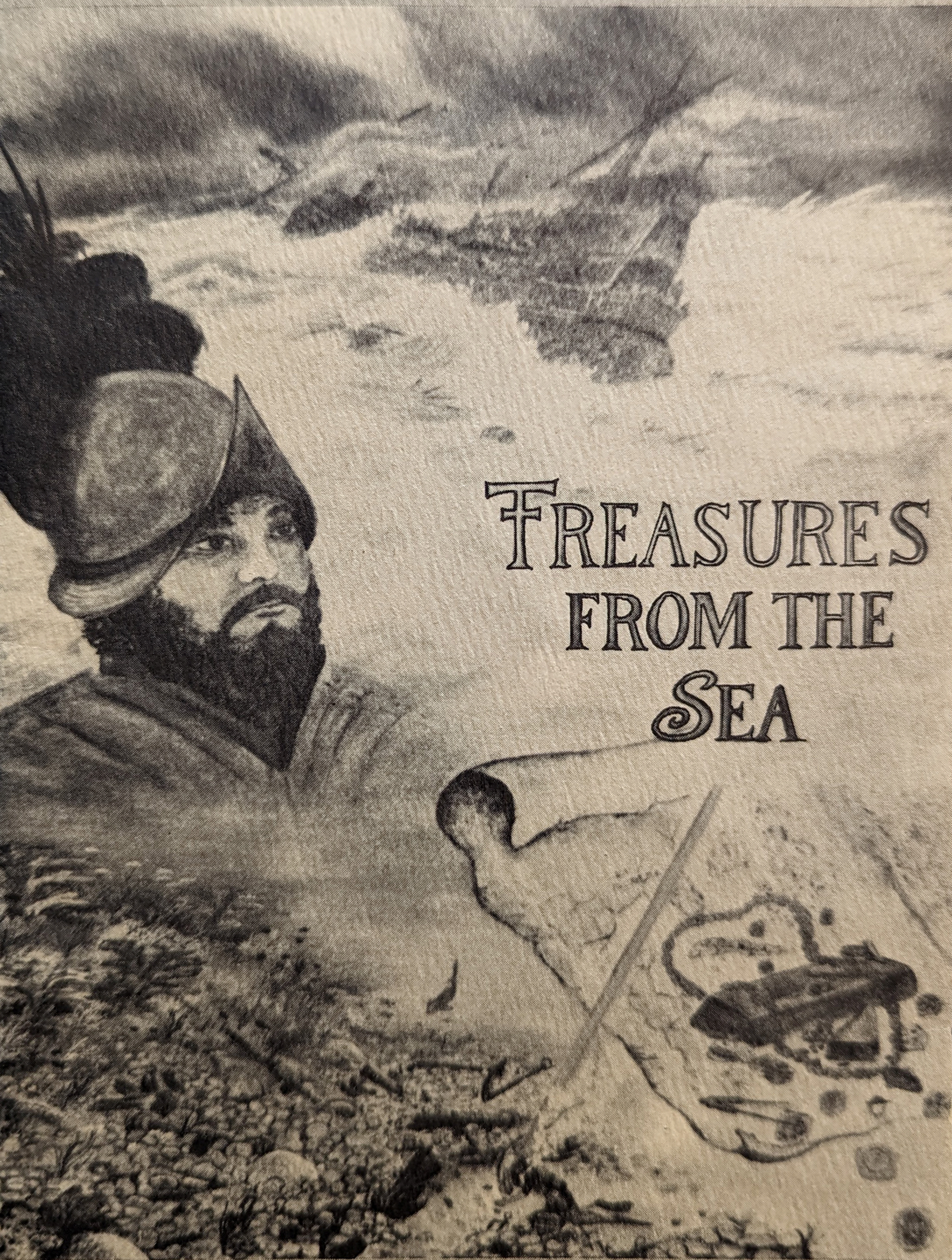


**Historical Preservation Society
of the Upper Keys
presents**



**TREASURES
FROM THE
SEA**

**Key Largo, Florida
March 25 - 27, 1983**

Welcome to the All-Star Treasure Divers Show
the first of its kind, anywhere!

Anyone can find treasure - it's easy! All you have to do is -- have enough financing; have completed months, perhaps years, of research; obtain all the latest equipment and the right boat; assemble an expert crew; make certain weather conditions are right and risk days or months of back-breaking work under the sea as well as above, knowing you may come away with nothing. It is to this kind of treasure hunter - the professional treasure diver - that we dedicate this show.

THE SHIPS

1715 Fleet

On July 27, 1715, twelve Spanish ships and one French vessel left Havana with 14,000,000 pesos in registered treasure. July 30th a hurricane left all the ships except the French ship, *Grifon*, scattered along the reefs from St. Lucie Inlet to Sebastian Inlet. Over 1000 drowned and most of the 1500 who reached shore died before help came. The *Grifon* made it back to Havana and a salvage ship was sent to the area. Salvage efforts were abandoned in 1719 after about 6,000,000 was recovered. By that time the wrecks had settled too deep in the sand and remained all but forgotten until Kip Wagner found them.

1733 Fleet

Twenty-two ships under the command of Gen. Rodrigo de Torres left Havana July 13, 1733 with 20,000,000 pesos in Mexican silver. On July 15th they were caught in a severe hurricane and dashed onto the Florida reefs. Using native divers the Spanish recovered most of the registered treasure and eventually other storms buried the remains under the sand. There is some disagreement about the number of ships, their names and exact locations but its possible that as many as sixteen met their end on the reefs of the upper Keys. Modern salvagers have recovered jewelry, many coins and artifacts but the Spanish recovered most of it.

