The 1980s: Decade of Renaissance

Streetcape and skyline changes brightened downtown in the 1980s. Bayfront Parkway, civic center, Governmental Center with a new City Hall and the new heritage theme of downtown Pensacola that included the T.T. Wentworth Jr. Florida State Museum marked Pensacola's Renaissance and public-private partnerships devised by City Manager Steve Garman.

Popular Mayor Vince Whibbs and Pensacola leaders prepared for homeporting an operational aircraft carrier at Pensacola Naval Air Station, but the dream of stationing warships in Gulf Coast harbors vanished along with Navy Secretary John Lehman's dream of a 600-ship Navy with the demise of the Soviet Union.

President W. D. Childers broke with his friend and ally, Dean of the Senate Dempsey Barron of Panama City, in a test of Tallahassee power. Barron was later retired by Fort Walton Beach lawyer Vince Bruner.

A fifteen-story Hilton Hotel fronted the restored L&N railroad station, the civic center was financed with state funds and enactment of the tourist tax, Port Royal residences and Pitt Slip marina and the Gateway Redevelopment District changed the old industrial bayfront, and Plaza Ferdinand VII was redesigned. The Judicial Center and Daniel (Chappie) James state office building and a new City Hall gave life to the Governmental Center.

County Administrator Rodney Kendig followed Steve Garman as city manager in 1985, opening the door for annexation and financing the renovated Pensacola Regional Airport. County provincialism symbolized by self-designated King of the County Grady Albritton resisted zoning and land-use policies and other efforts to reform county government, including another failed effort to appoint the school superintendent.

Rep. Earl Hutto, successor to Bob Sikes, finally produced congressional funds for the Naval Live Oaks headquarters and visitor center at Gulf Islands National Seashore. Pensacola's own Bicentennial, the 1981 Galvez Celebration, triggered community improvement projects and special recognition of Pensacola's ethnic pioneers. The Spanish training ship Juan Sebastian Elcano joined the H.M.S. Bounty for the May 8 celebration. Seville Square was renovated, and building contractor Jim Cronley led voluntary efforts to build a new Seville Square gazebo and the Tourist Information Center. Restored Fort Barrancas and Spanish water battery San Antonio was dedicated; a bronze bust of Bernardo de Galvez came with a Fort George facelift.

Tensions over merging the senior universities like UWF into the older established universities faded; UWF became a four-year school. The West Florida Railroad Centennial in 1982 marked a century of L&N opening the Panhandle to the Apalachicola River. Push Pensacola began new priorities for tourism and convention business with the theme “Pensacola Has It All.” And the Committee of 100 emphasized economic development. The Clean and Green community cleanup set the stage for Pensacola’s 75th anniversary celebrations of naval aviation and Pensacola NAS, and Bob Hope and Elizabeth Taylor headlined celebrities who honored the Navy golden jubilee.

Governor Bob Graham, who followed Reubin O'Donovan Askew, inspired environmental protection, purchase of endangered lands and coastal and land-use growth management. Environmentalist Muriel Wagner enlivened the Escambia Commission, advocating wetlands protection.

A federal court decision on a voter’s lawsuit finally released the county and School Board to allow district elections guaranteeing minority representation. A new foundation tried to solve the long-nagging dilemma of preserving and maintaining historic St. Michael's Cemetery.

A bronze memorial honored Andrew Jackson in Plaza Ferdinand VII; the Martin Luther King holiday led to a bronze King bust and memorial on Palafox Street. And odor from the Main Street sewage disposal plant inspired cartoon remedies. Morris Marx became the third UWF president. Two years work by charter government advocates was buried in Tallahassee. The USS Lexington made its last home at the Port of Pensacola; port advocates galvanized to pressure City Hall to reject Jim Kennedy’s bayfront destination resort idea. Need for a second bay bridge and quality redevelopment of Pensacola Beach stirred debate.
Derrell Packwood Bowden is the politician of the family—a first cousin who served as mayor of Altha, my birthplace, and chairman of the Calhoun County Commission. Pack is a student of West Florida folklore.

Wyon Dale Childers of Pensacola, following Reubin Askew to the Florida Senate, quickly won the reputation as the "Banty Rooster."

Steve Garman
Pensacola City Manager
In 1980, West Florida senators W.D. Childers of Pensacola and Dempsey Barron of Panama City represented the power in the Florida Senate. Barron, then the dean of the Senate, would help Childers become Senate President.
In 1980, cartoons hailed the approaching Year of Heritage and the Galvez Celebration, planned with a $250,000 legislative grant obtained by Senator W.D. Childers. Governor Bob Graham endorsed the bicentennial observance that would recognize Florida's role in the American Revolution. Seville Square and Fort George park improvements and other heritage projects commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Spanish conquest of the British forces at Pensacola during the American Revolution on May 8, 1781.
Many developers discovered Scenic Highway in the 1980s, lessening the protection for the tree-lined historic state parkway atop Pensacola’s unique Escambia Bay clay bluffs.
Escambia County Administrator Rod Kendig and City Manager Steve Garman worked harmoniously in the early 1980s. Garman found himself in the same boat with City Councilman James J. Reeves, battling for finances to underwrite Pensacola's Renaissance.
While the University of West Florida lobbied for junior and senior students in 1980, a political firestorm erupted over a higher education task force’s bold recommendation to merge Florida’s regional universities with the four-year schools at Tallahassee and Gainesville. Panama City Senator Dempsey Barron did transfer UWF’s Panama City campus to Florida State University, but eventually UWF became a four-year university.
LET'S GET CRACKIN'

