The Crossroads -

Then ...

Now,

The Crossroads, circa 1950’s

The Crossroads today

Conceptual Rendering of the Crossroads District - Old Arlington Neighborhood Action Plan

and

When?

STORY INSIDE PAGE 8

Lots of A-Town Buzz
starts pg 4

“Cleve’s Corner” inside page 6
Take a Ride on the JM&P Railroad
Arlington At Its Crossroads -

That phrase in these times can take on several meanings. There is the Crossroads, the historical story of Arlington’s early commercial center, just up the road from its ferry landing, and before the days of the Mathews Bridge. It’s a great story and a lot of it is sprinkled throughout this issue. It’s one you should know as you see . . .

. . . the Crossroads today, a saga of businesses and vacancies persevering amidst blight, antiquated zoning, and many of its own code violations - all of which become blurred into our complacency at a posted speed limit of 40 mph. Over 30,000 vehicles pass through the Crossroads each day, 99.9% keep going.

And there is the Crossroads of tomorrow – Arlington’s tomorrow. People have met in the past and formulated some of their ideas into some plans – the Old Arlington Neighborhood Action Plan [2007] and the Greater Arlington Beaches Vision Plan [2010]. Over the next few months, as Operation Dolphin and the City’s anti-blight campaign progress, people will be dusting these documents off to revisit the dreams and ideas contained therein. A few of those are featured in this month’s pages also.

But the phrase takes on increased meaning when viewed metaphorically as Arlington’s pivotal juncture. People and entities, both public and private, are assembling Arlington’s redevelopment machinery to be fueled by TIFs and CRAs. A room full of residents hear City Council President Clay Yarborough and JU President Tim Cost present the latest on top shelf projects and top shelf teams to implement. With a long-term funding vehicle in place, this will be change that you can see.

And perhaps the Crossroads is one of the first places we should start. A signature redevelopment piece to stand where Arlington commerce began. An outward, visible sign of an upward moving community, seen daily by 30,000 of its own.

And while we’re at it, whatever mix of shopping, dining, work, and entertainment that may emerge for the Crossroads, in whatever architectural style and theme, it should be done with a worthiness and dedication to the memory of Melanie Cross (1953 – 2008). Melanie grew up just down the road, and founded Arlington’s historic preservation and community revitalization vision in founding OAI. It would be a most appropriate namesake.

Steve Matchett
editor@myarlington.org
We receive many comments, most are kind, some just a little critical (usually formatting stuff), and all serve to encourage our publishing endeavor. But when you get a note like this one, it really lifts the spirits!

I grew up in Arlington lived there till I was 12 years old when we moved to Dallas, TX. Always spent summers in Jacksonville. My grandmother lived in Holly Oaks they were original owners of a home on the lake. I actually lived on Leon Rd and later at the corner of Millcreek and Arble Rd. Memories of riding up and down Arble Rd with the Butler girls who are still like sisters to me. I went to St. Andrews Episcopal Day School On Lone Star Rd. Thought Regency Square Mall was amazing. My grandmother received her master's from J.U. We went to basketball games at J.U. to watch Aris Gilmore. I tell you all this because my childhood memories are wonderful. I moved to Texas in 1973 but the years in Jacksonville especially Arlington were absolutely the best years of my youth. Adored summers going to YMCA on Ft Caroline Rd. I am tearing up with memories of family and friends and a absolutely wonderful safe enjoyable childhood. Thank you for investing the time in my childhood neighborhood. I love this newsletter and appreciate all you are doing. Beth F.

THANKS!!! I was on OAI website yesterday and saw it. I printed it and shared it. Great Job!! Thanks, Jan R
Architectural Sales & Illumination

I clicked on the eNewspaper tab and it brought up the front page but I can not do anything further with it. I thought maybe clicking on the middle box up top would kick in a pdf version but nothing. I tried to save it and it treated it like a picture. ?? Tommy T

I'm really enjoying the newsletter! Click on the right hand margin to turn the pages. It's really very well done and so interesting!
Jane P

The newspaper continues to look fabulous! Very professional looking and you can tell a lot of hard work and effort goes into putting these together. Many thanks to all parties involved on a most excellent production. And Tim Cost coming to speak says a lot about OAI. Folks are taking notice!
John C.