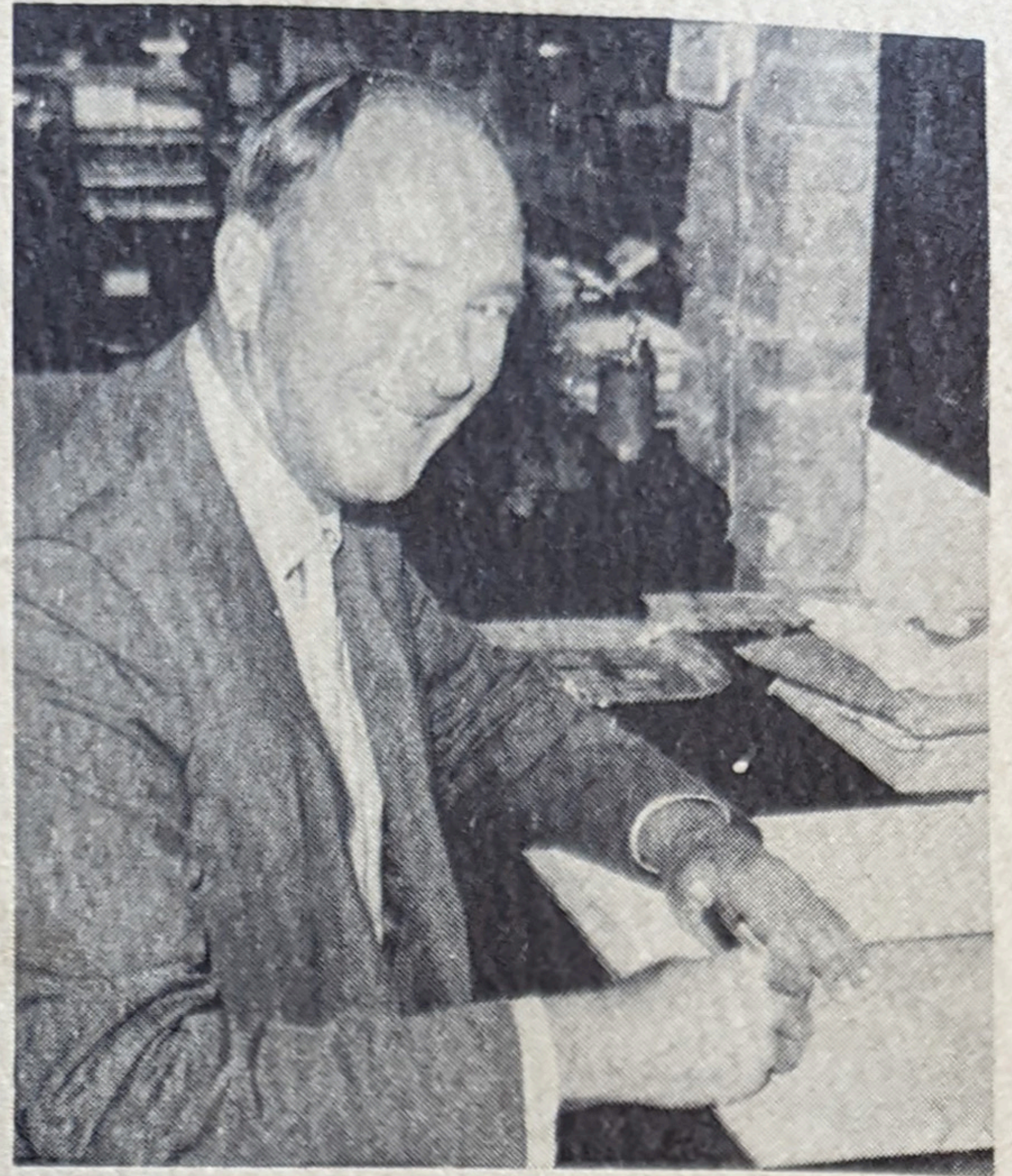
Nuestra Senora De Atocha

The Marquis de Cadereyta sailed out of Havana September 4, 1622 with twenty-eight ships under his command. Two days later a hurricane hit and ten ships were lost including three silver galleons; the *Santa Margarita*, the *Nuestra Senora Del Rosario* and the *Nuestra Senora De Atocha*. A rescue ship from Havana found the *Atocha* with her small mast still visible but divers were unable to break into the hold. They went on to Dry Tortugas where they rescued the survivors of the *Rosario* and salvaged all the silver. Some reports state that the *Margarita* was partly salvaged and perhaps some treasure removed from the *Atocha*, but certainly the largest part of the treasure was lost. For years these ships were thought to be off Islamorada due to misinterpretation of the Spanish records which state: "...lost in the sand bank which is located on the west side of the last of the Maticumbe Keys next to the head of the Martires off the Florida coast.

The beautiful cover picture is reproduced from a watercolor painted especially for this program by Duke Long. The original is on display at the show and the artist plans to have lithographs for sale soon. Mr. Long is also a treasure diver and an exhibitor.



