

Signs to Paradise

Part 2

Bt Helen Vogt Greene

“Where winter spends the summer - a Paradise” was an early c.1912 public relationship invitation to Lake Worth’s early Pioneers. It was an invitation sent all over the United States, usually by those working on the railroads, by Palm Beach Farms Company with Bryant and Greenwood ready to open the ‘doors’ to a new life.

The ‘crown’ of this paradise was the Atlantic Ocean area. As early as c.1917, a “road rested on the crest of the dune line from Palm Beach to Manelapan.” This ‘scenic’ drive, more of a ‘jungle’ drive, was called A1A. In fact, until September 20, 1947, A1A ran right in front of the new 1922 Casino.

The devastating waves of the hurricane of 1947 ate large portions of the

are opened, has a vertical clearance of 90 feet. The bridge rises 200 feet above the waterline and is part of the 300 foot navigational channel of the Lake Worth Lagoon.



Since the late 1930’s, the Finnish people have called Lake Worth home. Bryant Park is a perfect location for the generous Finnish gifts of two very special monuments.



Bryant Park, with a modern bandshell, seating for 150 and a view second to none, hosts most of the major outdoor events. It also has a Children’s Park at the south end with a pavilion.

road and it was closed and moved to a more protected area below the dune crest. (There are still small portions north of Sloan’s Curve and south to remind us of the past.)

Today, the bridges of 1919 and 1937 are now part of our history. The ‘new’ Lake Worth Avenue Bascule (counterweight drawbridge) Bridge, an engineering’s marvel, opened in 1973.

As residents and visitors make the 1,566 foot crossing of this beautiful bridge, they are greeted by a 35 foot span, that when the arms

The view coming west off the bridge is one of the loveliest. It is more than a beautiful piece of land, which it is, but a ‘gift’ from the past. Bryant and Greenwood, from the very beginning, ‘deeded legally’ this land to the ‘people’, with no commercial ventures. A gift for even today.

In the mid-1930’s, the City approved the redesigned of the Lake/Lucerne approach to include a beautifully traffic island. The island provides three opportunities to honor our history with monuments to contributors such as: Karl

and Helen Easton, long-time owners of the “Lake Worth Herald,” a fountain, (which is not working), presented in 1968 by the Lake Worth Garden Club and a monument donated by the American Legion and the Women’s American Legion.

On the right is the 18-hole Lake Worth Golf Course with 6,113 yards of golf, that opened in 1925. It was designed by William B. Langford and Theodore J. Moreau’s. W.A. Boutwell, of Boutwell Road and Boutwell Dairy, played a major role making the gold course a reality.

On the left is Bryant Park, used as a park since c.1913. There was a 1000 foot dock that allowed boats and a ferry to make the crossing to the Bathhouse on the ocean. Today, this beautiful park, with all of its amenities and the Mediterranean Style Bandshell, is one of the most beautiful in Palm Beach County.

As a gift to the City, there are two monuments from the well-loved Finnish people, who during the Depression of the 1930’s, began to make their homes here in Lake Worth. The ‘flying geese’ magnificent monument was given by the ever generous Thor Soderholm’s. The second is a reminder that for all “There should be more work for peace.” Below each



Now the City Hall Annex, built as the second school in c. 1915, and on the National Register of Historic Places, the 400 Block of Lake Avenue is the backdrop for several historic ‘Signs to Paradise’, gifts from the City, Garcilaso de la Vega, NSDAR, Rotary of Lake Worth, and Business and Professional Women’s Club.

monument is a smaller plaque with the names of the of the mayor and commissioners accepting these gifts.

Children continue to be our future. With a great deal of work and sacrifice, a Children’s Park was made by donated time and funds. This lovely addition is located at the south end of the Bryant Park. All the children of today, say “Thank You” for a place to play.

Historically, Lake Avenue, our first grated street, and Lucerne have been our main streets. It is only a short walk to Federal Highway and the 400 block and what today is call the City Hall Annex. There are “Signs” that share a great of history.

Given by Lake Worth’s Garcilaso de La Vega, NSDAR, the Lake Avenue sign indicates this location as the 1912 site of the first school, in c.1914 it came the home of the second school.



This picture was taken at the 90th Anniversary in 2016 at the Rededication of the Addison Mizner fountain donated in 1926 by the the Business and Professional Women’s Club, who are advocates for women.



Now, City Hall, c. 1925, the Hurricane of 1928 damaged the building so badly that a change in its architectural style, to Mediterranean, was decided. J.O. Kings was the architect.

One of the loveliest monuments to the past is the Addison Miner fountain given in 1926 by the Business and Professional Women’s Club. After a gentleman drove his car ‘into’ the fountain, the fountain was restored, but for many reasons, it no longer functions as a fountain.

The most recent ‘gift’ is a meditation monument given by the Lake Worth Rotary honoring our Armed Forces. This only adds to the importance of this loca-

tion. Just across the street on “M” Street is another ‘gift’ from the people, the 1941 Lake Worth Library.

In 1980, Helen Vogt Greene, first Curator-Historian of the Museum of the City of Lake Worth, had the honor, blessing for the Mayor, Commissioners and the ‘write-in’ support of the Lake Worth community, to add the Annex, as a former school, City Hall, fountain and the Banyan trees to the National Register of Historic Places in Washington D.C.

With permission, the next ‘Signs’ are so important that a Part 3 has been suggested. May we always together find a ‘Paradise’ in our community.



Located in the Lake and Lucerne traffic island this is one of three ‘gifts’ of remembrance. Once a lovely working fountain, it was a gift to the City of Lake Worth in 1968 by the Lake Worth Garden Club now called the Town and Country Garden Club.



Opened in 1973, the 1,566 foot Lake Avenue Bascule Bridge is an engineering marvel. It has a 35 foot closed counterweighted span and a 90 foot horizontal opening. This is Lake Worth Beach’s third bridge.