

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

VOLUME 31

NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1990



FOLLOW THE RED BRICK STREETS...Our theme for Nostalgia Day, April 7
(photograph by Norma Edwards)

THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 5152
Gulfport, FL 33737



Miss Frances Purdy
3010 59th Street S. #203
Gulfport, FL 33707

PRESIDENTIAL PLUMS

Isn't it nice to have something to thank people for? This time our appreciation goes to Lois Cordasco-Boddy, Eric Boddy and Lum Atkinson for re-doing the standing files of old photographs at the museum. Many thanks also to Anita Simonds for giving us Bill's gavel. It was presented to him when he served as Little League President in 1972.

Committees are busy.....

! THANK YOU !

The Nostalgia Day Committee headed by Jan Cook keeps developing new and exciting ideas that will no doubt make our 9th Nostalgia Day the best yet. April 7th will be one of our fair city's first 80 year incorporation celebrations.

The Nominating Committee- Colleen Camp, Helen Evans and Anita Simonds will meet after the 20th; the Auditing Committee- Ann Baker, Inez Foley, Treasurer and President will meet after the 27th; and the Finance Committee- Catherine and Keith Hickman & Anita Simonds ("Fundification Chairman) have prepared a tentative budget which was reviewed by several Board members. Another Committee session will be held before budget presentation to Membership April 4th.

How quickly this Society year has flown almost by- resulting in many accomplishments because members and sponsors have worked together toward our stated goals. At the April 4th meeting (7:30 at the museum) following election of new Board members, comments from Chairpersons, and the budget review, we shall have several small group discussions addressing questions needing answers! Topics will be surprises-- come help plan! Hostess Kay will serve refreshments and all can tour to discover what goodies we are showing visitors Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. We need more docents- it's great fun to do.

We shall be ten years old in June. What about a picnic trip to Heritage Park to celebrate?

I'm glad I am President of this fine growing Society and I'm looking forward to seeing you all April fourth and April seventh!!

Frances Purdy



OUR FEBRUARY MEETING A MAGIC CARPET RIDE

Robert Joy our guest speaker had a remarkable slide show of "Iran Today" that he graciously shared with us. His photography is professional, elaborate and often mysterious. We are grateful to him for helping us see a country and better understand a culture truly foreign to most of us.



Allean Davis
Program Chairperson

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Last year, we were pleased to report a tally of 33 (including 4 honorary) life, 38 family, 56 individual members and one organization membership. We have added 17 new members this year and are happy to announce 6 new life memberships: Bob Burke, Ruth Cooper, Rose Gutman, Frances Osgood, Edna Sandor and Johanna Schneidt. Thank you all for your contribution to the Society. Other recent individual members include:

Emily Rogers Coeyman
Liz Armstrong
Ann Baker

Phyllis Rogers
Dorothy Hill
Susan Siegwarth

We have a special problem about lapsed dues. It's one of those, "I think I did, but I may not have....." Please check your green membership card and if you are not current, please send a check to the Gulfport Historical Society or bring the dues to the April 4th meeting. I will be there to answer any questions and help update your membership.

Dick Bullis
Membership Chairman



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Museum Messages and Nostalgia Day Notes

The Museum grounds have been touched by Spring -- one of the juvenile Magnolia trees has a bud!

Our landscape architect, Eric Boddy, has planted and tends a variety of plants recently given to the Historical Society.

Drop into the Museum soon to take a look at the weather vane rescued from the demolition of the old gazebo in Clymer Park. The rooster vane was designed by Jay P. Clymer many years ago.

Also, admire the new combination shelf and quilt holder that now graces the back wall.

We are sprucing up for Nostalgia Day, April 7th, and preparing an exhibit of photos by Norma Edwards -- a yearly winter resident of Gulfport.

Colorful shots of Gulfport's brick streets and avenues, as seen through Norma's camera lens, will be on display.

Watch the "Gabber" for further Nostalgia Day news.

