

Madeline and Virgie Hopkins, popular beauty queens

Martin County has always been known for its many and varied attributes, not the least of which is the abundance of beautiful young ladies.

Madeline Hopkins, born Nov. 17, 1909 and sister Virgie, born Oct. 14,

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Virgie Hopkins in a beauty contest in

1931. CONTRIBUTED BY ORLANDO

SENTINEL/JUNE 28, 1931

The STUART News
Your News Wed., 6 June 2018
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1910, as eventual residents of Martin and St. Lucie counties, represented the area in the Miss Florida beauty pageant held in Melbourne in July 1929. Madeline won the contest. Virgie had already been named Miss Fort Pierce.

Some time after the contest, the young girls traveled to California for a screen test, but neither ever attained fame in show business.

However, the sisters were a very popular pair in the 1930s at dances and social events in Martin and surrounding counties.

Madeline worked at Stuart Department Store on Flagler Avenue in the late 1930s and early '40s, having married Wyatt Basham Crowe, Sept. 23, 1935 in Brevard County, but divorced in '37.

Virgie married George R. Knox about 1935.

Madeline would marry again, eloping to Orlando with Bert Krueger for the nuptial event, Nov. 17, 1942, Madeline's birthday, who with Virgie and husband George were witnesses.

Many Martin Countians may remember Albert (Bert) Krueger, 'Mr. Aviation,' a noted pilot, aviator and entrepreneur.

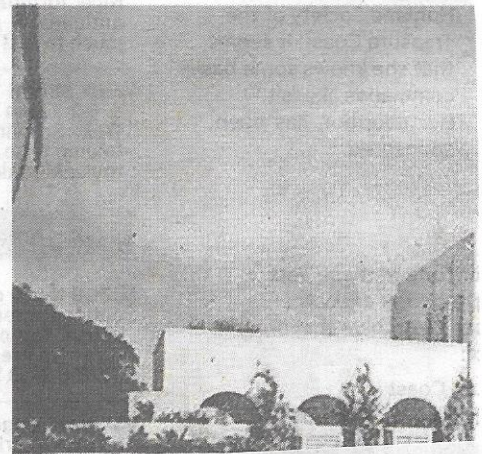
The couple would reside at Burn Brae estate, Krueger's parent's home, built in 1904, raising two children, Theresa and Paul.

Burn Brae, located on East Ocean Boulevard in Stuart, near Krueger Creek, retains ownership by family members, having been restored in the 2000s.



Madeline and Bert Krueger in 1943 in Stuart. CONTRIBUTED BY THERESA KRUEGER

WOLESLAGLE COLLECTION



Susanna Kitching celebrates 95th birthday

On July 6, 1936, Susanna Kitching, sister of Walter and Broster Kitching, aunt of Stanley, celebrated a birthday, age 95.

She was recognized as the oldest citizen of Stuart, but sadly in little more than a month, died Aug. 24, 1936.