Love the issue! ... also, I'm in it ... that's me on the sled during the '89 snow storm. Rick Covey

I love all of the history especially of our area. Thank you. Keep it up.
- Devina

The site looks great ...thanks for all the hard work and thought put into this site ...very impressive!
Michael G.

Mine didn't work yesterday, but is working now. Took me about six attempts. Maybe because I have Safari browser on my Mac? Not sure.
John
myArlington MONTHLY checks in on several social media sites featuring Arlington people, places, and things. The views and comments expressed may not necessarily represent ours - but they could be yours!

**Arlington Connecting in Social Media**

www.facebook.com

*I Grew Up in Arlington* is a Facebook Group Page boasting almost 6,500 members providing a way for people who have lived in Arlington to re-connect with others.

*The Rich History of Arlington - A Unique Place in Time* is a Facebook Group Page that provides historical information about the Arlington community. Just launched last summer, the page has already drawn over 870 members.

*Old Arlington Inc.* is the Facebook page for OAI and this publication.

**Trending Now**

Went to the Theodore Roosevelt Preserve today ... hadn't been there in many years. Spent 2 hours in the TR Preserve this morning. Spectacular view of the marsh from up on a bluff.

- Rick

I would like to try and offer a Ranger Guided (me as the Ranger) walk through the Theodore Roosevelt Area sometime before the end of March. That's when all my volunteers "fly" home for the spring. We'd have to limit the size to no more than 30 people and it would have to be on a Saturday morning because of the 2pm musket program we currently have on schedule. 10am to 11:30am? Hike Spanish Pond Trail to the observation platform--then take the Timucuan trail along the bluff and back out to the Spanish Pond trail. Would anyone be interested in this?

Craig Morris

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We had a refrigerator just like this one in our house in Alderman Park. Ours was yellow. It was most modern in our house built in 1956. I remember my mother saying it didn't work real good, so we replaced it.

- Richard

Omg ! I never saw one! This is ingenious!

- Laura

I'd like one of those!

- Jane
There was a thread here several weeks ago about the various Publix stores that have come and gone in Arlington. In 1969, when I turned 16, I got my first "paycheck" job at Colonial Store at Regency square. I worked there all through high school as a produce clerk and bagboy. I can still recall all the names of the people who worked there and the many experiences I had there, including a robbery. In March of 1971 a fellow from Publix came in and mentioned a new store opening and I left Colonial Store and went to work with Publix helping them open the new store. - John

Here are the facts, and not as I recall them, direct from the archives of Publix Corporate. lol

Publix @ University Mall opened: 03/30/1971 closed: 01/13/2010
Publix @ Arlington Expwy opened 03/30/1971 closed: 06/17/1995
Publix @ Atlantic Blvd opened 10/16/1974 closed: 01/23/2010 (reopened)

I started my career at the Expressway Publix in 1972! - George

I started mine here in 1991 - Juliana

The Expressway Mall had so much - Publix, movie theatre, Burlington, Petunia Patch - so many good places! – Jane

And CJs - Jodie

I believe (unless my memory deceives me) that Publix stores had basically the same interior layout and organization of stock. You could shop at any Publix in the state, and go straight to the peanut butter without wandering the aisles. - Valerie

Notice the canned ham display in the forefront? These were the rage during the 1960's. My mom would buy one and get the butcher to slice it paper thin. She could make a hundred sandwiches out of one can. The ham was sliced so thin you could read a newspaper through it. We made it work in Arlington back in the day. - John

My Mother-in-law, God rest her soul (she passed away in 2007), used to have me pick her up a canned ham every time I went grocery shopping. - David

John, Are those S & H Green Stamp logos on the wavy part of the sign above Publix? - Carol

