grew up in poverty, as did he.

"She did domestic work, scrubbing other people's floors."

You can hear the past in Arnett Doctor's voice, the anger slipping through measured words. Doctor and other descendants of the original Rosewood families want society to repay them for a tragedy that has touched generations.

"The state of Florida had a

responsibility to ensure the safety of the African-American citizens of Rosewood," he says.

A compensation bill failed to pass the state Legislature last session. Another bill has been proposed that calls for a \$50,000 study to establish exactly what happened 70 years ago. The study would pave the way for restitution.

Gov. Lawton Chiles has said he does not want to add the bill to this month's special session, but its sponsors continue to push.

"This is a cloud that hangs over Florida, and it needs to be dealt with," says state Rep. Alfred J. "Al" Lawson Jr., D-Tallahassee, a co-sponsor of the bill.

The original bill called for a memorial

to commemorate the suffering of blacks and the bravery of whites who came to their aid. But compensation is the No. 1 priority for the families, says Doctor, chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee.

His dark purple suit sets off the gold Lion of Judah on his lapel, a family award for leadership.

The families have not decided how much restitution they want, he says, but they also want an education fund open to all descendants down to their great-grandchildren. The descendants could attend any U.S. private or public

See FAMILIES, Page 8

Residents still touched by tragedy of the past

ROSEWOOD — Leonard Reynolds does not dwell on the past. His biggest worry is the hunters who track deer into his yard, not the mob that tracked human prey 70 years ago.

When he bought his 40 acres, he did not know a white mob had once run off black residents and torched their homes. As the only blacks around, his family has become a touchstone for race relations in an area trying to shake off the past.

His family has had a few race-related problems, Reynolds says, but they were minor. "Handled and resolved," he says, leaving it

at that. "We get along very well. It's a different generation around here."

That does not mean all whites welcome blacks with open arms, he says.

"Black people are discouraged from buying property in this area. It's very subtle. They say they like you," he says, but somehow a deal never gets struck. He considers himself the exception to the rule.

He likes the country life, and the land came cheap. He built the brick house where he lives

See RESIDENTS, Page 8



ANDY JONES/Tribune photos

Mary and Leonard Reynolds have the only black family in Rosewood. They've had few racial problems!



Doyle and Fuji Scoggins stand in front of their Rosewood home. The home was used to hide black residents during the rampage 70 years ago.

COMING SUNDAY



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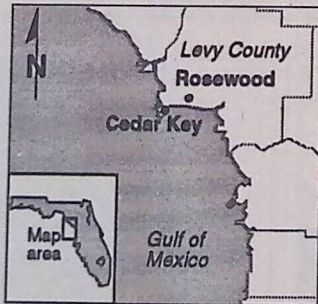
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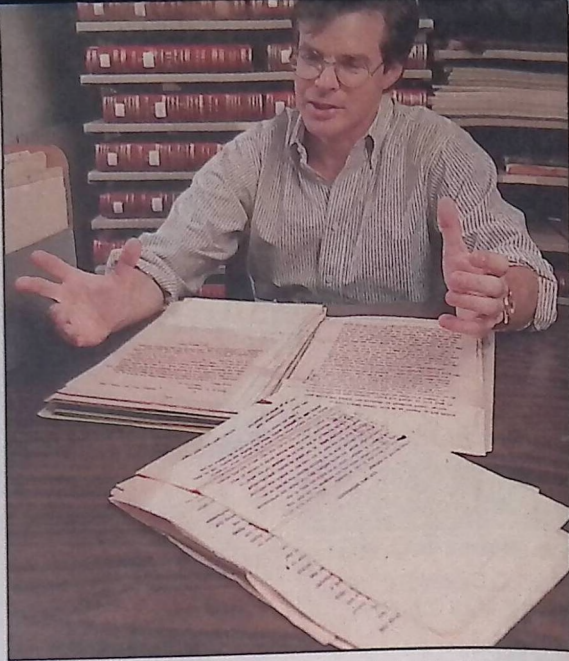
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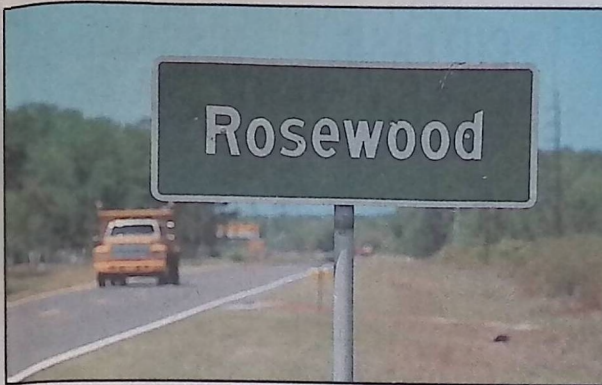
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See WEEK, Page 8



Doyle and Fuji Scoggins stand in front of their Rosewood home. The home was used to hide black residents during the rampage 70 years ago.

Massacre survivors: State commitment falling short

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH — Survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre say the state has partially reneged on a promise to provide \$100,000 in scholarships to their descendants.

Lawmakers approved more than \$2.1 million in compensation this spring for the racial violence that destroyed the small black settlement nine miles east of Cedar Key.

A white mob descended on Rosewood after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman.

The law establishes a \$1.5 million fund to pay up to \$150,000 apiece to people who prove they lived in Rosewood in January 1923 and fled the weeklong rampage that left at least six black and two white people dead.

It also provides \$500,000 to reimburse residents whose families lost property during the violence and \$100,000 a year for college scholarships for Rosewood family descendants and other members of minority groups.

Arnett Doctor, head of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, said Saturday that only \$60,000 was set

aside for scholarships this year.

"I'm really dissatisfied and very upset about the educational scholarship fund," he said. "For them to say we're going to allocate \$60,000 (this year) is going directly against what was legally approved by the state Legislature."

Doctor said survivors were told the state would give 25 scholarships for \$4,000 each. Rosewood descendants would get first crack at them, and leftovers would go to minority students.

State officials said the survivors misunderstood the law. The provision calls for 25 scholarships for up to \$4,000 to cover tuition and fees at state universities, community colleges and vocational-technical schools.

Legislators failed to provide money for the scholarships this spring. The Department of Education came up with \$60,000 for the 1994-95 academic year from a surplus in another financial aid fund.

"We're not taking any money away. We only really needed \$60,000," said state Rep. Al Lawson, D-Tallahassee. "The staff made an error in that we didn't need \$100,000 for 25 scholarships. It just slipped through."

State seeking survivors of Rosewood massacre in advertising campaign

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The state will begin advertising Wednesday for survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre to help determine who gets a share of \$1.5 million in compensation for the racial violence that destroyed the black settlement.

"We want to have an open process. We want to have a fair process," said Greg Durden, chief of the Florida attorney general's civil rights office, which is handling the application process.

Durden said he plans to put legal notices in newspapers in Florida but does not plan to advertise outside the state.

The deadline to apply for compensation is Dec. 31, 1994.

At least eight survivors have been identified, including four who were named as deserving payment in the historic compensation bill passed by the Legislature this spring and signed by Gov. Lawton Chiles.

On New Year's Day 1923, a group of whites went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. The whites burned virtually every house and building in the community of approximately 120 residents about nine miles east of Cedar Key.

At least six black and two white people were killed.

The claims law established a \$1.5 million fund to pay up to \$150,000 each to survivors who prove they lived in Rosewood at the time and fled.

It also provides \$500,000 to reimburse families who lost property and \$100,000 a year for college scholarships for Rosewood family descendants and other members of minority groups.

"We want to have an open process. We want to have a fair process."

Greg Durden, chief of the Florida attorney general's civil rights office, which is handling the application process.

The law says those seeking payments must provide "reasonable proof of eligibility."

The Attorney General's Office, which represented the state during legislative hearings into the racial violence, is creating the process to verify survivors.

Durden said he is reviewing documents and testimony from legislative hearings, has one state lawyer working full-time on the compensation law and plans to form a committee to review the applications.

Anyone who applies for compensation will be required to show proof of eligibility and the extent of their damages at a later date, Durden said.

The law says Minnie Lee Langley, 80, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86, deserve \$150,000 apiece because their testimony during legislative hearings proved they fled Rosewood.

At least four others who did not testify also escaped the violence, said Arnett Doctor, chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee.

METRO

COURTLAND MILLOY

Triumph Of Justice In Florida

I wish the nation could have seen the recent debate over compensating black survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre in Florida. You'd want to cry over how black people had been shot and hanged, and how their homes burned down by roving white lynch mobs. But in the end you'd have to rejoice because, despite the hatred, goodness and mercy prevailed.

Tallahassee was the unlikely stage for recalling a tragedy that reflected the terror many African Americans faced during much of the 20th century. Lawmakers in a southern state capital were trying to determine if law enforcement officials had been negligent in failing to stop seven days of white mob violence against black Rosewood residents 71 years ago.

The proposed payback: \$150,000 for each of 11 known survivors. You would have thought they were asking for billions in repatriations for slavery.

"When will the sons stop having to pay for the sins of the fathers?" bemoaned Sen. Charles Williams (D-Tallahassee), who represents the now predominantly white Rosewood area. His argument, to just let bygones be bygones, nearly carried the day.

"I've probably never had so many calls opposing something," said Rep. Hurley Rudd (D-Tallahassee), after voting against the bill in the House Appropriations Committee. "It's not just a preponderance of calls and letters against it, but a superpreponderance opposing it."

An investigation of what happened at Rosewood was ordered by the state legislature last year after several survivors came forth seeking damages. A lot of people just didn't believe that what the survivors claimed actually could have happened.

See MILLOY, B5, Col. 1

Belated Justice in Florida

MILLOY, From B1

But a team of academic researchers proved their memories were correct. They found that on Jan. 1, 1923, a 22-year-old white housewife named Frances Taylor alleged that a black man had entered her home and assaulted her. Her story was disputed, however, by Sarah Carrier, a black woman from Rosewood who did laundry for the housewife. She told neighbors that a white man had visited the home and had left shortly before Taylor made her allegations.

Nevertheless, word went out that a black man had sexually assaulted Taylor. According to researchers, a white mob formed and began killing any blacks they could get their hands on. Sam Carter, a blacksmith, was the first to be strung up in a tree, shot and killed. The mob then stormed the home of Sarah and Sylvester Carrier, where they shot and killed the family dog, then shot and killed Sarah. Sylvester Carrier managed to shoot and kill two white intruders before the mob got to him. His body was never found.

The mob then shot and killed Polly Wilkerson and Henry Andrews. Lexie Gordon was suffering from typhoid fever and didn't respond when the mob called her outside. So they set her house on fire. When she was spotted limping out through a back door, they shot and killed her too.

James Carrier was forced to dig his own grave and was then shot to death.

Mingo Williams was chopping down a tree 20 miles away when he was shot and killed by another white mob headed for Rosewood.

Despite newspaper accounts of the ongoing massacre, the governor, Cary Hardee, refused to deploy the militia and chose to go hunting instead. A grand jury investigation, ordered by Hardee on Jan. 29, brought no indictments. No charges were ever brought against any person for the assault on Taylor, the arsons or any of the murders.

Blacks who had escaped into the woods or had

hidden in the homes of benevolent whites eventually fled the town and lost their property. It was this loss due to neglect by the state that formed the basis of the compensation bill.

Despite the facts, the opposition continued.

"I still don't know what y'all mean by 'pain and suffering,'" said one state representative. What kind of pain, he wondered, could a person still have 70 years after seeing a house burn?

"I'd like to know where that \$150,000 figure comes from," another opponent inquired. "How can you use current market value to compensate for something that happened in 1923?"

It looked like the bill would be doomed by mean spiritedness until the voices of Rep. Al Lawson (D-Tallahassee) and Sen. Daryl Jones (D-Miami) emerged. They spoke of justice and moral obligations to right wrongs.

"Let your conscience be your guide," Lawson pleaded.

Sure enough, the tide began to change.

"Let's face it, the government took their land," said Kenneth Pruitt (R-Port St. Lucie).

"While we may not be doing it with a mob and gun, failing to pass this bill, we do it with a pen."

"How do you put a value on a hate crime?" asked Rep. John Rayson (D-Pompano Beach). He noted that a woman who had been hit by a bus had won a \$500,000 settlement from the state. "When you consider that someone has had their home burned down and family members killed because of hate, I think \$150,000 is rather paltry."

Indeed, it was. But the compensation bill, which included a scholarship fund, was passed and sent to Gov. Lawton Chiles (D), who is expected to sign it soon.

It all added up to about \$2.1 million. One survivor said that agreeing to the small sum was simply their way of expressing forgiveness. As they saw it, the fight had never been just about money but a way to set the record straight, lest we ever forget.

State determining Rosewood payoffs

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — The legislative battle over Rosewood is finished but the work is just beginning to determine whether those who say they fled a white mob that destroyed the black settlement 71 years ago actually lived there.

At least eight survivors have been identified, including four who were named as deserving of payments in the unprecedented \$2.1 million compensation bill that took effect last week.

An undetermined number of others are expected to apply for compensation.

The Attorney General's Office, which defended the state during legislative hearings into the Rosewood massacre, was given the job of putting together the process to verify the survivors who are eligible for payments.

The state wants to ensure only those with legitimate claims receive the mon-

The state wants to ensure only those with legitimate claims receive the money but officials want to move as quickly as possible.

ey but officials want to move as quickly as possible. Many of the survivors are in their 80s and some have health problems.

"We're going to make this issue a top priority," said Greg Durden, chief of the attorney general's civil rights office, which is handling the compensation.

On New Year's Day 1923, white people went on a rampage after an unsuccessful search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman. A posse turned into a mob that burned down virtually every house and building in the community of about 120 residents.

The law establishes a \$1.5 million

fund to pay up to \$150,000 apiece to people who prove they lived in Rosewood in January 1923 and fled the violence that left at least six black and two white people dead.

It also provides \$500,000 to reimburse residents whose families lost property during the violence and \$100,000 a year for college scholarships for Rosewood family descendants and other members of minority groups.

The law says those seeking payments must provide "reasonable proof of eligibility."

It says Minnie Lee Langley, 80, Arnett Goins, 80, Wilson Hall, 79, and Willie Evans, 86, should receive \$150,000 each

because their testimony during the legislative hearings proved they were present when Rosewood was wiped out.

At least four others who did not testify also fled the violence, said Arnett Doctor, chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee.

They include Dorothy Hosey, 75, and Mary Hall, 74, both of whom were toddlers in 1923. They said they learned about Rosewood from their parents and older siblings.

The others are Margie Hall Johnson — the sister of Wilson Hall and Mary Hall — and Lonnie Carroll. Both are in their 80s.

Another four or five people who say they are survivors also may apply, said Steve Hanlon, a lawyer for the law firm Holland & Knight, which has represented Rosewood family members at no charge.

Governor signs Rosewood compensation bill

Survivors look on as \$150,000 to each is OK'd

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — More than 70 years after a racist rampage left a small black community smoldering and its terrified residents scattered, Florida acknowledged its responsibility as the governor signed a \$2.1 million compensation bill Wednesday.

Seven survivors and dozens of family members and supporters looked on as Gov. Lawton Chiles approved legislation that will pay up to \$150,000 to anyone who can prove they were forced to flee from the violence that wiped out Rosewood in January 1923.

Survivors said they were satisfied with the state's compensation plan and believed it would ease some of the bitter memories of the loss of lives, homes and land.

"I believed that deep down in my heart from the day my mother told us we had to leave home that the Lord would one day provide for me before I died," said 74-year-old Mary Magdalene Hall. "This is that day, my lucky day."

"I have to be satisfied, but they're not making up for all of our loss," said Hall's 79-year-old brother, Wilson, who was 8 when his family fled from their two-story house as nearby houses were torched by a white mob.

Whites went on their violent rampage

*Survivors said they were
satisfied with the state's
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of the bitter memories.*

after a fruitless search for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman.

