

SHELL-O-GRAM

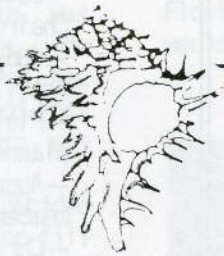
Published By The Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.

November-December, 1994

Volume 35:6

Editorial Board:

William M. Frank, Editor
Charlotte M. Lloyd, Asst. Editor
Harry G. Lee
Billie Brown



Club Officers:

Bill Lyerly, President
Selma Thigpen, 1st Vice-Pres.
Harry Lee, Secretary
Bill Frank, Treasurer

November Meeting

The November 17 meeting will be held (one week earlier due to Thanksgiving) at the Marine Science Education Center in Mayport at 7:30 PM. (See map to the Center, enclosed). Members are meeting at Singletons Seafood Shack in Mayport at 6:00 PM for dinner.

The program will include a guided tour of the Center and two video's which are sure to be of interest to Club members. Plan now to attend and bring family and friends.

December Christmas Party

The traditional Christmas Party will take the place of our December Meeting. It will be held at Claire Newsome's home on December 10th at 6:30 PM. See the enclosed map for directions.

As is our custom, each attending member is asked to bring a small shell related gift. Also, members are requested to bring some kind of hor'd oeuvre or canape and BYOB. Everything else will be provided.

A Return Visit To The Forgotten Coast

The weekend of 8-9 October, six members of the JSC (Betty Hunter, Selma Thigpen, Andy Hutchison, Bill & Betsy Lyerly, and Leigh Murphy) and one guest (Leigh's mother Mary) were off again to the alluring scallop dumps of Northwest Florida.

The primary impetus for the trip was to visit the large scallop dump on the property of Mr. Buddy Ward, owner of Buddy Ward and Sons's Seafood in Apalachicola. The JSC had only recently become aware of this new locale from an article in the Houston Conchological Society (HCS) Newsletter chronicling a visit by that club during the Spring. Dave Green of the HCS graciously provided all necessary details on location, securing access, etc., via both phone and by letter.

Selma, Andy, Bill, and Betsy left early Friday morning, arrived at Panacea some 3½ hours later, checked in at the Oaks Motel (the trip headquarters), and went directly to Apalachicola to rendezvous with Mr. Ward by previous arrangement. Except for the fact that Mr. Ward was under the mistaken impression that the visit was to have taken place the previous weekend, he was glad to see the JSC crew and promptly dispatched one of his workers to escort them to the dump some five miles distant.

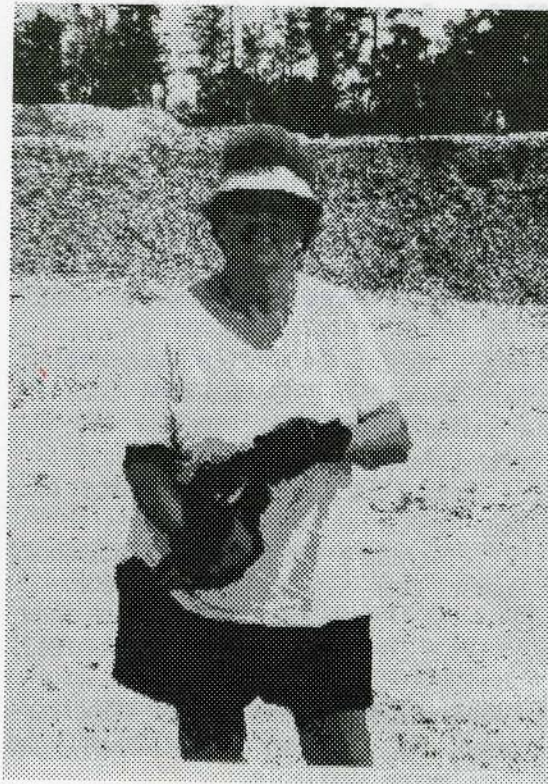


Photo by Bill Lyerly

Selma shows off her Horse Conch



Jacksonville Shell Club, Inc.
1865 Debutante Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32246

THE SHELL-O-GRAM IS ISSUED BI-MONTHLY AND MAILED TO ALL REGULAR MEMBERS. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES \$12.50 INDIVIDUAL, \$15.00 FAMILY. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE. SEND DUES TO:

BILL FRANK, 1865 DEBUTANTE DRIVE,
 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32246.