Yes Carol. My mom saved S&H stamps for years. I think the Esso gas station on Ft Caroline and Rogero gave them out when the station opened in the mid 1960's. - John
The Jacksonville, Mayport & Pablo (JM&P) Railway and Navigation Company

On the morning of May 17, 1888, the residents in the wooded communities of Old Arlington woke up to the new sounds of a chugging steam engine and the rattle of railroad cars. It was on that day that the Jacksonville, Mayport & Pablo Railroad and Navigation Company – the JM & P Railroad – began twice daily service from Arlington to Mayport and the beaches areas. The railroad officially opened with a gala event and a great turnout at the hotel at Burnside Beach. However, the train broke down on its return trip to Arlington, and therefore received the nickname of “Jump Men and Push”.

The railway was chartered in 1886 by Alexander Wallace, a native of Scotland, who owned a successful lumber mill in east Jacksonville. The railroad was proposed to provide swift access for a growing number of Jacksonville residents to vacation at Mayport, and the adjoining beaches, and to haul phosphate and other freight. Wallace believed that Mayport had the potential to become the shipping port for all of northeast Florida. As a destination point to attract visitors, Wallace also built a pavilion and the Burnside Hotel on the ocean where Hanna Park is now located.

The railroad originally began at a large dock in the naturally deep water of the Arlington shore just north of the present-day location of the Mathews Bridge. Passengers were ferried to the dock from a ticket office at the foot of Newnan Street by the steamer “Kate Spencer”. Freight was brought to the dock from upriver by schooners, or loaded in Mayport, for a return trip to Arlington.

From the dock in Arlington, the railroad crossed the forest of Arlington northeasterly just south of the crossroads. A depot and turnaround at the station in the new community of Eggleston was located at the south end of Paine Street, and was complete with a waiting room. The train then continued on to Verona and Gilmore crossing Hartsfield Road at a road called “The Crossing”. It continued easterly through the Holly Oaks area where the dam now exists, to the Cosmo Station located near the Ft. Caroline post office.
The History of Old Arlington

through Arlington that was known as the JM&P Railroad

From that point, it ran along the same path of what is now the Wonderwood Expressway to the former communities of Idelwilde, Mt. Pleasant and Greenfield Plantation (Queens Harbor), where it crossed the marshes of Pablo Creek to Burnsides Beach (Hanna Park). The train could leave Burnside Beach and go back to Arlington, or go into the community of Mayport (Mayport Naval Station), passing just south of the lighthouse to a dock on the river.

Wallace met an untimely death in November of 1889. His death was shortly followed by the loss of the Burnside Hotel to fire. The railroad was then managed for Wallace’s widow by the Stockton family of Jacksonville. It was sold in 1892 to the partnership of Russell, Youmans and Scott. The new owners immediately extended the tracks across the Arlington River, to South Jacksonville, to tie into Flagler’s Florida East Coast Railroad ultimately providing 28 miles of railway to the ocean. The extension ran through the community of Clifton, with a bridge across the Arlington River, which the Clifton residents claimed blocked navigation.

The railroad ceased operation in 1895 and was sold to the Stockton family at public auction. It continued to be used for the delivery of mail by handcars and special runs were made for specific items. There was a flurry of lawsuits and the 28 miles of tracks were finally removed in 1900 and reportedly shipped to Cuba. The road bed became known as the tram road and served as a footpath between the small communities of Arlington. Today, much of the eastern portion of the rail bed has been incorporated into Wonderwood Expressway.

The railroad is a legend that served its purpose in the development of Arlington. Mr. Hawley, Editor of The Arlingtonian newspaper, wrote several articles in the forties about riding the train on his wedding day and traveling from Gilmore to South Jacksonville by handcar to work. Residents at the Eggleston Hotel benefited from quick access to the ocean. In later years, boy scouts camping at Red Bay springs were told ghost stories of mysterious train whistles coming from the nearby roadbed at midnight. One of the few spots where remains of the railroad are still visible is a berm located in the woods at the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens in East Arlington. A sizeable embankment exists where the area was built up to reduce the grade that the small steam engines had to climb after crossing Jones Creek.
The Arlington Crossroads was formed from 1800s wagon roads that connected thriving riverfront Spanish plantations and landings along the St. Johns River with the Richard Mill dam over Strawberry Creek. These roads were tied together and platted when the plantations were sold after the Civil War. The resulting main north/south road was the ‘road to Chasville’ or Chasville Road, which became University Boulevard in 1959. Arlington Road, the main east/west road was combined from several roads, including St. Johns Avenue and Elizabeth Street.

