



Barcarrota - Bradenton

FIFTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

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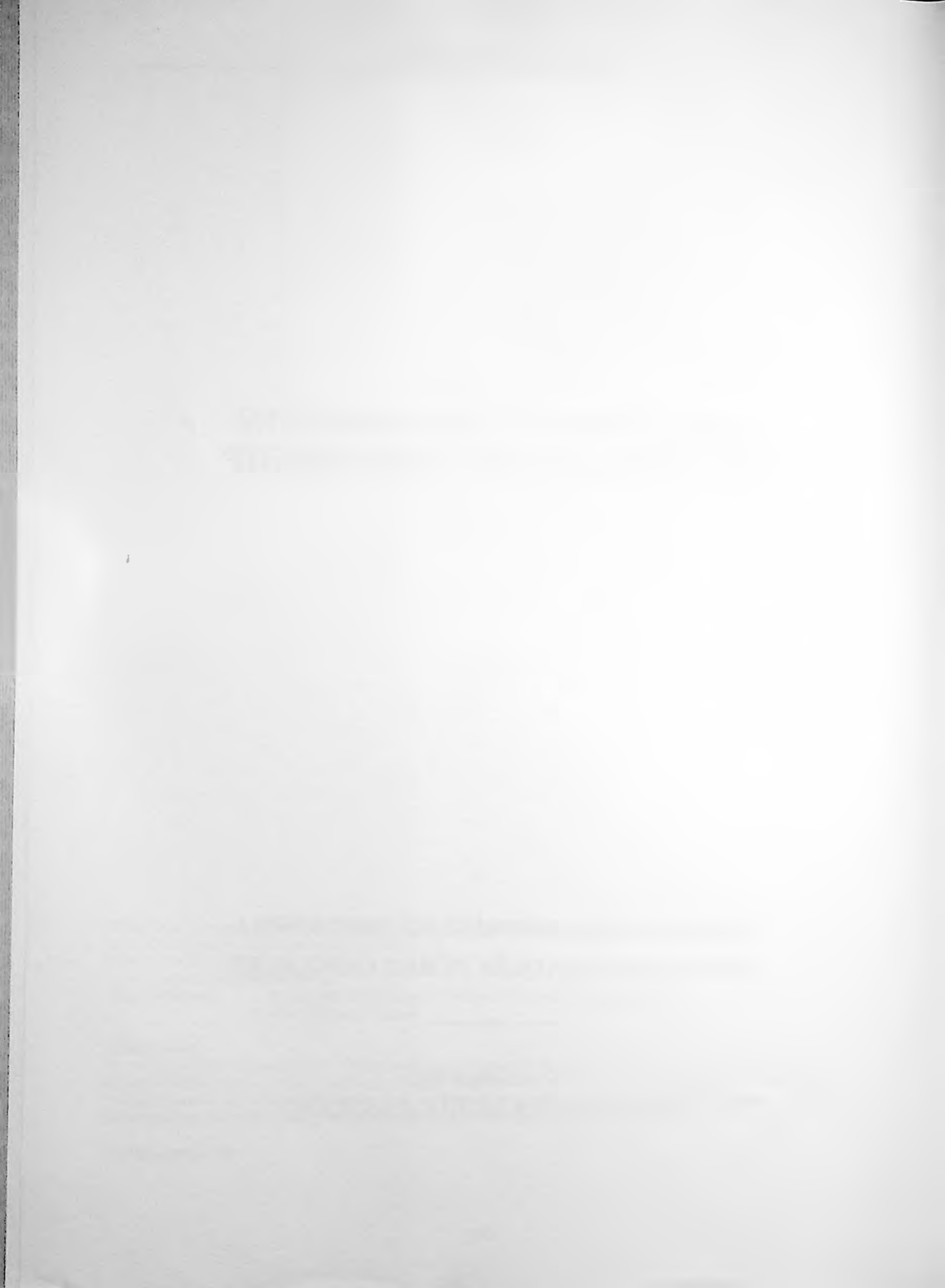
To the organizing Commission of 50th Anniversary Bradenton-Barcarrota: Guadalupe Pinilla Ramírez, M^a. Montaña Padilla Falcón, Isabel Hernández Triguero and specially to Marina González Rubio; to José Miguel Santiago Castelo, José Joaquín Rodríguez Lara, Dolores Benegas Capote, Remedios Sepúlveda Mangas, Laura Marroquín Martínez and, certainly Nuria Ariza Perezagua and Agustina Pinilla Montero.

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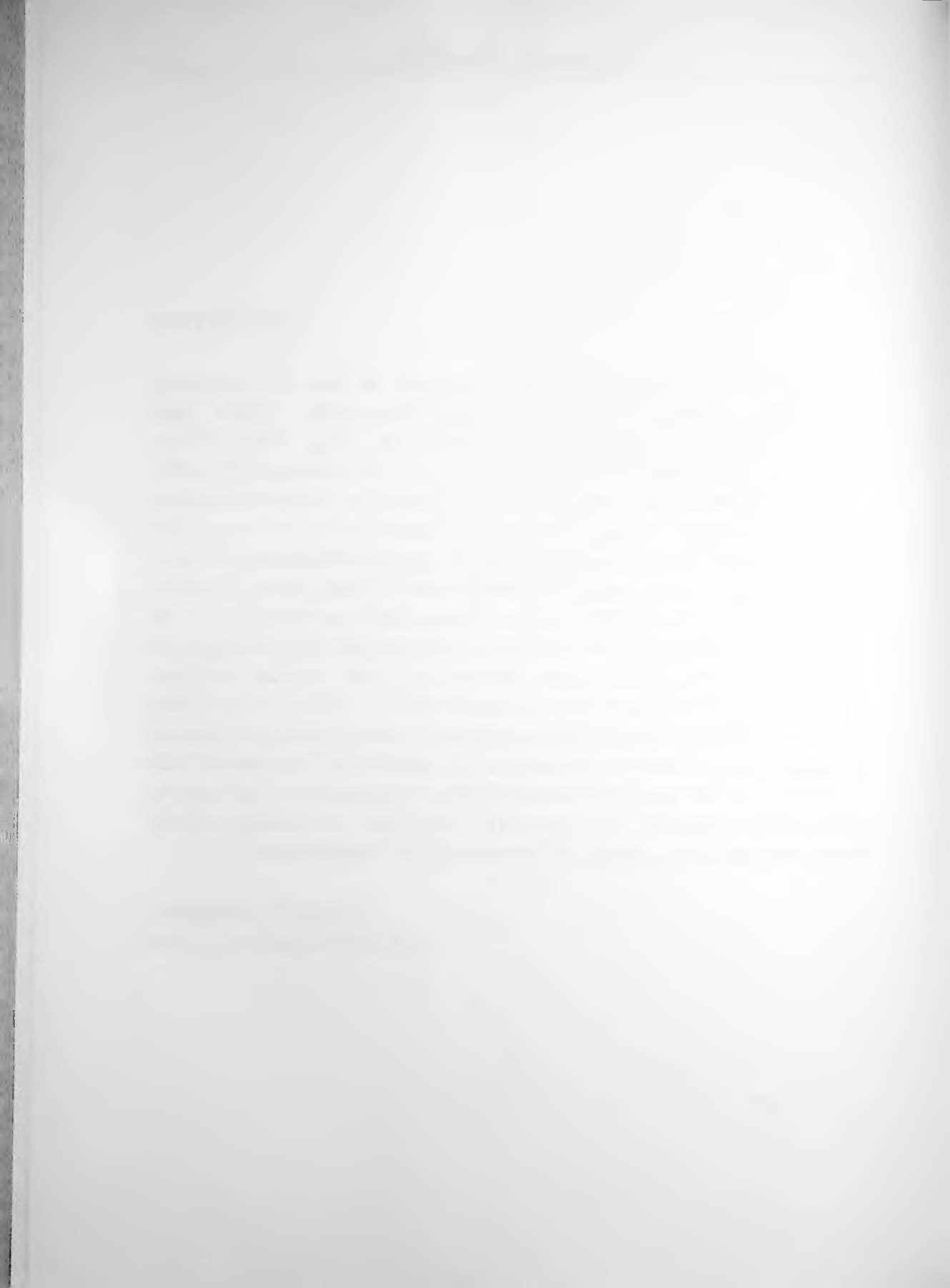
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GREETING

It was with great pleasure that I learned of the extraordinary relationship between the cities of Barcarrota, Spain and Bradenton, Florida, that dates from June 26, 1962, when for the first time, members of the "Caballeros de Bradenton" Society visited Barcarrota, the supposed birthplace of the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto. Since that time, citizens from the two cities have alternated visits annually to pay homage to Hernando de Soto in recognition of his initial disembarkation in Tampa Bay, Florida, near where Bradenton is located. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the Americans who travel to Barcarrota to participate in the biannual festivities come dressed in 16th century military clothing such as that worn by the explorers of de Soto's time. I was also very pleased to learn that a scholarship is awarded each year to a student from Barcarrota to carry on his studies in Bradenton. This is a tribute to the spirit of friendship that characterizes this special relationship and one that can only strengthen the already strong bonds that unite the people of Spain and the United States.

Alan D. Solomont
USA Ambassador in Spain



PRESENTATION

People from Barcarrota not yet reached the half-century of his childhood recalls a special day, one day totally unlike any other. It was a day that had big party in town: the Americans were coming! So, without further. With this expression, the child we knew this day would find the streets at a tall, huge, dressed conquerors and constantly smiled and waved. From below, our eyes saw a great person finished in colorful plume. We ran after them for a few coins with the symbols of the celebration, given away to children. They were our little treasures.

We, then, were not sure where Florida or Bradenton. We did not care. It was a special day and we knew that would be repeated often throughout the day of our lives. And still is. Rate it now reaches half-century.

Could not fail, the City of Barcarrota, as it deserves to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of this picturesque and rooted friendship. And what better example of this that this work now in their hands. Work will serve to further strengthen the twinning, and that surely will serve as impulse to reach new coming decades of fraternal union.

The people from Barcarrota also know that the authors could not be other than signing this volume. Not surprisingly, ninety percent of publishing that has Barcarrota has emerged from its concern and consistency. And this production is not trivial. Thousands of pages in dozens of publications, Jose Ignacio and Francisco Joaquin have left, for now, the history of our people. In the following pages the reader will notice that there are many hours of tireless and tenacious search for data hiding location of documents, providing primary role, as it must, to the people who started and consolidated this exciting adventure.

And, as stated above, we could not do less from this humble municipality that support the creation of this publication, in which our brothers in Bradenton notice of special interest since Barcarrota is placed so that the ties of friendship with the people Bradenton endure as long as the heart, and not otherwise, available.

Alfonso C. Macías Gata
Mayor of Barcarrota



THE SPECIAL BOND

In 1539, Hernando DeSoto came to America looking for riches for Spain. At the time he landed, he did not know it but he had found a gem worth more than silver and gold. He had found Bradenton, Florida. At the time it looked like the best place to land how lucky we were that Hernando DeSoto found us.

In 1949, Doctor Sugg and other residents of Bradenton founded the DeSoto Organization to honor the importance of Hernando DeSoto. Just like Hernando DeSoto they had no idea what a true treasure they had found.

In 1962, was the first trip for the Bradenton Conquistadors led by our Hernando DeSoto, Louis Thomas to Barcarrota, Spain. Little did they know at the time, the relationship they started would turn into the wonderful exchange of culture and ideas between the sister cities. We now enjoy a wonderful relationship today. We honor our fore fathers, like Hernando DeSoto for the sacrifices they made to make our lives richer by the special bond that the people of Barcarrota and Bradenton holds.

Everyone I speak with in the DeSoto Society from Bradenton says they love Spain and they love our sister city, Barcarrota. But most of all, they love the people! See this is our true treasure we have found, it's the people and life long relationship we love the most.

Chris Atkinson
Hernando DeSoto Historical Society
President Elect 2012-2013



HISTORY OF TWO CITIES

His fiftieth birthday, in the life of humans, indicating ambiguous settle in the area of maturity. It is closer to the end of the days of its beginning, but social work and still give citizens the best of themselves. In the field of marriage, exported to other languages, it is said that the parties reach the golden jubilee after these fifty years together, so high altitude is not always achieved because the discipline in the maintenance of status is difficult and laborious.

We can say, in obvious metaphor, Bradenton and Barcarrota meet its golden anniversary. What emerged as impossible and random arrow has consolidated over time, not without the fluctuations inherent to every couple. Falling in love and were quick link in the early years of the sixties of the twentieth century. The context of this twinning is known: Franco's Spain seeks international openness while trying to overcome autarky prescribed in the postwar period. The recognition of the regime in the world would bring political and economic stability. And friendship with the United States of America the strongest nation in the Western bloc, the alibi served internal brake to communism and, above all, it'd open every door in the future.

The Hispanic-American bilateral agreements of cooperation signed in the early fifties, along with the entry of Spain into the United Nations Organization in 1955, consolidated this national aspiration, especially when the Cold War with the Soviet bloc should be getting of the largest as possible allies. Spain, for it and its key location in the Mediterranean, will occupy a very important strategic place in the political positioning of antagonistic blocs. The "American friend," President Dwight D. Eisenhower, sealed with a visit to Franco in 1959, the full incorporation of a non-democratic free world for the sake of realpolitik.

