Satellite Beach ---- by Percy L. Hedgecock, Mayor Emeritus

I have been asked to do my background and events that happened in the sixteen years that I was Mayor of Satellite Beach. I would like to begin in this way.....

On October 2, 1916, I was born in the City of Winston-Salem in the Piedmont section. I was the fourth boy of what later became the family of eight boys and one girl. After the fifth boy was born, my father decided it was best to leave the Reynolds Tobacco Company and move to a farm. He felt that raising children in the city would not be proper; that they would not be good citizens, if they lived in the city along the streets. He was a very successful bookkeeper and most everyone says that of all the children, I look more like him than the others. Each morning, when I shave, I see my father's picture in the mirror.

On the farm, later on, three more boys were born and one girl. One of the boys died in infancy. Our farm was not very successful, although we worked very hard at it. The land was poor and we barely survived. Many years our total income was less than five hundred dollars. Even then, $500. buying farm things, seeds, etc. did not leave much for the family food budget.

In 1918, when my father purchased the farm, it cost $10,000. Twenty years later we owed $4,500. on the farm, having been unable to keep up on the interest. In 1929, disaster struct almost every family in the United States; our family was struck twice. We were not only affected by the depression of 1929, we lost our barn in a fire in the spring of 1929. We lost all of our tools, our horses, which we used instead of trucks and all of our cattle. Not one thing was saved.

Of the eight children, the second, fourth, sixth and eighth graduated from highschool; the rest did not. I happened to be one of the four that did. I recall graduation necessitated a white jacket, which I did not have. I did wear one though, after borrowing it from the son of a man my father knew. After graduation from highschool in 1935 it was six months before I was able to find a job as jobs were very scarce.

My first job was with the P. H. Hanes Knitting Mills doing piece work for twenty cents an hour or eight dollars a week. Being on piece work and being a hard worker, I was able to make up to $18.00 a week prior to going in to the National Guard on September 16, 1940. Our's was one of the first divisions in the United States that President Roosevelt mobilized into the regular Army. Two of my brothers were also members of Company "G" Infantry and were mobilized with me. Later when war was declared, I was not taken because I have a punctured ear drum and bad legs.

I then went to work for the Glenn L. Martin Company and during that time playing baseball for the company team I broke a leg sliding into third base. That ankle has never fully healed, although few know I have a bad leg. Mr. Martin was at the ball game and I can certainly say that I was well taken care of. I had to wear a cast for ninety days. When the cast was removed, the leg had to be rebroken and another cast put on because the ligaments were stiff.

I next went to work as foreman in a government project supervising colored women who were repairing clothes for the needy of Europe. About a year later, I purchased a beer joint between High Point and Winston-Salem and not believing in alcoholic beverages, I removed all the beer and wine from the store that night and opened up as a general store the next day.

We were very successful and were able to enlarge the store to about three times the size it was. We had a lot of valuable customers.

One day one of my friend's houses burned down. He told me he had several estimates on rebuilding the house. All of them exceeded $10,000. This was in 1946. I told him I believed I could build a house for less money

than that. He said the job was mine if I could do it. I replaced the house for $6,000. and my friend was living in the house in ten days after I agreed to take the job. From then on I became a builder, as well as a general store operator. At this time my brother B. D. (Shine) was in business with me and when he became better known, I gave him one half of the business. I did this because I felt when I was not there, some one who owned the business, should be.

About three years later the building business was booming so, I felt I should lease the store and go into building one hundred percent. One day when it was cold and snowing, we were pouring basements for some of our houses and were having trouble with the concrete ~~XXXXXXX~~ getting stuck, I stated right there in 1951 that this was my last winter of building in North Carolina and that I would give my business to my brother and first cousin. They said they would rather not have the business but would go to Florida with me.

In February 1952 we went to Daytona to the stock car races and from there we proceeded to Miami where we bought four lots back to back. We had many orders for houses at that time and it was some six months later before we were able to leave North Carolina and build our homes. Again, business boomed and even though I did not like the crowded conditions Miami was very good to us. There were four of us in the business - two more brothers had joined us.

