

Fort Lauderdale High School Athletics and the 'Flying L' Symbol

by Cooper Kirk

Symbols in the most general sense are the staple by which a discriminating mankind lives. Speech and words themselves only indicate some aspect of reality. Symbols operate equally effectively on all levels of existence from the local to the national. On an intimate and personal level the church employs the Lord's Supper to symbolize in part the body and blood of the Lord. In a largely non-venerable manner the Elks, Freemasons, Rotarians and Kiwanians esteem their symbols as emblematic of some aspect of their fraternity or society. Nationally, the American flag symbolizes the honor and dignity of the nation; the United States Constitution proclaims the will of the people; while the Great Seal signifies the authority, power and validity of the constituted authorities.

Most often athletic symbols are a ganglion of complex ideas, a shorthand method of communication which appeals either to the emotions or to the intellect and in rare cases to both, but most often only to the first faculty. Certainly, something not present to the senses, like "school spirit," must be symbolized in order to be grasped. The farther removed in time from its origination, the greater mythic qualities a symbol is liable to acquire as to the circumstances surrounding its beginning. Not infrequently a strain of hero worship develops as the origin of the accepted account of symbol origination recedes further into the unrecalable past. In such circumstan-

ces the hero is apt to assume bigger than life qualities. Consequently, some aspects of eponymy become intertwined with reality. In such a situation a tangential excursion into onomastics oft times proves profitable in the attempt to unravel the mystery of the origination of a symbol. The latter, in part, is what this account of Fort Lauderdale High School athletic history to 1924, is about.¹

Because it became the first to be originated among the high schools of Broward County, Florida, thus having a longer history in which to accumulate vivid traditions, and because of its stark divergence from most athletic symbols, the Fort Lauderdale High School "Flying L" symbol remains the most easily identifiable athletic symbol in the county public schools. Which is just to say that in a consideration of county public schools' athletic

symbols this distinctive emblem immediately draws the public's attention to the Fort Lauderdale High School and to no other.²

GENESIS OF FORT LAUDERDALE ATHLETICS

From the beginning Fort Lauderdale sports activity looked more southward than northward. For years Fort Lauderdale gravitated toward Miami and the Biscayne Bay orbit. Until well up into the twentieth century the Miami newspapers referred to all the territory from New River southward to Cutler as the "Biscayne Bay Country," primarily because of the similarity of soil composition and vegetable production. Because of Miami's rapid population growth after its incorporation on July 28, 1896, combined with its cultural

This unique issue of Broward Legacy is the first to be devoted to a single article. As such, it is, in effect, a small book. The subject, "Fort Lauderdale High School Athletics and the 'Flying L' Symbol," is well worth this extensive treatment, both because of the school's longstanding tradition in athletics which predates that of any other educational institution in Broward County, and because of the controversy and mythology surrounding the origin of the unusual "Flying L" symbol.

In this thoroughly documented article, Broward County Historian Cooper Kirk, himself a graduate of Fort Lauderdale High School, has probably come as close to unraveling this controversy as is humanly possible. In addition, this article traces the background of sports on the southeast Florida coast, sketches the athletic and educational setting of the period, and describes the colorful personalities and dramatic events which have formed the basis of the Flying L tradition.



The "Flying L" symbol.

and commercial hegemony in southeast Florida and, as the seat of government for Dade County after 1899, late developing Fort Lauderdale felt drawn into the Miami orbit for two generations for most of its economic needs, legal expertise and fashion standards. In addition, until after the passing of the land boom of the mid-twenties, adult and school sports competition by Fort Lauderdale teams competing first and foremost with teams from Miami and its environs. Hence not only did Fort Lauderdale teams look to Miami teams for the latest in sports innovations, but there also developed a fierce competition between the athletic teams of the two cities, as if the son engaged the father for supremacy. A successful season could be claimed by the team which had defeated the other team irrespective of how well it had fared against teams from other cities. Although not always well articulated, and maybe only inchoately so, teams from the Fort Lauderdale High School and the city semipro became the vehicle through which Lauderdaleans expressed their reason d'être, their ethos, their aspirations for the lordship of the New River region, indeed, their very identity.³

Athletic competition characterized southeast Florida from the time Americans in small numbers began to move into this area after 1890. Dade County then comprised a territory larger than the State of Connecticut, a territory destined to give birth to Palm Beach County in 1909, Broward County in 1915, and Martin County in 1925. Until

Henry M. Flagler extended his railroad from West Palm Beach to Miami in 1896, the population of Dade County grew slowly, evidenced by the scanty rise in population from 1890 to 1895, for the territory which contained over 6,000 square miles, the citizenry only increased from 861 to 3,332 for these five years. Nevertheless, the few citizens located around twenty-one mile long Lake Worth and along Biscayne Bay in the 1890s celebrated holidays such as July 4th with bicycle and foot races, jumping events, and rifle competition. Because of the long travel involved these celebrations were generally locally-observed all-day events, topped by a barbeque and in some cases a community dance.⁴

BASEBALL COMES TO SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

While these sporting events limited themselves to individual competition, early on a team sport did evolve. But because of the lack of population, roads and even pathways, together with the intractableness of the topography, team competition occurred only once or twice a year in the early 1890s. In May 1893, "E.S.," writing in the *Jacksonville Times-Union* expressed his amazement over the growth of Miami from one dwelling in mid-1892 to over sixty a year later, although all were shanties except for the home of the William and Mary Brickell family. Despite its recent spurt in population Miami, however, remained in 1893 smaller than Lemon City and Coconut Grove, both near neighbors to the bay

settlement which by 1900 would be known as the "Magic City" because of its spectacular growth in population from less than 300 in 1896 to 1,681 in 1900.⁵

Coinciding with the arrival of "E.S." on Biscayne Bay in 1892, the settlers around Biscayne Bay exuberantly celebrated July 4th with a picnic and the first baseball game ever played on the lower southeast Florida mainland. On Independence Day over 200 spectators, practically the entire Biscayne Bay area population, gathered at a newly constructed baseball diamond located "on the prairie" one and one-half miles south of Lemon City to watch the baseball game between the nines of Lemon City and Coconut Grove. By scoring three times in the ninth inning the Lemon City team defeated the Coconut Grove team 18 to 17, after which the spectators, many of them beautiful lassies dressed in their finest amidst the wilderness setting, enjoyed a picnic in the rustic setting, climaxed by a rousing dance held in Lemon City in the evening.⁶

No Independence Day celebration could be held in Fort Lauderdale in 1892, because the town would not be platted until late in 1895, and the first Flagler train would not arrive until February 1896. Census records and historical artifacts reveal that only two residents even lived in the vicinity of Fort Lauderdale in 1892, Dennis O'Neill, keeper of the federal Life-Saving Station then located in what later became Birch State Park, and civil surveyor William C. Valentine, then living in a shack near the Harbor Beach area. Frank Stranahan, who later became a benefactor of Fort Lauderdale athletic teams, in 1892 held the position as "lead" clerk in the E. C. Thomas and Company Store in Melbourne and would not arrive on New River until January 1893 to operate an overnight camp and river ferry for his cousin Guy I. Metcalf, publisher of *The Juno Tropical Sun*, a newsman who not only completed the first county road between Lake Worth and Biscayne Bay in December 1892, but who for years operated the Biscayne Bay Stage Line over the sand road he had constructed between the lake and bay. Through his newspaper located in Juno, the seat of the Dade County government, Metcalf in the late 1890s stimulated interest in sports, but particularly in baseball, for his paper printed happenings in the National Baseball League, including sketches of such major league stars as Cap Anson, Ed Delehanty, Iron Joe McGinity, John J. McGraw, Wee Willie Keeler and George E. Andrews. The latter, however, retired to near Fort Pierce in the mid-1890s, became a



George E. "Ed" Andrews, major league baseball player of the 1880s and early 1890s, after whom Fort Lauderdale's Andrews Avenue was named.

yacht boat captain for railroad magnate Henry M. Flagler, and Flagler officials named Fort Lauderdale's Andrews Avenue for him in 1895, when they platted the town. Flagler's railroad from West Palm Beach to Miami, which doomed the Biscayne Bay Stage Line in 1896, made it possible for inter-city baseball competition which began on July 4, 1897, when the Miami nine, accompanied by "a large group of Miamians," journeyed to West Palm Beach and engaged the beachites. While *The Miami Weekly Metropolis* gave no score of the game, the Miami team won over West Palm Beach, capping their exploits by scoring eleven runs in one inning. On a return engagement played on Thanksgiving Day the nines played in Miami on the grounds of Flagler's magnificent Royal Palm Hotel with Miami again victorious and *The Metropolis* characterized it as "...certainly the best game of ball that has ever been played in Miami." Thus began the tradition of holiday baseball games between the cities and towns of the lower southeast coast of Florida. Often interest ran so high that the games virtually emptied the homes and businesses of the coastal communities. The Miami teams in the early days generally triumphed over their opposition as evidenced by the 1898 Thanksgiving Day game between the Miami and Lemon City teams which was called in the seventh inning with Miami ahead by the score of 22 to 17. With high scores the rule and with baseball diamonds constructed on rough or rocky terrain, curiosity asks the questions of how many baseballs were used

during the course of a game and the condition of the ball(s) at the conclusion.⁷

Until incorporation, a community's population was reckoned by its precinct which included all those who were eligible to register and vote at the polls in that community even though they might reside many miles from the community. With Fort Lauderdale precinct's population of ninety-one in 1900 increasing to 219 in 1905, the Lauderdaleans soon thereafter had a population large and versatile enough to begin inter-city baseball competition. The Dania precinct's population of 193 in 1905 mirrored the development of sports in Lauderdale, and the first recorded baseball contest between the two towns occurred on Saturday, November 9, 1907, on the Fort Lauderdale sandlot diamond, and the New River team prevailed by the score of 5 to 2. In reporting the game *The Metropolis* gave no other information beyond the date, location and score. The next year, however, the Lauderdale baseball team underwent an acid test on October 8th when it traveled with half the town's population to Miami's Royal Palm Hotel baseball diamond there to engage the strong Lemon City team. Neither team, however, had enough quality players on hand to field a complete team, consequently, both nines "borrowed" several quality players from the seasoned Miami baseball club. Although "rusty" from recent inactivity, Robert L. Hill of Miami pitched and his brother caught in a losing cause for Fort Lauderdale for the Lemon City team won by the score of 9 to 6. The Hill battery was backed by an infield composed of Shepherd, Tom M. Bryan, Wallace Pallicer, Rodney Burdine and an outfield moving from left to right of Johnson, Wallace King and M. Bryan, a team rounded out by "subs" William C. Kyle and Lucien Craig. In reporting on the game *The Metropolis* noted the "general excitement" sustained during the game and it ended its account with the observation that "The game was by no means an errorless one, but the players were enthusiastic throughout and the crowd enjoyed the occasional errors of the less experienced players." Adding to the excitement of this game in Miami, was the nationally followed game played in New York City that same day between the New York Giants and the Chicago Cubs, a game required because of the "bonehead" lapse of Fred Merkle of the Giants. In the first playoff game ever in the National League, Christy Mathewson of the Giants was defeated by Mordecai "Three-Fingered" Brown by the score of 4 to 2. This win clinched the pennant

for the Chicago Cubs. As a consequence of the play of these two big league teams, the Miami baseball club assumed the name of "Cubs," only to be countered by the Dania team adopting the name of "Giants."⁸

THE "GATEWAY TO THE EVERGLADES" GAINS A HIGH SCHOOL

Two and one-half years after Fort Lauderdale's defeat by the Lemon City nine in 1908, an event occurred which dramatically affected the quality and quantity of athletes in the New River community and the adjacent area. In early March 1911 between 3,000 and 3,500 Everglades land purchasers from all over the United States descended upon miniscule Fort Lauderdale to participate in a land lottery of Everglades land. As a consequence, the community of Progresso located contiguous to Fort Lauderdale's boundary line was formed by the land purchasers who remained to claim their Everglades farm land when the drainage and reclamation of the 'Glades begun by Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward in 1906, had progressed enough to make it feasible to locate in the Everglades proper. As the result of the preliminary drainage some settlers located on a Demonstration Farm west of Fort Lauderdale and they called their community Zona, which they later changed to Davie. From these out-of-state families who settled in Progresso and Davie, came a generation of public school students who made it necessary for the Fort Lauderdale public school to add the ninth grade in the fall of 1911, which meant that the Fort Lauderdale school would have its first graduating class in 1915. In addition, the influx of new settlers who located in Fort Lauderdale spurred the local settlers to join with them to incorporate the Town of Fort Lauderdale on March 27, 1911, and a year later the drainage of the Everglades had progressed far enough for the state to open up the North New River Canal in August which in turn resulted in the settlement of the Lake Okeechobee region. Because the settlers and subsequent commercial traffic between Fort Lauderdale and the lake region had to pass along the North New River Canal, Fort Lauderdale became the entrepot for lake traffic and it consequently proclaimed itself "The Gateway to the Everglades." With its new found commercial importance, Fort Lauderdale soon became the premier community between West Palm Beach and Miami, both for wealth and for population.⁹

One of the settlers migrating to Fort Lauderdale in the early stages of

Everglades land sales quickly assumed a position of commanding importance in three areas. Together with his father Colonel Robert J. Reed, Captain William J. Reed, whose eighteen years of service in the United States Army garnered for him his rank, purchased 2,200 acres of land southwest of Fort Lauderdale so as to become an important land owner and speculator who brought in many settlers through land sales. Captain Reed, or "Cap" Reed as he was familiarly known, had a "presence" which soon landed him into local politics where he attained some stature which led to his service as mayor of Fort Lauderdale for many years. The third area in which "Cap" Reed excelled greatly affected sports in Fort Lauderdale and environs for a generation and more. Through his army service he had acquired a fundamental knowledge of baseball and field and track events and he put his expertise to work in the local public school athletics and in community sports.¹⁰

Meanwhile Miami easily outstripped all the communities on the southeast Florida coast in population, wealth, area and cultural affairs. Indeed, it shared in the increased citizenry with the other communities because of the sale of Everglades land and, in addition after 1910, tourists from all over the United States began to discover the attractiveness of Miami, particularly after World War I began and American tourists could no longer vacation in Europe, so that Miami's population virtually tripled from 1910 to 1915, a period when it shot from 5,471 to 15,592 people. During the same period the Fort Lauderdale precinct increased in population over 500 per cent, jumping from 296 to 1,870 inhabitants. Although Palm Beach County, including the precincts of Pompano and Deerfield, had been lopped off Dade County in 1909, still Miami remained the county seat of a large county which extended from Fort Lauderdale on the north to the upper keys on the south and extended westward to the middle of the peninsula, an area which boasted a population of 11,933 in 1910, which increased to 24,536 by 1915. From 1900 until 1911, only Miami had a high school in lower Dade County and this school graduated its first class of three students in 1904, one of whom, Miss Grace Rader, accepted a position as a teacher in the New River community school in 1906. In addition to these excellencies, Miami had the Miami Military Institute whose students furnished stiff competition to the Miami High School athletic teams. Already Miami had a public library, the envy of all the other county communities. Although Fort Lauderdale

would become the county seat of Broward County when it was created in October 1915, the New River town would not obtain a publicly-funded library until the boom period of 1925.¹¹

Educator/attorney William M. Heiney arrived in Fort Lauderdale from Indiana in October 1910, to assume the position of principal and teacher of the New River school for \$75.00 per month. And it was under his aegis that the school prepared to add the ninth grade in October 1911, and with this beginning of the high school a track and field team was organized and it began to practice in the fall of 1911 in preparation for competition which began early in 1912. After serving as the principal and teacher for a year Heiney left the school in May 1911, in order to devote his time to the practice of law and to the editorship of the *Fort Lauderdale Herald* which he had founded on November 19, 1910. He was succeeded by H. B. Cummings who opened the school in the fall of 1911 with a teaching staff of himself and four other teachers.¹²

A photograph of the Fort Lauderdale High School Track Team of 1912 shows nine members, including Walter "Watt" Gordon, Dale Redman and brothers John and Martin Davis. A loose-fitting, dark-colored jersey covers the upper portion of the white, baggy shorts of the trackmen and their track shoes appear not to be uniform for each trackman. For school identification, the trackmen have a six-inch white sash pinned to their jerseys and it extends diagonally from the right

armpit down to the left hip, the sash highlighted by the symbol "Ft.L." Gordon and the Davis brothers represent a core portion of the Fort Lauderdale school student body, a portion which for almost a generation played an important role in the development of the school. They represent students born elsewhere but who attended the New River school during its formative years. The parents of this core group roughly hailed from the mid-west and beyond. The parents had bought Everglades farm land mainly from Richard J. Bolles of the Florida Fruitlands Company and they had participated in the great land lottery of March 1911, and they then had found their Everglades land to be flooded for much of the year and land which would have to await the drainage and reclamation of the Everglades before it could be made habitable and tillable. Meantime, these settlers from the heartland of the United States agricultural center occupied flimsy houses built on lots given to them by Mr. Bolles and located in his huge community of Progresso which joined Fort Lauderdale on the north near the present Sixth Street. For example, Gordon's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Gordon, had migrated from Perkins, Oklahoma, and Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Davis, parents of John and Martin, had moved to Progresso from Ames, Iowa. And Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Brock, parents of Walter Brock, who would later star in track, moved from Stillwater, Oklahoma, to Progresso, also in 1911. In addition to the future athletes, the land lottery brought in



The 1912 Fort Lauderdale High School track team. Front row, right, is Dale Redman; the other two are unidentified. Standing (left to right) are: Charles Crim, John Davis, Martin Davis, Watt Gordon, unidentified, and Lawrence Rickard. Note "Ft.L." shirts. (Photo courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Kiwanis Club.)

other parents from the mid-west who lived in Progresso and their children played important roles in the Lauderdale school as cheerleaders and scholars, and these parents are represented by the E. C. Parkers from Arkansas City, Kansas, the H. B. Dusenberrys from Goodland, Kansas, and the J. E. Savages from Ashtabula, Ohio.¹³

As the largest public school by far in Dade County, the Miami High School led the way in sports innovations. As early as December 1910, the school played an intramural football game at a Field Day held at the Royal Palm Park Hotel grounds, the first game of football ever played in southeast Florida. By November 1911, however, three football teams practiced in Miami and on Thanksgiving Day the first football game in Dade County was played with the Miami Military Association beating the Miami High School by the score of 10 to 3, and to show the win was not a fluke, the Association repeated its triumph several weeks later. Meanwhile, a group of young men in Fort Lauderdale not connected with the school began to practice and in the first week in December 1911, the New River team issued a challenge to the Miami High School and to the Miami city football teams but the newspapers are silent as to whether or not the Miami teams accepted the challenge. A year later, however, the Miami school again innovated and played the first game ever of basketball in southeast Florida by engaging the West Palm Beach High School team.¹⁴

Principal Cummings seems to have encouraged athletic competition, but there is no record of a contest with a high school team in the fall of 1911 or in the early part of 1912, probably because the Lauderdale school only had the ninth grade of a high school and for this reason could not compete with the four year Miami High School. The photograph of the 1912 track team, however, indicates that the New River school probably competed with the lower grades of the Miami school and such competition did not as a rule warrant newspaper coverage. Cummings did urge the high school boys to try out for the town baseball team which itself racked up a first just as Cummings' tenure as principal ended in May 1913. On May 11th the Fort Lauderdale town team and a host of their followers traveled up the South New River Canal to Zona or Davie and performed before a large audience on a newly laid out and rough diamond. The Lauderdale school triumphed by a score of 9 to 2. As umpire behind the plate, "Cap" Reed turned in a stellar performance, one which the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel* characterized as

"...gilt edged and would get him a place in the Big Leagues would he ever want one." Soon thereafter the Fort Lauderdale town team found a benefactor in merchant and civic leader Frank Stranahan who made the team a generous offer of assistance when he learned the team would enter the newly formed East Coast Baseball League in the summer of 1913. Stranahan volunteered land for a baseball diamond and after its acceptance as the site for the team's home games, he proceeded to build and to put the diamond in fine shape at his own expense. With an enviable diamond for the time and enthusiastic fans to cheer them on, the Fort Lauderdale town team won the pennant of the first East Coast Baseball League season. Such a record fed

E. Rickard of Indiana, whose brother James S. had failed to strike the "S" from the family name as previously agreed upon by all the family members, had moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1912 and set himself up in the lumber business. Clarence recommended his brother as the replacement for Cummings, a brother who had graduated from DePauw University in 1908, and who had lately taught in an Arkansas college. Although seemingly not an athlete himself, Rickards, who fell into the emerging cast of "progressive" educators, had an ingratiating gift of gab, knew how and when to please school supporters and who could charm women by his flair for stage dramatics, applied for the Fort Lauderdale principal/teacher position



Fort Lauderdale's town baseball team with the 1913 East Coast League pennant. Back row (left to right): unidentified, Herbert "Pop" Lewis, Roy Carrier, Frank Kraybill. Front row, seated: Johnny Pellett, Carl Horton, John Windham, Joe Atkinson, Charley Berry. Standing in front: unidentified, Charles G. Rodes, Jr., W.J. "Cap" Reed. (Photo courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.)

the baseball mania which seized the young and old alike in a town with an estimated population of 700 inhabitants.¹⁵

PROFESSOR RICKARDS BOOSTS SPORTS

With a championship baseball team and a sandlot football team drawn from the young men of the town and from unincorporated Progresso, Fort Lauderdale by the fall of 1913, looked for a principal/teacher to replace the departed Cummings, one who would not only give added impetus to the emerging sports program in the local school which now offered the ninth, tenth and eleventh grades of high school, but also an educational leader who could enhance the culture of the school and community. Clarence

and the Dade County school board engaged him at \$150.00 per month, sixteen dollars less than County Superintendent Robert E. Hall drew each month. Rickards had other qualities going for him besides those just mentioned. Chief among them was that he was a moralist and avid church leader who doted on teaching in the Christian and Methodist churches. The townspeople expected Rickards to turn in a stellar performance and he lived up to these expectations. All referred to and addressed him as "Professor," the common appellation of the school principal of that day, even though the favored men who held this position had no more than a college bachelor's degree, and some were not even blessed with this degree.¹⁶

School opened Monday, September 29, 1913, with an enrollment of 257

students and with a staff of ten teachers, but with only Principal Rickards, Paul Weiner, who doubled as the unpaid coach of athletics, and Miss Margaret Warner, available to teach the twenty-three pupils in high school. Undaunted by the paucity of boys available for baseball, Coach Weiner, assisted by teacher Ray L. Hamon, trained his boys well for they won their first baseball game on October 25th with a 5 to 4 victory over the adult town team from Davie. With John Davis pitching and his brother Martin catching, the Lauderdale players turned in a scintillating performance early on and "Then," reported the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, "our Fort Lauderdale High School girls found out they could yell." The *Sentinel* continued in a jubilant vein, remarking, "Say, ask those boys why they were so determined to win. Yes, girls, you did your share and were well repaid. Only we need more patriotic boys and girls on those sidelines in the future." In their second game two weeks later, the high school encountered the adult town team of Dania at "Stranahan Park," and again won a squeaker by the score of 6 to 5, a win achieved by a good overall performance by the New River team and a costly error by the Danians in the bottom of the ninth inning.¹⁷

Even though the Fort Lauderdale High School athletic competition began with the team sport baseball, what with an extremely small enrollment in high school which only went to the eleventh grade, many of whose pupils had to work after school, the high school situation lent itself more to the development of proficiency and gaining renown in track, a sport which stressed individual performance and whose devotees could practice in an impromptu fashion, even without the direct supervision of a coach. So, for the next ten years, track performers at the Lauderdale school in common with trackmen throughout Florida public schools had the highest status among athletes. And this was true in spite of the few opportunities for competition between schools. Track, however, like basketball in another generation could be practiced and have "sand-lot" sessions with little equipment and with few participants, the prize being "bragging rights." With little opportunity for out-of-town competition, the track team for the 1913-1914 school year only engaged in one interscholastic track meet and for most years thereafter the Lauderdale team rarely had more than two competitive events, topped, however, by the prestigious State Track Meet held at the University of Florida track field in Gainesville late in the school year.¹⁸

On February 28, 1914, for the first

time, the annual Dade County Fair featured track competition between county schools. At the Seventeenth Annual Dade County Fair the Fort Lauderdale High School track team competed in its first interscholastic track meet. With a total enrollment of over one thousand students compared to an enrollment of less than three hundred for the Fort Lauderdale school which only enrolled students up to the eleventh grade, Miami triumphed over the small New River school, although the newspapers did not give the total points for the several schools which participated. As he was destined to be for several years, Watt Gordon of Fort Lauderdale stood out in this meet even though he was only in the tenth grade, and he competed against athletes up through the twelfth grade. Both a long and short distance runner, Gordon took first place in both the 100 yard dash and the mile run, and he placed third in the shot put. Martin and John Davis also covered themselves with glory even through they won only one event. They placed first in the hammer throw, second in the shot put and third in both the one-half mile run and the 220 yard dash. What impressed most of the thousands who witnessed the track events was the effortless motion and blinding speed of Gordon. The Fort Lauderdale High School athletes who had the honor to participate in their school's first interscholastic track meet were: Watt Gordon, Martin and John Davis, Dale Redman, Lawrence Rickard, LeRoy Shull, Walter Brock, Paul Stevens, Keith Brown, Ralph Calkins and they were complemented by seventh and eighth graders Glen Fahrion and Herman Gebert who competed in events for their grade levels.¹⁹

While not known as an athlete himself, Principal Rickards could and did involve school athletes in many activities, not the least being dramatic stage productions. Near the end of the school year 1913-1914, the upper classes staged a play in the Rex Theatre which attracted such a large audience that the theatre was unable to accommodate the crowd. A thespian of the first order himself, Rickard coached the student actors and actresses with his inimitable touch which brought out the best talent in each. Track members took a prominent part in the three-act "A Kentucky Belle," both as actors and stage hands. Acting opposite the Misses Marie Brock, Joyce Parker and Prudence Clark, trackmen Martin Davis, Dale Redman, Walter Brock and "Watty" Gordon led as the cast closed the play with a ringing rendition of "Dixie" and "My Old Kentucky Home." In particular did "Watty" Gordon receive

accolades from the *Sentinel* reporter who stated that Gordon "... as John Cason, the hero was excellent. His tall athletic figure made him an ideal lover and, as such, was carried out to perfection, and his acting was good." Possibly, the reporter was Sara Mathews whose father, Colonel George G. Mathews, had established the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel* in March 1911, four months after William M. Heiney had founded the *Fort Lauderdale Herald*. Although quite young for a reporter in 1911, Sara later served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Sentinel's* school news column "High School Sentinel," which in addition to carrying the general news of the school in every column sought to bolster the school spirit.²⁰

SCHOOL DAYS AND BASKETBALL VICTORIES

The Fort Lauderdale High School opened for the school year on September 14, 1914, for a full nine month's term, the first school year of this length, and the students found that Principal Rickards had completely revised the curriculum with a view to meeting the accreditation standards of the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges. Each of the four teachers who taught only high school subjects held a degree from a four year college or university, another first for the school. Walter F. Wright, a graduate of the University of Kentucky, who hailed from Manchester of that state, taught science, and he shared duties with Rickards in the one year course in Applied Agriculture and Horticulture, whose aims included experimental farming and the testing of some new crops. Ernst Bratzel, a graduate of Pacific College, and a German "of pure extraction," taught a two year course in German and assisted in agriculture. Miss Anna Mae Williams, a graduate of the Florida State College for Women, taught English and Latin. Although she had taught in high school the previous year, because she was not a college graduate, Miss Gertrude Brammer, a local favorite, only taught Home Economics, penmanship and business correspondence in high school with the remainder of her teaching confined to the eighth grade. Rickards instituted a new course to be taught by himself which attracted much town attention and student interest. His Effective Speaking Class had as its purpose the development of the proper expression and clear thinking of the pupil "... while on his feet and in the presence of listeners," something Rickards himself proved somewhat a master of. At DePauw Rickards had been trained



Fort Lauderdale townspeople, school personnel and trackmen at Miami, 1914. Standing (left to right): Ruth Tate, Thelma Marshall, J.K. Gordon, Eleanor Boyd Miller, Margaret Warner, Gertrude Brammer, Clifford Bryan Hooper, Olive Savage Bivans, Ortha Snyder Griffin, Professor James S. Rickards, John

Kling, Joyce Parker Hyde, Eva Bryan Oliver, Helen Parker Mangelsdorf, Alfred Blackburn, Grace Redman Shull, Ethel Tate. Sitting: Joe Oliver, Dale Redman, John E. Davis, Paul Stephens, Martin R. Davis, Walter Brock, Watt Gordon, Roy Shull, Louis Oliver.

