

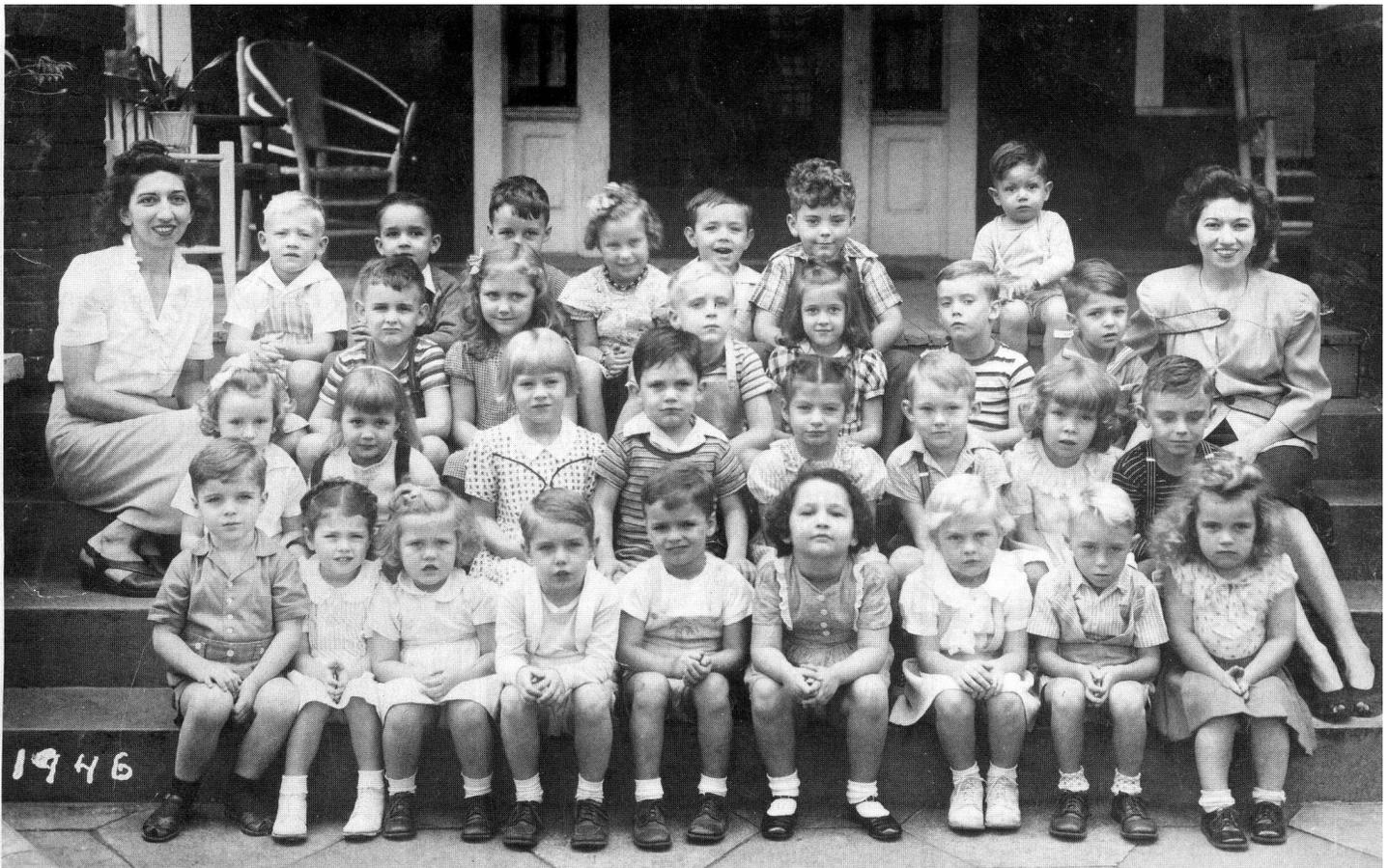


# THE SHEC SAMPLER

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Springfield Heritage  
Education Center  
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*Were you in kindergarten in Springfield in 1946?*



Marjorie and Helen Goodale with their kindergarten students at a school on Silver Street in Springfield in 1946

If you went to kindergarten school in Springfield, we hope you will take a close look at the above photograph and hopefully find yourself. SHEC would really wish to hear from you for our oral history project. The children in the photograph would now be in their very early 70s. Maybe someone will be able to place some names on them. One of the teacher sisters resided at 1940 Silver Street which is just north of 1934 Silver Street, which housed the school. This photograph was taken on the front porch. The house survives and the outside is still the same as it was in 1946.