One day we ran into a friend from Durham, N. C. who was Deputy Zoning Director of Dade County. He said that we should be building in the Cape Canaveral area. At this time we had never heard of Cape Canaveral. We made approximately eight trips, mostly consecutive, to Brevard County. As soon as we saw the vast width of Cape Canaveral we decided not to develop there but to go south of Patrick Air Force Base. On our first trip here we met the now Circuit Judge Richard Muldrew and Attorney Pat Kelley. We purchased a piece of property each week from the ocean to the river south of Melbourne Beach. When we would return to Miami about four days later we would always get our check back, with a note stating the people who owned the property did not want to sell. We were discouraged because in a rising market, nobody seemed to know what they wanted for their property.

God works in various ways and I feel that all of this was a blessing in disguise, because had we purchased one of those pieces of property, there probably would never have been a Satellite Beach today. One day during a Pepsi Cola break in Miami, I said to our plumber that I was disgusted with the people in Brevard County because they did not seem to know what they wanted for their property. He said he had a piece of property in Brevard County and he would like to sell it to us. He said it was about three miles south of Patrick Air Force Base. He and I flew to Melbourne the next night, rented a car, came over and looked at the property and returned to Miami. In his office after returning from Melbourne, I wrote on a scrap piece of paper that I would give him a deposit of $5,000. the following week on this property. There had been several other people after this property and when they found out that the property was sold we were offered up to $40,000 for our little note that we had given without a deposit. We refused all of these and purchased the property the following weekend. Again, we were very busy and even though we purchased the property in November 1955, we were unable to catch up with our commitments and it was July 1956 when we left Miami and moved to the beach area.

After we arrived here we found that financing was very bad and utilities even worse. In less than two weeks after we arrived we had started construction of a home for each of us. There were four of us involved in the purchase of this 130 acres from the ocean to the river. They were R. C. and B. D. Hedgecock, my brothers and my cousin, Jimmie Caudle and myself. We had to do most all of the work without power because it took over ninety days for the power company to give us any kind of service whatsoever. It was at least eight months before we could get a telephone

and this telephone was on a light pole on A1A. To order material for the job we would have to go to the Eau Gallie Causeway and buy some Pepsi and cookies in order to use the phone in the country store there. But after about five months we were able to have three models, plus our homes built and open for business.

The financing at that time was for 11 years and 55% of the appraised value. On opening day, showing our models, within one hour I had sold two houses for cash. With a lot of guts, Monday morning we started three more houses. Everybody told us that nobody would buy as big a house as we were building. Our answer to this was that about ten percent of the people have money and we are not going to build over one percent of the houses in the area. Our business grew and each time we kept building houses larger and larger. The floor plan of 1500 square feet was enlarged to 1700, 1900, 2100 and 2300 square feet and it was at this point that we went to a two car garage.

In the winter of 1956 and 1957 there were several meetings of the two business people in the area and the local citizens on forming a city. I believe the only reason the City of Satellite Beach was formed was that the County at that time had no recreation, no zoning whatsoever and no building inspections, with the exception of septic tanks. No permit was required and anybody could be a contractor if they had $5.00 - even if they were female. In order to protect the people we felt zoning was a must, building inspections a must and then we started having meetings about forming a corporation.

Lewis Olson, one of the largest land owners in the area, was a friend and his attorney was A T. Rossetter who served for years as Melbourne's City Judge. He drew up a charter and we presented it to Jim Pruitt who was State Representative at that time. At one of the meetings it was decided that the first governing body must be appointed to be in the charter before it was presented to the State Legislature. I am sure that we did not have a "Sunshine Law" at that time and if we did the leaders did not abide by it because at one of the meetings when the Councilmen and Mayor were nominated, I was nominated second and moved that the nominations be closed in a matter of ten seconds. At this time I halted the meeting and said that I would not serve as Mayor as I was not qualified and that they must nominate somebody else and that I was sure that they must have had a meeting that I was not asked to attend. For three days I refused to be Mayor. I cried half the time and slept very little. Even though my father had been in politics and had run unsuccessfully for Sherrif a couple of times, I had never been and had never considered being a politician. After three days and with a few people in the area trying to convince me that I was the leader this area needed, I agreed to give it a try. As you know I have been Mayor every since until I resigned the job in April 1973 on April, Fools Day.