THE CLUB MEETS THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 7:30 PM AT THE REID SCIENCE/MEDICAL BUILDING, JACKSONVILLE UNIVERSITY, JACKSONVILLE, FL. PLEASE ADDRESS ANY CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CLUB'S ADDRESS SHOW ABOVE. CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH OF PUBLICATION. ARTICLES MAY BE REPRINTED IF PUBLISHER SENDS TWO ARTICLES TO THE SHELL-O-GRAM; ONE FOR AUTHOR, AND ONE FOR THE SHELL-O-GRAM LIBRARY, AND THE AUTHOR'S NAME AND PUBLICATION MENTIONED IN THE PUBLICATION.

Upcoming Events

- **January 21-22 - Astronaut Trail Shell Club Show at Melbourne Auditorium, Melbourne, FL. Contact Bobbi Cordy at (407) 452-5736.
- **January 27-28 - Greater Miami Shell Club Show, North Miami, FL. Contact Norris McElya at (305) 642-1504.
- **February 3-5 - Broward Shell Club Show, Pompano Beach, FL. Contact John Chessler at (305) 791-5909.
- **February 10-12 - Ft. Myers Festival of Shells, Ft. Myers Beach, FL. Contact Anna Marie Nyquist at (813) 466-6391.
- **February 17-19 - Sarasota Shell Club Show, Sarasota, FL. Contact Peggy Williams at (813) 355-2291.
- **February 24-26 - Naples Shell Club Show, Naples, FL. Contact Gary Schmelz at (813) 455-4984
- **March 2-5 - Sanibel Shell Fair, Sanibel Is., FL. Contact Georgette Laforet at (813) 472-6290.
- **March 9-11 - Marco Island Shell Show, Marco Is., FL. Contact John Maerker at (813) 394-3438.
- **March 17-19 - Treasure Coast Shell Club Show, Stuart, FL. Contact Cathy Fry at (407) 774-2502.
- **March 17-19 - St. Petersburg Shell Club Show, Treasure Is., FL. Contact Betty Lipe at (813) 360-0586.
- **May 27-28 - Suncoast Conchologists' Shellers Jamboree in Largo, FL. Further details will be published as they become available.

President's Corner

- Notes from the October Board meeting:
- Betty Hunter appointed 2nd Vice President (Program Chairman)
 - Judy Blocker appointed 3rd Vice President (Special Activities including Shell Show Chairman)
 - Field trip to Cumberland Island tentatively planned for February
 - Approved 1994-95 budget for presentation to the membership at October meeting
 - Christmas party planned for Saturday, December 10th, 6:30 P.M. at Claire Newsome's residence
 - Discussed need for more participation in submitting articles for the Shell-O-Gram
 - Discussed briefly the 1995 shell show
 - Appointed Betty Hunter and Bill Lyerly to audit 1993-94 financial records.

The club now has a new lifetime member (our second) - Mary Reynolds. Congratulations, Mary, and thank you for this support of the club.

This Shell-O-Gram contains an article on the September Seafest, but I would personally like to thank Selma and Andy for chairing this event and helping to make it a success.

It is with regret that the Club has learned of the passing of June Dawley, an honorary lifetime member of the Club. Also, Alan Walker suffered a severe stroke recently but has shown improvement and been transferred to Heartland Health Care Center, 8945 Normandy Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32231. Our prayers are with June's family and with Alan and Hazel for his speedy recovery.

Welcome New Members

Eli & Virginia Leslie
 5353 Arlington Expwy. Apt. 12-I
 Jacksonville, FL 32211-5574
 PH: 745-0549

Ms. Cathy Williams
 3695 Sandburg Rd.
 Jacksonville, FL 32277
 PH: 721-4152

Changes to Membership Listing

--New address--
 Alan & Becky Peek
 23 Holly Crest
 Fort Dix, NJ 08640

--Phone Number--
 Mr. George E. Hapsis
 HP: 575-1456

Forgotten Coast continued

The dump turned out to be a huge scallop pile very much like what the club had perused in downtown Apalachicola in the past. The pile was approximately 1½ to 2 years old, with no odor. The variety of shells found was comparable to what had been found on previous trips to Carrabelle and Port St. Joe. However, considerable more digging was required to find specimens.

