

Jupiter pioneer dies at 107 years of age.



On December 2, 2014 a Jupiter pioneer and friend has passed away. William Carlin White who was known as Carlin White died at the age of 107 years.

Visitation was held on Sunday, December 7, 2014 between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm at the Aycok-Riverside Funeral and Cremation Center. Graveside services were held on Monday, December 8, 2014 between 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at the Riverside Memorial Park located at 19351 SE County Line Road, Tequesta, Florida 33469. Friends and acquaintances have an opportunity to sign his guest book on-line <http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/>. (Memorial, 2014)

Carlin White's family built the town's first residence on 10 acres of waterfront property in the 1880's. Carlin passed away at his residence on Turner Quay, Tuesday morning. "He was a fascinating man who did so many things. He loved music, worked on his house, loved photography and history. He was our unofficial governor." said Pat Magrogan, a longtime friend of Carlin White. (DiPaolo, 2014)

The following story was told to Jim Curry, by W. Carlin White himself. "Father came to Jupiter at the turn of the century to install the first wireless direction finder for the Navy. It augmented the functions of the lighthouse and was one of three in the State of Florida. The others were at Jacksonville and Key West. It was in Jupiter that his father had met his mother and eloped in 1905. Two years later, I was born (1907)." (Curry, 1978) Carlin was born in the "Carlin House" in 1907. The Carlin House was the first



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hotel in the Jupiter area and was operated by his grandmother Mary Carlin. (Jupiter, 2007) What kept the hotel popular was a Western Union Building that his father helped install, until it closed in 1939. (Post, 2011)

It is not exactly known when the Carlin family decided to convert the home into a commercial venture; however, it quickly gained a fine reputation as the Carlin House, the areas first hotel. It remained in existence for close to 60 years with his grandmother, Mary and her daughters running it. It reached its peak between 1895 and 1930. (Davisson, Carlin White at 106: Celebrating Jupiter's oldest pioneer, 2013) He was the second and last person ever to be born in the Carlin House, his mother Emily Carlin was the first. (Jupiter, 2007)

His grandfather, Charles Robert Carlin, was the assistant keeper of the Jupiter Lighthouse and later became Captain of the Jupiter Life Saving Station. (Jupiter, 2007) The Life Saving Station closed in 1896. Captain Carlin was appointed the custodian of the building. Unfortunately, while trying to save the building during a fire, he fell off the roof of the Lifesaving Station and died. (Davisson, Carlin White at 106: Celebrating Jupiter's oldest pioneer, 2013) The Carlin house itself was demolished in the early 1960's. (Post, 2011)

“As a boy growing up, activity centered on the railroad bridge, the lighthouse and the inlet. Swimming, rowing and fishing were the sports. Bower’s store, the boarding house, and the depot were located near where the railroad bridge is now. They were on pilings to accommodate boat traffic. U.S. 1, a single lane dirt road from West Palm Beach, passed here on its way to New York. This small area was the focus of life in Jupiter.” (Curry, 1978)



“From May to November the days were trying. Hordes of mosquitos were fought unsuccessfully with smudge pots. Most houses had a brush hanging at the door to brush the insects off.” (Curry, 1978) Bugs were said to leave a bloody bite the size of a 10-penny nail.

Carlin goes on and explains that he left Jupiter at the age of 7 and was absent for nine years as he had spent some time in Nicaragua, where his father was stationed as a Navy man. While there, Carlin was educated and learned Spanish, Portuguese and Italian, and learned to read and write in Japanese. He also learned world geography, science, mechanics, and mathematics and gained an appreciation for different cultures. (Jupiter, 2007)

Jupiter was always considered his home, to which he would return to someday. In 1927 at 17 years of age, Carlin returned to Jupiter to reside with his grandmother at the Carlin House., where he attended Jupiter High School and graduated in 1928. Carlin had



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learned to become an excellent swimmer and diver. In his last year of school, he saved a boy from drowning. When he graduated school, he was employed by MacKay Radio, Press Wireless, and was the Chief Radio Engineer for Gray Radio. (Jupiter, 2007)

When Carlin returned to Jupiter, he noticed a few changes. The boats that were once used for transportation, just about disappeared. Carlin explained that people who lived in Jupiter had bought the automobile and were not able to afford both. Carlin explained that when boats were necessary, they were not always dependable, remarking them as cantankerous.

Carlin White explained that when they fished back then, they used rowboats mostly. They could not afford fancy fishing equipment such as a rod and reel. So they used tarred lines with hooks. These could be accurately thrown, even in the dark of night.

