"Progress" is defined in one dictionary as "advance toward perfection or a higher state." "Preservation" is defined as the "act of keeping from harm, damage, danger." Are all products marketed today aimed at achieving a "higher state" automatically capable of preserving against "harm, damage, danger?"

One group says: "You can't stop progress!" Another replies: "Preserve it." Each viewpoint is supported by mountains of statistical data. The conflict rages on many fronts.

Many historic records give mute evidence to the fact that they are victim to conflicting viewpoints of what is "progress" and what is "preservation." Use of the "best," that is, "latest" products to preserve historic materials may be more harmful than helpful when hastily applied. The truth of the adage "haste makes waste" is proven once again.

Innumerable suggestions could be offered which are useful in improving protection for scrapbooks, photographs, reel or sheet film, manuscripts and the endless variety of media used to record written and pictorial history. In subsequent paragraphs, two newspapers are discussed which illustrate the principles of preservation applicable to historic records.

The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society has a copy of the newspaper THE METROPOLITAN published on Friday morning, January 29, 1836. The masthead describes it as a "New Series, Vol. II, No. 12;" and as a "Journal of Literature, Agriculture, The Mechanic Arts, Domestic and Foreign Intelligence, and General Miscellany."

The article "Latest From The Indians" carries the dateline Charleston, South Carolina, January 21, 1836, and relates the massacre of the Cooley family on New River. This account is of particular interest to historians because a statement written therein is in conflict with other published statements regarding the massacre of the Cooley family.

How can this article best be preserved? Currently, the least expensive professional framing costs $48.00 for this 4-page newspaper, printed on one sheet. Dozens of items, all truly relevant to Fort Lauderdale's history, vie for the meager funds available for professional framing.

How fortunate that someone exercised some degree of caution with this copy of THE METROPOLITAN which was folded crosswise! To date, the paper has not broken in the center of the page and printed lines appearing along the fold are still legible. At least the
The following letter to the editor was not written with the least idea of its publication. It was written to Chitte Tuskenuggee, some time back, saying, "I shall stand by the great waters pread before us, and in its presence I say I shall stand by Fort King, if all my people abandon me to myself."

"I shall never again raise my hand against the white man," said Sam Jones, "for I am old now, and what can an old man like me do." And yet the other day, when two soldiers and the interpreter visited their camp, Sam Jones' son, Sponge, and Chitte's younger brother, Ochee Hadjo, were seen in readiness to canoe me up to the grand ball dance of course, if permitted. During the day Chitte appeared to be in fine spirits, laughing and talking. In the evening, at dusk, George, the interpreter, brought two soldiers with a gallon of whiskey, and said that the officers would not come that evening. It was left optional with them to go or not, but no one seemed to have any opinions of their intentions. Ten—eleven—twelve o'clock came, and neither returned to camp, although they were aware of their whereabouts, and therefore I went to see Lieutenant Tompkins became extremely uneasy—lieutenant Davis proffered his boat, and at five they both went up the river. Approaching the spot of the Indian camp, they perceived no indication of a fire or of human presence. "Here," "come here," "here I am," moaned a voice from the dark shaded bank. On rowing thither, the soldier Hopkins was discovered in the water, where he had concealed himself. "I am wounded," said he, "and they are killing Colonel Boyce." The boat hastened back to camp. Hopkins estimated their number at 800 warriors; (much too high probably.) He lingered six hours and then died. The ball had passed from the pit of his stomach through the abdomen, and lodged at his left hip, about an inch deep, whence it was extracted. On the 29th, the day after his death, we followed him arrived at his grave, and listened to the funeral service from the sermon, and at the end of the speech, which had preceded the deep. The whole territory is now full of strangers. Our city has become a perfect Gotham, as emigrants from every state, and, in fact, from every civilized country on the globe, are flocking in to our place. Florida.