After several hours in the sun, the group decided to visit a business where scallops are used for fill and where the club had excellent results in the past. Again, this proved to be a fruitful location, particularly with Junonias. The owner's children had found four Junonias and placed them aside, in anticipation of the clubs return. Many other species were also found; replicating the finds of previous trips.

Then, the high spot of any shelling trip - time to eat. Julia Mae's was the unanimous choice and as usual, the food was delicious.

When the group arrived back at the motel, Betty, Leigh, and Mary were anxiously waiting for a report on the new dump.

Up early Saturday morning, the consensus was to take advantage of a minus tide at Alligator Point for some marine shelling. However, upon arrival the tide was not yet out so with the exception of Selma and Andy, the group decided to continue on to Mr. Ward's plant in Apalachicola.

Upon arrival at the plant it wasn't open. However, one of the plant workers was awaiting the group's arrival and had been waiting some 1½ hours to escort them to the dump. This wait was due to a misunderstanding on the club's part as Mr. Ward had stated that the plant would be open from 8 AM until work was finished. Unfortunately, nobody in the group realized that they finished work so quickly!

Back at the dump, digging was resumed, with Leigh promptly finding a Junonia (in an area traversed many times the previous day.) Fortunately, the day was overcast and cool making digging a little easier. After about four hours, Betty decided to call it a day and return to the motel. As she left, Selma and Andy arrived and reported that they had good luck shelling the minus tide and among other things had found a large Horse Conch.

As Leigh and her mother had not planned to stay another night in Panacea, they left at 3:30 PM for home. Some 1½ hours later, the remainder of the group were shelled-out and returned to the motel via another repast at Julia Mae's.

The next morning, Betty returned to Jacksonville while the remainder of the die-hard shellers proceeded directly to Alligator Point. While the tide was not yet low, its ebb revealed literally hundreds of dead sand dollars on the beach, making it unnecessary to wait out the tide.

With mission accomplished by noon, the remainder of the group also departed the tranquility of Florida's Forgotten Coast to return to the real world.



Some of Betsy's finds

Photo by Bill Lyerly

Beaches Renourishment Project Delayed

The planned renourishment of the Jacksonville Beaches (Atlantic, Neptune, and Jacksonville Beach) has been delayed for a second time. The renourishment was initially scheduled to begin in January and then again in May but was delayed both times because the \$5.3 million in city and state funds earmarked for the project weren't available. Officials now say that the project could begin in March.

When the project finally gets underway, about 1.5 million cubic yards of sand will be pumped onto the beaches from an underwater borrow pit approximately 7½ miles offshore. This in turn will be smoothed out and shaped by bulldozers. The entire project could take up to seven months to complete, depending on prevailing weather conditions.

Abridged from the Florida Times Union,
Sep. 28, 1994.

Club News

by Billie Brown

Our Trudy is alive and well! A few days after Gertrude departed for New York, there was an obituary in the Times Union for a "Gertrude Moller." Folks read the name and jumped to conclusions. Telephone lines were buzzing. Gertrude is home and had a wonderful trip. She thanks everybody for their concern.

There was a story told to me about a mischievous Minorcan and an intriguing Indian. Labor Day weekend there was a festival in the Old Store Market in St. Augustine and some of our members were there. Break time - everyone sitting, eating, watching the sights and one in particular; a good looking Indian girl with long black hair and cheeks of tan (she bent over several times). Her costume was buckskin, adorned with fringe and other baubles. "Where's Fred?" He had wandered off! When found he was closely scrutinizing the front of the Indian's costume (of course without his glasses so he had to get close.) He was identifying shells on her dress and pointing out an olive nestled seductively on the front! Fred, Fred, Fred!

Seafest went well. As many members as could, participated giving time, crafts, and shells. Selma and Andy did a wonderful job of heading up this project.

A word about courtesy - "If is **not your property**, do not alter the appearance," whether an exhibit in a shell show or a craft item for our sales. If in your mind improvements can be made, then by all means speak to the exhibitor but under no circumstances make a change yourself.

Paul and I were in Vero Beach for a week - some rainy days there as here. I did find one good example of Martesia striata (L., 1758) in a piece of driftwood. Nothing else except old, ugly remains. Before coming home we did go out in the swamp near Melbourne and spent the afternoon on air boats. Quite a ride - no shells! We're leaving for North Carolina and I hope to find a few land snails.

