



**WAY  
BACK  
WHEN**

**JULIAN  
STENSTROM**

## Names make 'The News'

Memories, memories!

So many of you folks tell us "I remember when..." or "I remember him or her."

We recall our old Herald editor, Rolland Dean, preaching, "names make news." Today we're going to toss 68 names at you. Some of them bring back memories. You might even see your own name.

How many of you recall being at the Seminole High School (on French Avenue, then) the night of March 31, 1944. Come on, now, think! Concentrate! It was only 47 years ago! Oh, you do, eh?

Then you remember the occasion. It was the SHS Glee Club's presentation of Gilbert & Sullivan's "HMS Pinafore."

What a performance they tell us that was! No, we weren't there. Our Army unit was in England skid-loading and shipping ammunition to ports such as Chelsea, Cardiff, Bristol, etc....getting ready for the D-Day invasion of France. But we heard enough about it to warrant this story.

Let's look at the leading players. Neil Powell had the role of Sir Joseph Porter (First Lord of the Admiralty). Powell, now a long time and highly respected Orlando dental surgeon, for many years was a panelist on the long running WDBO (now WCPX) Sunday evening TV show called "Florida Showcase." And, who else in Sanford could have played the role of Captain Corcoran than Dick Aiken (who was not a student). Bob Crumley was Able Seaman Rackstraw and Bob Callahan was Dick Deadeye. M.L. "Sonny" Raborn (who later served as Sanford's mayor) played Bill Bobstay. Wayde Rucker was Bob Beckett. Lucy Ward played the captain's daughter, Josephine. And Bobbynette Beard was Sir Joseph's cousin. Mildred "Bouffie" Robson had the role of "Little Buttercup (a Portsmouth Bumboat Woman."

As many of you know, in real life the "Bumboat Woman" married "Bill Bobstay."

Among those who played Sir Joseph's "sisters, cousins and aunts" were Evelyn Matthews, Roberta Evans, Nancy Column (who

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later married Sanford's Colonel Walter Turner), Lillian Walsh, Shirley Cameron, Shirley Eich, Martha Perkins, Betty King, Myra Southward, Ann Wiggins, Nancy Brower, Martha Page, Juanell Hinson, Daphne Connelly, Audrey Back (now the wife of Sanford Attorney George Andrew Speer), and Louise Clark.

If those names don't bring memories to mind of old Sanford families, how about these Glee Club members who played the "sailors."

They were Betty Matthews, Clarence Grantham, Dorothy Morrison, Dorothy Crumley, Ed Ward, Sylvia Meisch, Ralph Cranston, Herman "Foots" Brumley and Leroy Hoge.

The director was Ruth Jackson, the accompanist was Catherine Clark and the dance advisor was Carey Meekins. Business managers were Shirley Eich, Mary Helen Tew and Dorothy Lyons. Property managers were Frank Robinson, Martha Brown and Dorothy Lyons, Elsie McWhorter, Helen Hickson, Sallie Morrison and Dorothy Clark. Lighting technicians included Milton Sacket, Robert Geiger and Orrie Matthieux. Make-up directors were teachers Betty Miller and Rebecca Stevens. Among the ushers were Barbara Whitmore, Nancy Williams, Jane Gleason, Harriet Matthews, Georgia Hutchins, Mildred Matthieux, Viola Alexander, Phyllis Allen, Doris Dunn and Audrey Toll.

What memories of the families of these students come to mind!

Naturally, these names will evoke some sad thoughts, too. For example, Dick Aiken (of Arthur Godfrey fame) is no longer with us. Neither is Ann Wiggins who later married former Sanford mayor Lee Moore. Mrs. Jackson, the musical's director, has since passed. We understand three others — Shirley Cameron, Har-

riet Matthews and LeRoy Hoge are no longer living.

We're told that one of the toughest jobs in connection with the presentation was that of the property managers. All the elaborate costumes and props were supplied by a company in Boston and required minute attention to details and care.

It was, we're informed, a night to remember. And, a standing room only crowd jammed the old SHS auditorium which in a few weeks will no longer exist.

SHS, as we old timers knew it way back when, was completed in the fall of 1926. But it was not used for classes until January, 1927. The entire building at that time cost \$245,000. The new buildings replacing it will cost \$6 million.

But the school was used once by the people of Sanford before the first class was ever held in the new building.

On September 18, an Atlantic

hurricane smashed into south Florida. It claimed the lives of some 500 people and caused an estimated \$150 million in damages. When the storm turned in the direction of Sanford the new high school's doors were opened to any and all who wanted to "ride it out" in what was then considered Sanford's strongest and safest structure.

The Orin Stenstrom family (of which we were a member) took pillows and blankets and spent the night with many others in the comparative safety of the new building.

In south Florida over 3,000 folks were injured and 60,000 rendered homeless. Local Florida National Guard units of the 124th Infantry spent some 10 days in the area. Dr. Charles Park Sr., long time prominent Sanford physician, was the commanding officer of the regimental medical detachment, based at the local armory.