

A Major Florida Palm Collection

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The Florida Institute of Technology, as the name implies, is a technical university, without either a botany department or a staff botanist. But on its 128-acre main campus, on the western outskirts of Melbourne, is one of the largest collections of palms in the state. In the collection are some 2,000 palms representing more than 100 species. A fair number are mature, while the rest are established and thriving. Only three other Florida collections are larger in the number of established species—those at the Fairchild Tropical Garden, the Montgomery Foundation (Jennings Estate), and the U.S. Plant Introduction Garden, Chapman Field, all in the Miami area.

You are entitled to wonder how a technical university ever got itself involved in collecting and growing palms. On the surface, few things could have less affinity than palms and the subjects taught at F.I.T.—mathematics, physics, mechanical and electrical engineering, electronics, oceanography, space science, and aviation. Yet, here is a botanical collection, although specialized, surpassing those of most universities and colleges that offer degrees in botany.

It all started because F.I.T.'s founder, Dr. Jerome P. Keuper, had some disappointments in the landscape planting back in 1962 when the university moved to its present campus. Most of the campus soil was poor, sandy upland, covered by yellow pine and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). At the north-east corner of the campus the upland

dipped into a low, wet hammock of hardwoods—oak, maple, hickory—and tall cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*). The soil in this area was fairly good but was too low to be of much practical use in the construction of a university campus. Crane Creek passed through the area on its way to Indian River. A smaller stream, Needlepalm Branch, crossed the campus and snaked through the lowland to empty into Crane Creek. After a hard rain, Crane Creek and Needlepalm Branch overflowed, flooding the lowland. Thus the area seemed to be of little value for anything. But no one in 1962 had time to think much about the area's potentialities. Jerry Keuper was busy planning and constructing buildings and looking about for suitable plants to set off the landscape about them.

Jerry's landscape plans failed to develop as he visualized. Most of the trees and shrubs he had obtained from nurseries proved to be ill adapted to the sandy soil, which became powder-dry during the long, dry season. He could only look on in frustration as much of the stuff declined, the foliage turning yellow and twigs dying back, despite frequent irrigation. Insects—mites, thrips, scale, and mealybugs—took their toll, and, finally, many of the plants succumbed. Up to this time, Jerry's interest in plants had been limited to the admiration of them. Trees were for others to grow and to study. He was pleased to be a passive observer. His entire background had been technical, with no time for any special interest in plants—or anything else outside his pro-

¹Photos by the author except where otherwise credited.



1. Welcome sign at entrance to Dent Smith Trail.

fession except teaching, which he thought of as a hobby.

Jerome P. Keuper was born in Fort Thomas, Kentucky, in 1921. He got his bachelor's degree in physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While a student there he conceived and designed the first nuclear scintillation counter. He went on to get his master's degree in physics at Stanford and his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Virginia. From 1952 until 1958, Jerry was employed as a physicist by the Remington Arms Company at Bridgeport, Connecticut, and while there he taught mathematics at the Bridgeport Engineering Institute.

In 1958, Jerry Keuper came to Florida, his job being to determine the

accuracy of delicate tracking devices used by the Radio Corporation of America in connection with the test-firing of military missiles from Cape Canaveral. Meanwhile, he looked about for an opportunity to continue his hobby, teaching. There was none, so he started night classes for engineers employed in the missile-testing program, most of them with masters' degrees or above. Initiation of an all-out space program after the orbiting of Sputnik by the Russians brought thousands of technically trained persons to the Cape, and soon Keuper was having to enlist the help of other specialists in his teaching program. Still the classes expanded, and Jerry organized the Brevard Engineering Institute. (This name was selected because the