Charlotte Lloyd has just returned from Maine. "It's absolutely beautiful! Sunshine through the leaves makes you feel as though you are in a cathedral with sun coming through the stained glass windows." Charlotte and Vic will present a video-slide program on marine life found offshore of N.E. Florida, November 9th, 7:00 P.M. at the Beaches Library. This program is part of the library's "Sand Castle Presentations;" given by local residents whenever possible.

A note was passed on to me from member Harriet Hough, now living in Winston-Salem North Carolina. She just recently spent ten days in Belize with an opportunity to shell. A program would be nice Harriet - we would love to see you; and the program of course.

Happy Birthday wishes to Selma Thigpen on November 25th, Charlotte Lloyd on December 11th, and Claire Newsome on December 20th!

Our prayers go out to Alan Walker and his family. Alan had a stroke and is currently convalescing. Also our prayers and sympathy for the family of June Dawley who passed away on October 23rd. Member Zida Artrip of Shallotte, North Carolina, has recently had surgery. We wish her well as she recovers.

Until the next Shell-O-Gram - take care. Let me hear from you. Our members are important to us and this is a way to share birthdays, anniversaries, trips, and other things going on in our club!

A Few Words From Your New Editor

With this issue I assume the duty as editor of your newsletter, the **Shell-O-Gram**. I reluctantly take over this task from Charlotte, who for many years and virtually single-handedly, has produced one of the finest shell club newsletters currently in publication. Charlotte will continue her active participation as Assistant Editor.

Despite being closely involved with **Shell-O-Gram** publication for nearly two years, I do not take this newly acquired responsibility lightly. The newsletter is an extremely important part of our club and is one thing **all** JSC members have in common whether they live in Alaska, Alabama, or Arlington.

Producing our modest eight page newsletter every two months is hardly a simple endeavor. Preparations for the next issue begins as the past issue is on the way to the printers. Four local newspapers, several out-of-town newspapers, three conchological/malacological publications, one palentological publication, some 30 exchange newsletters, and several commercial publications are continuously reviewed for items of interest to JSC members.

Despite what would appear to be a plethora of information, surprisingly very little can be found which is usable and is likely to be of serious interest to the general club membership.

In the final analysis, the overall quality of our **Shell-O-Gram**, and how well it serves the membership, depends not just on the newsletter staff, but on you - the club members. We need your input whether it is something you saw in a publication, a report on your shelling trip last weekend, a cartoon, or what you collected on your three week vacation to the Bahamas.

The success of our newsletter for over thirty years has as its basis - **member input**. We need your active support to continue this tradition. Don't procrastinate; don't be shy; submit something for publication today!

Seafest 1994 Great Success

"Seafest 94", held on the Southbank Riverwalk the weekend of 17-18 September, was a great success for the JSC for the second consecutive year. This two day event serves to not only bring the existence of the club to the attention of a large number of members of the general public, but also has proven to be a source of revenue.

Despite the club getting a very late start in preparing for the event and inclement weather on Sunday, a profit of \$69.10 was realized by the club treasury. As in the previous year, shell craft items were very popular with the public. Many thanks to all the club members who donated items for sale.

Special thanks to Selma Thigpen and Andy Hutchison for serving as co-chairs for the event and to those club members who assisted them manning the booth. The latter includes Teresa St. John, Billie Brown, Charlotte Lloyd, Nancy Garry-Chadwick, and Dottie Eanetta.

Also, thanks to Bill and Betsy Lyerly for transporting the shell sale items and sun canopy from the storage unit at the beach all the way to the west side of town. Last but not least, thanks to Mike Noble for appearing out of nowhere during Andy's time of need, an helping him assemble the 100 or so pieces which made up the sun canopy. This was the first time that erection of the canopy had been attempted since its purchase (nobody previously had the courage to attempt it). At least now we know that all the pieces necessary for its use were in fact in the box.