A posse turned into a mob that killed at least six blacks and burned down virtually every house and building. At least two white men also were killed.

Today, all that remains of the community near Cedar Key are markers on State Road 24. A volunteer fire department in the area also bears Rosewood's name.

The compensation law, which takes effect immediately, establishes a \$1.5 million fund. In addition to the \$150,000 each to survivors, it provides \$500,000 to reimburse residents who lost property during the violence and \$100,000 a year for college scholarships for Rosewood family descendants and other minorities.

The amount in the law is much lower than that contained in the original legislation, which sought \$7 million for survivors and descendants.

Chiles said the compensation would not correct "this blind act of bigotry" but it

would ensure "the tragedy of Rosewood will never be forgotten by the generations yet to come."

About 50 family members and supporters, many of whom wore red and white in memory of Rosewood, attended the bill-signing ceremony in the Old Capitol. They say the red stands for the blood shed and the white for the community's innocence.

For descendants and supporters, Rosewood symbolized the frequent violence against blacks by whites in the early part of this century. They said state and local officials knew about the attack but did nothing to prevent it.

Opponents argued that the legislation would set a precedent that could cost the state more money in the future.

Survivors said they planned to use the state money to pay bills, buy a house or pay their mortgages.

"It helps," said 80-year-old Arnett Goins, who was about 9 years old at the time of the violence. "I'm living off Social Security. I'm going to finish paying for my home."

Now that the law has taken effect, Rosewood supporters are weighing contract offers to turn the tragedy into a television mini-series or movie, said Arnett Doctor, a descendant and chairman of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee.

"We're talking to people in Hollywood now," Doctor said. "Probably within a week or so we will have a contract signed."

Rosewood

A \$2.1 million claims bill to compensate survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre headed toward final approval after clearing its last legislative committee hurdle Wednesday.

The Senate Appropriations Committee voted 18-9 to approve the bill (CS-SB 1774) after supporters defeated an effort to remove financial compensation.

About 120 people lived in the black settlement near Cedar Key more than 70 years ago when it was wiped out during racial violence in January 1923. At least eight people died.

The bill goes to the full Senate, possibly Thursday. If passed, it would mark the first time a state has compensated victims of racial violence, supporters say. The House already has passed the bill and Gov. Lawton Chiles said he supports compensation.

Under the legislation, the state

would establish a \$1.5 million fund for "emotional trauma" suffered by anyone who could prove they lived in Rosewood and were evacuated during the violence. Survivors would be eligible for up to \$150,000 apiece.

The bill also would create a \$500,000 fund to reimburse residents who could prove they lost property during the violence and provide \$100,000 a year for scholarships to university students who are Rosewood family descendants. It would provide up to 25 scholarships a year of up to \$4,000 each.

Panel OKs payments for Rosewood victims

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — A \$2.1 million claims bill to compensate victims of the 1923 Rosewood massacre moved ahead Tuesday as a Senate committee approved legislation that has already cleared the House.

The Senate Finance & Tax Committee voted unanimously for the bill (CS-SB 1774) to provide up to \$150,000 apiece to survivors of the racial violence that destroyed the black settlement near Cedar Key more than 70 years ago.

“Even though we may be late in

recognizing an injustice, it's far better to recognize it now than sweep it under the rug,” said Sen. Peter Weinstein, D-Coral Springs.

One of the sponsors, Sen. Daryl Jones, D-Miami, told the committee that the bill would not set a precedent for other victims of racial violence and the proposed compensation was far less than the \$7 million originally sought by Rosewood victims.

Jones said the government failed to protect the property of Rosewood's residents. At least eight people were killed during

the violence.

“The real egregious aspects of this case was the failure to adequately investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice,” Jones said. “Some people got away with murder and they may still be alive,”

The next stop for the compensation bill is the Senate Appropriations Committee where Rosewood supporters were lining up votes before the meeting Wednesday. If it passes, the bill would probably go to the full Senate Thursday.

“We're very confident that we

will be successful,” said Arnett Doctor, who heads a group of Rosewood survivors and descendants seeking the compensation.

Members of the Senate tax committee agreed to make the bill identical to the legislation passed by the House 71-40 on Monday to prevent any differences from bogging down the bill and hurting its chances of passage.

The bill would establish a \$1.5 million fund to pay anyone who could prove they lived in Rosewood and were evacuated during the violence up to \$150,000.

House passes compensation for Rosewood massacre victims

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Legislation to compensate the survivors of the 1923 Rosewood massacre took a major step forward Monday when the Florida House passed a \$2.1 million claims bill.

The House passed the bill 71-40 after supporters defeated efforts to remove financial compensation from the measure and replace it with memorials.

Racial violence wiped out the black settlement more than 70 years ago and left at least eight people dead.

Supporters of the bill (CS-HB 591) cheered the House vote but said they still had to convince the Senate to approve the legislation. The Senate Finance and Tax Committee is scheduled to consider the bill Tuesday afternoon.

"It's still got a long way to go," said 79-year-old Wilson Hall, who remembered as a child watching homes being burned before evacuating the community near Cedar Key in January 1923. His family never returned.

Hall and other supporters said they felt confident about the legislation's chances.

"I can only say three words: God bless America," said Arnett Doctor, who heads a group of Rosewood family members seeking compensation and whose mother fled with other black residents from a white mob that destroyed the community.

The bill would establish a \$1.5 million fund to compensate anyone who can prove they lived in Rosewood at the time of its destruction and was evacuated. It also would establish a \$500,000 fund to compensate those who can prove they lost property during the violence and a college fund that would provide up to \$100,000 worth of scholarships a year to Rosewood descendants and other minority students.

The amount is far less than the \$7 million originally sought by the sponsors and victims.

The community near Cedar Key was destroyed after a white woman named Fannie Taylor

accused a black man of assaulting her.

A search by whites for her assailant degenerated into a violent mob that killed at least six blacks and burned down virtually every house and building. At least two whites were killed.

During House debate on the bill, amendments to erect a road marker and an exhibit to commemorate the episode and a memorial in a nearby state park were rejected. Supporters said the measures would gut the bill.

"It gives African Americans in Rosewood hope that this Legislature will try to erase some of the dark shadows that have been hanging over their heads for so many, many years," said Rep. Al Lawson, D-Tallahassee, one of the bill's sponsors.

"There is no amount of money that can be paid that can bring back the lives that were lost," said Rep. David Thomas, R-Sarasota. "There's no amount of money that can bring back the property was lost."

Rosewood compensation bill to House

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — A \$2.1 million bill to compensate victims of the 1923 Rosewood massacre moves to the House floor next week after supporters lobbied furiously to get it out of committee Friday.

A day after black lawmakers clashed with Gov. Lawton Chiles about the bill, the House Appropriations Committee approved the legislation 19-12 while Lt. Gov. Buddy MacKay and other Chiles' aides looked on.

"I haven't seen too many issues as tough as this," said Rep. Al Lawson, D-Tallahassee, one of sponsors of the bill. "The key to the issue, when we are elected to serve in the Legislature, you have to stand up for justice."

The bill (HB 591) would provide

up to \$150,000 to anyone who could prove they were present during the violence in January 1923 that destroyed the black community near Cedar Key and left at least six blacks and two whites dead. The state would allot \$1.5 million for the fund.

The legislation would earmark another \$500,000 to compensate Rosewood families who can prove they lost property because of the violence.

It also would establish a scholarship fund that would provide up to \$100,000 worth of tuition awards annually for Rosewood descendants and other minority students.

At Friday's committee hearings, conservative Democrats and some Republicans expressed concerns that the state would set a bad precedent with the bill, which has al-

ready been cut from the \$7 million originally sought by supporters.

Rep. George Albright, R-Ocala, said he would propose creating a memorial to Rosewood in Levy County but did not want other victims of past racial violence seeking compensation from the state.

"This should be like the Holocaust. This should be something that people should never forget happened," Albright said. "That's more important than money."

Supporters insisted the legislation would not set a precedent because state and local officials in 1923 were aware of the violence at Rosewood but failed to protect its residents.

A vote on the bill was delayed Thursday after supporters and House leaders weren't sure they had enough votes to get the bill (HB 591) out of committee.

THE RIGHT THING TO DO

Compensate Rosewood victims, descendants

THE SPECIAL MASTER'S recommendation in the Rosewood compensation case is on target. The bill, having passed out of committee, now goes to the state House floor for a vote.

State officials, including the governor, knew the situation at Rosewood in 1923 and refused to accept their duty to respond. In doing so they failed to protect citizens and their property, and the state has subsequently failed to uphold justice.

For those who think that this will now invite a landslide of claims from others over long-past cases, they must remember the uniqueness of this situation. Such clear cases of criminal neglect and such dire consequences are rare.

This was not a case of lost opportunity or alleged discrimination. At Rosewood there was a civil insurrection in which a mob killed six black citizens and razed a community.

The issue:

Rosewood massacre compensation

Our opinion:

The state has the obligation

The state of Florida, through its officials, clearly turned its back on the massacre and destruction of the whole town. The documentation is indisputable.

The actual loss of life and property would be compensated by an award of \$150,000 to each survivor who can be identified. Property will be paid for, criminal charges will be investigated where applicable, and a scholarship will be established for Rosewood descendants.

The Legislature should pass this bill. You can bury a wrong, but it still remains a wrong. Trying to make amends to victims is the only conscientious thing to do in this unique and lamentable case.

COMMENTARY

SUNDAY
APRIL 17, 1994

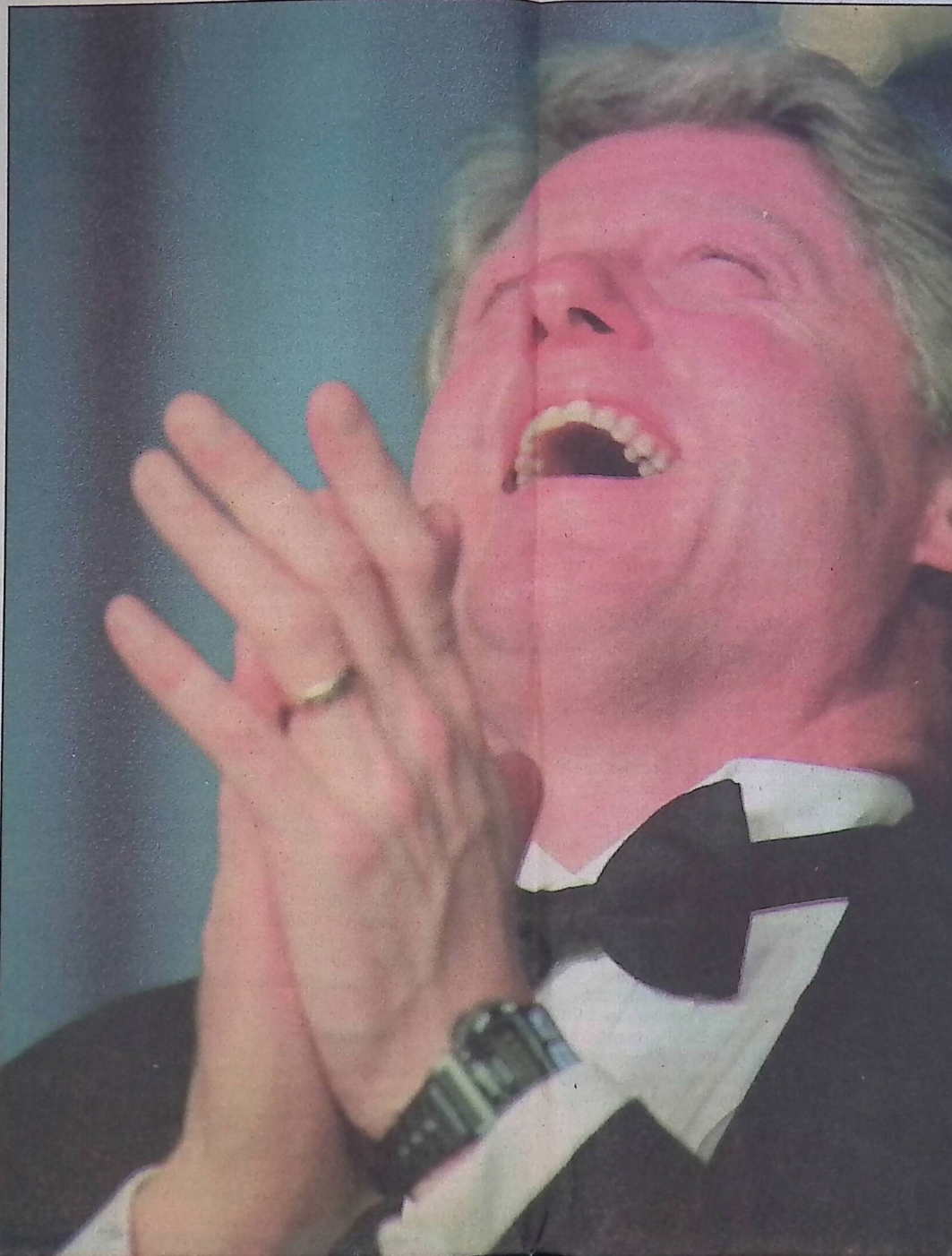
SECTION C

The coverage of the Whitewater issue, some observers say, could signal the end of Watergate syndrome journalism

PRESS IS IN HOT WATER

By Bob Hohler

FROM THE HALLS of Harvard University to the grill at Your Mama's Good Food in Little Rock, Ark., drumbeats of protest are echoing over the news



OUT THE WINDOW

Sending the right message

THIS WAS THE week that true procrastinators show their stuff. We were all rushing to the post office on Friday with IRS forms in hand.

I make it a point not to pick on the IRS because I have found that all IRS auditors are outstanding Americans simply performing their patriotic duty. I've also found out that an IRS audit is more painful than a dual root canal without the laughing gas.

But in my haste to get the forms completed on time I kept searching for that exemption for parents who use all of their disposable income to finance a child's college education. I couldn't find any way to deduct the zillions of dollars spent for college.



Gerard Mulligan

But in my reading of the small print I did find a deduction that — with some deductive reasoning — might apply. There are exemptions where people who gamble away their money can deduct their losses.

Now let's get this straight. You can't deduct college expenses even though you're investing in the future leadership of this nation. But if you go to Las Vegas, drink like a fish, and gamble away two months pay you can find a deduction that applies.

Someone explain to me how this makes sense? The economists say the future job market looks bleak for today's college students so maybe I can argue that a college education is a gamble. Or maybe I'll just take that root canal.

● Dave Pattillo of Inverness is a man with cause. And his cause has been the restoration of downtown Inverness. While people have talked about restoring Inverness for years, it took Pattillo's leadership and muscle to give the effort momentum. His accomplishments have been outstanding.

But now government — specifically the state Department of Transportation — stands in his way.

Pattillo's latest volunteer effort has been to build a little park on the

... of an abusive practice called Whitewater.

"It's excessive and obsessive," said Marvin Kalb, director of Harvard's Joan Shorenstein Barone Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy.

Barbara Comstock, the owner of Your Mama's Good Food, where Whitewater-hunting news crews often pause for nourishment, said, "It's blown all out of proportion."

Said Larry J. Sabato, a political scientist at the University of Virginia who analyzed pack journalism in his book "Feeding Frenzy," "It's absurd."

A number of news room bosses agree. And they have stirred some professional soul-searching as they convened this week at the American Society of Newspaper Editors' annual conference — a forum that on Wednesday prompted President Clinton, a prime figure in the Whitewater inquiry, to express his frustration with the coverage after a speech to the editors.

Told by a USA Today editor that his explanations of Whitewater matters reminded him of a daughter's excuses for neglecting her homework, the president replied: "Maybe you have total and complete recollection of every question that might be asked of you at any moment of things that happened 12, 13, 14 years ago. ... Maybe ... you think I should have shut the whole federal govern-

President Clinton bellows out a hearty laugh during a light moment at the American Society of Newspaper Editors' annual conference last week.

