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BOOK NEWS

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Title: *Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise:
The Story of Caladesi Island*

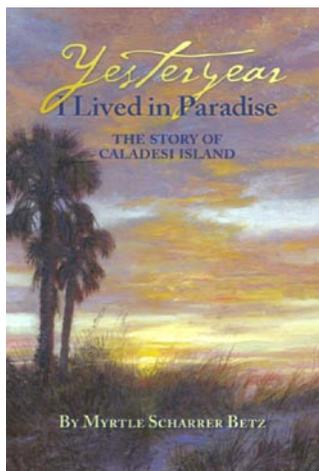
Author: Myrtle Scharrer Betz

Size: 6" x 9"; 209 pp.; 130+ photos & illustrations

Price: \$30 Hardback; \$20 Paperback

Publication Date: October 15, 2007

ISBN: 978-1-59732-032-0 (hbk); 978-1-59732-033-7 (pbk)



Eyewitness to Pioneer Florida Tells the Story of Caladesi Island

Myrtle Scharrer Betz experienced pioneer Florida life first-hand growing up on an unspoiled island homestead on Caladesi Island.

Born there in the family homestead in 1895, Myrtle has the distinction of being the only child delivered on Caladesi, having entered the world at the hands of a mid-wife after her father, who had travelled by boat to the mainland to fetch a doctor, was stranded by a storm.

Late in life, Myrtle decided that her story was too good not to share.

“If Grandma Moses began painting at 70,” Myrtle reasoned, “why can’t I start writing at 87?”

Drawing from a lifetime of astute observation and a memory rich with detail, Myrtle proceeded to write by hand in loose-leaf binders her memories of growing up in a place she thought of as a paradise.

Her method was to compose in her mind each night as she lay waiting to go to sleep. In the morning she would write her memories into her notebook. The original manuscript was handwritten from start to finish as readers will find it in her book, with virtually no revision or rewriting. She proved to be a remarkable storyteller.

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Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise captures the natural wonders, discomforts, challenges, and joys of pioneer life on a Florida West Coast barrier island. Myrtle's narrative spans the time from when her father, Henry Scharrer, first arrived in America from Switzerland in 1883 until his death in 1934.

For this new and enlarged edition, the author's family has selected from hundreds of items in photo albums and scrapbooks more than 130 historic illustrations to provide a visual legacy that complements Myrtle's story. Granddaughter Terry Fortner has added a timeline extending the history to the years before and after the years of Myrtle's text.

With wisdom, insight, and poetry, Myrtle Scharrer Betz has written a book that brings the past alive. Her words and her values can help bring depth and perspective to the Florida we see today.

In consideration of the future as well as preservation of the past, sales from the book support the Henry Scharrer Memorial Fund to underwrite projects at Caladesi and Honeymoon Island State Parks.

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Copies of *Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise* by Myrtle Scharrer Betz can be ordered with any major credit card on the University of Tampa Press web site at <http://utpress.ut.edu>; Visa and Mastercard orders are accepted by phone at (813) 253-6266.

For more information on this book contact:

Richard Mathews or Sean Donnelly at (813) 253-6266 — or e-mail utpress@ut.edu.

For information regarding a Caladesi Memories talk and book signing appearance please contact: Terry Fortner at 727-786-2837—or e-mail tcf53@hotmail.com