From the 1920s through the 40s, development at the Crossroads grew steadily. Civic-minded citizens started a community club, public water works, and volunteer fire department, all located in the area of the Crossroads. Paul K. Reid’s Gas Station and Cliff’s Garage serviced the ever more popular automobile. Supplies and sundries could be purchased at Oliver Friske’s General Store. While the surrounding area was still very rural and much food was home-grown, groceries could be purchased from Rowe’s Grocery or Haines’ Grocery.

The opening of the Mathews Bridge in 1953 made the area easily accessible and attracted new businesses and new residents. Housing subdivisions and strip shopping centers would soon fill the area, but even with the opening of the Town & Country and Arlington Plaza shopping centers during the 1950s, the Crossroads remained the business and social hub of a now larger Arlington. From the new post office on the northwest corner, businesses spread in all directions - Turner’s Hardware, Sal’s Drug Store, The Clip Joint Barber Shop, Arlington Auto Parts, Chaz Harris’ Music Shop, to name a few. Old-timers and teenagers and those in between met under the beautiful oak tree by the post office to share the news of their families.

The arrival of enclosed mall shops and ‘super’ market grocery stores lured shoppers elsewhere, and the Arlington Crossroads as a small town center slowly blended into the community at large.
“The ‘Crossroads’ at the intersection of University and Arlington Road is the town center of the Old Arlington Study Area. Presently, it does not have any notable qualities that identify it as a major focal point for the community. The new Walgreen’s location on the SW corner has improved the aesthetics of the intersection and the streetscape projects planned along University Boulevard and Arlington Road will add additional improvements. The older buildings on the NW corner could have some façade improvements, which could reflect the “Old Florida” theme. Improvement of Arlington Road from University Boulevard west to the boat ramp could connect the river to the historic town center. Improvements might include landscaped medians, pedestrian walkways and bike lanes.”

Source: OLD ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN [2007]
Monterey

Monterey is the area of Arlington bounded by the St. Johns River (west), Arlington Road (north), University Blvd. (east) and the Arlington Expressway (south). It occupies a large part of the northwest quadrant of the University Blvd/Arlington Expressway intersection, with its development likewise spawned by the opening of the Mathews Bridge in 1953.

Prior to the bridge’s construction, several historic communities were established in the area. Arlington Road was the main east-west road, and its western terminus at the St. Johns River was the landing for the ferry that shuttled passengers from Arlington to downtown Jacksonville until the 1930s. Maritime and other uses were also established in the area including the Arlington Post Office, originally housed in its own building on the hillside of the southwest corner of Arlington Road and River Bluff Road. After ferry service was discontinued, the town center migrated to the Crossroads - the intersection of Chaseville Road (University Blvd) & Arlington Road, where it developed into Arlington’s first commercial district in the mid 1900s.

Monterey’s development evolved with a mix of uses that included banks, strip retail, office space, single family homes and multi-family apartments. It also included Riverton Towers, home to Jones College’s main campus.

Monterey’s residential subdivision includes more than 200 homes, largely built in the late 1950s to early 1960s. Though most are modest ranch homes, its riverfront is dominated by a number of custom built residences, grand specimens of Jacksonville’s mid-century modern architecture built after the Mathews Bridge first opened, and Arlington - and Monterey - were the blank canvas upon which Jacksonville’s most prominent architects painted their residential masterpieces.