COMPLETION OF GOVT CENTER

COUNTY CITY

PEDC

PUBLIC HOUSING

SEX SHOPS

ZONING

ESCambia COMMISH

KENDIG

HIT TH' DIRT!
The Escambia sheriff's race, producing for the winner one of the most powerful political bases in the county, dominated election rhetoric in the 1980s.
Voter approval of the tourist (bed) tax in the 1980s was a threshold for political decisions to build the Pensacola Civic Center and begin seriously promoting Pensacola’s potential for tourism and conventions. And the Spirit of Pensacola turned into a new face for Palafox Place, including the Crawford Rainwater family’s purchase of the historic Brent Block at Palafox and Garden Streets and the restoration of the 1925 Saenger Theatre.

Republican Senator Marlene Woodson Howard, who tried (unsuccessfully) to unseat Governor Bob Martinez in 1990.
The Gateway Redevelopment District was established as an eastern threshold into the city from the Pensacola Bay Bridge along Gregory and Chase streets and Bayfront Parkway — the area of the Gulf Power Company corporate office building at Hawkshaw and the Pensacola Civic Center.
...THANK GOD FOR THEIR FREEDOM....GUIDE US IN COURAGE AND WISDOM TO PREVENT ANOTHER SUCH NIGHTMARE.

Freedom

Iran freed American hostages after 444 days in captivity in 1981 as President Ronald Reagan began his presidency. Cartoons reflect freedoms that America cherish. The Bomb, east and west, still cast a shadow over Americans’ remembrance of the fortieth anniversary of the infamous December 7, 1941.
Facility meeting sketch, August 16, 1988

Dr. Churchill Roberts
Chairman, Department of Communications Arts, University of West Florida
Urban growth in Escambia’s unincorporated areas in the 1980s demonstrated the necessity for mandatory garbage collection. Many county residents resisted the unified method, preferring independent disposal methods. But eventually, by the 1990s, commissioners had weathered the wrath of those who claimed the government was an intruder.
When W.D. Childers tried for a second term as Senate president, his friend and ally Dempsey Barron resisted in a classic power play. The West Florida senators clashed in an angry confrontation on the Senate floor—now part of Florida's political folklore. The power fight ruptured the long political friendship.
You and me, W.D.!

West Florida List
Four-Year University
Ellyson Funds
Civic Arena
Museum
Roads, etc.

Fix bayonets!

Legislative reapportionment

West Florida's last stand

Economic expansion
Tight money
Incentives
The training ship Juan Sebastian Elcano in Pensacola waters gave an authentic Spanish flavor to the climax of the Galvez Celebration on May 8, 1981, two hundred years after Bernardo de Galvez and his Spanish army defeated the British forces at Fort George on Gage (Palafox) Hill. The Spanish victory ended the British presence on the American Gulf Coast during the American Revolution. The centennial celebration of the 1881-83 building of the West Florida railroad followed in 1982.
Fund-raising for the Saenger Theatre restoration began in 1975 after the city accepted the 1925 movie-vaudeville house as a gift. In 1980, after an uphill struggle to raise the funds—$500,000 from the University of West Florida; $240,000 from two community fund drives—the $1.6 million project began; on September 26, 1981, the grand reopening featuring the Duke Ellington orchestra began a new era for the performing arts.
In 1982, the Pensacola Historical Society celebrated the 150th anniversary of Old Christ Church (1832), one of Pensacola's best known historical landmarks and Florida's oldest protestant church building still standing on its original site.
While Senators Dempsey Barron and W.D. Childers battled Governor Bob Graham over the budget and the Equal Rights Amendment, President Horace (Ed) Hartsell of Pensacola Junior College and President James A. Robinson of the University of West joined in a campaign for unification of the two Pensacola schools. Tallahassee politics stopped the ERA effort and ended unification.
How much longer?

Voter lawsuit/indcision

At last, discovery!

Pensacola future

Baltimore Escambia

The garbage argument

Civil serv.

Dual tax

Escambia political process
PENSACOLA HAS IT ALL!

TOURISM MARKET

CIVIC ARENA FUNDING

CONVENTION BUSINESS

INADEQUATE PENSACOLA PROMOTION AND FACILITIES

TOURISM POTENTIAL

Earle Bowden '82

Sandra Mortham
Florida Secretary of State
LET'S GO, POD'NER!

ARISE!
The future's here!

CIVIC ARENA
STATE GRANT
AND LOCAL
FUNDS

PENSACOLA
TOURISM
FACILITIES
YOU GUYS
NEEDS OF THE FUTURE

VOTING
ESCambia COUNTY
POLITICS

BURY TH'HATCHET!