Associated Press

“Whitewater has been overdone by far. There have been too many rumors published, too many errors made and too much rushing to judgment without the facts.”

Jack Nelson, Washington bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times

ment down and studied these things for the last two months.”

But Clinton declined an invitation to grade the press coverage of Whitewater. "If I could grade the press," he said, "I wouldn't."

With Whitewater, one editor's caution light has become another's entree to a full-blown scandal, though the controversy appears to have entered a lull in recent days.

Ever since Clinton's personal lawyer, Vincent Foster, shot himself to death last July, leaving behind a stack of files on the land development deal, some news managers have envisioned the stuff of an Agatha Christie mystery, according to Kathleen Hall Jamieson, dean of the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania.

nia. "They had a body and no explanation, like the start of a good novel," Jamieson said. "That's a large part of what has kept it going."

Several conservative publications, such as The Washington Times, have waged minute searches for links between Whitewater and Foster.

But the plot runs deeper than Foster, said Leonard Downie Jr., executive editor of The Washington Post, which last month published 27 front-page stories related to Whitewater.

Downie suggested that what began for the president and Hillary Rodham Clinton as an investment in Whitewater Development Corp. in 1978, when Jimmy Carter occupied the White House, has snowballed

into an avalanche of legitimate, unanswered questions.

"We have a savings and loan that collapsed, out of which a lot of money seems to have disappeared," Downie said, referring to the former Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan. James McDougal, the thrift's president from 1984 to 1989, was the Clintons' partner in the Whitewater investment.

"We also have an investigation by the Resolution Trust Corp. that led to criminal referrals to the Justice Department naming the president of the United States and others as potential recipients of some of the money that disappeared," Downie continued. "And we have contacts going back and forth within the administration" about the investigation.

"We're not on a crusade," Downie said of the Post. "But all of those things need to be aggressively looked

Please see PRESS, Page 6C

Bob Hohler is a writer with the Boston Globe.

The Chronicle wants to know what the 'voter' wants

By Mike Wright

HOW MANY TIMES has this happened: It's another political season and politicians are hopping from one speech to another, telling all who will listen what the voters want.

"My constituents favor President Clinton's health care plan," one might say.

"The people of this district don't want the president's plan," another might counter.

Well, what do they know?

Why is it that we let the politicians tell us what the issues are during each election year? It's like politicians leading voters to the issue trough, letting them drink only what is offered.

That is not the right way to run an election.

Nothing is more frustrating for voters than to work their way through a tedious election

only to have politicians get in office and forget all about what sent them there.

Time for that to change.

During this election year, the Chronicle wants its readers to set the political agenda. Before these politicians get a chance to get their dander up, we will let them know what voters are really concerned about.

Here's how it works: Take a look at the coupon and fill it out. We made a few suggestions for each race, but don't let the Chronicle influence your preferences.

Let us know what's on your political mind. If the coupon isn't big enough, write a brief letter and attach it to the coupon.

Send it in by Tuesday, May 3. We'll take the results, break them down and follow with news stories telling readers and politicians alike — they do read the newspaper — what issues are on the forefront.

Don't let the politicians tell

you what you think. It's time we take our elections back.

Mike Wright is assistant

managing editor of The Chronicle.

TELL US

Let us know what the issues are. Fill out the coupon and send it by May 3 in care of Mike Wright, Citrus County Chronicle, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, Fla., 34429; or fax it to 563-5665. If you like our suggestions, feel free to explain your views.

Name: _____

Hometown: _____

Phone (won't be published): _____

- 1. In the race for Congress and U.S. Senate, the top issues are:
 - Health care:
 - Crime:
 - Taxes:
 - Other:

- 2. In the race for governor and Cabinet members, the issues are:
 - Health care:

- Crime:
- Taxes:
- Environment:
- Other:

- 3. In the race for state Legislature, the issues are:
 - Health care:
 - Taxes:
 - Campaign finance:
 - Crime:
 - Other:

- 4. In the race for county commission, the issues are:
 - Taxes:
 - Environment:
 - Economic development:
 - Other:

- 5. In the race for school board the issues are:
 - Accountability:
 - Taxes:
 - Teacher pay:
 - Other:

courthouse square project. He plans on building a brick plaza with a double-decker bus, welcome sign and lattice arbor.

While the work has already begun, Pattillo learned recently that he was given incorrect information from city hall. The city had informed Pattillo that it owned the old gas station property. But it turns out that DOT still holds title to the land because there is a question about possible soil contamination from the old gas station that sat on the site.

Please see WINDOW, Page 6C

Gerry Mulligan is the publisher of the Citrus County Chronicle.

CAPITOL BEAT

Top two moves — Glades, Rosewood

IF THE 1994 session of the Florida Legislature has had a shining hour, it would be the consensus among House and Senate members and the governor on finally beginning the cleanup of the polluted river-of-grass known as the Everglades.

Most observers don't believe there was a shining hour because of the turkeys greedy lawmakers have slipped into the budget for their home districts after giving lip service to government economy and efficiency. But if there was, it would probably be the Glades cleanup or the vote on Rosewood.

Some environmentalists don't like the Everglades cleanup agreement that has an excellent chance of passing this week. They'd rather punish the growers who they'd scapegoat as polluters-for-profit, ignoring the historical fact that federal and state government, accompanied by the hurrahs of most of the citizenry, drained the country's biggest swamp to create fruit and vegetable farms and immense acreages for home development.

Instead, the bill calls for sharing in almost equal amounts the cleanup costs between state and federal agencies including the wetlands — buying fund Preservation 2000, the taxpayers in the 16 Central and South Florida counties, and the big growers.

Rep. Dean Saunders, D-Lakeland, had it right when he said that everybody — whether they want to admit it or not — is responsible for the pollution of the Glades.

Maybe the session's finest hour was the passage of the Rosewood bill that will compensate survivors of the white violence against the black Levy County community in the 1923 aftermath of a rape charge made against a black man by a



Jack Harper

Please see CAPITOL, Page 6C

Jack Harper is a Tallahassee resident.

CAPITOL BEAT

Reinstate the school board member but hold out on Rosewood funds

"I T'S A GOOD thing that there is still a majority of members in this Legislature who are not lawyers," Senate Rules Committee Chairman George Kirkpatrick Jr. said last week

Kirkpatrick, D-Gainesville, made the comment in the closing minutes of a two-hour hearing on whether to recommend to the full Senate the reinstatement of a Hernando County school board member who was suspended by Gov. Lawton Chiles for Sunshine Law violations.

Attorney members on the committee were complaining the case was poorly presented and would have been thrown out of a regular court.

"We're just going to have to go ahead and do the best that we can for the people," said Kirkpatrick, who has a real estate background and a college degree in psychology.

The same principle applies even more to the Rosewood bill hearings which ended last week and may go to floor of the House soon. Eleven survivors and 45 descendants are asking for \$7.1 million on a claim that 1923 Gov. Carey Hardee and Levy County sheriff officials knew about and allowed a white massacre of blacks at the long-since abandoned sawmill town.

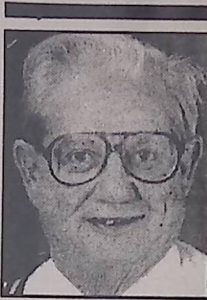
The rampage followed a disputed charge by a white woman that she was assaulted by a black man. The evidence hinges on memories handed down from one generation to another in families and old newspaper reports. At least eight people were killed and an unknown number of black residents were scattered.

Very little of the "evidence" — particularly the lack of any corroborating the assumption that the governor and the sheriff conspired to let it happen — would stand up in a regular court.

But then, as Kirkpatrick said, it doesn't have to, stupid, it's the Florida Legislature.

This old reporter agrees with that and doesn't mind going where angels fear to tread with some honest opinions on the controversial issues. I think legislators should vote to reinstate (after censuring) the school board member, but not pay the \$7.1 million claim against the state.

Diane Rowden of Spring Hill was singled out by Gov. Chiles for suspension, although the grand jury had recommended another member be suspended as well and three other board members pleaded no contest to charges of meeting law violations (talking



Jack Harper

Why lower the boom on a little novice school board member when almost every year the senators get in trouble?

about public business in informal conversations with each other).

It's apparent on the ace of it Chiles was a bit heavy-handed. The Florida Supreme Court, in an advisory opinion, told him he could suspend but only the Senate could remove a school board member from office.

That opinion is easy. Why lower the boom on a little novice school board member when almost every year the senators themselves get in trouble with the press by attempting to do business behind closed doors one way or the other? Let's start the enforcement from the top, right up here in Tallahassee.

Incidentally, the swing vote on the evenly split partywise select committee that voted 4-2 to recommend reinstating Rowden was a Democrat and a lawyer, Sen. Rick Dantzer, Winter Haven.

The decision on the Rosewood bill is much more difficult, of course. Most Floridians would gladly pay their share of the \$7.1 million they're asking for in tax money if they thought it would settle anything or bring Florida some racial harmony.

But that isn't what it would do. It would encourage a flood of claims from other victims (aren't we all?) of state neglect. How about Indians, Mormons, Quakers, Jews, Chinese, and all other immigrants?

I'm a descendant of the Wiles family that was almost wiped out by Indians in a massacre on the edge of the Okefonokee Swamp in the 1800s. There's a monument at Waycross, Ga., attesting to that massacre. Why shouldn't I have some fish-bait money from the state in my retirement years for that?

No, a payoff for the Rosewood tragedy can't help but polarize Florida a little more when we should all be in this together. There will be a movie made on it. God knows what those Hollywood producers are going to do to our state. Some of the researchers — paid to document the story under a \$75,000 grant from the Florida House — have refused to report all the information they have found because they want to save some for a book.

So just who is going to profit by this guilt trip down memory lane?

Could it be that all any American really deserves is equal opportunity and freedom under the law now? That's everything. Isn't it?

Jack Harper is a Tallahassee resident.

Rosewood victims' claims supported

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Florida has "a moral obligation" to compensate the survivors of racial violence that wiped out the black settlement of Rosewood more than 70 years ago, a claims officer said Monday.

Special master Richard Hixson did not recommend the \$7 million sought by survivors and their direct descendants. Instead, he said the state should set up a fund to repay the victims and survivors of Rosewood who can prove they lost property.

He also recommended lawmakers pay survivors \$150,000 each for the emotional trauma of being uprooted from their community. Hixson believed seven people who actually escaped would qualify, putting the total at \$1.05 million, said Kathy Putnam, spokeswoman for House Speaker Bo Johnson, D-Milton.

Hixson said it was difficult to determine the conduct of law enforcement officers and other state and local officials during the violence that left at least six blacks and two whites dead in January 1923.

"It nonetheless is clear that government officials were responsible for some of the dam-

ages sustained by the claimants," Hixson said in a 15-page report that the House Judiciary Committee will consider Wednesday.

Authorities failed to protect Rosewood's residents and didn't investigate the murders or arrest anyone connected with the violence, Hixson said. Officials also failed to help return residents to their community.

Hixson recommended the Legislature establish a fund to compensate families who lost property. He said it should be similar to the federal law enacted in 1988 that provided reparations to Japanese citizens who were interned by the United States during World War II.

Lawmakers would have to determine how much money families would get or what agency would oversee the fund, Putnam said.

The violence that destroyed Rosewood began New Year's Day 1923 when a white woman, Fannie Taylor, accused a black man of assaulting her. The ensuing search for the assailant turned into a murderous rampage that drove every black resident from the community near Cedar Key.

Legislature wrestles with Rosewood,

property rights

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — With three weeks left in the regular legislative session, lawmakers are juggling political hot potatoes like Rosewood massacre reparations and repaying property owners for land-use restrictions.

After hearings on a proposal to pay \$7 million to

victims of a white mob's destruction of a black settlement more than 70 years ago, a Rosewood claims bill is up for debate Wednesday in a House panel.

A property rights bill is also set for a House Judiciary Committee vote, though revisions are still being made because opponents said it would touch off court battles and violate state bonding rules.

House-Senate talks over a \$38 billion budget con-

tinue and health-care reform proposals are being readied for the House floor. Gov. Lawton Chiles said proposals to restore the Everglades also are top priority.

Federal officials told lawmakers last week any cleanup plan should contain elements of a federal lawsuit settlement that required taxpayers and agricultural companies to share costs of stemming agri-

cultural runoff and restoring fresh water flow.

"That continues to be a major piece of environmental legislation that I hope we can pass," Chiles said.

Everglades restoration is scheduled for debate in the House Natural Resources Committee this week. The Senate Finance and Tax Committee is also expected to consider a cleanup plan.

Producers making pitch for Rosewood rights

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — While lawmakers debate paying \$7 million to the victims of a black settlement destroyed more than 70 years ago by a white mob, Hollywood producers are making their pitch for rights to the story.

Rosewood is receiving "significant interest" from filmmakers about the racial violence that left at least eight people dead in January 1923, a lawyer hired by survivors and descendants said Friday.

Greg Galloway, an entertainment lawyer in Orlando, said the victims will not sign any film deals until the Legislature has

acted on the \$7-million claims bill. He said several producers are interested in a motion picture or television mini-series.

"The interest is starting to heat up as publicity increases about the debate before the Legislature," Galloway said. "There have been no deals yet. It's fairly sensitive."

No matter what the Legislature decides, the Rosewood story is too good for producers to ignore, Galloway said.

"A community was wiped off the face of the earth because of racial prejudice and murder," he said. "I think that is the core of the story as far as Hollywood's concerned. It's been kept secret for decades."

Testimony to claims officers for the Legislature concluded Friday.

House claims officer Richard Hixson now will sift evidence and testimony that is often contradictory and recommend how lawmakers should proceed on the legislation.

The House Judiciary Committee is scheduled to consider the claims bill Wednesday.

Violence erupted when whites searching for a black man accused of assaulting a white woman rampaged through the community, burning houses and buildings and driving every black resident away. At least six blacks and two whites were killed.

Black massacred in 1923 raid of Florida town

By William Reed NNPA

In January of 1923, White vigilantes descended on the small town of Rosewood, Florida and went on a history-searing killing spree after a White woman claimed she was molested by a Black man. Rosewood, then a predominantly Black town located in the swamps of northwest Florida 40 miles southwest of Gainesville, was the scene of the murder of six Black men and the torching of the town by a White mob totaling 200 to 300 men. However the news of the tragic incident is just coming to light as three aging survivors of the "Rosewood Massacre" are now petitioning the Florida Legislature for belated justice.

The group of survivors, led by Arnett Turner Goins, 79, and Minne Lee Langley, 80, includes nine other survivors and 45 descendants of people killed, are in an unprecedented and controversial claims hearing seeking \$7 million in compensation from the state for what happened to their families 71 years ago. They are claiming not only loss of life and property, but psychological damage as well.

According to a team of five historians, who were appointed by the Legislature, before Rosewood was burned down, it was a small rural community with three churches, a school and small industry that included a sugar cane mill and turpentine plant. The plaintiffs' attorney compared them to the victims of a racial holocaust.

The elderly and frail Blacks, some of whom are blind, say that the state of Florida, from the local Sheriff to the Governor, failed to protect the lives and property of the Blacks who were in Rosewood at that time and now are liable for damages.

"If Rosewood had been a White town surrounded by 400 angry Black people, you know it would have received police protection," said Stephen Hanlon, one of the attorneys repre-

senting the survivors.

The historians appointed by the state, relied heavily on news accounts that were written at the time, and concluded that law enforcement officers in Rosewood "failed to control local events and to request proper assistance" from then-Governor Cary Hardee.

During the period, Governor Hardee had monitored the events from the state capital, Tallahassee, hundreds of miles away. The case was front page news throughout the state and nation, but the Governor apparently was assured by the local Sheriff that the situation was under control. The Governor did not send additional law enforcement officers. Subsequently, he did however, instigate a grand jury investigation, which like so many cases in the South of that period, failed to indict anyone.