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## Confederate Park (formerly Dignan Park)

Photograph to the left is one of the original Klutho park entrances ca 1929, the name being written in wrought iron over the gate. This gate may be viewed from Orange Street, but it is no longer a park access. The lake in the background, is the one whose creation you see described in the article on the following page.

It would be an understatement to say that our parks have always been the verdant (but sometimes wet) pastures that we see today. Ever since the establishment of the parks it has been an ongoing struggle to beautify and drain the land and to keep it free of garbage. The area we now call Confederate Park was particularly water filled, and there was probably access to the area from the river, whereby lumber was transported to the several wood mills there. The description of the property was: "*much of this ground overflowed marsh lands and cypress ponds*".

There is really no clearer picture of the amount of water in the area now called Confederate Park, than the following *Florida Times-Union* newspaper report of a drowning in September 1905

*Henry Dyal who tried to save him, went under second time.*

*Henry Stafford to Rescue, saved Dyal, but Segui was dead when taken from the water*

*John Segui, a well-known fisherman, was drowned in Hogans creek at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon and Henry Dyal colored, (sic) who attempted to save him, came dangerously near losing his life in the water. It was about 1:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon when Segui went to the small mill at the intersection of Market Street and Hogans creek. After sitting about the place for several minutes he decided to take a bath in the creek. He stripped himself of all garments except his trousers and plunged into the water, which at that point is said to be about seven or eight feet deep. Segui floated about the stream for several minutes then commenced to dive from a log nearby. Presently Henry Dyal who was on the shore, saw Segui sink, and immediately plunged into the water after him.*

*Dyal was saved.*

*Henry Stafford who was constructing a boat neaby saw that Segui was drowning and went to assist Dyal in rescuing the unfortunate man. He secured a boat, which had no oars, but shoved out toward the two men. Henry Dyal by this time had also gone under. Segui was pulled into the boat by the aid of a long pole with a hook in the end, but life had left his body. Mr. Stafford then turned his attention to Dyal, who was then going down the second time. He, too, was hooked by the pole and pulled into the boat.*

*Dr. May worked hard.*

*Word was sent to police headquarters and Policeman Charles H. Hurlbert and Constable Hearndon went to the scene. Dr. Robert L. May was also summoned, and worked faithfully on Segui, but after a half-hour's labor gave him up as dead. From what could be learned at the scene both Segui and Dyal were under the influence of liquor. Segui, it is said, was an excellent swimmer, and how he lost his life in such a place was a miracle to his friends. Segui's body was taken to the home of his aunt, Mrs. J. R. Ferreria, 242 East State Street, just a block from the scene of the drowning. Constable Hearndon investigated the case and found that no inquest would be necessary. Hogans creek, at that point, is very filthy. It is filled with a skum (sic) of grease and other filth. The body of Segui, when taken from the water, was almost black being covered with the greasy substance\*.*

\* This description leads us to an interesting conjecture. The coal gasification plant was in that area, and much of the contamination therein points to the byproducts of gasification - creosote. That the water was that thick with this grease would make one wonder if, when the 1901 fire crossed the creek at Hammatts Mill on the north side of the creek at Main, maybe the grease on the water would actually burn. Sources *Florida Times Union* archives; Louise Stanton Warren

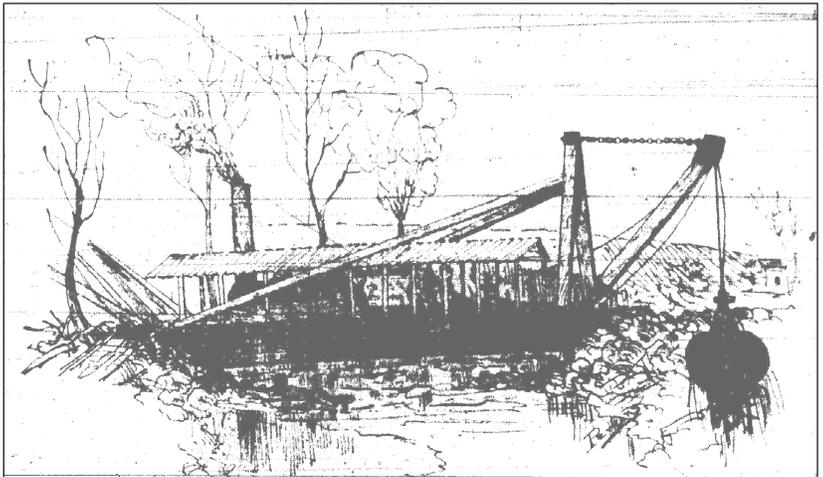
The following are excerpts from the *Florida Times-Union* article in September 1906.