The Davie basketball team which played the first basketball game in the Everglades against Fort Lauderdale High School, January 22, 1915.



in effective speaking under one of the most notable professors of Debate and Argumentative Psychology on the campus. As a further qualification for teaching the course, Rickards had graduated from the Eliss Day School of Lyceum and Dramatic Art of Chicago.²¹

Opening day saw a high school enrollment of forty-seven, double that of the previous year and when the lower grades registered two weeks later the total Fort Lauderdale school enrollment shot up to 325, almost one hundred more than in September 1913. Foreseeing the increase as early as May 1914, eighty-four citizens, led by Tom M. Bryan and his brother-in-law Fred Barrett, petitioned the Dade County School Board to authorize a bond issue election for \$45,000 with which to retire some building indebtedness and to build a new, adequate school plant. The school board agreed to the election and on June 6, 1914, Fort Lauderdale freeholders approved the bond issue and much credit went to former Mayor William H. Marshall who spearheaded the bond drive. Primarily because of the large Progresso district which contained over 12,000 home lots which might be built upon when the Everglades drainage progressed enough to make it feasible to farm in the 'Glades, the school trustees selected a school site north of the river and nearer to Progresso. A lesser incentive to build the new school plant just east of downtown Lauderdale was the adjacent Stranahan Field where the school athletic teams could practice on Mr. Stranahan's property and where sports competition could be held with other schools, notably with the Miami High School.²²

With competitive teams in baseball and track already a reality, the Fort Lauderdale school branched out and added basketball teams for boys and girls in December 1914, with Professor Wright serving as coach of these new teams. Despite the high academic standards set by Principal Rickards for athletic participation, no lack of candidates rushed next door to the "Stranahan Pavilion" to sign up for the basketball teams. Many events were occurring in and around Fort Lauderdale on December 11th when Coach Wright and local citizens drove the Lauderdale boys to the "Magic City" to play the Miami High School basketball team then under the direction of Coach Helmenway. For example, a group of settlers from Chicago and the mid-west who had purchased Florida Fruit Lands Company tracts left December 11th via canal boats for Davie to survey what they had bought as "a pig in a polk." The same day new colonists for the Davie settlement

arrived from Chicago and they were scheduled to be feted at the Edward Viele home that evening. And finally, Fort Lauderdale had designated December 11th as "Suburban Day," where the guest of honor was the renown Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley. The bustle and stir of the little town of approximately 1,600 people did not, however, prevent local sport enthusiasts from having the keenest interest in the basketball game being played in Miami.²³

Professor Wright's Fort Lauderdale team composed of Watt Gordon, Charles Crim, John and Martin Davis, R. Shull, Dale Redman and (?) Ochs was not expected by Miamians to make much of a showing in their first basketball game ever and that against the veteran Miami High School quintet. As a home game, the Miami team had the gymnasium filled with rabid rooters but few Lauderdaleans accompanied the team into the enemy's lair. As the *Sentinel* reporter stated in almost ecstatic language, the "Ft.L." team pulled the upset of the season. "Time and time again," gloated the newsmen, "the experienced Magic City representatives were simply bewildered by the rapid fire team work and passing of the Fort Lauderdale players, and the inability of our forwards to locate the strange baskets was all that prevented a runaway score," and, he added, the "Ft. L." players were "... a revolution to the local rooters as well as to Coach Helmenway's team." Gordon, center, led scoring with four field goals, while Crim as right forward sank three goals. The reporter continued, "The guarding of J. Davis and Ochs was of the suffocating variety, the Miami forwards scoring only four field goals," and Davis had to guard against a Miami school which fielded two full teams. After Fort Lauderdale's 23 to 17 victory in its initial basketball game, and that over a disdainful Miami team, the *Sentinel* reporter, noting the generosity of Lauderdaleans in donating their fine cars for the transportation of the baseball team, threw out the query, "why not the same accommodations for our basketball team?"²⁴

As if the Lauderdale team had not pulled off surprise enough in defeating her bitter rivals in Miami, on December 30th, the "Ft.L." basketball team pulled the upset of the season statewide when on the floor of the Miami High School it defeated Jacksonville's Duval High School which had held the championship of Florida for the past three years. Unable to play this premier team in Fort Lauderdale because it had no facilities worthy of the name, the doughty Lauderdaleans traveled to the

home of their arch foes and put on quite a show. As the same *Sentinel* reporter of the Miami contest proudly broadcast, this victory over the championship team from Florida's largest city gained for the locals statewide recognition. The Lauderdale juggernaut walloped the West Palm Beach High School quintet on January 8, 1915, on the latter's home court 20 to 19, in "One of the liveliest scraps ever seen on the East Coast, as Gordon sunk a controversial basket." The "Ft.L." team continued a very successful season by winning by the score of 19 to 10 over the Davie town team on January 22nd in the first game of basketball ever played in the Everglades, and on January 29th in a return match the local team played its first home game of basketball ever in the specially arranged second floor of Baker's Hall located on South Andrews, the scene of high school basketball for some time to come. In one of the last games of the season, the Miami team gained a measure of revenge by defeating the local team 25 to 11, but the ubiquitous *Sentinel* reporter had an excuse for the humiliation, for in his words, the local team suffered "an off night." As usual Gordon starred for the New River team. The season, however, ended on a jubilant note as the Lauderdaleans defeated the West Palm Beach High School 44 to 8, in Baker's Hall and many beside local rooters declared that the "Ft.L." team was "the best on the East Coast."²⁵

TRACK TAKES THE LEAD IN ATHLETICS

As the new semester began in February 1915, so did the construction of the new Fort Lauderdale school building, the home of the "grades" and the high school. On February 15th the Biscayne Construction Company of Miami with its low bid of \$45,560 broke ground for a new school building to rival that of the Miami High School and a building later proclaimed by Governor Park Trammell at the dedication on September 16, 1915, as one of the finest school structures in the State of Florida. With the "extras," such as furnishings, land, equipment and a mammoth stage curtain in the auditorium, the new school plant represented an investment of approximately \$86,000, about \$16,000 more than the Miami High School building had cost in 1912. As construction swung into action, Principal Rickards released the first semester grade averages. The grade averages were close and seemed to many to be unduly high, for beginning with the senior class and continuing through the freshman class, the grade averages were 87%, 89%, 85%, and 86% respectively, a fine

showing which, however might be attributed to the high quality of the students rather than exceptionally high grading of the faculty. Of the 374 students enrolled in grades one through twelve, forty-seven were high school students as the second semester commenced. At this juncture Professor Rickards and his staff instituted a student government in which the school's athletes participated on a large scale. Concurrent with the beginning of the new semester Coach Wright issued a call for trackmen to begin practice and he announced that if the team did well in the Dade County Track Meet to be held in Miami near the end of February, the school would send representatives for the first time to the State Track Meet to be held in Gainesville. As the boys ended the basketball season and began track the girls' basketball team swung into action as it played the Stetson Univer-

sity girls' team on February 27th. But before the end of the school year Wright seems to have fallen into official disfavor, although the record is not clear in this matter.²⁶

Beginning with the February 1915 track meet, the Fort Lauderdale and Miami track teams competed for the R.[Robert] E. Hall trophy, a shield-cup which would become the permanent possession of the school which first won three meets. The meet was held in conjunction with the Eighteenth Annual Dade County Fair and Dade County school Superintendent Hall displayed his magnanimity by appointing Principal Rickards as the official scorer for the meet held on the grounds of Flagler's Royal Palm Hotel located near Biscayne Bay. The "Ft. L." team shocked the thousands of Miamians who witnessed the events, but they delighted the Lauderdaleans who visited the fair, as they handily

won the meet by the score of 53 to 37. Even before the meet Watt Gordon had become recognized far and wide as the finest Fort Lauderdale High School athlete and he enhanced his reputation by winning the 100 yard dash (11.3), the shot put (33.6), the mile run (?), 50 yard dash (?), and the running broad jump (18: 2.5), and, in addition, he performed as the anchor man on the mile relay, four men to a team, won by the Fort Lauderdale boys (4: 31.8). With five first places Gordon outscored all his own teammates combined and very nearly single-handedly defeated Miami. This amazing performance simply augmented the fame of the slender and handsome Gordon. Gordon's teammates who finished either first, second or third in one or more events were: John Davis, Fred Bloesch, Will Baker, Keith Brown, Walter Brock, Charles Crim and Raymond Russell. Shortly after the meet Assist-



Fort Lauderdale High School 1915 track team with the R.E. Hall shield and cup. Standing (left to right): Glenn Fahrion, Steve Calder, Page Porter, Lawrence Rickard, Walter Brock, Cyril Mitchell. Seated: Watt

Gordon, Art Anderson, unidentified, Coach Ernst Bratzel, Bill Baker. Seated on the floor: Fred Bloesch, Ed Viele. (Photo courtesy of Walter Brock.)

ant Track Coach Paul Weiner made the announcement everyone had eagerly awaited. To hardly anyone's surprise he made it known that Fort Lauderdale High School would for the first time send a contingent of track men to the State Track Meet at Gainesville and that they would go with higher hopes. For the trip Weiner bought a new Model T Ford car and his trackmen anticipated crowded trip conditions with a coach and four student athletes piled into the coach's "Ford fliver."²⁷

At the University of Florida track field on April 2-3, 1915, over one hundred Florida athletes competed for honors. All the high-scoring teams came from schools within seventy-five miles of Gainesville but the Fort Lauderdale team at the close of the meet received special recognition from university President A. A. Murphree for having traveled more than one hundred miles farther than any other team. Lauderdale did fairly well among the more than twenty-five schools which competed as it won fourth place in more than one-half of the events. Gordon showed his usual good form in the mile, finishing among the first four men out of a field of forty. John Davis won similar honors in the shot put and running broad jump. In the dashes "Watty" and Charles Crim won fourth places and Davis and Crim won fourth and fifth places in the low hurdles. In the stirring half mile relay the boys ran in the following order: Brock, Crim, Davis and Gordon. Under the eagle eyes of Coach Weiner and Principal Rickards, who was in north Florida for a meeting of school principals, "... Gordon created a sensation on the field by gaining almost 70 yards in a distance of 220 yards." Friday night, Brock, a star pupil in Rickards' Effective Speaking Class, came within an ace of winning first place in the Declamation Contest before a large audience. He, however, finished fourth behind the Gainesville, Daytona and Lake Butler boys. After the contest the chairman of the panel of judges stated that except that Brock forgot one sentence, "... he showed the best work of the contest." Little Brooksville on the Gulf coast won the track meet, but as a reporter of the *Sentinel* correctly stated, in their first state meet "Without a question the [Fort Lauderdale] boys put their hometown on the map."²⁸

Simultaneously, Fort Lauderdale sought to shed its "little town" image. The town council determined to ask the state legislature to reincorporate the town and to charter it as a city, but at the same time the powerful Board of Trade and the council vigorously opposed a suggestion to drop the

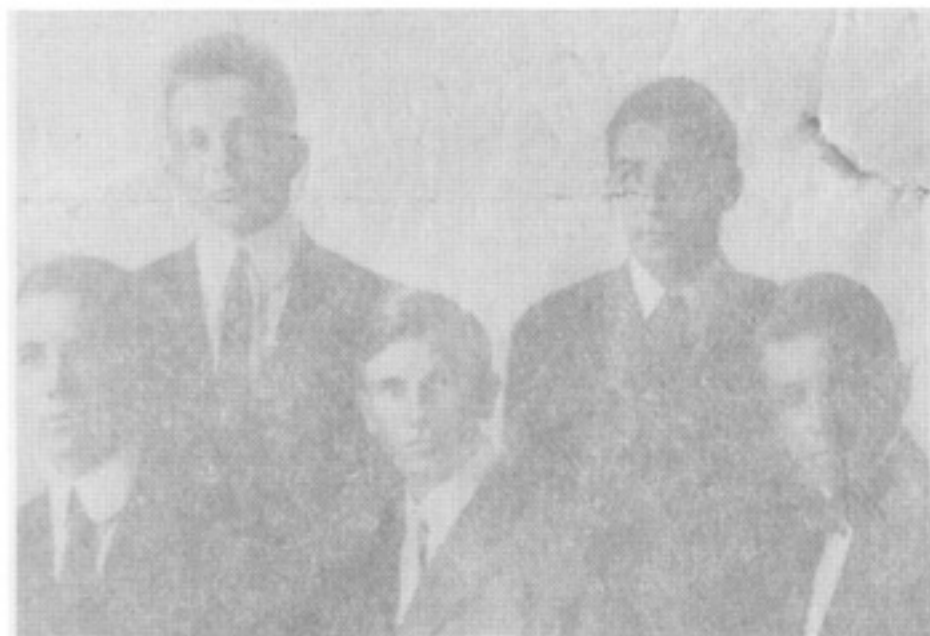
"Fort" from the name of the aspiring town.²⁹

In 1987, Walter Brock recalled the perils of travel encountered by the Fort Lauderdale track team on its return trip. Seventy-two years after the event, Brock remembered that Coach Weiner and trackmen Gordon, Brock, Crim and Davis left Gainesville Sunday morning at 8:00 o'clock and arrived at Palatka, a fifty mile ride, at 4:00 p.m., after experiencing ten flat tires on some rugged roads. Twenty-one more miles and they reached Crescent City where they holed up for the night. On Monday they made it to Daytona where they found that the crank shaft bearings were loose and it took Weiner and Crim the balance of the day to tighten them. Gordon, Brock and Davis meantime spent a lot of time at the Western Union office where reports were coming in about the Jack Johnson-Jess Willard prize fight taking place in Havana, Cuba. After spending the night at Daytona, the weary travelers headed for Fort Pierce which they made at sundown. Leaving Fort Pierce in the dark the coach and team traveled down the county road which a few months later authorities designated the "Dixie Highway." They made the last ninety-eight miles to Brock's home in Progresso in eight hours. Between four and five a.m. Brock hit the sack dead tired. Even after the fancy designation as part of a crude road that extended from Chicago to Miami, the "Dixie" hardly furnished better accommodations to future Fort Lauderdale track teams

which braved the trip to Gainesville each spring hunting fame and glory.³⁰

NEW GRADUATES, A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING, AND A NEW COUNTY

With the exception of Raymond Russell all five of the Fort Lauderdale High School 1915 graduates played on the 1914-1915 baseball team. The Davis brothers formed the battery, with John pitching and Martin behind the plate. Gordon held forth at first base, Crim at second, Lawrence Rickard at shortstop, R. Shull at third, Glen Fahrion played left field, Herman Gebert centerfield and Brock right field. During Commencement Week when Joyce Parker reigned as May Queen, the baseball team engaged in a unique game which pitted the high school team against a team composed of the ministers of the gospel in Fort Lauderdale, all of whom were young and most of whom had had some baseball experience above the sandlot level. Not only was the game unique because it featured church ministers but also because Seminole Chief Tony Tommie hurled for the high school team. After much furor which was settled at the state level Tommie had been admitted to the first grade of the public school early in the year even though he was seventeen years old and a large young man. The conditions under which he desegregated the school permitted him to advance as rapidly as his assiduity in study permitted and, combined with special



Fort Lauderdale High School's first graduating class, 1915. Back row: Martin R. Davis, Dale Redman. Front row: Charles R. Crim, Raymond Russell, John E. Davis.

instruction by his teachers, within several months he had advanced to the third grade. With Tony on the mound the high school team defeated the ministers by a score of 12 to 9, although the *Sentinel* noted that with practice the ministers would give any amateur team "a run for its money."³¹

At the Commencement held on May 21st, the five graduates debated the proposition: "Resolved, that capital punishment should be abolished." Charles Crim and Dale Redman took the affirmative and Martin Davis and Raymond Russell took the negative position, while John Davis served as the "Presiding Officer." The judges accorded the negative position the victory, but only after a spirited debate which had produced good points for both positions. After the debate from the platform which stood on the north end of the "Open Air Amphitheatre" constructed between the east end of the new school building and "Stranahan Park," Principal Rickards moved to the dias and presented the diplomas and then proceeded to give a stirring address in which he did not fail to mention that Miami High School with a lengthy tradition, and a school serving a large city, had only graduated seventeen seniors in 1915. He recounted the progress that the Fort Lauderdale school had made during the last two years of his principalship. In response to what proved to be a prescient evaluation the *Sentinel* commented upon Rickards' contribution to the school.

Probably the most helpful element that can be injected into the life of a school is the school spirit. That something makes the student proud of his school, makes him want to see it advance to a position among the leading schools of the state. Prof. Rickards has instilled this spirit, not only in the student body, but into the patrons as well, and from now on Ft. Lauderdale could not hold the school back if it wanted to. The citizens have the school spirit, and that spirit will not be denied.³²

With Florida Governor Park Trammell in attendance as the principal speaker, the new Fort Lauderdale school building adjacent to "Stranahan Park" was dedicated on Thursday, September 16, 1915, with cultural and civic groups present to make their contribution. In presenting a large American flag to wave over the school, Colonel Mathews, editor of the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel* and representing the Patriotic Sons of America, made a rousing speech which almost preempted that of the governor. Governor Trammell followed Mathews and he admonished the pupils present "... to

make preparations now to take advantage of the rapid progress of your surroundings. Opportunities, when passed by, may not be seen again." The day's activities climaxed with a variety show held in the new, spacious school auditorium, a building which could seat approximately one-half of Fort Lauderdale's 1,870 inhabitants, an auditorium which, despite its proneness to flooding during heavy rains, would thereafter be used to hold school sports rallies preparatory to the school's athletic teams taking the field to uphold the honor and fame of the school and to gain new laurels.

On October 1, 1915, only two weeks after the school building dedication, Broward County came into existence as the fifty-first county in the state. The legislature created Broward County from the southern end of Palm Beach County and the northern portion of Dade County. The new county stretched from the Hillsboro Canal to Snake Creek and included Deerfield and Pompano which had been in Palm Beach County since its creation in 1909. Formerly a few high school students from Dania and Hallandale attended the Miami High School. Now all the students from grades nine through twelve in Broward County would attend the Fort Lauderdale High School, an arrangement which prevailed until Dania began a high school with the addition of the tenth grade in the fall of 1920. The 4,763 people of the new county elected James M. Holding of Dania as the superintendent of the county schools, and Holding, together with the school board and the elected trustees of each school, guided the destiny of the county schools. As a token of a new beginning, when the

Fort Lauderdale school opened for the 1915-1916 school year, and after the school building dedication, the pupils marched in files, led by the teachers and a band from the old school building located south of the New River to the new one sited north of the river. The Board of County Commissioners of the new county purchased the old school building for the county courthouse and they hired J.K. Gordon, the father of Watt, to be the building custodian.³⁴

INNOVATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS, 1915-16

Innovations and achievements marked the school year 1915-1916, an outstanding year for the school, the track team, and above all a significant period for Watt Gordon. Under the editorship of student Wade Morrow the school first published "The High School Sentinel," which ran as a feature column in the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*. Ebullient Professor Rickards expanded the fare of his Effective Speaking Class to include regular debates on such topics as: "Resolved, that motorcycles are more effective than submarines," and this came after Gordon, Edward Viele, Walter Brock and Steve Calder had had motorcycle accidents in which each had received black eyes and an assortment of bruises. Viele and Morrow were chosen as "Yell Leaders" because they "... had voices like fog horns." The Domestic Science Class began to cook foods and for a small fee served them as lunches to the students on selected days, an innovation which could be called the beginning of the school cafeteria. Reflecting on the growing

Evening Program Dedication Day Fort Lauderdale Public School Building

September 16th, 1915

Program

Overture—"Tannhauser".....Mrs. Hall's Orchestra
Solo—Selected.....Mrs. W. H. Marshall
Reading.....Miss Surbey
Violin Solo—"Fantasia de Concert"—Faust—
.....Mrs. Hall
Chorus—"Anchored".....High School
Solo—Selected.....Mrs. H. G. Wheeler
Cantata—"The Village Blacksmith"—accompanied
by Miss E. Kraft, pianist, and Mrs. Hall's
Orchestra.

Dedication program of the new Fort Lauderdale school building.

popularity of sports, athletes were elevated to officership in each of the high school classes: Lawrence Rickard, Secretary of the Senior Class; Walter Brock, Vice-President of the Junior Class; Herman Gebert, Secretary of the Sophomore Class and Ralph McAlpin, Recording Major of the Freshman Class. The climax of the early part of the school year came on November 30th, when school authorities received word from the State Inspector of High Schools for Florida that the Fort Lauderdale school had been placed on the "accredited list" which signified that any of the school's graduates could matriculate at any college or university in the United States without taking an entrance examination. In joyful celebration of this good news, the students formed a "snake" which wound all around downtown Fort Lauderdale and ended back at the school where "A big bonfire celebration was held at the Ball Park, speeches, yells and songs were in order." Seemingly, the celebration at the Stranahan Ball Park was as much for the November 26th basketball game with the Miami High School as for accreditation. For in this game at the Miami School the Lauderdale fans came alive and "did more yelling in 5 minutes than Miami did in the entire game," even though they cheered in a valiant but losing cause, for Miami won in overtime 21 to 20. Nevertheless, Editor Morrow in summing up the events of the first three months of the school year declared "Fort Lauderdale now has a high school which is on a par with the high schools of the largest cities. . . ."³⁵

After his surprise, and to some townspeople outrageous, marriage to eleventh grader Ruth M. Crouch in June 1915, Coach Wright left to become principal of the Larkin School located near Redlands some twenty miles south of Miami. Coach David E. Barnett of Cash, South Carolina, succeeded him and he found himself in the unlikely position of having to share baseball and track coaching duties with "Cap" Reed, rancher and realtor, who was elected mayor of Fort Lauderdale in March 1916, the first of many mayoral stints. After Fort Lauderdale High School lost to the Miami High School basketball team in November 1915, workmen completed the gymnasium located at Stranahan Park, whereupon the team moved the location of its home games from Baker's Hall to the gymnasium which could accommodate about 400 spectators. Beginning with a resounding victory over the Key West High School in the new gym, the Fort Lauderdale basketball team went on to have a very successful season. Meantime, a crack

city basketball team played and defeated teams from other cities and colleges. Watt Gordon and Lloyd Parker of the high school team also starred for the city team as did six-foot plus Coach Barnett. So often did the high school and city team defeat the Miami school and city teams, sarcastic quips were the order of the day in Fort Lauderdale. For example, when the Boston Braves of the National Baseball League trained in Miami in the spring of 1916, the Fort Lauderdale city team played them in Miami and lost by the score of 7 to 0. "Cap" Reed made the pejorative remark: "At last Miami has a baseball club that can beat Fort Lauderdale." With Assistant Principal Ernst Bratzel, who doubled as the minister of the local German Evangelical Church, lending a hand to coaches Barnett and Reed in the instruction of the track team, the Fort Lauderdale boys looked forward to playing Miami High School in the spring of 1916, for another "leg" on the shield cup donated by Dade County Superintendent R.E. Hall.³⁶

With a mordant animosity now clouding the relations between Fort Lauderdale and Miami teams, the Miami newspapers invoked a moratorium on reporting on sports events between the teams of the two cities. This astonishing display of peevish moroseness extended even to S. Bobo Dean, publisher of the widely respected *The Miami Metropolis*, otherwise a staunch friend of Fort Lauderdale. Consequently, an iron curtain descended on the Miami newspapers when the New River track team contested with the Miami team for the coveted R.E. Hall trophy. Competition began on Saturday, March 25th, with the Fort Lauderdale rooters expecting a victory so they could exult over their foe, or as the *Miami Herald* said in another connection that nothing pleased Fort Lauderdaleians more than to be able to exclaim "We've beaten Miami!" Although Gordon and company had performed valiantly up to the last event, the Miami team held the lead 41 to 40 when the mile relay began. With Gordon anchoring the relays, the Fort Lauderdale team won the event and the meet by the score of 45 to 41. From the newspaper accounts of the meet it is not possible to determine individual performances in the track meet. As remarked above, the Miami papers had instituted a sports blackout and for some inexplicable reason the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel* followed suit in its regular columns. Wade Morrow, however, carried a short notice of it in his *Sentinel* column as he spent his time exulting instead of reporting. He rubbed salt into Miami wounds as he smugly declared: "Miami seemed to

feel confident that it would be an easy matter to beat our boys, but after the meet was over she sang her song in a different key." Winning over Miami always boosted the self esteem of all Lauderdaleians.³⁷

The New River school lofted high hopes of winning the State Track Meet held in Gainesville on March 31 and April 1. In a disappointing performance, however, the track team only finished fourth in a field of twenty, scoring a total of eleven points, and all of these by Gordon. The latter particularly starred in the 880 yard dash which he won handily, defeating a runner from Plant City whom all the sports experts had already conceded had the race locked up. While Edward Viele, Cyril Mitchell, Fred Blosch, and Walter Brock did their best at the meet to aid Gordon, their best failed and in doing so, they sorely disappointed the Lauderdale rooters. Gordon, on the other hand, scored the second highest number of points of any other participant, finishing first in the 880 yard dash, second in the shot put and third in the 200 yard dash. The loss, however, hardly dampened the school spirit. Following the team's return from Gainesville "The Lauderdale High School Girls" royally feted the track team members at a Friday evening party. Particularly, did they fare well at the hands of the ten senior class girls whose fellow seniors were two boys, Wade Morrow and Lawrence Rickard, the first the editor of "The High School Sentinel," the other a young man whose chief claim to fame came as manager of the various athletic teams and as nephew of Principal Rickards. At the party, the girls also ribbed the stalwart Gordon for having been elected president of the literate Demosthenes Club, a position and club not always associated with star athletes.³⁸

At the Commencement Exercise held on June 2nd, all of the dozen graduates played a part. But two seniors played stellar roles in literary composition and delivery. Enid Heine, the senior girl who wrote the class poem, at the Commencement brought cheers and laughter with her delivery of it, for she spoke in the highly-imaged poem of "Life with joy-filled rosy palms" leading seniors into "Eleusinian" fields. Factual Wade Morrow, however, declaimed upon material he had already carried in his newspaper column. He hailed Gordon as the second greatest athlete in Florida for the eleven points he had scored in Gainesville and predicted a bright future for him. In addition, Morrow paid a tribute to Principal James S. Rickards who was leaving the Fort Lauderdale School after his defeat in

Annual Track Meet

FT. LAUDERDALE HIGH SCHOOL vs. MIAMI HIGH SCHOOL

March 25, 1916, at 10 A. M.