The Rosewood case is of note to modern-day African Americans because those involved say it maybe the first time that Black citizens have sought damages from the government to compensate for lynchings and murders that were common-

place following World War I. Recorded during this period were instances of White mobs attacking Black sections of Tulsa and Chicago and East St. Louis, Ill.

The attorneys for the Rosewood survivors say their case is unique, at least in Florida.

"We don't know of another case where the state had so much time to react and when the state was on notice," Hanlon said.

James Peters, a Florida Assistant Attorney General, agreed that "unfortunately, most of the facts of this case are true." He called the time, "a sorry period in Florida history. We should be ashamed of that, and are." But, Peters said that state officials there not guilty of gross negligence.

After the claims hearings, state administrative overseers will recommend to the Legislature whether it should pay damages. Many Legislators are warning that awarding compensation in this case would expose the state to dozens of claims by Black families, who may believe the state failed to protect them from angry Whites.

NEWS

DIMENSIONS

Leader: Lawyer delaying action on Rosewood

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Time may be running out to get lawmakers to pass \$7 million in compensation this session for the victims of racial violence that engulfed the black hamlet of Rosewood in 1923.

The leader of a victims group blamed the delays that may derail the claims bill on the state's lawyer, who has questioned how the violence unfolded that left at least eight people dead and wiped out the community more than 70 years ago.

Arnett Doctor, head of the Rosewood Family Advisory Committee, accused Jim Peters, an assistant attorney general representing the state, of trying to bottle up the claims bill.

"If he can postpone it long enough or get enough extensions, then time will run out and, for all

intents and purposes, the claims bill will die," said Doctor, son of one of the survivors.

Peters denied that part of his strategy was to tie up the claims bill in hearings, which were supposed to conclude March 4 but now are expected to end Friday. After the hearings, claims officers will make recommendations to lawmakers about the claims bill.

"I don't think it's fair to anyone to have this cloud hanging over the process, the state, the Legislature, or the witnesses any longer. Delay dis-serves everyone," said Peters.

"On the other hand, I don't want to expedite it and rush to judgement with an inadequate, insufficient record," he added. "That's what we have right here."

The violence in the black settlement near Cedar Key on Florida's Gulf coast started New Years Day

1923 after a white woman, Fannie Taylor, who lived in the nearby community of Sumner, said she was assaulted by a black man.

The search for the alleged assailant, who was never arrested, turned into a violent spree that left at least six blacks and two whites dead and drove every black resident from the community.

Lawyers for the victims said the state should be liable because government officials failed to protect the lives and property of Rosewood's residents.

One witness, 89-year-old Ernest Parham, who was 18 at the time, said Friday that deputy sheriff Clarence Williams was resting about a quarter-mile away from a group of 25 whites who were brutally interrogating a black man who they believed aided the as-

sailant.

Parham said he witnessed the murder of the black man, Sam Carter, but no arrest was ever made.

Several days later, Parham said, the same deputy was at a hotel in Sumner and said, "All hell's breaking loose in Rosewood." But the deputy apparently did little to stop the violence.

Peters said the victims are relying too heavily on hearsay and old newspaper articles.

The House Judiciary Committee will consider the claims bill (HB 591) during the week of March 21, said Richard Hixson, who is serving as claims officer for the House.

If approved, two weeks would be left in the session for the House and Senate to consider compensating the victims.

Senator opposes compensation for Rosewood victims

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — A state senator whose district includes the former community of Rosewood said Wednesday he opposes compensating survivors of the racial violence that wiped out the black hamlet.

"It has nothing to do with any racial issue whatsoever," said Sen. Charles Williams, D-Tallahassee. "It's strictly that I'm opposed to us establishing a precedent, which would attempt to make whole a situation that occurred 71 years ago in this state."

The Legislature is considering a claims bill to pay \$7 million to survivors and descendants of the violence in January 1923 that destroyed the community near Florida's Gulf coast and left at least eight people dead.

Hearings on Rosewood resume Friday when claims officers will take more testimony on the claims bill (HB 591).

Williams said the Legislature would set a precedent that would make it liable for other financial claims stemming from racial violence.

"I don't think money can repair all of those social injustices," he said. "I think it'll open a Pandora's box to many other claims of social injustices by others other than blacks."

Williams was born in Gilchrist County in 1939, directly north of Levy County where Rosewood was located. He said in his hometown as he was growing up, two white families and a larger number of black families lived together peacefully.

“I don't think money can repair all of those social injustices.”

Sen. Charles Williams

"My friends until I was 8 years old were black people. I love black people," he said. "It's certainly not a racial situation at all. Some are trying to make it that. All of these people could have been white, and I would feel the same way about it."

Williams said he also opposes spending \$1 million to build a memorial to commemorate the community. He said the money would be better spent on education, elderly care and other pressing state needs.

"A million dollars. You could build a huge structure. We don't need to do that," he said.

Williams would support erecting some type of historical marker at Rosewood, similar to ones found throughout the state to mark spots of historical significance. All that remains of the community today are two road signs.

Williams said he has not spoken with any victims about his feelings.

"That is a part of Florida's history. It's a very, very sad part," he said, "just as the Civil War in this country is a very, very sad part of United States history."

Black Survivors of 1923 Seek Compensation for

By William Booth
Washington Post Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Feb. 25—Arnett Turner Goins today recalled the first cold days of January 1923, when white vigilantes descended on his small, predominantly black town in the swamps of northwest Florida and went on a killing spree after a white woman claimed she was molested by a black man.

After decades of official silence, Goins and three other aging survivors of what their advocates call the "Rosewood Massacre" appeared here today in an unprecedented and controversial claims hearing whose outcome will be decided by the Florida Legislature.

The group, including 11 survivors and 45 descendants, is seeking about \$7 million in compensation for what happened to their families 71 years ago in Rosewood when a mob of 200 to 300 whites killed at least six African Americans and then torched the town. No black residents of Rosewood ever returned to the town 40 miles southwest of Gainesville.

The survivors are claiming not only loss of life and property but psychological damage as well. Their attorneys compared them to the victims of a racial holocaust.

The elderly black survivors and their supporters say the state of Florida, from the local sheriff to the governor, failed to protect the lives and property of African Americans who lived in Rosewood in 1923 and so are liable for damages.

"If Rosewood had been a white town surrounded by 400 angry black people, you know it would have received police protection," said Stephen Hanlon, one of the attorneys representing the Rosewood survivors and their descendants.

According to a team of five historians appointed by the Legislature, before Rosewood was sacked, it was a small, rural, mostly black hamlet with three churches, a school, a Masonic lodge and some small industries, including a sugar cane mill and turpentine plant. Survivors recall that at least 18 homes were destroyed.

Goins, then a boy of 8, said he escaped into the woods after the mob lay siege to the house where he was hiding. His grandmother, however, was killed in the attack, and so were two white men in the mob who tried to get into the house.

Goins and his family never returned. Instead, he worked most of his life shining shoes in St. Petersburg, and during 50 years of marriage, he never told his wife what happened in Rosewood.

The Rosewood case is remarkable because those in-



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Black Survivors of 1923 Massacre Seek Compensation from Florida

By William Booth
Washington Post Staff Writer

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minnie Lee Langley, 80, listens to testimony about the Rosewood Massacre, which she witnessed at age 9.

cal events and to request proper assistance" from then-Gov. Cary Hardee.

Hardee monitored the events from Tallahassee. The Rosewood case was front-page news around Florida and the nation but the governor apparently was assured by the local sheriff that the situation was under control. The governor did not send additional law enforcement officers. He did, however, instigate a grand jury investigation, which failed to indict anyone.

James Peters, an assistant attorney general, agreed that "unfortunately, most of the facts of this case are true." He called the time "a sorry . . . period in Florida history. . . . We should be ashamed of that, and are."

But he said what happened in Rosewood was not unique, that the damage and trauma associated with Rosewood were no worse than what happened to the 50 citizens, most of them black, who were lynched in Florida during the first two decades of the century.

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The Tampa Tribune-Times



**ANDREA
BRUNAIS**

Rosewood's dead implore 'hear us now'

The ghosts of Rosewood cry out for justice, but so far their pleas are lost on the wind.

Last spring, Miguel De Grandy, a state representative from Miami, asked the state to underwrite a study of the Rosewood massacre, which wiped out an entire community near Cedar Key some 70 years ago. What did the Florida Legislature do? It let the request die.

Overriding the Legislature's apathy, House Speaker Bo Johnson designated the money, and a study took place. But what will happen this year when that same Legislature is asked to pay compensation to 11 living Rosewood survivors?

Rosewood. Did dozens of men, women and children die, or did more than 100 perish there, buried in a mass grave? Historians can document only eight deaths. No one knows the true toll.

But when the rampage was over — when the guns were stilled and the torches of the Ku Klux Klan extinguished — the town of 350 had been obliterated. As homes and churches burned, residents did the only thing they could to survive. They fled.

Today there is only a small sign — Rosewood — that marks a fork in State Road 24 where the town stood. Here, blacks once worked in thriving lumber mills, trapped and hunted in the woods, fished in the nearby Gulf, owned land or worked on the railroads. Now Rosewood is something less than a ghost town.

Purposeful lie?

The weeklong attack began on New Year's Day 1923 after a white woman claimed a black man had assaulted her. Witnesses long dead passed down to their children this account: The bruised, beaten woman lied. She conjured up a black assailant to conceal from her abusive husband the knowledge that she had a lover.

The spark was enough to set Rosewood ablaze. Lawyers for Holland & Knight, lobbying for the Rosewood families in favor of restitution, interviewed survivors whose accounts horrify.

The posse, chasing a convict who had escaped from a road crew, strung up the first black man it came across — but not before hacking off his fingers, ears and nose.

Then it zeroed in on the Carriers, a prominent black family. Two men broke down the house door. Recognizing a lynch mob when he saw one, Sylvester Carrier, known as the best marksman in Levy County, shot them dead. Members of the posse returned fire, killing Sylvester Carrier's mother in front of her grandchildren.

When the vigilantes regrouped for a serious attack, recruits from surrounding towns and KKK members from all over the South joined in. Even law enforcement and public officials may have been part of the mob. Rosewood residents took to the woods, but the killings shamelessly proceeded. A few lucky adults were shepherd-ed into white homes for safekeeping, while some of the children were smuggled to the North via the railroad.

Town reduced to ashes

The only building left standing was a white-owned grocery store. Not only were 18 homes torched, but also black-owned businesses and homesteads were seized, never to be returned to their owners.

In the midst of the violence what did then-Gov. Cary Hardee do? Even after news of seven deaths leaked out, he took the Levy County sheriff's word that things were under control. He went hunting.

An inquiry cranked up a year later acquitted everyone. It simply wasn't a crime to kill a black person in the '20s. And even a half-century later it wasn't a crime to leave a massacre out of the history books.

The survivors, intimidated at the time, now have come forward. They want history to reflect what happened at Rosewood. And they want compensation.

Arnett Doctor of Tampa, whose mother survived the ordeal, says for years the massacre was treated as a family secret. Even today the older generation of survivors is afraid to talk openly about the horror. Were descendents like Doctor affected by the tragedy? How could they not have been? His mother taught him never to trust white people, he says.

There are those who think the \$7.2 million restitution bill seeks too much money. They say Rosewood happened too long ago. We should just put the massacre to rest, buried like bodies in that rumored mass grave, they say.

They are wrong. The money is a small penance as the state acknowledges its shameful role in an evil event.

The people of Rosewood lost land, homes and their community; some even lost their families. What America lost that day was a piece of its soul. Can we lay the matter to rest until we admit the existence and destruction of Rosewood, and pay survivors what they are due?

IN THE STATE

Hearings set to begin in Rosewood massacre

TALLAHASSEE — Hearings into the racial violence that destroyed the black settlement of Rosewood begin Friday as lawmakers try to unravel the 1923 massacre.

Lawyers for the victims and the state will argue whether the Legislature should pay survivors and direct descendants more than \$7 million to compensate them for their losses in the hamlet near Florida's gulf coast in Levy County. Victims and survivors also will testify.

Gov. Lawton Chiles said Thursday he supported compensation for the victims although he was not sure how much.

"I think we ought to do something about it," he said. "That's a chapter we ought to put behind us."

Rosewood was destroyed after a New Year's Day accusation in 1923 by a white woman, Fannie Taylor, who claimed a black man had attacked her.

A posse formed to track down her attacker, but it soon turned into a drunken mob of several hundred that murdered blacks, burned their homes, and drove them from their land in a weeklong rampage.

Producers vow to stay true to historic event

LAKE MARY — Producers say they will be true to history in filming the movie "Rosewood," depicting racist riots in the west Florida community of that name in 1923.

Six blacks and two whites were killed in the violence that came after a black man was accused of assaulting a white woman.

"It's a very important film, a film with a lot of historical and emotional relevance to it," said director John Singleton. "I was deeply moved by the accounts of what happened to them (the survivors) as children."

List of Rosewood compensation claims for racial attacks growing

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — State lawmakers are set to consider compensating the victims of a violent racial attack that destroyed a tiny black settlement on Florida's Gulf Coast in 1923. But the list of victims keeps growing.

"There might be some people that were missed," acknowledged Rep. Al Lawson, one of the sponsors of the claims bill (HB 591). "If anything, the list is going to get larger."

Legislation to pay \$7 million to 56 people who either survived or who are direct descendants of residents of Rosewood does not include everyone who may have a legitimate claim to restitution.

A hearing is scheduled to begin Friday on the massacre at

Rosewood, about 40 miles southwest of Gainesville.

Survivors, descendants, and others will testify to hearing officers who will recommend whether lawmakers should approve the claims bill.

"I can tell you by the time this hearing is done," Lawson said, "people who have any resemblance to being involved with Rosewood will be coming out."

The 1923 massacre came after a New Years' Day accusation by a white woman, Fannie Taylor, who claimed a black man had attacked her. Many blacks who lived in the area believed she lied to hide an affair with a white lover from her husband.

A posse formed to track down her attacker, but it soon turned into a drunken mob of several hundred that mur-

dered blacks, burned their homes, and drove them from their land in a weeklong rampage.

At least eight people died, and virtually every house, church and building was destroyed, according to a recent legislative report.

The claims bill names 11 survivors and 45 descendants and would pay them between \$270,000 and \$15,000 apiece.

Ivery Carrier-McKnight, whose father survived the attack, said she was surprised she and her mother were left off the claims bill because they had remained in contact with other descendants from her home in Oakland, Calif.

Her father, Leroy Carrier, appeared in 1982 on the news show "60 Minutes" to talk about his memories of Rosewood. He died in 1986.

1923 rampage explored

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — A white mob destroyed the community of Rosewood in 1923 when government officials failed to stop the murderous rampage that killed at least eight people, a report released Wednesday concluded.

At least six blacks and two whites died during the racial mayhem that gripped the small settlement during the first week of January more than 70 years ago, according to researchers.

The report, a comprehensive look at the race riot and what sparked it, was commissioned by the Florida House of Representatives earlier this year.

Lawmakers wanted more information before they considered approving a memorial or compensated any of the victims.

Researchers said the racial violence wiped out Rosewood, a hamlet of several hundred blacks and a few whites, and was similar to other incidents across the country in the early 1900s.

"The failure of elected white officials to take forceful actions to protect the safety and property of local black residents was part of a pattern in the state and throughout the region," the report concluded.

The research team was headed by Maxine D. Jones, an associate professor at Florida State University, and Florida A&M University professor Larry E. Rivers. University of Florida professor David R. Colburn, Florida State professor William R. Rogers, and R. Tom

Dye of Florida State, worked as investigators on the \$50,000 project.

The 93-page report, based on 461 pages of interview transcripts and other documents, reconstructed the violence that escalated into the depopulation of Rosewood.

It started Monday, Jan. 1, 1923, after a white woman claimed she was attacked by a black man. Many in the black community believed the woman quarreled with a white lover who beat her and she lied to protect herself.

A mob of whites tortured, shot and hung a black man after they thought he duped them about the whereabouts of the alleged attacker. It marked the first death in the rampage.

