

EDITOR JOHN D. PENNEKAMP: HERALD OF CHANGE

By

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John D. Pennekamp was a pioneer in Florida journalism, as evidenced by his illustrious fifty-two year career with the Miami Herald which ended January 1, 1977, on his eightieth birthday.

This thesis undertakes to examine two aspects of Pennekamp's career: First, his newspaper philosophy, as defined by his actions as a newspaperman, and second, how that philosophy led to community involvement, especially in the field of conservation and his role in the creation of the Everglades National Park and the Florida park system. The thesis also examines to what extent his influence was felt both on the newspaper and in the city of Miami.

The study indicates Pennekamp's motivations were that of a thorough newsman serving the public. Interviews

and questionnaires show Pennekamp's achievements in establishing the Everglades National Park and the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park were monuments to his social responsibility. He was a self-described "conservationist by acclaim."

The study also shows while Pennekamp's influence in the community expanded, his influence within the Miami Herald organization declined. This occurred at the end of the period encompassing the Supreme Court case of Pennekamp v. Florida and the Miami-Dade County consolidation issue (from 1943 to 1958).

At the close of a long career, Pennekamp has received the acclaim of his contemporaries as a dedicated and decisive professional—in journalism and in contributions to Miami and the state of Florida.

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