Photo by Billie Brown



Selma talks to one of the visitors to the JSC Booth

...Nature Adapts To Man

Female dog whelks, Nucella lapillus, found in the North Sea, are very susceptible to the effects of the chemical tributyl tin (TBT). This substance is used in the anti-fouling paints applied to large boats, and only a few parts per trillion of it in sea water causes the appearance of oversized male organs in female animals. These organs physically prevent the animals from reproducing normally, and Nucella lapillus is said to have practically died out along the north Kent coast of England.

Imagine the excitement of scientists at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory when they recent found thriving populations of the animal near a busy ferry terminal. Closer examination is said to have shown that the individuals had developed a genetic mutation that decreased the size of the male organ, both in males, and in females affected by pollution.

While the syndrome is a great calamity for affected males (assuming they have ego's) it does not prevent carrier females from breeding with normal males, thus ensuring the survival of the species.

From Hawaiian Shell News, October 1994; originally appeared in New Scientist.

Man Adapts To Nature...

Commercial fishers of shell fish at Yerseke in the Netherlands have learned to make good use of sea gulls. They spread their catch of mussels out on submerged banks of peat in the Oosterschelde Estuary, and leave them there for several days so that the mussels' insides can be purged of sand. Flocks of sea gulls have learned about this and descend on the mussels to forage for any that were damaged in transit. This performs the useful function of ensuring that only healthy, living mussels are still around after several days, at which time the mussels are dispatched to market.

From Hawaiian Shell News, October 1994; originally appeared in New Scientist.

**In Memoriam
Dorothy June Dawley
1912-1994**

Dorothy June Dawley passed away in a local hospital on October 23rd. June had been a member of the Jacksonville Shell Club since shortly after moving to Jacksonville from New Jersey in 1974. She had recently been honored by the club with life membership in recognition of her many contributions to and continuing support of club activities.

During her nearly 20 years as a club member, she served as a member of the executive board, as the editor of the Club's newsletter, the Shell-O-Gram, and as a frequent volunteer at club events including the shell show this past August.

She worked closely with Dr. Harry Lee putting the club's first traveling slide in cassette program "Micro Mollusca" together. June's collection of micro and miniature mollusca will be donated to the Florida State Museum in Gainesville while her extensive collection of marine, land, and fossil shells were generously donated to the club to help underwrite its educational programs.

June, with her keen wit and infectious smile, will be sorely missed by all who had the honor of knowing her. She is survived by three sons and four grandchildren.

"Shell Lady in the Media Center"

On September 21st, Betty Hunter (The Shell Lady) and Bill Frank, with logistical support by Chin Frank, presented shell and sea life educational programs to approximately 240 students of Hyde Grove Elementary School on Lane Avenue.

The programs encompassed seven classes of 3rd and 5th graders and ran virtually non-stop for over four hours. The timing of the presentations was especially fortuitous for the 5th graders who were to make their visit to the Marine Science Education Center in Mayport the very next day; an event to which they obviously were looking forward.

The programs were well received by both the students and faculty. Each teacher was presented with a bag of shells (Cypraea moneta for the 3rd graders and Oliva sayana for the 5th graders) to be distributed to the students at their leisure.

Demand for programs on shells has increased as the local community has become aware of the Jacksonville Shell Club's existence and willingness to make presentations.

Now is the perfect time for you to finally get rid of that bag of cowries, or whatever, that has been gathering dust in your closet or garage for many years. Donate it to the club for use in upcoming educational programs!

JSC 1995 Shell Show Dates Finalized

The Jacksonville Shell Club has formally scheduled its 1995 show for the weekend of 15-16 July. The three-day affair will be held at The Sea Turtle Inn & Conference Center, oceanfront in Atlantic Beach. A deposit for facility rental has already been paid.

As a bonus for our out-of-town visitors, it now appears that beach renourishment may also be in progress during this time period and The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament will be held the same weekend less than three miles distant at the Pablo Creek Marina. A shell auction and banquet are also planned at the Sea Turtle on Friday evening.

Use of the facilities at the Sea Turtle will significantly increase the amount of available floor space over that available at the Day's Inn, the site of the 1994 show. This additional square footage will not only allow for more exhibitors, but will allow the club to increase the number of shell dealers.

Additionally, according to Shell Show Chairman Judy Blocker, the Sea Turtle's more centralized location and ample parking should significantly increase attendance by the general public over the previous year.

Preparations for the show are well underway, Judy would be happy to hear from you whether you are volunteering to fill a particular position or can secure donated items for the exhibitors packets. Give her at call at 246-4012.