Another black man escaped a lynching when he was spirited away by a friend.

By Tuesday night, a mob estimated at 400 to 500 searched the area for the black man they believed responsible for the attack.

A white resident of the nearby community of Sumner said Levy County Sheriff Robert Elias Walker, who was responsible for the search posse, remarked that, "I don't know what to do ... this crowd wants blood, and they (are) going to have blood."

The violence escalated two days later when a group of whites went to a house in Rosewood where 15 to 25 blacks were barricaded inside. Two white men tried to enter the house but were killed.

A gun battle ensued, lasting into early the next morning

and leaving at least two blacks dead. Others inside the house apparently escaped during a lull when the mob's ammunition apparently ran low.

"The white mob now acted without restraint," the report said.

By the end of the weekend, the mob had burned several hundred homes, a church, a masonic hall, and a store. At least two other blacks were killed, including one whose nickname was "Lord God."

The report blamed the sheriff for failing to request help from Gov. Cary Hardee. The governor condemned the violence and, after a month passed, ordered a grand jury probe, which found insufficient evidence to prosecute anyone.

The Ku Klux Klan, which has been blamed for inciting the violence, was not accused of participating in the riot, although Klan members were probably involved, the report said.

The report said alleged assaults against white women were sufficient to warrant attacks by whites on blacks.

"Far too many whites believed an example had to be set so that other black communities throughout Florida understood that such resistance to southern racial mores would not be tolerated."

The researchers said they encountered some obstacles in their investigation. Some survivors would not talk about it and the owner of much of Rosewood would not allow an archaeological probe of the property.

The Tampa Tribune, Friday, July 2, 1993

Rosewood probe gets \$50,000

An Associated Press Report

TALLAHASSEE — House Speaker Bolley "Bo" Johnson on Thursday set aside \$50,000 in state funds to investigate the racially motivated attack 70 years ago that destroyed the town of Rosewood.



**"Bo" Johnson
said he would
find money for
the study.**

The state House of Representatives and the Board of Regents will work together on a historical inquiry and report on their findings.

"At the least, this study is sure to teach us something about our past so we can use the knowledge to guard against anything like it in the future," Johnson said in a statement.

On Jan 1, 1923, a frenzied mob of white vigilantes stormed through the Levy County community of Rosewood, burning houses and churches and shooting and hanging at least seven of the town's 350 black residents.

Newspaper accounts of the day offer vivid but sometimes contradictory information. Death tolls vary from seven to 50 to 150. The facts — times, dates, names — blurred by passing years and aging memories, are shadowy at best. The only thing clear was the town's destruction.

Johnson had pledged to find the funds in the House budget after a bill calling for a Rosewood study died with the end of the legislative session.

Rosewood

from 1F

er escaped, and lived until 1964.

■ Goins and other children were in his grandmother's house when the mob opened fire. He says women and children ran through the woods to escape the mob and their bloodhounds. They were later picked up by a train they believed had been sent by a white businessman who worked with black people in Rosewood.

Goins is one of at least 12 survivors — men, women and children who escaped from Rosewood.

Today, the 150 to 200 residents of that town are all gone, along with some 40 homes, many of them two-story and spacious. Also gone are three churches, a lodge and businesses owned by black people, including a turpentine mill owned by Goins' grandfather.

All that is left are a couple of signs and a trailer park.

Many people in Sumner, three or four miles from Rosewood, and surrounding areas, sadly recall the events, even if it was told to them by parents and grandparents. And for the first time, the Florida legislature is listening and may try to do for the survivors what the justice system couldn't decades ago.

State representative Miguel De Grandy, R-Miami, filed a bill in the House requesting restitution for the surviving family members and their children, and a memorial to the black people who died and several white people who helped the survivors escape. A bill was also introduced in the Senate by Daryl Jones, D-Miami, to compensate two of the survivors.

The legislature is considering allocating funds for a study to be conducted by Florida A&M University and the University of Florida to find out what exactly happened in Rosewood.

However, family members of the survivors say another bill is being filed that includes more survivors. This bill will possibly be considered in the 1994 legislative session, if not sooner.

Goins says he returned to Rosewood when he was 16, while playing baseball with a team in a nearby town.

"I knew that vacant spot was my grandparents' place, because we played playhouse under that oak tree that I saw. There was a grape vine in that oak tree. Never did bear grapes, but that day, it had grapes on it. That's the last time I've been to Rosewood. I don't want no part of Rosewood," he said, looking tired.

Goins was not alone in the kitchen of his home as he talked recently about Rosewood. His nephew was there. His eyes reflecting respect and love, Arnett T. Doctor, 50, sat silently, listening to his mother's brother tell the story that he had listened to since he was 4 years old.

Silently, Doctor leaned forward and gently touched his uncle's arm. The touch seemed to say, 'It's okay. It's okay.'

His uncle looked at him and smiled: "I would not have talked about this if it had not been for him," he said pointing at his namesake. "No, no, no."

When Doctor was growing up, his mother, Philomena, talked constantly about the Rosewood massacre. But she adamantly swore her son and others to secrecy. She feared that descendants of the white people who had murdered and burned black people in her hometown, would find family members and harm or kill them.

That's the way it has been for years, Doctor says. But in 1987, he and other children and grandchildren of the survivors decided to pressure their relatives to let them take action. As a result, the law firm of Holland & Knight was contacted and De Grandy filed the bill. Steven Hanlon, a lawyer with the firm, says they have offered free legal services to the families.

"What bothers me the most is that this massacre has been buried in Florida history," Hanlon says. "In many cases, the state archives and museum have been candid about how important race has been in the issues that affected the state. But what has shocked me is that you can't read about the Rosewood Massacre anywhere in Florida."

Doctor says the events of the five-day massacre are burned into his mind and heart. The story has kept him awake at night. Healing and relief have come only from compiling information and record-

ing what survivors have to say. He says many of the 12 or so living survivors changed their names after they left the area.

But every time family members gather, and the events are talked about, he watches in anger and sadness as the survivors deal with the fear that something will happen to their family members.

Doctor says his physical and emotional presence is in Rosewood. He grew up in Lacochee and remembers black men being lynched. It wasn't until he joined the Army that he began to realize that all white people were not murderers and oppressors.

"Many people look at what happened in Rosewood as a thing of the past," he says, in a deadly serious, calm voice. "But it is a present-day reality. When the family talks to each other, the pain, the emotional distress is present with us today. When we have our family reunions, our young children write and recite poems that address the Rosewood situation. When we light the candles for those who died, real emotional distress is felt by every member of the family."

Doctor says male survivors of the massacre feel ashamed that they were forced to leave their homes and could not protect their wives and children. So they prefer not to talk about the incident at all.

"But when you push them they say, 'How do you think my friends will feel if they know I was not man enough to protect my family?'"

That is why the "legislative claim bill" is so important, Doctor says. Hanlon agrees.

"If we won't acknowledge our past in this state, we can't correct it," Hanlon says. "This was a community of working class African-American families. There were churches, community activity, people owned their homes. They worked at the saw mill, went to Sunday School and attended school. They were industrious people. An entire community life was burned into the ground. Everything that goes with a community is now gone. It's staggering."

Recalling Rosewood's murderous legacy



Times photo — JOHN P. JONES

SURVIVOR: Arnett Turner Goins was 8 at the time.

It was a painful story to recall, but his handsome, dark face showed none of the pain, just the excitement. It was as if Arnett Turner Goins, 77, was 8 years old again and reliving the horror of the Rosewood massacre that took place some 70 years ago in that predominantly black town.

"The moon was shining so bright that night," he said, slowly stretching one arm to the ceiling. He looked up, as if it were Jan. 1, 1923, and the moon was there in the kitchen of his St. Petersburg home.

"They came at 11:30 that night."

What happened next won't be found in history books or the state archives, but witnesses and documented evidence reveal there



**PEGGY
PETERMAN**

were mass murders, mutilations and burning in the small town of Rosewood, near State Road 24 between Cedar Key and Otter Creek in Levy County.

An allegation that a black man had beaten a white woman led to anger and eventually:

■ White men by the hundreds came from

as far away as Georgia, Alabama and other cities in Florida to burn, mutilate and lynch black people.

■ Severed ears, fingers and noses were kept as souvenirs.

■ Sarah Robinson Carrier, a revered figure in the Rosewood community, and still spoken of reverently among people in Sumner, was shot through the head, as hundreds of white men opened fire on her home.

■ Sylvester Carrier, Sarah Carrier's son, shot and killed two white men, Poly Wilkerson and Henry Andrews, who kicked down his mother's front door, as the mob outside screamed for more deaths. Reportedly, Carri-

Please see **ROSEWOOD** 2F

Massacre study is demanded

TALLAHASSEE — Black lawmakers won't stop pushing for a study of a racial attack that wiped out a black community 70 years ago, the leader of the Legislative Black Caucus said after a bill to fund the research died.

A small sign marks where Rosewood stood east of Cedar Key, off Florida's Gulf coast, until a mob and the Ku Klux Klan burned the town on New Year's Day 1923.

The raid followed an allegation by a white woman who said she had been attacked by a black man. An unknown number of people were killed in the massacre, which was widely ignored in the segregation-era South.

But surviving members of the families involved lived in fear for decades, afraid that if they talked authorities would do nothing and Klansmen would kill them, according to Rep. Al Lawson, who has met with children and grandchildren of Rosewood victims.

The issue was revived in the Legislature this year after two elderly cousins, thought to be the sole surviving residents of the town came forth to get the story in the state's history books. A legislative proposal to compensate them evolved into a plan to set aside \$50,000 to find survivors and heirs of the massacre.

"We can resolve the issues on dogs and monkeys and everything else, ostriches, but when it comes down to human beings — especially when you're poor — we seem to have a problem," Lawson, chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, said Sunday.

Last week, lawmakers worked on greyhound racing, rescue of monkeys near Silver Springs and ownership of ostriches.

Tuesday, April 6, 1993 Citrus County (FL) Chronicle

Although the House approved Lawson's bill, the Senate added it onto an education bill that would have spent technology money on teachers' salaries, according to Kathy Putnam, a spokeswoman for House Speaker Bolley "Bo" Johnson, D-Milton.

That killed the measure, Putnam said. However, Johnson has told staff to try to find \$50,000 for the study out of the House's \$42 million budget, Putnam said.

Lawson, D-Tallahassee, said he'll ask Gov. Lawton Chiles to keep the issue alive.

Chiles believes there should be a "full accounting and investigation into the incident," said spokeswoman Jo Miglino.

The Black Caucus will make a top priority of the Rosewood study, which could lead to compensation of survivors and heirs of victims who lost family homes in the raid, according to Lawson.

Two many white politicians now want to condemn past events, saying they should never happen again — and then forget the whole thing, Lawson said.

Besides the study, the bill called for placement of a monument to Rosewood residents and a handful of whites who tried to help them.

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Black Caucus seeks study of 1923 attack

■ From Page 1

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But he wants to keep lawmakers focused on prison construction and

reform of the worker's compensation system when he calls them back into special session, Miglino said. Lawmakers can add the massacre study to the agenda with a two-thirds vote, she added.

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Study of massacre sought

1923 racial attack wiped out black community

An Associated Press Report

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See BLACK, Page 3

Survivors want lawmakers to right 70-year-old wrong

Associated Press

ROSEWOOD, Fla. — Two survivors of a racial rampage that destroyed the all-black town of Rosewood 70 years ago will ask lawmakers to reimburse them for property loss and memorialize the New Year's Day massacre.

They want the Legislature to right a wrong, put Rosewood back on the map and make it prominent in history books.

Lee Ruth Davis, 77, of Miami, and her cousin, Minnie Lee Langley, 88, of Jacksonville, believe they are the only people left who witnessed the violent chaos in 1923 when Rosewood was burned by a white mob with help from the Ku Klux Klan.

Now they want the story told. More than that, they want Florida to own up to its history, acknowledge the atrocity, and do something to right a 70-year-old wrong.

"We had all our property there, and they took everything they didn't burn. They took our chickens and anything else we had in Rosewood. They even took it off the map," Langley recalls.

"This part of the state's history has been swept under the carpet," said Manuel Dobrinsky, an attorney from Miami's Holland & Knight law firm which is helping Langley and Davis. "It's something that needs to be recognized."

The draft proposal of the bill Dobrinsky wants the legislature to consider reads like a tragic and lurid screenplay.

"As the manhunt grew, so did the mob's fury. People came from all around to take part in the manhunt. They were people with a thirst for blood. The remaining survivors of Rosewood ... are still tortured with the lingering image of a parent or grandparent being lynched or shot; of the family home being burned to the ground; of crawling through the woods in the dead of night and hiding from an armed and crazy mob; of being hated and attacked for nothing more than their color."

About all that's left of Rosewood now is a 6-by-14-inch steel sign, white letters on a green background, planted on the north side of State Road 24.

smaller than Cedar Key, a small fishing village.

A two-story white clapboard house on the south side of the road was the only building left standing after the fires of the Rosewood riot finally went out.

Doyal Scoggins lives in that quaint house now. It was built by John Wright, who ran a general store out of his home. He was the only white person to live in Rosewood. That's why it was spared when the Klan galloped through with torches on Jan. 1, 1923.

"When I moved here a few years ago, I took a Florida history course at the community college, hoping to learn more about what happened here," Scoggins said. "The instructor didn't know a thing about it."

Seven decades ago, Florida — especially northern Florida — was as much a part of the Deep South as Mississippi or Alabama. The racism and violence that typified much of the south were present here as well.

"Florida had the highest lynching rate per capita in the United States prior to World War I," notes University of Florida history professor David Colburn. "A lot of it had to do with the transition taking place in Florida. People were moving in, blacks were demanding rights and equality for themselves."

Only a handful of newspaper accounts of the Rosewood attack can be found. And those accounts don't always agree — one lists the dead at seven, another at 21. Dobrinsky's law firm puts the number as high as 100, based on interviews and other newspaper clippings.

In his 11-volume work, *A History of the South*, historian George Tindall catalogs the racist assaults of the early 20th Century.

"The last serious affair was at Rosewood, Florida, where a white mob in search of an alleged Negro rapist ran amok through the Negro community, burned six houses and a church, and left five Negroes and two whites dead," Tindall writes in Volume 10, *The Emergence of the New South*.

V



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from Gainesville southwest to the Gulf of Mexico, ending at Cedar Key. The town is still on some maps, represented by a tiny black dot, spelled out in letters much

are too sketchy to make it of any real use for historians. Hard evidence of the incident is difficult to come by; anecdotal information is about all that's available.

Anonymous letter about son is family's best gift

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — There were plenty of presents at the Orlando home of Rick and Rebecca Sickles, but the most endearing gift arrived a few days before Christmas.

It was just a short letter addressed to "Residents." It said:

"While driving home on Friday (Dec. 18), I turned on to your street and then had to stop behind a school bus. As I waited, they unloaded a little girl in a wheelchair and a young man came to the curb to help.

"The kindness and patience this young man showed is to be commended. It really touched my heart. So much so that I felt compelled to write.

"In these days of indifference, it was refreshing to see someone so caring. You are a special young man. Merry Christmas!"

The letter was unsigned.

But Rick Sickles wrote a reply and sent it off to a newspaper.

"Dear Anonymous," it began. "Thank you for your letter. Our son is Richard Todd Sickles. He is 15 years old, and he is my hero. An independent and caring young man, he loves to fly airplanes and work on computer flight simulators. Someday he wants to be a na-

val aviator.

"You caught him helping his sister, Elizabeth, off the school bus; something he has done all year without complaint.

"Elizabeth has cerebral palsy and has always needed our help, since she was a baby. I have always felt a little guilty that, because of Elizabeth's disability, she gets more attention than Todd.

"He feels that way, too, at times, and I have to remind him that I love him just as much as I do her. I often think Elizabeth's disability is tougher on Todd than on his Mom or I.

"That is why your letter meant so much to my family. I am learning how powerful an emotion a father's pride can be; especially at this Christmas time of year when we recall the memories of our childhood heroes and the spirit of giving of oneself to those in need."