ORDER OF EVENTS

	POINTS	
	L.	M.
1.—BROAD JUMP.		
Won by <u>Gordon 2nd Calkins 3rd Boes</u>	5	4
Distance <u>18 ft 11 in.</u>		
2.—100-YARD DASH.		
Won by <u>Babcock 2nd Gordon 3rd Dunworth</u>	3	6
Time <u>11 seconds</u>		
3.—MILE RUN.		
Won by <u>Albion 2nd Porter 3rd Bratley</u>	3	6
Time <u>5 min 25 1/2 sec.</u>		
4.—440-YARD DASH.		
Won by <u>Gordon 2nd Dunworth 3rd McAlpin</u>	5	4
Time <u>58 seconds</u>		
5.—SHOT PUT.		
Won by <u>Gordon 2nd Shaw 3rd Pfeiffer</u>	5	4
Distance <u>36 ft 2 in</u>		

ORDER OF EVENTS—Continued

	POINTS	
	L.	M.
6.—220-YARD HURDLES.		
Won by <u>Babcock 2nd Lyle 3rd Mitchell</u>	4	5
Time <u>31 sec.</u>		
7.—880-YARD DASH.		
Won by <u>Gordon 2nd Lyle 3rd Bratley</u>	5	4
Time <u>2:24 1/2 sec.</u>		
8.—HIGH JUMP.		
Won by <u>Blush 2nd Lyle 3rd McAlpin</u>	5	4
Height <u>4 ft 11 inches</u>		
9.—220-YARD DASH.		
Won by <u>Gordon 2nd Babcock 3rd Dunworth</u>	5	4
Time <u>25 1/2 sec.</u>		
10.—RELAY (mile)		
Won by <u>Anderson 2nd Lyle 3rd Gordon 4th Mitchell</u>	5	

ENTRIES

Ft. Lauderdale High School		Miami High School	
1. Mitchell ✓	21. Blush ✓	2. Albury	28. Hiers
3. Gordon ✓	23. Howard, F	4. Babcock ✓	30. Jones, A
5. Richards	25. Hill	6. Bom ✓	32. McClure ✓
7. Redman	27. Howard, J	8. Bratley ✓	34. Northwood
9. Heine	29. Fahrion ✓	10. Buck	36. O'Brien ✓
11. Austin	31. Caulder ✓	12. Calkins ✓	38. Pfeiffer ✓
13. Baker ✓	33. Gabrielson	14. Campbell	40. Schneidman ✓
15. Howard, S	35. Brock ✓	16. Cohen	42. Sewell ✓
17. McAlpin ✓	37. Velle ✓	18. Cox	44. Sherman
19. Porter ✓		20. Dunworth ✓	46. Shall ✓
		22. Freeman	48. Price
		24. Groves	50. Theed
		26. Heck	

LABOR JOURNAL JOB PRINT



Above is the program of the 1916 Fort Lauderdale-Miami dual high school track meet. To the left are a group of Fort Lauderdale High School trackmen (from left to right): Glenn Fahrion, Ralph McAlpin, Fred Blossch, Watt Gordon, Bill Baker, Page Porter. (Photo courtesy of Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.)

the race for the County Superintendent position, proclaiming Rickards had led the school on the path of greatness from which it could not be derailed.³⁹

FLORIDA'S TRACK CHAMPIONS

Rickards' replacement, Professor Horace Gillespie, hailed from Baltimore, Maryland, where he had received his master's degree, and together with County Superintendent James M. Holding, he assembled a high school staff all of whose members held at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. But interestingly enough, two 1916 Fort Lauderdale High School graduates taught in the elementary grades after having attended a normal school session at the Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee. There may have been some connection between their attendance at the college where Gillespie taught in the normal school and their obtaining a teaching position at their alma mater. Thus, Joyce Parker and Eleanor Boyd became the first Fort Lauderdale High School graduates to return to teach in the city's school where they also inculcated the school spirit. Propelled by the success of its athletic teams for several years past, a momentum for sports competition charged the city and the school, and Professor Gillespie simply fell in with the momentum and promoted school athletics. As a consequence, the first girls and boys athletic associations were formed. Olive Savage, a star basketball player, was elected president of the first association and Watt Gordon, the peerless local athlete, became president of the second. In addition Walter Brock was chosen vice president and Gordon treasurer of the senior class whose ten girls and seven boys selected purple and gold as the class colors. With eighty-eight students enrolled in high school on opening day, and with over 400 pupils entering the lower grade several weeks later, the Fort Lauderdale school within several weeks of opening went over the 500 student mark for the first time in its history.⁴⁰

In order to promote high school athletics for the school year 1916-1917, assistant principal and athletic advisor Ernst Bratzel divided the school into two athletic divisions, the "blues" and the "whites." Gordon and Darrell Smith captained the boys and their counterparts for the girls were Olive Savage and Gertrude Mason. In the first encounter of continuing competition between the two colors, the blues beat the whites 157 to 71. In interscholastic competition the high school boys basketball team had a reasonably good

year, while the distaff side did not fare so well. Because track competition overshadowed all other high school engagements, Fort Lauderdale looked forward to the March 7th South Florida Interscholastic Track Meet at West Palm Beach and to the continuing struggle with the Miami High School on March 24. In the first south Florida meet at West Palm Beach the Lauderdaleians decisively triumphed over four other high schools. Gordon performed brilliantly with first places in the 100 and 200 yard dashes, the half mile jump and the running broad jump, besides anchoring the victorious half mile relay team. For his 21 points, the highest individual score, Gordon was voted the outstanding performer in the track meet. Some of his teammates also performed remarkably, particularly Darrell Smith, who scored 11.5 points and Cyril Mitchell who closely followed him with 11 points. Besides these three, other Lauderdaleians who won first places were Fred Blosch and Glen Fahrion, the first in the discus throw and the second in the shot put. With 66.5 points Fort Lauderdale won going away for the New River team rolled up more points than the other teams combined. Miami came in second with 26.5 points, thereby, putting plenty of distance between itself and West Palm Beach with 7 points, Fort Pierce with 4 and Ojus High School with just 3 points.⁴¹

On March 24, 1917, the annual track meet between the Fort Lauderdale High School and the Miami High School was held on the grounds of the latter school, the first time the event was not held at the Royal Palm Park located on the grounds of Miami's largest hotel. The *Sentinel* saw the switch in sites significant for the school grounds was a location "... clear away from the resorts of the Tourists where such events have previously been held." The *Sentinel* continued: "The general feeling seemed to be to give this meet as little publicity as possible..." particularly since the drubbing Miami had recently taken at West Palm Beach. In several ways the event proved to be one-sided for the Miami team could not measure up to the quality of the New River trackmen, nor could their boosters match those from Fort Lauderdale. From the outset the Fort Lauderdale trackmen noted the "sulkiness" of some of the Miami people. Three fourths of the spectators hailed from Fort Lauderdale and they shouted their heads off as their team early forged ahead. Even though this was one of the biggest athletic events of the year in south Florida, the *Sentinel* reporter noticed the anomaly: "Neither of the Miami papers reported one word

of the result of the meet and the great bulk of people of that city who are big enough and broad enough to enjoy clean sport whether their home team wins or loses, have been entirely deprived of the report of these contests [West Palm Beach and Miami]."⁴²

The coarseness of the high school grounds did not permit as high distances nor as low times as would otherwise have been the rule, but for the New River gladiators a "heavy" ground presented no impediment to an overwhelming victory. The charged athletes of Coaches Reed and Bratzel rolled to an easy 57 to 24 victory, and in the nine events contested, Fort Lauderdale won them all and in addition it won four second places and three third places. As usual when the riverine team competed, Gordon put on a dazzling performance as he won four first places and anchored the winning half-mile relay. His winning times for the three victories in the 120, 440 and 880 yard dashes clocked at 25.4 seconds, 60.2 seconds and 2 minutes and 22.2 seconds, respectively. Not content with this scintillating outing, he also won the running broad jump with a leap of 19 feet and 2.2 inches. His teammates performed splendidly in running up the lop-sided score. Cyril Mitchell, Jennings Howard, Fred Blosch and Darrell Smith won first places in the 220 yard dash, the mile run, the shot put and the high jump, posting marks of 29.2 seconds, 5 minutes 48.8 seconds, 18 feet and 4.5 inches and 4 feet and 11 inches respectively. In a *Sentinel* editorial Colonel Mathews wondered out loud as to the reason for the news blackout on the part of the Miami papers. He asserted the magnanimity of his own paper in reporting Miami affairs. As the colonel would have it, the *Fort Lauderdale Herald* and his own *Sentinel* proudly



Fort Lauderdale High School alumni at a 1985 reunion (left to right): Ernestine Freiday, Class of 1919; Walter Brock, Class of 1917; Thelma Marshall Norton, Class of 1917.

praised Miami citizens when the opportunity arose, yet Miamians always seemed anxious to monopolize everything. "When they have a banquet they manage to put up their home men to speak who just forget to mention Fort Lauderdale or West Palm Beach . . . [but] Our power to be at Miami in the games indicates a stability that will keep us growing, and we will arrive."⁴³

In decisively winning the track meet Fort Lauderdale won the second leg on the "R. E. Hall trophy," thus needing only one more victory to permanently retire the coveted cup shield. Proud school officials displayed in the window of Beck's Drug Store all the team's cups and medals won in the West Palm Beach and Miami track meets, including the cups presented to Watt Gordon for garnering the accolade of the best athlete in both meets. Fort Lauderdaleians, bursting with pride, did not adhere to the time-tested adage not to praise themselves. In their chest-thumping they broadcast for all to hear their lusty song that the Fort Lauderdale teams in all sports could not be bested in all south Florida.⁴⁴

Coach Reed took Watt Gordon, Fred Blossch, Jennings Howard, Darrell Smith, Cyril Mitchell and Glen Fahrion to the state track meet at Gainesville on Thursday, April 6, the same day that the United States entered World War I against the central powers led by Germany, an event which radically altered the lives of many of the athletes. They were met at the railroad station by coaches Paul Weiner and Ray L. Hamon, formerly coaches of the Fort Lauderdale athletic teams but now enrolled at the University of Florida, and Hamon also served as the coach of the Gainesville High School track team. They courteously showed the Lauderdaleians to the

lodging places assigned to them at the university. In a message which took the Fort Lauderdale team by surprise, coach and teacher Helmenway of the Miami High School wished the Lauderdaleians well and expressed the hope that they would win the State Track Meet.⁴⁵

The complexity of the annual State High School Track Meet at Gainesville befuddled most spectators what with preliminaries occurring simultaneously as the semi-finals and in some cases simultaneous with the finals. Consequently, coaches had to make quick and tactical decisions as to who would enter an event and at what stage; whether to pull their man after he had not done well in the semi-finals; what men to assign as pacers and whether they had men enough to compete in certain events or whether to pass up an event and hope that their man could qualify in another event where he might have a better chance of winning. Favorite Duval High School of Jacksonville had brought eighteen contestants, double the number of some other teams, and in the case of Fort Lauderdale exactly three times the number of athletes. Because of the paucity of their numbers, each of the Lauderdaleians had to compete in more than one event and this in addition to performing in the preliminaries and semi-finals, whereas Duval High School with its eighteen athletes had fresh men to compete all along the line. For exam-

ple, the Fort Lauderdale team withdrew from the high hurdles to husband its members for the other races, and in the high jump Blossch was disqualified and Howard was still jumping when Coach Reed withdrew him to enter him in the half mile run then getting underway. Reed indeed had much maneuvering to do to place his athletes in events in which they had the best opportunity to win or to place.⁴⁶

Fort Lauderdale's valiant six trackmen put on a stunning performance in the 1917 State Track Meet, and put their little town of less than 2,000 inhabitants on Florida's sport map. Among the several heroics which catapulted Fort Lauderdale to the front none stood out more than did Gordon's half mile run in which he broke his own state record by one-fifth of a second; Smith's setting of a state record with a high jump of five feet six inches; and Howard's winning the mile run as he pulled away from a field of twenty-two, a feat which lowered the state record by one and one-fifth seconds. Gordon also won the 440 yard dash and placed in several other events, while Blossch and Fahrion also placed in several events. As a consequence of their stellar show, Fort Lauderdale won their first state championship by defeating Duval High School by the score of 33 to 27. Solee of Duval garnered the most points but he barely nosed out Gordon who finished second with twelve points, only one point behind Solee. In its triumph, Fort Lauderdale became the first track team from the east coast to win the state championship and the second time that Gordon had been proclaimed the second best athlete in Florida.⁴⁷

The conquering heroes returned to



Snapshots of Fort Lauderdale High School athletes at a 1917 track meet: Cyril Mitchell (left), Watt Gordon (center), Jennings Howard (right). The entire 1917 team is pictured on the front cover of this issue.

Fort Lauderdale on Sunday morning and a host of Fort Lauderdaleians met them at the railroad station and the proud townspeople cheered the team as it dismounted from the train dressed in their best and wearing their newly won medals. Coach Reed carried the big cup emblematic of the state championship and as a famed raconteur the mayor regaled the assembled throng with an account of the heroics of the Fort Lauderdale boys. Monday turned into a gala day as the students arrived at the school early to begin the celebration of their state supremacy. From there the students paraded all around the town in a triumphal snake dance which they festooned with school yells. Upon their return to the school auditorium the entire student body joined "in a athletic jubilee" unrivalled in the school's history. From the stage Mayor/Coach Reed related some details of the state victory, as did Gordon and his five compatriots. In particular, Mayor Reed hailed Gordon for his superb performance. Little in the way of scholastics occupied the school day. Then early in the evening the entire student body participated in a bonfire held in Stranahan Park. Later in the evening the local school trustees treated the track team and their guests to an eight-course banquet held in the school laboratory. Former Professor James S. Rickards acted as the toastmaster at the meal prepared and served by the twenty young ladies who comprised the Domestic Science Class taught by Miss Myra McIlvaine. On display for the occasion were the team trophies, consisting of a shield, nine large cups and more than thirty medals, all won by the 1917 track team.⁴⁸

On April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War I. Within ten days all the boys in the senior class had enlisted in the military service, not waiting for the draft. Some went immediately into active service, while others waited for the armed services to assign them a place in their establishment. The five senior boys had engaged in athletic competition and even though they did not finish out the school year the school board awarded them diplomas. Edward Viele, Cyril Mitchell and Darrell Smith went into the United States Navy, Jennings Howard joined the Coast Guard and Watt Gordon volunteered for the army and later Gordon served with the fledgling army air force at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in his native state. Anxious to serve as a flyer, Gordon eventually volunteered for the school for aviators.⁴⁹

At the Commencement Program for the Fort Lauderdale High School Class of 1917, held in the spacious auditorium on June 1st, Class Historian Watt

Gordon, only one of the two senior members who had entered the class four years previously, gave an interesting account of the accomplishments and the ups and downs of the class. Thelma Marshall, who edited the "High School Sentinel" for 1916-1917, gave the class oration, while fourteen year old Valedictorian Irene Jones gave a pleasing speech and the high school chorus ended the commencement by leading the students in the singing of the school's "Alma Mater." Shortly thereafter Gordon left to enter the military and with his departure not a senior class member of the outstanding track team of 1917 remained in Fort Lauderdale.⁵⁰

ORIGIN OF THE FLYING L SYMBOL

The school board engaged Reverend Ernst Bratzel to succeed Professor Gillespie as principal for the 1917-1918 school year, the first year that Fort Lauderdale and the other public schools in Florida used uniform textbooks. The board also hired Ray L. Hamon who had previously taught at Fort Lauderdale and who had recently been the Gainesville High School track coach. Authorities assigned Hamon to teach manual training and agriculture with the provision that he might assist, if he wished, Coach Reed with the track team. Because of the energies and resources drained off by the war effort, high school athletics did not rate a high priority, except of course, track and field events. Only Glen Fahrion and Fred Bloesch of the 1916-1917 track team returned so the season's finale with Miami High School did not look promising, nor did the school's chances for the state meet hold much promise. Miami, on the other hand even though its team had been humiliated by the Lauderdaleians the previous year, had most of its team returning, so it expected much from its veteran squad.⁵¹

For the annual meet between Fort Lauderdale and Miami on March 30, 1918, the school busses and many private vehicles transported the team and rabid supporters to the Miami City Park where the meet began. And for the first time the Fort Lauderdale High School athletic competitors wore the "Flying L" emblem on the shirts of their uniforms. Although it would be several years before the high school teams would be referred to in the newspaper as the "Flying L's," the team proudly performed in Miami with their "new" symbol. It is informative and enlightening that other state high school teams generally did not sport a symbolic name nor did the newspap-

ers refer to their emblem in this era. This specifically applies to the Miami High School teams which eventually became known as the "Stingarees." Although a chapter and verse cannot at this time be cited as to the reason for the symbol, nor who devised the festooned "L" for the Fort Lauderdale High School teams, it appears significant that for the past two years Watt Gordon had been designated, at least by the local citizens and students, as the second best athlete in Florida. Without minimizing the accomplishments of his teammates, Gordon had received all the rave notices for not only his blinding speed but also for his ability to sail through the air in the running broad jump. It is possible that Coach Hamon at the last meet in Gainesville coined the symbol as he witnessed Gordon, clad in a uniform



Ivan Austin, Class of 1918, wearing the Flying L on his sweater.

which sported the "Ft. L," lead his team to the state championship. This, however, is only an informed conjecture. Be that as it may, while Gordon was a standout in basketball and baseball and, while he showed no small ability in the high jump and broad jump, his strong, lithe body cried speed the loudest when he outran the opposition. Consequently, it may have been the case that upon his graduation the "Flying L" symbol was adopted as the emblem of the Fort Lauderdale High School in commemoration of Gordon's fabled speed.⁵²

Sara Mathews, daughter of *Sentinel* publisher George G. Mathews, became the editor-in-chief of the "High School Sentinel" for 1917-1918, and she tried to "image" the riverine teams in the best possible light. Consequently, her



Scenes from the 1918 Miami track meet.
Note "Flying L" symbol on runners' shirts.

report of the meet with Miami extolled each Lauderdale athlete irrespective of his finish. Her journalistic ability, however, proved to no avail, for for the first time in three years Fort Lauderdale lost to the Miami track team and that by the fairly hefty margin of 68 to 50. Veterans Glen Fahrion and Fred Bloesch stood out for the New River team, as did newcomers Russell Redman, Arthur Hall and James Hill, the latter a real farmer from Davie. After the athletes had performed in the city park in the morning, activities moved to the grounds of the Royal Palm Hotel Park in the afternoon and the Flying L's did equally well at each location. Fahrion won first place in the 120 high hurdles and in the shot put he set a new meet record with a toss of 38 feet 7½ inches. Hill won the 220 yard dash and placed in several other events. Bloesch won the discus throw and scored points in the 880 yard dash, the high jump and shot put. Although Redman did not win any firsts, he scored a number of points. But it was "Art" Hall who became the toast of the team. He engaged in the most thrilling race of the day, even though he did no more than to finish second. Cohen, the odds-on favorite to win the mile race, had the run of his life as he barely nosed out the diminutive Hall. Thereafter Hall's teammates saw him as a worthy successor to Watt Gordon as a runner. All along the line the riverine team found competition stiff. For example, senior Ivan Austin broad

jumped 18 feet 2 inches, but this was only good for a third place finish. In defeating Fort Lauderdale, for the first time the Miami High School won a leg on the R.E. Hall cup shield trophy, thus preventing Fort Lauderdale from a third straight win which would have given the ownership to the New River school. Undaunted by the loss, irrepressible Sara Mathews consequently asserted in her column, "... with our present team there is not the slightest doubt in our minds that we will not win the meet by a brilliant victory next year."⁵³

Indicative of the aura of intellection school officials wished to surround the premier athletic contest of the year, namely the State Track Meet, was the heavy emphasis which they put upon the declamation. This oratorical exercise counted for five points in the meet and was delivered by the school representative before an audience during the meet. Thus, a spirited contest occurred in April 1918, at the Fort Lauderdale High School to select the school's declamation representative. Obviously a prime reason for winning the school's declamation was that the winner was assured of a trip to Gainesville in behalf of his school. On Tuesday afternoon, April 2, Fred Bloesch, a fine soloist who performed at the First Baptist Church and elsewhere, and Russell Redman, declaimed at the school before judges James S. Rickards, Wade Morrow and George G. Mathews. Bloesch selected "Call to

Arms," and Redman chose Tennyson's "Revenge." After much consultation the judges awarded the palm to Redman by a vote of two to one. For some undivulged reason Glen Fahrion received the nod to compete in the declamation at Gainesville, but as an alternate. At the State Track Meet Coach Reed entered Redman in the mile and the half mile contests, while he entered Fahrion in the high and low hurdles and the shot put. Unfortunately, for the Flying Ls, Redman did not even place in the declamation and neither did he nor Fahrion win a single point on the track field. As if to climax a season the school and town would like to forget, several weeks later the Fort Lauderdale schools closed early because several teachers had volunteered for war service, including Principal Bratzel. At the commencement exercises ten graduates received diplomas, including athletes Fahrion, Redman and Austin. To replace Bratzel for the last month of the shortened school term, the school board turned to Miss Myra McIlvaine, who the following year married E.E. Marshall and she proved very durable since she cheered every school team till past World War II.⁵⁴

"WE'RE LOYAL TO YOU, LAUDERDALE"

To replace Bratzel, a great local favorite and a real supporter of school athletics, the school board selected Benjamin B. Lane as principal for the

1918-1919 school year. Mayor Reed continued to coach the baseball and track teams, but now he had assistance from Watt Gordon who had briefly attended Georgia Tech where he enjoyed only indifferent success in track. Gordon, who occupied an exalted position in Fort Lauderdale because of his athletic prowess, spoke to the student body assembled in the auditorium several days before the annual track meet with Miami High. In his quiet way he reminded the students, including the track team, of what was at stake in the April 4 meet which would be held for the first time locally on Stranahan Field, then being readied by its owner. The citizenry gave much credit to Frank Stranahan for he had had cinders hauled in by rail and had single-handedly constructed the track, spending in the process \$400 of his own money. Fred Blossch had been selected captain of the team and he and his athletic cohorts well knew that their school could retire the R.E. Hall trophy with a win. The volunteer city fire department watered "down" the track and field three times during the week to provide the best possible competition conditions.⁵⁵

Although the Fort Lauderdale High School team felt confident of victory over the Miami High School track team, the knowledge that it was pitting a young, inexperienced track team against a veteran team from a large high school, sobered its confidence. For except for Art Hall and Blossch all the trackmen were under sixteen years of age. Over confidence by the Flying L team did not seem to have figured in the outcome of the meet, but age and ability did. Even though Miami

crushed Fort Lauderdale by the score of 73 to 44, many contests turned into close and thrilling encounters. For example, Seminole Chief Tony Tommy, even though he eventually placed third, seemed a winner in the early going of the shot put competition and this after only two days practice. When the final tally came in Miami had won eight first places, seven seconds and five thirds against the corresponding Fort Lauderdale tally of four, four and five. The outstanding individual performer for the Flying Ls turned out to be Art Hall, who by winning the mile race in 5 minutes and 21.2 seconds clipped 3.9 seconds off the dual meet record set by O'Brien of Miami in 1916. In defeating Cohen, the outstanding miler from Miami, Hall took an early lead and never relinquished it. Captain Blossch, a large young man, also starred, for by tossing the discus 93 feet and 3 inches he broke his own dual meet mark by 1.5 inches. Blossch's size and liveness are amply revealed in a recently 'discovered' photograph showing him at this meet decked out in a uniform which has the Flying L symbol prominently displayed. Despite losing, in some measure the Lauderdale boys scored a victory. For the new, young and untried members of the track team such as Charles "Kid" Rhodes, Robert Mathews, Henry Marshall and Harry Elmo Baker gained valuable experience which within several years propelled the team into the front ranks within the state. As the athletic tradition of the school deepened so did the loyalty and fighting spirit of both the student body and the whole citizenry. Thus, blossomed the school loyalty fight song adopted in this era:

We're loyal to you Lauderdale
We're white and we're blue Lauderdale
We'll back you to stand,
'Gainst the best in the land
For we know you've got sand,
Lauderdale.

With graduating seniors like Sara Mathews, whose *Sentinel* column carried much of the sports news emanating from the school, and Pauline Ernestine Freiday, voted the wittiest, biggest flirt, the most kissable and "the most everything else," and joined by diminutives Mary Leonard and Grace Rickard, leading the singing and cheering at the athletic events, the community pride in the school in 1919 swelled and the cry rang out "Just wait 'til next year, Miami!"⁵⁶

Although Fort Lauderdale's two weekly newspapers, the *Sentinel* and the *Herald* played to the hilt each year the one or two local track meets and the State Track Meet in Gainesville, they occasionally published items about the school's basketball and baseball teams, plus intra-mural competition in the latter two sports, and after 1920, on track meets held by the grammar schools of the lower east coast of Florida. But in the spring of 1919, the papers began publishing items on a new school sport which from the first began to attract many spectators and in its first year did produce a real star. Playing on the new asphalt court located on the east side of the Broward Hotel then under construction, the high school's boys and girls tennis teams played in mid-May 1919, the first interscholastic match ever played locally but it was the second of the season for the boy's team, for the Lauderdale boy's team had already tied the West Palm Beach High School tennis team on the latter's home court. The rematch near the hotel proved such a novelty that the bleachers quickly filled and then "... a bunch of youngsters lined the porch of Hotel Broward." Fifteen year old school champion Charles "Kid" Rhodes, Jr., handily defeated ace Potter 6-2, 6-3 in the boys' singles, but the boys' doubles team from West Palm Beach defeated Stanley Howard and Robert Mathews 10-8, 6-4, and it was left for the girls' doubles team of Doris Mason and Mary Parker to win the match for Fort Lauderdale by defeating their opponents 6-4, 6-4. Miss Mason's father, minister of the local Methodist Church, South, coached the Lauderdale team.⁵⁷

By not winning the annual dual meet with the Miami High School in 1919 the Lauderdale school lost its opportunity to retire the R.E. Hall trophy, a symbol much coveted by each school. Miami's victory tied the wins at two each and set the stage for the rubber match in 1920, the winner of which



Flying L track team captain Fred Blossch in the shotput, 1919.

would not only own the trophy but the "bragging rights" which went with it. Either because of extreme pessimism over the chances of the Lauderdale team for a good showing at Gainesville or else because neither money nor cars could be obtained to transport the trackmen to Gainesville, the Fort Lauderdale High School did not send a team to the State Track Meet in 1919, for the first time since 1915. Strangely, not a word pro or con or otherwise about the State Track Meet appears in either the local *Sentinel* or *Herald*, even though the publishers of each paper had sons who starred on the Lauderdale team.⁵⁸

Two events rounded out the athletic year for 1918-1919, one sad, the other joyous. Senior James Hill who had performed brilliantly for the Lauderdale track team the previous year, while diving into the South New River Canal in Davie, struck his head against a rock and while unconscious he was taken to a hospital in Miami where he lay at death's door for months before his tragic demise. Even though he had missed many months of school during his senior year, the school board awarded him a diploma. Had he been available, possibly the track team would have fared better. On a different note, the alumni of Fort Lauderdale High School in this period began to develop and thereafter to cultivate an athletic tradition for the school. Each year, as the school year ended, the Fort Lauderdale High School Athletic Association threw a sumptuous banquet for the school's juniors and seniors. The one for 1919 occurred on May 23rd at the Gilbert Hotel dining room and about sixty high-schoolers and alumni attended and joined in the jollity of the occasion which was to "compliment" the seniors. After the eight-course dinner had been served many toasts were given and responded to. Toasts filled the air "to the seniors," "to the juniors," "to the faculty," "to the Alumni," "to the high school," "to the girls," "to the school spirit," and several others. An observer reported the toasts "... were very witty and created much amusement and good feeling among the attendants," just the results aimed for by the association. Alumnus Grace Knapp and local boat builder James Duncane provided music throughout the evening. After the banquet a short business meeting took place in which association members welcomed the seniors into their organization. After the initiation the meeting adjourned in "... the wee hours of the morning." The *Herald* reporter noted on the occasion that "The High School says 'Farewell Seniors,' the alumni says 'Welcome into our midst,' another cycle of time



Athlete James Hill's diploma, awarded to him on his deathbed in 1919.