WELCOME BACK, OL' BUDDY!
Governor Bob Graham

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Teachin', Taxes, and Politics

Winston Churchill
Bayfront Hilton Civic Arena

Western Gate to the Sunshine State

Pensacola 80s

Where Millions... Millions... Millions!

Old City Hall

State Museum

Open in Two Years

We can dream...

Gateway

Spanish Trail

New City Hall

Port Royal Police Station

Palafox Pier Fire Equipment

Bluffs

Old City Hall Plaza and Parks

Direction 85

Pittock

Th’ Wall! Save th’ Wall!
T. T. Wentworth Jr., revered as Pensacola's Mr. History, made history when he presented one of the largest private collections of historical materials ever given to the people of Florida. The city of Pensacola provided the state ownership of the city hall building on Plaza Ferdinand. With state financial assistance, Pensacolians would honor Wentworth with a historic setting for his "Gift of a Lifetime."
'I've been good to you, my son. Now, you're showing respect for your heritage and providing an understanding for future generations'
The long-awaited Andrew Jackson monument for Plaza Ferdinand VII—a bronze bust by Spanish sculptor Eduardo Anievas—was unveiled on May 19, 1984. The goal of an equestrian statue—sparked by Mayhew (Pat) Dodson in 1971—had proved too ambitious and costly. But after Anievas sculpted the bust of Bernardo de Galvez for Fort George in 1981, members of the Pensacola Preservation Society led a fund-raising campaign for the $7,000 likeness that was created in Anievas' studio in Spain.
When Gulf Islands National Seashore celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Fort Pickens on August 4, 1984, featuring a moving lecture on the Pensacola fort's Civil War history by Chief Historian Ed Bearss of the National Park Service, the fate of the headquarters and visitors center at Naval Live Oaks Reservation still was unknown. But with congressional leadership from Earl Hutto and Trent Lott in the House and Lawton Chiles in the Senate, the $1 million project was completed and dedicated May 13, 1988.
Walter Mondale

Jesse Jackson
By designating the traditional downtown core of Pensacola for tax increment financing, City Manager Steve Garman sang a happy tune for his Direction '85 redevelopment program. He also smoothed the path for building a new City Hall: old City Hall would house the T.T. Wentworth Jr. historical collections.

Leadership Pensacola (LEAP) brought a needed dimension to training voluntary community activists in the 1980s. Selected class members spent a day each month for a year learning the community and its government. I was pleased to serve on the charter LEAP Board of Directors.
The Spanish training ship Juan Sebastian Elcano returned to Pensacola in 1984 for the Fiesta of Five Flags; festival sponsors needed to stress quality for tourism development.

George Firestone
Florida Secretary of State

George Firestone said the T.T. Wentworth Jr. historical collection was the largest ever presented to the people of Florida by a private citizen. This 1984 caricature marked the Secretary of State's presentation of the first check for the state museum in Pensacola's old City Hall.
Ronald Reagan and George Bush versus Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro

Barbara Bush

Mikhail Gorbachev

DAN QUAYLE

George Bush
Development of the Pitt Slip Marina demonstrated the need for new boating and people-oriented activity on Pensacola's bayfront in the 1980s.

Growth of Northeast Pensacola led the City Council to expand the city limits in the 1980s.
Martin (Trader Jon) Weissman, who opened his popular south Palafox Street bar in 1954, became one of the best known Pensacoli ans and an unabashed cheerleader for the U.S. Navy, especially the Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team. For more than forty years, celebrities of all kind have shared TJ's hospitality—among them John Wayne, Prince Andrew, astronauts, hot pilots; even the Secretary of the Navy. Trader Jon, like comedian Bob Hope, holds a special place among Navy pilots—he's lifted by his own wings of gold as an honorary Blue Angel. And TJ, born in New York City in 1915, turned his bayfront bar into his own Blue Angels Museum.
CITY MANAGER'S BAG OF IDEAS

KENDIG

PENSACOLA FUTURE

I'M READY!

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

WEST FLORIDA YOUTH
ECONOMY '85
COMMITTEE OF 100
THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT...

WORKFARE

PENSACOLA
SHRINKING JOB MARKET

ESCAMBIA WELFARE

OKAY!

GET THIS ACT TOGETHER!

COMMITTEE OF 100
ESCAMBIA PUSH FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

224
Popular City Councilman Howard Rein, who served as mayor pro tem and had a long, productive career of leadership, joins Mayor Vince Whibbs in a high wire act over the city's financial shortfall in 1985. Again, city and county problems showed the need for a truce, peace and harmony—an often stated goal of Mayor Whibbs.
Whether it would be the USS Kitty Hawk or the USS Forrestal, Pensacolians had high hopes for replacing the retiring training carrier USS Lexington with an operational carrier for the Gulf homeport. But in the end, after the Florida Legislature helped dredge Pensacola harbor, the picture was bleak.
Pensacola engineer Fred Donovan, who served as president of both the Pensacola and Florida state chambers of commerce, was among the planners for West Florida coastal management in the 1980s.

