7th annual Helen Durin 1973

# SWAMP CABBAGE FESTIVAL



50 Anniversary of Hendry County

#### PROCLAMATION

#### State of Florida Executive Department Tallahassee

WHEREAS, the Sabal Palm, colloquially known as the swamp cabbage palm, has benefited Floridians through the centuries by its utilitarian and ornamental qualities, and

WHEREAS, these virtues were duly recognized by the Florida Legislature which in 1953 designated the Sabal Palm as Florida's state tree, and

WHEREAS, said virtues are appropriately celebrated by the citizens of LaBelle, Hendry County, with the annual Swamp Cabbage Festival, and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to honor the Sabal Palm concurrently with this distinguished festival, which shall be held this year February 23-25;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Reubin O'D. Askew, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby proclaim February 24, 1973, as

#### STATE TREE DAY

in Florida, and urge all citizens to honor the Sabal Palm with the proper respect this useful and beautiful tree deserves.

ATTEST:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this in the year of our Lord hineteen hundred and seventy-three.

SECRETARY OF STATE

Phone Office 675-3031



Phone Residence 675-3221

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#### How it began...

#### Swamp Cabbage Festival

In 1966, the newly formed LaBelle Jaycees were searching for a project to sponsor that would benefit the entire community pride and Gary Lucia, the organization's cooperation. first president, appointed T. E. Hedges and Bernard Rasmussen to study the idea and come Noting the abundance of up with a proposal. sabal palms, or as they are called locally "cabbage trees," in the area and remembering their importance to early settlers as both building material and food, Rasmussen suggested a "Swamp Cabbage Festival." Hedges added this should be popular with visitors who had heard of this native delicacy-also known as "Hearts of Palm''- but had not tried it.

The Jaycees adopted the project and began promoting an old-fashioned pioneer festival honoring Florida's State Tree. The idea caught the imagination of the community, and, as ideas started to snowball, other organizations were invited to participate. Soon, all LaBelle was involved in preparation for the first Swamp Cabbage Festival.

The first festival held in 1967 was such a success that LaBelle Jaycees organized a permanent Swamp Cabbage Festival Committee with representatives from civic groups and churches. The committee successfully guided the efforts of the community through the next five festivals, each one bigger and better than the ones before. Joe Thomas, Chairman of the 1973 Swamp Cabbage Festival, says "Swamp Cabbage Festival has become one of the major events in Southwest Florida because of the pride people here have in our community. The festival is our way of expressing this pride and an old-fashioned, but never out of date, American spirit of cooperation."

Through the medium of the Swamp Cabbage Festival, LaBelle extends a sincere welcome to all.

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Welcome to

LaBelle's Swamp Cabbage Festival

Big V Food Store

#### Hendry County's 50th Year

LaBelle and Hendry County, Florida, residents recreate part of pioneer Americana at Swamp Cabbage Festival on February 23, 24, and 25, and also celebrate the 50 years of the county named for a member of one of South Florida's most prominent families.

Hendry County owes its existence to Barron G. Collier's desire to have a county named in his honor. Two counties were carved out of Lee County in 1923: Collier County in the south. Hendry County in the east. The county to the east was named after Captain Francis Asbury Hendry, who had died in 1917.

Francis Asbury Hendry was a pioneer rancher in the Caloosahatchee River Valley. After the Civil War, Captain Hendry settled in the area he first saw as a young soldier at Fort Thompson during the Third Seminole Indian War in 1855.

Captain Hendry named a small settlement downstream from the Hendry Homestead at Fort Thompson "LaBelle" to honor his daughters Laura and Belle. In the thirty years following, LaBelle grew, and in 1923 LaBelle became the county seat of the new county named for the area's most prominent pioneer, Francis Asbury Hendry.