I recall that we had the most dedicated people during that time in that small town that I have ever seen. I feel that God helped us a long way during that period. The charter was presented to the State Legislature and approved in May of 1957. With a referendum attached, the election was held on August 3, 1957. Of the 57 eligible voters, 56 people voted. The other person was down range. The results were three to one for incorporating the area. I know a few voters against the incorporation of the City lived in trailers and they knew we would be strong in our zoning and might prohibit the conditions that existed in the trailer court in the southeast corner of our city. When the ballots were counted, the City of Satellite Beach was born on August 3, 1957

That night, after the ballots were in, in favor of forming the city, as Mayor I called an emergnecy meeting. I have never known whether it was legal or not, but this emergency meeting was for the following purpose: where the bowling alley is today and all of the homes in the Flamingo area there stood a large sign which stated, "2500 trailer homes to be built here". Since one of the reasons we incorporated the area was to have stricter zoning, I got the City Council that night to disallow this trailer court and forbid any additional trailer courts ever to exist in the city. Even thoughtat that time we were less than two hours old, I think this is one of the greatest things that ever happened to our city. Can you imagine what the city would be like today if from Roosevelt to Park Avenue there were 2500 trailers. People in Miami who owned the land were unhappy, but never fought us. I feel that if they had, the courts would have allowed them to have the trailer courts. So you can see, from the first, we were strong to protect the area for zoning.

About the same group got together and decided to have a Civic Center and from August 3, 1957 to December 21, 1957, we built what is now the Police Department and called it our Civic Center. At that time the most active group was the Garden Club and they raised the money for tables and chairs, and kitchen equipment for the Civic Center. The rest of us - builders and developers and three or four business men built the Civic Center and turned it over to the city free of charge, without a nickel of city expense. In fact, we did not have an income or taxes for the city for about five years. Many times the stamps we used were donated free of charge.

The operation of the city was in Wally White's home, one of the original Councilmen. His wife, Ann was our first City Clerk and nobody received any pay. Ann White was grgreat help to me because on her own she visited various cities and got copies of their zoning ordinances, etc. and this proved invaluable in preparing some of the first zoning ordinances.

I recall that with no Police Department there were a lot of stray dogs in our city at that time. Dorothy Longos, who is now in the real estate business on A1A, was our first and only dog catcher. I do not believe I have known any person to be more dedicated to her job, even thoughtit was one that should have been done by a man.

Right after the Civic Center was dedicated, I recall that John Wilson had invited Joe Wickham, the County Commissioner and me as Mayor, to go up to the telephone exchange that night which was in Capehart Housing on A1A and to open the facility. One of us made the first telephone call to the Base Commander and the other one pulled the switch. This was the start of the 262 numbers. On April 8, 1974 these 262 prefixes were done away with. So the 262 prefixes lasted some sixteen years.

One day, Mr. Olson, who had contributed most of the money for our City Charter which cost $500. came by to see the Civic Center. When Tom McLean and I visited him in his home, we told him that if he would donate the land, we would see that it was built free of charge to the city. Mr. Olson was sick at the time of the dedication, but some time in January when he was well enough to stop by to see the Civic Center, he was very surprised at how nice it was. I said to him, "What did you think we were going to build, a barn?" He got a quite a chuckle out of this.

I was one of the leaders in raising money for the new Brevard Hospital which was opened at that time. Mr. Olson told me that he would like me to be in charge of raising money for a medical center here on the beach and he would donate the land. I told him I was sure we did not have enough people to have a medical center on the beach but I thought we should do something for the youth of the area. I asked him if he would give a lot for the children, if we would give one, since our land adjoined his. Then he looked at me as if to say, do you want to go again and give another lot? Being able to figure reql quickly, I said, "Yes, but let's go farther." If you will give three lots, we will give six and this will make a perfect size for stands, concession stands, press box, dugouts for a Little League Ball Park." He said yes and to start drawing up the papers. Since I had not consulted with my brothers and cousin on this, but hoping they would go

go along with it, I agreed without their knowledge to contribute this amount of land. However, they did agree wholeheartedly with me and that was the day the land for Olson Field was donated. This was done ecause of a man who wanted to do something for medical purposes in our area, but settled instead for doing something for the youth.

