



Town Trivia



Coral Springs



Historical Preservation

from a hill of beans...



Town Trivia

Q. Why was Bud Lyons called “Titan of the Bean Patch”?

A. Henry “Bud” Lyons began buying land in west Broward County in 1919, eventually digging canals and planting the biggest bean farm in the country covering all of Coral Springs. There were Bountiful, Tendergreen and Back Valentine bush beans by the acre.

Q. How much did James Hunt pay for the property?

A. The president of Coral Ridge Properties paid \$1,000,000 for 3,869 acres - the first part of what eventually became a 10,000 acre purchase.

*The original Coral Springs Town Trivia was produced with the cooperation of Emily Heafy.
This Second Edition was produced in 2005 by the Coral Springs Historical Advisory Committee.*

Q. How did Coral Springs get its name?

A. It was first Curran Village, when it was planned to be a retirement community. When young families began to buy houses, the name Quartermore came up. One version claims it was an advertisement for one free acre for every three bought. Another version is that Hunt claimed it only took a quarter of an hour to drive from Ft. Lauderdale to his new city. Then Pompano Springs was considered, to link the unknown community to the well-known town of Pompano Beach. Finally, it was named after Coral Ridge Properties, with a twist - Coral Springs.

Q. When did Coral Springs receive its Charter?

A. On July 10, 1963, Coral Springs was officially chartered by special act of the Florida legislature.

Q. What landmark was built as a gimmick to attract people to Coral Springs?

A. The Covered Bridge was designed by architectural engineer George Hodapp and built to give the barren landscape a centerpiece. It is the only covered bridge in the public right-of-way in Florida (on NW 95th Avenue just south of Wiles Road) and now has a Florida Heritage Site marker.

Q. What products are painted on the sides of the Covered Bridge?

A. Bull of the Woods chewing tobacco and Sweet as a Peach snuff, for the ladies.

Q. What was the only access road into Coral Springs in the 1960s?

A. Wiles Road.

Q. What is the oldest building in the City and where was it?

A. The Museum of Coral Springs History, now in Mullins Park, was once at the corner of 441 and Sample Road. It was Coral Ridge Properties' original sales office built in 1964. It was given to the City in 1966, which moved it to 4500 Woodside Drive. There it was used as the first City Hall, Police Headquarters and Fire Station. When the City needed a larger building, it was towed to the City Dump at NW 39th Street and NW 127th Avenue. After the Fire Department set it on fire during a drill in 1977, it was moved to safety in Mullins Park and opened as the Mini Museum in 1978. In 2005, it was renovated and received a Florida Heritage Site marker.

Q. What celebrity came to Coral Springs in 1965 to help with the "Land Rush Sale"?

A. Johnny Carson. Ten thousand people showed up for the sale, consuming three tons of barbecue, two miles of hot dogs and twenty-five hundred gallons of soft drinks. They also purchased eleven hundred lots for \$5,000,000.

Q. Why is City Hall a colonial styled building?

A. James Hunt wanted the City to emulate the Old South. He asked architectural engineer George Hodapp to design a colonial structure for the Coral Ridge Properties Administration Building. He followed Thomas Jefferson's plan for the University of Virginia. Pre-Civil War bricks from Atlanta were used for authenticity.

Q. Why are there so many boulevards with flowers and such strict sign and landscaping ordinances?

A. George Hodapp, architectural engineer for Coral Ridge Properties, came through Honolulu, Hawaii on the trip home from Korea and was impressed by its beauty. He related this to Coral Ridge Properties, which incorporated the philosophy.

Q. When and where was the first post office opened?

A. It was opened June 1, 1966 in the east wing of the Coral Ridge Properties Administration Building, now City Hall. There was no local delivery until 1970. The original mailboxes are still being used in City Hall.

Q. What was the first club to be organized in Coral Springs?

A. The Welcome Wagon, which not only greeted new residents but opened the first library.

Q. When and where was the first shopping center opened?

A. The Village Green at the northeast corner of University Drive and Sample Road was designed by George Hodapp and completed in 1967. It housed a pharmacy, market, Red Fox Inn Restaurant, barbershop and library.

Q. What company bought Coral Ridge Properties in 1966?

A. Westinghouse bought Coral Ridge Properties for \$36,000,000 so it could use Coral Springs as its urban laboratory to test new products. It built three Electra Lab houses with such innovations as central air conditioning, intercom, central vacuum, home sewage disposal systems, sensor lights and an electric car.