Fort Thompson, the seat of Hendry's Cattle declined and by 1950 was only a Empire. Hendry's Fort Thompson Ranch changed hands several times and was sold to Hendry of Tampa, a distant relative of Captain Hendry, by automobile manufacturer Henry Ford in the 1930's. Joe Hendry's heirs sold the ranch to General Development Corporation in 1972. Plans are for a new com-Thus, the area first munity, Port LaBelle. seen by Francis Asbury Hendry in 1855 will be named, as was the City of LaBelle, for Captain Hendry's daughters.

## Seminole Restaurant

OPEN 6 A.M.

Try our FISHERMAN'S BREAKFAST

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#### 1973 Swamp Cabbage Festival

#### Committee:

LaBelle Saddle Club

Joseph H. Thomas Festival Chairman Thomas A. Smith Vice-Chairman June K. Smith (Mrs.) Recording Secretary Rosemary McCormick (Mrs.) Corresponding Secretary Louella S. Howard (Mrs.) Treasurer Larry Bennett Parade Chairman John W. Scottie Booths & Exhibits Chairman Sherry Craichy (Mrs.) **Publicity Chairman** Sonny Stalls Honorary Publicity Chairman Peggy Mills **Publicity Assistant** 

#### Participating Organizations:

LaBelle Jaycees and Jaycee Wives Greater LaBelle Chamber of Commerce Beta Sigma Phi Sorority Caloosa Valley Historical Society Carlson Memorial United Methodist Church Church of God Clarence Michael Chapter, Cystic Fibrosis Found. Community Action Migrant Program Cow Belles First Batist Church Florida Chapter I A C Hendry County Auxillary, Florida Children's Home Hendry County School Food Service LaBelle Art League LaBelle Band Parents LaBelle Boy Scouts LaBelle High School Beta Club LaBelle High School Junior Class LaBelle High School Spanish Club LaBelle Lions Club and Lions Auxilliary LaBelle Woman's Community Club LaBelle PTA LaBelle Quarterback Club

**National Rifle Association** 

#### **Homesites**

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#### St. Petershurg Times

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 33731

Dear Visitor,

Welcome to one of the friendliest little towns I know of, where true southern tradition and hospitality still abound, where folks are never too busy to say "howdy."

Welcome to LaBelle, 30 miles and 30 years from the hectic, maddening pace of urbanizing Southwest Florida's coastal areas. Welcome to a community where oak trees are treasures, where a word is still a man'd bond and where all the best of the past still lingers.

And welcome to the Swamp Cabbage Festival, when LaBelle and Hendry County residents take time from their daily toil and pay tribute to the state's cabbage palm, its heritage and history.

Welcome to a homespun celebration, without the plastic, synthetic tones of commercially promoted and produced festivals by the urban areas.

Welcome to a town that is as American an apple pie and as Floridian as the tree they honor, with its aiding and comfort-giving properties so valued by pioneers.

Welcome to my home away from home where this week an entire town turns out to pay tribute to its humble beginnings and to its ancestors who knotched out a piece of wilderness and made it home.

Welcome and come, take part with us.

Sincerely, Leogo Laue J George Lane Jr. Staff Writer

#### REAL ESTATE

Thelma D. Peters, Realtor

Reg. Broker

Margaret W. Whately

Associate

W. Frank Cothern

Associate

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**ACREAGE** 

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Hwy. 29 LaBelle, Fla.

#### 1972 Swamp Cabbage Queen



Each year during the last weekend in February the citizens of LaBelle and crowds of visitors enjoy the unique Swamp Cabbage Fes-It takes a lot of work by many people to make this festival a success and, as a citizen of LaBelle, I am proud to see so many people working together on this year-round Owners of businesses build floats project. for the parade, the students of LaBelle High help with food booths at the park, citizens open their homes with historical interests to the public, set up exhibits, and the whole community gets into the "Pioneer Spirit". The weekend is full of activities from dinners to dances to the air shows and high excitement Girls between the ages of of the rodeo. and 21 compete for the title of Swamp Cabbage Festival Queen, hoping to reign over all these festivities.