— and the old world keeps going." Camaraderie of this nature fueled a feeling of solidarity with the exploits of the past and an anticipation of even more glorious ones for the future.⁵⁹

FRICTION OVER GRADES

For the 1919-1920 school year the school board selected M.P. Geiger as principal and he and the board had to implement the new state school compulsory attendance law which applied statewide for the first time. Geiger, an abstemious man recommended by interim County Superintendent C.E. Farrington, and who shared the latter's view that there should be no school-sponsored dances, had an impressive professional record. A graduate of Peabody College, he possessed a state certificate, was a post graduate of the University of Virginia, who for ten years had been principal of the Key West Public Schools and an educator who had just completed two years as principal of the Palatka, Florida, public school, plus service as a professor at the Florida State College for Women Normal School, Tallahassee, during the summer of 1919. A teacher with almost equal bona fides as Geiger taught English and served as the uncompensated assistant track coach. "Professor" A. L. Carlton had earned the A.B. and M.A. degrees from Mars Hill College in North Carolina and for three years he had served as a professor of English at that college. Geiger had to work with an almost completely new high school teaching

staff for only Mrs. J. S. Maxwell, Latin teacher, was a hold-over from the previous year.⁶⁰

High school athletes held many responsible positions during the 1919-1920 school year, although it is not certain whether the positions resulted from their scholastic ability. For in particular some of them had difficulty with algebra which adversely affected their athletic competition later in the year. Some had inherited problems from the previous year. For example, Boyd Anderson, president of the student council and vice-president of the senior class, until the last moment had been scheduled to graduate with the class of 1919. Recognized as the most outstanding all-around athlete in the school, Art Hall, the ace miler and star southpaw baseball pitcher, served as vice-president of the student council and president of the junior class as well as the chief executive of the Fort Lauderdale High School Athletic Association. Rolf Weidling, basketball and track star, operated as editor of the "High School Herald" column which appeared in his father's weekly *Herald* and his counterparts for the "High School Sentinel" were the attractive cheerleaders, Helen Howard and Frances Montgomery, the latter of these two tied to the *Sentinel* where her father was the chief writer for the weekly. A high scholastic achiever, Geneva Rickard, secretary treasurer of the senior class, however, did not play a conspicuous part as a participant in the athletics but she is representative of the 105 high school students who

attended athletic events and cheered for the Flying L teams. On the other end of the scholastic spectrum, Seminole Chief Tony Tommy, now twenty-one years of age, had spent the summer in Oklahoma and Colorado where he had sharpened his baseball pitching skills and now chomped at the bit for athletic action.⁶¹

The pre-season cheering prospects for an outstanding school year in 1919-1920 in athletics for the Flying Ls, almost immediately struck a sharp, bruising snag. From fifteen to twenty boys turned out for the basketball practice each day and hopes were high and preliminary plans called for the team to tour north Florida and to play five or six games with the strongest teams in the state. But as a prelude to the projected tour, the Senior-Sophomore vs. the Junior-Freshman games scheduled for October 31, was not permitted by the faculty because the athletes' grades were "down." Following severe criticism of the faculty's action by the student body, the faculty relented and three days later the game was played at the "school pavillion." With a large crowd in attendance the Junior-Freshman basketball team swept to a 56 to 17 victory, an indication the best players were in the lower grades. Whether the basketball team made the tour remains moot since neither local paper carried a word thereafter about the trip to north Florida.⁶²

With the track and field events dominating all other high school sports in interest both among the students and townspeople, all eyes turned to the annual dual meet with Miami set for April 3, at Stranahan Field. Interest ran high for the winner would gain permanent possession of the highly sought and valued R.E. Hall

Shield Cup. For this meet all the businesses in Fort Lauderdale closed their doors, a tradition maintained for years. Two aspects of the dual meet stood out. First, the team with the most points in the meet gained possession of the Hall trophy for the ensuing year and the first school to win three meets got to keep it. Second a silver cup went to the team which won the relay race which was considered separate from the meet and the same terms for cup possession applied to the winner of three annual relay races. A tie now existed in both events. For Fort Lauderdale had won both events in 1916 and 1917, when Watt Gordon dominated high school athletics in south Florida, but Miami had won both events in 1918 and 1919. Thus, the 1920 meet and relay winners would gain permanent possession of which ever event it won.⁶³

In only one event did the school settle matters. For in the regular meet the teams tied with 64 points each. But Fort Lauderdale with Henry (Ham) Marshall, Harry Stanford, Boyd Anderson and Rolf Weidling performing at their best easily won the relay race and consequently permanently retired the silver cup.⁶⁴

Several Lauderdale men showed they had the "sand" and "grit" of winners. In the mile race Art Hall, Orren (Jack) Brendla and Charles Rodes, the Flying L competitors, finished first, second and third, with Hall establishing a new meet mark of 5 minutes and 16 seconds. As expected, Robert Mathews and Harry Elmo Baker dominated the pole vaulting, with Mathews winning with a 9 feet and 2.5 inches vault. In the 220 yard dash, speedy Marshall and Weidling simply outperformed the Miamians and Weidling ran the 440 yard dash in 60 seconds to solidify his sprint credentials. Perry and Allen starred for Miami, with Perry winning first in the discus throw and shot put and Allen garnering first in the high jump, running broad jump and the 120 yard low hurdles to be the meet's high scorer. With the victory in the relay race combined with a tie in the regular meet for Lauderdale, both the local *Herald* and *Sentinel*, whose publishers' sons starred in the meet, ran headlines which proclaimed a victory for the Flying Ls.⁶⁵

Resentment by the students and townspeople or "school patrons" flared again after the dual meet with Miami when the faculty determined that because of deficiency in grades only three members of the track team could go to the annual State Track Meet in Gainesville, and even these three only gained permission after they had passed a difficult algebra test.

Declared ineligible to participate in the most important track event of the year were Baker, Rodes, Marshall, Hall and Stanford, the cream of the crop for the Flying L team. Coach Carlton accompanied by Orren Brendla, Rolf Weidling and Boyd Anderson went by automobile to Gainesville and on the trip Anderson became so sick it appeared he would not be able to compete in the hurdles, his specialty. Unfortunately, for the school and Anderson, in a weakened condition he was eliminated in the preliminaries when he knocked over a hurdle and by prearrangement it had been agreed that the low man would be eliminated.⁶⁶

With twenty schools in competition with full squads, Fort Lauderdale limped along with only two track men competing. Brendla and Weidling, however, gave an excellent account of themselves and startled observers with their speed and stamina. Brendla placed first in the 880 yard run and second in the mile contest, while Weidling took second place in the 880 yard run and fourth in the 440 yard dash. Between them they garnered a total of twelve points which tied Fort Lauderdale with Leesburg for third place in the meet which was won by the Duval High School of Jacksonville. As the second city in the state behind Jacksonville, Tampa's Hillsborough High School finished in second place. Upon their return home Brendla, Weidling and Anderson expressed the conviction that had the entire team participated the Flying Ls would have won the 1920 State Track Meet and that with only star miler Hall and topflight pole vaulter Mathews in competition, the Flying Ls would have finished second.⁶⁷

The action of Principal Geiger and the faculty in penalizing team members for the latter's low marks in some subjects, sealed the fate of Geiger, who, as the principal, bore the brunt of student and patron wrath. Many of the Lauderdale citizens blared forth their anger for all the town wanted a repeat of the feats of the 1917 state championship team and it appears the 1920 team as a whole could have "brought home the bacon." Colonel Mathews editorialized that "Giving 13 problems in algebra to be done in half a day makes it appear that there was little desire on the part of some of the boys to make the test. We have an idea that most of the teachers would require more time to work them out. J.S. Rickard[s] is the best principal our school ever had and may we get one like him next year." Weidling, Mathews' *Herald* counterpart, joined his rival in condemning Geiger, and spoke as if Geiger had already sealed



Boyd Anderson (left) was one of three Fort Lauderdale trackmen to attend the 1920 state meet. The other athlete pictured here is Forrest Shippey.



Fort Lauderdale High School Class of 1920.

his fate for the 1920-1921 school year. Mathews further called for a new principal whose contract would be conditional upon his relationship with "... the boys and girls ...," and he urged that Lauderdaleians "... get a real commander in charge of our school the coming year. . . And a man who was given a contract conditional on proof of his ability." Amid all of the excitement and resentment occurring because of the faculty's refusal to let all the trackmen compete in Gainesville, twenty-five high school students stalked out of the classroom to show their anger over the faculty's action. For "striking" the boys drew a ten day suspension from Geiger but Superintendent Farrington "... took the matter up, adjusted it and the boys were reinstated." A few days later the delinquent boys vigorously participated in the clean-up of various lots and thus solidified their standing in the community which saw no pecancy in their walkout. As the school year wound down the student athletes engaged in many end-of-year school activities. Boyd Anderson in particular of the athletes maintained a high profile as the class prophet and as "George Smith" in the senior play "When Smith Stepped Out." Thereaf-

ter the Colohatchee resident only went upward in community esteem.⁶⁸

Former Principal Ernst Bratzel returned to Fort Lauderdale from Cuba in May 1920 for a visit with his wife's relatives and his return caused quite a stir. Whereupon school authorities secured him as the Baccalaureate Service speaker. At the service held Sunday evening, May 20th, former assistant coach Bratzel preached a sermon from the Biblical text "Keep your heart was all diligence for out of it are the issues of life." And his powerful oration thrust him forward in the minds of many as the ideal man to succeed M.P. Geiger as principal. Bratzel's effective delivery hinged upon a few symbolic images which represented life as a matter of climbing a mountain with Jesus as the rope and the Bible as the guide up the mountain's precipitous face. Bratzel, furthermore, divided religion into that of the head, the ear, the eyes and the heart, with the latter as the center of the most worthwhile aspect of religion. Which meant that if the heart were right all else was right; therefore, he admonished each member of the senior class to obey the text on keeping the heart. As a minister of the gospel, and with his message centering on a new spir-

itual birth, not only did Bratzel please the other ministers of the city who had dispensed with their night worship service in order to attend the school service, but more importantly for his future, he enhanced the already high reputation his former principalship had gained among the townspeople. Consequently, a petition with seventy signatures was later in the summer presented to the school board praying for the rehiring of Bratzel as principal.⁶⁹

Principal Geiger, despite the popularity of Bratzel, had his supporters among the 2,065 residents of Fort Lauderdale who viewed the school more as an academic institution than as a nursery for athletes and they encouraged Geiger to fight for his job. Geiger followed their advice and before the school board on May 26th, in an impassioned three hour speech he outlined his "... system if he is employed for the coming year, and also defended his position in the schools the past season." The pressure for Bratzel, however, proved irresistible and consequently the board engaged the minister-educator for the 1920-1921 school year contingent upon his obtaining a state certificate, noting in their employment statement that with

a non-certified principal the high school would be removed from the list of accredited schools. After a week of strenuous endeavor Bratzel found he could not obtain the state certification until July 1st or shortly thereafter, whereupon the school board, fearing Bratzel might fail to obtain it even then, volte-faced and employed Professor W.N. Henderson. "... a graduate of one of the leading colleges of the South with a degree of A.B., [who] has had fifteen years of successful experience in teaching in this state," and who for the past two years had been principal of the Arcadia, Florida, schools. A competent educator, Geiger found employment as principal of the Homestead, Florida, public schools, and he took with him his manual training and mathematics teacher Ray Hamon, who had taught intermittently in the local high school for several years and had assisted in training the trackmen, although he had never been in charge of this department of athletics. Not all students shed tears at the departure of the raw-boned Hamon. Bernarr Lowe, Class of 1922, who came to Davie in 1911, recalled seventy-five years later the severe thrashing Hamon administered to him with a rubber hose.⁷⁰

COACH KIMMEL AND THE HALL TROPHY

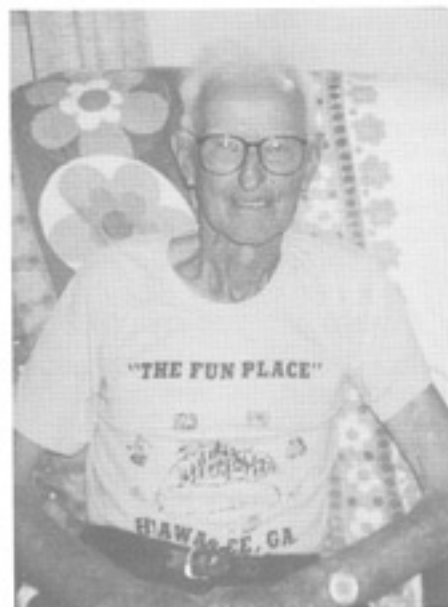
In the 1920 election the near-charismatic James S. Rickards returned to the school system by winning the Democratic nomination and subsequent general election for the position of Superintendent of Broward County public schools and as a renaissance man and "Progressive" educator he instituted many innovations into

the school system. His new approach included institution of the Winnetka Plan of Student Advancement whereby a student advanced in grade solely by his ability irrespective of his age, and the hiring of the first coach or athletic director of the county school system. The teacher he hired for athletics had an amazing personal background and his unorthodox coaching methods paid dividends, particularly in the State Track Meet. Rickards had two projects in which he involved William B. Kimmel the new teacher and coach at the Fort Lauderdale school. He wanted to bring some professionalism into athletics and he desired to upgrade the "grammar school by separating the seventh and eighth grade from the lower grades and to designate them as the Junior High School." Thus, with the applications of Kimmel and his young wife for teaching positions Rickards in hiring them killed two birds with one stone. He hired Kimmel as a teacher at \$100.00 salary per month and then employed Kimmel as the "principal" of the seventh and eighth grades at \$50.00 per month and then engaged him as athletic director of the entire school at \$15.00 per month, although both parties understood Kimmel would not have any administrative duties as principal and the reputed salary for this position actually was to be the larger part of his salary as the athletic director, thus the latter position really paid Kimmel \$65.00 per month during the school year. As a result of this arrangement Kimmel and Misses Helen Parker and Alice Lois Elliott, both graduates of Fort Lauderdale High School, between themselves taught all the subjects in grades seven and eight.⁷¹

Kimmel stated in a 1982 interview that when he was hired he knew absolutely nothing about coaching baseball, basketball or track, that he had never participated in organized sports and that up to that time he had had only the ordinary interest of most Americans in these sports. But Rickards found a ready "tool" in Kimmel to partially forward his "progressive" school plans. As most Lauderdaleans expected, Kimmel concentrated on track and field events. But to assist him in coaching the three sports offered at Fort Lauderdale High School Kimmel ordered from the A. G. Spaulding sports store in Jacksonville pamphlets which explained the three sports and with his Spaulding explanatory pamphlet in his hand he taught or coached his players from the "book." On one occasion as he was explaining to Henry "Ham" Marshall from the "book" on how to improve his shot put performance, Marshall lashed out at

rookie coach Kimmel and screamed, "Anybody can teach that by reading it out of a book!" To which Kimmel retorted, "Why don't you do it then?" With his wife teaching in the elementary grades to improve the family income already swollen by the extras, Kimmel was able to purchase a new Overland automobile and thus to flaunt his nouveau riches. But with a utilitarian bent of mind, Kimmel did more than to flaunt his new car, for he also used it to ride along Las Olas Boulevard to the beach as he paced his milers and half milers, particularly, Charles Rodes who also ran through the beach sand to strengthen his legs. Superintendent Rickards and the townspeople expected Kimmel to produce a state track championship team with the fine talent he had inherited. This was a formidable expectation from such a small town as Fort Lauderdale whose high school was the only one in scantily populated Broward County, particularly when measured against such behemoths as Duval, Hillsborough, Escambia and Dade counties whose high schools could draw from a population ranging from 115,540 in Duval to 42,753 in Dade County. The 1920 census revealed that Fort Lauderdale and Broward County had advanced little in population from the 1915 figures, for in 1920 Fort Lauderdale had only grown by 195 people to reach 2,065 inhabitants and Broward County only had a population of 5,135. But size did not matter to the townspeople for a smaller Fort Lauderdale and county had won the 1917 State Track Meet and a repeat was in order.⁷²

On the opening day of school, September 15, 1920, Kimmel made a riproaring talk in the chapel and asserted before the 400 students that Fort Lauderdale could win its track meet if the boys worked and worked, something the trackmen fully agreed with. Emory College graduate and principal W.N. Henderson, who also taught English and advanced mathematics classes, at the same time proudly announced that Fort Lauderdale High School was one of only thirty-two accredited high schools in Florida. Past great Watt Gordon spoke and reminded the students of Fort Lauderdale's storied athletic history. In reporting on the chapel exercises the *Herald* extolled Gordon as "one of the best athletes that Broward County ever had." At this time basketball and baseball practice and the interscholastic competition in these sports paralleled and most of the same athletes competed in both sports. Consequently, Coach Kimmel required virtually the same athletes to practice their track and field specialty whe-



Dodge Bernarr Lowe, 1989.



Fort Lauderdale High School girls' basketball team, 1921. Team Captain Doris Vincentius is at far left, holding the ball.

never it did not interfere with baseball and basketball matters. The townspeople expected Kimmel to produce a state championship basketball team which he did not, though the team under the captainship of Rolf Weidling held its own with the basketball teams in Palm Beach and Dade counties, as did the girl's basketball team headed by Nellie White and Doris Vincentius, the first short and the other tall. In baseball Fort Lauderdale performed adequately, even though the *Herald* stated the team suffered from a lack of good coaching. Art Hall and Charles Rodes starred as pitchers on the baseball team and they were also looked upon as the premier track and field performers. As the school year advanced the Fort Lauderdale athletic teams and their cheerleaders had more students rooting them on to victory, for by December 20, 1920, the student body had increased to 520, with about 130 of them enrolled in high school. Meanwhile the sub-divisions of Idlewyld and Rio Vista had begun which developments could only mean the school would continue its fairly rapid growth.⁷³

Although the Flying Ls assiduously prepared for the annual track meet with Miami High School as the year 1921 opened, their main goal continued to be to win in the state track and field meet. In preparation to travel to the state meet Coach Kimmel appeared before the City Council headed by attorney C.E. Farrington to plead for financial assistance to defray expenses to the state meet. Farrington, who for an undeclared reason did not highly regard Kimmel personally, asserted his hesitancy in appropriating public funds for sports competition but declared he would personally pay the team \$2.00 for each point the

Flying Ls scored against Miami High. With the newspapers urging that finances be raised to send the team in style to the Gainesville meet, and with burly, deep-throated, Mayor Reed appearing before the town council to urge monetary support for the team, the council made a small appropriation for team travel but one wholly inadequate to send the team to the meet by rail.⁷⁴

The sixth annual track meet between Fort Lauderdale and Miami High schools took place at the Miami school field on Saturday, March 23rd, before a large contingent of Flying L backers. With the permanent possession of the R.E. Hall shield trophy at stake, since both schools had previously won two meets and one had resulted in a tie, the Flying L team crushed the Miami team by the score of 107 to 35. Even as the meet got underway with the 100 yard dash, the Miami team appeared outclassed. Of the seven meet records broken, Fort Lauderdale broke six. So completely did the Flying Ls dominate in some events they took first, second and third places and in several other events they tied for first place. In individual performances Hall excelled by winning three first places and breaking two meet records, one in the 120 yard high hurdles and the other in the 220 yard low hurdles. As the high man he scored a total of 25 points. The Flying Ls' "Ham" Marshall won the next highest number of points at 17, particularly excelling in the 100 and 220 yard dashes as he came in second in both.⁷⁵

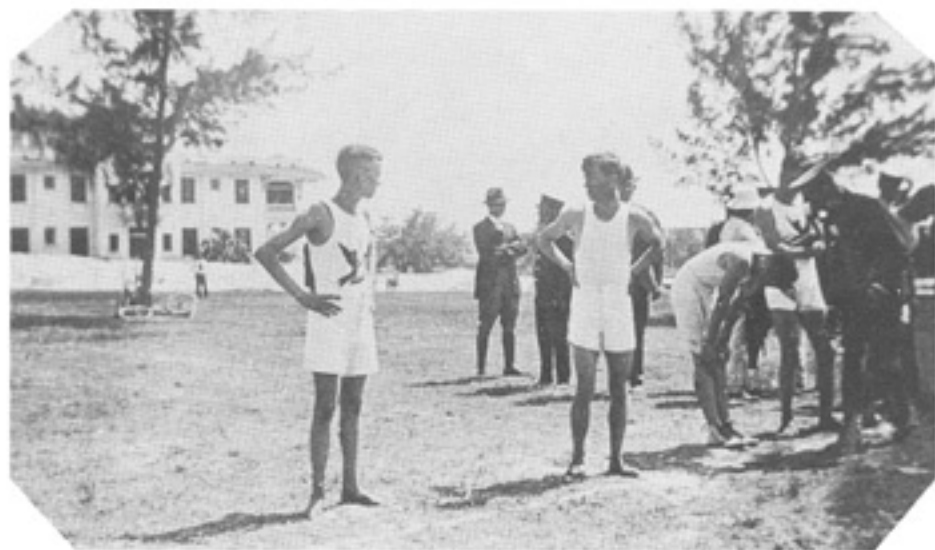
A number of contestants profited by the rule that a new meet record in any event garnered an additional five points for the new record holder and this worked to Fort Lauderdale's advantage as it set six new records.

Weidling set a new record in the 440 yard dash and the five additional points enabled him to finish with 14 points, the fourth highest of the meet. Baker had a rather good outing in winning 11½ points for he tied Mathews for first in setting a new record of 9 feet 2½ inches in the pole vault while at the same time he won first place in the high jump at 5 feet 6 inches. Although Rodes tied Brenda for first place in the mile, he did not perform up to expectations, for he only scored 6½ points, the second lowest of any Lauderdale contestant. Miami's Perry performed heroically in an effort to stem the Flying L avalanche as he won the discus contest with a throw of 99 feet 7½ inches, a new meet record, and he won the shot put with a heave of 38 feet 4¼ inches, for a total of 15 points. But without a doubt Hall's performance did more than anything else to raise the hopes of Lauderdaleans for a state championship in Gainesville in early April. Evidence of these hopes appeared upon the return of the students to school on Monday when after a short victory celebration in the auditorium where the R.E. Hall trophy was displayed as a permanent possession of the school, the students were dismissed for the day. Even earlier many Lauderdaleans celebrated by engaging in an enthusiastic snake dance throughout the town upon the return of the athletes to town late Saturday afternoon, upon which occasion Coach Kimmel declared to the joyous throng that Fort Lauderdale had defeated Miami, "their enemy."⁷⁶

What about C.E. Farrington and his promise to pay \$2.00 to the track team for every point scored against Miami High School in the dual meet? Attorney Farrington, a strict Presbyterian, according to Kimmel, paid \$214.00. But he did not give money to the amateur trackmen. On the contrary, he gave each a note for a certain amount and the players took the note to the store of their choice, probably Oliver Brothers department store got most of the business, and bought clothing for themselves, nothing else.⁷⁷

A LEGENDARY RACE AND A NEAR VICTORY

The automobile cavalcade gathered to transport the track team and a few supporters assembled early on the morning of April 6th, ready to begin the trip to Gainesville for the Seventh Annual State Track Meet of Florida. Although the meet would not begin until Friday, April 8th, two days would be required to make the approximately 350 miles by auto, the roads being what they were. Supporters accompanying the team were druggist Alfred J. and



Scenes from the March 23, 1921, Fort Lauderdale-Miami high school track meet in which the Flying Ls retired the Hall trophy. Trackmen are (left to right at left): Charles Rodes, Jr., Art Hall, Hazeltine of Miami, Orren Brendla; (bottom, left to right): Hazeltine, Brendla, Hall, Rodes. The entire 1921 Fort Lauderdale team is pictured on the back cover.

Annie Beck, Carl P. Weidling Sr. and his wife; Mayor Will Reed and Mrs. Charles Green Rodes, Sr.; and as Weidling's *Herald* reported, "... that famous old track athlete, Watt Gordon;" and Coach William Kimmel and his wife. "Doc" Beck boasted he could get his car up to "40 miles per hour" on the Dixie Highway. Eleven athletes made up the athletic contingent who went to Gainesville:

Orren (Jack) Brendla, half miler; Arthur Hall, mile and high and low hurdler; Rolf Weidling, 440 and 220 dashes, broad jump and shot put; John Burwell, 100 and 440 yard dashes; Robert Mathews, pole vault and high jump; Willis Johnson, high and low hurdles; Clarence Crim, discus; Bernarr Lowe, high jump; Charles Green Rodes, Jr., mile and half mile; Harry Elmo Baker, pole vault and high jump; Henry "Ham" Marshall, 100 and 220 yard dashes.⁷⁸

Twenty-six Florida high school track teams and their supporters converged on the track field at the University of Florida to win fame and glory. A glorious day greeted the 1500 partisan fans in the stands on Friday afternoon when the preliminaries began. Each high school's supporters broke into cheers when their team members ran from the gymnasium onto the track field. The Tampa team led the way in their red and black uniforms, followed by the Duval County team dressed in their red and white jerseys, the Leesburg athletes in their bright orange, Orlando in purple, Gainesville in white and then came eleven boys outfitted in pure white uniforms and on each of their shirts perched a winged "L" colored blue. In comparison with athletes of other teams the Flying Ls looked small and hardly anyone paid any attention to them except their



several supporters. But as the preliminaries continued, the Fort Lauderdale team began to place more men in the finals where the points would be won. With every Lauderdale qualification in the "pre-lims" the crowd, except for the Duval County rooters, slowly began to yell for the boys with the Flying L symbol to beat Duval of Jacksonville, crying "Anybody except Duval," an envious reaction to that team's perennial championship qualifications.⁷⁹

On Saturday Marshall had run so many "heats" in his wearied condition, in the finals he could only take second place in both the 100 and 200 yard dashes. Although at first Rodes put his track shoes on he soon found that he could not wear them for never before had he used track shoes, either for practice or for meets. Whereupon, Rodes kicked the unfamiliar shoes off and ran the mile barefooted on the coarse cinder track. Word of his heroics spread and the crowd went wild at such daring and after he won the mile in the record-setting time of 4 minutes 58 seconds pandemonium broke out at the

announcement of his time. Team mates and spectators crowded around him cheering and jumping up and down at his achievement. Years later Rodes recalled he could not enter the half mile because his feet were sore and bleeding from his mile run. Rodes, nevertheless, became a statewide legend by his spectacular feat. After Rodes' victory, more than ever the majority of fans yelled for the team from the little town of Fort Lauderdale to beat the Duval team which hailed from the largest city in the state.⁸⁰

Hall also performed in fine fashion as he won the low hurdles. Weidling garnered fourth place in the 440 yard dash. Mathews and Baker, although they took second and third respectively in the pole vault, had poled much higher in other meets. Publisher Carl P. Weidling, Sr., attributed the relatively unsatisfactory performances of some Lauderdale athletes to the rigorous and exhausting trip the boys had undergone. For on a number of occasions on the way to the meet, the boys had to dig stuck automobiles out of the

sand, particularly in and around Kissimmee, and the crowded conditions in the open-air autos permitted little or no sleep along the way. In the description of the meet he wrote for his *Herald* Weidling used the term "Flying L" for the first time it had ever been used in either Fort Lauderdale paper or *The Miami Metropolis*. He described how proudly the boys wore their school symbol and how the partisan crowd took up the chant of "Win Flying Ls!"⁸¹

At the beginning of the last event which was the high jump the Fort Lauderdale team still had an opportunity to win the state meet for they only trailed the champion Duvalians by a score of 30 to 34. Oddly enough, Duval High School led because of the failure by Fort Lauderdale to enter a contestant in the Declamation Contest won by Duval High which gained five points for its team in this academic endeavor. The no contestant imbroglio seems strange. Although the Flying Ls had sent Russell Redman to compete in the Declamation Contest in 1918, Coach Kimmel, new to the situation, and other school personnel claimed they knew nothing of the declamation which added an academic flavor to athletics. Baker and Mathews by finishing one and two in the high jump could garner five points and pull ahead of Duval provided the latter team did not have a third place winner, but if Duval won third place the meet would end in a tie. Feelings ran high as the jumpers went through their paces. When either Baker or Mathews missed their jump, the large Jacksonville following would shout with glee but when the Jacksonville jumper missed all the spectators except those from Jacksonville would yell for joy. As it turned out neither Fort Lauderdale nor Duval placed in the high jump, although both Baker and Mathews had jumped higher in the Miami meet than did the winner at the state meet. In his *Herald* article on the meet Weidling asserted that the loss in the high jump provided just another piece of evidence that the Fort Lauderdale team was "jinxed" and although the Flying L had won a great victory in the strictly track part of the meet the only way to insure a victory in 1922 would be to send the team to Gainesville via train.⁸²

From the home of the Duval High School came the loudest praise for the Flying L team. Red Davis, sportswriter for Jacksonville's *Florida Times-Union*, covered the meet and came away convinced Fort Lauderdale had indeed the best track team in the state.