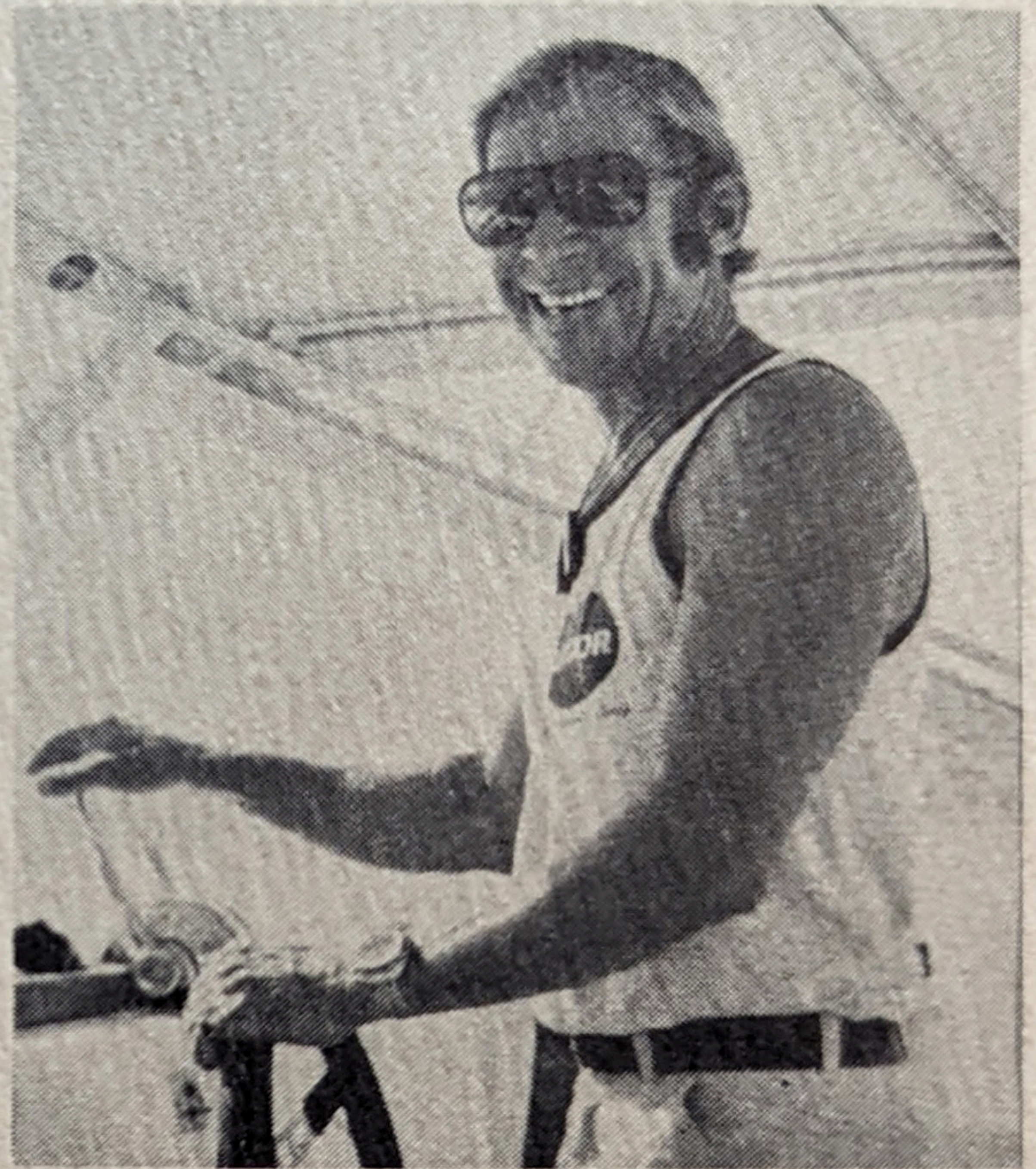
D. L. CHANEY



MEL FISHER



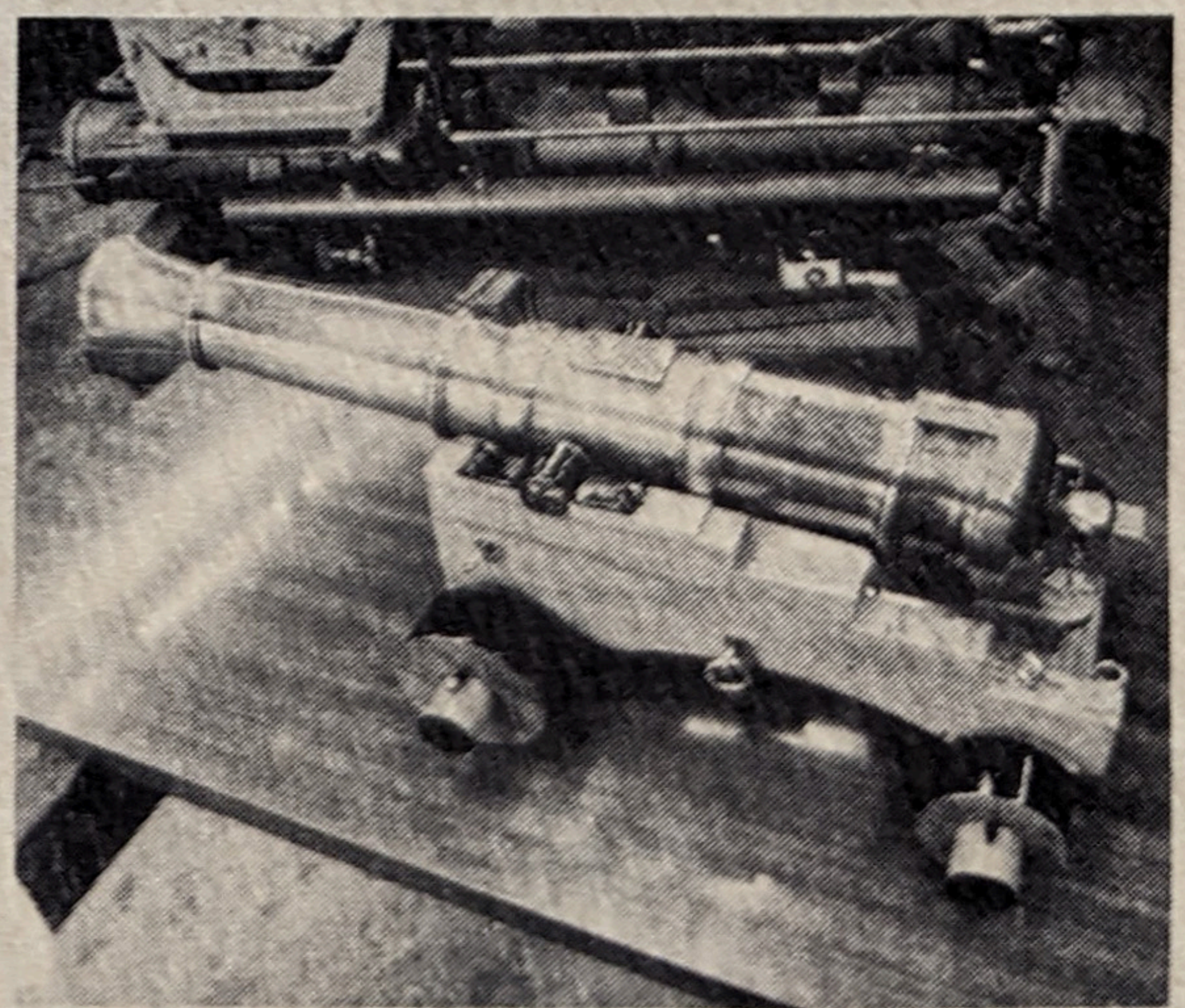
JACK HASKINS



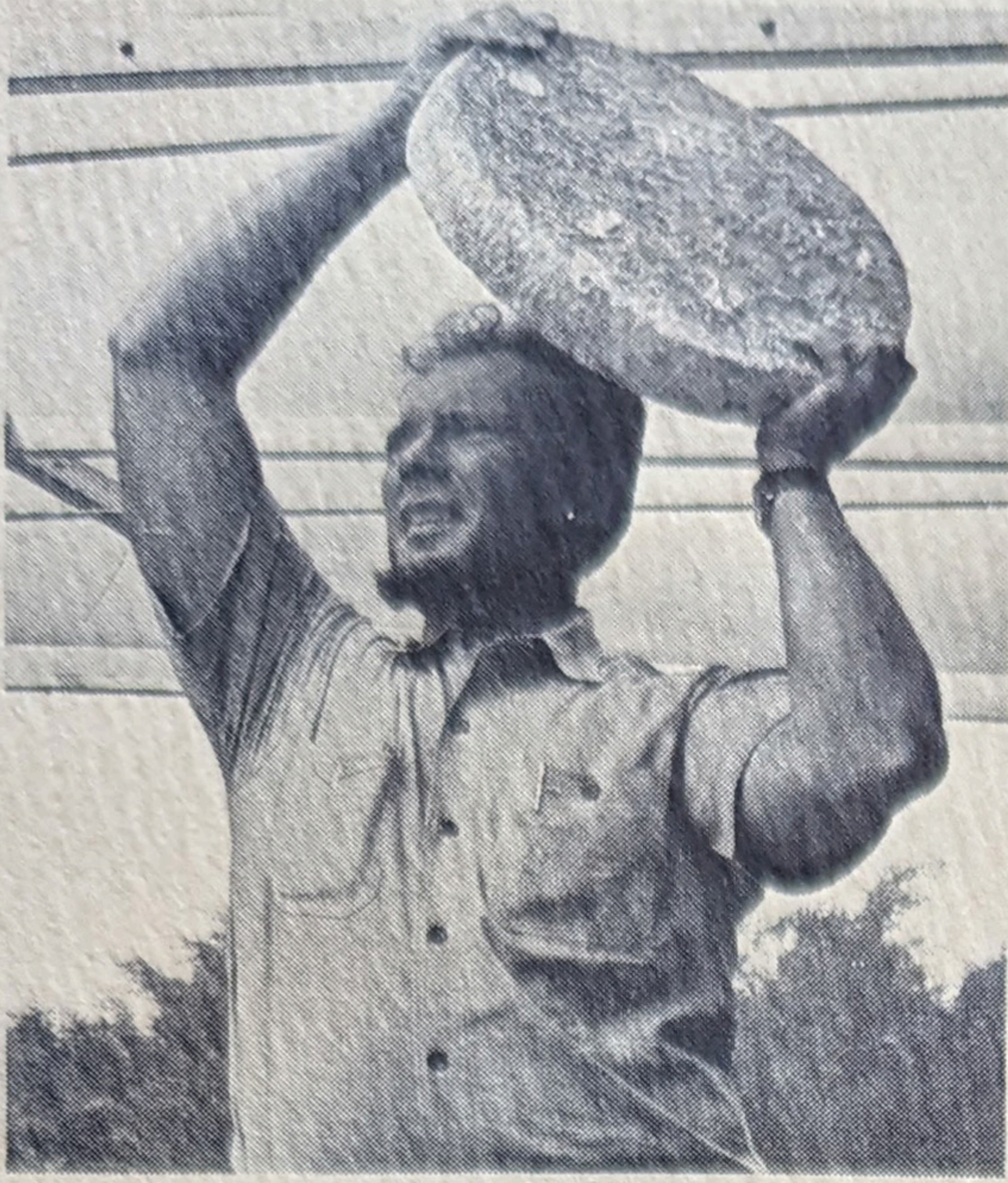