The satirical version as unavoidable situation occurred after the movie makers Luis García Berlanga and Juan Antonio Bardem with "Welcome, Mister Marshall" in 1953. U.S. aid to European reconstruction did not reach Spain by the deficit of freedom, its label as an ally of the Axis powers during World War II and the subsequent international ostracism. A decade later, conditions had changed and the Franco authorities enjoyed the friendship of the United States. Thus could the approach channel from Bradenton was done to the place of birth, with

permission from sterile polemics with other towns, convinced of the validity of the new argument put-Hernando de Soto.

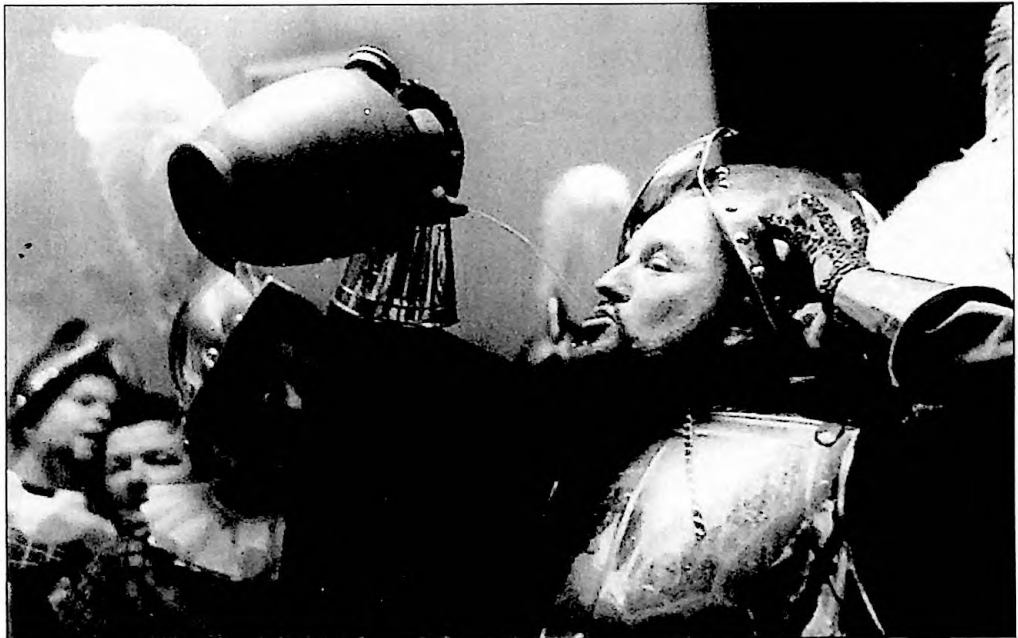
Barcarrota, at that time, tried to wake up from the hard times of the Civil War, the war and the relentless scourge of emigration. A city of ten thousand people would lose more than half of its population in that decade and the next two. Like all Extremadura, Spain less developed all the surplus labor by the gradual transformation of the agricultural world and laborer is generating continuous exchanges of migrants to Cataluña, Madrid, Pais Vasco, Islas Baleares and several European countries (especially Switzerland, France and Germany).

But the Franco regime advertising and self-esteem of people borning Barcarrota find a path of optimism and patriotic exaltation by offering coming from Florida, one of the most historically Spanish territories of the United States. The imperial and colonial dialectic, as an emblem of Spain at the time, is matched by the friendly inhabitants of Manatee County. They are proud of the landing of Governor Hernando de Soto expedition with his large, four centuries ago, in its beautiful beaches. And look for the source, the noble genealogical root of its most important European conqueror. In this romantic and nineteenth-century discovery of America, channeled through a festival in which shone brightly breastplates and helmets of the Spanish soldiers, deposited the charm and the affinity of two communities essentially divergent.

The national and local feelings in any case, belong to the people who have lived these fifty years. The historical review of this history offers us many names, private and public initiatives and travel: an intense cultural and social exchange between the two sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Flights between the two continents enrich the two sister cities, Bradenton and Barcarrota. It does not cross the sea in ships to discover wilderness, but Closer international ties to make us happy and prosperous, mutually enriching. Well is in any case, renew the vows of the marriage relationship held for fifty years.



"The sixty-four members of the Society "Los Conquistadores" in Bradenton (Florida), instituted in honor of Hernando de Soto, who is currently in Madrid, during the parade in Retiro Park yesterday morning. "ABC (06.20.1962).



"In the midst of popular curiosity, the "Conquerors" of "through the streets of accompanied by his queen. The "Conquerors" wear the same clothes and armor that the soldiers of Hernando de Soto, and so, to the prevailing heat, your boss does not hesitate to quench your thirst on a pure-blooded. "ABC (01.08.1964).

THE CONQUERORS OF BRADENTON

This story begins, paradoxically, in the New World. In May 1939, four centuries after the arrival of the expedition of Hernando de Soto to North America (remember, 700 men, nine ships, over two hundred horses, one of the largest mid-sixteenth century, will travel more than six thousand kilometers in four years), residents of the small city of Bradenton, Fla., decided to commemorate the landing of the discoverer of Extremadura with a schedule of events. This town, about forty thousand inhabitants then capitalized on the anniversary because the Spanish ships had landed at the Punta de Shaw, about 8 miles from Bradenton, at the confluence of Tampa Bay to the mouth of the Manatee River. The exact location passed in 1966 to be officially named De Soto Point, where the National Monument located in De Soto, De Soto National Memorial, since 1950 historic site and National Park Federal Government of the United States.

A year later, in 1940, began to celebrate the Heritage Festival of Hernando de Soto (De Soto Heritage Festival, aka De Soto De Soto Pageant and Celebration), one of whose early events, which are maintained over time, is the Grand Parade. With the parentheses forced of the Second World War, the festival resumed its momentum in 1949, reaching the very De Soto Point. It is in 1952 when the Historical Society is officially Hernando de Soto (De Soto Historical Society), the popular Pathfinder Bradenton who had been running since 1939, a limited membership, currently 225 - to choose a representation of the same for attired in the garb of the expedition of 1539. Eventually he joined the landing acts also called the Knights of remembering makes Bradenton the original 1539. To do this, a replica of the galleon San Cristobal was built in 1976.

Between 1991 and 1994, the festival fell on hard times because of opposition from Native American communities in their implementation, considering it an homage to exploitation and conquest of territory by Europeans. These connotations disappeared when, in 1994, the organization prepared the new Florida Heritage Festival in Bradenton, which is incorporated even a program of events around the native Indian cultures (The Bradenton Herald, March 24, 2002).

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Today, the festival has been held a week throughout March to April. It maintains the tradition of appointing a Hernando de Soto and a Queen of the festival usually every year. The tournament fishing, sailing and dancing are some of their dishes. The strength of the organizing company is unquestionable, and the monitoring that is in the city of Bradenton and Manatee County. Same time have created a foundation, The Conquistador Historical Foundation, whose objectives are in the fields of education and charity. Headquartered in the Spanish Manor House, which also serves as headquarters for the Historical Society and Museum De Soto.



First arrival . Esplanade El Muelle (06/26/1962).

SISTERCITIES AND FIRST VISIT

The plenary session of the City of Barcarrota of March 5, 1962 discloses that the interest of American Society in Bradenton (through the Spanish Embassy in the U.S.) to establish a partnership between the two locations, linked by the figure of Hernando de Soto. In letters sent by the President of the Provincial Council of Badajoz, the Director of the Institute of Hispanic Culture (created in 1946 to develop relations with Latin American countries, the current Spanish Agency for International Development) and the Permanent Secretary of the Royal Academy of History. The plenary council unanimously approved the "hermanazgo" with the town of Florida, a young city, Bradenton, formed in 1943 by the merger of two others, Bradenton and Manatee, emerged in 1903 and 1888 respectively.



Badajoz Entourage down the street, heading for the Plaza of Spain. Journal HOY (26/06/1962).

It's clearly the society of the Pathfinder Bradenton galvanizing this friendly relationship which is now fifty years. So much so that on 18th of June of that year arrived in Madrid the first expedition organized by the Society. Guided by the Institute of Hispanic Culture, which receives at the hands of Madrid Gregorio Marañon Moya, director-

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sixty-four people visit Toledo, Cordoba and Seville are twenty-six the expedition led by Hernando de Soto, Louis P. Thomas. Also present Gaile Lingo. Queen of the moment, and the president of the Hernando de



Hosting banner at the entrance to Barcarrota . Photo: Faustino G. Maure. (06/26/1962).

Soto Historical Society, Mr. Frank Blount. In the city of Seville go to the Archives of the Indies and have official reception at the Alcazar, with the presence of its director, Joaquín Romero Murube.

On June 26th of 1962, finally arrived to Barcarrota the Conquerors from Bradenton. There is a really eloquent graphic testi-



Formation of honor at the Plaza of Spain. File: Jose Larios.

mony about what it meant that first visit. The album of snapshots that remains is precious. They were received in our village by the civil authorities, at the head of which was the Mayor, Aureliano Benegas Vinagre, Adolfo Díaz-Ambrona Moreno, president of the Provincial Council, Lieutenant Colonel Campora Civil Guard and Carlos Fernandez-Shaw, Cultural Attache of the Embassy of Spain in the U.S. and representative of the Institute of Hispanic Culture. To the sound of



Postcards done in as memories of the annual celebration of the landing of Hernando de Soto.

anthems of both nations, played by the municipal band music, and "cheers and applause" that accompanied the procession its way to the Plaza of Spain, visitors and locals felt the profound honor to be taxed at Hernando de Soto, found in the statue since 1866 is located in the center of Barcarrota. The laurel wreath, deposited by the Hernando de Soto from Bradenton and his Queen, was the culmination of intense day so popular in the locality.

The chronicles consulted (ABC. Hoy, La Vanguardia, Mundo Hispanico and Black & White, fundamentally) already within the Town Hall Mayor Barcarrota and chronicler of the Province, Julio Linares Cienfuegos, welcomed the expedition U.S.. Responded cordially Louis P. Thomas, Mr. Blount and Deputy Mayor of Bradenton. "A couple of children were given a scroll, a bag with soil and a jug of Barcarrota as popular craft shows." For the plenary session of June 23, held previously, we know that the agreement was to show visitors the Bullring and offer "a Spanish wine" in the Circle of the Brotherhood, as well as luncheon. José Pérez Larios As summarized in the book fair this year: "The reception was tremendous and they dispensed and seemed to understand and corresponded with broad smiles and thanks we saw footprints drawn on their faces," everything under the sun of early summer to 37 degrees Celsius. Emotional meeting closed an exhibition of song and dance group of the Feminine Section of Badajoz.



The Plaza of España crowded with curious visits from 1962. Photo: Faustino G. Maure.

Later they went to Badajoz, where they were received by governors Francisco civil-and military-Santolalla Almansa-General and the Mayor of the city border, Mr. García Martín. They were presented with a welcome event in the local society Pigeon Shooting. On the 27th were aware of the development started in some place named Altas Vegas del Guadiana through the Plan Badajoz, ending the match at the land "The Order" with civil authorities of the province accounted afternoon stroll around the archaeological site, mainly Román Mérida. Cáceres also would visit on 29th to attend the V Festival Folklorico Hispanic. For the occasion they staged an indian dance as well as part of the representation of each year celebrating the landing on the beaches of Florida.



The mayor and pioneer of the twinning, Aureliano Vinegar in honor of Hernando de Soto in 1962 accompanied by the Hernando de Soto from Bradenton Photo: Faustino G. Maure.

1964-1969: THE LINKS TO CONSOLIDATE

In February 1964 the Council received a further communication Barcarrota from Bradenton. The Hernando de Soto Historical Society invites the mayor to visit the city of Florida during the week of March when they celebrate the festival in honor of our discovery. In the plenary session on February 21st, after approval of the relevance of the visit, proceed to ratify the twinning agreement signed two years earlier. In addition, nominating the Knights of Bradenton "Barcarrota honor citizens" who will be handed a scroll that perpetuates this condition plus a silver plaque with the inscription referring to the special friendship between the two communities and a glossy book with the biography of Governor. The government team of Barcarrota was assisted and advice from the Embassy of Spain in America, from the correspondence sent in the month of February, the cultural advisor Carlos Fernandez-Shaw, and the Institute of Hispanic Culture, which funded part of the mayor of Barcarrota trip.



Official reception of Conquerors in the City Hall (26/06/1962). Photo: Faustino G. Maure.

For Fair magazine September of that year, we know the details of the Aureliano Benegas stay in Bradenton, between 14th and 21st of March, which are transcribed chronicles signed by Luella Hood in the local paper The Bradenton Herald. He was met at the airport of Bradenton-Sarasota by some members of the Society, dressed in the garb of the celebrations. The welcoming committee also nurtured the municipal officials, including Deputy Mayor of Bradenton, Mr. Arbuckle, and the President of the Chamber of Commerce, Dr. W. D. Sugg (President founder of the society and the Historical Museum of Southern Florida), along with then President of the host society, Robert E. Talley.

The mayor's daily was a constant coming and going: a display of skiing and motor boating and other aircraft, the annual exhibition of flowers in the Garden Club of Manatee, barbecues and dinners, visits to the Ringling Museum of Art, founded by the important American circus impresario in Sarasota, Manatee Memorial Hospital, industries and farms, schools, the National Bank of Manatee ... He was able to plant an oak with an oak native to the National Park De Soto and attend Mass on St. Joseph Catholic Church of the same name. And of course, participated in the events of the De Soto Celebration, of which emphasize the act of coronation of the Queen of 1964 at the DeSoto Lakes Country Club in Bradenton, "opening the dance with the elected, Miss Diana Richards", whom gave a fan with Spanish motifs. As stated in the newspaper HOY, 29 March, Benegas got the trip as "the establishment of a fraternization between the two cities", and sincerely thanked the monetary donation of 90.000 pesetas to destine received scholarships.