*“In these days of
indifference, it was
refreshing to see
someone so caring.”*

Two killed in plane crash

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A St. Louis couple died when their small plane crashed in heavy fog near the Craig Municipal Airport in Jacksonville, police said Monday.

Killed in the late Sunday crash were Christopher Holthaus, 41, and Wendy Holthaus, 37, said Sgt. Gus Carlson, a Jacksonville Sheriff's Office spokesman.

The plane was located Monday morning after a 10-hour search hampered by fog and darkness.

The plane, reported missing about 10:30 p.m. Sunday, was

found at 8:20 a.m. about two miles northeast of the runway in a heavily wooded swamp area, Carlson said.

The plane was approaching from the east and had just made a right turn when it vanished from radar screens.

Rescue workers searched for the wreckage on foot and in four-wheel drive vehicles. Navy personnel and dogs also were used in the search.

The crash is being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration.

RUSSELL HILL (Community)

Russell Hill - settle by former slaves under grant settlements similiar to

Gilliam WASHINGTON. The Bronw Mayo family, cousins to R. L. Collins and Phelan Harris, Raymond Roberts lived in Pleasant GROVE community. The Collins family has a photo of Harris and Roberts with WASHINGTON in their home.

Interesting

A REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA 1991



The Florida Humanities Council

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THE HUMANITIES

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anthropology and jurisprudence.

They tell us about our lives, our

cultures and our societies. They provide

the traditions, interpretations and

visions which define our existence.

THE FLORIDA HUMANITIES COUNCIL • 1514 1/2 East Eighth Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33605-3708 • (813) 272-3473

The Florida Humanities Council is a non-profit organization funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the state of Florida and private contributors. It supports public humanities activities in Florida.

This report is printed on recycled, recyclable paper.

Cover photo: Savannah Williams (left) and Yvette Clark, the actress who plays her in "Grandmothers." See executive director's column on page 7.
Photo by Timothy O. Davis, The Gainesville Sun

The Florida Humanities Council

A REPORT TO THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA 1991

In a recent issue of National Geographic, writer Charles E. Cobb Jr. reported that many Miamians see theirs as a "tossed-salad," rather than a "melting-pot" community. The same could be said for the whole of Florida. In fact, many years ago Al Burt, a columnist with The Miami Herald, argued that Florida is not one, but seven states. • This cultural diversity is one of the things that makes Florida unique. And it is cause for celebration. • Each year, the Florida Humanities Council attempts to both reflect and serve this diversity in the discussions, seminars, performances and exhibits we sponsor. We believe we accomplished that in 1991 with more than 300 programs in 82 communities, from Arcadia to Key West, from Blountstown to Zephyrhills. • In DeFuniak Springs, the Florida Humanities Council brought back to life the Chautauqua tradition, with five actor/scholars taking the stage to explore in costume the ideas of Bartolome de Las Casas, Zora Neale Hurston, Osceola, Senator Claude Pepper and Harriet Beecher Stowe. • In a dozen cities throughout the state, we brought together philosophers and local business people to examine the complex ethical issues that arise in business. • In Belle Glade and other Lake Okeechobee communities, we sponsored historical tours to better acquaint Floridians with their heritage. • In Miami, we helped labor leaders organize a discussion contrasting the history of workers in Florida with Workforce 2000, a study of future labor force needs. • In Naples and Fort Lauderdale, we sponsored programs in which noted writers discussed their works with library audiences. • In Jacksonville and at Eglin Air Force Base, we treated working people to a series of lunch-time seminars in which

*Belle Glade monument dedicated
to survivors of the 1928
hurricane — one of the sights of
Lakefront Legacy, an FHC-
sponsored historical tour of the
Lake Okeechobee shoreline.*



*Florida's first congresswoman,
Ruth Bryan Owen, center —
FHC sponsored a program on
women in Florida politics.*

BELLE GLADE 1928

they talked with scholars about the history of our state. • At eight college and university campuses, we sponsored summer teacher institutes in which educators were able to study in depth such topics as Florida writers in the Harlem Renaissance and cross cultural views of Columbus' voyages to America. • These are but a handful of the projects sponsored by the Humanities Council in 1991. • In 1992, the Florida Humanities Council will continue this important work. • Already, grants totalling \$125,000 have been awarded to 10 humanities projects throughout the state. The Council is soliciting more proposals along two themes. As we did in 1991, we are continuing to encourage initiatives relating to the Columbian Quincentennial. Our second theme is "View from the Shore," programs for and about Native Americans. • In addition, the council is inviting proposals for summer teacher institutes. This year's theme is "Intercultural Encounters: The Making of America." • In the coming year, the Humanities Council will sponsor more Chautauqua presentations in other Florida communities and the actor/scholars also will be making presentations individually throughout the state. • Along with them, more than 20 other FHC-sponsored speakers will be touring the state sharing their knowledge in communities large and small. • The task will not be an easy one in the year ahead. The work of the Florida Humanities Council is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the state of Florida and private contributors. Like nearly every public sector agency in this period, we have had to tighten our belt because of government budget cutting. One victim of budget cutting is the FHC-sponsored radio series, which brought Florida humanities programs regularly to an audience of some 1.5 million people over the Florida Public Radio network. • Nevertheless, the Florida Humanities Council is committed to a continuation of diverse humanities programming throughout this diverse state.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Anderson'.

CARL CHRISTIAN
ANDERSON

The Florida Humanities Council (FHC) is the public center for the humanities in our state. Our goal is to distribute broadly — and equitably — humanities programs throughout our state. No single distribution mechanism can serve everyone. To achieve our goal, we have adopted four distinct strategies:

Grants — respond to the great ideas of your local organizations and provide the financial resources needed.

FHC Resource Center — offers a menu of activities, including speakers, exhibits, videos, and reading and discussion programs, from which organizations and groups may select.

Special Programs — reach out to civic and community organizations which are interested in public humanities programs but whose staffs are not geared for proposal writing.

Publications — bring the humanities into 15,000 homes and offices through the Forum, our magazine published three times a year.

This year the council sponsored more than 300 programs in 82 cities and towns. Whether your community received a grant, or your library hosted an FHC speaker or exhibit, or your military base co-sponsored a lunch-time history lecture series, the result was a quality public humanities program.

The close of 1991 also completes our three-year initiative "Doing the Right Thing?" — an initiative that illustrated our interest in the values that underlie decision-making. As a council, we sponsored a series of programs that moved audiences from anecdotes to fundamental principles.

Good examples of our ethics programming are the business panels we organized in Tampa, Sarasota, Ocala, Fort Myers, Naples, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville and Pensacola. In each community, we invited local business leaders and philosophers to act through a number of hypothetical situations. Our panelists considered how often good business sense makes good moral sense, whether moral standards that govern personal decisions apply to business decisions and whether we can judge commerce between companies in the same way that we judge actions between persons. In these panels, reasonable people examined the same set of "facts" and reached different conclusions.

These panels also proved to us what we already knew — that Floridians enjoy reflective, thought-provoking examinations of their lives.

The Florida Humanities Council uses federal, state and private dollars to bring the humanities into the lives of Floridians. Now, more than ever, we need your support. We need your financial support to continue providing quality humanities programs. We need your vocal support to remind friends, colleagues and elected officials that the work of the Florida Humanities Council is important for the development of a well-rounded community.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eight women — mostly African-American women — sit in rocking chairs on the stage. One after another we hear their voices chronicling the history of Gainesville, Florida: the growth of the urban landscape, the black and white social groups that participated in that growth and the lives of the women who lived it. Some of the stories document ordinary events — preparing food, going to church or to the grocery store — while others give a human face to national events, such as civil rights marches and school integration.

Each woman creates a drama in the telling of the story of her life. Mable Dorsey makes us see the humiliation felt by black women who were not permitted to try on hats in department stores. Miss Pie tells us how she designed and sewed her first dress — with no pattern. Savannah Williams recalls the NAACP picket lines and Florence Woods spits out in anger as she describes her work as a nurse in the “black” hospital wards.

Together, the stories of these women portray an African-American community that is proud and self-contained. The stories together tell us that the strength and perseverance of black women gave coherence and continuity to the African-American experience.

These stories are not fiction. These stories are the “real” histories of women preserved by the Oral History Archives at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Collected and transcribed in the late 1970s, these stories have yet to make their way into written histories — or, until recently, to the public.

The power of the stories captivated producer Lisa Heard. With the help of an FHC grant and scholars Mildred Hill-Lubin, Jane Landers and Anne Jones and the local library, Heard wove together the stories of the eight women (all but one is still alive) with music and slides to create a powerful public humanities program.

Heard calls her program “Grandmothers.”

Audience members told us:

I didn't realize that many minority women still carry such strong feelings of anger and bitterness.

My kids took me here for part of our Mother's Day activities. I loved the "history!"

This was so wonderful, I can't express it. I cried!

Robert Bellah, in the book *In Habits of the Heart*, writes that “cultures are dramatic conversations about things that matter to their participants.” That is also a good description of a public humanities program like “Grandmothers.”

We depend on the talents of Lisa Heard and literally hundreds of other Floridians to create an appropriate and exciting humanities program for Floridians.



ANN
HENDERSON

APALACHICOLA

Le Moyne: a speakers bureau presentation by Gordon Patterson, sponsored by the Apalachicola Historical Society, May 31.

A Pitcher Full of Cream: a one-woman program by Betty Jean Steinhouer in the character of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Sponsored by The Rawlings Society. FHC grant: \$6,150.

ARCADIA

Desoto Cultural Montage: series of programs relating to the emergence of modern DeSoto County, sponsored by Hands United in Good Spirit, Inc. FHC grant: \$13,863.

AVON PARK

Hispanic Florida: The Colonial to Modern Period: a teacher institute sponsored by South Florida Community College, June 17- 21. FHC award: \$7,676.

BARTOW

Voices and Visions: The World of American Poets: video-and-discussion session on the lives and cultural worlds of four major poets. Sponsored by the Venice Area Public Library. FHC grant: \$2,428.

BELLE GLADE

From 'C' to Inland 'C' Lakefront Legacy: Interpretive tours by scholars of historically significant sites, sponsored by the Palm Beach County Planning Division. FHC grant: \$6,920.

BLOUNTSTOWN

A Pitcher Full of Cream: a one-woman program by Betty Jean Steinhouer in the character of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Sponsored by The Rawlings Society. FHC grant: \$6,150.

BONITA SPRINGS

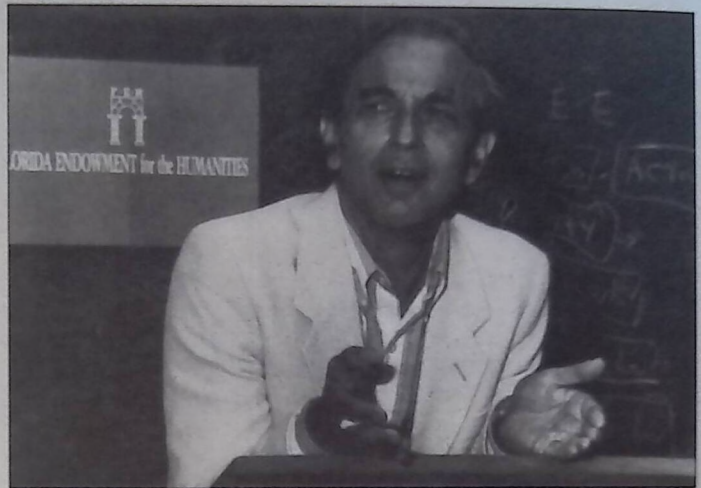
Getting Involved in Public Archeology in Your Town: a speaker's bureau presentation by Judith Bense, sponsored by the Southwest Florida Archeological Society, Feb. 20.

BRADENTON

Florida Poems and Poets: a speakers bureau presentation by Jane Anderson Jones, sponsored by Freedom Village, March 26.

BRANDON

Florida's Ethnic Communities: a speakers bureau presentation



Jerome Stern, a presenter in FHC's speakers' bureau, discusses fiction by Florida writers.

by Diana Jarvis Godwin, sponsored by the Hillsborough County Public Library, Oct. 9.

St. Augustine, 1740: a speakers bureau presentation by the St. George Street Players, sponsored by the Brandon Branch Library, Oct. 26.

BROOKSVILLE

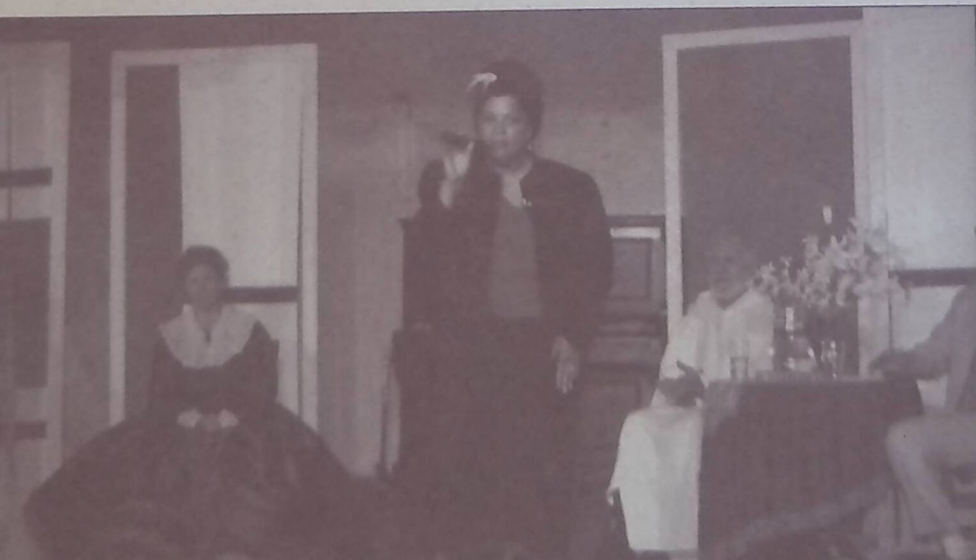
Florida Poems and Poets: a speakers bureau presentation by Jane Anderson Jones, sponsored by the Hernando County Library, April 15.