ROBERT KLINE



RICHARD MacALLASTER



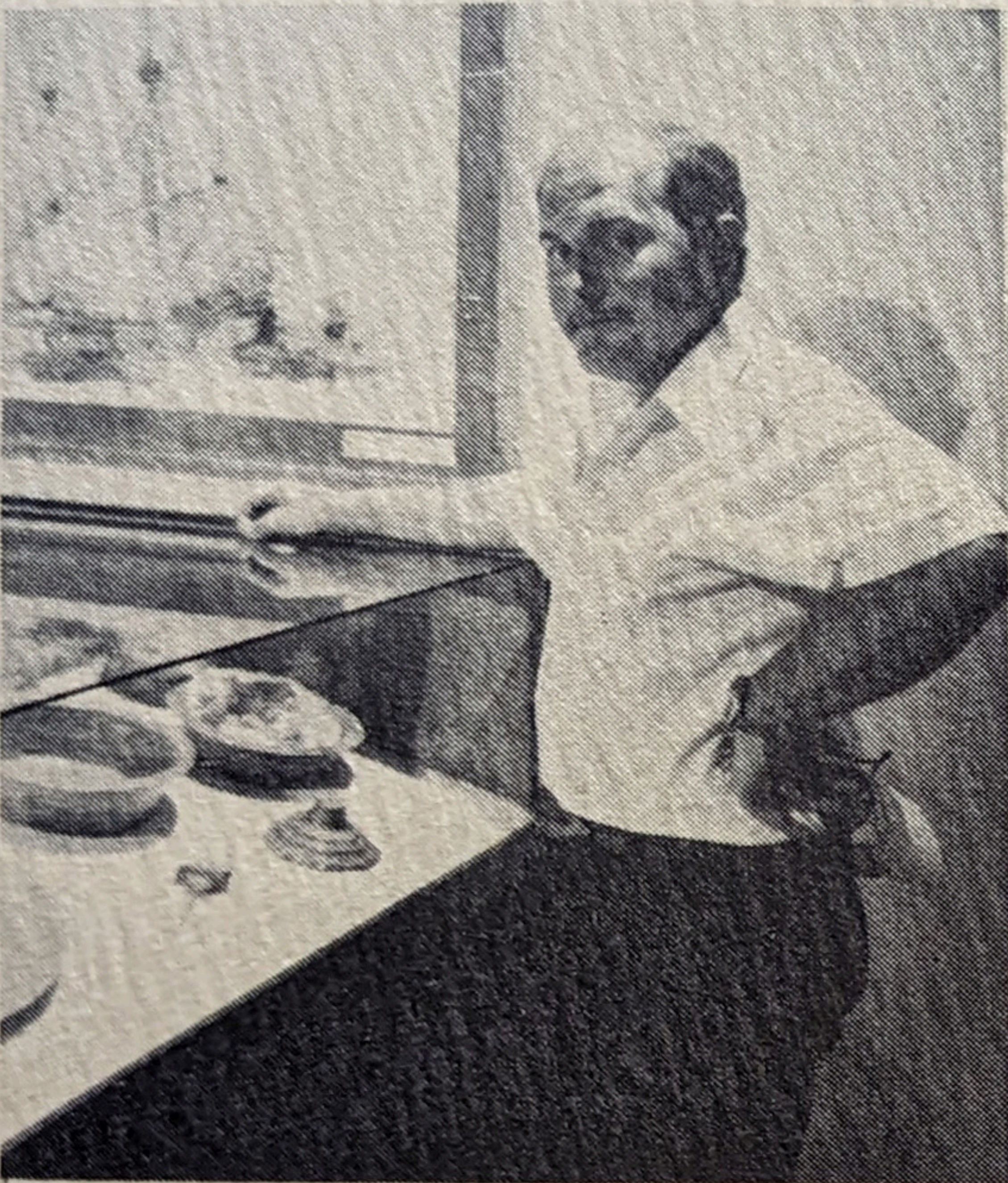
This cannon, cast by RICHARD McCLELLAND, is at the First National Bank in Homestead.