Q. What sports celebrity slept in Electra Lab I in 1970?

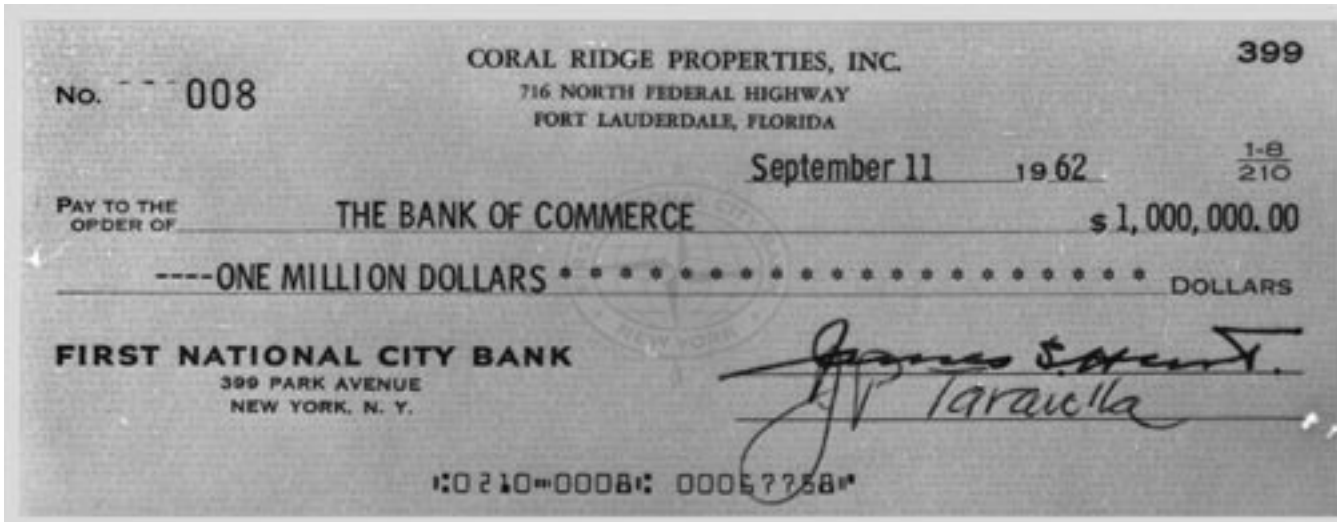
A. Arnold Palmer stayed at the model home while playing in the Coral Springs Open.



The Coral Springs Horse Show Grounds ran along the south side of Wiles Road, west of Coral Hills Drive.



There was no local delivery until 1970, so residents came to the Coral Ridge Properties Administration Building to retrieve their mail.



The check that bought the first 3,869 acres of Coral Springs from the Lyons family.



Westinghouse bought Coral Ridge Properties so it could use Coral Springs as its urban laboratory to test its newest innovations, including the Marketeer, an electric car.

Q. When was the Little League formed and where did they play?

A. In 1970, they played their first game at Lions Park, 3555 Riverside Drive, the first Little League ballpark.

Q. What local paper has been in continuous publication since 2/19/71?

A. The Forum was begun by the Coral Springs Teen Association. When they graduated from high school, it was bought by local residents and eventually became a subsidiary of the Sun-Sentinel Group.

Q. What is the claim to fame of the McDonald's Restaurant at 775 I W. Sample Road?

A. It became the first McDonald's to be built without the Golden Arches in 1975. It was the basis of a question in the game Trivial Pursuit.

Q. Where did the Coral Springs Saddle Club hold their monthly horse shows in the '70s?

A. The Coral Springs Horse Show Grounds were along Wiles Road west of Coral Hills Drive.

Q. When was the first Honda Classic held in Coral Springs?

A. 1984 at the Tournament Players Club at Eagle Trace.

Q. Which former president played a preview round of golf at Eagle Trace?

A. Gerald R. Ford.

Q. How long did it take to get a telephone installed in 1970?

A. It took about six weeks... and it was a two-party line. Everyone complained that the other party would listen to their calls.

Q. What world records did Coral Springs break while celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 1988?

A. They made the world's largest hamburger and milk shake according to the Guinness Book of World Records. The record has since been broken.

Q. What are the City colors?

A. Blue and green.

Q. What City landmark is on the City seal, flag, police and fire badges?

A. The Covered Bridge.

Florida Trivia

Q. How long have Native Americans lived in Florida?

A. For at least 12,000 years. When the Europeans arrived, their diseases and warfare depopulated the peninsula of the original native population. In the eighteenth century, Native Americans from the north moved south when white settlers took their land.