The committees and members for the Big Day are as follows:

Trolley - Judy Ryerson
Arts and Craft tables - Mary Atkinson
Refreshments - Kay Higgins, Lois Cordasco-Boddy
Publicity - Catherine Hickman, Suzanne Siegwarth
Music Box (Chances and drawing) - Dick Bullis, Erni Perrone
Fundification - Anita Simonds
Greeter/Docent - Frances Osgood

So come as you are or don one of your long summer shirts, ladies; gents, dust off some ol' suspenders. However, whatever, come join us at Gulfport's 9th Nostalgia Day celebration. It is where it will be happening.

Jan Cook

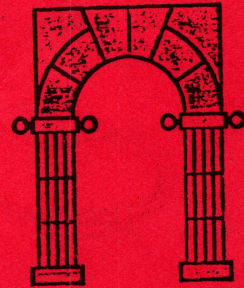
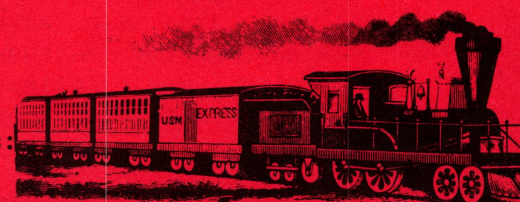
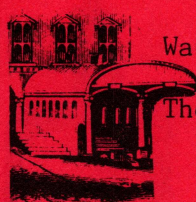
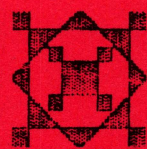
Museum Curator and Nostalgia Day
Chairperson

**TAKE A NOSTALGIC TRIP
TO THE PAST!**

Announcing...

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

March 23-26	Southern Jewish Historical Society	Charleston, S.C.
March 29-31	Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society Conference	Ocala, FL
April 27-29	Florida Anthropological Society	Naples, FL
May 10-12	<u>Florida Historical Society</u>	Tampa, FL
	88th meeting	
May 10	Florida Historical Confederation	Tampa, FL



BOOK REVIEW

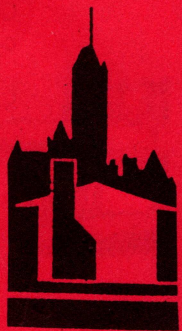
Urban Vigilantes in the New South: Tampa 1882-1936 by Robert P. Ingalls. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1988, 289 pp \$29.95.)



In the 1930's, Tampa had a reputation as a tough city. The ACLU even included it on a list of nine centers of repression. Frequent lynchings were part of a vigilante tradition that started in the middle of the nineteenth century when Tampa was a frontier outpost. The City's vigilantism had the support of the leading business and professional men who viewed it as a legitimate means to uphold law and order and to promote the community's best interest.

Class more than race prompted most of Tampa's collective violence. Three of the nine men lynched between the 1880s and 1930s were black, each of whom the vigilantes suspected of having made advances toward white women. The remaining six victims were whites who had actively worked to promote the interest of cigar workers or had supported the Socialist or Communist Parties.

Robert Ingalls, in doing an excellent job of reconstructing the story of Tampa's vigilante history, is probably correct in believing that Tampa has the most sustained vigilante record of any American community. Book reviewer, William F. Holmes, takes issue with the author's belief that Tampa's vigilante tradition was a product of a Southern sense of honor that prevailed in the antebellum era. He notes Tampa's collective violence was urban rather than rural in nature and that it was directed toward organized labor more than toward a racial minority.



Review excerpted from The Florida Historical Quarterly, January 1990.

Incorporation Day Quiz

1. On what day and in what year was Gulfport incorporated?
2. Who was the first mayor of Gulfport?
3. How many men (women were not permitted to vote) voted on that fateful day?
4. What was the city called prior to being incorporated as Gulfport?
5. Within 50, what was the population at the time of incorporation?

Extra Credit

What was the area of Town Shores known as "back then?"

--Answers--

1. October 12, 1910 2. E.E. Withersgill 3. 30 (there were 38 registered) 4. Veteran City 5. about 300
Extra credit answer: Cow Chip Flats



Unexpected Company Dessert

Old Recipe

Vinegar Pie

3 large eggs, beaten

1 1/2 cup sugar

2 T flour

1/2 lb butter, melted, cooled

2 T vinegar, 1 T vanilla

Combine and pour into partially baked
9" pie shell. Bake at 300° for 45 minutes.

from Caroline Lovenbury



ENJOY