In raising money for the Civic Center we raffled off a car and had several other possibly illegal things to raise the money. However, we raffled off an Edsel which was brand new on the market at the time. I bought some 500 tickets, but 480 of them were in my family's name, my mother and father's names also. Only twelve were in my name since I didn't think it would look too good for me to win the car. But to my amazement I had the winning ticket. Knowing I would not accept the car, I got the Council to agree that if I would not take title to it, they would agree to allow it to be auctioned off and the money from the sale of the car would go to buying lights for the ball park. XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX The auction took place and my brother Herbert was the high bidder. He gave $2100 for the car and it was the worst lemon ever. After a few years he almost gave it away. From the sale of this car we were able to put in the lights at Olson Field.

Later on after Olson Field was built, we had Mr. Olson down. He did not know that we were going to name the field after him. We had the name in outfield, but we had it covered up. When we uncovered it and he saw that his name was on the board, he said, "Where in the hell did you get a name like that?" That same day the Little League played their first ball game. When each player was announced, Mr. Olson said a few words to each player which I found out later were, "Hit a home run for me."

I would like to say a few more words about this great humanitarian. Right before he was to be operated on for cancer which I think was in 1965, he called me before breakfast and said he was going to be operated on in Miami the following Thursday and did not know whether he would recover but that he wanted to do certain things for the city before going to the hospital and he wanted me to tell him what I thought the city needed. He was a man similar to me in wanting to do things now. I said I would be down there some time that day and make out the necessary deeds that he wanted to covey to different people in the city. About ten minutes later he called and said could I come down there right now. I said I would be there in five minutes. Knowing that what he was going to do would have to be notarized, I took our City Clerk with me. Her name was Nancy Caudle. We arrived there at about 7:30 A.M. and I suggested to him that he dedicate rights of way at three different places from Cinnamon to Cassia, since there were no connections at that time between the two streets. He readily agreed to this and to dedicating two more lots adjacent to City Hall on Cinnamon Drive. These two lots are now being used as the tot lot. He also agreed to give two more lots to the church across the street from City Hall which gave them a total of four lots.

I recall going straight to our attorney, who was also retired, Jim Runnolds, and asking him to do this work immediately. Before noon on that same day we returned the papers to Mr. Olson. He signed them without looking at them. Nancy Caudle notarized them and his housekeeper, Mrs. Stanley witnessed them. He recovered from the operation but lived less than two years from that date. I remember he said he always loved the city and practically every Sunday he would turn back the top of his Continental convertible and he and Mr. Stanley would ride through the area and see what was going on.

One thing I would like to go back on is how we arrived at the name of Satellite Beach. We had a contest and I think we agreed to give $25.00 to the person who selected the winning name. Evelyn Price, who was secretary at that time to A. T. Rossetter, the gentleman who drew up our charter, selected the name of Satellite Beach.

A few months after our city was born we erected a space balloon of metal as a monument to our city. This was on a tower on Harwood Avenue and A1A. In this way the tower was seen by people travelling by . This was also featured on half of Douglas Edward program from CBS. They sent a team

of representatives to our city in the fall of 1957 and took pictures for about three days. They did this leading up to the first moon shot. Satellite Beach got the largest amount of publicity that I feel has ever been on a Douglas Edwards program. Usually most of his features are thirty seconds to a couple of minutes long. This was over seven and a half minutes long. It showed him travelling through our city on Glenwood Avenue telling the names of each person who lived on the block, where they came from and what position they held at Pateick Air Force Base. It showed a school bus parked in front of my home at 197 Harwood Avenue and it showed how a missile city is born. I believe some where in my files I might have the tape CBS sent to us about the recording of this program that was on a national network. I believe no city so young and so small has ever gotten this amount of free publicity. I would like to turn all the pictures and the recording of this over to the Satellite Beach Library.

We will return now to one of the events that I consider great. This was the donation of a free swimming pool to Satellite High School by the citizens of Satellite Beach free of charge. We had several meetings on this and we agreed it would be much cheaper and serve more people if the pool could be at Satellite High. We could put the pool adjacent to the lockers and dressing facilities and in this way we would not have to duplicate these facilities. After all the thinking was put together we held a meeting at Surfside Elementary School in the cafeteria. The auditorium was packed and I recall asking this question after explaining what we proposed to do. Our proposal was to build this facility and to pay for it out of revenues from the Florida Power and Light franchise. This was possible in the year 1963. At this time, I recall, we still did not have any ad valorem taxes. After all the questions were asked and answered I presented this question - "Is there anyone in the audience who is for this project even thoughteven though a lot of use will be by children outside the city." To my surprise I believe that every hand went up in favor of the project. I also asked the question, "Is there anyone in the audience who is against any part of this program?" If there were people against any part of the program they failed to raise their hand because when this question was asked no one did. We pledged the city's power franchise for seven years to build this project. Again, believing that things should be done much earlier than is expected, we paid off this debt in a little over two and one half years.