In the most sensational track meet ever held by the high schools of the state, Duval High by a remarkable fight waged throughout



Class Night program, 1921.

Seventh Annual Class Night

Senior Class, Fort Lauderdale High School

Wednesday Evening, June 1, 1921

High School Auditorium, 8:00 P. M.

PROGRAM

SCHOOL SONG	Senior Class
CLASS PROPHECY	Alma Hammer
FRESHMAN HISTORY	Arthur Hall
CLASS POEM	Doris Vincentius
SOPHOMORE HISTORY	Orren Brendla
STATISTICS	Margaret Baron
JUNIOR HISTORY	Charles Drake
SONG	Senior Class
SENIOR HISTORY	Charlotte Farrington
GROUCH SPEECH	Margaret Hedrick
SENIOR WILL	Dorothy Crippen
CLASS SONG	Senior Class

CLASS ROLL

Norma Hammer, President

Nellie White, Vice President

Rolf Wiedling, Secretary and Treasurer

Margaret Baron	Charlotte Farrington	Lora Hildebrand
Orren Brendla	Adrian Fidler	William Kennedy
Wellington Bunch	Alma Franklin	Margaret Reed
Clarence Crim	Arthur Hall	Charles Rodes
Dorothy Crippen	Alma Hammer	Agnes Turner
Charles Drake	Margaret Hedrick	Doris Vincentius
Ruth Dye	Loyce Henderson	George Warren
	Gertrude Will	

Class Motto—"Eae quam videri."

Class Colors—Purple and gold.

Class Flower—Pansy.

the day's grind finally emerged the winner of the 1921 title by nosing out Fort Lauderdale by four points. Duval secured a total of 34 points, included in which were five points won for them by Karl Welinski in the declamation contest of last evening. Lauderdale annexed 30 points . . . Fort Lauderdale entered the meet a dark horse, everybody on the inside figuring that Tampa or Duval ought to win . . . right to this minute there remain few persons in Gainesville who attended this meet who would not have claimed victory for Lauderdale had not their star one-mile runner, Charles Rodes, been hurt after breaking the track record in his bare feet and while he looked to be no more than 15 years old, he was finally approached and asked his age. He is 17 years of age, height 5 feet 6 inches and weighs only 109 pounds.⁸³

A few days later the *Times-Union* painted a Bunyanesque profile of Rodes which further spread the record of his prowess throughout the state:

Charlie Rhodes [Rodes], the boy wonder that won the mile race at Gainesville in his barefeet . . . runs every day to the Fort Lauderdale school which is eleven miles from his home in eleven minutes [sic.]. Rodes also runs home at the noon hour to eat dinner, then runs back to school . . . he is the barefoot runner of the Florida schools and unbeatable, as he is.

In commenting upon this bit of wild exaggeration which it reprinted the *Herald* wanted its readers to know that the *Times-Union* writer of the item on Rodes had been mis-informed. If the writer, however, ever came to Fort Lauderdale and attended one of the tourist hotel dinner dances he would see a little fellow in a dress suit doing a fancy "fox-trot" that would make a Duval athlete look like a "hick" — "that's little Charlie Rhodes, by gum, and he is even faster on the ballroom floor than he is on the track." Certainly, such near idolatrous adulation, however well-deserved, contributed to the later legend, which in time almost became an article of faith, and which asserted that the Flying L symbol was devised in commemoration of Rodes' heroics at Gainesville in the spring of 1921, an assertion Rodes often emphatically denied, particularly shortly before his death on October 10, 1985. His disclaimer is well taken in view of the photographs which show members of the Fort Lauderdale High School track team of 1918, wearing the Flying L symbol on their shirts.⁸⁴

The athletic symbol came into new prominence as the school year ended. The twenty-five members of the Fort

Lauderdale High School Class of 1921, which had eleven boys and fourteen girl members, was headed by President Norma Hammer of Davie. Those assembled for class night in the school auditorium heard an eulogium of the school athletes from Miss Gertrude Rogers Will, class salutatorian. Before the teachers, principal, school board members and her classmates, Miss Will touched on several matters of class concern and in the process revealed that there already existed a tradition of the Flying L symbol and those who had proudly worn it had thrilled the entire school with their heroics.

You were there when our high school Track Team carried off so many honors on the field. Didn't it thrill you to see the 'Flying L' forging ahead? I wonder if you realized at that time how many of those "Ls" were proudly borne by the lads of the Class of '21, and it is not alone in track that our boys excell, for they have largely composed the baseball and basketball teams of the school.

The star athletes who graduated in 1921 were Charlie Rodes, Orren Brendla, Rolf Weidling, Arthur Hall and Clarence Crim, all of whom remained in Fort Lauderdale and carved out remarkable careers among the home folks, that is, except Crim.⁸⁵

COACH PRESCOTT ARRIVES

Although Coach Kimmel had done better than could have been reasonably expected with his extremely limited experience, school patrons in general fervently desired to see Fort Lauderdale improve its baseball, basketball and track teams so as to bring more glory to the school and to the City of Fort Lauderdale. Now in the dairying business after having farmed for years in Davie, where he taught youngsters how to "run" as trackmen, Hamilton M. Forman belonged to a fervid group of sport enthusiasts anxious to acquire a coach whose background included participation in college athletics. Forman had graduated from the University of Illinois in 1908, as a lawyer, and had participated in track while a student. His pride in the Illini track team swelled with the feats of the 1921 team captained by John S. Prescott. The team won the National Track Open, the Inter-Collegiate Meet, as well as the National Indoor Meet, a very unusual record for a university team. Prescott himself excelled in the 100 yard dash and the low hurdles and on two occasions he ran the dash in 9 and 4/5 seconds which equalled the world record at the time but which had been lowered to 9 and 3/5 seconds during the summer of 1921 by Charles Paddock of California. In addition

classmate George W. English II has asserted that Prescott became both an honor student and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Illinois. Prescott himself persuaded English in 1925, to settle in Fort Lauderdale where the latter became Prescott's lawyer, confidant and a sports devotee.⁸⁶

Slight of build, blessed by a full head of black hair and uncommonly handsome, Prescott, an athlete of national reputation, listened to the overtures of Forman and others who tacitly acted in behalf of the local school trustees and school board and without much hesitation he accepted the board's proposal for a teaching and coaching position at the Fort Lauderdale school beginning in September 1921. A chemistry teacher, Prescott impressed Lauderdaleians and the student body when in a chapel exercise at the beginning of the school year he declared his main objective would not be to make athletic records but to make better men and women. He firmly stated a boy should be "up in his studies" and that athletic progress should come second. Prescott's handsomeness proved a handicap in at least one respect when the high school girls allegedly went "gaga" over him and, it has been reported that for some like Evelyn Fritz, their teenage infatuation drove them to hide in his small cottage and then surprise him upon his arrival home after school. Naturally, such conduct by female students in a small town before the "flapper age" led to gossip and to jealousy and in a town where sex morality had a high priority these spread like wildfire. Prescott acted swiftly to alleviate the dangerous situation by announcing his forthcoming marriage. On December 27, 1921, he married his Wilmette, Illinois, childhood sweetheart in their hometown, at the home of the bride's parents. Mrs. Norma McMillan Prescott, a graduate of Northwestern University, moved to Fort Lauderdale with her new husband and within a year presented Coach Prescott with a baby boy whom they named after his father and which the Class of 1923 adopted as their "Mascot."⁸⁷

In their well-publicized basketball game with the arch rival Miami High School team on December 9, 1921, the Fort Lauderdale team obviously had the rabid backing of the school and townspeople for around the school appeared large banners urging "Fight," "Beat Miami," and a combination banner "BACK THAT TEAM—FIGHT—BEAT MIAMI." A special cheering section was organized to " . . . prepare yells which will reverberate the Lauderdale spirit," and some new yells came into vogue.



Three Flying L athletes from the Class of 1922 (left to right): basketball player Helen Howard Woodruff (1985 photo), and basketball and track men Robert

"Bob" Mathews (1982 photo) and Harry Elmo Baker (1985 photo).

Although the school Loyalty Song had raised spirits since at least April 4, 1918, nevertheless, an innovative use of the song began with the Miami game when the song was sung before and after the game to the tune "Illini." Despite this innovation and the home court advantage the Flying Ls fell to the smaller but faster Miami High basketball team. Captain Harry Elmo Baker and Hugo "Tigo" Dichtenmueller starred for Lauderdale in the 29 to 17 loss. Two weeks later in Fort Pierce the boy's team walloped the upstate team 27 to 12 but the girl's team suffered a crushing loss of 43 to 5. The girl's team, however, began the new year of 1922 by handily defeating the girl's team of Dania, while Captain Baker's boys crushed their Dania counterparts 57 to 7 and the next night, January 7th, they derailed Sanford 34 to 22. In the later game guard Robert Mathews proved unstoppable as he hit the hoop from every position on the floor to score 24 of his team's points, but it was the perfect passing of the ball to him by center Henry "Ham" Marshall and guard Carl P. Weidling, Jr., the younger son of the publisher of the *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, which put Mathews into the position to shoot so often and accurately.⁸⁸

In Coach Prescott's first season as the basketball mentor the Flying Ls won seven and lost three games for a .700 percentage. The players who racked up this satisfactory season made up this roster: Mathews, Wei-

dling, Dichtenmueller and Allan Tucker, guards; Captain Baker, John Burwell and Tucker, forwards; and Marshall center. A real and pleasant surprise for the Flying Ls in performance proved to be young Weidling who succeeded his brother Rolf as a basketball star. When Prescott placed Weidling as back guard "... the Lauderdale boys took a decided spurt due to his uncanny ability to hit his opponent at the right instant and to get the ball and pass accurately out of the danger zone." Although the Flying Ls lost twice to the Miami High quintet, backers, while disappointed at these two losses, considered the winning percentage as some solace.⁸⁹

The girl's basketball team fared almost as well as the boys in compiling a record of four win and two losses. The feminine sextet defeated the West Palm Beach and Dania teams twice but lost to the Fort Pierce team twice. These Flying L girls proudly wore the symbol of their school: Captain Evelyn Fritz and Estelle (?) Covington, forwards; Winifred Dahlquist, center; Corine Hanes, center and guard; Helen Howard and Inez Reed, side centers; and Violet Davis and Jane Henderson, guards. Coach Prescott laid a good foundation for in 1925 the girls won the girl's state basketball championship with Winifred Dahlquist a standout at center.⁹⁰

Intensive track practice began under Coach Prescott during the first week of February 1922 in preparation for the

first meet of the season which would be a triangular contest to be held in West Palm Beach on March 25th. With nationally known Prescott as coach more than twenty aspirants showed up for the practice and their spirit and that of the school ran high in anticipation that 1922 would be the year the Flying Ls would win their second State Track Meet. At the final try-outs on March 17th for track team positions a holiday atmosphere held sway on Stranahan Field. Moon struck pretty girls who for weeks had cheered the boys on during practice were on hand and each class set up booths for the sale of refreshments. Track team aspirants distributed booster tags bearing the message "Lauderdale to Gainesville" and spectators were required to purchase them. Tickets to the Tri-County Meet were "hawked" by the school classes and under these competitive conditions the sales report stood as follows one week before the meet: Freshmen, 55; Sophomores, 32; Juniors, 31 and Seniors, 28.⁹¹

In the try-outs Baker, Willis Johnson, Burwell and Captain Marshall stood out. Baker vaulted perfectly and ran the half mile in his best form of the year. Captain Marshall and Burwell looked good in the dashes and broad jump, and Johnson showed to advantage in the hurdles. Star pole vaulter Mathews could not compete because of one of his periodic illnesses. Other trackmen whose performance merited praise included John Stewart,

Hugo Dichtenmueller, Charles "Hooks" Gordon, Vernon Clinton and dark-haired Mark Mahannah. In the Tri-County meet the Fort Lauderdale team blew out the Miami High and West Palm Beach High schools, scoring 62 points to 44 and 28 respectively for their opponents. The Flying Ls revealed their dominance by walking off with seven first places to Miami's three and West Palm Beach's two. In the first annual meet Baker set a new state pole vault record at 10 feet 10 inches on his first vault, whereupon Coach Prescott refused to allow him to vault again because he was entered in a number of other events. After Captain Marshall won the 100 yard dash in the opening event, the Flying L team never relinquished the lead as Marshall and Baker won two first places each, Dichtenmueller and Burwell one each and the Lauderdaleans closed the meet by winning the half mile relay in 1 minute 43.2 seconds, only 3.5 seconds more than the state record. To have a mix which would preempt any claim of favoritism, each school furnished officials for the meet, with Fort Lauderdale selecting "Cap" Reed, Carl P. Weidling, Sr., Watt Gordon and J. S. Rhine, with the latter serving as the timer. Among the West Palm Beach officials was Charles "Chuck" Pierce who later carved out an illustrious banking career in Fort Lauderdale. When the Flying L heroes returned home Saturday evening a mighty celebration occurred as students and townspeople stoked bonfires and performed snake dances up and down Andrews and Brickell avenues and all around the town to celebrate a new athletic era under Coach Prescott. For the most die-hard fans the euphoria produced by the win and celebration caused a levitation which already

claimed the state championship.⁹²

Trackmen Baker, Marshall, Johnson, Dichtenmueller, Stewart and Gordon under the tutelage of Coach Prescott, and accompanied by some faithful rooters, left Fort Lauderdale by automobile on Wednesday, April 5th, to make the long hard trip to Gainesville with high expectations for the 1922 State Track Meet. Despite the completion of the first homes built in Hollywood by Joseph W. Young who planned to bring urban life to Broward County on a large scale, the county remained predominantly agricultural, and in this ambience sufficient money could not be raised to send the Flying Ls to the meet first-class, thus the continuance of team travel by the slow and arduous means of undependable cars and dirt roads filled with pot-holes.⁹³

Tired and dusty, the team arrived in Gainesville near noon Friday and after a skimpy lunch team members entered the preliminaries which led to the finals. While the Flying Ls did not win the meet they did come in second and by their fine performance they again proved a stumbling block in the path of an easy victory for the Duval High School of Jacksonville, for the latter only won the meet by a paltry five points over the Ls, even though the smart money said they would run away with the meet. The Lauderdaleans by competing rigorously in the preliminaries, placed men in the finals in all events except the discus and Captain Marshall easily placed in three of the four pre-lims he entered. Even though Duval's eighteen athletes and Fort Lauderdale's eight trackmen scored 33 and 28 points respectively, the fastest man on the field on Saturday did not come from either team, but rather from Miami. For Hazeltine of that city tied with Jones of Duval for the most points with seventeen each. In addition, Hazeltine broke Charles Rodes's record for the mile set the previous year by three seconds with a time of 14 minutes 55 seconds and he also came within two seconds of breaking the half mile record set by Watt Gordon in 1917, when Fort Lauderdale won the state championship. Marshall led the Fort Lauderdale team with nine points which tied him with several others for second place overall, a feat which brought him a silver medal. *The Fort Lauderdale Herald* sent O.K. Williams to cover the state meet and he reported that Coach Prescott deserved high praise for the form his team had shown and that the long automobile trip had again taken its toll on the Flying L boys. Duval High School's third consecutive state track championship, however, provided a high incentive for the Flying L team to return in 1923 and to

dethrone them, the largest high school by far in the state.⁹⁴

SECOND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Principal Henderson left for greener pastures for the 1922-1923 school year and his replacement, H. B. Robertson, came from Covington, Georgia, with the reputation of "... a thorough school man," and with a \$3,000 annual salary, a fairly hefty raise over the salary paid Henderson who saw the school enrollment reach 540 students during the last month of school. Additions to the faculty included local attorney and splendid athlete, M. [Miles] Lewis Hall, a new arrival in town, and attorney Carl A. Hiasen, a North Dakotian, who needed the teaching job, but it seems Hall wanted the teaching position so as to be near Miss Mary Frances Dawson, English teacher, and a Missouri beauty whom he soon married. Both Hall and Hiasen strongly supported Coach Prescott and his athletic program and they promoted the activities of the Fort Lauderdale High School Athletic Club. The work of this club pertained mainly to bolstering athletes within the school itself. As an example of its activities, under the aegis of President Fred Bloch the club in 1919 began the tradition of giving the baseball lettermen blue and white fancy sweaters festooned with a prominent Flying L symbol, complete with the wings and arrow.⁹⁵

Coach Prescott added a hemispheric flavor to the local athletics when he entered himself, John Burwell and Charles Gordon in the American-Cuba International Games held in Havana, Cuba, in early March 1923. This occurred during an American political-economic intervention of Cuba, in fact if not in name, which lasted three years and ended in revolution. "Hooks" Gordon, who entered the pole vault competition, won first place, handily defeating the other American and Cuban entrants. Prescott won second place in the low hurdles and he came in third in the 220 yard dash. Burwell, to the surprise of no one in Fort Lauderdale, came in third in the hurdles and placed second in the 400 yard dash. With her infant son in her arms, Mrs. Norma Prescott accompanied the local athletes to Havana in the guise of a chaperon.⁹⁶

To provide competition on a broader scale to an era just beginning to feel the first stirrings of the great Florida Land Boom, the high schools stretching from Fort Pierce south to Miami in the summer-fall of 1922 organized the South Florida Interscholastic League consisting of the high schools in Fort Pierce, West Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Fort Lauderdale, Miami and the



Henry Augustus "Ham" Marshall, captain of the 1922 Flying L track team.

Dade County Aggies, the latter primarily an agricultural school. League officials set March 23, 1923, as the date for the first track meet for the league, an event they decided to hold in Fort Lauderdale. A total of seventy-two track entrants signed for the event with Miami leading with twenty-six trackmen, followed by Fort Lauderdale, eighteen; West Palm Beach, thirteen; Dade County Aggies, twelve; Fort Pierce, three; and Lake Worth none. At his own expense, Frank Stranahan, owner of Stranahan Field, kept a crew of men busy for several days fine-tuning the field and track which he roped off so that all spectators had to stay behind the ropes before any event could proceed, and to further professionalize the proceedings, the track officials, headed by umpire "Cap" Reed, dressed themselves out in white and wore badges to further distinguish themselves. For the first time, athletes wore numbers which were keyed to the printed program. In a forward look, Lauderdale rooters sold "Lauderdale to Gainesville" booster tags and the rooters had the fervid assistance of the Flying L cheer leaders: Eddie Stone, Leonard Jeffrey, Alma Sears and Winifred Dalhquist, the latter a prankster of no mean ability hopelessly in love with Bill McQuarrie, later a minor football player. And as had become the custom, the Lauderdale trackmen wore a large blue "Flying L" symbol on their white shirts. And Coach Prescott, as president of the South Florida Interscholastic League had overall charge of the meet on his home grounds. Because of organizational efficiency and from the long extent of the league, on Saturday, March 23rd, the largest crowd ever to watch an athletic event in the history of Fort Lauderdale congregated at Stranahan Field where Lauderdale boosters felt the tug of destiny, certain that their team would come off victors on their road to the state championship.⁹⁷

By pouring it on and never easing up during the south Florida meet, the Flying L juggernaut scored almost twice the number of points as their opposition combined, winning in the process 93 points to Miami's 31, to the Dade County Aggies' 10 and to West Palm Beach's 9. The nearly century mark reached by the Lauderdaleans divided into ten first places out of total of thirteen events, to Miami's two and to one first place for the Aggies located in Lemon City. In the smashing victory, Captain Burwell emerged as top scorer of the meet with 13 points, which included first place finishes in the 220 and 440 yard dashes, but he had considerable help in the Lauderdale win in the persons of Johnson and Gordon with 11 points each. Others



Fort Lauderdale High School's second state champion track team, 1923. Standing (left to right): Olin Kinsey, Tom Geiges, Coach John Prescott, Charles "Hooks" Gordon, Murray Bryan. Seated (left to right): Vernon Clinton, Robert Blakely, Mark Mahannah, John Burwell, Willis Johnson, Hilton Rardin, Frank White. Seated on ground (left to right): Laird Rickard, Perry Bryan. Not pictured: Philip Weidling, Hugo Dichtmueller.

who chipped in with points: Stewart, Weidling, Murray Bryan, Dichtmueller, Mark Mahannah, and Robert Blakely, and the Ls had at least two good men in each event. The most hard fought event of the day occurred in the half mile relay race won by the Lauderdale team of Johnson, Mahannah, Tom Geiges and Burwell, a combo which finished in 1 minute 43 seconds. Carl P. Weidling, Sr.'s, *Herald* attributed the win to "... better coaching and more studious training for the local athletes," and in a low key he asserted "... that by winning this meet the boys have a good chance for the state championship."⁹⁸

Citizens of Fort Lauderdale, which included an approving school faculty and a proud student body, fervently paid homage to the victors of the South Florida Interscholastic League Track Meet. The students and faculty held a jubilee Monday during chapel and the cup donated by the league was presented to Captain Burwell for the team by Principal Robertson and the banner for the relay race, donated by the local Chamber of Commerce, was presented to Mahannah for the school, after which Coach Prescott and each of the trackmen talked about the upcoming state meet. In the evening the small, ambitious city came alive when students celebrated by dancing through the business section of the city, at the conclusion of which the students and townspeople assembled on Andrews Avenue where they built a huge bonfire which lighted most of the town. During

the festivities C.E. Rickard, brother of Superintendent James S. Rickards and president of the Chamber of Commerce, spoke and presented medals to the meet winners. Also speaking in high praise of the Flying Ls were Hamilton M. Forman, dairyman and prominent in the local Christian Church; C.S. Mahannah, prominent in the same church and a member of the school board, and Mayor Russell G. Snow, who had just purchased Charles Green Rodes, Sr.'s farm store which made him one of the largest merchants in the riverine city. The athletes afterward enjoyed a weiner roast and ice cream, then attended the Queen Theatre on Wall Street where a silent movie entertained them. Such tokens of community esteem and appreciation brought out a fierce desire on the part of the Flying Ls to perform worthily for such support.⁹⁹

Until Dania established the beginnings of a full-fledged high school with the inauguration of the tenth grade in 1920, all high school students in Broward County with few exceptions attended the Fort Lauderdale High School. Consequently, the Flying Ls profited from several fine athletes from outside the riverine city. Thus, several excellent athletes and many fine students who attended Fort Lauderdale High School came long distances for their education. Particularly, students from Pompano, Colohatchee, Dania, Davie and Hallandale contributed to Flying L academics and sports.¹⁰⁰

In the province of high school athlet-



1923 State Track Championship medal.

ics track and field ruled supreme from the early 19 teens until the early 1920s at Fort Lauderdale and this was true of most other south Florida high schools. So popular had this sport become by 1923 that the junior high and grammar schools began to hold area track meets which proved a spawning ground for high school track teams. On April 6, 1923, the first combined high school, junior high and grammar school track meet ever held on the lower east coast took place in Dania with these schools entered: Dania, Lemon City's Aggies and the Miami Central teams. Although Dania High School won in its category, it had little competition for the regular trackmen from the other high schools in the area did not compete. From Fort Lauderdale, for example, non-regular track team members Tom Berryhill, Richard Drake and Howard Burwell won events which helped Fort Lauderdale High School to amass 27 points. In the junior high and grammar school events Fort Lauderdale nosed out Miami Central by a score of 27 to 25, and by winning Fort Lauderdale obtained the big Redman's Cup. Howard Clark, a younger brother of Walter R. and Robert Clark, the former a non-athlete and the latter an outstanding Flying L'er, starred for Fort Lauderdale in the junior high school events by scoring 15 1/4 points, the high for the meet. Barrel-chested from childhood, Clark excelled in the muscular events. He won the shot put, discus and javelin throws and his marks for the first two of these events measured 39 feet 6 inches and 89 feet 2.5 inches but the record is silent for his mark in the javelin. In the grammar school events other schools besides those mentioned above entered contestants.¹⁰¹

On the same day Dania hosted the track meet, the State Track Meet began in Gainesville and Coach Prescott took his squad to the city in style, i.e., going by train. This enabled the squad to

arrive early Thursday in a rested condition and it also allowed the team several additional practice sessions. As a result, Coach Prescott and his boys brought home the bacon by winning the State Track Meet by a large margin over the Duval High School of Jacksonville, and in the process the Flying Ls trounced schools which had sent many more athletes to the meet than did Fort Lauderdale, such as Tampa, St. Petersburg, Jacksonville and Gainesville. In winning its second state track championship, Fort Lauderdale scored 34 points to second place Duval High's 24. Captain John Burwell performed far beyond expectation as he won the 440 yard dash by beating Ted Reed, the Duval captain, who had the reputation of being the fastest high schooler in the state. Despite placing in both the pre-lims and the finals of the 220 yard race, Burwell came right back and sparked the winning half mile relay team as he came from the last to the first position in a burst of speed. With these events his heroics, however, had not ended, for he led the field as he ran the first leg of the Flying L's winning mile relay team and he finished the day by running 330 yards as a member of the medley relay team, which, because of a dropped baton, did not win, but it did finish ahead of its perennial rival, Duval High.¹⁰²

Two other athletes stood out even among the other outstanding Fort Lauderdale trackmen. Mark Mahannah placed second to Burwell in the quarter mile, came back a half an hour later to lose first place and the state record to Sarra of Gainesville by a scant half inch and the second-guessing was that had Mahannah saved himself for the half-mile he would have won. He also ran on the winning relay. A sophomore and newcomer to the team, Leonard Jeffrey, proved to be the iron man of the team by taking three second places in the 220 yard dash, the 220 and 120 low hurdles, and, in addition, he ran on the winning half mile relay team and the first leg of the ill-fated medley relay team. Other standouts included John Stewart who ran the best race of his life in placing third in the mile, a race in which the record was broken by five seconds. Willis Johnson, whose ninety-three percent grade point average led the senior class, starred despite his recent ill-health. "Hooks" Gordon came through true to expectations by winning the pole vault with a record tying height of 10 feet 10 inches. Vernon Clinton, Perry Bryan, Frank White, Hilton Rardin, Olin Kinsey, Jesse Clarke, Laird Rickard, Tom Geiges, Carl P. Weidling, Jr., Murray Bryan and Robert Blakely, all considered "novices," nevertheless added their bit

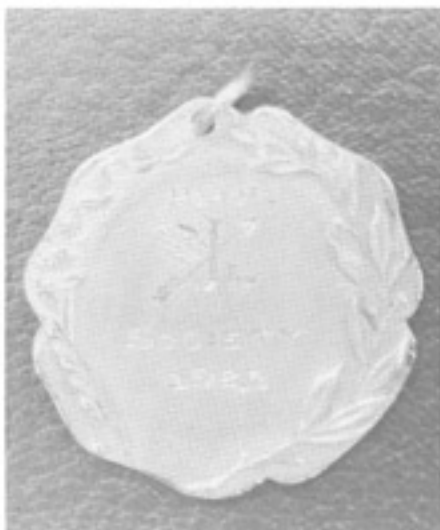
to the championship form displayed by the dazzling Flying Ls. Hugo Dichtenmueller, however, rates special consideration, not for winning, but for the spirit and determination he evidenced. Even though he had spent a long seige in bed because of inflammatory rheumatism and complications, he participated in the meet and had he not knocked down a hurdle in the low hurdles he would have, his teammates believed, swelled Fort Lauderdale's margin of victory. Newsman Frank Wright declared that Fort Lauderdale, for three years runners up to state champion Duval High School, had presented one of the best trained teams ever to compete in the state meet and much of the credit he attributed to Coach Prescott whose strategy and requirements made the Flying Ls a standout.¹⁰³

Publisher Weidling of the *Fort Lauderdale Herald*, whose two sons Rolf and Carl, Jr., had starred on the Flying L athletic teams, lauded the team for its achievements, noting, among other things, Fort Lauderdale had never finished under third place in the State Track Meet. Reports emanating from Gainesville were that Fort Lauderdale had "... the best coached and best conditioned team on the track." And much credit for these excellencies, averred Weidling, could be laid at the door of Coach Prescott who "... had the respect and confidence of all his athletes and he has been able to instill in them the true school spirit, which caused them to train faithfully and keep up in their studies." And it is even possible the esprit de corps Prescott had instilled into the school resulted in the publication of the first Flying L high school annual, plans for which called for a first-class publication of sixty pages. No doubt, the fact that Fort Lauderdale by 1923, had begun to attract wealthy tourists with money to invest and to spend in other ways must not be discounted as a motivator for the school to get out a quality school annual complete with photographs and news and named the "Flying L."¹⁰⁴

Like Samson who fell into the hands of the Philistines at the height of his glory, or Winston Churchill who fell from the favor of the English people after a victorious war in Europe, Coach Prescott experienced a bruising fall from the glory he basked in after his track team had won the state championship in 1923. First, Principal Robertson complained to school trustees Russell G. Snow and R.E. Dye, who in turn complained to the school board, that Coach Prescott and his athletes were making a shambles of the school rules and regulations, particularly in that the athletes acted as if these did not apply to them. Interpreted, this



Flying L girls' basketball team, 1923. Back row (left to right): Jane Henderson, Marion Hill, Violet Davis, Coach Prescott. Front row (left to right): Winifred Dahlquist, Alice Sears (holding mascot John Prescott, Jr.), Evelyn Fritz, Beatrice Rork, Dorothy Dahlquist.



