

Uniquely

See what a famous South Florida shopping and resort area used to look like

By Miami Herald Archives

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Sisters Babe and Ethel Marshall of Massachusetts visit the Singapore hotel in Bal Harbour before it was demolished. Al Diaz
Miami Herald File

You may know Bal Harbour best for the complex of luxury shops sprawling alongside Collins Avenue. But the seaside village just north of Surfside and south of Haulover has a history beyond shopping for Gucci.

The village incorporated in 1946. Soon after, the Kenilworth opened, and drew celebrities including entertainer Arthur Godfrey, who broadcast his show from the hotel.

In the 1950s, the Americana Hotel opened, designed by the same architect as the Fontainebleau. The lobby featured a multi-story atrium and a nightclub with dancers, a show and dinner.

Through the 1970s and '80s, luxury high-rise condos rose along the shoreline. And in recent years, luxury-branded hotels and condos including the St. Regis and the Ritz-Carlton.

Let's take a look at Bal Harbour's changes through the years as we leaf through photos from the Miami Herald archives:

Bal Harbour Shops



Dorothy Ash, center, and Monica Heffire, right, look over a model wearing Tiffany jewelry at Tiffany's opening at Bal Harbour. Miami Herald File



Michael Quirello cuts steel with a blow torch for the expansion of Saks Fifth Avenue in Bal Harbour. Randy Bazemore Miami Herald File



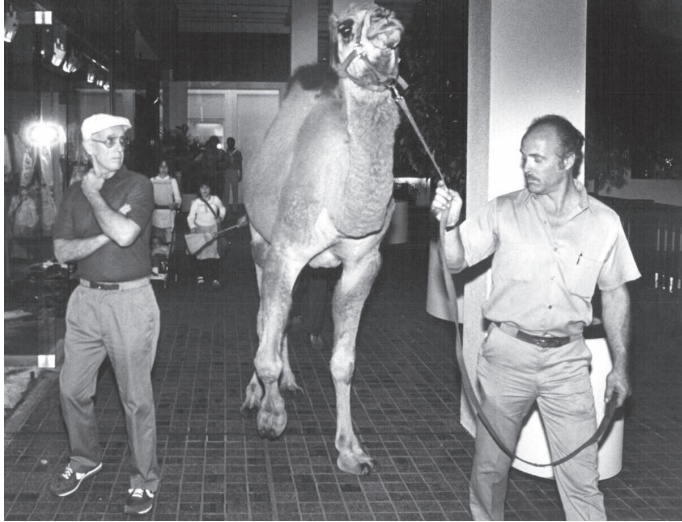
David Migicovsky of Coco's cafe at the Bal Harbour Shops. Miami Herald File



A gala at the new Saks store in Bal Harbour brought out lots of people, including a manager of competing Neiman Marcus. Bob East Miami Herald File



Exterior view of the Bal Harbour Bistro. Jeffery A. Salter Miami Herald



Camel in the Bal Harbour Shops for grand opening of Humps. Randy Bazemore Miami Herald File



Neiman-Marcus construction at Bal Harbour Shops. Miami Herald File

Hotels



The Americana Hotel developed by the Tisch family. It later became the Sheraton Bal Harbour. St. Regis is now on the Collins Avenue site across from Bal harbour Shops. Miami Herald File



A nightclub show at the Sheraton Bal Harbour hotel. Miami Herald File



Kenilworth Hotel in Bal Harbour. Miami Herald File



Arthur Godfrey, playing banjo, at the Kenilworth. Miami Herald File



A worker of the Beau Rivage to control dust as the demolition of the hotel continued in Bal Harbour. Miami Herald File



Foreign observers at the back of the room at the Americana Hotel AFL CIO convention in Bal Harbour.



Miami Beach High reunion banquet at the Sheraton Bal Harbour with the classes of 1946 through 1949. Miami Herald File



A firefighter inspects damage after a blaze at the Singapore hotel in Bal Harbour. Battle Vaughan Miami Herald File

On the streets of Bal Harbour



Kenilworth Hotel in Bal Harbour. Miami Herald File



Arthur Godfrey, playing banjo, at the Kenilworth. Miami Herald File



Bal Harbour entrance from north looking south. Battle Vaughan Miami Herald File



Homes in the Bal Harbour, looking across A1A from the roof of the Sheraton Bal Harbour. Miami Herald File



Church by the Sea in Bal Harbour. Miami Herald File



Bal Harbour Tower under construction among other condos in Bal Harbour. Randy Bazemore Miami Herald File