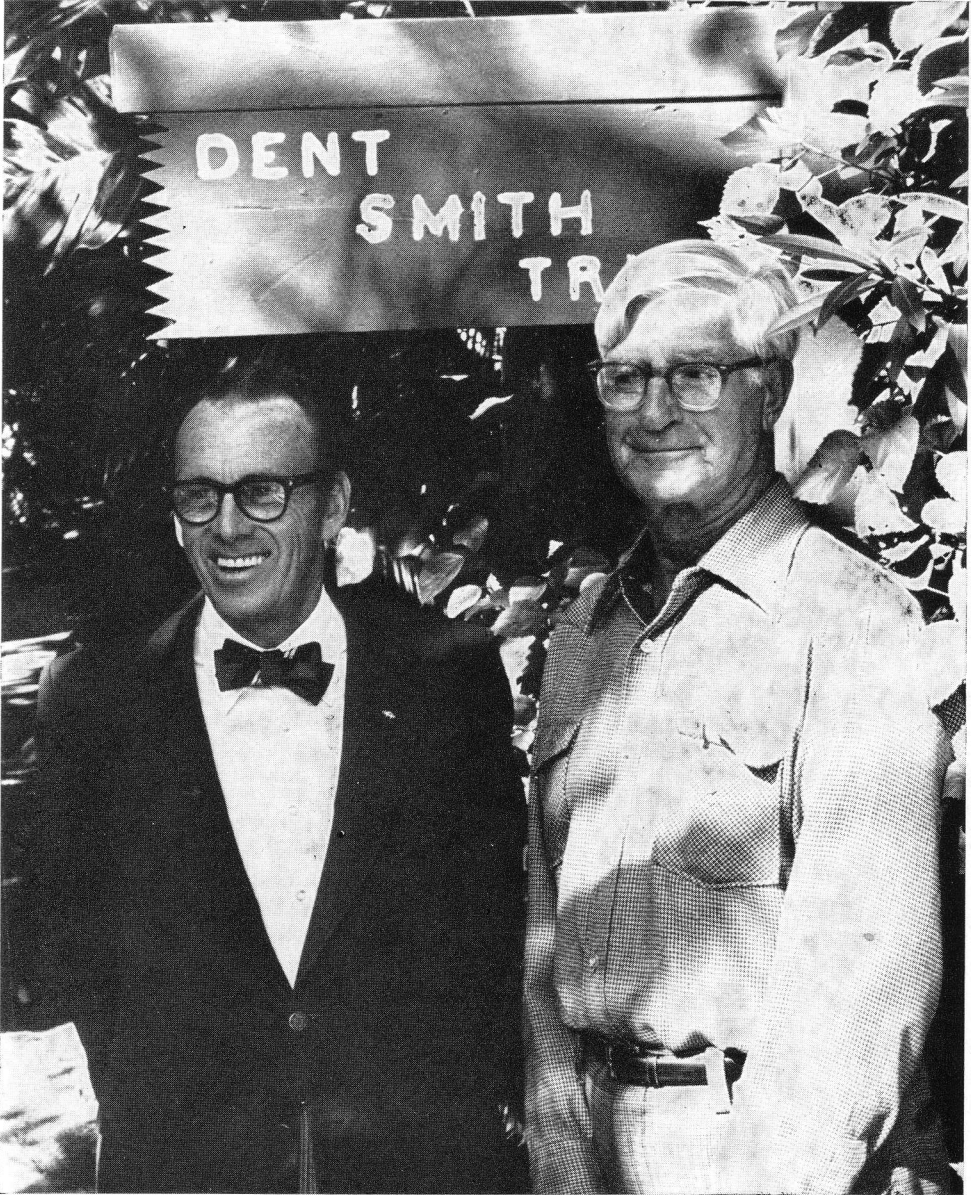
2. Dent Smith Trail with towering *Sabal palmetto* palms and oaks and understory planting of exotic palms.



3. Fronds of thriving palms invade space over trail. Multiple-trunked palm is *Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*.

initials were the same as those of the Bridgeport Engineering Institute, represented by a B.E.I. decal on his automobile windshield.) In 1966, B.E.I. became

the fully accredited Florida Institute of Technology. Today, with more than 2,400 full-time students, F.I.T. is second only to the University of Miami among



4. Dr. Jerome P. Keuper, left, and Dent Smith at entrance to Dent Smith Trail.

private universities and colleges in the state.

Heading a school with its numerous and varied programs, Keuper had more than enough to occupy his mind and his

time. But with his landscape plantings going to the dogs, his interest in plants quickly changed from a passive to a positive, active concern. He began looking for plants tolerant of the conditions



5. Plantings give trail a lush, jungle effect.

on the campus and which would at the same time would set it off characteristically as a part of Florida.

"I must say that I had developed a real love for Florida," said Jerry. "I

liked the climate, of course, but I also liked everything else about it, and I found the landscape very attractive and different."

The cabbage palms growing along



6. Native saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) develops trunk in shade of taller cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*) and oaks.

Indian River could hardly have been more spectacular, and he noted with pleasure that the same species thrived at the F.I.T. campus—palms as tall and as striking as those along the river. Now

he began observing other palm species, noting that a number of different kinds thrived in Brevard. What his discerning eyes sorted out pleased him, and he began thinking about the possibility of



7. Large needlepalm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*) between Dent Smith Trail and Needlepalm Branch.

using palms as the main landscape feature on the new campus. But who knew anything about palms? Most persons he asked were unsure of their names. In the meantime, Jerry heard of a "palm nut" up at Daytona Beach. His name was Dent Smith. An avid palm collector, he had founded The Palm Society. Jerry called Dent and asked if he could drive up to see him; he wanted to talk about palms.

Smith could hardly have been more cordial. It was a pleasure to show off his palm collection to anyone, but to have a university president interested in palms was something very special. Jerry spent several hours talking with Smith and going over his collection, and, by the time the educator headed back to

Melbourne, he had become infected by the disease known as palmitis, for which the only cure is to collect and grow palms and become a member of The Palm Society. But before he left, he got Dent's promise to visit F.I.T. Jerry wanted to show him the campus and talk some more about palms. It happened that Dent was planning a boat trip to Fort Myers, by way of the Indian River and the Okeechobee Waterway, and he promised to stop at Melbourne on his way back.