Medal of the Class of 1923's Honor Society, the first non-athletic organization to use the Flying L emblem.

meant that athletes expected to be dismissed from class at the call of Coach Prescott who called much more than the faculty thought advisable. Consequently, the attitude of the athletes spread to the student body. Much more serious came the accusation against Coach Prescott from many quarters which in substance held he, if he had not himself taught Darwin's general evolutionary theory on the origin of the world and man, had permitted students in his science classes to argue in favor of the theory. Consequently, he permitted the Biblical account of creation and providence to be trampled in the dust. With the fierce and acrimonious battle between those who believed in the Biblical account of origins and development and the "liberals" who supported the general theory of evolution, already raging on the local and national level in 1923, feelings escalated on the issue in Fort Lauderdale as the school year drew to a close. Many citizens complained to each other about Prescott, while others took their complaints to trustees Snow and Dye, while others complained directly to school board members C. S. Mahannah, J.P. Smoak and Frank Neville. The school board and trustees took the position that although the Bible account of creation and providence should not be taught in public schools, nevertheless, this account should not be undermined by

either the teachers or the students through the advocacy of evolution or by condoning those who did. What the board wanted was neutrality. The record is not clear whether the school board refused to renew Prescott's contract or whether he resigned to escape further censure. After he left teaching and coaching Prescott settled into the real estate, insurance and building construction business in Fort Lauderdale.¹⁰⁶

THE CLASS OF '23

As if to counteract the divisiveness stemming from the general evolution controversy, clericals held a prominent spot in the closing programs of the school. The Baccalaureate and Commencement programs for the Class of 1923 had as their core thrust the pointing of the youthful graduates to the right moral goals, with the latter in particular being given credit for the achievements of the senior class. Dr. Milton M. Bales, pastor of the local First Baptist Church, delivered the Baccalaureate sermon on the subject "Wanted A Man," Bales implying in his speech there just might be some among the twenty Fort Lauderdale High School graduates who might fill the prescription he gave for such a person. Three nights later Rev. Robert H. McCashlin, D.D., pastor of the Riverside Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville delivered the Commence-

ment address. Before the large audience gathered in the school auditorium school authorities presented medals to members of the senior class for exceptional work during the school year. Evelyn Fritz, President of the Class of '23 and a stellar basketball player, won the most medals, four in number. She excelled in that she had the highest grade point average of the class in examinations, for being a member along with Gertrude Boyd of the debating team which had defeated the West Palm Beach and Miami teams and for having the highest grade point average among the senior girls. Star trackman Willis Johnson won the similar prizes for senior boys. Miss Fritz, who allegedly had a crush on Coach Prescott throughout the year, and Johnson, who had to travel from Colohatchee to school, typified the high school scholastic standards expected of both athletes and nonathletes.¹⁰⁶

High grades and high expectations ran in the Class of '23. Marston Bates, son of the local postmaster; Gertrude Boyd, daughter of a prominent local contractor; Fritz, daughter of a local paving contractor; Marion Hill, soon to marry Jimmy Jones and eventually to figure in Broward County's only lynching; and Editha Perala, not otherwise locally distinguished, all received medals for maintaining grades of over ninety per cent for the school year. Academic interest and achievement

seems to have begun in the grammar school long before the 1922-1923 school year for Broward County schools that year led the State of Florida in the matter of attendance of pupils who graduated from the grammar school and entered and graduated from high school. In addition, ten of the twenty seniors had by Commencement already made arrangements to attend college in the 1923-1924 school year, while others planned to make arrangements prior to the opening of colleges in the fall. Alphabetically arranged, the members of the remarkable Class of 1923, were: Bernice Albertson, Marston Bates, Gertrude Boyd, John Burwell, Hugo Dichtenmueller, Evelyn Fritz, Jane Henderson, John Harry, Marion Hill, Blanche Horne, Willis Johnson, Ruth Kinnick, Mark Mahannah, Carl "Swede" Olander, Editha Perala, Hilton Rardin, Ruth Teal, Cecile Turner, Carl P. Weidling, Jr. and Frank White. Besides President Fritz, the other officers of the class were, Olander, Vice President, and Bates, Secretary-Treasurer, all of whom helped the class to frame the catchy class motto "Launched but not anchored," and to select the class colors and flowers green and white, and the white rose.¹⁰⁷

The Class of 1923 instituted an innovation involving the Flying L symbol, an emblem which dated from the 1917-1918 period. Up to this time

the wearing of the school symbol had been the sole prerogative of school athletes who had won a letter in either baseball, basketball or track. Now this class proposed a radical departure from custom in that it advocated there be no valedictorian or salutatorian selected each year but rather there be a senior class honor society composed of members whose average for the four years high school work was ninety percent or above and these students should be eligible to wear the coveted Flying L symbol. This advocacy only continued a controversy about the symbol which had erupted late in 1921 when the Fort Lauderdale High School Athletic Association had objected to the Class of 1922 using the Flying L symbol as that class's seal.¹⁰⁸

Even though the Class of 1923 had already graduated the resolution embodying their proposal came before the Broward County School Board on July 3, 1923. Upon a motion by member J.P. Smoak of Pompano, the board passed the resolution which had been signed by the class president and vice-president, Principal H.B. Robertson, Carl Hiaasen and Mrs. E.E. Marshall, the latter two signing as representatives of the faculty.¹⁰⁹

Pertinent portions of the resolutions which had been drawn up on May 23rd, reveal how emphatic the senior class and faculty spoke on the matter of

scholarship and the high esteem the Flying L symbol had already attained in the school and community. The resolution recommended the abolition of the designation of valedictorian and of salutatorian for the present and all future senior classes and that in their stead an Honor Society be established to apply to the present and all future classes, an action the Class of 1923 had already unilaterally taken insofar as the provisions of the resolution applied to this class. The heart of the resolution read:

That each and every Senior who shall attain the general average exclusive of deportment, of the grade of ninety per cent (90%) for the entire high school course, ¾ of which shall be done in the Fort Lauderdale High School, shall upon graduation become a member of said Honor Society, provided the Deportment of said Senior shall not have fallen below the average of ninety per cent (90%) for any year during his high school course.

That each member of the said Honor Society shall upon graduation from said High School receive as a token of said membership an emblem which shall be a representation of the "Flying L." Said emblem shall be the only insignia of said Honor Society.

After the school board heartily approved the Honor Society, and the Flying L symbol as the only emblem of the society, several seniors were inducted into the society.¹¹⁰

NEW FACES IN THE FACULTY

Menaced by the poor health of his family Principal Robertson returned to Cartersville, Georgia, and resumed his superintendency of that city's schools. Consequently, Fort Lauderdale High School got a new principal and along with him a new athletic director-science teacher for the 1923-1924 school year. County Superintendent James S. Rickards recommended and the school board hired young L.L. Blackburn whose teaching bore "the stamp of those excellent methods espoused by departing Principal Robertson" but the board did not immediately select an assistant principal to replace the "stern" Carl Hiaasen who joined the local law firm McCune and Weidling. Blackburn, a graduate of Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University and now working on his M.A. degree at the University of Florida, had taught in the Gainesville schools during the past year. He came with the recommendation of the faculty of the State University and of the several schools where he had taught in middle Florida. Blackburn in turn recommended as the replacement for Coach Prescott Robert



Students and one teacher from the Fort Lauderdale High School Class of '23, photographed at a 1978 reunion. Standing (left to right): former athletes Philip Weidling, Mark Mahannah, Hugo Dichtenmueller, Carl Olander. Seated (left to right): Marion Hill Jones, former teacher Carl A. Hiaasen, Gertrude Boyd.

Fulton Porter, also a graduate of Georgetown University. Porter's engagement came just as the school opened in the fall. This occurred rather late for for sometime it appeared Prescott might be re-engaged despite the evolution controversy for he had the support of the student body. Emmett Dye and Hugo Dichtenmueller, editor and assistant editor of the school's "School Notes," editorialized on what Prescott had brought to the Lauderdale school.

During the two years that Mr. Prescott had been with the school athletics had progressed wonderfully, considering the material he has had to work with and the handicaps of ineligibility and lack of material. During these two years the school has captured more trophies than ever before and the school spirit Mr. Prescott created could not be beat.

Dye and Dichtenmueller, both erstwhile Dakotians, did, however, concede that the evolution controversy had generated tremendous excitement in the school and the community for about two weeks.¹¹¹

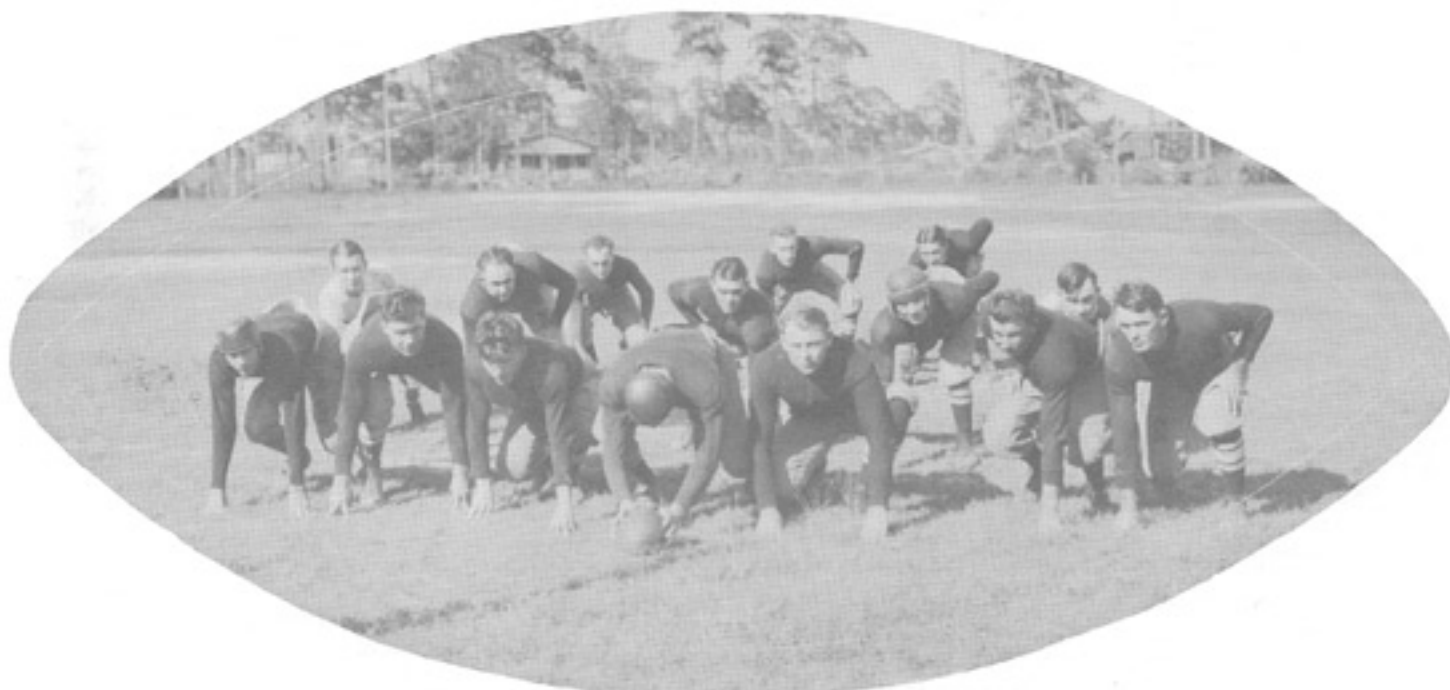
Two other teacher-athletic directors had been considered prior to Porter's hiring. Dania's Spanish teacher-athletic director Frederic William Gaelzer had impeccable scholastic credentials for he spoke fluently six

languages including the Portuguese of his native Brazil and as one Dania student said admiringly, Gaelzer had been "... the only Spanish teacher that we have had who could give the proper accent." Gaelzer had begun to make Dania's high school one to be taken seriously in the athletic domain. The Brazilian, however, left to take a teaching position in Montevideo, Uruguay, immediately after the Dania High School graduated its first class of seven boys on June 8th, including valedictorian John Mulliken, son of Dania's first mayor. The second coach-teacher considered to replace Prescott turned out to be George Stanley who had been living in Fort Lauderdale for some time. Stanley had been an outstanding track, baseball and basketball star at Jacksonville's Duval High School. At the University of Florida "... he made a remarkable record as a track man and also a member of the varsity baseball and football teams." In mid-September the Miami High School engaged him as one of its athletic coaches and as he left Fort Lauderdale the *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel* wished "... for Mr. Stanley much success in his work and according to his past record, predict for him a brilliant future in his chosen line."¹¹²

Upon learning Coach Porter could instruct in the art of football agitation arose among the Flying L athletes for Fort Lauderdale High School to field a football team for the fall of 1923. Even

before Porter's arrival on the scene a preliminary meeting had been held on August 28th in the school auditorium between the principal and some of the leading Flying L athletes. Blackburn favored fielding a football team and he gave to the assembled his attitude toward football, "... saying that football is the acid test of a man." Charles "Hooks" Gordon acted as the principal spokesman for the athletes since he already played on the city's semi-pro football team along with his brother Watt Gordon, who had married Miss Thelma Rattery in the previous June, and many other former Flying L athletes including Ivan Austin, Charles Rodes and Stephen Calder. During the meeting Dale Redman, a graduate of the first class in 1915, asserted that to fully outfit a twenty-two man team would cost \$400, but the sports store operator averred half that amount would do for eleven players, probably as many as the school could afford to outfit. Blackburn showed his enthusiasm by declaring expenses for a football team could be raised by selling season tickets or by a bond issue. He asserted, however, that with the formation of a football team the girls' athletic program would not be neglected for there would certainly be a basketball team for them, and perhaps, a volleyball and track team as well.¹¹³

For the first time in the history of the Fort Lauderdale elementary and



Fort Lauderdale city football team, c. 1922.

high schools all the city's schools opened on the same date. The Southside Elementary opened for its second year with Miss Julia Bradshaw as the principal and Miss Clara Landmark as the first grade teacher. Later in the fall the Hart-Cayot built Westside Elementary would open with Blackburn's wife, Ida Mae, scheduled to serve as principal and Miss Gertrude Boyd of the Lauderdale school Class of 1923, the teacher of the third and fourth grades. The faculty of ten for the high school included returning teachers Estelle Montgomery, Myra Marshall and Carolyn Clutter and joined by newcomers Marilla Ohl, Katherine Haskell, David Stone, Angela Ritter, Pearl H. Brown, J.E. Robinson and Porter, athletic-director and science teacher. In an auspicious year for the school the senior class selected as its officers Beatrice Rork, president; Vernon Clinton, vice president; Ivy Berryhill, secretary and Dorothy Dahlquist, treasurer. Clinton, from whom great things in athletics were expected, doubled as editor-in-chief of the proposed "Flying L" annual. Within the sub-grouping of the school the high school association had divided into the boys and girls athletic associations and both witnessed some warm races. In the end the boys association selected Clinton as president and Winifred Dahlquist won the girls association presidency as the students selected well-known students for these coveted positions, for Clinton had been in Fort Lauderdale since 1917 and the Dahlquists since 1920, the first coming from Kentucky and the latter from Minnesota.¹¹⁴

BEGINNING A FOOTBALL TRADITION

At the end of September 1923, Coach Porter began football practice at Stranahan Field with an enthusiastic group of inexperienced boys. Principal Blackburn, however, admonished the fledgling gridiron gladiators that a high scholastic standing had to be maintained if one wished to play on the high school team. At the same time Porter began to coach the city football semi-pro team managed by Ivan Austin and a team which had run ramshod over all opposition for the past three years, years in which they had won the southeast Florida semi-pro championship each year. As an incentive, city team members had held before them the prospects of a trip to Havana, Cuba, to engage that city's team, for negotiations for such a trip had begun with representatives who had accompanied the Havana baseball team to Fort Lauderdale to play the local baseball team.¹¹⁵

Known initially as the Fort Lauderdale High School Tarpons, the gridiron warriors looked forward to October 13th when the high school would play its first game of football ever and that with the veteran Miami High School team on the Royal Palm Park gridiron in Miami. Only Gordon of the Lauderdale players ever had played a regular football game, therefore, his teammates elected him captain. The Miami school on the other hand had played football games off and on since 1911. The "Student Reporter" of the high school took an extremely optimistic or cavalier view of the Fort Lauderdale team, evidenced by his assertion that "... the young Tarpons will have as high-spirited and hard-fighting team as ever trotted out to answer the referee's whistle in high school matches." For their first game Lauderdale fielded a team of eleven eager players and two substitutes, consequently, the opposition saw some speed but not much beef. Generally small in stature, the Lauderdale players seemed more bred for the track than the gridiron.

Charles Gordon	fullback
Vernon Clinton	right halfback
Jesse Clarke and	
John Davis	left halfback
Richard Drake	quarterback
George Bennett	right end
Murray Bryan	right tackle
H. Hunter	right guard
Vernice Hearn	center
Howard Clark	left guard
Robert Clark and	
Earl Folsom	left end ¹¹⁶

Although Coach Porter had worked wonders with his green squad, the Miami High School stomped the Lauderdale school team 25 to 0 in four quarters of twelve minutes each. There were some bright spots, however, for Bryan slashed through the Miami line time after time to make tackles and Captain Gordon from his fullback position gained most of the unconverted yardage for Fort Lauderdale. With virtually the same line-up, the Flying Ls or "young Tarpons" on October 20th lost to the West Palm Beach High School 6 to 0 in their second outing. Although the Lauderdale players made more first downs and gained more yards than did their opponents, the Ls could not punch across a touchdown. But victory came to the team on October 27th when they defeated Fort Pierce High School 19 to 0 in the first high school game ever played on Stranahan Field. Ironically, John Prescott officiated as the game's umpire. Because of its large lead the Lauderdale players substituted freely in order to give experience to the greenest of the team. But two weeks later the

Fort Pierce team defeated the Ls in Vero [Beach] 12 to 6 in a contest which saw many second-string men playing for the Lauderdale players because some of the ace players could not participate because of their ineligibility due to their low grades. Into this latter category fell Gordon, Bryan, Davis and Hunter. In addition, Fort Pierce used a system unfamiliar to the Flying Ls to good advantage. The "shift" formation used by the upstarters often drew the Flying Ls off side and the consequent penalties hurt. On their first outing the girl's basketball team fared hardly better than did the football team. Delray and the Flying L girls had identical scores in each half and wound up in an 18 to 18 tie, with sisters Winifred and Dorothy Dahlquist starring for the Lauderdale players. Winifred, Alice Sears and Howard Burwell, all elected at a mass meeting of high school students, became the first football cheer leaders for the Fort Lauderdale High School. Within a year beautiful Miss Sears entered more closely into the Flying L spirit by marrying Charles "Kid" Rodes.¹¹⁷

A MEMORABLE FOOTBALL GAME

Coach Porter's starting monthly salary of \$175.00 surpassed that drawn by Coach Prescott by \$40.00, a sizable amount when it is realized that the Broward County Board of Public Instruction only paid J.C. Alley \$500 in 1922 for the two acres of land on which stood the Westside Elementary School, or that the average white male teacher in Florida only drew \$137.00 monthly, the white female \$98.22 and the average negro male and female teachers in Florida dropped to \$65.73 and \$50.18, respectively. And Porter's record in 1923-1924 in producing winners hardly seemed to warrant a salary larger than Prescott's. But in the school year 1924-1925, he not only coached the girl's basketball team to the state championship, but he produced a formidable football team even though he had lost seven lettermen. Through the first week in November 1924, the Flying L football team had won three games and tied one and their goal line had not been crossed. The scoreless tie came with the Fort Lauderdale City Team which Porter no longer coached but a team which for the past several years had won the Florida East Coast Independent League Championship, the same team that in one of the seasons had won twelve games and lost none. Ivan Austin, Miles Lewis Hall, Watt and Charles Gordon, Charles Rodes, Henry Marshall, Harry Elmo Baker, Robert Mathews, Stephen Calder and others,



The Fort Lauderdale High School football team that beat Miami High in the wet 1924 game. Front row (left to right): Bill McQuarrie, George Bennett, Robert Clark, Sam Marshall, Leonard Jeffrey, Bob Calhoun, Charles Gordon, Tom Berryhill, Frank

Davis. Back row (left to right): Coach John Haines, John Cass, Jack Geiges, Delmar Portwood, Perry Bryan, Robert Hall, Robert Blount, Howard Clark, Earl Folsom, Eugene Leonard, William Whiteside, and Coach Robert F. Porter.

all in some way or the other connected with Fort Lauderdale High School, starred for the semi-pro Fort Lauderdale Tarpons football team.¹¹⁸

By January 1925, the Florida Land Boom held full sway in Miami for in the state census of that month the population of the Magic City had shot to 69,754 a total exceeded only by Jacksonville and Tampa in the state. Fort Lauderdale on the other hand had grown in population to a modest 5,625, as the year 1925 began, thus when teams from these two cities met no one could fail to see the reenactment of the David versus Goliath theme.¹¹⁹

The athletic contest which lifted the Flying L banner to new heights throughout the state took place on Saturday afternoon, October 18, 1924, when the Miami High School football team dressed in blue and gold trotted out onto Stranahan Field to square off against the Fort Lauderdale Flying Ls in their blue and white uniforms. Before and during the game a heavy rain fell and Coach Porter and his assistant Johnny Haines, formerly coach at Brooksville, Florida, even prior to the beginning of hostilities had attempted

to persuade Coach George Stanley of the Miami Stingarees to postpone the game until Monday, even offering to pay the Miami team's expense on the return trip. But Coach Stanley refused to postpone the game under any circumstances, a decision he later bitterly rued. So in a heavy rain the teams took the field and before the contest concluded seven inches of rain water covered Stranahan Field. With only one substitution during the game to no substitutions for Miami, Coach Porter fielded a team which had as its prime goal the same aim as had all the Flying L teams of the past, i.e., to fulfill its slogan: "Beat Miami!" Porter's line-up read:

George Bennett
Charles Gordon
Jack Callahan
Leonard Jeffrey
Sam Marshall
Robert Clark
Frank Davis
Robert Blount
Murray Bryan
Howard Clark
Jack Geiges

left end
left tackle
left guard
center
right guard
right tackle
right end
quarterback
left halfback
right halfback
fullback

With the exception of Jeffrey, Callahan, Marshall and Blount, the Flying Ls fielded the same team as the one which lost to Miami in 1923. Robert L. Hall, a native of Wyoming and younger brother of Flying L great Arthur Hall, served as manager of the Fort Lauderdale team. And Ernie Seiler of Miami umpired the game.¹²⁰

With water everywhere, the game for the most part developed into a punting duel, with honors about equal. Perry "Peb" Bryan did the "booting" for Lauderdale, while Mizelle punted for Miami, although frequent fumbles by both sides occurred on account of the wet ball, thus making the game interesting, if not artistic. The first half ended with neither team having scored, but with Fort Lauderdale having slightly the best of the argument in the duel in which each team registered one first down. In the third quarter, however, a break occurred which decided the outcome of the game. With the ball in the possession of Fort Lauderdale on Miami's thirty-eight yard line, Bryan booted a long punt which sailed about one yard over the Miami goal line. Then, Carter, the Miami quarter-



Two heroes of the 1924 game against Miami as they appeared in later life. Above, halfback Howard Clark, and below, punter Perry "Peb" Bryan.



back, pulled a first-class "boner" by catching Bryan's punt, whereupon he was immediately tackled in his own end zone by Bennett and Davis, the Flying L ends, the blue and white outfitted pair thereby getting a safety on the play. Had Carter let the punt alone, the ball would have come out to the Miami twenty yard line and Fort Lauderdale would not have wound up with a two point safety.¹²¹