The following letter to the editor was not written with the least idea of its publication, or with the knowledge that he, to whom it was addressed, was editor of the Register. But as it furnishes later intelligence from the immediate point where war or peace was to be decided upon, and contains a faithful and practical illustration of the Florida war, so far as it goes, we offer that alone as our apology for inserting it; having omitted several paragraphs, however.

Fort Lauderdale, October 5, 1839.

Chitte Tuskenuggee, some time back, said to us, "I am now sitting by the great waters pread before us, and in its presence I shall stand by Fort King, if all my people abandon me to myself." "I shall never again raise my hand against the white man," said Sam Jones, "for I am old now, and what can an old man like me do."

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tears that are in the paper were not patched with pressure sensitive tape which, in time, would penetrate the paper. Depending upon the placement of such tape, a stain from the adhesive might well render the "mended" portion illegible. As the adhesive on pressure sensitive tapes is absorbed by the paper, the tape flakes off and the sections become unpatched. Frequently, parts of torn pages are separated from the remainder of the record, invaluable information is lost, and one can not determine if the missing portion is part of a negative or affirmative statement. Thus, the researcher is stymied until alternate sources are found which determine the fact.

When a good quality, non-corrosive paper clip was removed, no serious rust stains resulted during the interval of years while the clip affixed some pencilled notes to the newspaper. In this case, an item produced by recent technology would have had decided value. A plastic clip, far more expensive than the traditional metal ones, is now used to attach notations while several papers are being accumulated for handling at one time.

Of relatively late manufacture, the paper bearing the original pencilled notations is a highly acid pulp paper, widely used in today's lined tablets. Residual acids in the paper migrate from page to adjacent page without leaving visible stains; thus, deterioration of the excellent quality rag paper in use in 1836 is accelerated.

A temporary method for protecting the newspaper is relatively inexpensive. The newspaper is placed between 2 sheets of acetate or polyester film large enough to provide at least a one-inch margin on all sides, and is then sealed with a pressure tape along the edges. The tape seals only the acetate and thus, the tape has no direct contact with any portion of the newspaper. When handled carefully, the acetate holds the paper in place without slippage.

The pencilled notes were detached and then placed in between the transparent film; a tag was placed in the margin around THE METROPOLITAN. Horizontal storage is in a cabinet drawer, large enough to prevent any folds or curls in the paper.

Information in the paper is read easily; direct contact with the paper itself is prevented. Natural oils in the skin of one's hands do not transfer to the paper. With care and without removal from its protective covering, copies of selected articles may be reproduced on certain types of copying equipment. Thus, the paper is protected and, yet, the information is available as needed. The cost of the acetate or polyester films is low, about $3.50. When purchased in quantity, the total cost is reduced.

Should the ultimate decision be to frame this 1836 newspaper, the paper can be removed from the shielding by opening the sealing tape around the perimeter and carefully removing the top cover. Greater caution is required to separate the newspaper from the second acetate sheet. Careless, rapid motions generate static electricity, which is sometimes strong enough to cause a tear in the paper. To ensure the greatest degree of safety for the newspaper, an item of this size would be handled most successfully by two people. Incidentally, the protective materials can be reused.

Another newspaper of great value poses a slightly more complicated situation. NILES' NATIONAL REGISTER, printed in Baltimore on November 9, 1839, contains sixteen pages printed on four sheets. According to the paper itself, it was "printed and published, every Saturday, by Jeremiah Hughes, Editor and Proprietor, at $5 per annum, payable in advance." It carries the motto: "The Past — The Present — For the Future."

The portion of the paper devoted to Florida states:

"The following letter to the editor was not written with the least idea of its publication, or with the knowledge that he, to whom it was addressed, was editor of the Register — But as it furnishes later intelligence from the immediate point where WAR OR PEACE will be decided upon, and contains a faithful and practical illustration of the FLORIDA WAR, so far as it goes, we offer that along as our apology for inserting it; having omitted several paragraphs, however."