I was thrilled and proud to be chosen queen in 1972. I hope that when I place the crown on the 1973 Swamp Cabbage Festival Queen, she will be as pleased and happy as I was.

#### Swamp Cabbage Festival

Schedule of Events FRIDAY Feb. 23, 1973 Practice Sessions for Aerobatic Com-All Day petition FAA/Pilots Briefing for Aerobatic Com-8 a.m. petition (Airport) Compulsory Pilots Briefing (Airport) 8:30 a.m. Spaghetti Supper-(Church of God, Fraser 5 p.m. Street) Mel Tillis Show-(LaBelle Stadium, South 8 p.m. Main Street) Presentation of Festival Queen Beard Contest Introduction of Pioneer Family SATURDAY Feb. 24, 1973 Florida Aerobatic Contest-(Airport) All Day Pilots Briefing for Aerobatic Contest-8 a.m. (Airport) Baby Sitting Service-(675-6605, Humpty 9 a.m. 11 p.m. Dumpty Nursery, Missouri Street) through downtown LaBelle-10:30 a.m. Parade (Bridge Street) EVENTS AT BARRON PARK ON CALOO-12 noon SAHATCHEE RIVER FOOD Steak 'n Swamp Cabbage Dinner Sandwiches Pizza Desserts Cold Drinks DISPLAYS & EVENTS Information booth Children's events Palmetto Fiber products exhibit Art Display National rifle association Indian exhibit

cont. next page

#### Schedule of Events

cont. from previous page

Hendry County Heart Association Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

MUSIC

Sam Thompson and Midnight Cowboys Ralph Raulerson and Country Gentlemen

Larry Woosley Group

1:45 p.m. SPEECH

Senator Edward J. Gurney

All Day EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Grandma Forrey's Swamp Cabbage Ex-

1 - 4 p.m. hibit (Arcade, Bridge Street)

Pioneer Corner (Ft. Thompson & Bridge

5 p.m. Street)

Tour Caldwell home place-(Curry Street)

7:30 p.m. Mexican Dinner-(Catholic Church, South

Bridge Street)

8 p.m. Chicken 'n Dumplin' supper-(Methodist

Church, Campbell Street)

9 p.m. Rodeo - (LaBelle Arena, South Main

Street)

Gospel Sing-(First Baptist Church, Main

Street)

Coronation Ball-(American Legion Hall),

NO TICKETS AT DOOR

Square Dance-(McCormick Skating Rink,

South Bridge Street)

Dance-(Devil's Garden Avenue, opposite

Airport)

SUNDAY

Feb. 25, 197: WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH OF YOUR

CHOICE

9 a.m. Aerobatic Contest Continues

12 noon Box chicken dinner-(Barron Park)

Hamburgers & Cokes-(Airport)

1:30 p.m. Swamp Cabbage Air Show-(Airport)

2:30 p.m. Rodeo - (LaBelle Arena, South Main

Street)

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Best Wishes for A Most Successful Swamp Cabbage Festival

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#### The Annual

#### Hendry County City-Farm Tour

November 18, 1972 was the day for the first City-Farm Tour in recent years. City folks, local folks, retired people, working people, youngsters and tourists became acquainted, on a first hand basis, with modern day agriculture in Hendry County.

Not one of the 183 tour members was disappointed. Air-conditioned buses were used to ride in comfort for 150 miles through the county. At noon a steak dinner was served.

The Annual Hendry County City-Farm Tour was backed by the County Commissioners and around 50 residents of the county pitched in to make it a huge success.

The variety of agricultural operations seen were many and covered all those of importance to Hendry County. These included cattle ranches, the United States Sugar Corporation sugarmill, a modern day farm labor camp, cane planting and harvesting operations, tomato farming on sand and using plastic mulch, greenhouse growing of vegetable seedlings, pulpwood and stump loading,

oil wells, citrus groves, pepper fields and honey and bee operations.