In the final quarter Fort Lauderdale suffered a tough break as burly halfback Howard Clark broke through the entire Miami defense. With a clear field ahead of him it seemed Fort Lauderdale

would register a touchdown to go with the safety. But Clark, a somewhat muscle bound athlete, slipped in the water and was stopped by Miami for a twenty-two yard gain. Defense and bobbles predominated for both teams who combined for only four first downs during the game, the teams evenly dividing honors in this department. Each team showed remarkable endurance as evidenced by each player playing full time both on defense and offense. The Flying Ls retained the water-soaked football and for a generation it occupied the most prominent spot in the school's athletic display case, emblematic of the Flying L victory over Miami and the transfer of the primary allegiance of the Fort Lauderdale High School from track events to the football gridiron.¹²²

The Flying L upset of the Miami High School Stingarees ranked on the local level with the astounding 6 to 0 triumph three years before of little Centre College of Kentucky over mighty Harvard University, a win for the "Praying Colonels" which shocked fans on the national level. For years the local win furnished the staple for conversation whenever the performance of the Flying L teams came under the scrutiny of Fort Lauderdale students and townspeople.¹²³

In the 2 to 0 loss to Fort Lauderdale, Coach Stanley came under heavy fire in Miami for not postponing the game to await better playing conditions. With the loss Miami's hope for a fine season and national recognition went into a tailspin. And in order to recoup some shattered prestige, the Miami teacher-coach and school officials offered to pay the Flying Ls \$200 for a rematch, a considerable sum for the privilege of playing a high school game of football. But having avenged the 1923 loss to Miami High School with the 2 to 0 triumph, the Flying Ls sat in the catbird's seat and to assure they remained there the Ls demanded a high compensation for a possible loss and they raised the ante to the outrageous figure of \$500 for an immediate rematch. As the aftermath of the loss to the Flying Ls and a subsequent loss to his alma mater, Coach Stanley resigned as coach and was succeeded by Ernie Seiler, the referee of the game in which the Flying Ls covered themselves with a glory which shone brightly for more than a generation, that is, until a post World War II generation arose which had not been thoroughly schooled in the pre-war Flying L traditions.¹²⁴

AN ENDURING SYMBOL

The "Flying L" is an unusual symbol adopted to represent a high school,

being nothing but a capital letter of the alphabet festooned with a wing and an arrow. Somewhat obviously, the "L" has always been understood to stand for "Lauderdale" High School, but what about the wing and the arrow? During the late 1920s the legend arose, to be fostered during the 1930s and 1940s, that the wing and arrow were added to the "L" because of Charles Rodes' heroics in the 1921 state track meet in Gainesville when he ran barefooted on the cinders and in doing so not only cut his feet but also set a new state record for the mile run. At least four facts, however, militate against the factuality of this colorful and inspiring legend, one which many people do not wish to give up. Although he is the central character in the legend of the origination of the Flying L symbol, Rodes on many occasions emphatically denied to the author of this article that when a spectator at the 1921 state track meet exclaimed "Where is the boy from who is wearing the L," a fellow spectator, presumably from Fort Lauderdale, yelled in response, "He's a Flying L from Fort Lauderdale," and thus the Fort Lauderdale athletic teams thereafter added the wing for speed and the arrow for straight flight to the bare "L" which had formerly festooned their rather austere athletic shirt. The second bit of evidence nullifying the Rodes legend is a photograph of the 1918 track team uniform which sported the symbol during the L's track meet with the Miami High School at the Royal Palm Park. The late Ivan Austin, a member of the 1918 track team, harbored the photograph until he recently donated it to the Broward County Historical Commission. As further evidence of the artificiality of the 1921 Rodes legend is the fact that President Fred Bloch of the high school's Athletic Association, who wore the symbol during the 1919 track meets, presented sweaters festooned with the Flying L to members of the 1919 basketball team. Finally, as salutatorian Gertrude Rogers Will of Rodes' Class of 1921 acknowledged in her final address, the Fort Lauderdale High School athletes wore the Flying L symbol during the 1920-1921 school year and she called upon the student body and the townspeople in general to highly prize the distinction and laurels won by those who had worn the Flying L symbol on the field of competition.¹²⁵

As Salutatorian Will indicated in 1921, the fame of the Flying L symbol stemmed from a collaborative team effort and that it did not originate solely as the result of one athlete's heroics. Prior to 1925, only two Fort Lauderdale High School athletes had gained statewide fame, Watt Gordon

for his outstanding performances in three consecutive state track meets beginning in 1915, and Charles Rodes for his marvelous performance in 1921. And before 1924, track had reigned as king in high school sports throughout Florida, and customarily many schools had one trackman who stood out from his fellow trackmen to the extent he seemed to epitomize the team. No Fort Lauderdale High School trackman ever towered above his teammates the way Gordon did. In one meet he almost outscored the entire Miami High School track team and in two state meets he came out with the second highest number of points among all the trackmen in the State of Florida. Because

of his speed and stamina he seemed to characterize the Fort Lauderdale team's qualities in these respects. Rodes, however, for all his brilliance, gained his fame for winning in a most unusual fashion one event in the state meet but his performances in the West Palm Beach and Miami meets were not particularly outstanding, but as a high school tennis player Rodes had no equal in south Florida and he was no slouch as a baseball player. But as has already been mentioned, he gained his fame after the Flying L symbol had already been adopted by the Fort Lauderdale High School. Gordon, however, dominated his school's meets with the Miami High School, while also

starring as a basketball and baseball player, and this before the Flying L symbol had been created.¹²⁶

Although a chapter and verse cannot be cited in proof of the assertion that the Fort Lauderdale High School athletic teams gained the Flying L symbol mainly because of Gordon's blinding speed, even though several of his teammates were also speedy runners but they, however, did not dominate meets as did Gordon. Gordon's last high school track performance occurred in the spring of 1917, and it does not seem an accident that the earliest documented date the Fort Lauderdale track team wore the Flying L symbol was during the track meets of the spring of 1918.¹²⁷



Stranahan Field as it appeared in the 1930s after lights had been installed.

DOCUMENTATION

These abbreviations used for convenience:

- BCBPI — Broward County Board of Public Instruction
- BCHC — Broward County Historical Commission
- BL — Broward Legacy
- DCBPI — Dade County Board of Public Instruction
- FLDN — Fort Lauderdale Daily News
- FLH — Fort Lauderdale Herald
- FLS — Fort Lauderdale Sentinel
- OHI — Oral History Interview - Located BCHC archives
- TTS — The Tropical Sun (Juno)
- TWMM — The Weekly Miami Metropolis
- W/S or S/F — Winter/Spring or Summer/Fall

1. Carl Jung (ed.), *Man and His Symbols* (San Sebastian, Spain, 1933), [Reprint], 110-113; "Badly Misinformed," *FLH*, 4/15/1921, 1; Letter, [Carl] Philip Weidling, Jr., to Cooper Kirk, 8/25/1988, BCHC archives.

2. Cooper Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System: The First Quarter Century," *BL*, 11 (S/F 1988), 26, 32.

3. Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . ." *Ibid.*, 31; F.W. DeCroix, *An Historical and Progressive Review of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and Other Sections in Dade County, Florida* (St. Augustine, 1911), 23-27, 191-193, 239-242; E.V. Blackman, *Miami and Dade County, Florida, Its Settlement, Progress and Achievement* (Washington, D.C. 1921), 13-20, 55; Philip Weidling and August Burghard, *Checkered Sunshine, the Story of Fort Lauderdale 1793-1955* (Gainesville, 1966), 14-22, 60, 67, 99; "Biscayne Bay," and E.S., "Down on Biscayne Bay," *TTS*, 1/14/1892, 1, 3; "It Is Miami's County Seat Election Ours," "Some Reasons Why the Magic City Celebrates," *TWMM*, 5/12/1899 and 7/28/1902, 2, 1.

4. Sidney Walter Martin, *Florida's Flagler* (Athena, Georgia, 1949), 150-158; Seth Bramson, *Speedway to Sunshine, the Story of the Florida East Coast Railway* (Ontario, Canada, 1984), 56-57; Allen Morris (comp.), *The Florida Handbook: 1975-1976* (Tallahassee, 1975), 381-391; Wava Rowe White (transcriber), "1900 Census of Dade County, Florida," (n.p.), 1981; E.S., "Round About Us," "Independence Day," "Independence Day," *TTS*, 5/1 and 7/8/1891, 6/21/1891, 1, 1, 8; "Florida Counties — Dade," *FLDN*, 1/18/1926, 2.

5. DeCroix, *Historical and Progressive Review*, op. cit., 17-18; Blackman, *Miami and Dade County*, op. cit., 15-20; Thelma Peters, *Biscayne Country 1870-1925* (Miami, 1981), 56-58, 72-75, 157; Metropolitan Dade County Office of Community and Economic Development, *Historic Preservation Division, From Wilderness to Metropolis, The History and Architecture of Dade County, Florida 1825-1940* (Miami, 1982), 7-10; *Sixth Census of Florida* (1903), 10, 90; "Lemon City Locals," "The Necessity and Advantages of a Railroad to Cape Florida," "Lemon City Locals," "Lemon City Locals," "Fourth of July on Biscayne Bay," *TTS*, 6/24, 7/1, 7/22, 8/12/1891, 7/14/1892, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1; "Some Reasons Why the Magic City Celebrates," *TWMM*, 7/28/1902, 1.

6. Peters, *Biscayne Country*, *ibid.*, "Correspondence," "Fourth of July on Biscayne Bay," *TTS*, 7/14/1892, 1, 1.

7. George E. Andrews, Dennis O'Neill, Frank Stranahan, W.C. "Cap" Valentine, *Biographical Files*, BCHC archives; Bill McGoun, *A Biographical History of Broward County* (Miami, 1972), 38-39, 58-59; Ivy Julia Stranahan, "Mrs. Stranahan's Own Story," *BL*, 3 (Fall 1979), 29; "A Trip to Biscayne Bay," "Bits of Baseball," "Paragraphs Purely Personal," "Editorial — Baseball," "Date Has Been Set for Opening of Hotels," "From Bush Leagues to Big Leagues," *TTS*, 3/9/1893, 3/31/1898, 7/18/1902, 8/29/1906, 8/12/1914, 2, 5, 1, 2, 1, 3; "Baseball," "A Great Game," "Miami Mince Meat," *TWMM*, 7/9/1897, 12/3/1897, 11/25/1898, 5, 8, 1; "Lauderdale's Fifteen Year Club — Mrs. S.C. King," *Fort Lauderdale Evening Sentinel*, 2/14/1925, 2; "Fort Lauderdale's First Citizen," *FLDN*, 8/4/1925, 6B.

8. *Sixth Census of Florida* (1903), 10, 90; "For Everglades Drainage," "Town of Dania Is Progressive," "The County Census Is Completed . . ." "Fort Lauderdale Won From Dania," "Lemon City Defeated Fort Lauderdale Team," "Miami Club Met Waterloo at Dania In Great Game," *TWMM*, 3/16, 3/23, 9/21/1906, 11/22/1907, 10/9/1908, 9/17/1909, 4, 3, 1, 7, 8, 7; "Read Completed Through to Miami," "Census Report Is Made Public," *TTS*, 1/20, 9/22/1906, 1, 1; "Fort Lauderdale and Lemon City Play Today," *The Daily Miami Metropolis*, 10/8/1908, 1.

9. Weidling and Burghard, *Checkered Sunshine*, 29-41; Weidling, MS from taped narrative, 2, BCHC archives; Samuel Proctor, *Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, Florida's Fighting Democrat* (Gainesville, 1960), 292-295; A.U. Heiney (Eugene E. Wiley), "Land Lottery," *BL*, 1 (July 1977), 20-22; *Thirteenth United States Census*, (1910), Dade County; "Results From the Davis Experimenta Farm," *BL*, 7, (S/F 1984), 28-32; "Steering Committee

Adopts Resolutions Stating Complaints," "Progressive People Have Meeting," "Contract Holders Gain Concessions From Florida Fruitlands Company," *TWMM*, 3/17, 5/12, 8/17/1911, 8, 5, 8; "What Seven Years Have Done for Fort Lauderdale," *FLS*, 4/19/1918, 2nd Sec. 1; "Gate City Is Now Nearing Half Century Mark," *FLDN*, 8/4/1925, 11A.

10. DeCroix, *Historical and Progressive Review*, op. cit., 191-193; *Sixth Census of Florida*, (1903), 10, 90; [Carl] Philip Weidling, Jr., "Comments Upon Fort Lauderdale High School Athletic Teams, 1915-1925," taped 5/16/1988, BCHC archives; "Florida Enthusiasm In Chicago . . ." "Nothing Can Stop Dade Development . . ." *TWMM*, 10/6/1911, 1/2/1914, 7, 2; "W.J. Reed," and "A.B. Lowe," *FLS*, 4/19/1918, 6; Kirk, "The Historic 'Dania District,' A Vanished Settlement," *BL*, 11 (W/S 1988), 18-20; "Broward's Businessmen," *BL*, 10 (S/F 1987), 44.

11. Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . ." op. cit., 28; Kirk, "The Abortive Attempt to Create Broward County in 1913," *BL*, 12, (W/S 1989), 8-9; *Thirteenth United States Census*, Dade County, (1910); *Sixth Census of Florida*, (1903), 10, 90; "School Board Met Yesterday," *TTS*, 1/10/1906, 1; "Fought Hard With Victory For Soldiers," "280 in 1896; 15,000 in 1914: The Population Growth of Miami," *TWMM*, 12/1/1911, 10/23/1914, 1, 3; "Voters Approve Tax To Support Library," *Fort Lauderdale Evening Sentinel*, 1/26/1925, 1; "History of Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club," *FLDN*, 8/14/1925, 14B.

12. Letter, Keith Sellers Heine to Cooper Kirk, April 12, 1984, BCHC archives; Kirk, "The Abortive Attempt . . ." *Ibid.*, 11-15; Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System *ibid.*, 29; DeCroix, *Historical and Progressive Review*, op. cit., 277-278; Minutes, DCBPI, 6/14 and 12/10/1910, 27; 12/5/1911, 87; 7/9/1912, 116.

13. Photograph of 1912 FLHS Track Team, BCHC archives; Alfred Jackson Hanna and Kathryn Abbey Hanna, *Lake Okechobee: Wrapping of the Everglades* (Indianapolis, 1948), 139-140; "Progresso Day Spent in Beautifying Park," "A Few Facts About Progresso, Florida," *FLS*, 6/13/1913, 3/20/1914, 1, 1.

14. John G. DuPuis, *History of Early Medicine, History of Early Public Schools, History of Early Agricultural Relations in Dade County* (Miami, 1954), 5; "High School Boys Laying Plans for a Great Field Day," "All in Readiness Several Teams to Kick the Pigskin," "Fought Hard With Victory For Soldiers," "Lauderdale Notes a Raptist Bazaar Was Great Success," *TWMM*, 12/16/1910, 11/3/1911, 12/1/1911, 6, 3, 1, 6; "Two High Schools Enter the Basketball Event," *The Daily Miami Metropolis*, 1/16/1912, 5.

15. DeCroix, *Historical and Progressive Review*, op. cit., 190; Weidling and Burghard, *Checkered Sunshine*, 60; OHI, Kirk with George W. English II, #16, 4/5/1982 and Kirk with Bernarr Lowe, #91, 5/10/1989; "Local News," "First Ball Game in the Everglades," "Mr. Frank Stranahan Provides Ball Park," "Baseball in Full Swing," "Fort Lauderdale Wins East Coast Pennant," *FLS*, 5/16, 5/23, 5/30, 9/19/1913, 5, 2, 1, 1, 1; Photograph of 1913 Fort Lauderdale Baseball Team, BCHC archives.

16. Mark Mahannah, "Observations About the Fort Lauderdale High School Athletic Teams: 1915-1925," taped 5/28/1988, BCHC archives; James S. Rickards, *Biographical File and Rickards/Rickard Family Photographic Collection*, BCHC archives; Florence C. Hardy, "James S. Rickards Junior High School," *New River News*, IV (January 31, 1966), 1-3; Minutes, DCBPI, 9/9/1913; "Enrollment Greater in Schools of County," *TWMM*, 10/3/1913, 1; "Public School Opened Monday," *FLS*, 10/3/1913, 1; "Broward As It Was," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, 7/3/1977.

17. "Baseball Victory," "High School Wins Baseball Game," *FLS*, 11/7 and 11/21/1913, 1, 1.

18. OHI, Kirk with William B. Kimmel, #22, 10/30/1982 and with Charles G. Rodes, Jr., #15, 3/10 and 3/13/1982.

19. OHI, Kirk with Walter R. Brock, #50, 3/30/1985; "Thousands See Field Day Events at Fair," *TWMM*, 3/16/1914, 4.

20. Broward County Genealogical Society, "First Families of Broward," *Imprints*, V, 4 (1986), 96-99; Kirk, "The Abortive Attempt . . ." op. cit., 11, 16; OHI, Kirk with Sara Mathews Crim, #3, 7/31/1975 and with Georgiana Brock Humphreys, #84, 7/1/1987; "George G. Mathews Will Publish Sentinel and Not Breeze," "Lauderdale Schools Have Commencement Friday Night at M.E. Church," *TWMM*, 3/3/1911 and 5/10/1914, 4, 3; "Fort Lauderdale News in General," *FLS*, 6/26/1914, 1.

21. "Fort Lauderdale High School," *New River News*, IX, 3 (January 31, 1971), 1-10; Mahannah, "Observations . . ." op. cit.; "Rigid Rules Applied to Teachers Exams by Supt. W.N. Sheats," "Dade County School Teachers Ready to Begin," *TWMM*, 5/22 and 9.4.1914, 6, 2; "High School Begins Monday September 14," *FLS*, 8/28/1914, 1.

22. Kirk, "The Abortive Attempt . . ." op. cit., 9-13, 23; and "The Broward County Public School System . . ." op. cit., 30; Minutes, DCBPI, 5/5/1914, 254-255; Map

of Progresso, BCHC archives; "The Land Distribution at Fort Lauderdale," "Lauderdale High School Is Opening: Big Enrollment," *TWMM*, 3/17/1911, 9/18/1914, 4, 2, "Will Build Modern School House," "Local News," *FLS*, 6/12 and 10/9/1914, 1, 1.

23. OHI, Kirk with Edward Vile, #25, 4/5/1983, 4/8/1983; Mahannah, "Observations . . ." op. cit.; "Local News," "Local News," *FLS*, 11/13 and 12/11/1914, 5, 5.

24. Weidling, MS from taped narrative, op. cit.; Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . ." op. cit., 30, 31; "Basketball Team Wins," *FLS*, 12/18/1914, 2.

25. Weidling, "Comments . . ." op. cit.; OHI, Kirk with Ivan Austin, #88, 8/24/1988 and with Bernarr Lowe, #91, 5/10/1989; "Loses Game to Miami Players," *The Daily Tropical Sun*, 12/19/1914, 4; "Basketball," "Win Basketball Game," "Win From Davis," "School Notes," *FLS*, 12/25/1914, 1/15, 1/29, 2/12/1915, 5, 1, 1, 3.

26. "Fort Lauderdale High School," *New River News*, op. cit.; Gertrude Boyd, "Highlights — Class of 1923," *BL*, 11 (W/S 1988), 34; Minutes, DCBPI, 9/1, 9/8, 12/25/1914, 325, 329, 367; "Evening Program, Dedication Day, Fort Lauderdale Public School Building," BCHC archives; "School Notes," "School Notes," "Dedication Exercise of New School Building," *FLS*, 2/12, 2/19, 9/17/1915, 3, 3, 1.

27. *Florida, The East Coast, Its Builders, Resources, Industries, Town and City Developments* (Miami, c. 1920), 127; Letter, Walter R. Brock to Kirk, 4/10/1987, BCHC archives; Mahannah, "Observations . . ." op. cit.; "Fort Lauderdale Wins the Hall Trophy in Field Day Sports at County Fair," *TWMM*, 3/5/1915, 3.

28. Weidling and Burghard, *Checkered Sunshine*, 67; Letter, Brock to Kirk, *ibid.*, "High School Boys Take Part in State Meet," *FLS*, 4/9/1915, 6.

29. "Fort Lauderdale Wants to Be Incorporated as a City Under Old Name," *TWMM*, 4/9/1915, 7; "Masons Lay Cornerstone," "Local News," "Broward County Is Assured: Fort Lauderdale The Capital," *FLS*, 3/26, 4/23/1915, 1, 5, 1.

30. OHI, Kirk with Bernarr Lowe, #91, 5/10/1989, Letter, Brock to Kirk, op. cit.

31. Harry A. Kersey, Jr., "The Tony Tommie Letter, 1916: A Transitional Document," *Florida Historical Quarterly*, LXIV, 3 (January, 1986), 301-314; Bill McGoun, *A Biographical History of Broward County*, op. cit., 48-49; Weidling, "Comments . . ." op. cit.; "Commencement Program," "High School Commencement Week," "Pine Serrano," "Commencement Week Lauderdale Schools," "The Seminole Indian Report," *FLS*, 5/14, 5/14, 5/28, 5/28, 12/3/1915, 5, 1, 2, 1, 1.

32. Weidling and Burghard, *Checkered Sunshine*, 66; "Commencement Week Lauderdale Schools," *ibid.*; "17 Graduates From Miami High School, Class Largest in the History of the School," *TWMM*, 6/11/1915, 1; Mike Morgan, "Schoolboy Uncles Meet," *FLDN*, (undated, 1961), clipping in BCHC archives.

33. Weidling and Burghard, *Checkered Sunshine*, 66-68; "The Creation of Broward County: Broward's New School System," *BL*, 11, (S/F 1988), 21; "Where We Learned," 7th Annual [Broward County] Pioneer Days Program (1979), 15-18; "Dedication Exercises of New School," *FLS*, 9/17/1915, 1.

34. Stuart B. McIver, *Fort Lauderdale and Broward County, an Illustrated History* (Woodland Hills, California, 1983), 64-66; Bill McGoun, *Hollandale* (Hollandale, 1976), 11, 42; *Sixth Census of Florida*, (1903), 10, 90; "The Creation of Broward County," *BL*, 11, (S/F 1988), 2-20; Mahannah, "Observations . . ." op. cit.; Minutes, DCBPI, 9/2 and 10/18/1915, 11; "New School — New Teachers," "Newly Elected Board," "Commissioners Busy," "Broward County Celebrates," *FLS*, 7/4, 7/23, 8/13, 10/8/1915, 8, 3, 1, 1.

35. Kirk, "The Historic 'Dania District,' A Vanished Settlement," *BL*, 11, (W/S 1988), 18-19; Weidling, MS from taped narrative, op. cit.; "The High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 11/26, 12/3, 12/31/1915, 10, 2, 2; "Fort Lauderdale Public Schools," *FLS*, 12/24/1915, 1.

36. Weidling and Burghard, *Checkered Sunshine*, 76, 79, 280; *The Book of Florida* (The Florida Editor's Association, 1925), 545, 603; Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . ." op. cit., 31; "Wright-Crouch," "Professor Wright Resigns," "Up-to-Date Real Estate Firm," "Basketball Game," "The High School Sentinel," "The High School Sentinel," "Fort Lauderdale High School After State Championship," "Lost to Braves," "City Elections," *FLS*, 6/4, 7/9, 10/22, 12/31/1915, 8, 3, 1, 1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 3/17 and 3/31/1916, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1.

37. Kirk, "The Abortive Attempt . . ." op. cit., 15, 17; "The High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 3/31/1916, 2; "Broward County's Big 4-Day Fair," *Miami Herald*, 4/1/1916, quoted in *FLS*, 4/7/1916, 1.

38. Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . ." op. cit., 31; Letter, Brock to Kirk, op. cit.; "The High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 1/28, 4/7, 5/12/1916, 2, 2, 2.

39. James S. Rickards, *Biographical File*, BCHC archives; Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . ." *ibid.*, 31; "Fort Lauderdale High School

Accredited," *FLS*, 5/19/1916, 1; "The High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 5/19, 6/9, and 6/16/1916, 2, 2, 2.

40. *Gertrude Boyd Family Collection*, BCHC archives; Pioneer Women Committee, XI Chapter Delta Kappa Gamma, "Pioneer Women in Education," BCHC archives; "Corps of Teachers for Fort Lauderdale School," "Editorial," "Grade School Opens Monday," *FLS*, 7/7, 7/14, 9/22/1916, 1, 4, 1; "The High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 9/22/1916, 10/27/1916, 2, 2, 2.

41. Weidling, *MS* from taped narrative, op. cit.; "The High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 10/6, 11/3, 11/17, and 12/1/1916, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2 and 3/9/1917, 2, 2; "Broward County Teachers Organize," "Lauderdale Makes Clean Sweep," *FLS*, 12/1/1916 and 3/1/1917, 1, 1; "Fort Lauderdale School Stages Contest to Win Interest in Athletics," *TWMM*, 2/23/1917, 6.

42. OHI, Kirk with Ivan Austin, #88, 8/24/1988; "For Lauderdale Wins All Honors," "The High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 3/30 and 3/23/1917, 1, 2.

43. Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . .," op. cit., 31; "Fort Lauderdale Wins All Honors," *Id.*, "Editorial," *FLS*, 4/6/1917 and 5/10/1918, 4, 4.

44. "Interscholastic Cups on Display," "The High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 3/30 and 4/6/1917, 1, 2.

45. Weidling and Burghard, *Checkered Sunshine*, 75-76; "War Between U.S. and Germany," "Won State Track Meet," "School Celebrates Track Victories," *FLS*, 4/6 and 4/13/1917, 1, 1, 5.

46. OHI, Kirk with Sara Mathews Crim, #3, 7/3/1975; Kirk with William B. Kimmel, #22, 10/30/1982; "Broward's Businessmen," op. cit., 44.

47. Weidling, *MS* from taped narrative, op. cit.; OHI, Kirk with Mary G. Phelps and Grace Collins, #29, 8/8/1983 and with Helen Howard Woodruff, #60, 6/5/1985.

48. Pioneer Women Committee, "Pioneer Women in Education," op. cit.; OHI, Kirk with Alfred and Doris Vincentius, #45, 2/11/1985; Mahannah, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; Myers McIlvaine Marshall, "Mrs. Mathematics: Reminiscences of Broward County," *BL*, 5, (W/S 1982), 33, 34; "The High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 4/13/1917, 2.

49. Kirk, (comp.), "Roots of William C. Morris, Post 36, American Legion . . . 1917-1919," 1, BCHC archives; "All Lauderdale Boy Graduates Enlisted in the Army or Navy," *TWMM*, 4/20/1917, 8; "Walt Gordon Writes of Aeroplane Trip," *FLS*, 3/15/1918, 2; John L. Redding, "A History of Broward County, Florida for Students in an Educational Setting (Ed.D. dissertation, Nova University, 1979), 66-68.

50. OHI, Kirk with Ivan Austin, #44, 1/14/1985; "Commencement at High School," "High School Closes Successful Year," *FLS*, 6/1 and 6/8/1917, 1, 1.

51. *Gertrude Boyd Family Collection*, op. cit.; "Broward County's Development During the Great War," *BL*, 10, (S/F 1987), 29-45; "Teachers Employed For Next Year," "Uniform Textbooks For High Schools," *FLS*, 6/8 and 7/13/1917, 1, 1.

52. Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . .," op. cit., 41-42; "Ivan's [Austin] Gallery: Bustling Broward County, 1910s-1920s," *BL*, 10 (W/S 1987), 26; OHI, Kirk with Edna Van Aiken, #51, 4/3/1985 and with Ivan Austin, #80, 8/24/1985; Letter, Weidling to Kirk, 8/25/1988, op. cit.; "High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 4/5/1918, 2.