"I didn't know a thing about palms, and didn't pretend to," said Jerry, recalling Dent's visit. "I wanted Dent to tell me more about these plants. I wanted to know how to plant them and how to grow them. And I wanted to get some



8. A forest of saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*). Photo by Dent Smith.

sources of palms. I was anxious to get some palms started on the campus; I was in a hurry."

To Dent Smith, the 128-acre campus, with its yawning spaces, looked like an ideal place for palms. But his enthusiasm knew no bounds when he saw the low jungle of hardwoods and cabbage palms, moistened by two streams. It was the kind of habitat that he was well acquainted with, and he began looking immediately for the needlepalm (*Rhapidophyllum hystrix*) growing along the winding branch. He was surprised to find none. The only other native palm Dent found besides the cabbage palm was the saw palmetto, which grew in profusion on a high bank beyond Crane Creek.

"Jerry, you have an ideal place for palms," said Dent after they had fought their way through the underbrush. "You could have one of the finest collections in

the world here. The palms you can't grow in the upland part of the campus you can grow here in this jungle, where there is constant moisture and cover to provide some protection from frost during cold winters. You could grow all but the most cold-sensitive palms here." Dent discounted the effects of periodic flooding. Most palms, he told Jerry, could take some flooding, provided the water did not stand over the roots of the palms for several days at a time.

The suggestion that F.I.T. could have "one of the finest collections in the world" was the kind designed to send a person like Jerry Keuper into action. "We're ready to start," replied Jerry, who likes to use the collective pronoun when speaking of F.I.T. "Just tell us how to get started." "I'll do better than that," said Dent. "I'll send you a truckload of palms and a man to show you how to plant them."



9. Jerry Keuper on Dent Smith Trail, with *Ravenea hildebrandtii* in background. Photo by Dent Smith.

A few days later a truckload of palms arrived at the Florida Institute of Technology, accompanied by Dent's helper, Dewey Watson. It was just a beginning. Jerry picked up from there. Checking with consultant Dent Smith from time to time—and sometimes not—he began scouring South Florida for palms. In the beginning he was interested in large palms for the landscape planting of the campus, meanwhile acquiring an increasing number of species in containers from plant nurseries and collectors.

Dent, who supplied funds for a shade house, also was helping to build the collection. Knowing that the native Florida paurotis palm (*Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*), would tolerate the low temperatures Melbourne experiences in some years, Dent purchased 100 of these palms at the Cutler Nursery in south Dade County. But when Keuper arrived with a truck to pick them up, he noted that Al Cutler had

another 100 paurotis in three-gallon cans. "Load them, too," said Keuper. "We'll take all." An admirer of the paurotis, Keuper was acquiring all of this species he could find. He eventually wound up with with some 300.

Dent, meanwhile, continued to deliver palms for the F.I.T. collection, among them a number of fine specimens of the needlepalm. "You've got to have needlepalms growing along that branch in the jungle," said Dent. "It just doesn't look right without them." As a result of Dent's efforts to remedy nature's neglect, the winding stream acquired the name of Needlepalm Branch.

West of Fort Lauderdale, off U.S. Highway 84, Jerry spotted a magnificent *Acrocomia totai*, and purchased it. But how do you move a thirty-foot *Acrocomia* without obliterating the long, black spines that cover its trunk? To many persons, perhaps, this would have



10. A fine specimen of *Licuala paludosa* on trail.

been a small matter. Who wants palm spines, anyway? But to Jerry Keuper the spines were important, because they were part of the palm's identity, just as its quills are part of a porcupine's identity. So, on a weekend before the palm was to be transported to Melbourne, the educator and his wife, Natalie, drove down to Fort Lauderdale with a ladder, newspapers, blankets and tying line. Pressing the spines upward against the trunk, the Keupers covered the palm from ground to foliage. Today this palm stands in front of F.I.T.'s library, with the spines undamaged.

Jerry enlisted his staff in the search for palms. One member, quail hunting near Fellsmere, on the edge of the St. Johns River marshes, spotted an enor-

mous Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) standing alone in a field. The property owner refused to sell, but Jerry waited. Eventually the property changed hands and he approached the new owner, who gave him the palm. This huge specimen now occupies an important site on the F.I.T. campus.