*New Park System for Springfield  
Extends from Main to Washington Streets along the  
north bank of Hogans Creek*

*Reclaimed unsightly marsh, bulkheading of creek  
and filling in the low lands has brought beauty*

*Converting an unsanitary marshy strip of ground extending through the heart of the principle suburb into a beautiful sanitary healthy park is no child's play and takes quite a large amount of money, but the city of Jacksonville is doing this work in Springfield and is making great headway with it. This park site extends along the banks of Hogans Creek, from the east side of Main Street to the west side of Washington Street. It is one of the finest sites in the city for a beautiful park, and the city knowing this fact and*

*knowing that the condition of the site was unhealthy decided to put it in a sanitary condition and beautify it.*



Dredgeboat in Hogans Creek  
Drawn by E. D. M. Perkins of Jacksonville  
*Florida Times-Union* January 1905

*The Bulkhead Work*

*The city dredge Prioleau (named for the engineer who operated it), which was converted into a pile driver to do this work, has been getting along rapidly. The north side of the creek has been bulkheaded from Main to Market Street and has been planked so as to prevent the sand from sifting into the creek. The dredge has reached Market Street with the pile driving and the first of the present week her dredging machinery will be replaced and she will proceed back up the creek to Main Street from which point she will dredge the bed of the creek to a good depth throwing the material back of the bulkhead work to fill it in. In working down the creek it was found necessary to cut the bridge at Newnan Street in half in two, (sic) to allow the work to proceed. When the dredge comes back down the creek, carpenters will be placed at work immediately to rebuild this bridge.*

*Market Street Work*

*When the dredge reaches Market Street again the dredging machinery will again be removed and she will be converted to a pile driver once more. The Market Street bridge will be cut in two to allow the work to continue. The bulkhead will be constructed on through the park to Washington Street, then the dredge will return to Market Street, receive her dredging machinery once more and commence to dredge the creek up to the required depth, about six feet. Five weeks ago teams started to dump garbage and sand just east of Market Street where the marsh was very deep. The park site has been filled in from Main Street to a point halfway through the block east of Market Street, and within a few weeks there will be a clean hard strip of good hard ground between Main and Liberty Streets, which only a few months ago was only a swamp and unfit for any purpose whatever for the general public.*

*A New Lake*

*The site for a new lake has been selected and it will be made at a point between Main and Hubbard Streets. This lake will be similar to the one recently made in Springfield park. It will have a clay bottom and fountains will be placed therein and will continually flow, and there will be an outlet into Hogans Creek which will keep it constantly filled with good clear water. Just west of Market Street the bulkhead widens out for a distance of several yards, making a neat little harbor where owners of naphtha\* launches, can come up the creek and tie their boats up, making it convenient for owners living in Springfield. This inlet is out of the channel of the creek, but is deep enough for any class of naphtha launch to come up for anchorage.*

All of this expensive work was completed, but would only last for a very few years before the park once again became an eyesore. In 1927, there was a \$500,000 bond issue to again work on the creek's problems: flooding, garbage, and eyesore. Henry J. Klutho and Charles V. Imeson understood that the "city's previous dumping brought the filled in areas above high water mark, but underlying this fill was muck and peat beds from 10 to 20 feet in depth. Below this muck strata are sand beds of varying depths overlying the rock". *Florida Engineering Magazine* 1932. They knew that bulkheading the creek successfully required a support system down to bedrock, in some cases up to 40 feet, or once again all the work would wash away.

\* A Naphtha launch, sometimes called a vapor launch, was a small motor launch powered by a naphtha engine. They were a particularly American design, brought into being by a local law that made it impractical to use a steam launch for private use. Private use of a steam launch was prohibited unless a licensed engineer was on board. There was a fear of explosions, with "amateur use".

# Springfield Presents

Our 25th Annual Holiday Home Tour  
December 9th and 10th, 2011  
Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 on the day



Tours start at 5:00pm from  
Pak's Gym 1654 Walnut Street  
Last Tour leaves at 8:00pm.

Holiday Cheer in the form of  
Wassail and Homemade Cookies  
This is a walking tour, but  
you may drive if you so desire

Springfield Holiday Bazaar  
at Pak's Gym  
Saturday, December 10th  
from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm

For further information and tickets  
please call (904) 371 9694  
[www.spartour.org](http://www.spartour.org) or [info@spartour.org](mailto:info@spartour.org)

