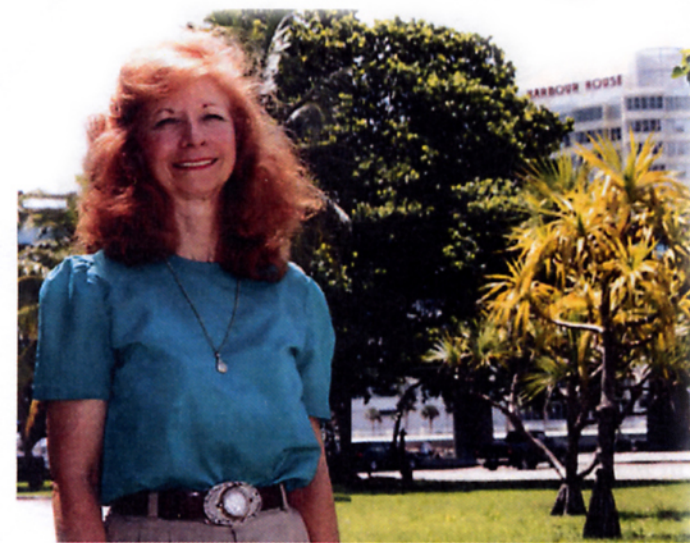


**BAKER'S HAULOVER, A MARITIME TREASURE OF HISTORY AND PIONEERS** overflows with information for the history scholar, those interested in Florida's history, fishermen and fisherwomen, maritime history buffs, World War II enthusiasts, genealogists, powerboat racing fans, memorabilia collectors, students searching for a reference volume, artists, naturalists and adventurers of all ages seeking to read an exciting part of Miami's forgotten past.

The Harbour House, seen behind the author in 2000, is one of many early landmarks no longer present in the Baker's Haulover landscape. This book recognizes those absent landmarks and finally provides a written account of their existence in history.



Courtesy of Sue Cocking, the *Miami Herald*.

**Martha Saconchik-Pytel** is a native Miamian and calls Tallahassee her second home. She graduated from Barry University in Miami Shores with a master's degree in guidance and counseling and went on to be a school psychologist. She has served as a past president of the Tallahassee Historical Society and is presently the historian for three organizations. As a consultant, she has researched history for historical markers and in 2006, wrote the copy for and was instrumental in placing a State of Florida Historical Landmark Marker in Miami at the site of the Pioneer Boat Builders' Shop—1947.

She has chronicled a lost maritime treasure of history and heritage at Baker's Haulover through more than 400 interviews and tape recordings; an early era never before documented. Many of the early pioneers interviewed have since passed and if not for this author's research, first-hand dialogues would be lost forever.

INSIDE BACK COVER: The Baker's Haulover Dock in the early 1940s. (Courtesy of Doris Barnes' family).

# **BAKER'S HAULOVER**

## **A MARITIME TREASURE OF HISTORY AND PIONEERS**

by *Martha Saconchik-Pytel*

Here is a first-ever history and untold story of Baker's Haulover at the north end of Miami Beach, Florida and adjoining lands of Bal Harbour and Sunny Isles. Comprehensive, ambitious, meticulously researched, the book is a celebration of a forgotten era of maritime history and a tribute to the spirit of its pioneers, bringing to life the heritage of that place based on the life of the Baker (1765) believed to be its namesake. It chronicles his land grant by the Spanish Crown in 1804 and his presence on the land.

Contained in the book is a powerful and compelling account of the dawn of the charter boat and big game fishing industry at that site 87 years ago and its pioneer captains who blazed their trail, not on land, but on the sea. Baker's Haulover was a mecca for deep-sea family fishing from 1925-1926 into the 1960s, drawing tourists and celebrities from around the world to make Florida a prime destination of sportsmen and sportswomen. President Ronald Reagan, along with Arthur Godfrey, Robert Mitchum, Al Capone, ZZ Top and Alice Cooper were among the many that sought the game fish.

Calling national and international attention to Miami's abundant waters through their fishing, these captains also contended with the threat of German submarines during World War II; many assumed duties as submarine spotters.

Witness the start of the Orange Bowl powerboat regattas along with their first drivers at Haulover in the 1950s. The first Around Miami Beach Endurance races begun there are also included, as well as images of boats in the 1950s Gold Coast Marathon races. The names of racing legends Sam Griffith, Jim Wynne, George Peroni, Allan Brown, Dean Chenoweth and Don Aronow can be found here.

This book is extraordinary in its use of over 500 photographs. The story is drawn from more than 400 interviews with pioneer families and individuals or their family members who had been at Haulover. Documentation has been made from old microfilm, rare personal scrapbooks, museum collections and the priceless photographs of Doris Barnes, a photographer for fifty years at the Haulover and Castaways Docks.

COVER PHOTO: The landmark Haulover Bridge of 1937 connecting Chase's Restaurant (left) with the Lighthouse Restaurant. (Collection of Captain John Saconchik.)