In 1968, Jerry found an experienced plantsman to take charge of the planting and care of the palms, Jim Joyner. Although Joyner had a job with Shaw Nursery in Miami, he was looking for a chance to get away from the "big city." Moreover, the chance to help develop a major palm collection was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Meanwhile, Jerry was going ahead with plans suggested by Dent Smith for



11. An elevated walk through palms takes students between dormitories and classrooms.

the development of the moist jungle. Calling on a professor of engineering on his staff who had an eye for the esthetic, plans were made for paved trails on either side of winding Needlepalm Branch. The engineer not only obliged but came up with plans for unique rainbow-shaped bridges across the stream. After the trail was completed, it was christened the Dent Smith Trail.

Palms were arriving at the campus almost faster than Joyner could plant them. He was spending so much time in the jungle garden that students began calling him "Jungle Jim," a nickname that stuck. Among the palms that went into the jungle were more than a dozen *Chamaedorea* species, including the climbing *Chamaedorea elatior*. All are

now thriving, as are genera of three or four dozen other palms, represented by one or more species. Among them are *Aiphanes*, *Acoelorrhaphe*, *Areca*, *Arenga*, *Brassiophoenix*, *Coccothrinax*, *Daemonorops*, *Gaussia*, *Geonoma*, *Howea*, *Hydriastele*, *Licuala*, *Livistona*, *Opsiandra*, *Pinanga*, *Pritchardia*, *Ptychosperma*, *Raphia*, *Ravenea*, *Rhapidophyllum*, *Rhapis*, *Roystonea*, *Sabal*, *Scheelea*, *Syagrus*, *Thrinax*, *Veitchia*, and *Zombia*. *Sabal*, with fourteen species, was second only to *Chamaedorea* in the number represented.

Many of these are repeated among the upland plantings, where *Washingtonia*, *Sabal*, *Veitchia*, *Coccothrinax*, *Phoenix*, *Livistona*, *Chrysalidocarpus*, *Roystonea*, *Caryota*, *Butia*, *Arecastrum*, *Elaeis*, *Diclyosperma*, and *Acoelorrhaphe* predomi-



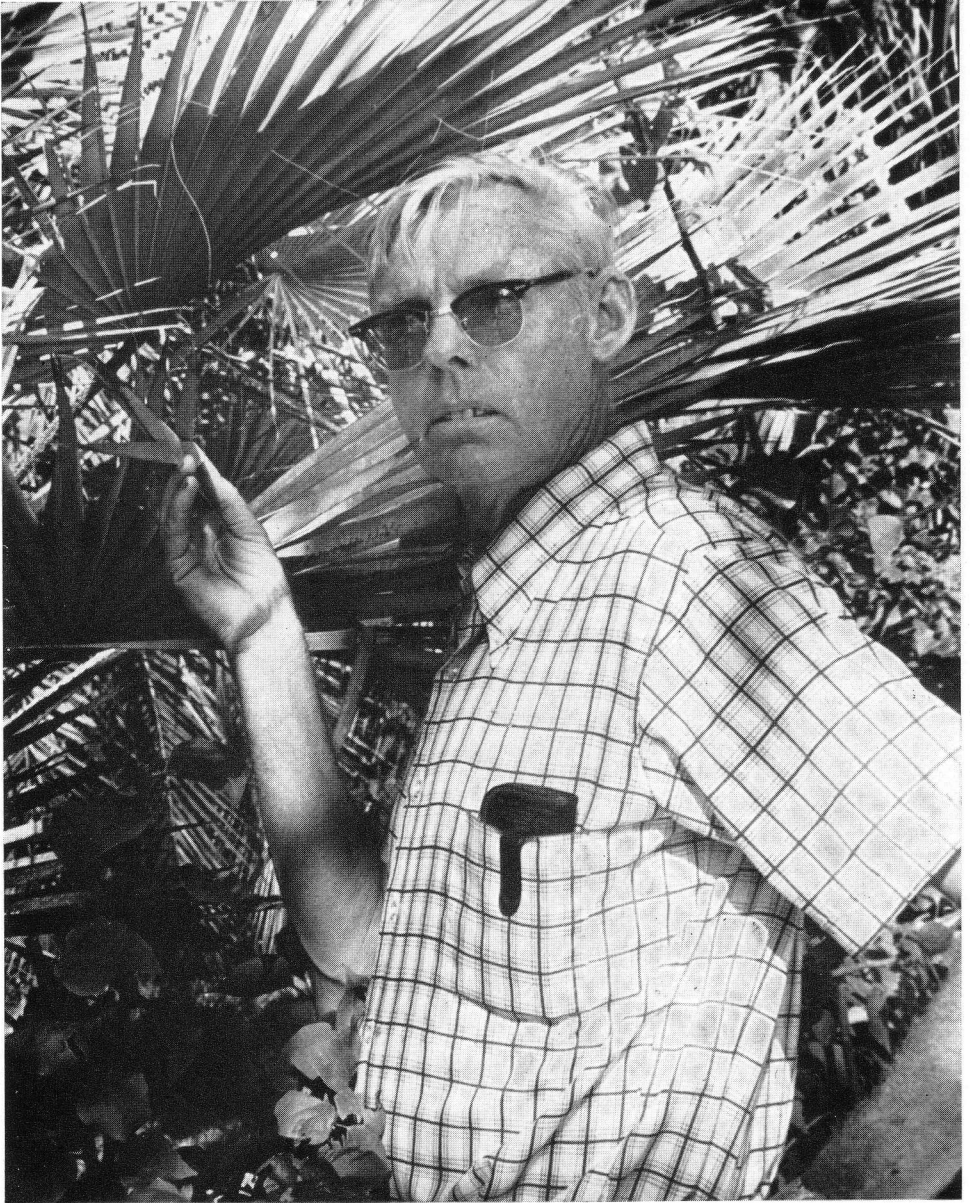
12. Gray-green leaves of *Erythea armata* stand out in this landscape planting.