One of the events this same year was the start of an ad valorem tax. Realizing that everything could not be done on gifts, etc. we elected to propose to our citizens a 5 mill ad valorem tax. We explained to the people why we proposed taxes for the first time and what we proposed to do with the money. We felt a Police Department should be formed and possibly having a paid fireman. At this time our Fire Department was all volunteer. When we had completed explaining the budget and had the motion made and seconded to approve the budget, we called for questions from the floow to see if there were any opposition to ad valorem taxes for the first time. We waited for about three minutes and realized that no one in the audience was against ad valorem taxes. So, for the first time we approved ad valorem taxes of 5 mills for the city. This was in the year 1964.

 possibly out - not directly connected with history of city,

I would like to reiterate what the people have been for up to this time. I would say I believe we had taught our people and changed them if they felt otherwise to never be selfish and greedy but to all work together. I don't believe you could say we had one person that was selfish and greedy when everybody was for giving the swimming pool to the High School children free of charge. I feel at the present time we have too many people who are selfishaand greedy in our city and are afraid that someone might benefit more than they do. I hope and pray that our people will change and go back to the way they were.

As the years passed, several times we have upgraded our zoning. The builders in our city practically always have built larger homes than minimum requirements. As this took place we upgraded our zoning. When I went out of office the Residential C zoning had gone from 1000 square feet to 1350; Residential B had increased to 1500 square feet and Residential A had gone to 1650 square feet. This is one of the things I have always been very proud of, although I have stated in the past few months to some people that it is possible that our zoning is too high and that some day we might do possibly do something to decrease the zoning in certain areas. I feel this way because it is just about impossible,with the salaries a lot of our citizens are receiving and especially city employees, for them to live in our city. ~~I-believe-everyone-who-has-a-home-in-our-city,-both~~ I feel that present city employee salaries should definitely be increased quite a bit. I believe everyone who has a home in our city, both parents pretty much work.

About this time in the year 1965, our recreationcwas in full swing and for the first time we have girls recreation. Having managed the Satellite Comets, the adult girls team, I recall our record that year was 40 wins and 1 loss and that we marched from the sub-district to district through the state tournamentswithout a loss and directly to the national tournament held in Burlington, North Carolina - about forty miles from the place where I was born. Our team was very successful in our first national tournament, coming out fifth in the United States.

About this same time we started thinking about a library for our city. Most of the time, if you knew the pattern of the Mayor and City Council at that time, you would know that we would start out thinking very small and then go into it in more detail and then blossom out to a very large facility. At this time we had a City Hall which was built along with other facilities we had by the Mayor and work crews and the volunteer bunch along with subcontractors and contractors. The City Hall which exists today cost the city around$6500.

We had several meetings to plan for the library. We first met with the officials of Satellite High. We had a committee spearheaded by Reg and Olive Leonard. First we decided to have some books in the office of the Satellite High School Library that was not being used. This office was approximately 200 square feet. Then our thinking moved from there to Surfside Elementary School where we decided to buy a portable classroom from the county and have our library in there. Then our thinking got big, as it usually did and we decided to try to build our own facility. It was suggested I meet with Marty McGuire and try to purchase some land adjacent to the church on Cassia Boulevard for library/recreation facilities. I recall meeting with him in my office and asking him what he would sell 5 acres of land for adjacent to the church. He said $150,000.00 I said I would reccomend that the city give him $20,000.00. About three hours later he was still asking $100,000.00 and I was still saying $20,000.00. About two hours after that I told him if we purchased the land we would build a nice facility and that he had more land than he would ever live to see developed and that if he would drop his figure, which was now at $100,000.00 down to $25,000.00 I would raise mine to $25,000.00. So, after about five hours, we shook hands on $25,000. total.

