



Argosy Park

MEMORIES OF MOM-AND-POP MOTELS

Welcome to Argosy Park—a Volusia County site offering beach access and a glimpse of Florida's coastal past. Its name comes from a small, family-run motel that stood here more than 60 years. Before the days of condos, corporate hotels, and theme parks, the Argosy hosted human-scale experiences at a classic "mom-and-pop" beach motel.

When the Argosy was built in 1953, the property had—in the words of author Sharon Mary Clark—nothing but “bunny rabbits and rattlesnakes.” Generations of the Clark family managed the place, with its cottages, swimming pool, and path through the dunes. Long-time guests pictured their annual vacations as visits with old friends. And the motel's owners actually were here, living at the beach themselves.

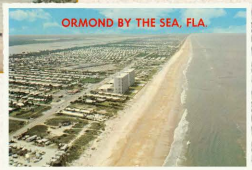
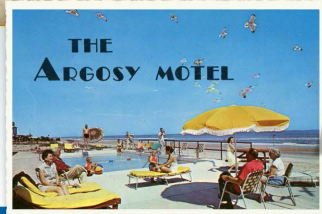
For all their charms, few seaside motels could survive the passing years and Florida's relentless coastal development. The Argosy operated into this century as a “retro” spot. But owing tourist cabins here meant struggling to maintain “eight sixty-year-old homes,” as one family manager put it. In 2014 the land was sold to Volusia County for beach parking. Regulars regretted the change, yet one recalled how the old Argosy had at least given him “a lifetime of memories.”

The Argosy pool, dating from 1953. Faded with “a mass of holes and ancient pool covers.” The Clark family kept it just to save something. Fish? “No pool” was one. “No just to save” was another. Regrets. Not of course, it does “Bobby” every year. Available weekly through “pool Argosy” management building for freshwater swimmers. These also got caught in a pool just over an in other pools.

The Argosy in the 1970s. Author: [unreadable] remembering the word for “best” [unreadable] in a [unreadable] book.



Ormond area beach guide to the 1950s and 1960s. One of the Argosy motel's most famous features: a swimming pool. A few challenges on the beachfront.



The Ormond area beach (Ormond Beach) in the 1950s. A photograph of Ormond-by-the-Sea area from the Argosy Motel, just to the north, Ormond Beach and Ormond had numerous mom-and-pop photos of their own.

Images: [unreadable] and [unreadable] of the Clark family when they owned the Argosy Motel.

You're invited!

The Volusia County Council invites you to celebrate the unveiling of the Argosy Park interpretive panel.

9 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19

1255 Ocean Shore Blvd., Ormond-by-the-Sea

***Attendees are required to wear a face covering and social distancing measures will be implemented.**

The park was named after the Argosy Motel, which was built in 1953 and operated for 61 years. County officials chose to continue the Argosy name to accentuate the community's rich coastal history. The new panel highlights the memories of mom-and-pop motels along the Florida coastline, including the Argosy Motel.

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