Before the day was over the members of the tour fully realized that Hendry County's \$55 million agricultural industry is a vital part of providing food for the county, state and nation. Hendry County is seventh in Florida in value of all agricultural products sold.

This first Tour told the farmer's story loud and clear.

The problems of the farmer, with labor heading the list, were only too clear. Today as never before farming is big business, but with big business comes big problems.

In America 97% of the population depends on the other 3%, THE FARMER, to feed and clothe them. The task is tremendous and the farmer needs the support of all individuals to get the job done.

Find out about agricultire, be a part of the Second Annual Hendry County City-Farm Tour. Contact the Hendry County Extension Office, P.O. Box 68, LaBelle. Phone 813-675-2361 for tickets. Tickets for 1973 will be \$10.00. A 10% discount will be allowed on orders placed before November 1, 1973.

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#### **Grand Marshal**

The basis for selection as Grand Marshal is outstanding service to the Community of La-Belle. Past Grand Marshals have been elected officials in local, county or state government, but public service is not the only criterion for selection. Unselfish and outstanding service to La-Belle in public or private life is the basis for election as Grand Marshal.

1967 - R. E. Byrd 1968 - W. B. Barron 1969-W. T. (Bill) Maddox 1970-J.R. (Jack) Spratt 1971-Robert M. Harris 1972 - Jack Patton 1973 - John W. Ash, Sr.

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#### John W. Ash, Sr.

#### named

#### **Grand Marshal**

John W. Ash, Sr., chosen grand marshal of the Swamp Cabbage Festival Parade for 1973, is a long-time resident who has given generously of his time, materials and labors for all worthwhile community projects.

A dairyman turned grass and hay farmer, Ash has been a friend to all organizations in LaBelle; missing charter membership in the Lions Club by only one month, he has worked long and faithfully for Boy Scout projects as the Troop is sponsored by Lions Club. Equally strong has been his support of the 4-H Clubs, the Future Farmer organizations, and all church youth organizations.

He has been chosen for honorary membership in the Future Farmers chapter; has served as director of the Hendry County Fair and Livestock Show, is chairman of the Soil Conservation Board of Supervisors, and as vice-chairman of the county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Mr. Ash and his wife are parents of a son, John W. Ash, Jr. and a daughter, Mrs. Mary Ruth (Darrell) Hampton, of San Diego. John Ash, Jr. and his wife Nona (Williams) have a son, Jeffrey Lynn (Thumper) and a daughter Kathy now Mrs. Jose Santiago. This entire family lives at API Ranch, LaBelle. Darrell and Mary Ruth Ash Hampton are parents of a son, Jay and a daughter Mary Lynn.



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#### 1973 Swamp Cabbage Festival Parade Saturday, February 24

The festivities on Saturday of Swamp Cabbage Festival weekend begin with our annual parade. This parade promises to be even bigger than last year's parade, which was approximately two miles long.

The Swamp Cabbage Festival Parade is unique because of the face that commercial participation is not encouraged as in most parades. Participation is by local residents who use native materials to decorate their floats. In addition to the floats, there will be several walking unit including five bands, bicycle units and many horses.

This year's parade will assemble at 9:30 a.m. between S.R. 29 and Bridge Street at the B & B Garage south of La-Belle. Pre-judging of floats will begin at that time.

Floats will be judged in five categories this year. They are:

- Organizational, Adult
- 2. Organizational, Youth & School
- 3. Commercial
- 4. Out of Town-Organizational & Commercial
- 5. Grand Prize

The parade will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. and final judging will take place along the parade route. Winners will be announced during the noontime festivities at Barron Park.

Any inquiries regarding this year's parade should be made to Larry Bennett, Parade Chairman, at P.O. Box 267, LaBelle, Florida, Phone (813) 675-7621 (Business or (813) 675-1431 (Home).