nate. Among the plantings are young representatives of *Borassus flabellifer*, *Rhopalostylis baueri*, *Rhyticoccus amara*, *Pinanga kuhlii*, *Parajubaea cocoides*, *Bismarckia nobilis*, *Coccothrinax miraguama*, *Satakentia liukuensis*, and *Chelyocarpus chuco*. There also are fine specimens of *Erythea armata*, *Cryosophila warszewiczii*, *Bactris gasipaes*, and what is believed to be the largest specimen in Florida of *Ravenea hildebrandtii*, a palm from Madagascar. In the nursery are a number of species not yet represented in the plantings and which are not considered a part of the established collection.

Members of The Palm Society who attended the biennial meeting at F.I.T. in 1970 will remember the progress Jerry Keuper had made in building his collection just three years after getting started. Those who plan to attend the

1976 biennial meeting at F.I.T. will have a chance to see the astounding changes that have taken place since 1970. Jerry, who couldn't be more pleased with the progress of the collection, has promised to go all-out to see that the meeting is a memorable one. The meeting will take place after the students leave for summer vacation, thus making available ample dormitory space, as well as a cafeteria, and an auditorium. Charges will be nominal for food and services. Buses will meet planes to transport palm people to the campus. Side trips to other major collections are planned, including Dr. U. A. Young's collection in Tampa, the Fairchild Tropical Garden, Montgomery Foundation, and Chapman Field.

Walking over the campus and along the Dent Smith Trail, you find it hard to believe that F.I.T.'s palm collection was begun just seven years ago. Many



13. Jim Joyner, Florida Institute of Technology's "Jungle Jim," plants and maintains the palms.

of the palms, particularly in the jungle garden, have outgrown the spaces allotted them. Jungle Jim has to keep the fronds of a number of palms tied back to keep them from obstructing the trail.

The single-trunked palms may in time grow tall enough so that persons using the trails will pass beneath them, creating a pleasing effect. But the multiple-trunked palms, such as the



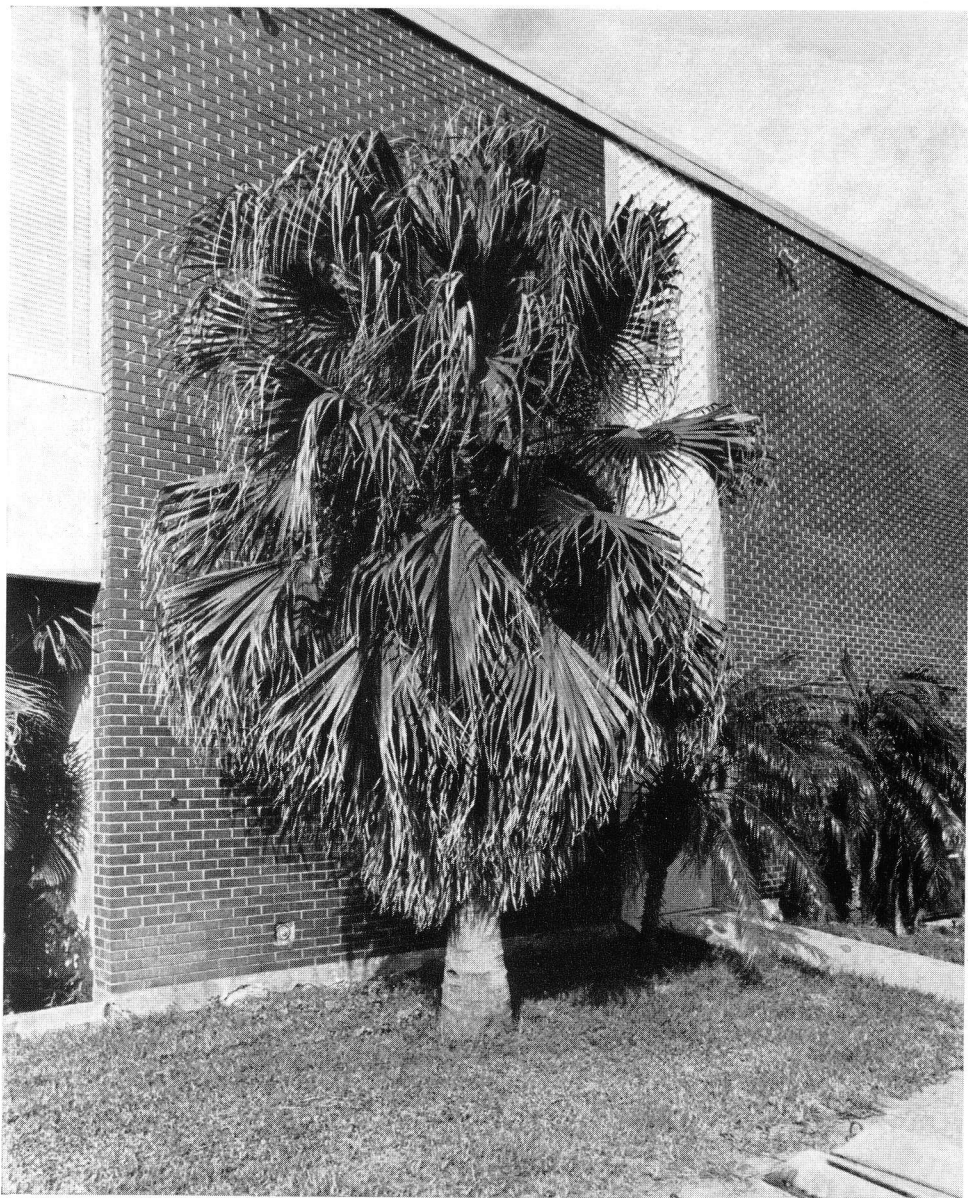
14. Palms provide major landscape plants at Florida Institute of Technology campus. These tall palms are, left to right, an *Acrocomia* species, *Washingtonia robusta*, and native *Sabal palmetto*. Jerry Keuper had the *Acrocomia* hauled in from a field in Broward County after covering the spines with newspapers and blankets to protect them.