BUSHNELL

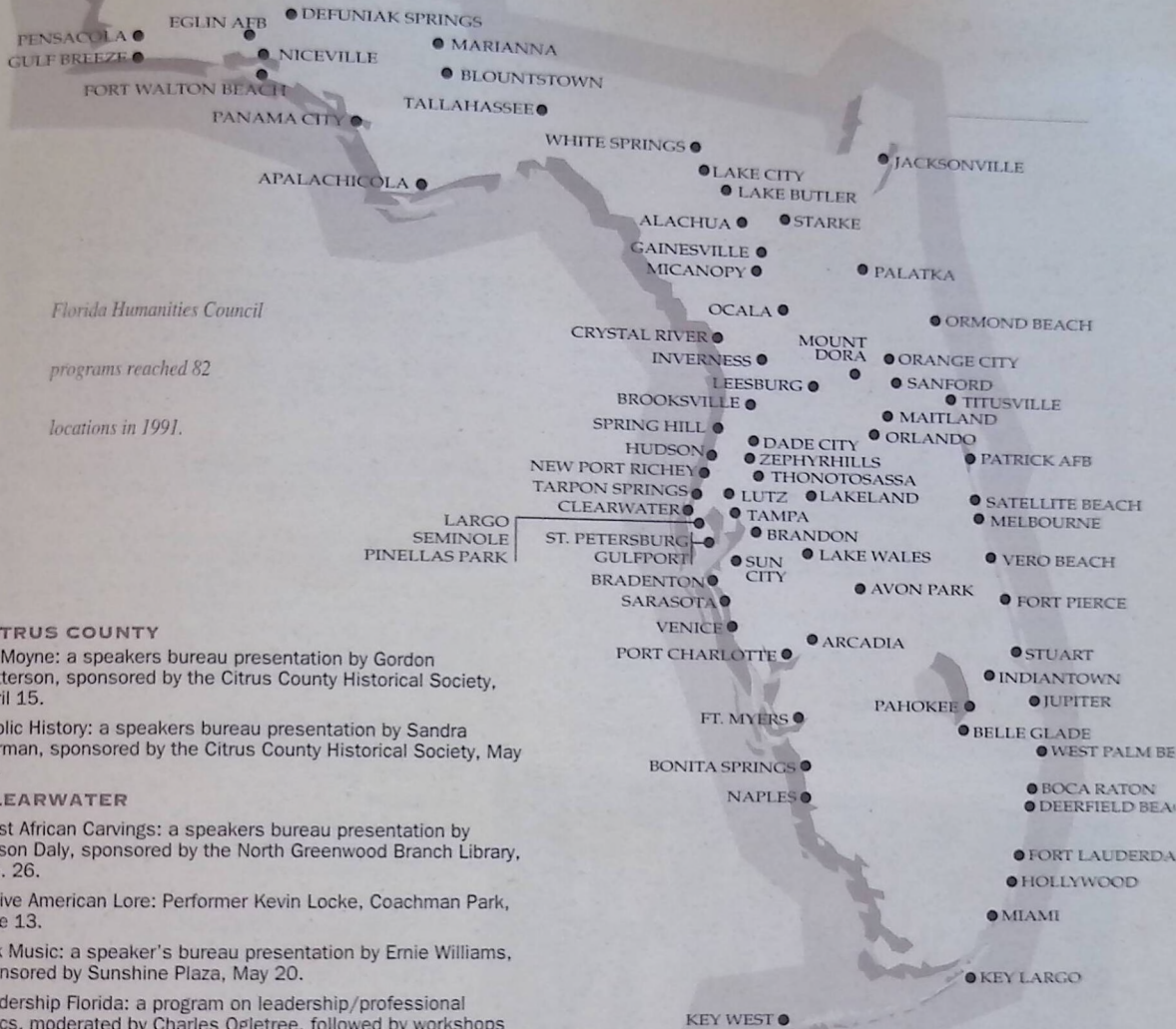
Folk Music: a speakers bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by the Sumter County Correctional Institute, Jan. 30.

CANAL POINT

From 'C' to Inland 'C' Lakefront Legacy: Interpretive tours by scholars of historically significant sites, sponsored by the Palm Beach County Planning Division. FHC grant: \$6,920.



Zora Neale Hurston, portrayed by Phyllis McEwen Taylor, takes center stage during FHC's Chautauqua revival.



Florida Humanities Council

programs reached 82

locations in 1991.

CITRUS COUNTY

Le Moyne: a speakers bureau presentation by Gordon Patterson, sponsored by the Citrus County Historical Society, April 15.

Public History: a speakers bureau presentation by Sandra Norman, sponsored by the Citrus County Historical Society, May 20.

CLEARWATER

West African Carvings: a speakers bureau presentation by Mason Daly, sponsored by the North Greenwood Branch Library, Feb. 26.

Native American Lore: Performer Kevin Locke, Coachman Park, June 13.

Folk Music: a speaker's bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by Sunshine Plaza, May 20.

Leadership Florida: a program on leadership/professional ethics, moderated by Charles Ogletree, followed by workshops conducted by ethics scholars, June 22. Cost: \$8,200.

St. Augustine, 1740: a speakers bureau presentation by the St. George Street Players, sponsored by Sunshine Plaza, July 8.

CRAWFORDVILLE

A Pitcher Full of Cream: a one-woman program by Betty Jean Steinhauer in the character of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Sponsored by The Rawlings Society. FHC grant: \$6,150.

CRESTVIEW

A Pitcher Full of Cream: a one-woman program by Betty Jean Steinhauer in the character of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Sponsored by The Rawlings Society. FHC grant: \$6,150.

CROSS CREEK

A Pitcher Full of Cream: a one-woman program by Betty Jean Steinhauer in the character of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Sponsored by The Rawlings Society. FHC grant: \$6,150.

CRYSTAL RIVER

Florida Fiction: a speakers bureau presentation by Jerome Stern, sponsored by the Coastal Regional Library, Nov. 5.

DADE CITY

Folk Music: a speaker's bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by the Pasco County Historical Society, May 17.

DAYTONA BEACH

Popular Culture: a speakers bureau presentation by Jerome Stern, sponsored by the Southeast Center for Photo/Graphic Studies, May 16.

Let's Talk About It: a literary discussion sponsored by the Volusia County Public Library. FHC grant: \$1,000.

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS

A Pitcher Full of Cream: a one-woman program by Betty Jean Steinhauer in the character of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Sponsored by The Rawlings Society. FHC grant: \$6,150.

Florida Chautauqua: presentations by actor/scholars portraying five important historical characters. FHC grant: \$49,766.

EATONVILLE

Second Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival: a panel discussion at the festival, sponsored by the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community. FHC grant: \$11,030.

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE

Past and Repast: a lunch-time humanities program on Florida history, September-November. Cost: \$3,000.

PROGRAMS OF 1991

FORT LAUDERDALE

Ethics in America: a program on business ethics, moderated by Charles Ogletree, October 21. Cost: \$5,000.

Coast to Coast: the Naples/Fort Lauderdale Reading/Discussion Series: two series of reading/discussion programs and talks by three author/lecturers, sponsored by the Naples Literary Seminar. FHC grant: \$14,000.

FORT MYERS

Women in The Color Purple: a speakers bureau presentation by Emma Waters Dawson, sponsored by the Lee County Libraries, Feb. 12.

Creek and Seminole Women: a speakers bureau presentation by Jane Dysart, sponsored by the Fort Myers Historical Museum, April 28.

Ethics in America: a program on business ethics, moderated by Charles Ogletree, May 6. Cost: \$6,048.

Business Ethics: a speakers bureau presentation by Robert Mertzman, sponsored by the Sales and Marketing Association, July 25.

Ghost Riders: Historic Interpreters on Fort Myers Trolleys: co-sponsored by the Fort Myers Downtown Re-Development Agency and the Fort Myers Historical Museum. FHC grant: \$11,450.

FORT WALTON BEACH

A Pitcher Full of Cream: a one-woman program by Betty Jean Steinhauer in the character of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings.

Sponsored by The Rawlings Society. FHC grant: \$6,150.

GAINESVILLE

Columbus from a Cross-Cultural Perspective: a teacher institute sponsored by the University of South Florida Center for Latin American Studies, August 5-9. FHC award: \$9,158.

Fort Mose Exhibit: a replica of Fort Mose, the first free black town in North America, sponsored by the University of Florida. The exhibit is now touring the state. FHC grant: \$17,075.

African-American Heritage in Florida: a lecture in March by Colin Palmer, sponsored by the University of Florida History Department. FHC grant: \$1,229.

GULFPORT

Florida Poems and Poets: a speakers bureau presentation by Jane Anderson Jones, sponsored by the Gulfport Public Library, June 11.

Le Moyne: a speakers bureau presentation by Gordon Patterson, sponsored by the Gulfport Senior Center, July 9.

West Africa Carvings: a speakers bureau presentation by Mason Daly, sponsored by the Gulfport Community Center/Suncoast Retirement Village, Sept. 18.

Creek and Seminole Women: a speakers bureau presentation by Jane Dysart, sponsored by Gulfport Senior Center, August 21.

Business Ethics: a speakers bureau presentation by Robert Mertzman, sponsored by the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, Oct. 17.

HUDSON

St. Augustine, 1740: a speakers bureau presentation by the St. George Street Players, sponsored by Baypoint Village, Nov. 27.

Couch Potato/Beckett: a speakers bureau program by Sidney Homan, sponsored by Baypoint Village, Dec. 4.

Folk Music: a speakers bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by Baypoint Village, Jan. 18.

INDIANTOWN

Come Home to Indiantown: presentations by storytellers at a day-long festival in March, sponsored by the Friends of the Indiantown Library. FHC grant: \$4,930.

INVERNESS

Creek and Seminole Women: a speakers bureau presentation by Jane Dysart, sponsored by Friends of Fort Cooper, April 11.

Voices and Visions: The World of American Poets: video-and-discussion session on the lives and cultural worlds of four major poets. Sponsored by the Venice Area Public Library. FHC grant: \$2,428.

JACKSONVILLE

Sandwiches with Scholars: a lunch-time humanities program on Florida history held at the Prudential

Interior of the Ted Smallwood Store, an

exhibit sponsored FHC.



Insurance Co., April 2-May 7. Cost: \$2,172.

Ethics in America: a program on business ethics, moderated by Charles Ogletree, May 9. Cost: \$6,048.

Floridians in the Harlem Renaissance: A teacher institute sponsored by Edward Waters College, June 24-28. FHC Award: \$7,557.

A Pitcher Full of Cream: a one-woman program by Betty Jean Steinhauer in the character of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Sponsored by The Rawlings Society. FHC grant: \$6,150.

Doing the Right Thing: Ethical Decision-Making for Nonprofits: A workshop in October. FHC grant: \$9,528.

KISSIMMEE

Folk Music: a speakers bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by the Osceola County Library System, April 4.

LA BELLE

Public History: a speakers bureau presentation by Sandra Norman, sponsored by the La Belle Heritage Museum Association, May 22.

LAKE BUTLER

Florida Fiction: a speakers bureau presentation by Jerome Stern, sponsored by the Union County Library, Feb. 24.

LAKE CITY

St. Augustine, 1740: a speakers bureau presentation by the St. George Street Players, sponsored by Lake City AAUW, April 27.

LAKE HARBOR

From 'C' to Inland 'C' Lakefront Legacy: Interpretive tours by scholars of historically significant sites, sponsored by the Palm Beach County Planning Division. FHC grant: \$6,920.

LAKELAND

Minoan Magic: Myths of the Ancient Greek World: a speakers bureau presentation by Kimberly Felos, sponsored by Florida Southern College, Lake Suzy campus, March 27.

Voices and Visions: The World of American Poets: video-and-discussion session on the lives and cultural worlds of four major poets. Sponsored by the Venice Area Public Library. FHC grant: \$2,428.

LAKE WALES

Technology and the Everglades: a speakers bureau presentation by Sandra Norman, sponsored by Bok Tower Gardens, April 7.

LARGO

St. Augustine, 1740: a speakers bureau presentation by the St. George Street Players, sponsored by Heritage Park, Jan. 6.

Folk Music: a speaker's bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by Oak Manor, Sept. 26.

LEESBURG

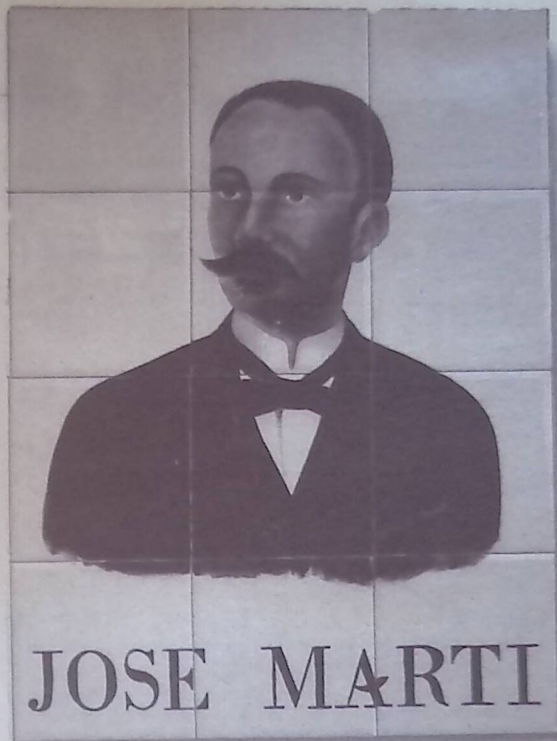
Florida Poems and Poets: a speakers bureau presentation by Jane Anderson Jones, sponsored by the Lake-Sumter Writers' Club, Nov. 8.

MADISON

Florida Fiction: a speakers bureau presentation by Jerome Stern, sponsored by North Florida Junior College, Feb. 12.

MAITLAND

Folk Music: a speakers bureau presentation by Ernie



Williams, sponsored by the Maitland Public Library, Oct. 21.

MARIANNA

Northwest Florida: From Columbus to Chile: a teacher institute sponsored by Chipola Junior College, June 10-14. FHC award: \$8,679.

MELBOURNE

Beyond Geography: The Columbian Legacy: a teacher institute sponsored by Florida Institute of Technology, June 17-21. FHC Award: \$10,093.

MELBOURNE BEACH

Le Moyne: a speakers bureau presentation by Gordon Patterson, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Melbourne Beach, June 3.

MIAMI

St. Augustine, 1740: a speakers bureau presentation by the St. George Street Players, sponsored by East Ridge Retirement Village, June 26.

AFL-CIO: workshop for union leaders on subjects related to "Workforce 2000," a study of future labor needs, September 23-24. Cost: \$4,500.

Ethics in America: a program on business ethics, moderated by Charles Ogletree, October 22. Cost: \$6,048.

Technology and Ethics: Responsibility and Ingenuity Towards the 21st Century: A series of lectures by six scholars, sponsored by Barry University. FHC grant: \$9,510.

Ninth Annual Women's Studies Colloquium: a seminar in March at Florida International University. FHC grant: \$11,705.

Cuban revolutionary

leader Jose Marti,

one of the figures in

FHC's "Spanish

Pathways" exhibit.

Historic Memory and Morals: a symposium, sponsored by the University of Miami Law School, on the Spanish expulsion of Jews in 1492 and the Inquisition. FHC grant: \$8,800.

International Hispanic Theatre Festival Educational Component: discussions of dance and theater, sponsored by Teatro Avante, Inc. FHC grant: \$14,700.

Historic Florida Television: a conference sponsored by the Louis Wolfson II Media History Center. FHC grant: \$10,000.

MICCO

Folk Music: a speakers bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by the South Mainland Library, April 25.

MONTICELLO

A Pitcher Full of Cream: a one-woman program by Betty Jean Steinhauer in the character of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Sponsored by The Rawlings Society. FHC grant: \$6,150.

MOUNT DORA

Business Ethics: a speakers bureau presentation by Robert Mertzman, sponsored by the Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce, April 11.

NAPLES

Ethics in America: a program on business ethics, moderated by Charles Ogletree, May 7. Cost: \$6,048.

Voices and Visions: The World of American Poets: video-and-discussion session on the lives and cultural worlds of four major poets. Sponsored by the Venice Area Public Library. FHC grant: \$17,000.

Coast to Coast: the Naples/Fort Lauderdale Reading/Discussion Series: two series of reading/discussion programs and talks by three author/lecturers, sponsored by the Naples Literary Seminar. FHC grant: \$14,000.

NEW PORT RICHEY

Folk Music: a speakers bureau presentation by Ernie Williams,

sponsored by the Brandeis University National Women's Committee, May 2.

Folk Music: a speakers bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by Meadowbrook Terrace, Sept. 25.

St. Augustine, 1740: a speakers bureau presentation by the St. George Street Players, sponsored by Meadowbrook Terrace, Aug. 21.

NICEVILLE/VALPARAISO

Technology and the Everglades: a speakers bureau presentation by Sandra Norman, sponsored by the AAUW Valparaiso/Niceville, April 15.

NORTH PORT

Getting Involved in Public Archeology in Your Town: a speaker's bureau presentation by Judith Bense, sponsored by the Warm Mineral Springs Archeological Society, June 12.

Florida Poems and Poets: a speakers bureau presentation by Jane Anderson Jones, sponsored by the North Port Library, Sept. 26.

OCALA

The Artistic and Intellectual Milieu of the Age of Discovery: a teacher institute sponsored by Central Florida Community College, June 17-21. FHC award: \$9,000.

ORLANDO

League of Women Voters: two, one-hour workshops on Government Ethics and "Is Health Care a Right?". Cost: \$1,670.