# LaBelle Jaycees



Young Men of Action

#### We Believe:

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human live,

That the brotherhood of mar transcends the soverignty of nations,

That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise,

That government should be of laws rather than of men,

That earth's greatest treasure lies in the human personality,

And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

This Booklet is an official LaBelle Jaycee Publication.

#### Congratulations

to the

#### Citizens of LaBelle

and the
Swamp Cabbage
Festival Committee

From all of us at

# Port La Belle

**General Development Corporation** 





#### Mel Tillis

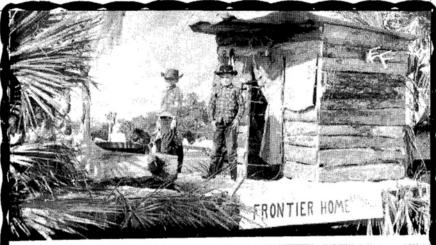
The local football stadium will be the setting for more Swamp Cabbage Festival fun, but this time it's not football that folks will gather to see. The Mel Tillis Show, starring famed country music star Mil Tillis and the Statesiders will be the attraction of February 23 at 8:00 p.m. Mel Tillis, one of country music's leading songwriters, singers, comed-

ians and publishers, is billed as a Total Entertainer. He is a regular on the Grand Ole Opry and is a frequent guest on numerous popular television shows such as the Mike Douglas Show. Mel was a regular on the Glen Campbell Show in 70-71.

He records for MGM Records. Some of his hits include: "Old Faithful", "Something Special", "Too Lonely Too Long", "Life Turned Her That Way", "Stateside", "Heart Over Mind", "Heaven Everyday", "Who's Julie", "Untouched", "Commercial Affection", "Brand New Mister Me", "I Ain't Never" and many more. His newest release is the new hit "Neon Rose".

Mel, a native of Tampa, Florida, later moved to Pahokee, Florida, where he worked in the fields. In 1957 he wrote his first song "I'm Tired" and Webb Pierce recorded it. This hit made him a professional writer and opened many doors for him. "Detroit City" (1962) and "Ruby Don't Take Your Love To Town" )1964) were his biggest hits as a songwriter.

Many know Mel as the singer who stutters when he talks. Mel's stuttering, by the way, is for real. "Yes," he says "it's for real all right. I meet people all the time who think it's an act! Well, it's an act, but it's for real."











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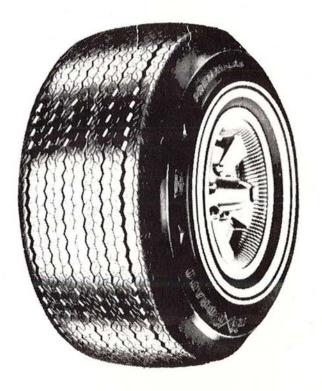
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Ernie Rioux Janece Rioux, owners

# LaBelle. . . . . French For Beautiful!

LaBelle, French for "the beautiful," was named for two of Captain Francis A. Hendry's daughters, Laura and Belle, both now deceased. With its giant oaks and the beauty of the nearby Caloosahatchee River, many people accept the tale that a French traveler, perhaps Pierre Denaud, the trader for whom Fort Denaud was named, saw the area in its natural setting edclaimed, "C'est LaBelle." No matter what the origin of her name, LaBelle is truly "the beautiful," especially to those wearying of the hustle and bustle of the metropolis.

Greater LaBelle has a population of almost 5,000, about one half of this lying inside the City of LaBelle. LaBelle operates under the commission form of city government and hsi modern water and sewage systems. The city has financial and commercial institutions, churches of most major denominations and modern schools.

With Port LaBelle immediately to the east of LaBelle which may swell the area's population to over 200,000 in less than twenty years, many people are concerned that LaBelle will cease to be warm, friendly, family-type of place in which to live. Aware of the pitfalls of rapid growth, LaBelle is planning for a future in which the city retaines its "small town charm" yet enjoys the advantages of being a more urbanized and more heavily populated area.