15. A royal palm (*Roystonea elata*) dominates this landscape planting. Behind it is a *Ptychosperma elegans*, while immediately to its left is an *Aiphanes acanthophylla*.

Acoelorrhaphe, *Arenga engleri*, *Chrysali-docarpus lutescens*, several species of *Chamaedorea*, as well as the slower-growing species like *Licuala* and *Sabal*, are likely to continue to compete with pass-

ersby for space on the trail. On the other hand, many of the palms planted in the jungle probably would do better in more light. But these are things that collectors learn as time passes, after they have had



16. Green leaves and blue fruit of a *Livistona chinensis* break the monotony of a massive brick wall. Smaller palms at right are *Phoenix roebelenii*.

a chance to take note and to know more about the palms in their collections.

With few reservations, the uses of palms on F.I.T.'s campus show what can be accomplished by the members of The

Palm Society in a landscape setting. As with most collectors, however, there tends to be greater emphasis on the collection than on esthetics. But there are some excellent examples of how well



17. These old specimens of *Arecastrum romanzoffianum* (?) were hauled to campus from a site where they had grown for possibly half a century.



18. An African oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) appears to be crowding the space about the entrance to a dormitory, but it is still effective as a landscape specimen.

palms can be used in the landscape. One of the finest is a row of palms used to screen a major parking lot from adjacent private residences.

When the university sought to build

the parking lot, some 200 feet deep and extending four blocks, the neighbors complained. They knew they not only would be looking out on the parking lot all day, but that the noise of cars and



19. An effective planting of native cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*).

motorcycles would be a constant source of irritating noise. When Jerry promised to plant a wide and tall screen of palms along the back of the proposed parking area, the neighbors withdrew their objections. Today the palm screen, prin-

cipally plantings of large *Phoenix reclinata*, not only provides a background of evergreen foliage that is different from common hedges, but also reduces the noise.

By far the most picturesque part of the



20. The genes got mixed up in the seed that produced this "weirdo," which was planted as an oddity. It is probably *Elaeis guineensis* var. *idolatrix*.

collection is the jungle planting along the Dent Smith Trail. Most such habitats are found only in state parks or in the back country far off the beaten track, but nowhere else in Florida has anyone attempted to build a sizeable palm collection in such a spot. Although local heavy rainfall may turn Crane Creek and Needlepalm Branch into furious torrents that overflow the jungle and cover the roots of the palms with two or three feet of water, no harm is done. The runoff is rapid and soon the winding concrete trails are open for foot traffic again. And these trails are in almost constant use during the school year, by students taking a short cut on their way to classrooms from dormitories that overlook the jungle.