That same year continues the roots of this friendship with the second visit to perform at Barcarrota the Conquerors. Is scheduled for early August, but the City Council in plenary session on July 29st steps forward and takes a fundamental agreement: label with the name "Conquerors of Bradenton Avenue" much of the street of the road Badajoz to Huelva. Thus, on 3 August, a municipal commission receives the Americans in Badajoz, they are given an official welcome in the Jose Antonio's Park, is discovered the tombstone of the newly named and launched via the procession to the Plaza de España, where they put a new laurel wreath in memory of Hernando de Soto.

Back in the lounge of the conquerors of the town hall speeches were exchanged, the Mayor of Bradenton, Mr. Sterling, read a decree "appointing people in that city Barcarrota American neighbors," while

the president of the Hernando de Soto Historical Society invited the student with better grades mean to spend the holiday week of March with them the following year. Aureliano Benegas, meanwhile, proceeded to give them various gifts, among them being a portrait of Governor of Florida, painted by Juan Pablo Alba Lopez Extremadura. The day was completed with a visit to the College of Education Media "Virgen del Soterraño", where they performed the song and dance and chorus juvenile. They had the meal in the halls of the Casino and a popular festival in the Plaza de España. As a curious thing, the Plenary approved expenditures of organization of 24.000 pesetas.

This journey began in Madrid on July 21st. The next day they received the homage of the International Press Club. They continued their journey to places that had not been on the itinerary of the first visit, as is the case of Salamanca, where forty-five expedition members of Bradenton were received on the last day of July by the Mayor, who delivered the key of Florida city. As they could not miss anything the next day they moved to a nearby farm to enjoy a probe of bulls.



Welcome to the Mayor, Aureliano . one of his trips to Bradenton.



"In the midst of popular curiosity, the "Conquerors" of through the streets of accompanied by his queen. The "Conquerors" wear the same clothes and armor that the soldiers of American Hernando de Soto. "ABC (01.08.1964).



Aureliano in the De Soto National Park, accompanied by Jalk Shinn, Father Luis Lopez and Hernando de Soto, observing a narrative device automatically.

Begins in 1965 a first draft in the proposed exchange of students, the invitation made from Bradenton to the young who had better academic qualifications in Barcarrota. This honor went to José Contador Carvajal, he was fifteen, who was present in the sister city during the week of De Soto Celebration. As the Sarasota Herald Tribune account of 14 March, Contador was accompanied during the main event for Luis Lopez Ballesteros, chief information of the Spanish Embassy in the U.S. (who also attended Aureliano Benegas in his visit

of 1964), Louis Jordan, first secretary of the same, Senator Ed H. Price, master of ceremonies and Congressman James A. Haley. As the chronicler, the Conquistadors, "dressed in their armor and silver helmets," are aimed at his landing by the new Hernando De Soto, past president of the Society, Robert E. Talley. In the main event attended by about five thousand people.

A committee organized the event, made by Jose Antonio Hernandez, Antonio González Velasco, Jose Larios, Hilario Alvarez-Larios important people of the social life since the sixties in Barcarrota-prepared a new arrival of the Knights of Bradenton in 1967.

It is expected to thirty members of the Hernando de Soto Historical Society, who will receive at the Portuguese border Caya on 14th of May. But this journey has begun on 11th, when nothing less than the U.S. president, Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson (who replaced Kennedy after his assassination in Dallas in 1963), has welcomed the Conquerors in Washington. The Historical Society of Bradenton had the courtesy to name Honor Conqueror and he was presented with a Spanish helmet. That same day the expedition left for Lisbon.



Jalk Shinn, President of De Soto Celebration Chairman, Aureliano Venegas, Father Luis Lopez, Hernando de Soto (Kay Rowleh) and Robert Talley, Chairperson of the Conquerors.

On the other hand, the ambassador of Spain in America, Marqués de Merry del Val, had approached the mayor from Barcarrota by correspondence (April 17, 1967) to ask the residents of our town the warm welcome, on the other side, had been tributed in the past to representatives of Bradenton, given "the interest to Spain are the exchanges of this nature", in the context of trade liberalization undertaken by the Franco regime since the mid-fifties, with the agreement Hispanic-American bilateral friendship and cooperation.



Recreation Extremadura cuisine at the Museum of Southern Florida.

The protocol followed in this case was similar to the first two visits. The authorities (president of the council, Manuel Carracedo, party deputy, Mr. Lima Feito, editor of the newspaper HOY, Herminio Yubero Pinilla, etc.).



Plate opened on August 3, 1964. Photo: Faustino G. Maure.

Official welcome at City Council Chamber, then there wreath at the statue Hernando de Soto in the Plaza de España and receiving food in the halls of the Fraternity Circle. In the afternoon, students of the College of Education Adopted Free Media "Virgen del Soterraño " made a display of traditional dances, which would be the culmination of a flamenco performance. As curiosities, full of May 11th had agreed to initiate the necessary expedient to name the U.S. President "Honorary mayor" of the town of Barcarrota, and also approved the loan for a parcel of municipal property to own Bradenton society "so they can build a residence, hotel or any other similar building" project ever carried to term.

On the 15th marched to Seville Americans, led by the charismatic Dr. W. Sugg (according to some news reports, came as a representati-



Speech at a welcoming ceremony in the Hall of Conquerors Photo: Faustino G. Maure.

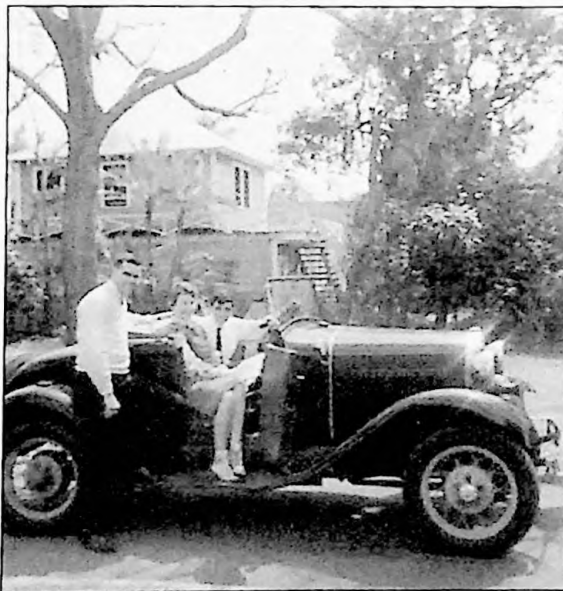
ve of the Governor of Florida). After visiting the Cathedral and Archivo de Indias, in the afternoon were greeted by the mayor, Mr. Moreno de la Cova, and other members of the corporation in the Columbus Room of City Hall, the municipal band of music enlivened the act and the police urban, in full uniform, paid honors protocol. The highest civil and military authorities were present. The U.S. delegation to the mayor of Seville won the distinction of Knight of Honor of their Society, as this gave them the key to the city. Finally they were able to see the fabulous

treasure of Carambolo (found in 1958 near Seville) and finish the day with the night visit to the Alcazar.

The continued visit to Spain took them to Jerez de la Frontera, to visit wineries Domecq. Other destinations were Málaga, Algeciras, Córdoba, Granada and Toledo. In the capital of Spain, meanwhile, they visited the Royal Palace, Prado Museum, the monastery of El Escorial and the Valley of the Fallen and other surrounding areas of Madrid, as Aranjuez. The Foreign Service of the Ministry of Information and Tourism,



José Contador Carvajal accompanied by the Queen and Hernando de Soto in . File: Jose Carvajal counter.



José Contador Carvajal, in Bradenton, with the family that welcomed him. File: José Carvajal counter.

whose leadership held the Mr. López Ballesteros (old acquaintance of the Spanish-American fraternity), he tributed the official farewell of our country.

Enabled by an extraordinary plenary session of March 7th of 1968, which determined the economic contribution of the City Council in its march Barcarrota (borne, for the most part, society Bradenton), Rafael Jaime Portela was the student of 4° grade Bachillerato and with 16 years who attended the festivities held that year in Manatec

County. As has his protagonist in Fair magazine in 1968, landed in New York from Madrid the next day was already in Florida, where "Conquistadores formed in two rows received me with cries! and alive! "Hosted by the incumbent president, John C. Manson, the young from Barcarrota was present in "large parties and deeds in imitation of our compatriot Hernando de Soto, receptions, public presentation and pleasant family scenes."

Rafael Jaime, in addition to being named



Jose Contador Carvajal at a luncheon counter homage to Americans, offered in . File: José Carvajal counter.



"In Badajoz hosted a Hispanic-American fellowship was attended by the civil governor and the president of the county council. Bradenton Queen presided over the party and the "Conquerors" wore his shining armor." ABC (08.01.1964).

"conqueror" and witness the acts of De Soto Celebration, remained in those lands a total of fourteen days and was able to visit, for example, Cape Kennedy. Such was the affection harvested in the home of Mr. Manson that this gentleman subsequently sent \$ 320 to pay for higher education of the young from Barcarrota in Badajoz. It tells the press reports the Sarasota Herald Tribune of March 19 that Jaime Portela coincided with Rafael Soto, illustrator and professor at the University of New York and a direct descendant of Hernando de Soto. Represented to the authorities of both countries George W. Landau, U.S. State Department, and Antonio Gil-Casares, Embassy of Spain.

And 1969 is the year in which occurs the fourth visit of the members of society Barcarrota. At the beginning of it, as the ABC tells us, a representation of the conquerors in Washington to attend the inauguration of Richard Nixon as U.S. President There his hosts were the Spanish ambassador, the Marqués de Merry del Val (always attentive to the relationship between USA and Spain), and his wife.



"The" Pathfinder ", an American association that annually honors the conquistador Hernando de Soto, has reached and has placed a laurel wreath at his monument." ABC 1 (/8/1964).

The new stay of the Society from Bradenton in Spain began on 9 May in Madrid, they were received in Barajas by representatives of the Ministry of Information and Tourism and the Institute of Hispanic Culture, and lasted about two weeks. They visited new places as Palencia and León, with others already known as Salamanca, Seville and Badajoz. The delegation of 33 knights was led by Harmo Parker, who presided then the Society, Robert Hoffman, new Hernando de Soto, and Jayma Davies, Queen of the annual festival. On May 13 reached Extremadura, spending the night in the Parador of Merida

The day 14 reached Barcarrota as updating vote of tribute to the conqueror Extremadura in his hometown. According to the newspaper tells HOY -17/5/1967-, "the city was adorned with a multitude of flags of Spain and the United States as well as a profusion of bows and banners, alluding to the word welcome".

From Mérida, they received by: Álvaro del Solar, deputy provincial Movement, Miguel Ceron, the Ministry of Information and Tourism, Aureliano Benegas, our mayor, Pedro Pereira, the local pastor,



The Mayor, Aureliano in the Plaza of Spain , picking up the keys to the city of at the hands of Hernando de Soto.

Isidro Fernandez, justice of the peace, and Hilario Alvarez, head of school of secondary education. Mayors of neighboring towns attended the event. The crown of flowers to the statue of the conqueror from Barcarrota nineteenth century did not fail this time. Mrs. Davies was named "Queen of honor of the holiday Barcarrota 1969." Mr. Marley, representing the city of Bradenton, handed over the symbolic key to Mr. Benegas. Lunch in the country over a party with a bull fight, "filled with joy to the distinguished American visitors."

Other destinations of this trip were Salamanca, day 17th, and Seville, where the Municipal Corporation receives on the 18th as they had done two years earlier. Again Seville Municipal Guard in full uniform gave the reply to the color and pageantry of ancient costumes worn by Americans ("Foremost among visitors to the presence of a group of ten, dressed in the fashion of the time of the discovery, doublet, armor, helmet adorned with colorful feathers, ruff and high boots". ABC, May 21, 1969). Félix Moreno de la Cova, mayor of the capital of Andalusia, was named honorary citizen of the State of Florida, corresponding with many gifts and the formal invitation to come in the Columbus Room.



Official reception to the party in El Muelle.

DECADE OF THE SEVENTIES

The festival organized on the coast of Florida by March 1970 attended, representing the City of Barcarrota, the first deputy mayor José Pérez Larios. He tells the magazine show that had the opportunity to impose the band as "Queen of honor" of the festivities in Barcarrota the newly appointed Queen of De Soto Celebration, Melanie Woodland. And details the substantial gifts inherent reign: a car, clothing and two fellowships from various institutions, as well as traveling to places like Austin (Texas), Miami and Santo Domingo. He participated in various events to which he was invited, for example in the school to talk about Extremadura and Barcarrota, or the big parade mounted on a convertible. Pérez Larios came on the 13rd to the International Airport Sarasota-Bradenton and returned to Madrid on 23rd.

For this publication we know how the project of student exchange was continued. The Kiwanis Club of Bradenton, a powerful charity supporting children, wrote to the mayor from Barcarrota to endorse the talks in Florida land, so they tried to "the youth of his country and ours may have a better understanding each other, both in social as in education, and also see the differences in how people live there and in ours." A household is made available to the selected student to spend Barcarrota U.S. academic year.

The presence of commissioners that year the Spanish Government was nurtured: Juan Jose Cano, Consul General of Spain in New Orleans, Philip de la Morena, First Secretary at the Spanish Embassy in Washington, Maria Acebal, the national body of tourism in St. Augustine, and Joaquin Pujol, a member of the Spanish office in Miami. On the American side, personalities such as Florida Governor Claude Kirk, Senator Edward J. Gurney, Congressman James A. Haley, the mayor of Tampa, Richard Greco, and a representative of the National Park Service. Rafael De Soto also was present. As anecdote, the conqueror who played the role of Hernando de Soto was Jack Zoller, son who did in 1956, Bill Zoller.