I recommended this by telephone individually to the City Council. I recall Ray Brill who was a councilman at that time suggesting that we have an emergency meeting on Sunday. I believe this is the only Sunday meeting that we ever had during my administration. At that time the Council authorized

me to deposit in an escrow account $5,000. toward the purchase of this land, subject to a good deed. We did and to our surprise Mr. McGuire agreed to this and the five acres of land that consist of the Library Civic Center, pond out front, parking area and ball facilities, under the name of Hedgecock Brothers were all purchased for $25,000.00. We selected Mr. Garman of Outlaw, Garman & Sanders Engineering Co. to draw up plans for our Library/Civic Center Complex. It was agreed that $276,000. would be spent on the Library Civic Center Complex. I told the Council that by having the City oversee the building of this facility that it could be done less expensively. This facility, as you see it today, was built for around $190,000.000. Money was borrowed from the Florida Power and Light franchise to pay this facility off at $25,000. a year plus interest. As in the past we paid things off early, this was paid off in approximately six years. We hope that we have set a policy whereby the city will never be in debt for anything for longer than eitht to ten years.

This Library/Civic Center Complex changed the city and all of its departments. It provided recreation as far as ball is concerned for people other than Little Leaguers. At this time we had a facility where no one over the age of 10-12 could play on. This provided not only a Library/Civic Center Complex, it provided recreational facilities where we now have four different groups of girls ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ playing on it regularly, three different groups of school children in various ages of Leagues, adult women and adult men that play on it regularly. So, it's not a one purpose field for one organization. Two national tournaments have been held there. Also, having new Council Chambers we were able to turn over the City Council Room which was in City Hall into the Building Department and a meeting room for the Board of Adjustment. We were also able to turn our old Civic Center into a Police Department which gave them a facility at least five times as big as they had previously. This also gave the Fire Department more room when the Police Department moved out.

That same year we were able to work in conjunction with the volunteer Firemen and help them build a recreation room, with most of the work and money being contributed by volunteers. With all of this taking place, in one year's time we were able to reduce our taxes from 5 mills to the astonishing belief of a lot of people that this was not possible.

The Civic Center provided meeting rooms so that several new additional organizations could be formed including the great organization that we still have today meeting there - the Senior Citizens. It provided space for practically every type of organization in our city to meet and for several more to organize. All of these organizations are meeting free of charge in these rooms. It feel that this is the way it should be because these organizations contribute tremendously to the success of Satellite Beach.

How could we do these things and still reduce taxes? I for one felt that when we had 5 mills of taxes the first year that this was too high to start with, but the Council convinced me that this would be better, to start a little high in taxes so we could have some cushion to work with and provide some amount of reserve.

I recall we had a meeting at Surfside Elementary the following year and we had a packed audience. We could always get a lot of people to turn out if you told them that you had a surprise, but you would never tell them if it were a good or bad surprise. We announced we were reducing the millage 40% from 5 mills to 3. This surprised a lot of our people and our City Council questioned whether this could be done. When the meeting was over, Bill Peterson of the Daily Times, or the Orlando Sentinel and Jack Harris came to me and said, "This can't be done. It will take at least 3 mills to operate administration of the city." I said, "There is no problem in reducing the millage from 5 to 3 mills, in fact I had in the back of my mind, 2 mills, but I felt this should not be done all at one time. I have seen these

two gentlemen many times in the past years and I always like to remind them of their statements that this couldn/t be done. To prove that it could be done, the following years we reduced our millage from 3 to 2½, 2¼, 2.21 and down as low as 2.15, but still provided all the services and facilities and the upkeep of them.

I feel today that our city millage should not exceed 3 mills and especially with all of the revenue that we are receiving from the State and Federal Governments. I did not say anything, but I was very very disappointed when our millage was raised from 3 to 5.4 mills, after I went out of office. I was also very disappointed that some of the Council said they felt they did not have enoughtmoney to operate on. In this same year, the Council had appropriated several thousand dollars that was not in the budget and this, and only this, is the reason there was a shortage of money to operate on last year. I have often said that one of the things I do not believe in is that before you can participate in any revenue from the State or Federal Government in revenue sharing, that your millage must be at least 3 mills. If I had continued in office, my biggest worry would have been how we could justify keeping the millage at 3 mills - we were in that good shape.

During the past six months of my last year in office, we reduced the Samsons Park debt from $162,000. to $82,000.