“When the big Hurricane of 1928 hit, it stranded a Dr. Stroud, of the state board of health, who was enroute to Tallahassee, with a load of serum. It was fortunate he was here since the Red Cross didn’t arrive for two days. We set up a clinic at the elementary school and gave inoculations for tetanus and typhoid. There was some loss of life in West Jupiter. Several children were killed in a school building that had collapsed. Some adults in West Jupiter died also. Everything that was here was destroyed. Homes were lost. I recorded the scenes with an early model movie camera that I had.” (Curry, 1978)

Carlin White used that camera a lot. Carlin was out on Captain Frank’s charter boat and happened to be near the railroad bridge. He noticed that a train was approaching the open span. When the train hit the open bridge span, the engine took the draw span off its pins and the train crashed into the water. Carlin said that he watched the whole thing go down and had the camera in his hand, but never took a picture.

“The Loxahatchee River moved with a lot of force in those days. The incoming tide rarely moved further than the bridge due to it force. It came in slower than it went out. We were apprehensive about being on the river on an outgoing tide for fear of being swept out of the inlet.” (Curry, 1978)

When winter came, flocks of ducks and geese would mingle on the surface of the water as they made their trip south. Occasionally, wild turkeys would mingle with the birds. Carlin remembers meeting a bear on the beach hunting turtle eggs. There was a lot of wildlife in Jupiter. “When the mullet were thick, they would keep us awake at night. Each time the beam of the lighthouse would pass it would startle the mullet into a cascade of splashing.” (Curry, 1978) In fall, Carlin could be found in the area of Pecks Lake gathering oysters by the thousands. These were placed under the dock by the boarding house so that his grandmother could use these to cook meals for the boarders.

Carlin pointed out that man changed the flow of the river. Bridges were built that



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impeded the rivers flow. The Alt. A1A bridge has reduced the opening by half, and pointed out that the tide never moved into the river past the bridges until about 15 years ago (May 3, 1973). Daily, green water can be seen past Pennock Point. Blue fish are not being caught past the bridges for the past few years, except a few strays.

“To restore the river we would have to remove the impediments to its flow. Take out the oyster bars, fallen bridges and other wreckage that has fallen in. I’m not an expert. We’re thinking about something that will take 20 years to prove right or wrong. The river is misunderstood by a lot of people. I don’t remember the big cypresses up around the Girl Scout camp ever being lush. They weren’t healthy 50 years ago. I have a feeling, too, that the role of the mangrove is mis-oriented. It was put by nature to collect debris, to prevent flow and to stop rivers. Bulkheads are a rivers enemy. Japan forbids vertical bulkheads. Beaches have the function of keeping water clean. Debris washed up on the beaches is purified and dried by the sun. No bulkheads – no pollution. Look at the canals with vertical bulkheads; they are examples of pollution. We must work with nature. The word pollution means: unwarranted effect of man’s activities.” (Curry, 1978)

Carlin White earned a degree in Engineering from Columbia University. (Post, 2011) In the 1940’s, Carlin White was outfitting ships for the U.S. Navy out of Key West and shortly after that, Carlin enlisted as a commissioned officer. Carlin was now married and was the father of a baby girl. He traveled to various naval assignments around the world and would take his dependent family when he was permitted to do so. His Naval assignments included places such as Florida, Washington D.C., Africa, Brazil, Massachusetts, California, Alaska and Japan.

The Navy vet helped to sink German U-boats off Jupiter Beach during World War II. (Post, 2011) Commander White retired from the Navy after a distinguished career in 1970. His retirement brought him back home to Jupiter. Carlin and Lillian White bought a home in Jupiter that was close to his mother, Emily Carlin Turner. Carlin was not the type of individual to just sit around. Emily and Fred Turner purchased some property on Center Street in 1919 and for many years had used the property to grow ferns to ship north to different florists. The property was a former pineapple farm which his mother purchased. Carlin developed this property as a residential area which later became known as Turner Quay. (Jupiter, 2007)

Carlin had a sense of duty and entered the world of politics in 1970. He won an election and served the office of Jupiter Town Commissioner. He was later elected and served for two terms as Mayor from 1971 to 1976. As mayor, he helped to get the Jupiter Medical Center built, as a hospital was badly needed in Jupiter. In the very early days, Jupiter residents had to travel to Titusville for a



W. Carlin White (1973)
From "The Loxahatchee Lament"



hospital. Later a hospital was built in West Palm Beach, which was much closer for residents, and then still later, a hospital was built in Palm Beach Gardens. The population of Jupiter continued to grow and so did the need for a local full service hospital facility. Mayor White and others within the Jupiter Community were instrumental with getting this project started.

Carlin's influence in the Town's infrastructure included the construction and replacement for Damon Bridge on A1A. The older bridge was part of the Old Dixie highway since 1912. The plans to replace the old bridge had stalled for at least 5 years until Carlin White got involved. (Jupiter, 2007)

There are further examples of Carlin's hard work that are not visible to the naked eye. He was instrumental in modernizing the operations of the Town of Jupiter and provided continued guidance and assistance to the Town, even though he no longer served as an elected official. Carlin's photographs provide the glimpses of Jupiter's past. He authored a book in 1988 which was titled "History of the Carlin House." He authored another book in 1992 which was titled "History of the Jupiter Wireless Telegraph Station". In 2003 he coauthored a book titled "Images of America Jupiter" with Lynn Lasseter Drake.

