



CAXAMBAS KID

The Life & Times of the Famous Fishing Guide Preston Sawyer
by Maria Stone

IN PRESTON SAWYER'S OWN WORDS

- Pioneers in the 10,000 Islands
- Early settlers around Marco Island and Naples
- Life on the water: fishing, digging clams, guiding
- Colorful Characters: Ted Smallwood, E.J. Watson
- powerful hurricanes in 1910, 1935, and Donna in 1960
- Patrolling in the local Coast Guard during World War II
- Recipes for hush puppies, clam chowder, smoked mullet

Preston Sawyer was born in 1901 in Caxambas on Marco Island and spent most of his life on the water around the Ten Thousand Islands, fishing or digging clams. He later moved to Naples, which was only a village, and guided anglers. He tells his story in his own words, recalling the hardships and the characters he knew in the area.

Maria Stone recorded interviews with hundreds of local folk and then meticulously transcribed them for publication into a series of books. After retiring as a teacher in 1989, she devoted her time to local history until her death in 2009. She was given the key to the City of Naples and a day in her memory was proclaimed by the Collier County Board of Commissioners. *Maria's works have been curated by Lila Zuck, founder of the Collier County Historical Research Center, who has generously donated copies of this book to benefit the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation.*

This is a real picture of early life in Southwest Florida ... some of it before the roads were built and families struggled to keep alive in the wilderness.

“Caxambas Kid” by Maria Stone

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