One big question about the collection is yet to be answered—the effect of low temperatures. Florida's last major freeze was in 1962, when the temperature dropped to the 20s Fahrenheit. Dent Smith recorded 22° F. at his place on Halifax River, Daytona Beach, despite the fact that he was within a quarter-mile of the ocean. During one period the temperature remained below freezing for fourteen hours. Although he lost a great many palms in that freeze and had numerous others seriously damaged, Dent appreciates the effects of cold as well as any other palm collector. He made detailed records of the damage, later publishing reports in *Principes*, along with a list of palms he considers to be cold-tolerant. Although Melbourne is



21. Palms make remarkable silhouettes in late afternoon light. At left are two native sabals, at right a *Washingtonia* species.

eighty miles south of Daytona, the F.I.T. campus is two miles from Indian River and five miles from the ocean. Most of F.I.T.'s hardy palms are part of the landscaping of the upland part of the campus. The more tender ones have been planted in the jungle where there is canopy, but when a northwester brings cold that plunges the thermometer to the 20s, no canopy is sufficient.

Although Jerry has used Dent's list of cold-tolerant palms as a guide, he has "cheated" a bit, collecting and planting tender species like *Licuala grandis* and *Pritchardia pacifica*, whose damage or death is a certainty when the temperature drops below 32°. But is there a collector who has not taken a chance? What are you going to do with a magnificent

Pritchardia pacifica that someone gave you? Say take it back; that you don't want it? No, you accept the palm and plant it if it is too large for your greenhouse, and hope that somehow you can protect it from the cold. Moreover, the weather is warm when you do the planting, and winter seems a long way off. In Miami, for instance, we still have tropical fruit collectors who insist that the breadfruit can be cultivated outdoors, although nobody has succeeded in doing so thus far. This tropical tree drops its leaves when the temperature hits the low 40s. Many tender palms are hurt, too, when the winter temperature remains in the 40s and 50s night after night, especially when a dry wind is playing upon their foliage.



22. Palms dominate in this landscape setting, giving a cue to the intensity of interest in palms at the Florida Institute of Technology.

Dent Smith believes that at least 150 palm species can be grown outdoors at Melbourne. But F.I.T. has another campus, that of the School of Marine and Environmental Technology, at Jensen Beach, on the Indian River. Much closer to the Gulf Stream than Melbourne, the winter temperature at Jensen Beach may be several degrees warmer in winter than at the main campus—warm enough for the cultivation of the coconut. Keuper hopes eventually to extend his palm collection to the 85-acre south campus. At present, however, he has neither the time nor the funds to develop two separate palm collections.

What is the future of the Keuper palm collection? Obviously it is a one-man affair, being a reality only because Jerry Keuper is the founder and president of F.I.T. He has no plans for “institu-

tionalizing” the collection. The addition of a botany department to an otherwise technical university would be impractical. And at the present time there is no money to add a competent botanist, who, of course, would require his own staff. Jerry regrets that it is impossible to keep as good records as he would like. His hope is to employ a trained horticulturist, an able plantsman who also can keep the kind of records that would add immense value to the collection. That, too, would be a costly addition, and presently is out of the question since it would siphon funds from the school. But if an “angel” should come along, Jerry would start looking for the right man immediately. “We’ve got a good plantsman in Jim Joyner, but he is no records keeper and doesn’t pretend to be,” said Jerry.

Is a palm collection a valid addition to the campus of a technical institution? Keuper was unsure at first, in fact a little dubious, but he has changed his mind. "I now think the collection is important to the school," he said. "At first, the students and the staff were critical, but I believe that most of them have changed their minds. The students take a lot of pride in the Dent Smith Trail, and when we expect visitors they pitch in to help clean up the area, picking up litter and sweeping the walks. I've noted an increasing interest over the years."

For one thing, the jungle garden has become a nature retreat for the students, who go there to get away briefly from an altogether different kind of environment, mathematics and technology. You see them walking the trail alone or in pairs, sometimes boy and girl, occasionally with visitors that may be their parents. Or, you see a student sitting in one of the shelters along the Dent Smith Trail, deeply engrossed in study. Then, on occasion, the students seem to go native, acting a bit like Tarzan of the Apes. On the Sunday that Dent Smith and I were photographing the palms in the jungle garden we came upon a tree loaded with students. I counted eleven among the branches. A multitude of Tarzan-like cries from the tree-tops would hardly have seemed out of place—or even Tarzan himself swinging through the trees.