In 1971 they attended the cultural week in honor of Hernando de Soto Francisco Sánchez Alonso, doctor and conciler, from Barcarrota councilor and his wife Teresa Mata Bernaldez. Shortly thereafter pay another visit to Spain our friends, the Conquerors of Bradenton. They

Arrived on May 4th to Madrid, where the Institute of Hispanic Culture entertains them and get the hand of its secretary-general, Juan Ignacio Ybarra Tena, Jose Perez del Arco, Antonio Gil Casares and Carlos Fernandez-Shaw, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the U.S. Embassy in Spain. After visiting El Escorial, Salamanca, Avila and Toledo, on day 9 are located in Barcelona, a city that include places like the Spanish Village of



Rafael Jaime Portela visiting the Kennedy Space Center. File: Rafael J. Portela Family.

Montjuic, the Gothic Quarter and the Cathedral, the Palace of the Virreina, City Hall and the Palace provincial, in addition to the mandatory walk along the Ramblas. Later they moved to other Spanish cities of singular beauty, such as Granada and Seville, for here, day 15th, reaching the traditional destination of Barcarrota.

According to the newspaper account regional HOY this date, the peculiarity of this visit of 1971 is that would be filmed with cameras by one of the partners in Bradenton, photographer Paul Bartley. The thirty visitors is led again by Dr. Sugg, the existing Hernando de Soto, Ed Eason, and John Atkinson, a municipal councilor representing the city of Florida. Mr and Mrs. Fernandez-Shaw, Tena Ybarra, the cultural attache at the U.S. Embassy, Mr. Edward, the American General Consul in Seville, Charles Carson, and a colonel of the Civil Guard, the mayor of Badajoz and neighboring towns and Francisco Pedraja Muñoz, representing the County Council are also present. The Knights are received, as determined by custom, In Jose Antonio Park. It is tributed the award-winning homage to Hernanado de Soto in the Plaza of España. The noble



José Contador Carvajal and Rafael Jaime Portela after the character who represents the priest. File José Contador Carvajal.

hall of the City Council received the words of greeting in both representations, while the food offered by the County Council and our consistory, was served in the adjoining Circle Fraternity.

In the afternoon, as a great innovation, we proceeded to the inauguration of a monument or monolith, the site was previously the mainstay of the rake, which would include "allegories of Hernando de



The American accompanied by many. File José Contador Carvajal.

Soto, discoverer of Bradenton (Florida) and reference to the creation dates of these ties and coming to this town of Conquerors from Bradenton in different years, "as approved by the plenary of Barcarrota March 2nd. The local priest, Pedro Pereira, blessed the monument, while Hilario Álvarez was "the offering of it with a wise touching words that were much applauded."

A festival night, with Miss Cathy Schaub proclamation "Queen of honor of the 1971 Barcarrota's festival " culminated the day's emotions, enlivened by song and dance of the Women's Section, the lower school rondalla "John XXIII" from Badajoz and local artists José Miguel, the Sonics and Manuel Vega. The next morning, the Americans were able to continue enjoying the customs Extremadura with the celebration of the traditional festival of San Isidro in the farm community "Campo Gallegos." Day 17th, Monday, they went to Mérida, while on the 18 finishes this fifth visit to Lisbon, from where they take the flight back.

The abovementioned Cathy Schaub sent a letter in August from , which is full of praise for the reception that was dispensed neighbors and authorities. Serve as a token of appreciation a paragraph of text published in the September fair, "I felt loved and loved them. His welcoming me and the Conquerors from Bradenton, was bigger than my highest excitement. No other city in Spain or America, we had once so beautiful and meaningful welcome. You unwrapped the red carpet and we were treated like true royalty. "Corresponding to the kindness of Extremadura and response protocol, the mayor of Bradenton, T. B. Arbukle called Barcarrota Boulevard to one of the main avenues of the town that year.

Soon after, in 1972, we proceed to open in an equestrian statue of Spanish conquistador, the work of Enrique Perez Comendador This great sculptor Extremadura (Hervas, Caceres, 1900-Madrid, 1981) had already carved another statue of Hernando de Soto, on foot, which was exhibited at the Spanish Pavilion at the New York World's Fair of 1965 and was later part of the Holy Eucharist Monument, a sculpture installed in the national park De Soto Manatee County, in time, the statue was completed in the South Florida Museum, Bradenton, a replica of which is in the Museum of Pérez Comendador-Leroux in Hervás.

Well, in 1969 an American philanthropist, Elizabeth Eaton, commissioned a new sculpture of Hernando de Soto to Comendador ,

author of the famous statues on horse also to Francisco Pizarro in Lima (Peru) and Trujillo. On March 18th, 1972, during the spring festival in honor of the landing of the expedition of Hernando de Soto, was inaugurated in the presence of the author, this equestrian sculpture in the Plaza of Spain's Museum of South Florida (Sarasota Herald Tribune , March 7th, 1972, and ABC, March 16th, 1972). This mold will serve for another identical bronze statue to be placed in the city of Badajoz and inaugurated on the occasion of the visit of the Conquerors of in 1981, as discussed below.

The following year, as we reported the Sarasota Herald Tribune same newspaper on March 17th, had established the presence of Spanish representatives at the De Soto Celebration of Bradenton. Thus, Spain's ambassador to the United States, Angel Segaz, Fernando Rodriguez Ayuso, director, and Luis Casanova, cultural attache, in addition to the Consul General in Miami, Vicente Ramirez Montesinos. From Barcarrota, our council sent Consuelo Haut Pérez, queen of the festivities of September 1972, which was accompanied by her father



Protocolary reception to José Larios Perez . File: José Larios family.

Maximiliano Haut García. This latest news is gathered in the traditional book fair, a text and photographs called Bradenton and Barcarrota. There are also aware that the student Jose Ignacio Larios Lopez was invited by a member of the De Soto Historical Society James H. Wilder "to spend a year at his home in , Florida, the main purpose of learning the language." We see the opposite page, photographed Gene Cloud as Hernando de Soto and the Queen of De Soto Celebration of that year, Beverly Blessing.

The young José Ignacio Larios told the experience in the diary TODAY. He had been ten months in , the whole course that is graded by the Manatee High School, it is validated to COU Spanish curriculum. Remember being in other states besides Florida, like Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. It also highlights his visits to Miami, Disney World and Cape Kennedy. Return marked by brotherhood and love to sit there for the Hispanic and for Barcarrota and by the difference of material used in U.S. public schools with regard to Spanish then. He used the trip to study fine arts courses and Italian and get a driving license.

The effervescence in the development of relations with North America, about the figure of Hernando de Soto, has a new manifestation in the same 1973 when the City Council of Barcarrota establishes other friendship agreement with the town of Hot Springs, in the state of Arkansas. For this place, called by the Indians Valley of the Vapors because of the thermal properties of its springs, passes the Soto expedition in September 1541 it will be the first European to discover the area and spend more than one hundred years until the French colonize the territory. But the environmental importance of the area is such that the first nature reserve was declared by the U.S. Congress in 1832, even before Yellowstone Park.

Well, on May 30th is an exchange of scrolls or proclamations that formalizes the relationship. A businessman well connected with North America, Robert Saenger, was commissioned by the City to deliver the mayor of Hot Springs, Thomas Ellworth, the document signed by Aureliano Benegas congratulating "that city, state and nation by the way have made it possible to enjoy all the benefits of the sources discovered by Hernando de Soto. "For his part, Mr. Ellworth thanked to Barcarrota gesture and claimed he was going to stage a musical historical drama in Hot Springs commemorating the passage of the Spanish conquerors in



Honors in the Plaza of Spain. File: Jose Larios family.

those lands, with date of July 4th, 1976, in which would mark the second centenary of the founding of the United States. At its conclusion and formally invited to the mayor of Barcarrota .

Aureliano Benegas himself, with his wife Dolores Gonzalez Capote, were again the representatives of our community in the festive week of March 1974 in Manatee County. They were received with honors as traditional at Sarasota-Bradenton airport, after passing through Madrid, New York and Tampa, they were received by all uniformed members of the Hernando de Soto Gene Cloud, Beverly Blessing Queen, Princess Debbie Edwards and top leaders of the historical Society, Ed and Fred Plum Kercher. A new graphic document, inserted in the magazine in Barcarrota fair that year, shows us a couple of visitors along the said Jose Ignacio Larios, who actually stayed in the sister city during the 1973-1974 academic year developing their studies at a official, says the foot of photo, leaving "our flag very high. "The mayor from Barcarrota attended all the events and, particularly, known as the Governor's luncheon, official ceremony attended by the highest authority of the State

of Florida. At the same there was a religious offering, by the Rev. Fred T. Episcopalian Kyle Jr., and followed the interventions of the Historical Society president, Edward J. Kercher, O'Donovan and Governor Reubin Askew (one of the most reputable American politicians of his time).

The sixth arrival of the conquerors occurred in September 1974. The day 17 were received in our town, from Trujillo, thirty members of society and other attendants, with Mr. Miller as Hernando de Soto and Dea Carney as Queen of the expedition. Americans also came with the sculptor Enrique Perez Comendador and his wife, Magdalena Leroux, who served as hosts in Spain to this group. Aureliano Benegas Benegas together with Francisco Pedraja on behalf of the Provincial Council of Badajoz, given the traditional welcome, once made the floral offering to the Adelantado of Florida located in the Plaza of España After lunch at the casino we proceeded to find the plate. inserted into the monolith.



Inauguration of Monolith. On the right, José Larios, with the mayor Aureliano Vinagre.
File: José Larios family.

leaving for posterity the date of this return visit. The choruses and dances of the Feminine Section of Badajoz, near the juvenile serenader Rebaño de María returned to liven up the evening party.

After a couple of days in Merida, the expedition of 1974 arrived again in Seville, where they were received by the Mayor, Mr. Fernandez Rodriguez. He was named honorary member of the Hernando de Soto Historical Society of Bradenton.

In March 1975 traveled to Bradenton the third exchange student, José Fernando Rodríguez Vista. He was 16 year old from Free College Adopted "Virgen del Soterraño" he will be hosted by Manson. Among the various activities planned for his visit, the St. Petersburg Times, March 8th highlights the opportunity to see Magic Kingdom, the first theme park of Disney World complex which had opened in the city of Orlando in 1971. It's something that stands out on the HOY newspaper interview that he did on his return, in addition to navigating the Gulf of Mexico, visiting the centers of the U.S. education system and participation in the parade and other events of the festival in honor of Hernando de Soto. On the other hand, there is a return visit of the Conquistadors. That year did not correspond, but the Knights of Bradenton have been invited to the Harvest Festival Jerez de la Frontera, to be held between 10th and 14th September, and day 7th pledged to go through the population sister. As stated in his letter to the Barcarrota consistory, "we could not be so close to Barcarrota and do at least a little visit, though not official ..."



A reception in the Hall of the City of Conquerors. File: José Contador Carvajal.

On February 1st, 1976, shortly after the death of Francisco Franco, takes over as new mayor Manuel Pérez Ríos. In the book fair that year reproduced the letter of congratulation to the new mayor that Hernando de Soto Historical Society addressed the City Council of Extremadura. It's another example of the intense relationships of the time

between the two shores of the ocean. The new president of the Conquerors, Herman M. Searcy, welcomes the appointment and hopes that "our contact with you is so important in the future as it has in the past." Incidentally, also reported in the annual publication of the efforts undertaken by the municipality to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which have resulted in giving to our beloved Conquerors of Bradenton of the award called collective Tie Order of Isabel the Catholic, for the love shown to the Hispanic and the promotion of US-Spain relations.

In a further letter sent on July 22nd of 1977, Jesse Davies, the new chairman of the Society in Bradenton, thanked the municipal corporation of Barcarrota those efforts that resulted in the award given by the Spanish Government. At once, Cyrus Vance, U.S. Secretary of State at the Presidency of Jimmy Carter, sent a telegram of congratulations for the work of the Society with the people of Spain, which gave him "the greatest importance for peace and international understanding. "On the other hand, they communicate the new visit is preparing for 1978 and the invitation "to a neighbor of to visit us," said representative to be specified. Indeed, in November were in our town a Bradenton partner Bill Koehn and an American architect, in order to know the field that is traditionally considered the birthplace of Hernando de Soto, and thus achieve the goal of reproducing, as accurately as possible, the environment and inside the replica that would take his place at the Museum of Southern Florida. A large painting of the Virgin of Soterraño, painted by local artist Modesto Piriz Garcia, an ethnographic collection typically of Extremadura and even playing the steeple of our church of Santiago Apostol complete the set dedicated to Barcarrota .

In January 1978 Manuel Pérez Ríos left the hall in the hands of Julio Murillo González . A few days later the new mayor will attend the annual festival in honor of the landing of Hernando de Soto in Manatee County. The generosity of the conquerors, as always, was reflected in a substantial donation of \$ 888 (sixty thousand pesetas at the time) to the municipal coffers of Barcarrota. The new release of Return starring the impeccable conquerors to the Old World took shape from October 10, with the four-day stay in Madrid. On day 15 would be in , knowing then places like Salamanca, northern Spain, following journey to France and Germany.

