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## First Day, Tuesday, April 2, 1929

### PROLOGUE



WITH the Spanish forces comprising his party, Juan Ponce, Knight of Leon, sailed from Porto Rico aboard three caravels—The Dolores, Dona Maria and the San Salvador. The expedition reached the coast of Florida on Easter Sunday, March 27th, 1513, where they encountered a storm which compelled them to seek a harbor. Drawing closer to shore they entered what is known as the River of Dolphins Inlet and landed just north of the present location of Fort San Marco, at a point about the east end of Myrtle Avenue, just one week after Easter, or April 3rd, 1513. It was deemed advisable to disembark the horses, which were aboard the larger of the three caravels, and a small party was sent ashore under Don Caparelle des Espanoza.

At the time of the forced entrance into the River of Dolphins harbor, the Indians inhabiting the land were engaged in hostilities with a neighboring tribe, and it was while on a scouting expedition, under their chief, Apalache, that the Spanish vessels were first discovered.

It is assumed that the Indians were attracted by the approaching caravels, and that from points of vantage along the shore they watched the landing of the voyagers, gaining for the first time a view of the palefaces who were soon to take possession of their land—the mysterious land of Bimini. After the caravels had drawn up the stream to gain a safer anchorage, the Indians decided upon an attack, and suddenly made an assault on the small party, capturing the band of Spanish caballeros. The attack, taking place on the open shore, was witnessed by those aboard the caravels, and with all possible haste a large force was landed from two of the caravels. As soon as the Indians had secured their prisoners they started south along the west bank of the River of Dolphins, and Ponce de Leon, who, himself aboard the Dolores, saw the attack, gave orders to make sail, hoping to head the Indians off. Thus it was that he sailed along the river and came into the "Bay of Dolphins." On the west shore of this bay was the Indian village of Cautio, and surmising that the cluster of tepees marked the home of the band of savages that had attacked his men, the noted Spanish warrior and intrepid explorer turned the prow of the Dolores toward the shore near this village.

In the meantime, the Indians, under the Chief, Apalache, made their way with all haste southward toward their village, and the Spanish cavalry, landed under El Capitan Henrico de Neive, followed them in hot pursuit.

PROGRAM—10:00 A. M.

To the spectators the scene opens at the Indian village of Cautio on the west shore of the "Bay of Dolphins". The time is the dawn of Sunday, April 3rd, 1513, one

week after Easter. Although there exists at the time hostilities between the tribe occupying the village and a western tribe, Cautio reveals a peaceful atmosphere.

The action starts with the entrance on the scene of the squaws who come out of the tepees and start fires for the morning meal; they beat on the Indian tom-toms or drums, announcing the break of day. The braves arrange a hunting party and start out; the young bucks and girl children indulge in games; an old warrior calls a class of young bucks together for instruction in trailing, archery, and in the most important art of smoke and fire signals.

The larger part of the camp warriors, it is assumed, have gone with Chief Apalache on a scouting expedition.

During the absence of Chief Apalache and warriors, the Great Cacique of the West, Coacoochee, mortal enemy of Cacique Timucua, of the East, under the impression that the greater portion of his enemy's warriors are absent from the village, send a small force to attack Timucua.

An Indian scout, belonging to the force of Apalache, discovering Coacoochee's braves moving in the direction of Cautio, hastened to warn Timucua, who immediately holds a council-of-war, and orders all but a few of his braves to conceal themselves while two are sent to have Chief Apalache return at once. Shortly the warriors of the western Cacique, in a small number, are seen stealthily creeping upon the village. At the signal of Timucua a shout is heard and the defenders hurl themselves against the invaders and quickly surround them.

The western Cacique, realizing that he has walked into an ambush and that the fighting power of his force is inferior and decisively crippled, asks for a council. This Timucua agrees to. At this council Coacoochee requests a stay of execution for his braves and tells Timucua to name his terms for liberating them and smoking the pipe of peace.

Once on a hunting expedition Timucua caught a glimpse of Arriola, the beautiful daughter of the Cacique Coacoochee, and was greatly infatuated with her, carrying a lasting memory of the brief meeting. So, in this, his great opportunity, he did not hesitate in asking, or demanding, the hand of the Princess in exchange for the western prisoners that were held in bondage by him.

No one knows what transpired at the council, but a sub-chief of Coacoochee is seen to depart, as the western Cacique and his braves withdraw and hold council amongst themselves. That Timucua's terms are to be met is soon manifest by the appearance of the Princess Arriola, who joins her father. After advising the Princess of the terms he has made with Timucua, Coacoochee, followed by his daughter, approaches the council circle of Timucua where, with reserved dignity, the Princess is presented to Timucua in return for the release of the western tribesmen and the declaring of peace between the two great chiefs.