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## **AMONG THE FISHERS, THE MERRICKS AND THE DEERINGS ARE THE WHITMANS**

*Preview Photographs and Objects from a Leading Miami Beach Pioneering Family*

**(Miami-Dade County, FL)** – Stanley and Dudley Whitman of the Whitman family, developers of landmarks throughout Miami Beach including world-renowned shopping mall, [Bal Harbour Shops](#) in **collaboration** with the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF) presents a family collection which includes photographs, objects and oral histories of this Miami Beach pioneering family.

The Whitman family personifies the entrepreneurial spirit; from the time they arrived in South Florida in 1914 to building one of the first luxury hotels on Miami Beach in 1936, the Whitman By The Sea, through the [development of world-renowned Bal Harbour Shops](#). The Whitman brothers, William "Bill," Stanley and Dudley Whitman have achieved many firsts in their lifetime. These achievements are celebrated and on display at the family museum in Bal Harbour Shops. The collection spans over 100 years and chronicles the innovation of the three Whitman brothers. Items on display include the [first underwater movie camera case](#), which the Whitmans' patented, a promotional poster of the 1952 Oscar-winning documentary film, "The Sea Around Us," a commemorative program of the ground-breaking at Bal Harbour Shops, hollow, wooden surf boards, and one of the first fiberglass production boats built in the Southeast U.S. by Miami's Challenger Marine.

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida, founded in 1940, is one of the largest private, regional history museums in the country, recognized for excellence in programming and management by the Florida Department of State and the American Association of Museums (AAM). "We are honored to have been selected by the Whitmans to catalog, inventory and safeguard these valuable objects to ensure that the collection is available for many generations to come," said Joanne Hyppolite, Ph.D., Chief Curator at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

The Whitman Family Museum will open to the public on January 10<sup>th</sup> on the third floor of the Bal Harbour Shops, 9700 Collins Avenue. Hours are Noon – 4 PM, Thursday to Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults and children under 12 are FREE. For more information, call 305.403.9254. All proceeds benefit the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

A cocktail reception will be held Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Limited Seating. For ticket information and to RSVP, please call 305.375.5356 or visit [www.hmsf.org/whitman](http://www.hmsf.org/whitman).

**Who:** Members of the public  
Film, Surfing and Marine Recreation aficionados  
Collectors

**What:** Historical Museum of Southern Florida proudly sponsors the opening of the Whitman Family Museum. Please join us for a cocktail reception on Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the life and accomplishments of this pioneering Miami Beach family. Please RSVP and for ticket information, call 305.375.5356 or visit [www.hmsf.org/whitman](http://www.hmsf.org/whitman).

**When:** January 10, 2009 (Public Opening)  
January 31, 2009 (Cocktail Reception)

**Where:** Whitman Family Museum  
Bal Harbour Shops  
9700 Collins Avenue  
Bal Harbour, FL

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### Bal Harbour Shops

Ranked the #1 most productive shopping center in the U.S. according to *Women's Wear Daily* and playground for socialites, fashionistas and celebrities, Bal Harbour Shops is a glorious open-air mall that is home to 100 flagship stores including Louis Vuitton, Roberto Cavalli, Hermès, Gucci, Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, Yves Saint Laurent, Dior, Valentino, Chanel, Bulgari, Cartier, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue and many more notables.

This "shopping hall of fame" encompasses two floors of boutiques in a lush, tropical setting, with charming cafes such as Carpaccio, Lea's Tea Room, Bal Harbour Bistro and La Goulue. Bal Harbour Shops also serves as a unique venue for various special events from designer shows and product launches to philanthropic festivities. Visit [www.BalHarbourShops.com](http://www.BalHarbourShops.com).

### Historical Museum of Southern Florida

Founded in 1940, the Historical Museum of Southern Florida (HMSF) is one of the largest private, regional history museums in the country. HMSF is recognized for excellence in programming and management by the Florida Department of State and national museum services organizations. As reflected in its mission to educate and preserve the history of South Florida and the Caribbean as the "Gateway of the Americas", HMSF reaches out to a vast and culturally diverse audience through its exhibitions, educational programs, special events and publications. HMSF is home to over 30,000 three-dimensional artifacts and maintains a premier Research Collection of archives and over one million photographs. HMSF is located in downtown Miami in the Miami-Dade Cultural Center, across the street from Metrorail's Government Center Station at 101 West Flagler Street, Downtown Miami, Florida 33130. Hours are Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., third Thursdays 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Sunday noon - 5 p.m. Admission for adults is \$8, children (ages 6-12) is \$5, and children under 6 are free. Visit <http://www.hmsf.org>.