UWF President James A. Robinson helped realign the senior school for its four-year expansion in the 1980s; then returned to UWF classrooms as a professor.
Gulf Power Company executive Jake Horton and Pensacola Mayor Vince Whibbs helped rally the Pensacola community for the first Clean and Green community cleanup for the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Naval Aviation in 1986. Entertainer Bob Hope, who brought other celebrities and his NBC television show to the deck of the USS Lexington and to the stage of the Pensacola Civic Center, was chosen an honorary Blue Angel.
"...Now let's build a new downtown library..."
Unpleasant odors from the Main Street Sewage Disposal Plant—viewed as a hindrance to bayfront redevelopment—let to many suggested remedies. By the 1990s, the Escambia County Utilities Authority had spent more than $1 million to lessen the discomfort.

Pensacola industrialist Marvin Kaiman was chairman of the Appeals Review Board in the 1980s, shouldering the heavy task of bringing order to the stampede of fund-raising campaigns. Kaiman served as president of the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, advocating economic development, marine commerce and international trade.
Again, in 1986, the News Journal supported a study commission that would write another charter for home rule reform. Oyster shells symbolize a comedic turf battle: commissioners protected their own individual piles of shells for road repairs in their districts.
"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."
—Martin Luther King Jr.

A DREAM LIVES...
Circuit Judge Lace Collier, a former naval aviator, was chairman of the 1986 Pensacola Revenue Study Committee that suggested bold and innovative change in a series of recommendations known as the Collier Report. Collier was appointed U.S. District Judge by President George Bush in 1991.
Senator W.D. Childers and his West Florida band stage their Tallahassee hoedown in 1986: Tom Tobiassen, Virginia (Ginger) Bass and Grover C. Robinson III of Escambia County and Boley (Bo) Johnson of Santa Rosa County.

News Journal editorials called for a more history-based, people-oriented Fiesta of Five Flags to support tourism in 1986. Fiesta sponsors accepted the challenge.
Absentee ownership of Hotel San Carlos and neglect of its maintenance prompted many city efforts to rescue the Pensacola landmark that was once Florida's largest hotel. Mayor Vince Whibbs chose E.W. Hopkins and a committee of business leaders to seek a solution in 1986. But it was doomed to demolition.
Rats!

These eyesores blinded him!

Get lost, you dirty rat!

Steady, Pitt slip ahead!

A habit!

Aright, Pensacola, let's make this... Clean and green.
WE REALLY DO NEED A NEW LIBRARY!

PLEASE, READ OUR NEED!

WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL LIBRARY

OUTMODED FACILITIES

LEGISLATURE

TAXES

BUDGET

CHARTER

PDC

GINGER

LOCAL/BILLS

UWF/HOME/PORT

WHY DO YOU THINK YOU NEED A NEW MAIN LIBRARY FACILITY?

WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL LIBRARY

TALLAHASSEE
I campaigned for years to make July 17 a state historic day that recognized the transfer of the Spanish Floridas to the United States in Plaza Ferdinand VII in 1821. It was even more important in 1987—I served as Pensacola's Chairman for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

Westinghouse plant manager Bill Griffith was a popular civic leader in the 1980s. He served as president of the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce; in retirement he became a member of the Santa Rosa Island Authority.
BEN, IMAGINE...

LIBERTY...
FREEDOM...

TWO
HUNDRED
YEARS!

AND
MORE

RALLY
PATRIOTS!

KEEP
ESCambia
BEAUTIFUL

TOURISM
DESTINATION
Former Tampa Mayor Bob Martinez, who defeated Democrat Steve Pajcic of Jacksonville in 1986, became the second Republican governor in the twentieth century. Retiring Governor Bob Graham was chosen U.S. senator, displacing one-term Paula Hawkins.
Mayor Vince Whibbs seemed a likely Benjamin Franklin, encouraging Pensacolians to recognize their own history as celebrants for the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution in 1987.
The future of Hotel San Carlos troubled Pensacolians in 1987. They hoped it would be restored. But despite valiant efforts and negligence of the absentee owner, the decaying landmark that had stood at the corner of Palafox and Garden streets for most of the twentieth century was doomed.
Okay, call Alabama! We're under siege!

Pothole cap, we're out of water.

Charter crisis, we're contaminated.

Escambia utilities authority.

Contaminant dangers.

Haven't you forgotten where it all began?

Old Seville green street downtown revival tourism.
In 1987, builder-developer Jim Cronley rallied Escambia County’s construction professionals to build the Tourist Information Center near the Pensacola Bay Bridge. The new push for an expanded tourism economy included the goal of developing quality resort facilities at Pensacola Beach. Sheila Bowman, popular tourist director, campaigned for more tourism promotion dollars.
When former Governor Reubin Askew considered a race for the U.S. Senate in 1987, his Republican critic, former Governor Claude Kirk, flirted with the idea of running for president. Askew finally withdrew, citing a dislike for soliciting campaign funds. Kirk knew how quickly ex-governors are forgotten.

Brad Butcher, retired Pensacola Naval Air Station commander, was the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce’s military liaison to bring the USS Kitty Hawk and homeporting to Pensacola in 1987.