CARL FREDERICK



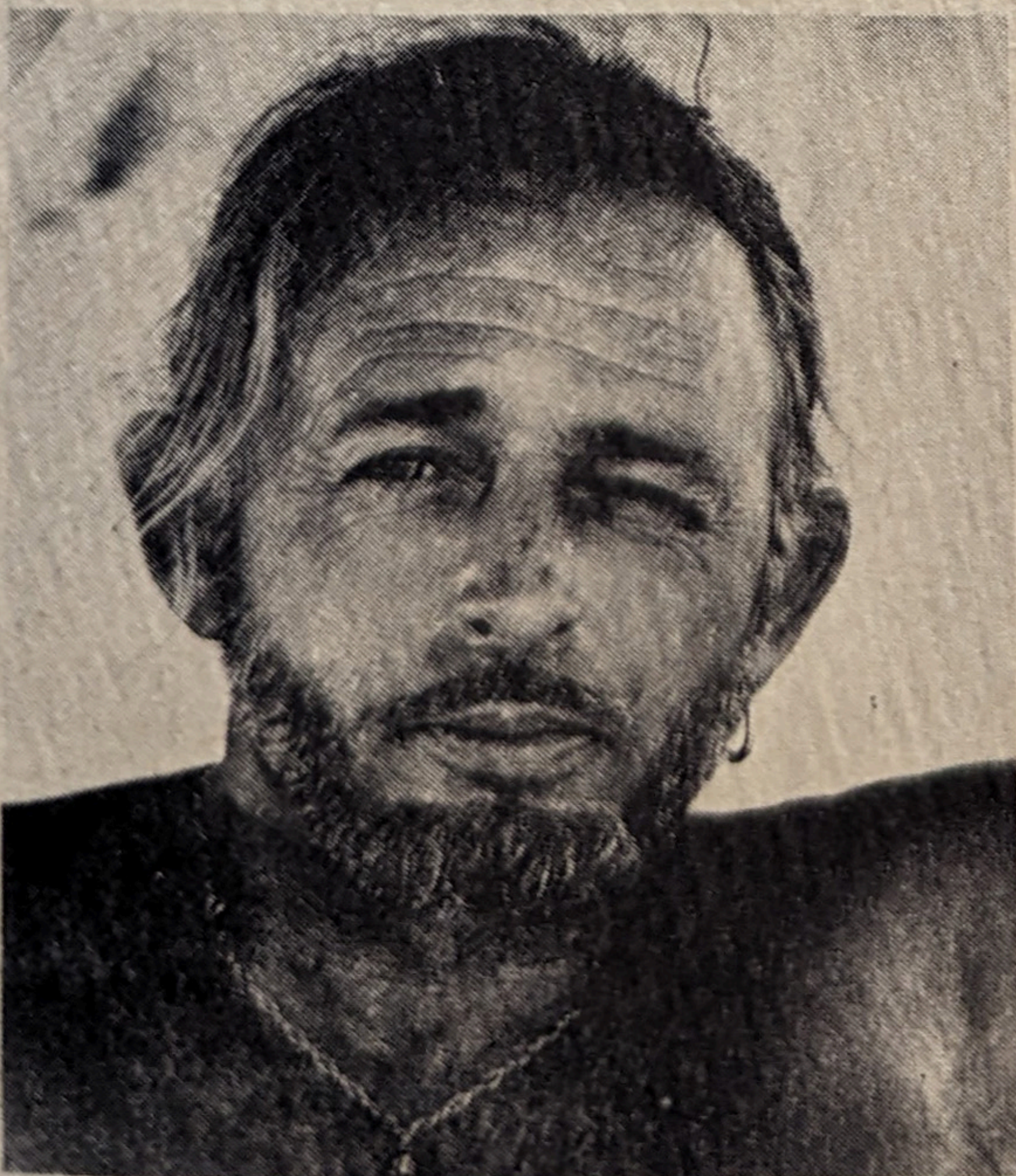
JUDY & JOHN HALAS



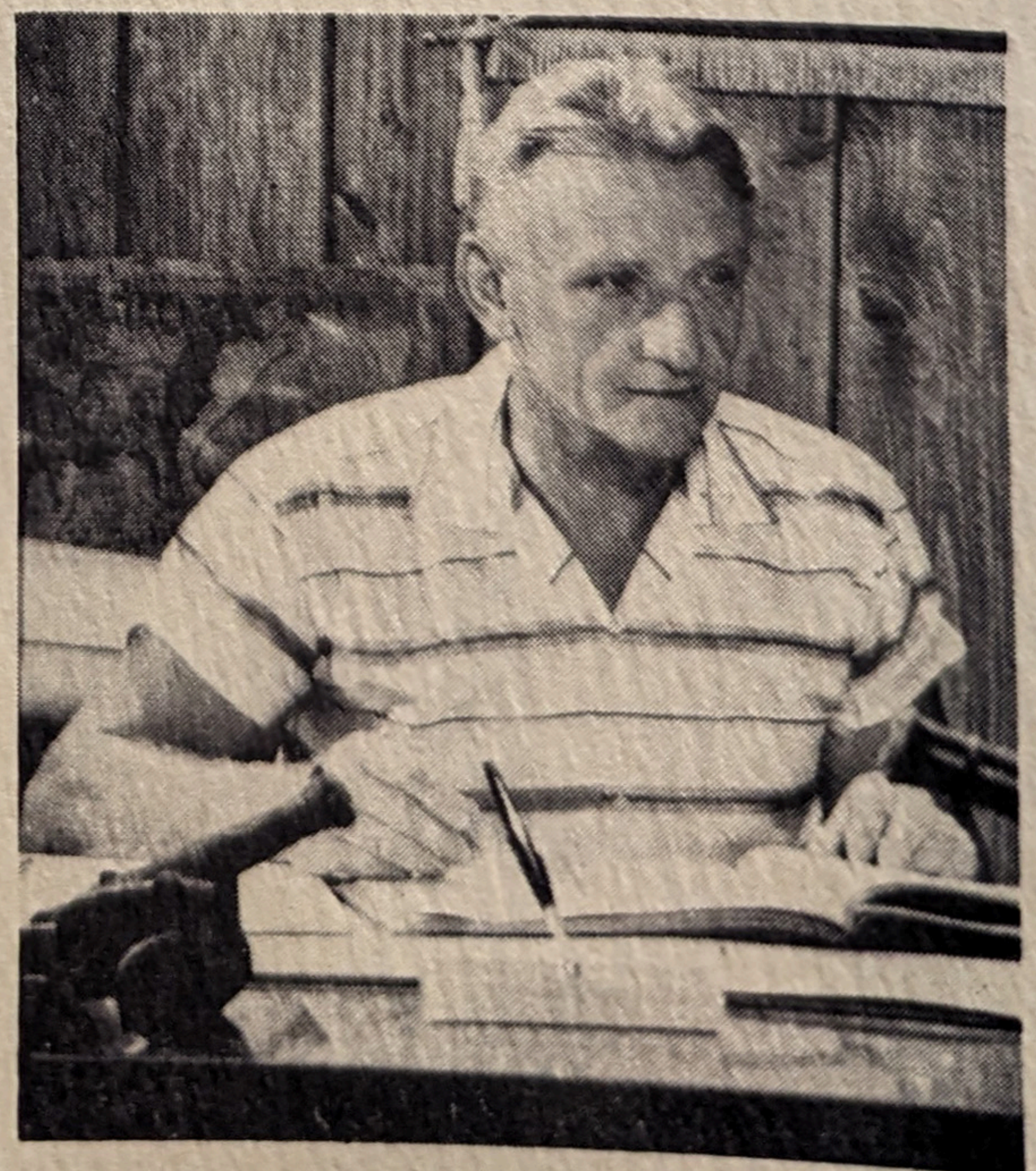
DUKE LONG



ROBERT MARX



CHUCK MITCHELL



ART MCKEE

Arthur McKee, Jr.

Art McKee learned to dive the 'hard way': in a heavy canvas suit and awkward, weighted shoes. This was topped off with a huge metal helmet with glass face plate that was screwed tightly to the suit at the shoulders and air hoses connected him to the air pump at the surface - no wonder they called it hard hat diving. It was far more difficult and dangerous than the SCUBA equipment used today. He began diving on construction sites in New York. In 1937 he moved to Homestead where he operated the municipal pool for ten years. In 1940-41 the Navy hired him as diver on the construction of the Keys pipeline. That led to his search for sunken wrecks and he spent as much time as he could in the Keys, underwater. On August 12, 1949 the Homestead paper ran a feature story about Art's 'hobby' on the front page with a 2-line head in 92 point type: "LOCAL DIVER EXHIBITS TREASURE HE FOUND ON SPANISH WRECKS." Just below the headline was a picture of Art in his full diving gear holding an 80-pound bar of 99.36 pure silver. From that time on he was a full time treasure diver and a much in demand celebrity. He appeared on national radio programs, LIFE magazine and other publications ran feature stories about him. He established his museum in 1949 and when the 'treasure fortress' on Plantation Key opened in 1952 his collection had grown to include anchors, cannons, cannon balls, ballast stones, elephant tusks, coins and numerous artifacts. He continued to salvage his wrecks and whenever possible took aspiring young treasure hunters on expeditions. (Most notable among the 'youngsters' was Bert Webber. Art was proud and thrilled when Bert discovered the *Concepcion* and he quickly accepted an invitation to fly down to the Dominican Republic and see the treasure