In 1979, ending the decade, were Santiago Laserna Bravo (justice of the peace) and his wife, Amparo Sanz Cave, who represented



Jose Ignacio Larios López, near the statue in Bradenton. Hernando de Soto, conducted by Enrique Perez Comendador (06/02/1981). File: José Larios family.

our town in the annual festival of Bradenton. Count the Sarasota Herald Tribune of April 11st that visitors from Barcarrota would be accompanied by the cultural member of the Spanish Embassy in Washington, Agustin Cano, John and Maria de Soto, and a great specialist in the history of Spain and the United States, the intellectual exile Javier Malagon.



Julio Murillo González and Maria Dolores Larios Marín players in a parade through the streets of Bradenton. File: Julio Murillo González.



Julio Murillo González picking a gift from the hands of members of the Company. File: Julio Murillo González.

DECADES OF EIGHTY - NINETY

In 1980 attended to Bradenton Francisca Sosa Montero, the first mayor who has had, accompanied by her husband, Manuel Sánchez Rodríguez, for the spring festival of 1981 De Soto City Council sent back to José Larios Pérez (along with Concepción López García-Adame, his wife), representative a decade earlier. But the highlight of that year is the return of the Conquistadors to Extremadura in early June. On day 3 the members of the Hernando de Soto Historical Society, dressed in their colorful robes, came to and were received by the corporation chaired by Francisca Sosa. Made up the head of the party Leyman Bott , Bud Moore as Hernando de Soto, Queen Teresa Byrd, seconded by Princess Ana María Jiménez. The County Council was present at the figure of the President, Luciano Pérez de Acevedo , and attended a young Juan Carlos Rodríguez Ibarra on behalf of parliamentarians, not yet President of Regional Government of Extremadura.

In addition, on day 2nd had concluded a number of acts of welcome in the capital of the province, Badajoz. In the cathedral there was a solemn meeting of the Royal Academy of Letters Extremadura and the Arts, in which he read to the diplomat, scholar and Peruvian historian Guillermo Lohman Villena a speech entitled "Extremadura and work in America". Later there was a reception in the city of Badajoz by its mayor, Luis Movilla, in the presence of civil and military governors, the Duke of Badajoz and other personalities.

A seven-thirty in the afternoon proceeded to inaugurate a statue of De Soto Avenue in General Varela, today avenue of Huelva, Badajoz city. It was a replica of the sculpture Enrique Pérez Comendador , who died this year. It had been paid for the Provincial Council of Badajoz, whose president was Luciano Perez de Acevedo. Over time, the monument of Hernando de Soto on horseback was relocated to the square of the Alfereces Provisionales and, finally, in Tomas Romero de Castilla. To round off the day, a big military parade of more than three thousand troops, under the watchful eye of the Minister of Defence, Alberto Oliart, was offered by the armed forces present in our land: the Castilla regiment nº.16 of infantry, Air Force crews from their base in Talavera la Real, Guardia Civil and National Police.



Aureliano Benegas Vinagre on his second voyage, and his wife, Dolores Capote Gonzalez. File: Family Aureliano B. Vinagre

In 1982 was appointed commissioner of the City of Barcarrota, for De Soto Celebration, José Guerra Sánchez, then councilor of the corporation. And in 1983, by invitation, Julio Murillo González and Maria Dolores Larios Marín. This year also sees the tenth official visit of the Knights of Bradenton. It took place on 8th, 9th and 10th of September. The first of these were received in the square of the monolith commemorating the exchanges between the two populations. On 9th accounted for the reception in the City Council of Barcarrota, chaired by the Mayor Francisca Sosa, the Minister of Education and Culture of the Junta de Extremadura (regional agency who had begun his career that year), the Civil Governor of the province and the rector of the University of Extremadura, Guillermo Rodríguez-Izquierdo. The food of twinning was the solemn nature of previous occasions and convivial. Visitors marched the next day, September 10th, headed for Madrid.

The councilman of Culture, Sport and Education, Feliciano Guisado Vaquerizo was the person entrusted by the municipal corpora-



Protocolary reception to Jose Fernando Rodriguez Vista Vista. File: Jose F. Rodriguez Vista.



José Fernando Rodríguez Vista picking up the keys to the city of Bradenton.
File: José F. Rodríguez Vista.

tion to represent Barcarrota in 1984. Accompanied by his wife, Mari Carmen Sánchez Montero, they remained fifteen days of April in the United States. His impressions, collected in the book fair this year are a reflection of the opinion that kept both sides of the partnership.

Among other things, highlights the warmth of his American hosts, the fidelity of the Hernando de Soto Historical Society to the people of (compared to the claim to the true birthplace of the Conqueror, raised by Jerez de los Caballeros), a finding "His sense of punctuality and order in everything they do," and the anticipation of further strengthening trade and friendship to the nearly twenty years of its establishment. There is an explicit memory for the two creators of this reality, now deceased, William Daniel Suggs and Aureliano Benegas Vinagre, through a plate intended to monolith.

Is 1985 the International Year of Youth, proclaimed as the United Nations Organization. Therefore, the elected representative to travel to Bradenton in the annals of spring it will be the youngest councilor, Manuel Flores. And in 1987 are invited to the festivities, which will take place between 3rd and April 11th, Councilman Joaquín Mangas Guisado (who says "very proud and extremely responsible" of the mission) and his wife, Petra García Luengo.

On the 6th and 7th of September 1987, on the other hand, turned back the Conquerors of Bradenton. Marked the twentieth anniversary of the friendship between the two locations (José Larios Pérez, one of its



A picturesque image of the first visits by Americans to Barcarrota.

main protagonists, writes about the "Silver Jubilee of friendship" in the magazine show). The tour includes the Old World places like Merida, Sevilla, Algeciras, Tanger, Córdoba, Granada, Madrid, Ávila, Segovia, El Escorial and Toledo. As always, the details and attention were numerous missed nothing, not even his attendance at the traditional run of bulls.

On Sunday 6th they were received beside the monolith to uncover plates tribute to the men who started the friendship, Benegas and Suggs. Then the traditional wreath to the conqueror in the Plaza of España, an honor that went to the mayor Francisca Sosa and Hernando de Soto. Incidentally, the newspaper reports highlight of this visit the friendliness and spontaneity with which the conquerors were mixed with the locals, and the day on day 7th was used to cultivate those relationships, and the launch of aluminum coins that the Historical Society Hernando de Soto has manufactured to commemorate his Spanish heritage festival, at least since 1974.

In the same year published in the Tribune newspaper El Pais (1-10-1987) an article by Ernesto Giménez Caballero, intellectual veteran Spanish, about a trip to the Kings of Spain by American lands miss that presence in Florida, and to strengthen their argument does not hesitate to recall the time he lived on 2nd of June 1981 and Badajoz, when it opened the equestrian statue of Hernando de Soto and felt so much emotion while considering "what the world needs Extremadura "with names like Soto, Balboa, Orellana, Cortes, Pizarro, Valdivia or Mencia Calderon.

The year 1988 is the councilor Juan Antonio Sosa Vaquerizo , along with Ascension Sosa Jaime , who attends the De Soto Pageant. In 1989, superseded the silver anniversary of the friendship between the two populations, up to five people attended Bradenton. On the one hand, high school students Julio Jorge Murillo Larios and Montaña Padilla Falcón who remained between October 88 and July the following year. Hosted at home of Leyman Bott, like other visitors years ago, his experience was a continual joy, that summarized in these words: "So many memories, unforgettable moments, unique experiences and so many wonderful people friends." The magazine fair also comment on the American parties lived in Florida, such as Thanksgiving Day, Halloween, Christmas with Santa Claus and no Kings and Soto Celebration, which came that year the ship of the Spanish Army "Juan Sebastian Elcano".

On behalf of the City of Barcarrota spring festival went to Councilman Francisco Flores Sánchez, accompanied by his wife Heliadora Martin. As commemorating the 450th anniversary of the landing and 50 since he began to remember in Bradenton. The couple stayed there from 11th to 24th of April, and to them was equally memorable. Stresses the mayor (Journal of Extremadura, 11/04/1989) that, as the cultural and historical so careful, we should deepen economic ties to both places and to attract capital investment U.S. companies in sustaining agricultural and livestock sector and other industries.

Ana Maria Torrado Gonzalez was also in Bradenton, she was 18 year old that summer she invited other girl her age, Brook Shaffer. The occasion was through the efforts of those who had been studying English for that course, Julio Murillo González, Anna Maria, Bradenton Herald account as of August 15th, took the rich impressions to know the July 4th holiday, Disney World, the South Florida Museum, Planetarium, the new Museum and the De Soto National Park in addition to the traditional recipe of apple pie.

Already in 1990 who are fortunate enough to be representing the City and village are the Councilman Jose Antonio Hernandez Trejo and his wife, Isabel Triguero Martínez . The late Jose Antonio made in the annual fair review a plea of the birth of Hernando de Soto in , compared to the widespread view that outside Jerez de los Caballeros his crib. Defend the manifesto called "Hernando de Soto, a crossroads of cultures" that the corporation used to receive the July 14th researchers from the Universities of Extremadura and Alabama, led by their



The Mayor, Francisca Sosa Montero, accompanying Hernando de Soto.

rectors, meeting in Barcarrota to hold an academic celebration on the historic figure of Hernando de Soto Florida.

The show traces the path of city twinning with Bradenton and comment on key current affairs, who are citizens Danny Roger Bott, a boy of eight years, and the said Brook Shaffer, youth exchange as Ana Maria did last summer , Ana M^a, Julio Jorge and Montaña Padilla act as interpreter at the event.

As 1991 was the councilor Maria Teresa Gil Guerra who was in Bradenton for the splendor of the celebration of De Soto in April. The day of San Isidro (15th of May) on the other hand, they met again in specialists in the history of the New World, its discovery and colonization, by the way the International Congress "Hernando de Soto and his time". Papers and communications coming from the universities of Lima, Alabama, Arkansas, Carolina, New Mexico, Louisiana, Salamanca, Cordoba and Extremadura were around the world of Spanish conquerors and adventurers of the mid-sixteenth century, paying particular attention to the Hernando de Soto ambitious expedition Academic citation in Caceres and Guadalupe continued the following days. Sponsorship of the Junta de Extremadura through his office Enclave 92, came to endorse the hard work of the people of in defense of their Americanism. The proceedings were published in 1993.

Then came the long awaited year 1992, fifth centenary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus's expedition, on behalf of the Crown of Castile. Councilman Adelardo Contador-Carvajal accompanied by his wife, Isabel Torres Vazquez- represented in the spring festival of Bradenton. In addition, between 20th of April and 12th of October were developed many activities of the Universal Exposition in Seville, cultural focus of the first order who participated in the twinning between Barcarrota and Bradenton. Thus, in late April was in the pocket of Extremadura flag a lecture by Jose Antonio Hernandez Trejo, with the title of "Hernando de Soto and the conquerors of Bradenton," abounded in the tender friendship between populations as well as the proud figure of Governor of Florida.

In September showed up the Knights of Bradenton, according to his habit of arriving in Spain with the dress of the Spanish colonists of the sixteenth century. The day 12th were received by the Mayor of Badajoz, Gabriel Montesinos, who accompanied the equestrian monument then in the square of the Alferoces Provisionales. Already , day 13th, was held

this eleventh year called "American Day", coinciding with the thirty years of friendship intercontinental and 450 the death of the Hernando de Soto It started with the welcome offered by the band of bugles and drums of Vera Cruz, and continued with a stop at the usual places of honor of twinning: monolith, where the plate is found for the visit this year and Plaza of España, where a drain culminated the festivities of Santa Maria del Soterraño; House of Culture Altozano square, is discovered in a ceramic



First visits.

mural alluding to 1992, birthplace, according to tradition, of Hernando de Soto and Club pensioners, to have a deference to the senior .

After lunch, the Commissioners of Bradenton had a meeting with businessmen in the region, led by the Director General of Industry of the Government of Extremadura. In the words of Mayor , Julio Murillo González named in his capacity as representative of the people "honorary citizen and ambassador of goodwill in Bradenton," that would serve "to promote trade relations and to introduce products from Extremadura in Florida." At night was the turn of the music, because everyone could enjoy the participation of local bands coming from Don Benito, Jerez de los Caballeros and own, the Coral Barcarroteña, the South American group "Huincas" and the set of flamenco dancing "Güito".

Members of the Hernando de Soto Historical Society completed their eleventh trip to Barcarrota and Spain with the visit on 14th of September at Expo '92 in Seville. There were present in the Pavilion of Extremadura, Extremadura office invited by the '92 Enclave, and the

United States. Their colorful costumes, from another time did not leave indifferent to site visitors that day.

Under the new phase of relations between the two sides of the Atlantic is part of the visit turned Mayor, Julio Murillo González and his wife Maria Larios Marin in 1993, from 15th to 27th of April, accompanied by a industrial group. The businessman Bartolome Gil Santacruz led this representation, and Ildelfonso Rufino Munoz, Agustín Sánchez Albarran, Adelardo Contador Carvajal Carvajal and Agustín Holguera were the pioneers in this type of contacts. Although it was expected that the Minister of Industry and Tourism, Maria Emilia Manzano, also would shift Florida, scheduling conflicts prevented it. Visitors to the Celebration of 1993 De Soto gave a plaque to the Conquerors of Bradenton offered by Artistic Ceramic, one of the companies that attended the event.

De Soto Crews Begins Activity

By Staff Correspondent
David Scott Miller
(Special Photo, Day, Page 2-3)

A busy weekend has passed for followers of the De Soto celebration.

Gene Cloud performs his final act as Bernardo de Soto at 1:30 p.m. today in leading his Crews in a symbolic re-enactment of De Soto's departure from Spain.