In the 1940s, Santa Rosa County leaders dreamed of dredging a boat canal across Santa Rosa Island at Navarre. By 1965, the county commissioners tried. Nature quickly filled the narrow, nine-foot cut. Boat canal advocates revived the idea in 1987, enlivening arguments between Escambia County, which owned the land, and Santa Rosa County, which held a ninety-nine-year lease. Environmentalists prevailed in the ‘80s, knowing a cut across Santa Rosa Island could be disastrous.
Gus Ellis, Escambia County administrator, had the same headaches as his predecessor, Rod Kendig, in 1987—fixing potholes in the county budget and cooking up new revenues. Kendig, who followed Steve Garman as Pensacola city manager, faced a revenue squeeze while trying to convince the airlines to help underwrite new terminal facilities at Pensacola Regional Airport.
Republican Governor Martinez and the Democratic Legislature quarreled over a previously agreed-to obligation to fund the dredging of the Pensacola Bay ship channel for homeporting an operational carrier in 1987. Martinez finally agreed to the funding, ending what I saw as a "Tallahassee Mutiny."

Pensacolians where proud they lived in what had been designated an All America City in 1987. But riding the same old slow county mule toward the 1990s lessened the pleasure.
THE POLLUTION ISSUE

WE'RE IN THIS ONE TOGETHER!

PERDIDO BAY

ON YOUR FEET! THE PEOPLE ARE STILL IN YOUR CORNER!

TOGETHER, WE SHOULD HAVE MANY GREAT LABOR DAYS!

PENSACOLA SEARCH FOR INDUSTRY COMMITTEE OF 100
HEAVY LAYERS OF DIPLOMACY, SCHOLARSHIP...

VISION...

COMMUNITY SKILLS...

THE NEXT UWF PRESIDENT

LET'S BUILD BRIDGES!

NEW ERA OF UWF LEADERSHIP

WEST FLORIDA GROWTH

THIS REALLY SHOULD FIT OUR NEEDS...

COMMITTEE OF 100

ESCAMBIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PEDC
Morris Marx, a mathematician and a University of Mississippi administrator, who chosen as the third president of the University of West Florida in 1988. He became a community activist, recognized UWF’s role in regional economic development and began expanding campus programs. Dr. Morris served on the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board and promoted the archaeological successes of Dr. Judith Bense. He worked with the Florida legislature to establish the archaeology institute at UWF.
The long and powerful Senate career of Dempsey Barron of Bay County was shot down in flames in 1988 by young Fort Walton Beach lawyer Vince Bruner. The Dean of the Senate, who had finally reconciled with his old friend and ally, W.D. Childers, was defeated in a brutal campaign underwritten in part by Florida's trial lawyers. Absence of the Red Barron elevated Childers to dean of the Senate, and the senior legislator continued his magic for West Florida voters.
CABLE AND GREEN

PENSACOLA TOURISM PROMOTION

THE WAR ON LITTER IS ON!

HO HO HO!

REDEDICATION FOR A PROUD HERITAGE

WENTWORTH MUSEUM OPEN TODAY
THIS NEW MODEL REALLY MOVES, KENNY!

CAP'N KELSON. WE GOTA PUT THIS SHIP DOWN SOON!

FIRST BIG LEAP TOWARD ECONOMIC GROWTH!

ANNEXATION PENSACOLA
While politics enlivened 1988, Warren Briggs kept up his crusade for what would be the last phase of the Escambia citizens' goals program he launched in the early 1970s. Tom Marshall was his strong ally for Progress '90.
Once again, the five kingdoms of Escambia protected the status quo in 1988. After two years of preparation by an Escambia Study Commission, Senator W.D. Childers ended the county warfare by burying the charter proposal in Tallahassee.
While commissioners Phil Waltrip, Willie Junior and Grady Albritton fiddled dirt-road ditties in the Escambia County courthouse, the City Council and the Downtown Improvement Board focused on the downtown Renaissance. Maryland planner Cy Paumier was the main architect for Pensacola’s many face-changing streetscape projects in the 1980s.
EAST GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES

NOW, MY CHILDREN...

WE Await THE MAGIC OF THE AMAZING MARTINEZ!

NOW THE TECHNIQUE OF LOCAL DELegATION COOPERATION!

WORM INSTITUTE OF HARD-KNOCK POLITICS
While Escambians prepared for the arrival of an operational carrier, they also debated the merits of voting to appoint the county school superintendent. The USS Kitty Hawk was replaced by the USS Forrestal, but like the appointed superintendent and homeporting, the ship never sailed.

Senators Bob Dole and Al Gore and Vice President George Bush played "Dixie," seeking presidential support in the Florida primary of 1988. Only Gore visited Pensacola; the Tennessee Democrat met with the News Journal editorial board.
MIGHTY PURTY SUNRISE, BUT WE'VE GOT LOTTA SCAMEY DIRT ROADS TO FIX...AND VOTERS TO CONVINCCE!

ANOTHER DAY OLDER AND DEEPER IN DEBT!

POW!

DWELLING IN BEULAH LANDFILL

COLLOSSUS ALP?

CREATURE FROM GULF BREEZE UFO?

GARGANTUAN GARBAGE

STATE RECYCLE MANDATE JULY '89
A SAFER, CLEANER CITY!

PEOPLE NEEDS!

ECONOMIC GROWTH
'89

MIKE DESBORO PENSACOLA BUDGET

POLICE NEEDS

LITTLE PAY HIKE

ROD REESE

BALANCE THE BOOKS!