PRESENTATION
Chris Hand, Chief of Staff, City of Jacksonville, reviewed Pension Reform with the CPAC. Mr. Hand informed the CPAC about the various pieces of legislation that have been introduced since 2011 in effort to reform the current pension agreements. The annual pension impact was illustrated and the monumental increasing costs necessary to fund the pensions.

STAFF REPORTS
JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office) – Sgt. Danny Williams informed the CPAC that crime has fluctuated a bit due to crime statistics over the holidays. Currently, JSO does not have any crime statistics for 2015. Currently, JSO is not tracking and crime trends or patterns.

Mayor’s Liaison – Dave Roman stated that JaxPort, The Chamber of Commerce, the City of Jacksonville and the Riverkeeper have reached an agreement that the Riverkeeper is not going file an environmental suit in regard to the Rodman Dam. In exchange, JaxPort, The City of Jacksonville and the Chamber of Commerce are going to try to move forward with the long standing plan to remove the Rodman Dam in an effort to increase the fresh water flow into the St. Johns River to offset the dredging of the St. Johns River to 47 feet. Opening the Rodman Dam will alleviate some of the concerns the Riverkeeper has about the dredging. The Rodman Dam was part of the Cross Florida Barge Canal and it was stopped in 1968 by President Nixon. It has been a political concern for a number of reasons. Putnam County would like to keep the dam due to the revenue that it generates in the county by bass fisherman that travel to Putnam County to fish.

Duval County Public Schools – not present.

Regulatory Compliance Department (Code Compliance) – Elaine Lancaster announced that since the November meeting Code Compliance has completed 8 projects in the GAB district. 5 of the projects are related to the Operation Dolphin corridor (this is the second time around), Woodland Acres as an Urban Blight Project, Arlingwood as an Urban Blight Project and Parkridge as an Urban Blight Project. By the end of January, Code Compliance plans to start working in the Sandalwood area. Ms. Lancaster announced that they have 4 new employees and introduced Kevin Wellman to the CPAC.

FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation) – not present.

Jacksonville Aviation Authority – Tiffany Gillem informed the CPAC that the Monument Road/St. Johns Bluff landscaping project has been awarded. Expect to see activity over the next 60 days. Ms. Gillem thanked Member Lad Hawkins for all of his work on the landscaping project. Within the next week, there will be some work completed on the control tower; they are working on the HVAC in accordance to the FAA regulations.

Housing and Community Development – Rosemary Wesolowski informed the CPAC that the Housing and Community Development Division is looking into offering training to the community on a quarterly basis. Rosemary inquired if there are any topics that the CPAC would like to have training on? There was a request to have training on the COJ website and on how to utilize the JSO Crime Statistics online.

Planning Department – Paul Davis stated that he did not have an additional report from the LUZ Subcommittee, but he was available for questions.

Public Works – Steve Long, Chief of Right of way and Stormwater Management – not present.

JaxParks – Robert Hall – not present.
Old Arlington, Inc., is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, non-profit organization formed in July, 1993 to promote historic preservation and community revitalization in the Arlington area.

OLD ARLINGTON WANTS YOU!

Have you ever said to yourself, “Somebody ought to do something”? Have you ever wished the change you’ve seen in Riverside, San Marco, Jacksonville Beach and other communities across the nation would happen right here in Arlington? Have you wished there were others who felt like you about your community?

Well, people are doing something. Changes are possible and beginning to happen right here in Arlington. And there are others like you who believe Arlington is a great place and want to see it rise to its full potential as a first tier suburb of Jacksonville with vibrant businesses, neighborhoods, schools, and recreational amenities.

You will find these people at Old Arlington, Inc. meetings and events, or sometimes supporting the efforts of Old Arlington, Inc. simply by their membership.

Since its inception in 1993, Old Arlington, Inc. has worked to preserve and promote Arlington’s history. We led the charge to save the nationally significant Norman Silent Film Studios, and obtained funding for the first architectural survey of historic structures in our area. We have printed and reprinted historical publications, offered history tours, hosted authors whose books recount Arlington’s history, and erected 23 historic markers throughout the community.