The above paragraph introduces the following:

"Fort Lauderdale, October 5, 1839. Chitte Tuskenuggee, some time back, said to us, 'I am now sitting by the great waters spread before us and in its presence I say I shall stand by my word at Fort King, if all my people abandon me to myself. I shall never again raise my hand against the white man', said Sam Jones, 'for I am old now, and what can an old man like me do . . . .'

The letter is a lengthy, tragic, historical account of man's inhumanity to man.

To protect this historic record, each of the four sheets of the NILES' NATIONAL REGISTER, published November 9, 1839, is placed within protective sleeves of film, which are then attached with a fabric tape in order to prevent separation. Use of the less expensive but more quickly and easily used metal staples would result in rust, which would damage adjacent items.

The preservation and restoration of historic records and artifacts is a highly specialized technical field. Skilled professional personnel are needed to apply the currently accepted and approved techniques developed for purposes of long-range preservation. Such protective measures may involve considerable expense. Restoration is even more costly. Yet, as in all technical fields, future research and development may render today's progressive methods obsolete, possibly even damaging. Current fact may be proven fallacious by tomorrow's "progress."

Suggestions offered here are of the "household hint" variety, to be used as "first-aid" measures until the "doctor" arrives. They are intended for use by the
person who has the need and desire to apply inexpensive protective methods, using items easily obtained from local sources. Everyone has something of personal or sentimental value that warrants simple and inexpensive protection.

Many people have collections of a truly historic nature which justify the use of more expensive, professional techniques. A temporary simple method of preservation can be used promptly if care is taken to avoid the use of products which will ultimately cause damage. However, it is suggested that the owner of valuable historic materials inquire about the protective measures used by various nearby historical organizations. A “best” place can then be chosen — either as an immediate home or ultimate location — for historical records of long range value to a community.

Few historical institutions, in this locale or elsewhere, have sufficient funds to provide immediate, expensive professional treatment for all old and aging items, either for those on hand or for all new acquisitions. Before precious dollars are spent, each item must be evaluated for relevance, value, duplication and the contribution it makes.

The American Association for State and Local History publishes technical bulletins, comprehensive in scope. They are easily read, understood and applied by the layman. The methods advocated are accepted by most professionals as “The Bible.” The publications are prepared with a view toward helping local organizations protect, and not damage, a wide range of historical materials, with minimum cash outlay. The complete set of these technical bulletins may be read and studied at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. Possibly, they are available for review at our local points.

Protection of historical, original source materials requires a delicate blend of products from this age of progress and enlightenment and of other products which are tested by time. The use of many current conveniences or “necessities” on original history sources must be eliminated if their integrity is to be preserved for use by tomorrow’s historians.

MARJORIE D. PATTERSON (MRS. A.L.)

Mrs. Patterson has been a resident of Fort Lauderdale since early childhood. She attended local schools in other areas for many years, and returned to Fort Lauderdale in 1968. She attended the University of Colorado and University of Puerto Rico as well as Berlitz Schools of Language. Marjorie Patterson is presently Executive Director for the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Inc., and has been since February 1, 1975.

state historical society survey. Members are working on plans to restore the first schoolhouse built in the 1920s as a town hall and museum and are accumulating photographs from the early 1900s to the present in order to illustrate the oral history.

Fort Lauderdale Historical Society (Russell M. Gardner, President)

A $5,000 grant has been given to the society by the state so that items of interest in the society’s collections can be catalogued. A generous gift by an anonymous donor has enabled the society to purchase a copy of the movie, “The Idol Dancer,” filmed entirely in Fort Lauderdale about 55 years ago.

Hallandale Historical Society (Betty Jo Moffit Cunningham, President)

A new history of Hallandale has just been formulated and has recently been published in a hard back edition. This book features old photographs and interviews with pioneers and relates the developmental history of Hallandale. This group is also refurbishing a 1910 schoolhouse.

