

People with Biographical Information

04/06/2021

Name	Teachout, Eugene Paul
Other names	Went by Paul (his middle name)
Born	1900/04/02 Allandale, Michigan
Deceased	1968/12 Goodland, Florida
Mother	Helen M. Teachout (c. 1871)
Father	James Eugene Teachout (1865-1938)
Spouse	None
Children	None
Residence	1900/04/02 (birth records): Allandale, Michigan 1910 (US Census): Fife Lake township, Grand Traverse County, Michigan 1918/09 (WWI draft registration): Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan 1930 (US Census): Fennholloway, Taylor County, Florida 1935 (FL Census): Taylor, Baker County, Florida 1940 (US Census): Collier County, Florida 1942/02 (WWII draft registration): Marco, Collier County, Florida Sometime in the 1960s (years unknown): moved into Bud Kirk's crab shack, Goodland, Florida 1968/12 (SS Death index): Goodland, Collier County, Florida
Titles	
Occupation	1918: printer at Covell-Hensen Co. ca. 1919-1921: served in the U.S. Army 1930: store clerk 1940: Fisherman 1942: employed by Kelly Gantt Fish Co. 1960s: recluse, did odd carpentry jobs around Goodland
Education	High School, 1st year
Publications	
Nationality	
Relationships	3 sisters: Edna Teachout (b. circa 1896, stenographer for Department of the Interior, divorced in 1935) Marion M. Teachout (b. Nov. 29, 1897, d. Jan. 6, 1996) Ruth E. Teachout (b. July 23, 1903, d. 1997, stenographer for Department of the Interior, married Robert LeRoy Strachan, lived with husband in Falls Church, VA)

Notes WWI draft registration description: White, slender build, medium height, black hair, gray eyes
WWII draft registration description: White, ruddy complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, 144 pounds, height 5'5"

According to a newspaper story found by the Museum of FL History's curator, Paul was arrested for committing multiple burglaries in Palm Beach in the early-to-mid 1920s. Paul stated that he briefly turned to a life of crime because he couldn't find work as a printer. He was likely imprisoned in Florida for a number of years after this incident. One such incident was the robbery of 7 residences in the Coconut Grove community, for which he was caught and arrested in September 1921 (reported in the Miami News, 9/9/1921).

According to Naples Daily News article (Marty Bonvechio, 3/14/1982), Bud Kirk mentioned Paul was wonderful with wood and did odd carpentry jobs around the village of Goodland. While Paul was living a hermit's life in a hollow log on a mud flat surrounded by mangrove trees, Bud Kirk offered him the little shack in which he built crab traps to live in.

His father was a wood turner at a factory and married twice.

Personal recollections:

Paul was a veteran and very introverted and gentle. He lived in the swamps and was clever with tools. He was very slow and not learned - he once tried to invent new systems of blocks and falls. He pushed a plane 1/4 the speed of a normal worker and hammered slow. Paul was practically living in a hollow tree when Bud Kirk let him live in his crab house for two years to his death. Paul did odd jobs for Bud as well. -Museum of Florida History curator's notes from discussion with Bud Kirk regarding the object's history (most likely c. 1982, when skiff acquired)

I wondered what ever happened to Paul's kayak; I know that Bud Kirk had it for awhile on his property at Goodland. I

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can remember him coming to Kelly's fish house in it, from his small boat that was anchored off Bear Point. He was a small man in stature, but was talented in boat building. I can remember my dad saying that Paul used wooden pegs, rather than nails. In 1954, just before my parents moved from the Island to Naples, Paul used to walk across the village from Kelly's to G&G Merchantile, down the old shell road that went past Mr. Colliers grove of tropical fruit trees. After selling their house, my parents located on that road to live until school was out, so that we wouldn't be interrupted with our education at Marco. We were often amused at Paul walking past our house as though he were marching in the military. We could hear him counting, one, two, three, Hup! He sometimes did carpentry work for Mr.Kelly Gantt. -Faye Brown, MIHS Facebook post comment, 3/19/2021

I was only twelve years old when he used to pass by our house counting. He was a nice looking young man and my mom thought that he must have been in the military at one time. I don't recall anyone mentioning his back ground. He was very quite, with brown hair and eyes. You can guess by the size of his small boat that he also was very small and the cabin cruiser that he lived on, at Bear Point, was also a small craft. Everything was crafted to fit him in size. One thing that our parents taught us while growing up at Marco, was not to ask questions. Paul Teachout was accepted well at the "Fishhouse". -Faye Brown, MIHS Facebook post comment, 3/19/2021

Paul wasn't that young when I remembered him; I just spoke with my mother-in-law, who will be 95 in May. She remembered that Paul Teachout was living on his little boat at Sandfly Pass when she was five years old. That would be about 1932/33. He had to have been much older than I remembered. -Faye Brown, MIHS Facebook post comment, 3/20/2021

"He was kind of Gabby Hayes sort of character. He'd lived by himself so long it was really kind of hard to understand him when he talked," said Kirk, recalling the bearded actor known for his Western film roles as a wizened prospector. Teachout was a regular guest at Kirk family Christmas dinners in Goodland durin Damas' childhood. He would occasionally stop by for coffee and breakfast with Damas' parents, Bud and Kappy Kirk, who had befriended him...Kirk said Teachout lived hidden on one of the islands around Goodland until he contracted tuberculosis. At that point, Bud Kirk offered Teachout one of his work sheds to live in, so he could be closer to medical attention. The family brought food to him. "Dad let him stay there till he died," Damas Kirk recalled. "It was a different time. You didn't think about things like the cost. You helped people who needed it." Teachout was someone the Kirk family liked: "He truly was a nice old fella." -Damas Kirk in interview with Harriet Heithaus for Marco Eagle article on skiff published March 30, 2021

Photos

Objects 1

Archives

Library

Role Artist