In keeping with our dual mission of both historic preservation and community improvement, OAI spearheaded the creation of a Neighborhood Action Plan. We obtained funding for visual improvements along University Boulevard and Arlington Road, including landscaped medians, historic lighting, and decorative pavers. We have hosted events such as the Mathews Bridge 60th Anniversary Celebration and the annual Arlington Mod & More Home Tours to celebrate and showcase Arlington’s signature mid-century modern architecture. Most recently, we have begun publishing MyArlington Monthly, an electronic newspaper to further build connections in the community.

OAI is a worthy vehicle to involve you in both Arlington’s history and its future, and we encourage you to join with us. If you have been a member in the past, now is the time to renew your membership. For those of you who have not been members, we urge you to join today. Your membership makes our voice and our community stronger, and allows us to continue being an advocate for Arlington. We have no paid staff, but we do have expenses.

To join or renew your membership for 2015, click on www.mkt.com/old-arlington-inc for online processing, or you may print the form (on back page) and mail a check to:

Old Arlington, Inc., P.O. Box 15304, Jacksonville, FL 32239.

Last month’s OAI meeting drew a crowd to JU’s River House
Encumbered, Karen Kurycki and Shelley Sloan Ellis
Alexander Brest Gallery    Thru February 11

Bold humor is at the heart of this two-person exhibition. Kurycki’s view of the world sees the humorous, the quirky, and the slightly off normal. Working primarily in watercolor, she communicates observation through design and illustration, embracing the unpredictability and surprise that can come out of using watercolor. Ellis has been described as an artist “wild, in love with the plasticity of clay….an artist with chops.” Her inventive and fearless ceramic sculptures symbolize the position of women in society, expressed through the image of the apron, exposing her understanding of female vulnerability. Combined, the resulting exhibition will be original, entertaining, and gifted by the structure of media.

JU Chamber Ensembles    Terry Concert Hall, February 10 at 7:30 PM
JU’s top student chamber groups present an exciting concert of varied repertoire.

Harsha Abeyaratne, Piano    Terry Concert Hall, February 13 @ 7:30 PM
Fresh off his stunning Carnegie Hall solo recital debut, Sri Lankan pianist Harsha Abeyaratne returns to Jacksonville University for a solo recital in a program which includes music from his recent New York recital. Dr. Abeyaratne is Associate Professor of Piano at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio.

Omphalos, Lauren Frances Evans & Jensen Hande    Alexander Brest Gallery    Feb 19 – Mar 18
The Greek term omphalos, literally translated as navel, refers to various symbolic centers, believed to connect the earthly and the divine. This two-person exhibition was prompted by urges and the allure of origins. Evans considers all creative acts to be intermediary attempts to narrow the distance between the material and the immaterial. Her sculptural work addresses the body as a site of irresistible paradox. Hande’s photographs, portrait in nature, are equally investigative and explore the potential humor, sweetness, and commercialism juxtaposed within the portraits’ format. The pairing of artistic content creates a platform for viewer investigation and discovery.

FIEA Game Art    Alexander Brest Gallery    February 19 – March 18
Brian Salisbury, Art Director at Florida Interactive Entertainment Academy (FIEA), brings art concepts of interactive game design and game trailers together to produce an enlightening and fanciful view of art bearing interactive design. The exhibit includes industry-based print concept art and 3D game content with trailers and animations. The work is energizing and informative.

Martin Bejerano, Jazz Piano*    Terry Concert Hall    February 26 at 7:30 PM
World-class jazz pianist and composer Martin Bejerano has reached a level of untouchable and uncompromised ability and creativity. He has toured and recorded with major names such as Roy Haines and Russell Malone and has now recorded and released two of his own brilliant and innovative projects. Accompanied by his trio, Bejerano makes a special tour stop to the JU campus.
New Photo Scanning Service Debuts at University Park Library

Jacksonville residents have a new service available – personal photo scanning - through the Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) system. Arlington residents have the added bonus of convenience because this service is located only at our University Park Library at 3435 University Blvd. North.