first hand.) He read everything he could about Spanish wrecks and over the years acquired a fine treasure library. He could spin yarns with the best. Those who believed he was 'telling all' were taken in; others didn't care, the more he embellished his tales the more fun it was to listen. Divers refer to Art as "the father of modern treasure diving," a title he not only earned but was proud to hold.

Kip Wagner

Kip Wagner believed that a certain amount of luck is a necessary factor for success in searching for treasure. Kip's "luck" began in 1921 when he was 15 years old and he and his older brother headed for Florida in their new Model-T. When they reached the village of Wabasso their car broke down. They left four days later and Kip knew he would return one day. Near the end of World War II he moved his family from Miamisburg, Ohio to Wabasso. Before long he began to hear about Spanish coins being found on the beach and was skeptical until an old timer took him to the beach and found seven in less than an hour - Kip was hooked! As his own collection grew he noticed none of the coins were dated after 1715 and when he heard a fleet had been wrecked off Cape Canaveral in 1715 he sent a coin to Mendel Peterson at the Smithsonian Institution to see if there was a connection, but the reply stated the ships sank off the Keys. He and Dr. Kip Kelso started their own research and by chance Dr. Kelso found the Bernard Romans book at the Library of Congress and there it was, not only written out in detail but a map pinpointed the area. Kip assembled a compatible and dependable group of divers and in January 1961 they made their first big strike and recovered between three and four thousand pieces of eight and the rest is history. By 1966 Mel and his crew had joined Real Eight and together they recovered nearly \$3,000,000. The wrecks are still being worked today and it may be years before enough is recovered to consider them no longer worthwhile.