The people in LaBelle are proud of their hometown and of the factors which make LaBelle "special." One such factor is the unique role women play in the community. Not only are women elected to important positions in the county government, located in LaBelle, but they also furnish LaBelle with lawyer, doctors, and owner-managers of all local restaurants. All real estate businesses in LaBelle are also named for and operated by the fairer sex.

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LaBelle, Florida Phone 675-2991

Agent: Merle D. White

# Nutrition Content of Swamp Cabbage

The composition of cooked swamp cabbage per cup (100 gram) is:

21 kilo calories

2.2 grams protein

.2 grams fat

3.9 grams carbohydrates

55 milligrams calcium

1.5 milligrams iron

5200 international units Vitamin A

.050 mg thiamine

.080 mg ribroflavin

16 mg vitamin C



Compliments of

**KELLY** 

TRACTOR CO.

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#### Pioneer of the Year

The 1973 Swamp Cabbage Festival marks the sixth individual or family to be honored as Pioneer of the Year. These families and individuals, all of whom have lived in the LaBelle area for some 70 years, have an undying love for LaBelle and a true pioneer spirit.

1969 - Mrs. M. E. Forrey and the Burke Family

1970 - The W. T. Hull, Sr., Family

1971 - The Washington Hall Family

1972 - The Thomas Howard Family

1973 - The Capt. Francis A. Hendry Family



Compliments of

#### **Hendry County Title**

and

#### Abstract Co.

Abstracts of Title and Title Insurance

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675-3261

LaBelle, Fla.

WELCOME TO THE

#### Swamp Cabbage

#### **Festival**

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LaBelle, Florida

# Miss Cindy Bass

1972 Swamp Cabbage Queen



## Caloosa Motors

Authorized Sales & Service

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Plymouth - Chrysler - Jeep

#### Grand Opening - Dodge During Swamp Cabbage Festival

Hwy. 29 South

LaBelle

Tel. 675-3211

# Hendry County 4-H Youth on the Move

Over 800 youth from 9 - 19 are involved in "Learning By Doing". They are active in a vast variety of projects offered through the 4-H program. Through adult and teen leader supervision these youngsters are exploring new fields of interest for fun as well as acquiring knowledge.

Making a dress, grooming a show animal, training a horse or making ceramics are all part of 4-H. The interests are as varied as the individuals.

Through the use of two Youth Coordinating Instructors and moving 4-H into the school system the number of youths involved has increased more than 400% in one year.

The 4-H program moves forward through the use of concerned volunteer adults. This is an excellent opportunity for adults who care about today's youth to provide the leadership needed.

YOUTH OR ADULTS -- 4-H NEEDS YOU

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#### Sabal Palm

Common Name - Cabbage Tree

The Sabal Palm, or Cabbage Tree, is the State Tree of Florida. It grows throughout Florida; the tree is not damaged by cold in any part of the State and is well adapted for landscape use.

The Cabbage Tree attains a maximum height of 80 feet with a trunk diameter of two feet or less. During early life, the trunk is clothed with "boots" remaining from decayed leaf-stalks. As the tree grows older, these fall away leaving a fairly smooth trunk. The leaves, which are fan-shaped and shiny, dark green in color, reach a maximum length of about five feet and a somewhat wider breadth.

The bud is harvested for food when the tree reaches from 12 to 20 feet. The approximately three foot bud is swamp cabbage. Because of natural seeding, several cabbage trees will replace each one cut for food. The new trees will yield swamp cabbage in from three to five years.

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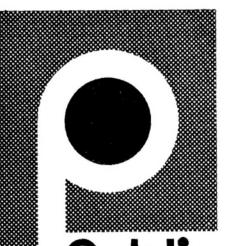
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# Pioneer Family of the Year

The family of Capt. Francis Asbury Hendry, for whom Hendry County is named, has been chosen as Pioneer Family of the Year of the 1973 Swamp Cabbage Festival. The selection also recognizes the Golden Anniversary of Hendry County.