PAHOKEE

From 'C' to Inland 'C' Lakefront Legacy: Interpretive tours by scholars of historically significant sites, sponsored by the Palm Beach County Planning Division. FHC grant: \$6,920.

PALM HARBOR

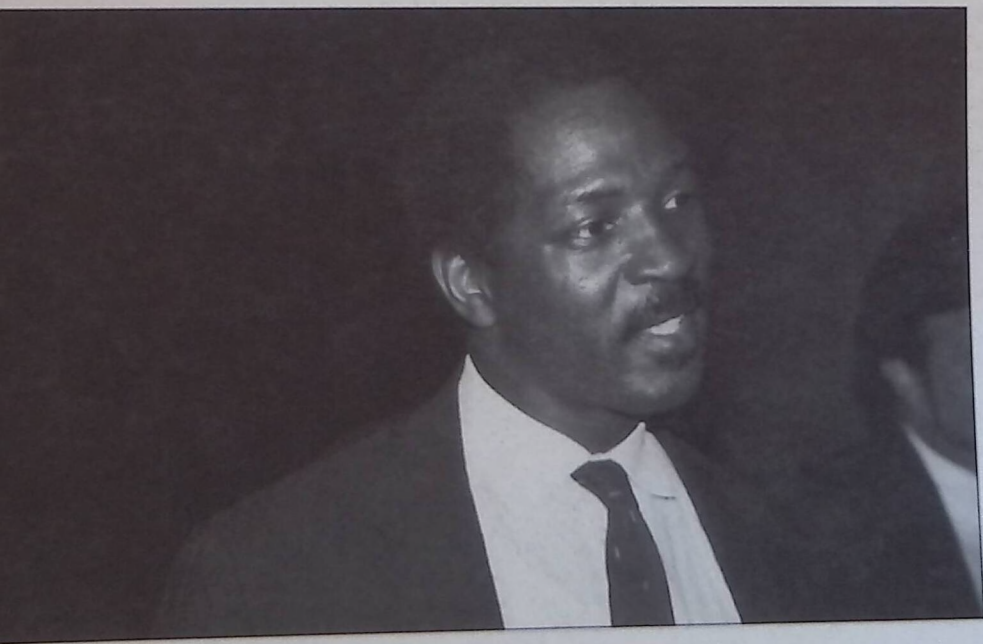
Voices and Visions: The World of American Poets: video-and-discussion session on the lives and cultural worlds of four major poets. Sponsored by the Venice Area Public Library. FHC grant: \$2,428.

PANAMA CITY

Florida Fiction: a speakers bureau presentation by Jerome Stern, sponsored by the Junior Service League, Dec. 4.

A Pitcher Full of Cream: a

Charles Ogletree, Harvard Law School professor and moderator of several FHC-sponsored programs on business ethics.



one-woman program by Betty Jean Steinhauer in the character of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. Sponsored by The Rawlings Society. FHC grant: \$6,150.

Symposium on Law, Ethics and Medicine: a two-day conference sponsored by Gulfcoast Community College. FHC grant: \$6,951.

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE

Bartram-Coleridge-Hurston: a speakers bureau presentation by Gordon Patterson, sponsored by the Patrick AFB Library, Feb. 26.

PENSACOLA

Ethics in America: a program on business ethics, moderated by Charles Ogletree, May 8. Cost: \$6,048.

PINE ISLAND

Business Ethics: a speakers bureau presentation by Robert Mertzman, sponsored by the Greater Pine Island Chamber of Commerce, Sept. 19.

PLANTATION

Business Ethics: a speakers bureau presentation by Robert Mertzman, sponsored by Covenant Village, Oct. 20.

POINCIANA

St. Augustine, 1740: a speakers bureau presentation by the St. George Street Players, sponsored by the Buenaventura Lakes Library, Nov. 17.

PORT CHARLOTTE

Minoan Magic: Myths of the Ancient Greek World: a speakers bureau presentation by Kimberly Felos, sponsored by the Port Charlotte AAUW, Feb. 26.

Getting Involved in Public Archeology in Your Town: a speaker's bureau presentation by Judith Bense, sponsored by the Port Charlotte Library, March 28.

RUSKIN

Florida's Ethnic Communities: a speakers bureau presentation by Diana Jarvis Godwin, sponsored by the Hillsborough County Public Library, Oct. 9.

ST. PETERSBURG

West African Carvings: a speakers bureau presentation by Mason Daly, sponsored by the James Weldon Johnson Branch Library, Oct. 8.

Crucible of Liberty, 200 Years of the Bill of Rights: a lecture series sponsored by the University of South Florida. FHC grant: \$15,900.

SANFORD

James Weldon Johnson Forum: a seminar in March on the noted lyricist, author, educator and civil rights leader, sponsored by Seminole Community College. FHC grant: \$7,718.

SARASOTA

Business Ethics: a speakers bureau presentation by Robert Mertzman, sponsored by the Florida Suncoast Purchasing Managers Association, April 9.

SEMINOLE

Florida Poems and Poets: a speakers bureau presentation by Jane Anderson Jones, sponsored by Freedom Square, Sept. 12.

SPRING HILL

Folk Music: a speakers bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by the Forrest Oaks Civic Association Women's Club, Dec. 18.

STARKE

Voices and Visions: The World of American Poets: video-and-discussion session on the lives and cultural worlds of four major poets. Sponsored by the Venice Area Public Library. FHC grant: \$17,000.

SUN CITY CENTER

Business Ethics: a speakers bureau presentation by Robert Mertzman, sponsored by the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce, July 18.

Voices and Visions: The World of American Poets: video-and-discussion session on the lives and cultural worlds of four major poets. Sponsored by the Venice Area Public Library. FHC grant: \$2,428

TALLAHASSEE

Spain in the New World: The First Two Centuries: a teacher institute sponsored by Florida Historical Associates/Museum of Florida History, June 24-28. FHC award: \$9,006.

African-American Contributions to Florida's History and Culture: a three-day conference sponsored by Florida A&M University. FHC grant: \$11,000.

TAMPA

Business Ethics: a speakers bureau presentation by Robert Mertzman, sponsored by First Property Managers, Sept. 12.

Florida Chautauqua: Performance preview, Sept. 16.

National Coalition of 100 Black Women: a program on women in Florida politics, October 5. Cost: \$7,500.

Columbian Consequences: Florida and the Quincentenary: a teacher institute sponsored by the University of South Florida History Department, June 17-21. FHC award: \$10,150.

St. Augustine, 1740: a speakers bureau presentation by the St. George Street Players, sponsored by the Life Enrichment Center, Oct. 25.

Doing the Right Thing: Revolutions in Professional Ethics: a number of workshops held in September in the Tampa Bay area, sponsored by the University of South Florida. FHC grant: \$35,000.

Health Care Economics and Ethics: a talk by Daniel Callahan, sponsored by Tampa General Hospital. FHC grant: \$3,250.

TARPON SPRINGS

Folk Music: a speakers bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by the Tarpon Springs Cultural Center, Oct. 9.

VENICE

Florida Poems and Poets: a speakers bureau presentation by Jane Anderson Jones, sponsored by the Venice Area Public Library, Jan. 11.

WINTER PARK

Africanfest 1991: a three-day festival of African culture, sponsored by Rollins College. FHC grant: \$5,909.

ZEPHYRHILLS

Folk Music: a speakers bureau presentation by Ernie Williams, sponsored by the Zephyrhills Women's Club, March 1.

OTHER PROGRAMS

In addition to these programs, FHC's Resource Center placed exhibits in 26 locations and sponsored nine reading/discussion groups.

BALANCE SHEET

October 31, 1991

	88-20854 Grant	Federal 90-20986 Grant	91-21043 Grant	State Grants	Unrestricted Fund	Equipment Fund	Total
ASSETS							
Current Assets	-	105,709	258,567	184,997	19,636	-	568,909
Furniture & Equipment, net	-	-	-	-	-	25,098	25,098
Total Assets	-	105,709	258,567	184,997	19,636	25,098	594,007
LIABILITIES							
Current Liabilities	-	105,709	258,567	184,997	-	-	549,273
Fund Balances	-	-	-	-	19,636	25,098	44,734
Total Liabilities	-	105,709	258,567	184,997	19,636	25,098	594,007

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUE AND EXPENSES

For the Year Ended October 31, 1991

Support & Revenue	18,119	105,421	743,654	308,925	36,637	-	1,212,756
Expenditures	18,119	104,834	719,359	306,008	30,974	8,899	1,188,193
Net	-	587	24,295	2,917	5,663	(8,899)	24,563
Transfers	-	-	(24,295)	-	-	24,295	-
Total changes in fund balances	-	587	-	2,917	5,663	15,396	24,563
Fund Balances							
October 31, 1990	-	(587)	-	(2,917)	13,973	9,702	20,171
October 31, 1991	-	-	-	-	19,636	25,098	44,734

Full audit report issued by Hacker, Johnson, Cohen & Grieb.
For a copy of audited financial statements, please contact the Florida Humanities Council.

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 Skigen, Barbara E.
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 Smith, Chesterfield
 Smith, Wilmina
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 Smith, Leola
 Sommer, Muriel
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 Tickner, Dooney
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 Vail, Patricia
 Vallar, Mr./Mrs. Edgar J.
 VanScoyoc, Mr. & Mrs.
 Melwood
 Vickers, Audrey
 Vickers, R.M.
 Voibracht, Diane
 Waldron, Betty
 Walker, Mr./Mrs. Dixon
 Walker, Janet

Native American artist Kevin

Locke informs and entertains an

audience during an FHC-

sponsored program at

Clearwater.





*Oldest House in St.
Augustine — a painting
reproduced in FHC's
"Spanish Pathways"
exhibit.*

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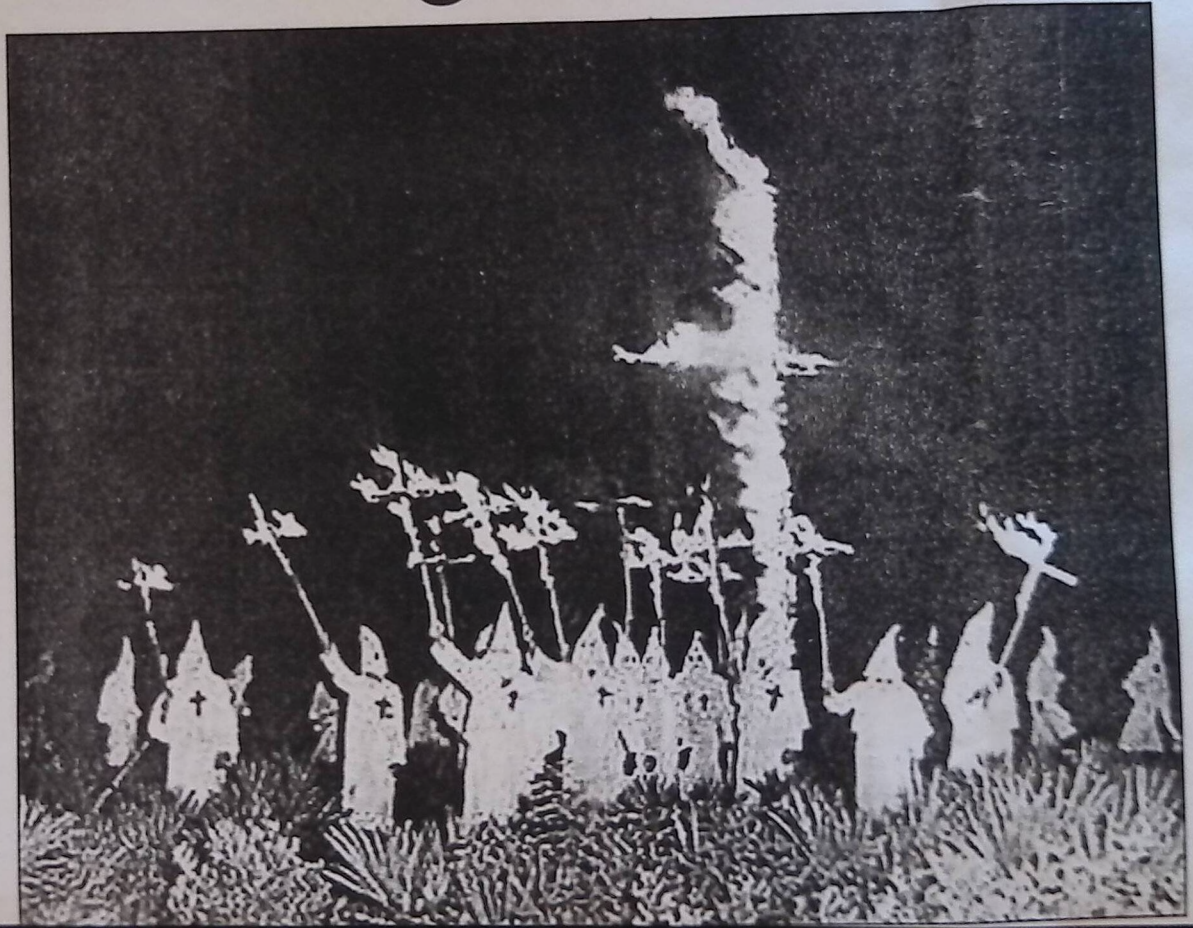
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No. 1 Courthouse Square
Inverness, FL 32650

Remembering Rosewood



The well behind this house, owned by storekeeper John Wright, was used to hide children from the enraged mob. The house was one of the few structures not burned to the ground.

Infamous
massacre
should not
be forgotten



Editor's note: The hamlet of Rosewood in Levy County, on the road from U.S. 19 to Cedar Key, only a handful of miles from Citrus County, was the scene of an infamous racial massacre that took place in the first days of January 1923. In celebration of African American History Month and in the spirit of healing, we revisit the incident, that nothing like it will ever be repeated.

By Steve Arthur
Chronicle columnist

WALKING THROUGH the fields around the hamlet of Rosewood in Levy County, only minutes from Citrus County, it's not easy to imagine the terror that took place there 78 years ago.

Birds sing in the trees and cars sweep by, on their way to the quiet coastal town of Cedar Key. Rosewood is a quiet country place today, with very little going on. A few buildings and homes along the road.

There's no reason why a motorist traveling down State Road 24 would take note of the settlement nine miles east of Cedar Key or suspect its significance in the history of Florida.

Up until only a handful of years ago, before the film and the lawsuits seeking reparation for all that was lost there, it would have taken some knowledge of local history to recognize this place as the scene of a massacre that burned out a black town and included the murder of at least eight people.

Rosewood has largely returned to the palmetto and swamps, to about the level of development it had in

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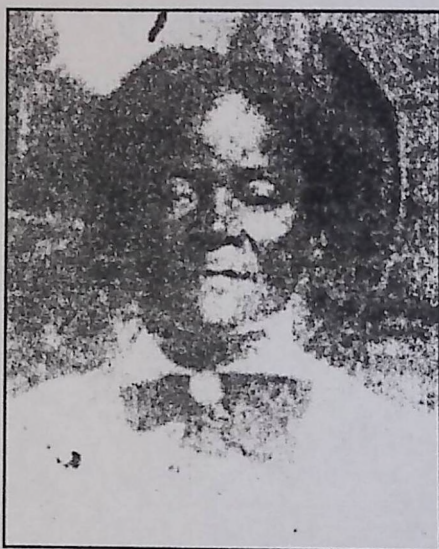
SO YOU CAN GO

WHAT: Rosewood massacre talk.

WHERE: Central Ridge Library, Beverly Hills.

WHEN: 1 p.m. Saturday.

WHO: Dr. Annette Goins Shakir, daughter of a Rosewood survivor, will speak. The presentation is sponsored by the Friends of the Central Ridge Library Inc.



Sara Carrier was killed by a white mob Jan. 4, 1923, in Rosewood. She was sheltering a number of children in her home, including Arnett Turner Goins, the 8-year-old child who would become the father of Saturday's speaker, Dr. Annette Goins Shakir. He and the others fled into the woods to escape the vigilantes.