

10-15-1940

## Letter, Wayne A. Blossom to Juan Casellas, October 15, 1940

Wayne A. Blossom

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Tampa, Florida  
October 15, 1940.

Mr. Juan Casellas, Secretary,  
La Union Marti-Maceo Club,  
1005 6th Avenue,  
Tampa,  
Florida.

Dear Mr. Casellas:

Enclosed you will find the article I promised to send to you when I finished writing it for the new State Factbook or encyclopedia which is being compiled by the Statewide writers' project of the W.P.A.

If there are any corrections you would like to have made or any inclusions which you think the club would like to have put in, I would appreciate it if you would call me by telephone at the office M53-504. and I will contact you so we will have all the facts satisfactory to the club and correct.

Thanking you and Mr Franco for your courtesy in cooperating with me in this work, I am

Yours very sincerely

*Wayne A. Blossom*

Wayne A. Blossom

Florida Writers' Project,  
710 Wallace S. Building,  
Tampa, Florida.



ITEM FOR INCLUSION IN CHAPTER XI  
OF STATE FACTBOOK.

LA UNION MARTI-MACEO.

The Cuban negro emigrated from Cuba to the United States to work in the cigar factories the same as the white Cubans. They cooperated with the white Cubans in their patriotic fight against the Spanish oppression. The Cuban negro could work in the cigar factories and at the same time develop their ideals.

The Marti-Maceo Club was organized in 1901 with Jose Y. Ramos as the first president. The club was named for Jose Marti, the apostle of liberty of the Cuban Revolution, and Antonio Maceo, the Cuban mulatto warrior. The club established itself in a house on 8th Avenue between 13th and 14th streets. This house was adapted for the purpose of holding dances and other recreational activities for its members, where they could gather at night and read the newspapers from Cuba and play games.

On the 26th of October 1901, a dance inaugurated the club. The club maintained itself as a social group charging a small monthly membership fee until 1905. At this time the club decided it should have a medical aid department for the protection of its members during illness, similar to the other Latin clubs.

At this time La Union, a welfare society headed by Juan Franco as president and founded in 1904, had a large membership and this fact interfered with the growth of the medical aid department of the Marti-Maceo club. It was finally decided after several meetings of both organizations to merge the two clubs into one which would offer the services of doctors and medicine as well as recreational facilities. This was done in 1905 and the name of the new organization became "La Union Marti-Maceo".



The merger made the club double in membership and by the payment of 50 cents a week dues on the part of the member gave him all recreational and medical privileges.

Because of this increase of membership a series of festivals were given to raise funds for a new clubhouse. With the proceeds from the festivals the club bought a lot and constructed a two story brick clubhouse at the corner of 6th Avenue and 11th Street, containing an auditorium, dance hall and club rooms. A mortgage of \$18,000 was borrowed from Mr. Adam Katz, a merchant. The clubhouse was completed in 1908 and is still being used by the club at the present time.

The club is governed by a board of directors of 15 members, who are elected for a period of two years. The board of directors include the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and twelve members. It maintains a welfare department with varying classes of memberships depending on the amount of dues paid weekly as the following:

60 cents per week dues receives \$1.50 weekly benefit during illness.

45 cents per week dues receives 1.00 weekly benefit during illness.

35 cents per week dues receives 0.75 weekly benefit during illness.

The club has an arrangement with the Clara Frye Hospital for the care of its members requiring hospitalization.

The present president is Frank Jimenez and the present secretary is Juan Casellas.



*San' Waters' Project*

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