Born in Thomas County, Georgia, in 1833, Hendry came to Florida with his parents at age 18, married and entered the cattle business the following year.

He moved his herd to the Caloosahatchee River Valley and his family to Fort Myers after the Civil War, because he saw the vast possibilities of the then undeveloped region.

As his cattle prospered he introduced new techniques; he fenced pastures and planted them with improved grasses; he added full-blooded Jerseys to upgrade his range cattle. He became the owner of 50,000 head of cattle and was known as the Cattle King of South Florida.

Hendry built a ranch home at Fort Thompson and moved his family there; he laid out a small town nearby and named it LaBelle, honoring his daughter, Belle.

Patterning his life after his idol, General Robert E. Lee, he became a community leader; he served as state senator in 1875 and 1877 before the creation of Lee County. He was a member of the first City Commission of Fort Myers and of the first County Commission of Lee. He served the new county as state representative from 1893 to 1904.

His death occurred before the creation of Hendry County, but because of his close association and his influence in the pioneering days of the area, his name was chosen when the county was created from Lee County.

Capt. and Mrs. Hendry raised eight of their eleven children to maturity. Their descendants and relatives bear names well known in the state; among them: Barineau, Carlton, Evans, Foxworthy, Heitman, Hart, Kantz, Kelley, Knight, Lanier, Linebaugh, Miner, Martin, Murdock, Menge, Parker, Roberts, Spences, Wilder and Wall.



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### LaBelle is ancient

The LaBelle area has been known to man for hundreds - perhaps thousands - of years. From all over South Florida, the Caloosa Indians, the paramount tribe, came to the Caloosahatchee near LaBelle to hold seasonal religious rites. In the 1760's, the last remnants of the once mighty and powerful Caloosas emigrated to the Bahamas. In the 1820's, a "permanent" Seminole Indian Reservation was set up south of the Caloosahatchee; later, the Seminoles were replaced by American settlers.

During the Second Seminole Indian War, frontier forts were built within ten miles of LaBelle to protect settlers from marauding Indians. One, Fort Denaud - a few miles west of LaBelle - lives on as a settlement. Others, Fort Thompson - used by the Confederate "Cow Cavalry" during the Civil War - Forts Keais, Simmons and T. B. Adams have disappeared and are but a memory to even the oldest pioneers.

The Caloosahatchee River has been both boon and bane to LaBelle. Early settlers depended on the river for transportation, but the river would-from time to time - overflow its banks and endanger lives, homes and crops. From 1880 to 1930, steamboats plied the Caloosahatchee carrying freight, passengers and mail.

Now, the Caloosahatchee - widened, deepened and broadened - is part of the Okeechobee Waterway connecting Florida's two coasts. The river is used for transportation, recreation and irrigation of agricultural lands; also, area residents have no fear of floods which were a certainty in earlier times.

The LaBelle area is well-known for hunting and fishing. The Caloosahatchee affords many pleasurable hours to the boater, fisherman, and waterskier. The banks of the river in the LaBelle - Fort Denaud area abound with fossils - both vertebrate and invertebrate - and attract both amateur and professional paleontologists.

#### Former Festival Queens

1967 - Miss Linda Stilwell

1968 - Mrs. Debra Cordell Willis

1969 - Miss Judy Burgess

1970 - Miss Laura Miller

1971 - Miss Sherri Lynn Woosley

1972 - Miss Cindy Bass

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## Sabal Palm Use

Sabal Palm fiber is the only natural brush fiber grown and processed in quantity in the United States. Cutting crews roam the range lands near LaBelle, taking the buds from stands of Sabal Palm with chain saws or axes.

After cutting, the buds, or swamp cabbage, are loaded onto bunch trucks and carried to a consolidation point where they are loaded onto tractor trailers for shipment to the processing plant in Jacksonville.