The crew who will lead the Conquistadores through the town of the De Soto Celebration will be presented in Conquistador and Spanish outfits at the 7:30 p.m. ballroom events at 11:30 p.m.

The only hint to the new De Soto's identity to arrive in their headquarters on the 1st of the crew who will lead the Crews since Sunday is a Conquistador.

The public will get its first view of Cloud's successor at the commencement of the De Soto landing away at 1:30 p.m. at the Boca Grande. Members of the crew of the Marquis de Soto on 10th Street West.

The Crews will attempt to give an historical representation on the scene during the landing, but unfortunately, after hours, weather conditions also caused hindrance to the program. The weather was also unfavorable.

The activities, and Gene Cloud present out of his landing and his successor. Some members of the crew had to be taken to the hospital. Luckily, he managed to return to his home and keep from falling.

As other parts of the crew started to proceed to the King De Soto has jumped up and ran off rather than be "killed" in the water. Also, the Crews can usually be counted on to minimize some problems on the water before reaching shore.

Members will feature a series of major events highlighted by the appearance of Gen. Martín Alamo and most of his children at the Boca Grande's location in Manatee, Florida.

Cloud is planning to return to attend the business on Boca Grande, Thomas O'Malley and Christopher Ford. Tickets are available at the Boca Grande.

Gen. Alamo will be present for the ceremony honoring Martin Alamo's 100th birthday and the 1994 anniversary. William Alamo, Gen. Alamo's son, will be present at the Boca Grande. The ceremony will be held at 2:30 p.m. at the Boca Grande. The ceremony will be held at 2:30 p.m. at the Boca Grande.

At 4 p.m., Conquistadores will make a surprise visit in an effort to capture the Conquistador and enemy officials. If you miss the city individually, the De Soto's people should come on board for the Mad-Glory Crews members.

Last year's Manager of the De Soto Celebration and newly inaugurated make a few cutting remarks at each other, but the De Soto's officials for a department with more than 100 years with the celebration is expected, it could join in the defense of the celebration, or at least observe the approach of the celebration.

Also included in full is Gene Cloud's Shopping Center, which will come under attack at 6:30 p.m. on 1st and 2nd after the annual board opening contest at the shopping center.

Activities of Events

1:30 p.m. Landing Ceremony, All Crews
1:30 p.m. Flower Show, Fideicomiso Women's Club
1:30 p.m. Tennis Tournament, Bradenton City Athletic Club
1:30 p.m. Mad-Glory Crews, De Soto Celebration
1:30 p.m. Departure Plaza, De Soto Celebration
1:30 p.m. De Soto Ball, De Soto Celebration

7:30 p.m. Dinner, Bradenton, Bradenton City Athletic Club
11:30 p.m. Ballroom, Bradenton, Bradenton City Athletic Club

1993 De Soto Celebration, Bradenton, Bradenton City Athletic Club



There's More Than One Way To Empty Eject
De Soto's Crews Member Demonstrates After Foreign Into Pool



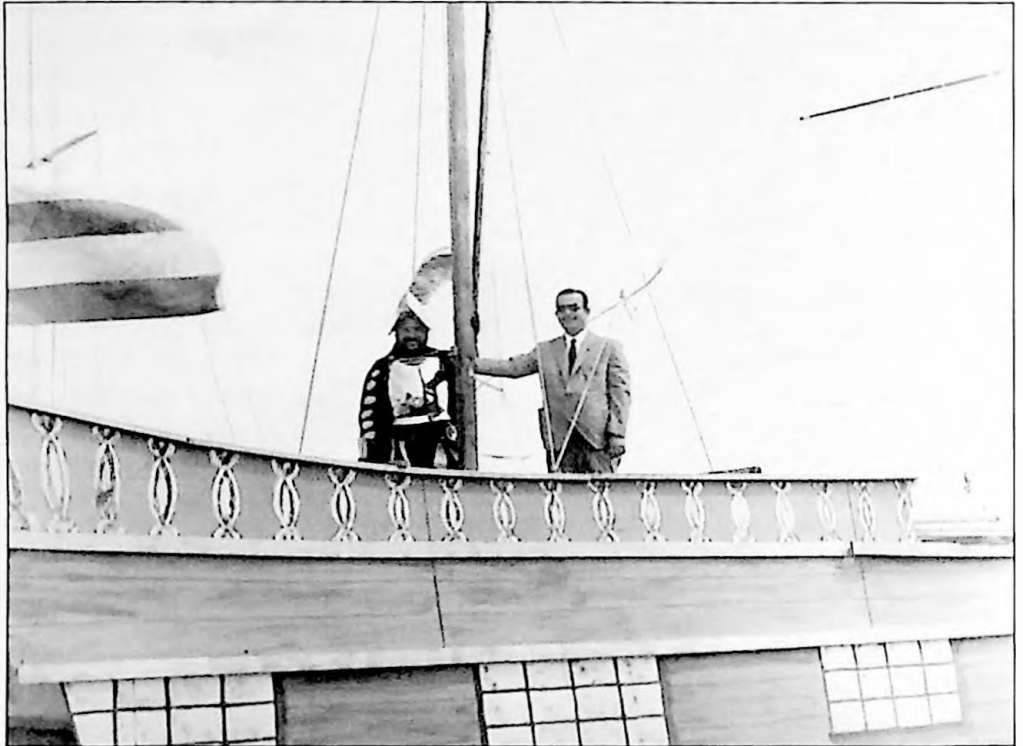
De Soto (Gene Cloud) Opens Flower Show
Mayor Announces Reception Activities, Includes Presentation, Eddie Jones, Bradenton Mayor, De Soto Celebration, Bradenton City Athletic Club

In January 4th, 1994, on the other hand, remained in lands of Barcarrota Rebecca Allen, who was queen of the Celebration of 1992 and it was already when the annals of the Quincentennial in Spain. Her stay would last the entire academic year remaining until June, in her capacity as a degree in English from the University of Orlando Becky was as a reader English in schools in : primary schools

The Bradenton Herald. Thursday, (16/3/1974).

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"Hernando de Soto" and "Santiago Apóstol" and secondary "Virgen del Soterraño." In a plenary session of the City Council on February 10th, also took the decision to appoint Adoptive Daughter of posthumously to Anna Bott for his contribution to the brotherhood between citizens of both localities. An association of friends of Bradenton was brewing bear her name. How to get ensure transcribed in the minutes of the plenary, "her home in American was a museum of Barcarrota."



Aureliano Benegas in one of his trips to Bradenton. File: Family Aureliano Benegas

And in 1994 who appeared in the spring festival of Hispanic heritage in Manatee County was the councilor José Guerra Sánchez , accompanied by his wife, Andrea Costillo. It was again proud to exercise this mandate, it states that "look out the front window and see the church (in reference to the reproduction of the facade of the church of Santiago Apostol they have there) was like being at home." It was the second time he came on behalf of the City and village , after the occasion 1982. In April 1995, on the other hand, a new councilor was commissioned: Agustín Lozano Mateos, who along with María Pilar Seller Hernandez participated in the acts of the De Soto Celebration that year.

Between 11th and 27th of April 1996 were the Councilman Enrique Garcia Diaz and his partner Marina Rubio who represented in the annual celebration of Bradenton. And 1997 is the new mayor Santiago Cuadrado who visited the U.S. city from April 17th on the occasion of Florida Heritage Festival, accompanied by two high school students : Yolanda Trigo Garrido and Maria Sánchez Torrado. Initiated facsimile publication Library (remember, all literature of the sixteenth century found by chance in a home in Barcarrota) by the Regional Editor the Extremadura, the mayor took it as a gift two copies, the first titles whose exact reproduction began the collection: Lazarillo de Tormes and La Oración de la Emparedada. The girls selected in a letter published in the September Fair magazine, highlighted the "unexpected journey" the shine of the races, the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico, the Ringling Museum, the amusement park Busch Gardens and how American youth interact at parties ("dinner jacket boys and girls with flowers over her wrist") and institutes secondary education.

In the same annual publication is inserted "De Soto family treasure rediscovered in the 90" signature John J. DeSoto. It tells the story of his father, a renowned illustrator who had attended many years of Celebration as a descendant of the discoverer of the Mississippi. Rafael DeSoto (d. 1994) had drawn the cover of a successful novel published in 1958, The golden eagle: Hernando de Soto A Florida congressman and member of the Historical Society, Walter Hardin, became interested in this issue and encouraged the artist to find the documents certifying the royal lineage of the conqueror. A family manuscript carrying a shield was authenticated by the Spanish Heraldry Society. Apostille the offspring that since then, membership in that proud tradition his family and that "the true essence of DeSoto is the treasure and blessing" of it.

In 1998 the Councilman appointed to represent Barcarrota was Alfonso Macias Gata he was accompanied by Fatima Andrade Chacón. This is the year when a new visit of the Spanish conquerors to land, the first since 1992. Again the classic journey of more than fifteen days, with variegated journey through different parts of Spain and stop in Lisbon. It was Sept. 22rd when the 26 travelers arrived to Barcarrota. Special guest John de Soto arrived, excited to return to the land where their ancestors had left. The official reception took place at the Culture House. Other places of interest in that first day were the castle, within which our



Jose Antonio Hernández Trejo and Isabel Martínez Triguero walk Barcarota Avenue in Bradenton. File: Jose A. Hernández Trejo Family .



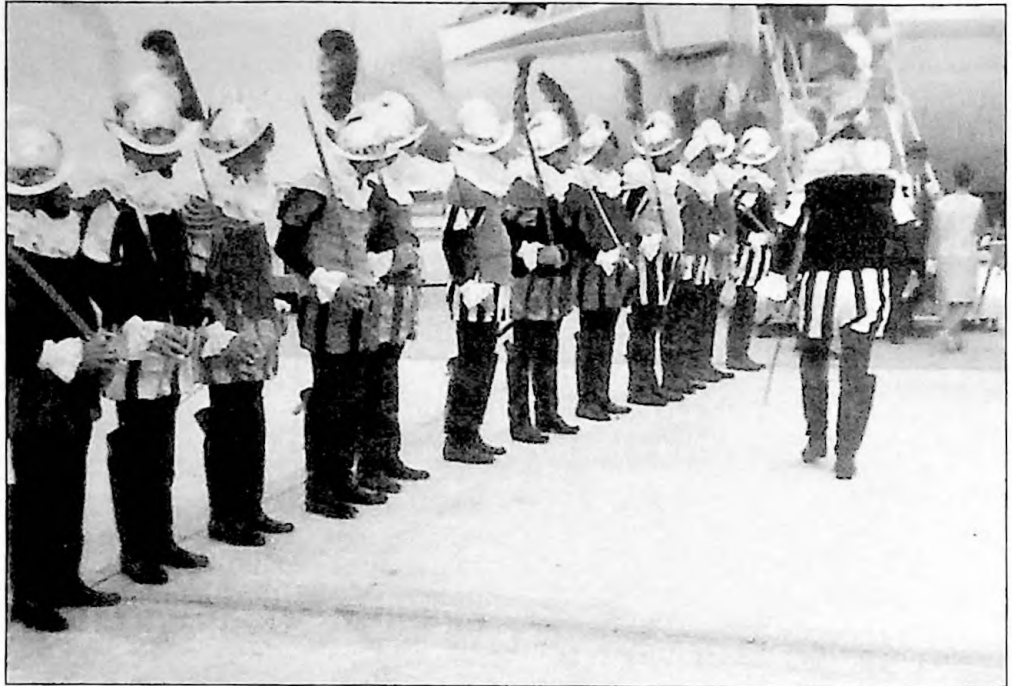
José Antonio Hernández Trejo and Ms. Isabel Martínez Triguero, in Bradenton. File: Jose A. Hernández Trejo Family .

illustrious figure sits bullring, the two Barcarrota parishes, Santiago Apostol and Santa María Virgen del Soterraño, and megalithic dolmens of the municipality.

As it consider one of the hosts, Ana Maria Torrado (municipal magazine *The Jacho*, n. # 18, October 1998), the second day highlighted by the approach of the Americans to the children of Public School "Hernando de Soto". That day continued in Badajoz, when the president of the Diputacion, Eduardo de Orduna, welcomed them at the Provincial Palace. A guided tour of the Museum of Fine Arts, with special attention to the sculptures of Enrique Perez Comendador was the prelude to dinner enlivened by the flamenco "Güito". Ana Maria Torrado remarks, on the same page, the presence of John de Soto, which corroborates the data as noted above. The visitor promises to return to Barcarrota with their children and thus to draw the scenarios that are home to Hernando de Soto, "that figure so significant that it has meant the union of my family with humility and friendliness of the people of this village".



The Mayor, Francisca Sosa Montero, along with the character of Hernando de Soto flanked by the queen from Bradenton and Barcarrota.



Training prepared to welcome the arrival of a visitor from Barcarrota.



The community has always managed to entertain the who have traveled there, this time offering to José Fernando Rodríguez conducting a helicopter tour. File: José Fernando Rodríguez Vista.

A FRIENDSHIP FOR THE XXI CENTURY

By 2000, in Barcarrota set up a committee to celebrate the V Centenary of the birth of Hernando de Soto, on the birth date of one of the most likely in the arc given by historians between 1495 and 1500. Naturally, one of the first actions of the City Commission is to remember the fellowship with Bradenton and the start of it in 1962, which will be organized a photo exhibition in April of that primal visit of Conquerors The Jacho number 34 of February of that year, Aureliano Benegas honors from the words of his widow, Dolores Gonzalez Capote, who recalls the names of the first visitors as President Talley, Mayor Sterling Hall, Dr. Suggs, Manson, the Hood, etc.. In his memory is "the traditional courtesy of the Spanish people, their unmistakable stamp of nobility."