Hollywood Historical Society (Kenneth Spry, President)

Members of the Hollywood Historical Society are collecting artifacts and photographs and working in conjunction with the Hollywood bicentennial task force on the Hollywood oral history project. A series of rotating exhibits are being prepared for display in the Hollywood historical room at the Art and Culture Center, 1301 South Ocean Drive, Hollywood.

Oakland Park Historical Society (Edward Bailey, President)

A $10,000 grant has been appropriated by the City of Oakland Park to members of the Oakland Park Historical Society for restoration of Mayor Dewey Hawkins’ house as a museum.

Plantation Historical Society (Dorothy O’Hare, President)

Oral history and collection of artifacts are two projects which have recently been initiated. The society was responsible for the installation of the cornerstone in the Plantation city hall on Independence Day, 1976. A booklet on local history has been compiled for third graders. Members are currently formulating plans for moving and restoring the old Peters home.

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This is one of those delightful books that combines historical accuracy with readability, the type of history book of which we need more.

As in the other entrants in Seemans’ Historic Cities Series, the story is told mostly by picture. While I’m not sure whether a picture really is worth 10,000 words it, nevertheless, is a lot more interesting.

It should be added, as is noted on the title page of the volume but not on the cover, that the book is not restricted to the Town of Palm Beach but covers most of Palm Beach County as well. There are photos of the early Boca Raton Hotel and Club, the grand arch of Kelsey City (now Lake Park), and Belle Glade’s packing house district in 1930.

“Yesterday’s Palm Beach” is not a definitive account of that area’s history. It makes no pretense to be. Rather, it is an entertaining, well-edited account in words and pictures suitable for either the newcomer wishing a glimpse into the past or the oldtimer seeking to refresh some memories.

—Bill McGoun

Look for in future issues of the Legacy.
Harassed, hounded, haunted Dr. Hughes. Broward’s first resident doctor finds wilderness life no bed of roses.
Indian shoot out. Wily Sam Jones faces General Thomas S. Jesup in showdown in Broward.
Beacon of hope and safety. Revisit to Broward’s Hillsboro Lighthouse.
Gambling and gamblers in rip-roaring Broward. The pros and cons of this controversial pastime.
Done in by reefs and gales. Part II continues the saga of life and adventure on Broward’s beaches.

Pompano Beach Historical Society (Thomas W. Johnston, President)
Ongoing projects include the organization of a museum made possible by the gift of two cottages by the Kester family and the use of a rustic park site donated to the City of Pompano Beach by the Currie family. Society members are currently planning the second annual antique show and sale to be held November 26 through November 28 at the Pompano Beach Recreation Center, 1801 Northeast Sixth Street.

Wilton Manors Historical Society (Dianne Thompson, President)
The oral history of Wilton Manors is being accumulated and an attempt is being made to secure the original city hall for the historical society.

The University School of Nova University Junior Historical Society (Dr. Leonard A. Tomasello, Advisor)
The very first junior historical society in the State of Florida has been organized at the University School of Nova University. The youngsters’ initial project has been the publication of a coloring book, HISTORIC BROWARD COUNTY, 1915.

Historic Preservation Board of the City of Fort Lauderdale; in line with a currently ongoing survey (a federally funded project) of the historic area (H-I) of The City of Fort Lauderdale, researchers are requesting persons having knowledge of the area as it was and is, having photographs of structures or historic happenings (for temporary loan, for preservation, or for annotation), or having family memorabilia relating to the historic area, to please contact Mrs. George Bolge, 563-8597 or Mr. Herb Sickle, planning and building department, 761-2121.

GENEVIEVE VELTRI (MRS. FRANK)

Mrs. Veltri has been a Florida resident for 50 years, 25 of which has been in Broward County. She is a graduate of Western Carolina University…and an active worker in Plantation Historical Society, Friends of the Library, Woman’s Club, Plantation Community Church, Inner Wheel, and A.A.U.W. … besides her many duties she has to perform as the wife of Mayor of Plantation, Mother of 3 and Grandmother of 2.