PAY HIKE

Jerry Magruder

THIS LAND IS MADE FOR YOU AND ME!

AH-HA PERDIDO

THIS LANDFILL IS YOUR LANDFILL
THIS LANDFILL IS MY LANDFILL!

ROD RENDY

NEW SURVIVAL GEAR FOR WEST MAIN STREET INHABITANTS

PENSACOLA DE-OOD
MONEY SWEET
INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH

ESCAMBAIA UTILITIES AUTHORITY

CARLE BOWDEN '89
The Bob and Weave Road Building Company led by Governor Bob Martinez ran into many roadblocks in 1989. While the Martinez road-making machine sputtered and rattled, Escambia County faced delays in completing Blue Angel Parkway, one of the promises for homeporting.
Muriel Wagner, activist in the Pensacola Bay Area League of Women Voters and many state environmental organizations, brought a new sensitivity to the Escambia county commission in the 1980s. She crusaded to protect county wetlands, enact an effective county growth management plan and meet state mandates for waste management and recycling.
Charlie Johnson, a Republican and a retired Florida Highway Patrol trooper, defeated incumbent Sheriff Vince Seely, but soon learned the real battle was with county commissioners over budget priorities. County Administrator Wayne Peacock, like Gus Ellis before him, tried all sorts of magic tricks, seeking county revenues in 1989.
THE SMILE, THE SMILE! GOTTA WORK ON THE SMILE!

WE REALLY DO NEED LEONARDO DA VINCI!

...AND WE WERE LOOKING FOR A NEW, MORE STABLE BRIDGE!

KEEP MOVING, FIDO! YOU GOTTA FIND YOUR OWN BREAD!

FLORIDA

GROWTH
MANAGEMENT
MANDATE

'89 EARLE BOWDEN
The USS Lexington left the Pensacola Naval Air Station for its last active-duty station, the Port of Pensacola, on April 28, 1989. Pensacolians welcomed Captain Flack Logan and the crew of the Lady Lex with a nostalgic 1940s party.

The USS Lexington left the Pensacola Naval Air Station for its last active-duty station, the Port of Pensacola, on April 28, 1989. Pensacolians welcomed Captain Flack Logan and the crew of the Lady Lex with a nostalgic 1940s party.

Pensacolians gathered in the Pensacola Civic Center on November 12, 1989 to celebrate the seventy-fifth year of Pensacola NAS.
FACE IT, YOU'VE GOT A STRONG CASE FOR THE JURY!

50,442 STUDENTS

$180 MILLION NEEDED FOR SCHOOLS

LOCAL BOND ISSUE

OVER CROWNING, CRACKED, BUILDING DECAY

1990s

WITH HARD STUDY, WE MUST COMMUNICATE FOR THE FUTURE!

DR. PETE PAYTON'S ECONOMICS 101

ESCAMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

OPERATE LIKE A BUSINESS, AND WE'LL DO SOME BUSINESS!

BUSINESS CORPORATE SUPPORT

ARTS COUNCIL FUND DRIVE
...ALL THROUGH EAST EUROPE, FREEDOM STIRRED...AND WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

GEORGE, JUST HOW DOES THIS SANTA ROUTINE WORK?

FULL SPEED!

WE NEED THE SAME KINDA HORSE POWER!

WE'RE GROWING A NEW DOWNTOWN!

MAYBE WE CAN GROW TOGETHER!

NORTH EAST PENSACOLA INNER CITY
The Pensacola Little Theatre, needing a new facility, finally stepped forward to rescue the abandoned Court of Record building. Arts organizations joined the cause, acquiring state grant money to complete the Pensacola Civic Center.

Jim Kennedy, a New York City entrepreneur, stirred debate in City Hall and elsewhere in 1989; he wanted the Port of Pensacola property and the bayfront auditorium area on South Palafox Street to develop a tourist destination resort, convention center and festival marketplace. But port proponents rallied; the City Council finally rejected the bold project, but recognized the need for bayfront redevelopment.
Debate over the route for the proposed second bridge over Pensacola Bay went in all directions in 1989. In the 1990s it became “Bo’s Bridge,” for Santa Rosa Rep. Boley (Bo) Johnson, and remained deeply mired in controversy and environmental opposition. The toll bridge was projected from the Santa Rosa peninsula east of Gulf Breeze to Garcon Point in Santa Rosa County.
THIS TIME, LET'S TRY PUTTING THIS PLACE...

...ON THE MAP!

PENSACOLA BEACH

ISLAND AUTHORITY

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Hey, man, may I have your attention!

ECHOES OF CAMILLE AND HUGO

It's a slow summer, but what about Blue Angel Parkway, I-110 extension, city-county recycling facility, stormwater, beach redevelopment, wetlands, Navarre Beach, new jobs...?

...and no more taxes.
GET RHYTHM, STEP LIVELY, AND SELL, SELL, SELL!

NEW JOBS!

YEAH, JOBS, PLANTS, PAYROLLS, PEACE, HARMONY!

BE ALIVE, MAN, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

PENSACOLA 1990s

OPENWAY (OWN REnaissance)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE TRICK IS GETTING AWAY WITH IT!