In concluding this portion of the birth of our city through the present time, I would like to make the following recommendation to our City Manager, Mayor and City Conncil. I feel that a lot of you councilmen are not working together with the Mayor and City Manager, as you should. I feel a lot of you are working as individuals and not as a team. I feel that the present charter must be amended so that we will not have as much power as we have in an appointed official, such as the City Manager. I feel it is great that the Mayor is allowed to vote and not to veto, but I feel that the Mayor is the weakest elected official that we have. I feel that it would be better to go back tohhaving a city administrator and not a city manager. I feel that the Mayor should not only be the titular head of the city, but he should be Chairman of the City Council and chair the meetings. As it appears to me today, we have in the City Manager, the Mayor and Chairman of the City Council - three chiefs and I don't think this will work in any organization. I feel that the Mayor and Council, since they are the elected officials in our city should have more control in running the Government and that they should be advisors and work with each department head as we have in the past and that one of them should actually be under each department. I feel, however, that the department heads should run their department or they should be replaced with somebody that is capable. I feel the city is very fortunate in having the type of people we have employed by city government and I feel that the people in this city can afford more than anybody else anywhere probably more money for the city employees. I strongly recommend that we have an increase of from 10-20% if we intend to keep them.

I also feel that our retirement plan is not at all what anyone expected it to be or we were led to believe it was and this should be looked into and if necessary another type of retirement plan be gotten for our employees. As I see it under this plan they have very little to look forward to from Satellite Beach, just Social Security from the federal government.

I feel when we have to meet four or five hours at a time in a Council meeting we cannot be getting anything done. We are just spinning our wheels. I feel the citizens of Satellite Beach should realize how lucky they are to be living in this city and look on the good side of everything and ask themselves are we doing what we should to make this city a place that willl be improved by the help of all of us. I also feel we have a lot of people that are spending all of their time trying to find some little thing that is wrong or trying to work against the elected officials and not doing what I think they should. In fact there are several citizens in our city I am actually ashamed are a part of our city. I think a lot of you know whom I'matalking about. Go home and think about what I said, sleep on it and I hope and pray you will

have a better feeling and will do a better job to improve our city. Anybody can criticize. It takes a good person to accept the city for that it is and try to lend his help and education and background to make it a city that we are all proud of.

Samsons Park: One half of this was donated to the city by a man who has a business in North Carolina and a home in Miami. He did this of his own free will, and had nothing in common with Satellite Beach, other than being one of the large land owners. At this time he has received nothing from the citizens, but I feel that the park should be completed. I feel that if the City Council will take the Coast Guard to Court that the land on both sides of the canal and including the bottom land of the canal is not controlled by the Coast Guard and that the Court will allow them to build a bridge that is approved. It is funny that every agency in the United States is strong for preserving land for recreation and here is one that has done nothing but fight it. I feel court action would take it out of their jurisdiction. How can the Coast Guard beoover this canal when it is merely a drainage ditch,that the ~~XXXXXX~~ name implies this - Mosquito Canal and that it was dug strictly to drain the area of mosquitos and that it was never meant for navigation, though I am strong for using it for such purpose, but it was never meant for this canal to be under the Coast Guard. If Mr. Fuchs would exercise his intent when he gave us this gift, he would take the land back, as he stipulated that improvements must be started on this in three years and this has never been one. I feel that a large majority of the people in this city, including the City Manager, Mayor and City Council are strongly in favor of building this facility. I obtained the loan from the Southeast First National Bank of Satellite Beach some years back for $3000000.00 at 4½% interest to build this facility. I was able to get a special interest rate, as it was strictly for this facility, and I would like to go on record now, as a member of the Board of Directors at the present time, I believe that with the proper security I can get you through this bank or other banks a loan for practically any amount that you want up to $500,000 for an interest rate not to exceed 5½% and up to 10 years. This rate is just about half the prime rate that exists at this time. So, if you will proceed with this park I think you will make a large majority of citizens very happy. I feel you can pay for this facility without increasing taxes and I will assure you that we will get the City a loan possibly unequalled and that you will just pay on interest as money is received by the City.

I have enjoyed giving this information and hope that this will bring fond memories to a lot of you. In my next talk, I am going to cover a lot of the main events that have taken place in our city that I feel will be pleasing and information giving to a lot of new aa well as old citizens.