Matches at this time the stay in town of other Americans, from the city of DeSoto, Dallas County, Texas; nurtured a group vocal-music that fused gospel and spiritual with the traditional black American music, country & western . In command of the expedition, belonging to a religious denomination called the Southwest Baptist Church, came the mayor of this town Texas, Richard Rozier. After a colorful trip through Extremadura and a busy day of events Barcarrota on March 16th, joining the illustrious strangers, was held in the evening a concert in Jerez de los Caballeros, to signify the good relationship between the towns that have traditionally played the cradle of Hernando de Soto.

The presence of Barcarrota in 61 Florida Heritage Festival was comprised of Councilman Francisco Luis Nunez Blanco and the young Monica Perez Cardoso. His testimony at the 2000 fair book tells of a stay (from 19th April to 2th May), as always, happy and welcoming. Gratitude focuses on members of the Society as Jose Jimenez-our-host, Bob and Edna Miller and Emilio Morales. The published text emphasizes: that made them welcome at the airport twenty Pathfinder with his attire, the children's parade, galas choice of Queen and Hernando de Soto, visits to Bradenton, Sarasota, Disney World in Orlando, yacht the Gulf of Mexico, the National Park De Soto, offices or "headquarters" of the Society etc..

Another of the actions under this centennial celebration is a restoration that was undertaken of the sculpture located in the Plaza de España, dating from no less than 1866. It was erected by public subscrip-

tion, but much had to do the initiative of the then mayor, Joaquin Portella Vargas , and the great man from Barcarrota (senator, academic, writer and landowner) of the nineteenth century, Luis Villanueva and Canedo. The restoration work was carried out by Dolores Suarez Figueroa, who took "a deep cleansing of the whole figure, a careful restoration of some elements that had suffered more erosion and the passage of time (sword hilt, left shoulder, fingers hands, etc..) and applying to the entire surface of a resin which avoids or at least retard the effects of erosion ".

Similarly held the reissue of the work "Hernando de Soto: Biographical Study," originally published by the said Luis Villanueva in 1892. It took the second edition, 1929, to produce this facsimile with introductory study of Antonio Eliseo Torrado Visedo, Barcarrota Official Chronicler. Badajoz Provincial Council was responsible for publishing it. This institution also financed the phonographic edition of secular music of the time of Hernando de Soto, played by musicians Classic instrumental group-6.

But the act that put the icing in so important year was the inauguration on December 29, the equestrian monument by Luis Martínez Giraldo, relevant Barcarrota sculptor born in Extremadura, was erected next to the monolith that contains the brotherhood of the two populations. Paid by government (Junta de Extremadura, Badajoz Provincial Council and City of Barcarrota), the statue sits on a granite rock, takes 600 kilograms of bronze and iron and reaches five feet in height. Mayor Santiago Cuadrado was accompanied by the artist, Luis Martinez, Francisco Perez Urban, Director General of Heritage of the Ministry of Culture, Miguel Celdran, Mayor of Badajoz, and many neighbors of Barcarrota. Enlivened the day the band "Guzman Ricis" and the set Classic. In the words of the sculptor, the Bronze Horseman by the horse profiling "by twisted metal would be the illusion on which rode the illustrious from Barcarrota and also has enveloped the artist."

After the intense moments of 2000, was quoted Luis Martínez Giraldo, with his wife, Josefina Gonzalez Benegas, who represented Barcarrota in the festival of Bradenton in 2001. He had just been named Favorite Son by the municipal corporation. The sculptor reflected in the keynote address at the Hernando de Soto Historical Society ("Justification of the fact," in *The Jacho*, n. # 50, May 2001) his emotion, his responsibilities, the deeper meaning of his work by the monolith of the ephemeris and exchanges, and the importance of his horse in the quest.

Because, as stated, Bragao is "considered by analysts among the hundred best horses in history." Together with the other two hundred horses landed on May 30th, 1539, was seed of the current American breed of horse.

Edna Miller, one of those people dedicated to the cause of twinning with Barcarrota, died in August 2001. Luis Martínez Giraldo (The Jacho, n. No. 54, November 2001) taking as the standard of all who advocated the ratio of the two sides of the Atlantic, so he plans a sculpture paying tribute to the deceased, reflecting the collective feeling of the people of Barcarrota. The comb he designed, a candle in steel with a bronze star trail, reached three meters and was placed next to the park of the Constitution on September 12th, 2002. The cost of materials was undertaken by the Provincial Council of Badajoz, and coordination of efforts was Barcarrota City Council issue. Also, was established in the Municipal Library background book called English Corner Edna Miller, being originally the donation that the family was honored at City Hall of Barcarrota. Over time, this was the basis consignment delivered to name Miller's children library.

The traditional representation of the people of Barcarrota cultural event in the spring of Manatee County in 2002 was awarded a High School teacher "Virgen del Soterraño" Manuel Martin Alzás and his wife, Regoña Costa. 11th and 12th of September of that year came another visit of the Americans. Eight members of the Historical Society, including a doctor born in Zaragoza established in Bradenton fifty years ago, Jose Jimenez, attended the meeting regularly with friends from Extremadura. It fortieth anniversary of the twinning and arrival coincided with the first anniversary of the terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York. Therefore, a trumpet solo played by local musician Blas Melendez and a minute of silence paid tribute to the thousands of victims occurred a year earlier. The bibliographical of Miller was given and received by the mayor of Barcarrota, Concepcion Alfonso. And, as we have seen, opened the monument to friendship in memory of Edna Miller (magazine The Jacho, no. 62, August / December 2002).

The symbol of honor was important because, following the attacks of 11-S, American society was so hypersensitive that the festival of 2002 responded to the patriotic sentiment which sought to revive the country after the disaster, "the festival is dedicated to uniting the whole community, and is something that has never been more necessary since

the tragic events of September 11, "said Joan Pratt, executive director of the Hernando de Soto Historical Society to The Bradenton Herald (March 24th, 2002). Do not lose focus on the history of the landing of the conqueror but the acts of that year include "more red, white and blue, fitting with the new patriotism that has swept across the nation."

At Festival De Soto, 2003 comes, representing Barcarrota, the municipal secretary Jose Manuel Garcia Perez. As always, the hospitality of the Americans left a deep impression on the visitor, shooting six hours of digital recording, receives the keys to the nearby town of Palmetto, is feted in each of the acts in which it is present and states in the speech to the friends of Bradenton that twinning should produce "multiple school exchanges, youth and senior year; exchanges industrial, agricultural and cultural undoubtedly productive as well as historians and research around the figure of Hernando de Soto" (the Jacho, no. special 00, January / April 2003).

For the events surrounding the landing of the expedition, held in the spring of 2004, was the current mayor, Alfonso Macias Gata (again, with Fatima Chacon), who spent ten days among his hosts of Bradenton and Manatee County . Forty years of stay were met first of Barcarrota in Florida, when Aureliano was invited by the Pathfinder Society to attend the festival in honor of Hernando de Soto. It is now formalized the commitment from the City Council of Barcarrota (with the collaboration of the Association of Friends of the Historical Society of Bradenton), a young award scholarships to summer could learn English and learn about the reality of American society. The exchange was completed with the presence of a young in Barcarrota from Bradenton later.

Following this initiative, the first student at the High School "Virgen del Soterraño" who came and was selected for its high academic qualification in 2nd year, is Luis Alberto González Sayago . He will be pay for the back and forth trip, living expenses and a bag of 300 euros for other expenses. Between July 16th and Sept. 26th will remain in Florida. The positive experience was repeated in 2005, when Francisco Jesus Padilla Falcon who enjoy this wonderful time during the summer. This young student will be presented to the full City of Bradenton, , as mandated by courteous tradition, with the key to the city. At the same ceremony, held on September 28th, 2005, was presented Samantha Solie, the student of Bradenton (belonging to the school Lakewood Ranch High School) who had visited Barcarrota from as a result of student exchange.



The visit to the birthplace of Hernando de Soto has been, from the origins of twinning is part of the route required to be made by the Knights of Bradenton.

If in 2005 were Mari Candi Alzas Mari Trejo, deputy mayor, the honor of representing Barcarrota in the De Soto Celebration, accompanied by Joaquin Albarca it is in 2006 when the councilor attended



"In Badajoz hosted a Hispanic-American fellowship was attended by the civil governor and the president of the county council. The Queen from Bradenton presided over the party. "ABC (08.01.1964).

Dolores Asensio Duran and her husband, Joaquin Rodriguez Benegas . That summer Cristian Herrera up to Bradenton as an exchange student, while calling at Barcarrota Nick Mauriello, whose stay was held between 4th of September and 7th of October. The young woman from Florida highlights the places she visited (The Jacho, number 100, October 2006): Salamanca, Madrid, capital city of museums such as Reina Sofia and Prado, plus a football match Real Madrid and Segovia. It was also in Palmela, the Portuguese city twinned with Barcarrota. In our village was involved in all kinds of fun activities to coincide with the time of the annual fair.

2007 opens with a new commercial and cultural mission from Barcarrota to Bradenton. The mayor, Alfonso Macias, went to the sister city of Florida together with businessmen Vicente Matamoros, Juan Nogales, Manuel Sayago and Rafael Pedrero, next to the municipal agent for employment and development, Silvia Hernandez and Gregorio Torres, manager of the Association Rural Development of the District of Olivenza-ADERCO. The delegation stayed on American lands between 23rd of February and 1st of March. At a cost of nearly 18,000 euros, was intended to carry out a campaign to promote the products of our land and artisanal food industry under the theme of "ties, trade and business cooperation with America."

Subsequently, the consolidated exchange students generated that summer the presence in Bradenton of the young Teresa Matamoros Casas from Barcarrota. As before, the visitor could find the theme parks of Disney World and Sea World of Orlando, the State of Georgia, Washington DC and the University of Florida, among other places. Without interruption, Lindsay Smith was the girl who came to Barcarrota to improve their Spanish and learn about the nature and characteristics of our way of life.

Another name nurtures all students scholarship to stay in : José Manuel González Sayago as it does in summer 2008. This young man, an outstanding athlete (Extremadura he has been champion of the Cross in junior categories, and absolute promise and international junior with the Spanish national team), highlighted his experience "hospitality and good manners" of his American hosts, the humid climate of Florida the varied schedule of visits, museums, parks, Kennedy Space Center, the U.S. capital, Washington DC baseball games, riding a yacht or limousine ...

and ultimately, the opportunity that he lived to enjoy the whole trip. José Manuel González Sayago himself will be responsible for delivering the opening speech of the show in September (The Jacho, Number 117, Fall 2008). Who represents the consistory of Barcarrota that year on the voyage to America is Mari Nati Flores Trejo, councilor, making it with Miguel Ángel Vázquez Guzmán.

The exchange student in 2009 was Noelia Silvero Sosa, who went to in October. Write its pleasant impressions in the magazine next year's show, in which she visited many places and she greeted with the usual heat by the Conquerors. The country's federal capital, Washington, Disney World in Orlando, a football game, sea voyages and tours of various natural areas of Florida, contact with high schools and students there, U.S. festivals like Halloween and Thanksgiving day ... As always, it seemed great and our fellow symptomatic high historical and symbolic associations having Hernando de Soto in the society of that country.

On the other hand, the Councilman Jose Maria Zafra Herrera and his wife Antonia Mangas Montero were commissioners in Bradenton festival for 2009, while in 2010 it will be the director of the school "Hernando de Soto", Isabel Hernández Triguero and Ramón Lagunilla.

Relations between the two populations found its climax, pending the occurrence of the fiftieth anniversary of its establishment the following year, in 2011. People who attended the diversity of acts of De Soto Celebration were: Montaña Padilla Falcon (who had been there in 1989), Bartolomé Flores Panduro and their daughter, Patricia Flores Padilla. In addition, the exchange student is María Guerra Costillo.

In June Barcarrota was visited by Bob Miller. It was his presence in our land twelfth. The visit focused particularly on the official welcoming ceremony at the Municipal Library "Francisco Penaranda," during which those present welcomed the contribution that once marked the batch printed in English known as Edna's Corner. In addition, Conquerors Barcarrota returned on 14th, 15th and 16th of October. An important representation of the Friends of Florida returned to show off their finery of the sixteenth century to honor the birthplace of the Adelantado Hernando de Soto. Vince Eurice headed the procession, in his role as Hernando de Soto, Captain Sid Jones, Queen and Princess Ellie Ohlman and Noelle Beauchamp.

Along with the official welcome in the consistory of Barcarrota,



La Rondalla from Barcarrota surrounding the De Soto Queen (1962). Photo: Faustino G. Maure.

offered by Councilman Alfonso Macias Gata, said of his schedule to visit the welcome given to strangers by the Infant and Primary School "Hernando de Soto." Children, with its simplicity and spontaneity, filled the hearts of Americans. A guided tour through the streets of our old town, particularly interested in parish churches and the bullring, preceded the play at night in the church of Santiago Apostol, the Coral Barcarroteña "José Antonio Hernández." They approached the expedition to emblematic places like Merida and Caceres Extremadura, and the last day of his stay were treated at the Municipal Library "Francisco Peñaranda", where they detailed the history of this beautiful collection of books hidden in the sixteenth century and found at the end of the century, known as Barcarrota Library. In the communal farm swamp "The Ahijon" there was a living food, run by women associations "Altozano" and "Francisca Sosa" so that friends had a farewell let them taste good.



Picture of acts performed in the Plaza of Spain during the first visit. (06/26/1962).