YOUR STUDIES

BIG BUCKS

ACADEMICS

WATCH IT, HOSS!

'89 CHERIE BOWDERS
A charming story teller and John H. Perry newspaper pioneer in a forty-seven-year career, Braden Lee Ball began as an advertising salesman in 1929 with the News Journal. He pioneered the daily publication of the Panama City News Herald and returned to Pensacola in 1943 as publisher of the News Journal. Known as "Mr. Panhandle," Ball began WDLP radio in Panama City and founded the weekly Playground News that became the Northwest Florida Daily News at Fort Walton Beach. He retired in 1976.

Elbert Wilson (E.W.) Carswell, News Journal Bureau Chief, Chipley; and West Florida folklorist, historian and author
Gannett CEO Allen H. Neuharth chose Today Publisher James Henry (Jim) Jesse to succeed the retiring Braden Ball as News Journal publisher in 1973. Jesse was chairman of the Pensacola-Escambia Bicentennial program in the 1970s.

News Journal columnist Patricia (Pat) Lloyd became a legendary newspaper personality during a forty-one year career, covering fashions, social activity, politics and people with “Around the Town” and the popular page-one column, “Tony Knight.” Pat died in 1987.
Kenneth Andrews, a native Pensacolian who began his News Journal career as credit manager in the 1960s and served as advertising director before becoming a Gannett publisher in Monroe, Louisiana in the 1970s. He moved to Jackson, Mississippi, as publisher for ten years before returning as News Journal publisher in 1987. Andrews retired in the early 1990s.

NOW WE ARE TRULY ONE... EVERY MORNING!

THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY!

1889 TO MAY 31, 1985...

YOU NEVER LOSE YOUR TOUCH!

DEAR OL' BAD

News

Dr. J

Julius Erving

News Journal

COMING JUNE 3

© Carle Cowden '89
Denise Hassell Bannister, who grew up on a dairy farm in West Texas, launched a new News Journal era in January 1991 when she succeeded retiring Ken Andrews as publisher and president of the Pensacola News Journal. The certified public accountant was the publisher of the Gainesville, Georgia Times and the Huntington, West Virginia, Herald Dispatch and a Gannett regional vice president before coming to Pensacola. With the News Journal as the flagship newspaper, Bannister administers Gannett’s Gulf Coast newspapers.
Kentuckian Joedy Isert, who joined the News Journal as metro editor, became Opinion Page Editor after the death of veteran editorialist Paul Jasper. Pensacola-born Carl Wernicke, who had been a News Journal reporter and city editor and columnist for The Pensacola News, became Assistant Opinion Page Editor and newspaper columnist. Isert and Wernicke reflected the new era of an expanded editorial board and more reader participation under Publisher and President Denise Bannister in the 1990s.

Anne Saul, News Journal reporter who covered the 1968 teacher strike, became a Gannett editor who helped establish USA Today and develop Gannett computer systems; in the 1980s she was the first woman to become News Journal executive editor.
Novelist Leon Odell Griffith (1921-1984), a native of Crestview who grew up in Bagdad and Milton, was a U.S. Marine Corps combat correspondent in the Pacific during World War II who became one of the region’s literary figures. He wrote Long Time Since Morning (1954), Seed in the Wind (1960), poetry, short stories and two biographies, John Holliday Perry: Florida Press Lord (1973), and Ed Ball: Confusion to the Enemy (1975). The former News Journal reporter edited manuscripts for the University Press at Gainesville, became a Pensacola public relations professional and published a weekly Pensacola political newspaper.

Poet, historic preservationist, businessman and Republican political leader, Mayhew Wilson (Pat) Dodson III (1929-1975) was Pensacola’s renaissance leader in the 1960s and early 1970s. He served on the University Board of Regents, chaired Florida’s Bicentennial Commission and was a top administrator for the Florida Department of Transportation. An inspiration for Pensacola’s historic preservation movement, Pat was charter chairman of the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board in 1967. The Pat Dodson Complex at the University of West Florida honors his life and career.
Early Johnny Cash
Cover illustration,
Image Magazine,
Pensacola News Journal

Nelson K. Hamilton,
Singing Suwanee Man
Rosie O'Grady's

Robert (Bob) Snow
creator-owner, Seville
Quarter, Pensacola;
Church Street Station,
Orlando

Earle Bowden

Johnny Cash
Film/television actor Leif Erickson married a Pensacolian and adopted the city where he had served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as his second home. His many film roles date from the 1930s; he portrayed Big John Cannon in the TV western series, "High Chapparal." The tall, strong-voiced actor autographed this drawing published on the cover of Image Magazine, Pensacola News Journal.