Palm Trees on F.I.T. Campus

(Revised—March 15, 1973)

Acoelorrhaphe wrightii
Acrocomia totai
Aiphanes acanthophylla
A. caryotifolia
Archontophoenix alexandrae
A. cunninghamiana
Areca alicae
A. catechu

A. triandra
Arecastrum romanzoffianum
Arecastrum × *Butia*
Arenga engleri
A. microcarpa?
A. obtusifolia
A. pinnata
A. tremula
Arikuryroba schizophylla
Attalea sp.
Bactris sp.
Borassus flabellifer
Brassiophoenix drymophloeoides
Butia capitata

Caryota aequatorialis
C. mitis
C. ochlandra
C. urens
Chamaedorea arenbergiana
C. brachypoda
C. cataractarum
C. costaricana
C. elatior
C. elegans
C. erumpens
C. glaucifolia
C. microspadix
C. radicalis
C. schippii
C. seifrizii
C. stolonifera
C. tenella
C. tepejilote
Chamaerops humilis
Chrysalidocarpus cabadae
C. lutescens
C. madagascariensis
C. madagascariensis var. *lucubensis*
Coccothrinax argentata
C. argentea
C. crinita
C. dussiana
C. eggersiana
C. miraguama
Cocos nucifera
C. nucifera cv. 'Dwarf Malayan'

- Copernicia alba*
C. baileyana
C. glabrescens
C. prunifera
Corypha umbraculifera
Cryosophila nana
C. warszewiczii

Daemonorops longispatha
Dictyosperma album

Elaeis guineensis
Erythea armata
E. brandegeei
E. edulis

Gaussia attenuata
Geonoma sp.

Heterospathe elata
Howea belmoreana
H. forsterana
Hydriastele sp.
Hyophorbe verschaffeltii
Hyphaene thebaica

Latania loddigesii
L. lontaroides
Licuala grandis
L. paludosa
L. peltata
L. pumila
Livistona australis
L. chinensis
L. decipiens
L. mariae
L. rotundifolia

Microcoelum weddellianum

Neodypsis decaryi

Opsiandra maya
Orbignya cohune

Parajubaea cocoides
Phoenix canariensis
P. dactylifera
P. pusilla
P. reclinata
P. roebelenii

P. rupicola
P. sylvestris
Pinanga kuhlii
Pritchardia hillebrandii
P. pacifica
P. remota
P. thurstonii
Pseudophoenix sargentii
Ptychosperma elegans
P. macarthurii
P. praemosum
P. propinquum

Raphia farinifera
R. vinifera
Ravenea hildebrandtii
Rhapidophyllum hystrix
Rhapis excelsa
R. humilis
Rhopalostylis baueri
Rhyticocos amara
Roystonea elata
R. hispaniolana
R. oleracea
R. regia

Sabal allenii
S. bermudana
S. blackburniana
S. causiarum
S. domingensis
S. etonia
S. mauritiiformis
S. mexicana
S. minor
S. nematoclada
S. palmetto
S. parviflora
S. texana
S. yapa
Scheelea huebneri
S. leandroana
S. liebmannii
S. martiana
S. urbaniana
Schippia concolor
Serenoa repens
Syagrus coronata

S. inajai
 S. quinquefaria
 S. weddelliana
 Thrinax morrisii
 T. radiata
 Trachycarpus fortunei
 T. martianus
 T. takil
 Trithrinax acanthocoma
 Veitchia joannis
 V. merrillii
 V. montgomeryana
 V. winin
 Washingtonia filifera
 W. robusta

Zombia antillarum

Addendum from Revised List of
 March 21, 1975

Arenga caudata
 Bactris gasipaes
 Bismarckia nobilis
 Chamaedorea costaricana × C. schippii
 Chambeyronia macrocarpa
 Copernicia yarey
 Prestoea montana
 Ptychosperma salomonense (Strongylo-
 caryum sp.)
 Veitchia arecina

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

A Chapter of The Palm Society was formed in the spring of 1974 in the San Francisco area of California. A report submitted by Warren Dolby, Chairman, follows: "Last February Virginia Ryder of San Francisco invited several local members to her home for dinner and to talk palms. It was at that gathering that we decided to form a local chapter since meetings of the Western Chapter are usually held in the Los Angeles or San Diego areas over 400 miles away. The first meeting was held in April 1974 at Knowland Park in Oakland. Invitations went to all Palm Society members within 100 miles and about 25 people showed up. A pot-luck picnic and bar-b-cue was enlivened with lots of palm talk. Jim Wright flew up from San Diego to carry best wishes from southern California. The highlight of this first meeting was a plant auction led by Dick Douglas which netted the new chapter over \$100 and sent everyone home with a prized plant. In August a second meeting was held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Petralli

in Santa Cruz, and in November our group met in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Several projects are already underway. One is the development of a guide to unusual palms or interesting palm plantings in our part of the state. Another involves the encouragement of public planting of palms. Already we have given palms to the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley and we are making arrangements to help develop palm plantings in Golden Gate Park which probably has a fine climate for high altitude palms such as *Ceroxylon*. Officers of the Northern California Chapter are: Warren Dolby, Chairman; Virginia Ryder, Secretary; Richard Douglas, Vice-Chairman; Patricia Rapp, Treasurer."

Welcome to the new Chapter; we wish them success and congratulate them on the choice of their projects.

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The Palm Beach Chapter invited all Florida members to visit the former

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