

Fond Memories of 'Lep' Adams

By JOHN PENNEKAMP

MEMORIAL services were conducted yesterday afternoon in the Van Orsdel Coral Gables Chapel for Adam G. Adams.

A quiet man, who yet became known as one of Dade County's foremost and ablest citizens.

I've had numerous experiences with Adams whom you probably knew as "Lep." That was an abbreviation for a historical and legendary name with which he long was associated.

First of these experiences, and the one I best remember, came a long time ago — back in the days of tax paying indifference. You frequently decided that the fees being asked were more than the property was worth.

My telephone rang. "I've been looking through the list of county tax delinquencies," said Adams. "Your name is among them. You owe on a five-acre piece at Galaway and Sunset roads. Don't you want to pay it?"

Truth was that I had overlooked one of three bills on the property which accounted for the delinquency. That was before we had consolidated tax bills and regular mailings. (I sold it for \$1,500.)

I HIED myself to the Courthouse and put up the money. Strange thing about Adams: He was retiring; seldom identified himself. You answered the phone and he'd begin calmly and briefly to say what he had to say. That was all.

Another time a friend of mine rented a house, the former Adams' home, adjoining the Riviera Country Club. As its membership expanded, the club wanted that right handy property for a parking lot. My friend was interested in its lavish display of plantings. Would I call Adams, he asked, and ask him to come by and explain them.

Adams did, just before lunch. We wandered all over the exquisitely kept place while he identified and explained. Nearly everything there he had planted or nourished and it had a historical background. We asked him to have lunch with us.

"Thank you, no," he said.

"Faith (his wife) is waiting for me."

He for a long time was associated with the late Tom Hamilton in the land and mortgage business, later sold out, and all the while he kept up his expanding interest in the Historical Association of Southern Florida. He was its president in the days when order was brought out of threatening chaos and remained a director in it and several affiliates.

HIS interest also was imbedded in Tennessee where he was born. Only recently he returned from a visit to Vanderbilt where he attended the 100th anniversary of Phi Delta Theta, a fraternity established in 1876 when they were held to be forbidden. That restriction was changed later. Adams was 89 when he died. At the celebration he out-ranked for age and longevity all the others; his nearest competitor by six years.

His younger brother, Alfred T. Adams, Sr., of the class of 1918 delivered the invocation at the anniversary banquet and the Rev. James W. Parrish, whom many will remember as the pastor some years ago of Riverside Baptist Church here, prepared a

paper, "Preserving Main Street, U.S.A."

Lep's major interests are difficult to define, he had so many and he always was intense in his quiet, dignified way.

Protracted was his following up of the activities of his daughters. Faith, with her husband Bill Young, has carried on a protracted fight to prevent the coming of modern power facilities within a mile of their home and destructive of other nearby sites in Dixon Springs, Tenn. Their home is the ancestral home of the Youngs.

THE other daughter is Susan Andrews, wife of a prominent Coral Gables resident. Both are active in their way in Dade County community affairs.

Probably Adams will be best remembered for his subdued, but successful, activities as president of the Florida Civil War Centennial Commission, by government appointment. These activities many times took him on trips to Tallahassee and other parts of the state. He also had been a chairman of the Florida Library and Historical Commission.