Southern comedian/philosopher Dave Gardner appeared on the NBC Jack Paar Show in 1957; the preacher of down-home mirth and topical political humor electrified the South. His "Rejoice, Dear Hearts!" was the first of his many classic comedy recordings. He played Pensacola and other Gulf Coast cities, including Biloxi; his 1964 Pensacola Municipal Auditorium appearance prompted this illustration for my affectionate profile of Brother Dave, "We Shall Come Rejoicing" (When your Reach September, 1990).
Democrat Spessard Lindsay Holland of Bartow (Florida governor, 1945-49) served four six-year terms in the U.S. Senate, retiring in 1971. Democrat Lawton Chiles of Lakeland was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1970 by walking from Century to Miami, 1,033 miles, earning the reputation of "Walkin' Lawton." After retiring from the Senate, Chiles defeated Republican Bob Martinez for governor in 1990 and won re-election by fend off Republican newcomer Jeb Bush to become a surviving Southern Democrat of the GOP avalanche of 1994. Caricature of Claude Kirk (Republican governor, 1967-71).
Moderate LeRoy Collins defused racial unrest by counseling progress under law. He gained national stature as permanent chairman of the Democratic National Convention and President Johnson's communications official dealing with Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders in the 1960s. He later was defeated in his bid for the U.S. Senate. Reubin Askew, like Bob Graham after him, followed the Collins tradition. The Bob Sikes caricature from the News Journal was published in the First District congressman's 1984 autobiography, He-Coon: the Bob Sikes Story.
A Republican, of Spanish ancestry, Tampa Mayor Bob Martinez became governor but lost a second term to Democrat Lawton Chiles.

Claude Pepper, legendary U.S. Senator, Congressman

Florida Senator Dempsey Barron of Panama City (Dean of the Senate)

Florida Governor Fuller Warren (1949-1953)
Escambia County Rep.
Virginia (Ginger) Bass
(later, Virginia Wetherell, wife of House Speaker T.K. Wetherell, and Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection)

Tom Tobiassen: Elected 1968; served twenty-four years in the Florida Legislature
In the 1960s, Pensacolians worked out disagreements over expanding Pensacola Junior College or accepting a senior state university; the Florida Legislature established the University of West Florida on Riverview land purchased by the Escambia commissioners. Pensacola Circuit Judge and University of Florida law school professor Harold Bryan Crosby became founding president. The opening of UWF in 1967 triggered high expectations for promoting education and attracting industry and business.
Woodward B. (Woody) Skinner, historian

Gordon Norman Simons, museum curator and archaeologist who helped rediscover Pensacola history from the 1960s until his death in 1989

T.T. Wentworth Jr. "Mr. History" of Pensacola
Pensacollian Daniel (Chappie) James, first African-American to wear the four stars of general (U.S. Air Force)
From 1959 to 1965, I wrote and illustrated the *News Journal* Sunday Centennial Series, "The Civil War One Hundred Years Ago This Week." I was fascinated by the great Confederate cavalry leader General Nathan Bedford Forrest. The Tennessee "Wizard of the Saddle" rode into legend, having twenty-nine horses shot under him. He masterminded the classic cavalry victory of all time at Brice's Crossroads in Mississippi. He said, "I just . . . got there first with the most men. Shoot at anything blue. Git 'em skedeed and then keep the skeer on 'em."
Joe Oldmixon, Escambia County Supervisor of Voter Registration

Engineer, Advocate for Pensacola economic development

Fred Donovan

Kenneth Kelson, dubbed “Dr. No” as a Pensacola city councilman, said “no” as an Escambia commissioner
Senior vice president for economic development, Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce

Pioneer and chief executive, Lakeview Center Pensacola Magazine September 1993

Dr. James A. Robinson Second President, The University Of West Florida
A legend of Fisher-Brown Insurance; noted speaker and Pensacola storyteller

TOMMY TAIT
Banker Tommy Tait helped pioneer Pensacola’s Committee of 100

Once an Escambia member of the Florida House of Representatives, Roy Hess was afloat as one of Penscola’s best known entrepreneurs in the 1990s.
Since 1960, Massachusetts-born Don Priest has been the news and sports director of WCOA Radio. The caricature was for my Pensacola Magazine profile, "The High Priest of Pensacola Radio" (November 1992). His WCOA associate, Dave Pavlock, served four years as Escambia county commissioner in the 1990s. The drawing of John Hodges, Gulf Power executive and community activist, illustrated my Hodges profile, "Man of Energy at Hawkshaw" (Pensacola Magazine, January 1993).
Pensacola City Manager

Rod Kendig

Successor to Vince Whibbs, Republican Jerry Maygarden later became a member of the Florida House of Representatives

Hank Anson, Pensacola City Council

Mayor Jerry Maygarden

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Desorbo
Last commanding officer of the USS Lexington; Pensacola City Councilman

Sister Irene Kraus
CEO, Administrator Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola Magazine October 1993

Captain C. Flack Logan

Max Dickson Escambia County Commissioner

Senator W.D. Childers Dean of the Senate
Pat Crawford
The "Garrison Keillor"
of WUWF Radio Live

Albert Richards
(Rick) Dye Jr.
Banker/activist
and ambassador
for Pensacola
tourism and
economic
development

Broadcaster
Don Schroeder

Jack Hornbeck
Pensacola Area
Chamber of
Commerce

Joe Bowles
Manager of
the Stenger
and other
movie
houses
Gordon Towne
Pensacola radio personality and WCOA manager

Captain Don Parker
Sheriff's deputy, humorous speaker, writer, playwright

Professor James Witt
political scientist,
University of West Florida