D. L. Chaney

D. L. Chaney was born and bred in Mississippi. He and his wife, Velma, and their four children moved to Miami in 1964 when he was hired by Eastern Airlines as a pilot. He began treasure hunting while he was still flying for Eastern. Even on a part time basis for twelve years he managed seventy to 100 days a year on the high seas. Since he retired three years ago he and his partner, John Barrier, are involved full time in the pursuit of old wrecks. He is an experienced magnetometer operator having used this equipment for more than ten years. He and John have nothing but praise for the Varrian instrument. The two men have made modifications which are unique for shipwreck search.

Dr. George Crile, Jr.

The elephant tusks in the exhibit came from the "ivory wreck" that Barney Crile and his first wife, Jane, discovered near Sombrero Light off Marathon in 1950. Their story of the discovery and salvage of this wreck and other underwater adventures is told in their book, "TREASURE DIVING HOLIDAY," published in 1954 and still popular among the treasure diving fraternity. Jane died many years ago and Barney is married to another diving enthusiast, Carl Sandburg's daughter, Helga. Dr. Crile is associated with the famous and highly respected Cleveland Clinic but still manages to search for history and adventure under the sea when time permits.

Mel Fisher

Mel Fisher didn't become one of the world's most successful treasure hunters overnight and if he had been easily discouraged he would probably still be running his skin diving shop in Los Angeles or be back on the chicken farm. Mel first became interested in diving when a youngster in Gary, Indiana when he and a friend tried to build a diving helmet out of a five-gallon paint can. Years later while living in Tampa the lure of diving and spearfishing took hold. After his folks moved to California and started a chicken ranch Mel opened the first specialized diving shop in the world and gave up looking after the birds! His early efforts to find treasure were fruitless but they took him to interesting and exciting places. His search led him to Panama, Yucatan, Cuba, Haiti and the famous Silver Shoals. Twice when passing through Florida he stopped to see Kip Wagner and it was during his second visit in March 1963 that the two men discussed the possibility of Mel getting a group of professional divers together and joining forces with Kip's weekend crew. Mel proposed that his group pay their own expenses, supply their own equipment and work some of Kip's leases on a 50/50 share basis. After 360 days of hard work that yielded mostly disappointment on May 24, 1964 they made the big strike and found the sea floor literally carpeted in gold! In 1968 Mel began his search for the *Atocha* off Islamorada in the area of the Upper and Lower Matecumbes. They found wrecks but not the rich and fabled *Atocha*. Then, Gene Lyons, researching at the Archives in Seville, Spain, noted the island of Marquesas was mentioned in the salvage records of the *Margarita*, the *Atocha*'s sister ship. Mel moved the search to a vast area west of Key West where the *Atocha* was eventually found along with the *Margarita*. To date a fortune has been recovered and the work continues but Mel is still searching for the bulk of the treasure which he is certain is still to be found and the search goes on. Meanwhile Mel has been engaged in a fight to keep the State of Florida from claiming a portion of 'his find' and has become as famous for his successful battles in court as he is for his "victories at sea."

Carl Frederick

Carl Frederick came to Florida in 1957 aboard his 34' Alden yawl to be able to enjoy the sea year around. He soon became interested in marine archeology and those ships underwater are now as fascinating to him as those that sail the sea today. Carl is an associate electronic engineer, talented underwater photographer and author and manages his own firm, Research Search & Salvage which he established in 1967. It is a multi-faceted organization selling and servicing the well known Aquapulse, the top of the line underwater metal detector. He has built, sold plans for and services magnetometers and is a consultant for underwater treasure hunters, supplying information on electronic equipment and search techniques. He also heads a crack team of underwater search specialists who, in addition to recovering valuables for the police and many individuals, have found sunken treasure as well!

Judy & John Halas

Since his graduation from Florida State University in 1966 with a degree in biology John Halas has acquired a wealth of experience that led to a career in sport diving and eventually treasure salvage. He has worked for Inmont Corporation, a company conducting mariculture research in Marathon, Marine Protein Corporation and Harbor Branch Foundation in Key Largo. In 1973 he was one of 16 persons selected for the Scientist in the Sea III training program at the Naval Coastal Systems laboratory in Panama City, Fla. He operated his own sport diving charter operation and dive shop in the upper Keys for several years and is now Marine Biologist at Pennekamp Park. Since his affiliation with the Florida Department of Natural Resources he has participated in scientific dives in the Philippines and Gulf middle grounds. In 1980 he joined Richard MacAllaster's Peninsular Exploration and Salvage Corp. in working one of the 1715 vessels as owner/operator of the *Pandion*, one of the salvage vessels. His wife, Judy, is a high school english teacher who joins her husband's underwater adventures at every opportunity. Together at the Ft. Pierce site they struck a rich area that yielded twenty-seven pieces of gold jewelry, gold coins and numerous other valuable articles. Judy is an accomplished singer and guitarist whose repertoire reflects her special interest in the sea.

Jack Haskins

Jack Haskins was educated at the University of Vermont and was employed by the Bendix Corporation as Senior Engineering writer for eight years. He is also a licensed pilot and has flown for RCA and Schick. He has always been fascinated by shipwreck history and while flying for W. P. Strube Corporation he was given his first opportunity to dive on a shipwreck and an entirely new career was launched. The search for three lost Spanish New Spain Naos wrecked off Padre Island, Texas in 1554 was the first of the numerous expeditions and research projects in which he has participated. Since 1968 he has visited the Archivo General de las Indias in Seville every year and has amassed thousands of microfilmed accounts relative to lost Spanish treasure ships. He is widely recognized as one of the best researchers in this field and has become expert in reading and translating the extremely difficult archaic continuous Spanish script. In 1972 he assisted in the discovery of the *Augustias*, one of the 1733 ships and in 1976, the *Tolosa*, which was one of the Mercury fleet sailing from Spain to Mexico. One of his most outstanding and exciting research assignments was his search for information on the *Nuestra Senora de la Concepcion*, the famous "Phips wreck" which met her demise on the dangerous Silver Shoals eighty miles north of the Dominican Republic in 1641. While carrying out his re-

search he came across information that led to the log of the *Henry*, Phip's vessel, and the exact location of the wreck was found! He helped research and participated in Art McKee's last expedition in 1979 when they discovered a Spanish wreck on the Pedro Bank off Jamaica which they believed to be the remains of the famous *Genovesa*. At present he is working on the *San Jose*, one of the 1733 fleet and continuing his research projects.