53. "The Creation of Broward County: Broward's New School System," *BL*, 11, (S/F 1988), 21; OHI, Kirk with Sara Mathews Crim, #3, 7/3/1975, and with Bernard Lowe, #91, 5/10/1989; "High School Sentinel," "Fort Lauderdale Public School," 4/5 and 4/19/1918, 2, 3rd Sec. 1.

54. Pioneer Women Committee . . . "Pioneer Women in Education," op. cit., 36-37; Marshall, "Mrs. Mathematics . . .," op. cit., 36-37; Kirk, "Roots . . .," op. cit., 7, 12; "Russell Redman Wins Oratorical Contest," "Two From High School to State Track Meet," "Ten Graduate From High School," "School's Honor Roll Contains 32 Names," *FLS*, 4/5, 4/12, 5/10, 11/29/1918, 1, 5, 5, 1.

55. Mahannah, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; "Teachers Employed For County Schools," "Teachers Paid Half For Time Lost," "Getting Ready For Dual Meet," "Track Meet Saturday Stranahan Field," *FLS*, 6/14 and 11/8/1918, 1, 1; 3/21 and 4/11/1919, 1, 1.

56. OHI, Kirk with Ernestine Freiday and Helen F. Moore, #70, 10/31/1985; Charles G. Rodes, Jr. Collection, BCHC archives; Kersey, "Tony Tommie Letter," op. cit.; Mahannah, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; "High School Herald," *FLH*, 4/4 and 4/11/1919, 6, 8; "Dual Meet Here Tomorrow," "Lauderdale Lost Close Track Meet With Miami; Two Records Broken," *FLH*, 4/4 and 4/11/1919, 1, 1; "Miami Wins in Track Meet," "Class Statistics, Class History, etc.," *FLS*, 4/11 and 5/23/1919, 1, 1.

57. Weidling, *MS* from taped narrative, op. cit.; Boyd, "Highlights - Class of 1923," op. cit., 36; "High School Herald," "Local News," "Lauderdale Wins Tennis Tournament," "Facts About Fort Lauderdale and Broward County," *FLH*, 4/25, 4/25, 5/16/1919 and 3/3/1922, 5, 5, 1, 2; "H.S. Tennis Team Ties With W.P.B.," *FLS*, 5/2/1919, 1.

58. N.B. The belief that Fort Lauderdale High School track team would show to no advantage in the State Track Meet appears to be the reason the school sent no trackmen to the 1919 meet. Also, some concern existed as to the

physical condition of the trackmen. See "High School Herald," *FLH*, 4/25/1919, 5.

59. OHI, Kirk with Bernard Lowe, #91, 5/10/1989; "Alumni Banquet Held at the Gilbert," *FLH*, 5/30/1919, 1.

60. Minutes, BCHC, 8/5/1919, 184; "School Instructors Nearly All Selected for the County," "School Board Appoints Some More Teachers," "Fort Lauderdale High School Begins September Second," "High School Opens With Enrollment of More Than 100," *FLH*, 6/20, 7/4, 8/22 and 9/5/1919, 1, 1, 1, 1.

61. Mahannah, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; Kersey, "Tony Tommie Letter . . .," op. cit., 307; McGoun, *A Biographic History of Broward County*, op. cit., 48-50; "High School Herald," "High School Herald," "Local News," *FLH*, 9/19, 10/13 and 10/3/1919, 6, 5, 6; "Program of the Commencement Exercises of the Fort Lauderdale High School," May 21, 1920, BCHC archives; "Judge Boyd Anderson Believed in Public Service," *Miami Herald*, 1/28/1973, 8-BR; "Broward As It Was," *Fort Lauderdale Sentinel*, 6/17/1977.

62. "High School Herald," "High School Herald," "Local News," *FLH*, 9/26, 10/24 and 11/7/1919, 6, 3, 5.

63. OHI, Kirk with Thelma Marshall Norton, #52, 4/5/1985; "H.S. Track Meet Tomorrow 10 O'Clock," *FLS*, 4/2/1920, 1.

64. OHI, Kirk with Harry Elmo Baker, #47, 3/9/1985; "Fort Lauderdale Best in Track Meet," *FLS*, 4/9/1920, 1.

65. Charles G. Rodes, Jr. Collection, op. cit.; BCHC archives; OHI, Kirk with Robert Mathews, #19, 5/4/8/1982; "Lauderdale High School Track Team The Winner in the Annual Meet With Miami High," *FLH*, 4/9/1920, 1.

66. OHI, Kirk with Charles G. Rodes, Jr., #15, 3/10 and 3/13/1982; "Part of Track Team Goes to State Meet," *FLH*, 4/16/1920, 1; "Editorial," *FLS*, 4/16/1920, 4.

67. "Lauderdale Boys Make Good Showing State Track Meet," *FLH*, 4/23/1920, 1; "Made Good Record in Gainesville Meet," *FLS*, 4/23/1920, 1.

68. Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . .," op. cit., 31; "Local News," "High School Play 'When Smith Stepped Out,'" *FLH*, 4/23 and 5/20/1920, 3, 1; "Contract Should Be Conditional," *FLS*, 5/28/1920, 5; "Judge Boyd Anderson Believed in Public Service," op. cit.; "Program of the Commencement Exercises of the Fort Lauderdale High School," May 21, 1920, op. cit.

69. Mahannah, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; "Commencement Exercises Fort Lauderdale High School," "Rev. Bratzel Gives Baccalaureate Sermon," *FLS*, 5/14 and 5/21/1920, 1, 1; "Board of Education Meets to Employ Teachers For 1921," *FLH*, 5/28/1920, 1.

70. OHI, Kirk with Bernard Lowe, #91, 5/10/1989; "Board of Education Meets to Employ Teachers for 1921," *Id.*, [no title], "Local News," *FLH*, 6/4 and 6/18/1920, 1, 5; "Employ Principal For High School," *FLS*, 6/11/1920, 1.

71. OHI, Kirk with William B. Kimmel, #22, 10/30/1982; Minutes, BCHC, 6/1/1921, 325-328; "County School Teachers," "Umpire W.J. Reed Resigns From Staff of League," 6/11/1921, 1, 1; "Broward As It Was," op. cit., 6/17/1977.

72. OHI, Kirk with William B. Kimmel, *Id.*; "Facts About Fort Lauderdale and Broward County," *BL*, 8, (S/F 1986), 42-44; Sixth Florida Census (1933), 10, 90; "Broward County's Population 5,135," *FLS*, 8/20/1920, 1.

73. McIver, *Fort Lauderdale and Broward County . . .*, op. cit., 76-82; OHI, Kirk with Alfred and Doris Vincentius, #45, 2/11/1985; Mahannah, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; "Proof That Dreams Come True," *BL*, 8, (W/S 1985), 19-20; "Fort Lauderdale Experiencing Substantial Building Boom," "One of Biggest Projects Ever Started in South Florida Is Now Underway in Fort Lauderdale," "High School Notes," "High School Herald," "High School Herald," "High School Herald," "High School Herald," *FLH*, 5/2/1919, 3/5, 10/12, 10/19, 11/5, 11/12, 12/24/1920, 1, 1, 4, 5, 5, 5, 4; "Successful Year Ahead For Schools," "Fort Lauderdale School News," "News of the High School," "High School Notes," *FLS*, 9/17, 10/1, 10/8, 11/26/1920, 1, 8, 8, 2.

74. OHI, Kirk with William B. Kimmel, #22, 10/30/1982; "Lauderdale Defeats West Palm Beach," "Work Begun on Mammoth Sub-Division," "Editorial," "Bank Advances Money to Keep Schools Going," *FLH*, 12/14/1920, 3/8, 3/29 and 4/1/1921, 1, 1, 2, 1.

75. Charles G. Rodes, Jr. Collection, op. cit.; OHI, Kirk with Harry Elmo Baker, #47, 3/9/1985; "Track Meet at Miami Saturday," "Lauderdale High School Athletes Win Shield From Miami School," *FLH*, 3/25 and 3/29/1921, 1, 1.

76. Mahannah, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; "Shield to Lauderdale in Sixth Dual Meet," *FLS*, 4/1/1921, 1.

77. OHI, Kirk with William B. Kimmel, #22, 10/30/1982.

78. OHI, Kirk with Charles G. Rodes, Jr., #15, 3/10 and 3/13/1982 and with William B. Kimmel, *Id.*; Weidling, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; "Track Team Leaves For State Meet at Gainesville," *FLH*, 4/8/1921, 1; "Track Team to State H.S. Meet," *FLS*, 4/8/1921, 1.

79. OHI, Kirk with Charles G. Rodes, Jr., *Id.*, and

with William B. Kimmel, *Id.*; "Lauderdale Second in State Track Meet," *FLS*, 4/15/1921, 1; "Fort Lauderdale Scores Highest at Meet," *FLH*, 4/15/1921, 1.

80. OHI, Kirk with Charles G. Rodes, Jr., *Id.*; "Ivan's [Austin] Gallery . . .," op. cit., 28; "Fort Lauderdale: L. of a Nickname," undated clipping in BCHC archives; "Lauderdale High School is 42 Years Old This Month, Survey of History Reveals," undated clipping in BCHC archives; "Rodes Hotel Was Home to Judges, Legislators . . . And Even a Burglar," undated clipping in BCHC archives.

81. OHI, Kirk with Mark Mahannah, #17, 5/15/1982 and with Bernard Lowe, #91, 5/10/1989; "Lauderdale Second in State Track Meet," op. cit.

82. OHI, Kirk with Bernard Lowe, *Id.*, and with William B. Kimmel, #22, 10/30/1982; "Editorial," *FLS*, 4/15/1921, 4; "Lauderdale Scores Second Highest at State Meet," op. cit.

83. Weidling, "Comments . . .," op. cit.; OHI, Kirk with Charles G. Rodes, Jr., #15, 3/10-3/13/1982; "T-U Comments on Lauderdale Track Team," *FLH*, 4/15/1921, 1.

84. OHI, Kirk with William B. Kimmel, #22, 10/30/1982; Mahannah, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; "Badly Mis-Informed," "Senior Alumni Banquet," *FLH*, 4/15/1921, 1, 10.

85. Norma Hammer Albury, "Please Remember, Mama," *BL*, 10, (W/S 1987), 13-23; "Class of 1921," photograph in BCHC archives; Mahannah, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; "Lauderdale High School Plays in Miami Today," "Commencement on Friday Night Marked End of School Year," *FLH*, 4/29 and 6/3/1921, 1, 1; "1921 Commencement of High School," "Salutatory," *FLS*, 6/10/1921, 1, 1.

86. Weidling and Burghard, *Checkered Sunshine*, 68-69; Charles Forman, "The Forman Family: Everglades Pioneers," *BL*, 3, (Fall 1979), 2, 8; "George W. English II: Broward Builder," *BL*, 8, (W/S 1985), 35; McGoun, *A Biographic History of Broward County*, op. cit., 46-47; Weidling, "Comments . . .," op. cit.; OHI, Kirk with George W. English II, #89, 1/4/1989; "Coach J.S. Prescott Impressed With the Schools and the City Since His Recent Arrival Here," *FLH*, 9/23/1921, 1; "Athletic Schedule for the School Year," *FLS*, 10/14/1921, 1.

87. OHI, Kirk with English, *Id.*, and with Dorothy Dahlquist Wall, #90, 1/4/1989; *Flying L*, Fort Lauderdale High School Annual, 1923, 5, 26; "Coach Prescott to be Married December 27th," *FLH*, 12/23/1921, 1.

88. "Athletic Schedule for the School Year," op. cit.; "Basketball Tonight Lauderdale and Miami," *FLS*, 12/9/1921, 1; "Miami Team Too Much for Fort Lauderdale," "Basketball Team Breaks Even at Fort Pierce," "Basketball Team Winning Games," *FLH*, 12/6 and 12/23/1921, 1/13/1922, 1, 1, 1; "Obituaries: Robert Mathews, Retired Newspaper Printer," *Fort Lauderdale News and Sentinel*, 12/27/1988, 4B.

89. "Lauderdale Basketball Teams to Have Hot Contest Local Floor Tonight," "Wins One Game From West Palm Beach," "Lauderdale Victor in Basketball Game Last Friday," *FLH*, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10/1922, 1, 1, 1.

90. OHI, Kirk with Dorothy Dahlquist Wall, #90, 1/4/1989, and with Alfred and Doris Vincentius, #45, 2/11/1985; "School Notes," *FLH*, 2/10/1922, 6; "Tick, Tick . . . and the L's Win," *Miami Herald*, 7/31/1988, 2BR.

91. OHI, Kirk with Wall, *Id.*; "Final Try-Outs For Track Team Are to be Held This Afternoon," *FLH*, 3/17/1922, 1.

92. Thelma Marshall Norton Collection, BCHC archives; Elwood Nance, *The East Coast of Florida* (Delray Beach, 1962), III, 602-603; Weidling, "Comments . . .," op. cit.; Mahannah, "Observations . . .," op. cit.; "Winners of Trials in School Field Meet Monday," *FLH*, 3/24/1922, 1; "Make Good Record in Track Try-Outs," "Junior-Senior Banquet at Broward," "Fort Lauderdale Wins Tri-County Track Meet," "School Celebrates Great Victory," *FLS*, 3/24, 3/24, 3/31, and 3/31/1922, 4, 5, 1, 1.

93. Virginia Elliott TenEick, *History of Hollywood (1920 to 1950)*, (Hollywood, 1966), xvi-xx; OHI, Kirk with Bernard Lowe, #91, 5/10/1989; "Local News," *FLS*, 3/31/1922, 5; "Lauderdale Track Team in Gainesville," *FLH*, 4/7/1922, 1.

94. "Lauderdale Track Team Wins Honors," "Commencement Week Lauderdale High School," *FLS*, 4/14 and 5/26/1922, 1, 1; "Second Honor to Lauderdale," "Lauderdale High School Track Team of 1922," *FLH*, 4/14 and 4/21/1922, 1, 1.

95. *Flying L*, 1923, op. cit., 11; "Pioneer Women in Education," op. cit.; OHI, Kirk with Carl Haaasen, #39, 9/28/1984; Weidling, "Comments . . .," op. cit.; "County School Board Employs City Teachers," *FLH*, 4/28/1922, 1; "School Notes," "Hall-Dawson," *FLS*, 12/1/1922 and 8/17/1923, 6, 1.

96. J. H. Parry and P.M. Sherlock, *A Short History of the West Indies*, (London, 1957), 257-259; "Local Athletes To Havana," "Local Athletes Win Laurels at Havana, Cuba," *FLH*, 3/9 and 3/16/1923, 1, 1.

97. *Flying L*, 1923, op. cit., 31; OHI, Kirk with Dorothy Dahlquist Wall, #90, 1/4/1989; "Biggest Track Meet of this Section Saturday," "Fort Lauderdale High School Swamps East Coast Rivals in Stranahan Field Track Meet," *FLH*, 3/16 and 3/30/1923, 1, 1.

98. *Flying L*, *Ibid.*; *OHI*, Kirk with Hugo Dichtenmueller, #65, 9/21/1985; "Lauderdale Swamps Its East Coast Rivals in Track Meet Here," *FLS*, 3/30/1923, 1.

99. Mahannah, "Observations . . ." *op. cit.*; "Fort Lauderdale Track Team Celebrates Its Victory Saturday Night," *FLS*, 3/30/1923, 1; "Judges for County Meet on April Sixth," *FLH*, 3/30/1923, 8.

100. McGoun, *Hollandale*, *op. cit.*, 11, 42; Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . ." *op. cit.*, 32; "Tri-County Field Meet," "A Track Meet Will Be Held in Dania Today," *FLH*, 3/2 and 3/17/1923, 12, 1.

101. William Kramer, "Walter Reid Clark: The Formative Years," Clark Collection, BCHC archives; Weidling, *MS*, from taped narrative, *op. cit.*; [Carl] Philip Weidling, [Jr.], "Growing Up in Eden," *BL*, 10, (8/F 1987), 12; "The Tri-County Field Day Meet to Be at Dania," "Fort Lauderdale Is Victor in Big Tri-County Meet," *FLH*, 3/30 and 4/13/1923, 8, 1.

102. *OHI*, Kirk with Murray Bryan, #53, 4/9/1985; *Flying L*, *op. cit.*, 31; Weidling, "Growing Up in Eden," *Ibid.*; Gertrude Boyd, "Highlights — Class of 1923," *op. cit.*, 36; "Lauderdale Again Wins High School State Track Meet," *FLH*, 4/13/1923, 1; "1923 L's Track Champs Trot Down Memory Lane," *Fort Lauderdale News*, 11/24/1985, 25-26.

103. *OHI*, Kirk with Hugo Dichtenmueller, #65, 9/2/1985; Mahannah, "Observations . . ." *op. cit.*; Weidling, "Comments . . ." *op. cit.*; "Lauderdale Again Wins High School State Track Meet," *Ibid.*; "Lauderdale High School Wins State Championship," *FLS*, 4/13/1923, 1.

104. *Flying L*, *op. cit.*, 1-64; "Presidential Party Pays Visit to Fort Lauderdale and President Plays golf," "Work Begins on Development of Venice Sub-division," "Lauderdale Proud of Her Athletes," *FLH*, 3/16, 3/23, and 4/13/1923, 1, 1, 4; "High School to Put Out Annual," *FLS*, 4/27/1923, 4.

105. *Flying L*, *Ibid.*; L. Prasmama, *The Church in the Twentieth Century*, VII, (St. Catherine, Ontario, 1981), 34; Mahannah, "Observations . . ." *op. cit.*; Minutes, BCBPI, 3/1/1921, 303-304; 4/20 and 5/1/1923, 494-497, 498-508; "Scopes Leaves New York as His Counsel Delves," "A Fine Mess I Got Into," *FLDN*, 6/12/1923, 3, 1.

106. Mahannah, "Observations . . ." *op. cit.*; "High School Debating Team Formed," "Local Debating Teams Distinguish Themselves," *FLH*, 1/6 and 3/9/1923, 1, 1; "Interesting Exercises Commencement Week," *FLS*, 6/8/1923, 1.

107. Gertrude Boyd Family Collection, *op. cit.*; Mahannah, "Observations . . ." *Ibid.*; Weidling, "Comments . . ." *op. cit.*; "High School Commencement Opens Sunday Night June 3," "Lauderdale High School Graduates Twenty Young People," *FLH*, 6/1 and 6/8/

1923, 1, 10; "The Day They Lynched Reuben Stacy," *Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel*, 7/17/1988, SS, 10-13.

108. "Fort Lauderdale High School Athletic Association Objects to Seniors Use of Flying L Symbol For Their Class Seal," *Weekly Sun Newspaper Notes*, II, 60, BCHC archives; "School Notes — Athletics," "School Notes," *FLS*, 11/4/1921, 4, and 5/25/1923, 3.

109. Gertrude Boyd, "Highlights — Class of 1923," *op. cit.*, 36; Minutes, BCBPI, 7/3/1923, 547; "Lauderdale High School Basketball Team of '21-2," *FLH*, 4/28/1922, 1.

110. Gertrude Boyd, "Highlights . . ." *Ibid.*; Minutes, *Ibid.*; Weidling, "Comments . . ." *op. cit.*; "School Notes," *FLS*, 5/4/1923, 5.

111. Minutes, BCBPI, 11/8/1923, 607-610; "School Notes," "School Notes," "Prof. H.B. Robertson to Cartersville, Ga.," *FLS*, 5/4, 5/18 and 5/25/1923, 5, 7, 1; "School Principal For Next Year Elected by Board," "Successor to Coach John Prescott Appointed," "School Is to Open Friday . . ." "School Notes," *FLH*, 6/8, 8/31, 9/14, and 10/5/1923, 1, 1, 1, 2.

112. Kirk, "Andrew Christian Frost: Founder of Dania," *BL*, III (S/F 1979), 19; "Frederick William Guelzer," "Dania High School Commencement Exercises," "Geo. Stanley Will Coach Miami H.S. Athletes," *FLS*, 6/8, 6/15, and 9/14/1923, 1, 1, 1.

113. Weidling, *MS* from taped narrative, *op. cit.*, 11, 17; *OHI*, Kirk with Ivan Austin, #88, 8/24/1988; "Ivan's [Austin] Gallery . . ." *op. cit.*; "Gordon-Rattery," *FLS*, 6/22/1923, 4; "Meeting in Auditorium to Discuss Athletics," *FLH*, 8/3/1923, 1.

114. Gertrude Boyd Family Collection, *op. cit.*; "Where We Learned," *op. cit.*, 15-18; J.L. "Sam" Heede, "Our Bryan Pioneers," I, *BL*, 7, (S/F 1984), 43-44; "Broward County Pioneer Days," *BL*, III (S/F 1979), 41 (picture); *OHI*, Kirk with Frank Clinton, #56, 5/9/1985, and with Dorothy Dahlquist Wall, #90, 1/4/1989, Minutes, BCBPI, 11/8/1923, 607-610; "School Notes," "High School Pupils Elect Officers For the School Year," *FLH*, 10/5 and 10/12/1923, 2, 1.

115. *OHI*, Kirk with Ivan Austin, #88, 8/24/1988; "Facts About Fort Lauderdale and Broward County . . . Football," *FLH*, 3/10/1922, 2; "Football Team Organized Monday Night at City Hall," *FLS*, 10/5/1923, 1; *Ivan Austin Collection*, BCHC archives.

116. Kirk, "The Broward County Public School System . . ." *op. cit.*, 32; "High School Pupils Elect Officers For the School Year," *op. cit.*; "School Notes," "Lauderdale High School Loses to Miami," *FLH*, 10/5 and 10/19/1923, 2, 6.

117. J.L. "Sam" Heede, "Our Bryan Pioneers," I, *op. cit.*; *OHI*, Kirk with Charles G. Rodes, Jr., #15, 3/10 and 3/13/1982; "High School Pupils Elect Officers for the School Year," *Ibid.*; "School Notes," 10/26, 11/2 and 11/16/1923, 11, 2, 4.

118. *Ivan Austin Collection*, *op. cit.*; *OHI*, Kirk with Ivan Austin, #44, 1/14/1985; Minutes, BCBPI, 11/8/1923, 612-615; "Average Salary of Teacher is \$96 Per Month," *FLS*, 5/11/1923, 2; "Okeechobee High Will Play Flying 'L' Team," *Miami Herald*, 11/8/1924, 12A.

119. Sixth Census of Florida, (1935), 10, 90; *OHI*, Kirk with Robert L. Hall, #40, 10/17/1984; Arva Moore Parks, *Miami, The Magic City* (Tulsa, 1981), 118-120; *Florida, The East Coast, Its Builders, Industries, and Resources*, *op. cit.*, 32-34, 79-84; "Miami High to Play First Football Game Next Saturday," *Miami Herald*, 10/13/1924, 2B.

120. J.L. "Sam" Heede, "Our Bryan Pioneers," II, *BL*, 8, (W/S 1985), 21-24; Weidling, "Growing Up in Eden," *op. cit.*, 12; *OHI*, Kirk with Hall, *Ibid.*; "Punt Caught Behind Goal Line Costs Miami High Gridders Game," *Miami Herald*, 10/19/1924, 10B; "Win Established Lauderdale As Scholastic Football Power," *Miami Herald*, 11/27/1974, 6-BR.

121. McGoun, *A Biographic History of Broward County*, *op. cit.*, 52-53; "Punt Caught Behind Goal Line . . ." *Ibid.*; Weidling, "Comments . . ." *op. cit.*; "His Favorite Win Was 50 Years Ago," *Miami Herald*, 11/20/1974, 8-BR; "Tick, Tick . . . and the L's Win," *Miami Herald*, 7/31/1988, 2BP.

122. *OHI*, Kirk with Robert L. Hall, #40, 10/17/1984; "Win Established Lauderdale As Scholastic Football Power," *op. cit.*; "Fort Lauderdale 2 — Miami High 0," inscription on 1924 football, Fort Lauderdale High School Trophy Case.

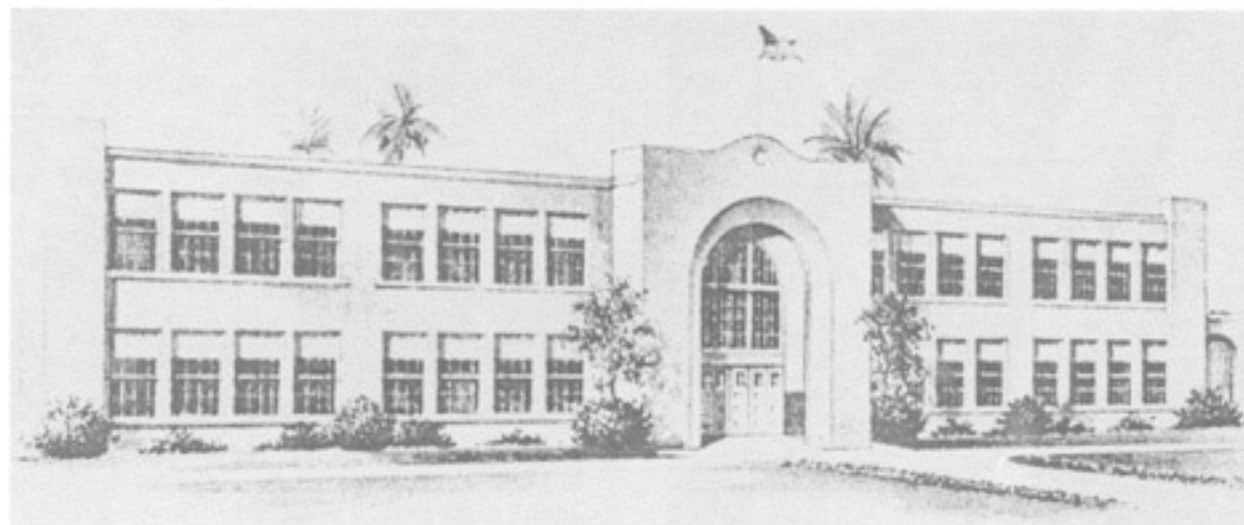
123. "Centre College 6 — Harvard U. 0," *The New York Times*, 10/30/1921, Sec. 8, 1-2.

124. "Miami High School Has Hard Workout," "Miami High Increases Offer to Lauderdale," *Miami Herald*, 10/24 and 11/13/1924, 2B, 3B; "Fort Lauderdale Flying L Tide . . . School History as It Is Made," *FLDN*, 11/17/1940, 12.

125. *OHI*, Kirk with Charles G. Rodes, Jr., #15, 3/10 and 3/13/1982 and with William B. Kimmel, #22, 10/30/1982; *Ivan Austin Collection*, *op. cit.*; "Ivan's [Austin] Gallery," *op. cit.*, 26; "Lauderdale High School is 42 Years Old This Month, Survey of History Reveals," undated clipping in BCHC archives; "The High School Sentinel," *FLS*, 4/11/1919, 8.

126. *OHI*, Kirk with Ivan Austin, #88, 8/24/1988 and Kirk with Charles G. Rodes, Jr., *Ibid.*; "Fort Lauderdale: L of a Nickname," *op. cit.*; Letter, Walter R. Brock to Cooper Kirk, 4/10/1987, *op. cit.*

127. *OHI*, Kirk with Austin, *Ibid.*, with Bernarr Lowe, #91, 5/10/1989; *Ivan Austin Collection*, *op. cit.*; "Watt Gordon Will Enter Georgia State University," *FLH*, 9/19/1919, 1; "Win Established Lauderdale as Scholastic Football Power," *op. cit.*



Fort Lauderdale High School.