Processing the Sabal Palm buds is an involved and difficult operation. First, the individual fibers must be separated by a cooking process. The pieces are then shredded by specially designed machines. The individual fibers are treated to give them greater resiliency. The fibers are then sorted for color and length uniformity, bundled and trimmed. The fiber is finally packed and shipped to brush manufacturers all over the world to be made into many different types of brushes and whisk brooms.

#### From the Kitchen of Mary and Glenn Dyess

Glenn Dyess cuts all the swamp cabbage that his wife, Mary, uses for the festival. Mary cooks swamp cabbage in many delicious ways. The Dyesses do this every year for Grandma Forrey's Swamp Cabbage Exhibit at the Arcade on Bridge Street.

#### SWAMP CABBAGE PATTIES

2 cups cooked swamp cabbage (drained)
1 slightly beaten egg
salt and pepper to taste
Mix above ingredients. Add flour to make stiff mixture. Drop
by teaspoon into hot grease (about 1 inch grease in fry pan).
Fry until brown - serve hot.

#### SWAMP CABBAGE SALAD

Soak raw cabbage in strong salt water about 20 minutes. Drain. Add boiled egg, pickles and mayonnaise to taste.
Add another vegetable you might like in a salad mix.

#### SWAMP CABBAGE SALAD

1 head lettuce, torn into bite size pieces

1 avocado, diced

2 cups raw cabbage (soak in strong salt water for 20 minutes. drain) French dressing, salt and pepper to taste.

#### SWAMP CABBAGE WITH POTATOES

Cabbage, soak in strong salt water 20 minutes, drain well.

Potatoes peeled and quartered. Cured ham cut in 2-inch pieces.

Salt and pepper to taste. Cook until done. Onions may be added.

#### SWAMP CABBAGE WITH CORNED BEEF

1 or 2 swamp cabbage

1 can corned beef

Fix cabbage, put into pot with one can corned beef, 1/2 stick oleo, salt and pepper to taste. Cook until cabbage is done.

#### SWAMP CABBAGE WITH TOMATOES

swamp cabbage canned tomatoes or (peeled fresh) white bacon onion

Fry bacon in pot. Add cabbage, cut up onion and tomatoes, salt and pepper to taste. Cook until cabbage is done.



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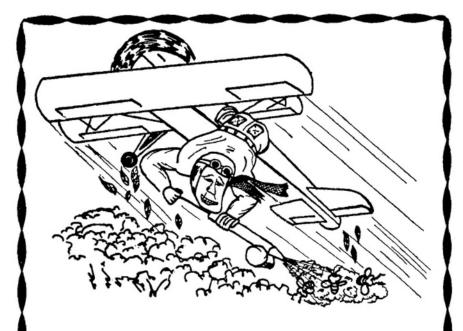


# Swamp Cabbage Air Show

The 1973 Swamp Cabbage Air Show will be the climax of the IAC Florida Aerobatic Contest where pilots compete to see who can do the best maneuvers, such as loops, slow rolls and Cuban 8's. The Air Show, itself, will begin on Sunday, February 25, 1973, at 1:30 p.m. Aerobatic Champions will demonstrate their skill in aerobatic maneuvers, and there will be other thrilling events.

The IAC Florida Aerobatic Contest held prior to the Swamp Cabbage Air Show is the only scheduled contest in Florida prior to the National Aerobatic Contest.

Visitors to previous Swamp Cabbage Air Shows will recall the aerobatic skill of World Champion Woman Aerobatic pilot, Mary Gaffaney. In this year's contest and Swamp Cabbage Air Show, Mrs. Gaffaney is expected to outdo her previous efforts.



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LaBelle, Florida

#### City of LaBelle

welcomes you to
Swamp Cabbage Festival
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L.J. Nobles, Jr.

Commissioners
W.G. Hollingsworth
T.A. Smith
J.R. Spratt, Jr.
J.H. Thomas

Best wishes on your annual Festival from the

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