

**GULF TO BAY  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

*Resident Owned* 2295 North Beach Road  
Englewood, Florida 34223 (813) 474-4841

1945: George & Elizabeth Larson owned the property which is now Gulf to Bay Co-op, Inc. It was a fishing camp for tents and trailers. Aura, Bayo, Golfo and Cielo were laid out. Showers and toilets were on Bayo and Cielo. Morning procession saw residents carrying chamber pots to be emptied.

For a quarter, a washer would wash and wring for 30 minutes. Clothes were line dried. Water came from 12' deep wells - some saltier than others. The sea wall was wood. No shuffle board court - no flowers could be planted without permission. Electricity was hooked up; cost 100 per kilowatt hour.

The bridges were wooden planks. The rattling announced cars coming across. Fishing was great from the Killer Bridge (so called because a car and more than one truck ran over the side. One driver was drowned.) Fishermen used long bamboo poles on the bridge, and when they pulled a snook or other large fish from the water, it could well land on the roof or windshield of a car going by.

Registration was at the Block House now Walter Schurman's. A milk truck delivered daily, and a laundry & dry cleaner. Groceries were purchased at Tates or Anger's groceries in Englewood. Here a check could be cashed, without going all the way to Nokomis or Sarasota to the bank. Rent for a site was \$18.00 a month. If you left your trailer for the summer - \$10.00 Imo. Larsons built the Rec Hall, and lived in the apartment on the side. Church was over on the Mainland. Many remember the little old Green St. Church, now an historical building.

When the Larsons sold the Park to the Warsops, they built the Beach House to live in. Later, they sold the beach house to the Pfligers who moved their garage by the road down to lemon Bay. We use it today. Ruth & Leo purchased the lot between Golfo and Larson's driveway. It became Cielo Ct. After lots were laid out, sewer lines led down Cielo St. to the Monster. Water and garbage were still included in the rent.

When the water district hooked up to our lines and the water bills got too big, Pflieger decided to buy water meters, so everyone paid their share. Not as many lawns got watered after that. Pfligers moved the mail boxes along the road where they stayed until the accident that took the life of Alice Exelby.

1958: After Larsons, the park was bought by Vie & Red Warsop. Now rent was \$26.00 a month. The 3 shuffle board courts were built, the Tiki with palm thatch, water was piped in, septic tanks dug, and garbage hauled away to the dump. Park garbage was collected behind the washrooms:-- Keeping raccoons out was the main trick. Punk trees lined the shore until the bad freeze of '64.

A water tower was built where the villas are now. One day, a woman climbed up to the platform, took off all her clothes, and screamed, "My brother is in jail. Let him out!" "Let him out!". Firemen finally had to come take her down.

A garage, located where Etta & Freeman Crosby now live, was moved over to become the Rec Hall kitchen. Dije and Estada Streets were added. The 'Monster' was built at the foot of Dije Street

The Warsops lived in the apartment at the Rec Hall. Mail boxes were installed where our library is now. The only phone was in Warsop's apartment. People were called to the phone by loud speaker. The Rec Hall was used for Bingo, dinners, parties, and square dancing every Thursday evening. Slide shows were shown Sunday nights of travels members had taken. Now a cement seawall was built with boat slips.

There were several explosions and fires. Marvel Lesher left a pot on the stove, and it started a fire that caused the fire engine to come. Leo Pfliger had an explosion that blew him out of his door. We had one death, Mr. Harrison, living at 321 Cielo. The Sizeloves had just arrived for the winter. Unknown to them, their gas line had a leak. During the night, it blew. Both Sizeloves had bad burns. They had blocked the back door with suitcases and boxes and had to walk through fire to the front door. Moral of the story: Keep ALL doors free.

Every year there was a running bet: Who will be the first to fall into the Bay? Ray Cross was usually the winner.

A visitor lost his false teeth in the Gulf. Next day he was walking the beach, and found them on a post at the Public Beach; someone had rescued them. The Recreation Council was organized, and each month a dinner was prepared. Often skits were the entertainment. Many remember the mock-wedding when Theresa Miller was the blushing bride.

Many were the interesting residents of our Park. Earl & Dottie Slaybaugh came from Michigan and Earl was the mayor of the Park. Their daughter-in-law Doris, was a famous china painter. Clocks she decorated are still ticking, and are treasured mementos for Jane Wiley, Allison Brown, and Dottie Hall.

A kitchen Band was organized and led by Ethel Cross. Red aprons, decorated with a treble clef added to the appearance of the group. As years went on, the kitchen band improved. They played for different parks, and some Nursing Homes.

1966: Ruth & Leo Pfliger bought the Park. They paved all the streets except Aura. Now we had automatic Westinghouse washers, and GTE installed electricity. Everyone received their bill from GTE. People ;moved furniture from here to there. It was called 'Round Robin'. You never knew when you would see some of your things.

1973: Marlene & Bill Drinnen bought and managed the Park. One more shuffleboard Court was added so our teams could play in the tournaments at home. Until then we had to use other Park's courts - did not work out too well. The one apartment was made into two.

1983: Jack Grigere bought the Park for approximately \$850,000.00. Warren & Jean Crowley managed the Park, after Theresa and Morris had been here several years.

1991: The Gulf to Bay Cooperative Inc. bought the Park, Nov. 22, 1991 for \$325,000,000.00. .... In 36 years we have seen many changes. We used to say, "It's a sad looking Park, but the greatest people in the world! We have improved the Park 100%,and STILL have the greatest people in the world!"