



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 24

Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society

November, 1988



An Oldie but Goodie...Santa with a famous golfer from days gone by. Can you name the Sportsman in knickers? (Photo newly acquired by the museum from the Stetson University College of Law).

Gulfport Historical Society
3134 Beach Boulevard South
Gulfport, Florida 33707

THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is a voluntary, non-profit association whose objective is to preserve and to publish the history of Gulfport and the surrounding area.

Everyone interested is welcome to join. Dues per year are Individual, \$5.00; Family, \$10.00; Organization, \$25.00; Life, \$50.00 (one time).

Organization

President-Keth Hickman
Vice-President-Frances Purdy
Secretary-Judy Ryerson
Treasurer-Johanna Schneidt

Directors

Mary Atkinson, Lois Cordasco
Kate Higgins, Phyllis Plotnick,
Catherine Hickman (Past President)

Curator

Jan Cook

ADDRESS OF THE SOCIETY:

Hickman Realty
3134 Beach Boulevard South/Gulfport, FL 33707
321-7095.

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN-The official Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society. Editor-Phyllis Plotnick, 345-3809. (Suggestions always welcome).

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Treasurer Johanna Schneidt and I have reviewed membership cards and are happy to report we have 28 LIFE members. We are NOT happy to report that about twenty others have not paid current dues. We have left those people on the mailing list hoping such a reminder would stimulate the sending of checks for \$5.00, \$10.00 or \$50.00! We do realize it is difficult to remember to pay dues without specific nudges so to overcome that problem we initiated dating the green cards with date paid and duration for a year from that time. If YOU have any questions about YOUR status in our Society call 343-3683 (early mornings best) so I can tell you what is recorded in our file. The January issue will carry membership lists so be sure YOUR name can be included!

We thought you would like to know who are our LIFE members. These individuals carry so much of our costs, which include membership in the Florida Historical Society, corporation filing with the Secretary of State, and the constantly recurring expenses of maintaining our Museum.

Our LIFE members are:

Mrs. Nina B. Anderson
Mr. Theodore Anderson
Mrs. Helene Bazemore
Mr. & Mrs. Stephan K. Bonyai
Mr. James Brown
Mrs. "Jan" Cook (Honorary)
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Davis
Mrs. Deane A. Durgin
Ms. Michelina Funaro
Mr. Walter Goetz
Mrs. Keith Hickman (Honorary)
Mrs. "Kate" Higgins
Mr. & Mrs. Poul Hornsleth

Mr. Earl Huckins
Mrs. Ione E. Kinney
Mr. Larence T. McCarthy
Mrs. Irma Newman
Mrs. Juanita Mann Onweller
Dr. Mary B. Platz
Mrs. Tavia Pottinger
Ms. Frances Purdy (Honorary)
Mrs. Jeanne Gray Romine
Ms. Caroline F. Somma
Mr. Joseph Webb
Mrs. Virginia Easters Welch

Frances Purdy, Chairman Membership Committee

December Doings

Meeting & Party



Hold December 1 open for a special Christmas Program and celebration at the museum. The GHS membership will be treated to a program coordinated by none other than our extraordinary Program Chairperson Allean Davis. In recognition of the ethnic ensemble that makes Gulfport unique, a panel of special people will share with us Christmas experiences from their homeland. Remember, the first Thursday of the month at 7:30; of course, decorations and refreshments will add to the festivities.

Editor

Come One - Come All To The

Second Annual

"OLD FASHIONED HOLIDAY"



Sunday, December 11, 1988, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Presented by the Gulfport Historical Society, The Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Gulfport.

ENTERTAINMENT

Opening Ceremonies
Holy Name School
Gulfport Lions
Community Players
Women's Club of Gulfport
Congregation Beth Shalom
Gulfport Recreation Center
Methodist Church
Open Bible Church
Buddy Brock
Girl and Boy Scouts
Children's Library Dept.
Sunshine Cloggers
Closing ceremonies

Arts & Crafts Exhibits

Free Cookies & Punch
Boca Ciega Yacht Club
Santa

And Much More

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL EVENTS

Our History of Gulfport and Gulfport calendars will be available. Additional refreshments will be sold by the Youth Group of the First Methodist church.

Gulfport Museum and Scout Hall
5301 & 5315 28th Avenue South

Johanna Schneidt
Holiday Co-Charperson

MUSEUM MESSAGES

Again we are opening the doors for visits and tours every Wednesday from 2-4 p.m. Stop by and see the many "new -old" donations made since last Spring. George Payne just delivered a treasure trove of memorabilia. Friends or family here for the holidays? We'd enjoy having them sign our guest book and share in the history of our fair city.

CALENDAR COUNTDOWN

The 2nd Annual Gulfport Calendar is selling well. Be in the know (all the important 1989 happenings are right there). Don't forget those important folks on your Christmas list who would enjoy "catching the community spirit." Calendars are on sale at the museum, at Hickman Realty, and at GHS events.



HOLIDAY HISTORY



After the first two Thanksgivings were observed by the Pilgrims, there is no evidence that such a day was regularly observed. In the 1800's, Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of the popular magazine Godey's Lady's Book, promoted the idea of a uniform national Thanksgiving Day. After 40 years as chief sponsor, she saw her dream realized when, in 1863, President Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November a national holiday of Thanksgiving.

Chanukah (also spelled Hanukkah) celebrates the Jews recapturing, cleaning and dedicating the Jerusalem temple which was destroyed by the Syrians in 165 B.C.E. Contrary to popular belief, compared to Yom Kippur and Rosh Hoshunah, it is a minor holiday and it is not the Jewish Christmas.

Christmas, at first, was called jule, or yule in England, but later its name became "Christes Masse." From the poorest cottage to the Queen's palace, Christmas knows great revelry and lasts from Christmas Day until Twelfth-night, the evening before Epiphany (January 6).

From All About American Holidays, Maymie R. Krythe.
Harper and Brothers, N.Y., 1962.

Happy Holidays