Visit of 2011, the last before the anniversary. Photo: E. Pérez.

Barcarrota - Bradenton

VISITORS FROM BARCARROTA IN BRADENTON

YEAR	NAME Y SURNAME	PUBLIC OFFICE
1964	Aureliano Benegas Vinagre	Mayor
1965	José Contador Carvajal	Student
1968	Rafael Jaime Portela	Student
1970	José Larios Pérez	Second on borrad
1971	Francisco Sánchez Alonso Teresa Mata Bernáldez	Personal Invitation
1973	Consuelo Haut Pérez Maximiliano Haut Garcia	Queen Queen's Father
1974	Aureliano Benegas Vinagre Dolores Capote González	Mayor
1975	José Fernando Rodríguez Vista	Student
1978	Julio Murillo González	Mayor
1979	Santiago Laserna Bravo Amparo Sanz Cueva	Justice of peace
1980	Francisca Sosa Montero Manuel Sánchez Rodríguez	Mayor
1981	José Larios Pérez Concepción López García-Adame	Justice of peace
1982	José Guerra Sánchez	Concilor
1983	Julio Murillo González María Dolores Larios Marin	Personal invitation
1984	Feliciano Guisado Vaquerizo Mari Carmen Sánchez Montero	Second on borrad
1985	Manuel González Flores	Concilor
1987	Joaquín Mangas Guisado Petra García Luengo	Concilor
1988	Juan Antonio Sosa Vaquerizo Ascensión Sosa Jaime	Concilor
1989	Francisco Flores Sánchez Eliodora Martin Trejo Julio Jorge Murillo Larios Montaña Padilla Falcón Ana Mari torrado González	Concilor Concilor's wife Personal invitation Personal invitation Personal invitation
1990	José Antonio Hernández Trejo Isabel Triguero Martinez	Second on borrad
1991	María Teresa Gil Guerra	Concilor
1992	Adelardo Contador Carvajal Isabel Torres Vázquez	Concilor
1993	Julio Murillo González María Dolores Larios Marin Bartolomé Gil de Santa Cruz Agustín Holguera Agustín Sánchez Adelardo Contador Carvajal Isabel Torres Vázquez Ildefonso Muñoz Rufino Ana María Fernández Nogales	Mayor Mayor's wife Businessman Businessman Businessman Businessman Adelardo's wife Businessman Ildefonso's wife

Barcarrota - Bradenton

1994	José Guerra Sánchez Andrea Costillo López	Second on board
1995	Agustín Lozano Mateos Pilar Seller Hernández	Concilor
1996	Enrique Jesús García Díaz Marina González Rubio	Concilor
1997	Santiago Cuadrado Rodríguez Yolanda Trigo Garrido María Sánchez Torrado	Mayor Student Student
1998	Alfonso Macías Gata Fátima Chacón Andrade	Concilor
1999	José Miguel Serrano Domínguez Herminia Gil Martínez	Director of School Music
2000	Francisco Luis Núñez Blanco Marta Pérez Cardoso	Concilor Member of the Red Cross
2001	Luis Martínez Giraldo Josefina González Benegas	Sculptor
2002	Manuel Martín Alzás Begoña Costa Vázquez	Teacher
2003	José Manuel García Pérez Toni García García	Secretary in the City Hall
2004	Alfonso Macías Gata Fátima Chacón Andrade Luis Alberto González Sayago	Mayor and his wife Student
2005	María Cándida Alzás Trejo Joaquín Albarca González Francisco Jesús Padilla Falcón	Second on board Student
2006	Dolores Asensio Durán Joaquín Rodríguez Benegas Teresa Matamoros Casas	Concilor and her husband Student
2007	María Cándida Alzás Trejo Joaquín Albarca González Cristian Herrera Viera Alfonso Macías Gata Fátima Chacón Andrade Silvia Hernández Marcos Manuel Sayago Hermosa Pedro Rafael Pedrero Fernández Vicente Matamoros Sánchez Juan José Nogales Trejo Gregorio Torres Gallego	Second on board Student Mayor and his wife Development Agent Industrialist Industrialist Industrialist Industrialist Aderco Manager
2008	María Natividad Flores Trejo Miguel Ángel Vázquez Guzmán José Manuel Canchado González	Concilor and her husband Student
2009	José María Zafra Herrera Antonia Mangas Montero Noelia Sosa Silvero	Concilor and his wife Student
2010	María Isabel Hernández Triguero	Principal of School

Barcarrota - Bradenton

	Ramón Lagunilla González	M ^a . Isabel's husband
2011	Montaña Padilla Falcón Bartolomé Flores Panduro Patricia Flores Padilla María Guerra Costillo	Director of studies Montaña's husband and daughter Student
2012	Emilia Sequedo Llinás Joaquina Llinás Martínez Rocío Gómez Casas	Concilor Concilor's mother Queen 2011/2012

Relation facilitated for Julio Murillo González

Barcarrol q. Bradenton,

EPILOGUE

Julio Murillo González

Magnificent compilation and synthesis work that it's offer in this document by Jose Ignacio Rodriguez Hermosell and Francisco Joaquin Perez González, perhaps somewhat unbalanced in town lengthy accounts of the first decade and the brief of the other. Although I say that there is more documentation of the time than the others. And it's true. But, saving of initial contact which laid the foundations of this wonderful friendship, providing evidence that such important and full of feelings are the first and last.

In 1993, when I was mayor, it was held in Merida a massive Congress all Spanish cities with international twinning. The Junta de Extremadura, aware of our experience, invited me to make public the details of our partnership with Bradenton. So I did. Without exaggerating one bit, carefully counting reality. Attendees were surprised both the duration and intensity of our fraternal relations, not knowing, among those present, no similar case in the rest of Spain.

And it is true, many twinning that last few years, others are extended in time but no activity and most are expressed only on paper and into oblivion. But ours has lived and still live fruitfully. And it fulfills its golden anniversary, full of intense emotions, fraternal feelings and thousands of precious individual and collective experiences.

Having participated in the celebration of De Soto is a fact that gives character. There is a before and after. You can not explain it in words if you have not had the great fortune to visit them, how come soaked up the soul of his extraordinary hospitality. There is a great love of the members of the Society for everything related to our town and their people. They have, like merit badges, having journeyed to our town. I have been in Barcarrota five times! the Mayor of Barcarrota, in his acts, breaks the protocols and placed sometimes above all other attending authorities. Not to mention the huge, overwhelming and special affection we receive each and every one of those who visited their homes. Friends forever!

In these years, hundreds of letters full of news, some good, others less, all full of special and unique felling, have crossed the ocean in both directions, looking for his excited audience. We've been telling our

experiences, our happiness, our sorrows, our pettiness, our greatness, ultimately we have been told our lives. We have also been leaving the way for many and such good friends that we made it's big this friendship. But all are still present in our memories, our hearts and in this beautiful reality.

I had the good fortune but also the immense responsibility to participate actively in these relationships since 1973, when I was a councilor for the first time in Aureliano Corporation. That is, fifty, thirty-nine have been involved, sometimes in front and another in the second, the development and consolidation of this blessed friendship. I had the opportunity to travel three times to Bradenton. During these years, thousands of stories, hundreds of details, dozens of friends and some pitfalls to be solved: the pressure there and here in a nearby town to change the course of events, blurs point in the methodology, outdated ideological prejudices, but fortunately resolved, always, common sense and generosity by all.

This friendship has been created, maintained and enhanced over the years by many people, but I, in justice, to highlight some of them above others. On the American side to Dr. Sugg, founder of the Company and creator of this partnership. At the prestigious lawyer and close friend of John Manson , the extraordinary photographer Paul Bartley, Isabelita Sponenbarger, the terrific of Leyman Bott and soul of our relationship for many years, Ann Bott to our fellow from Zaragoza Jose Jimenez and his wife Eileen, they have done and continue to make these relations an important part of their lives, our friendly Robert Miller and his beloved Edna, Diana Stewart and Chris Atkinson for their great work in recent years. There are many more and perhaps small by not quote them but from my experience, have related the best columns for this magnificent building friendships.

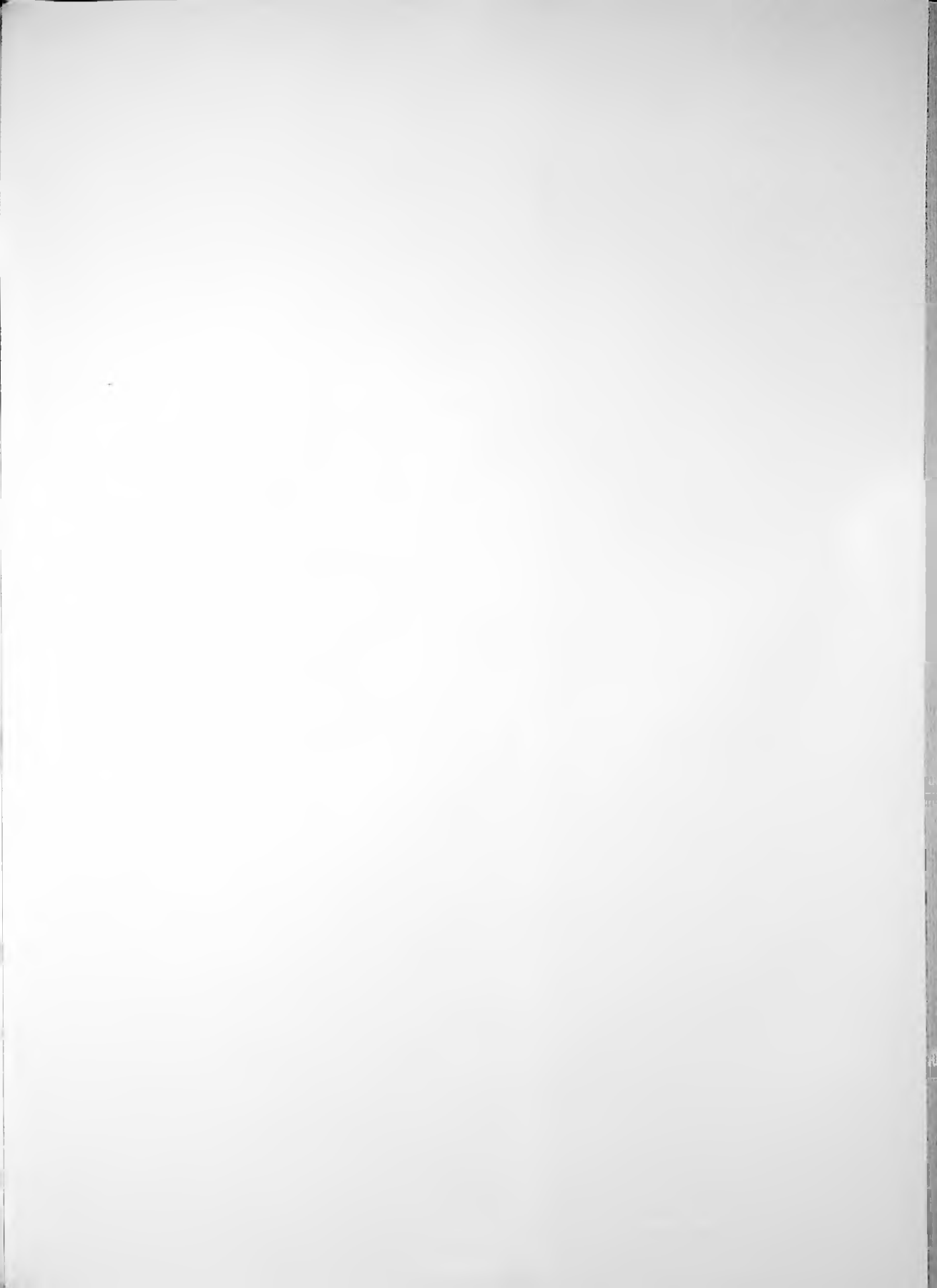
On the Spanish side will highlight, of course, Aureliano , initiator of these relationships, accompanied by two outstanding personalities of our people, Pepe Larios and Jose Antonio Hernandez. A female mayors Francisca Sosa and Conchita Alfonso, mayors Santiago Cuadrado and Alfonso Macías and to Montaña Padilla for her selfless, brilliant and effective work in these relationships. To all of them our sincere gratitude.

Although it would be unfair not to mention also the love and dedication to this cause demonstrated year after year: Dolores Capote,

Teresa Mata y Paco Sánchez, Concha López, Mari Loli Larios, Isabel Triguero, Fátima Chacón, Marcelino Píriz, José Guerra y Andrea Costillo, José Antonio Sosa, Feliciano Guisado y Mari Carmen Sánchez, Francisco Flores y Eliodora Martín, Santiago Laserna y Amparo Sanz, José Miguel Serrano y Herminia Gil, Consuelo Haut, José Contador y Angelines Balsera, Luís Martínez y Josefina González, Enrique Jesús García y Marina González, José Fernando Rodríguez, Mari Nati Sayago, Mari Candi Alzás y Joaquín Albarca, Mari Nati Flores y Miguel Vázquez, Isabel María Hernández y Ramón Lagunilla and other much more than reflect on the final annex.

We have attained fifty years of a nice company that has given national and international profitability. We have been on the cover of newspapers and worthy of hundreds of columns written on them. Many residents of our people have expanded their horizons with this friendship. It is a happy fact that as good, we cherish with care, over ideologies and limelight, uniting all in the effort.

I wish, fervently, that this celebration of the Golden Jubilee, to be a unique opportunity to strengthen our twinning. With a special appeal to young people, who are the future of these relations, to be aware of the importance of the legacy they receive.





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