W. Carlin White was a treasure trove of knowledge about Jupiter's history and the way of life in the "good old days". His memories that he shared included his life living on the Loxahatchee River that provided all the fish anyone could ever need. He shared about the tranquility of Jupiter and remarked about the sounds that the colorful Florida parakeets and the Ivory Billed Woodpeckers would make. Carlin does not dwell in the past. He advocates preserving what can be preserved while at the same time recognizing the value of change. (Jupiter, 2007)

On Friday, August 24, 2007, Senator Ken Pruitt, Representative Carl Domino, Representative William Snyder and Mayor Karen Golonka of the Town of Jupiter, celebrated the dedication of the Carlin White Bridge. The formal gathering took place at the nearby Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Museum. Carlin White and his dignitaries were chauffeured by 15 antique cars, courtesy of the Early Ford V-8 Club and Treasure Coast Vintage Car Club for a ribbon cutting ceremony.

"A Proclamation of the Town of Jupiter Florida Declaring April 25, 2007 as "Carlin White Day".

Whereas, William Carlin White is a native son of Jupiter, born at the Carlin house in 1907, and is the grandson of Charles Robert Carlin, Captain of the Jupiter Life Saving Station; and

Whereas, Carlin graduated from Jupiter High School in 1928, after spending



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several years in Nicaragua learning three languages and gaining an appreciation for different cultures; and

Whereas, Carlin began his career in Jupiter at MacKay Radio, then served in the US Navy for thirty years, completing assignments at home and abroad; and

Whereas, Carlin returned with his wife Lillian to live at Turner Quay, named after his mother and step-father Emily Carlin Turner and Fred Turner; and

Whereas, Carlin served on the Jupiter Town Commission and was twice elected Mayor of Jupiter, serving from 1970 to 1976; and

Whereas, as a public servant, Carlin helped to get the Jupiter Hospital, now called the Jupiter Medical Center, built; was influential in having the 1912 A1A Damon bridge replaced; and helped modernize Town operations; and

Whereas, his early photographs and movies provide astounding glimpses into the past, and he has preserved Jupiter's history by authoring "History of the Carlin House", "History of the Jupiter Wireless Telegraph Station" and co-authored "Images of America Jupiter"; and

Whereas, he remains a treasure of knowledge of Jupiter's early history and way of life, but does not dwell in the past, instead advocating preserving what can be preserved while recognizing the value of change; and

Whereas, nearing his 100th birthday he continues to live on his beloved Loxahatchee River contemplating the next 100 years;

Now, Therefore, I Karen J. Golonka, Mayor of the Town of Jupiter do hereby proclaim April 25, 2007 as Carlin White Day In Jupiter. (Karen J. Golonka, 2007)

"I am both proud and humbled to be a part of this event," Louise Murtaugh, President, JTJB Chamber said. "The fact that the bridge is named after Carlin is a wonderful tribute to him and his years of hard work for Jupiter. We are especially grateful to Senator Ken Pruitt, for his efforts to name the bridge after Carlin." (Jupiter, 2007)

Carlin Whites wife, Lillian, wrote many of her memories in a book titled "Loxahatchee Lament". Lillian passed away in 1989. Their daughter Lynn resides in Virginia. (Post, 2011)

While celebrating his 104th birthday, Carlin White was honored at the Jupiter Medical Center. Jupiter Medical President and CEO John Couris and President and CEO of Jupiter Medical Foundation Richard Cosnotti unveiled a picture of the hospital's 1979 groundbreaking which had an image of Carlin White in the front and center of the photograph. Carlin Whites name has been bestowed on a couple of Jupiter landmarks



to include: Carlin Park and the Carlin White Bridge. (Brown)

Carlin celebrated his 104th birthday on August 25, 2011. It was during this celebration that it was shared that Carlin had graduated from the first graduating class of Jupiter. The centurion still had a sharp mind at that age and amazed many friends of his recall of 95 years ago, as if it was yesterday. When Carlin was in his nineties, a friend had stopped by to see him, only to find him all sweaty and dirty. He had been up on his roof, cleaning debris off his roof and gutters after a hurricane passed through. (Davisson, Carlin White at 106: Celebrating Jupiter's oldest pioneer, 2013)

Carlin White was a remarkable person who loved Jupiter, loved its citizens and looked forward to its visitors. He was happy about being born here and living the life off the Loxahatchee River. At 107 years of age, he was two years older than Palm Beach County. A quote by White's grandfather was located in the "History of the Carlin House" and thought that it would be a great reflection of much of Carlin's outlook. "Children, make well of this easy, good life while you can. Man with his greed; disregard for Nature; and all its kind will destroy it. The things that you enjoy so much now, will all soon be gone." (Davisson, Carlin White at 106: Celebrating Jupiter's oldest pioneer, 2013) Thus we say farewell to a man of much wisdom, history and a true pioneer.



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