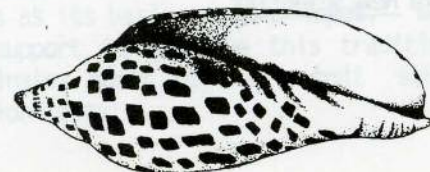
Shell Museum Receives Grant From Japanese

The Sumitomo Corporation of Tokyo, Japan has made a \$10,000 grant to the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum. In announcing the grant, a representative of corporation stated that the project "really deserves to be praised."

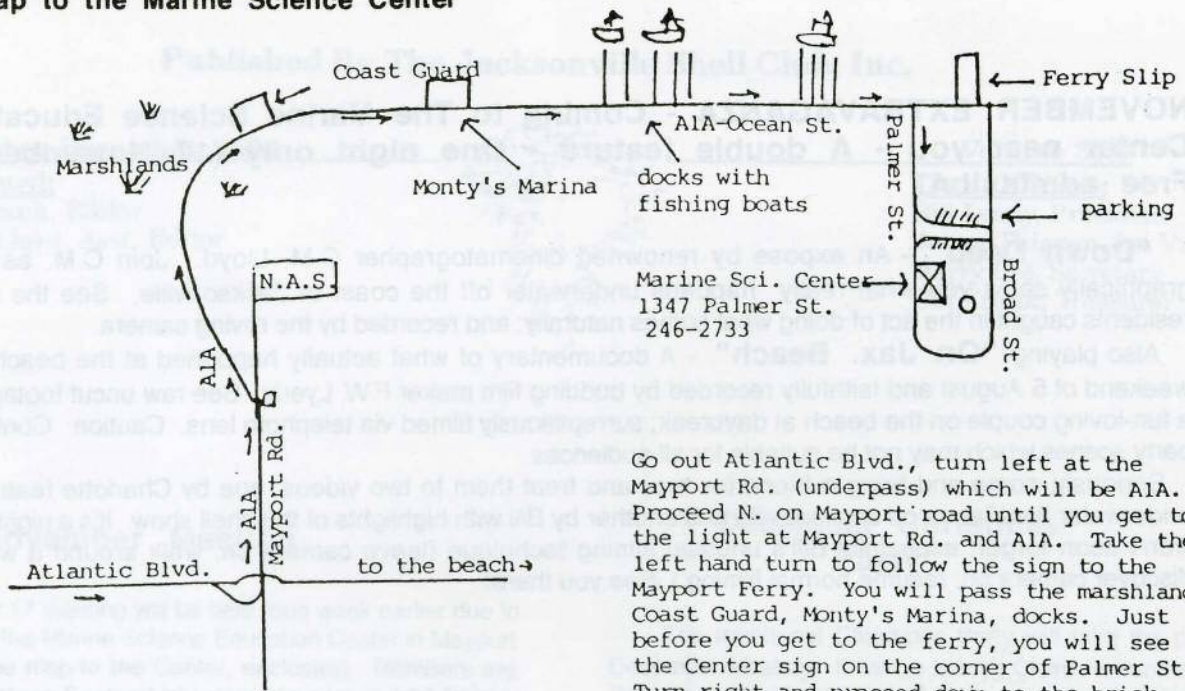
According to Dr. R. Tucker Abbott, the museum's director, the contribution is earmarked for exhibit fabrication. That is an area, he said, where major funding is still needed to complete the museum's 35 planned exhibits.

The late Emperor Hirohito was an avid shell collector, Abbott pointed out, and assembled one the largest marine shell collections in the world.

Abridged from the Sanibel-Captiva
Island Reporter, Sep. 30, 1994.