Bob Klein

Bob Klein moved to the Keys from Miami on VJ-Day 1944. For twenty-five years he has operated his own dive business. His 50 Cary, the *Plus Ultra*, can take out ten to fifteen divers at a time comfortably. To Bob this is the greatest place in the U.S. to live if you want to fish, dive or just enjoy the water. He is very low key when the subject of treasure come up. He has found a lot of valuable items over the years but appears to consider himself a professional diving guide primarily. According to Bob the two best months on the reefs are May and October when "the water is warm and so clear you can't believe it." Bob is associated with Duke Long at the "BLACK MAGIC" shop in Key Largo where they create beautiful items from black coral and ivory and set pieces of eight in silver or gold for placing on a chain. The ivory is from the Crile "ivory wreck" off Marathon.

Duke Long

Duke Long is a talented artist who also happens to enjoy treasure hunting. He has been employed as a diver, artist and cartographer on all of Burt Webber's major expeditions including Operation Phips II when they discovered and salvaged one of the most famous shipwrecks of all time - the *Nuestra Senora de la Concepcion* which sank on the Silver Shoals in 1641. Silver Shoals is in international waters about eighty miles north of Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic. The group worked in cooperation with the Dominican government in order to enjoy the protection of the Navy. Duke's artistic talent is widely recognized and he has presented one-man shows at the John G. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Armstrong Cork Company, Casa Reales Museum, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He won best in show for Scrimshaw in the Ephrata Art Show in Pennsylvania and has appeared in many other art shows and in a televised seminar on scrimshaw at the Lebanon Valley Art Association in 1978. Mr. Long works in watercolors, pen and ink, scrimshaw, oil, pencil, and photography. He is also a jewelry craftsman and is associated with Bob Klein in their BLACK MAGIC shop in Key Largo where they turn out beautiful jewelry of black coral and ivory.

Richard MacAllaster

Richard MacAllaster first took up diving in 1953 when he was just fifteen years old. He built his own self-contained underwater breathing apparatus from a tank from a fire extinguisher, a regulator from a B-17 aircraft and an old surplus Navy mask. He was one of the first to attempt cave diving. He organized a treasure hunting group in 1972 and they salvaged one of the Spanish Naos of the 1733 fleet. Jack Haskins and other well-known treasure hunters worked with MacAllaster on the *San Raphael* and the *Capitana*. From one of the Ft. Pierce wrecks that Wagner and Fisher worked years ago MacAllaster has recovered a gold madonna, a ring with nine white stones, a six inch gold chain, 6300 silver coins, 125 gold coins and 32 pieces of gold jewelry. He and a friend developed a rugged and sensitive hand-held metal detector which he credits with finding many of his best pieces. One of his favorites is a delicate gold ring with a ten carat emerald, flanked by two golden angels. He helped design and construct the simulated wreck at Pennekamp Park.

Robert Marx

Robert Marx' activities about, above and under the sea would require several pages just to list. A little surface scratching turns up such exciting exploration and recoveries as: locating several Civil war blockade runners and recovering artifacts (North Carolina); locating the Civil War ironclad *Monitor* off Cape Hatteras; many Mayan temple sites and cave tombs in Central America and Mexico; the Spanish galleon *Nuestra Senora de las Milagros* (sunk in 1741-Mexico); *La Nicolasa*, Hernan Cortez' supply ship sunk in 1526; submerged Roman cities Carteya and Bolonia (Spain); two shipwrecks of Christopher Columbus which were lost in St. Anne's Bay, Jamaica in 1504; and there are thirty-two more on the list! The two for which he is probably best known and both of which are represented in this show are the sunken city of Port Royal (Jamaica) and the *Nuestra Senora de la Maravillas* which sank on the Little Bahama Bank in 1656. Another highlight of his career was the voyage of *Nina II* from Palos, Spain to San Salvador from August to December 1962 in which he was co-organizer and navigator. For this he was made a Knight Commander in the Order of Isabel the Catholic by the Spanish government. He has been involved in more than thirty documentary films including "The Adventurous Voyage of the Nina," a two-hour CBS-TV film and "Treasure Galleon" narrated by Rod Serling and telecast as a two-hour movie during 1975-76. In his spare time he writes books - at last count there were thirty! Those of special interest to treasure hunters are: "Shipwrecks in Florida Waters," "Shipwrecks of the Western Hemisphere," and "Spanish Treasure in Florida Waters," to name only three!

Richard McClelland

When we asked for Richard McClelland's biographical sketch he substituted information about his exquisite cannons. These 1/3 and 1/4 scale cast bronze cannons are faithful reproductions of sixteenth and seventeenth century Spanish and English cannons and are made to order only. Years of research were required before casting was attempted. They are not the usual two-part mold but are cast by the "lost wax process" in an investment mold. The mold is broken after casting. Each wax model is hand made and cast in a private foundry by a "Gun Founder." They are finished in the traditional manner by filing, hammering and chasing then they are patinaed, polished or left plain whichever the buyer prefers.

Chuck Mitchell

Chuck Mitchell took up diving in San Diego in 1948 and before coming to the Keys he did a lot of diving in La Jolla and the Baja peninsula. After service in the Marine Corps he moved to Ft. Lauderdale and took up treasure hunting part time. In 1968 he made it his full-time occupation and since has located many wrecksites and logged many miles with a magnetometer. His expeditions have taken him to Rebecca Shoals, a lonely area thirty-seven miles southwest of Key West; the Bahamas and all areas of the Keys. Recently he has worked with Kevin McKee, son of Art McKee, in salvaging some of the 1733 wrecks. No doubt his most beautiful items are the two tiny silver cannons. These were pictured in "The Treasure Divers' Guide" by John S. Potter, Jr. and his treasures have been mentioned in *Argosy Magazine*, Marty Meyloch's "Diving To A Flash of Gold," and "Search For The Atocha," by Gene Lyons. He recently formed a trio with his wife, Lori and Beverly Reyher and they specialize in songs of their own composition as well as sea chanties and island songs. The trio will be entertaining those waiting in line to see the exhibit over the weekend.