When Justin Keiser's father received pictures of his father, Justin's grandfather, taken during World War II as a gift, he took them to his local public library in Ohio and had them scanned. Justin, a support services librarian hired by the City of Jacksonville in 2003 as part of the Better Jacksonville Plan initiative, was impressed with the simplicity and efficiency of the service his father received and proposed the idea for Jacksonville.

While this service can be purchased, it is usually done by mailing treasured photographs to a service provider and waiting for their return. With JPL’s new photo scanning service, individuals can learn the process using state-of-the-art equipment and do it themselves. The end result is a digitized copy of each photograph and, if desired, an organized photo slideshow that can be viewed on personal devices such as computers and TVs.

The service is free and open to the public. To sign up:

- Make an appointment by signing on to the JPL website at www.jpl.coj.net
- Under Library Information, click on Library Cards & Services.
- Scroll down and click on Photo Scanning. Appointments are only made online.
- Bring a jump drive, SD card or other portable storage device as the photos will be scanned directly to your device. Files cannot be stored on the library computer.
- Also bring a blank dvd for the slideshow.

A typical session lasts about two hours. Justin recommends you put photographs in some general order, but photos can be rearranged after scanning. If necessary, a second session will be scheduled to work on the best way to organize and present the photos.

For all of us who have wondered what to do with all those precious photo memories – and how to do it – here it is. This is another reason to be glad we live in Jacksonville, but especially glad we live in Arlington.
The Merrill Rd Cruise-In - 1st Saturday of Every Month
@ the Hardees
9111 Merrill Road

HER NIGHT OF ROMANCE (1924) Sunday, February 15,
4pm at the Hotel Indigo Jacksonville, 9840 Tapestry Park Circle near Tinseltown.

In this 1924 silent rom-com, Ronald Colman plays Paul Menford, an impoverished British lord who impersonates a doctor, in an attempt to woo the beautiful (and monied) Dorothy Adams, an ailing American heiress played by Constance Talmadge. The lord is in it for love, but his associate smells money. Her Night of Romance is the perfect touch for the Valentine’s Day weekend.
This was taken in my front yard at Tree Hill in May 1950: Dr. Neil on left, Ross Allen on the right and 10 1/2 foot long boa in the middle. The article posted with a picture of my Grandfather and Ross Allen is basically correct. There is a long story that goes back at least 20 years before this when my Grandmother saw a snake longer than this by the bridge over Red Bay Branch on Lone Star. Then a couple of weeks before this picture was taken My Grandfather was hoeing our garden by the creek and saw a snake he said was longer than this one. We got in touch with Ross Allen and he came up from Silver Springs with his assistant Dr. Neil and they looked for him all day and waded the creek at night with miners lamps on their heads wearing shorts and tennis shoes! They caught a lot of snakes but no Boa. They were packed to go home when the spotted an Armadillo hole in a bank of dirt and came to the house and borrowed a shovel. We dug down from the top and pulled him out like a big earth worm. They washed him off in a spring and picked ticks off him (they don't have scales) and did have me hold him. They kept him at Silver Springs for several years. Ross Allen’s theory was that he came to Jax in a banana boat many years before and was thrown overboard and swam to the Arlington side. - Cleve

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Cut and mail the form below, or visit us online at www.oldarlington.org and click on Membership

OLD ARLINGTON MEMBERSHIP FORM—JOIN TODAY!

Annual Membership Dues (circle one)

Single (1 person) $25.00  Senior (1 person) $20.00  Business $100.00
Family $35.00  Friend $250.00  Sponsor $500.00

Name: ________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________  State: _______  Zip Code: ________
Phone (Home/work/cell):______________________________________________________________________________
E-mail address (1 or more): ____________________________________________________________________________

☐ I wish to volunteer for OAI projects  ☐ I/we have memorabilia or pictures we wish to donate to the OAI Archives

Please complete and place in envelope with check and mail to: Old Arlington, Inc.  P.O. Box 15304 Jacksonville, FL 32239