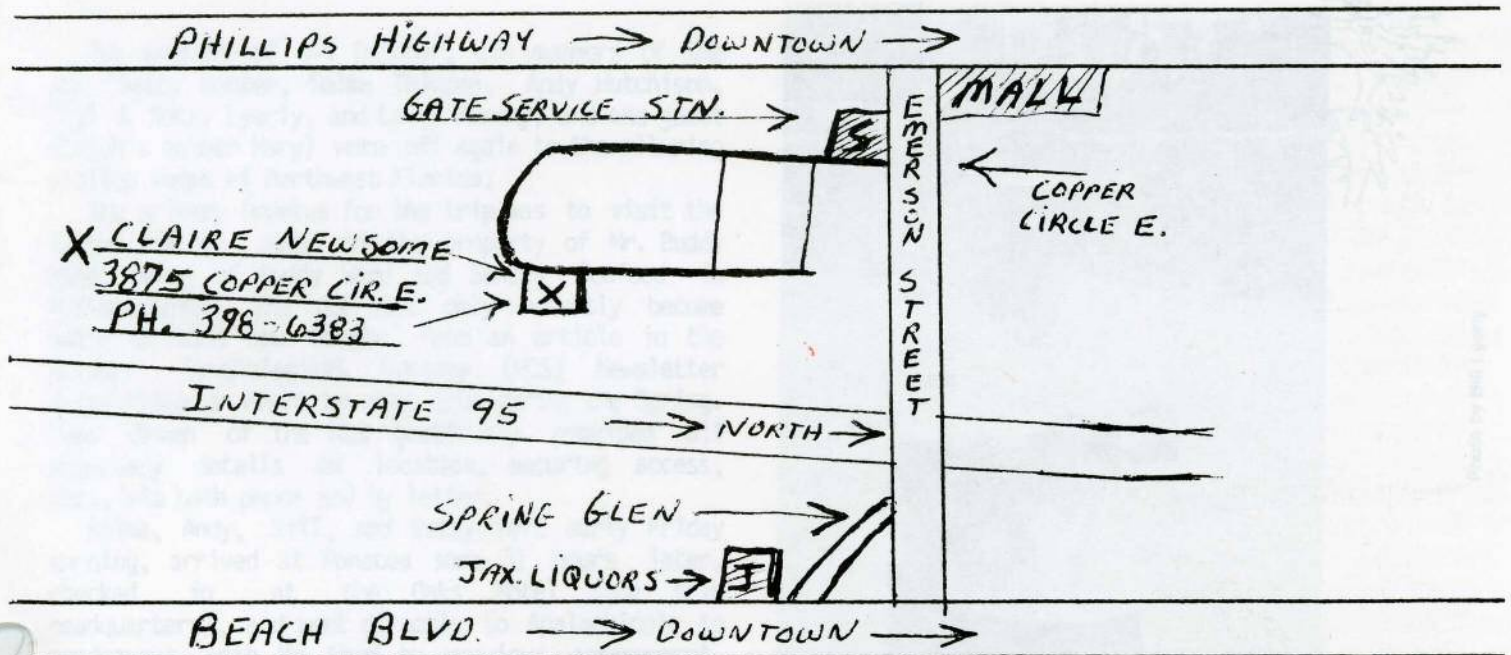


Map to the Marine Science Center



Go out Atlantic Blvd., turn left at the Mayport Rd. (underpass) which will be A1A. Proceed N. on Mayport road until you get to the light at Mayport Rd. and A1A. Take the left hand turn to follow the sign to the Mayport Ferry. You will pass the marshland, Coast Guard, Monty's Marina, docks. Just before you get to the ferry, you will see the Center sign on the corner of Palmer St.. Turn right and proceed down to the brick school building. Parking on the left of building.

Map To Christmas Party



NOVEMBER EXTRAVAGANZA - Coming to The Marine Science Education Center near you - A double feature - One night only (17 November) - Free admission!

"Down Deep" - An expose by renowned cinematographer C.M. Lloyd. Join C.M. as she graphically show you what really happens underwater off the coast of Jacksonville. See the local residents caught in the act of doing what comes naturally; and recorded by the roving camera.

Also playing **"On Jax. Beach"** - A documentary of what actually happened at the beach the weekend of 5 August and faithfully recorded by budding film maker F.W. Lyerly. See raw uncut footage of a fun-loving couple on the beach at daybreak; surreptitiously filmed via telephoto lens. Caution: Contains party scenes which may not be suitable for all audiences.

Seriously, come and bring a friend (or two) and treat them to two videos; one by Charlotte featuring underwater flora/fauna off Jacksonville and another by Bill with highlights of the shell show. It's a night you won't soon forget; especially Bill's unusual filming technique (leave camera on, walk around a while, discover camera on, resume normal filming.) See you there!

The Shell-O-Gram
1865 Debutante Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32246