Q. Which European discovered and named Florida on March 27, 1513?

A. Ponce de Leon, embarking from Puerto Rico to search for the Fountain of Youth, discovers land on Easter Day ("Pascua Florida" in Spanish), christening it La Florida – the land of flowers.

Q. How many flags flew over Florida?

A. Spanish:	occupation of 1565-1763
French:	occupation of Pensacola 1719-1722
British:	occupation of 1763-1784
Spanish:	occupation of 1784-1819
United States:	1819-present

Q. How much did the U.S. government pay for Florida?

A. Secretary of State John Quincy Adams signed the Adams-Onís Treaty ceding Florida to the United States for \$5,000,000 in compensation to citizens with claims against Spain.

Q. What is the...?

A. State Capitol	Tallahassee
State Nickname	Sunshine State
State Motto	In God We Trust
State Song	Way Down Upon the Suwannee River by Stephen Foster
State Bird	Mockingbird
State Butterfly	Zebra Longwing
State Animal	Florida Panther
State Reptile	Alligator
State Marine Animal	Manatee
State Saltwater Mammal	Porpoise
State Saltwater Fish	Sailfish
State Freshwater Fish	Largemouth Bass
State Shell	Horse Conch
State Tree	Sabal Palm
State Flower	Orange Blossom
State Wild Flower	Coreopsis
State Beverage	Orange Juice
State Gem	Moonstone – not found in Florida but chosen to memorialize the 7/20/69 landing on the moon.

The Museum of Coral Springs History



The original building sat at the corner of Wiles Road and 441 in 1964, and was used as a real estate office.

Originally built by Coral Ridge Properties in 1964 as a 30' x 20' real estate sales office, the building that is now home to the Museum of Coral Springs History first sat at the northwest intersection of Wiles Road and State Road 7 (441). The location was not even in Coral Springs at the time, but Wiles Road was the only access into the City, which did not have a paved road and had only a Covered Bridge as architecture. Coral Ridge employees would market property using the City's Master Plan, neighborhood plats and house models from builders' brochures. By 1966, Coral Ridge had constructed a large administration building, which is now City Hall, and asked if the City of Coral Springs wanted the "old building."



The City moved the building to 4500 Woodside Drive to use as its first administration building and in 1968, as the first police station. When it was no longer big enough for their needs in 1972, the police moved out and the Jaycees used it as a clubhouse. The structure had been on borrowed land – and borrowed time – and had to be moved again to make way for construction in 1976.

The next stop was the City dump at 12700 NW 39th Street. While using it for smoke rescue drills, the volunteer fire department



accidentally set it on fire. People took notice that the little building seemed indestructible, as it survived even this assault. The Landmark Restoration Committee formed to raise funds to restore the structure. On October 20, 1977, the building was moved yet again

but this time with an accompanying parade as a flatbed truck towed it to its permanent home in Mullins Park. By March 4, 1978, it was fully restored and opened as the Mini Museum.

As the Bicentennial surge of interest in local history waned, people forgot about the Mini Museum and it closed within a couple of years. It sat empty for more than twenty years, used occasionally as a meeting room. In 2000, (another year of resurgent interest in local history) the City formed the Historical Advisory Committee, which identified the building as a landmark that should be restored to its prior status as a museum. Years of neglect had left the building in need of total restoration. The one-room building was nearly history during a windstorm on March 14, 2003. A giant ficus tree next to the building was uprooted by the wind and fell against the roof. But again, the structure was spared.

It has now been refurbished to look exactly like the original building, and is a designated Florida Heritage Site. The Museum of Coral Springs History celebrated its grand opening on Saturday, May 14, 2005. The museum, still in Mullins Park, presents the master plans, subdivision plats and maps showing how the City grew from a population of five to over 126,711 in 42 years. There are models and historic items of interest on display. For more information on the Museum of Coral Springs History, visit www.coralsprings.org/history or call City Historian Wendy Wangberg at 954-752-7535.





*It's not a flying saucer
- it's the World's Largest
Hamburger, grilled for
the City's 25th Anniversary
on July 10, 1988.*



*The Coral Springs Covered Bridge is the only covered bridge
in the public right-of-way in the State of Florida. Located at
NW 95th Avenue off Wiles Road, it is a Florida Heritage Site.*



*9551 West Sample Road
Coral Springs, Florida 33065
www.coralsprings.org*