



GULFPORT HISTORIAN

December, 1997

Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society

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ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

We wish to thank all those who have updated their dues and welcome our new members. Look closely at your mailing label at the date listed after your name. The date is the year/month that you **LAST** paid your dues. Dues are payable annually. Please feel free to invite a relative or friend, who would like to join and support the Gulfport Historical Society and Museum. Membership dues are a major contributing factor in the annual operating budget of the Museum and the Society.

NEWS BULLETIN MUSEUM CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!!!!

Yes, It is true, we have had to close the museum due to a major problem. The plaster from the original ceiling started falling during the very humid weather the first of December. When we opened the building for regular hours on Saturday, December 13th, a large section of plaster had fallen down, over the off-set area to the right of the front door and taken the drop ceiling and light fixtures with it. What a MESS! It was our great good fortune that nothing was damaged. All of the research material had recently been moved into another area and been replaced with the tools. While the light fixtures were dangling by their light cords they did not strike any of the display cases.

The following weekend, ALL but one of the display cases, the doll house and everything possible were packed into the two back rooms and the small bathroom. The City then came in and took down the rest of the drop ceiling, exposing the original beautifully shaped vaulted ceiling. As of this writing, the City, which owns the building, is attempting to get estimates for repairing the original ceiling. There are no plans to re-install the drop ceiling. Instead their intent is to leave the area open for view. For those of you who remember what the building looked like as the Methodist Church,

we are sure this will come as a welcome turn of events. We wish to extend a very special THANK YOU to Lum Atkinson for his tireless efforts and great packing skills in storing the display cases and all.

Watch for our re-opening, we hope sometime in March. At least in time for Nostalgia Day, 1998 on March 21st!

COMING EVENTS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Due to the above, our **January 13th** meeting will be held in the Gulfport Library Meeting Room, 5501 28th Avenue South, at 7:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be from the **TITANIC EXHIBIT** complete with slides. Please plan now to attend and bring a friend. We will also give any update on the progress of the Museum. Refreshments will be served.

Remember, the **February 10th** meeting will be our **3rd Annual Lantern Tour**. We hope to again have Stetson University plan three very special homes. Cost is \$5.00 per person and reservations must be made in advance. Please call Louise Love at 347-8014 between 6 pm and 9 pm daily to **make** your reservations. We hope to be able to provide transportation for those that require it. More on this later.

1998 HISTORICAL CALENDARS

HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR 1998 10th ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIR EDITION HISTORICAL CALENDAR YET? It is not too late to get yours for only \$3.00 and support the Historical Museum. Just visit one of the following sponsoring business establishments: Gulfport Gabber, Gulfport True Value Hardware, Bay Breeze Beauty Salon, Small Adventures Bookshop, Stella's Collectibles, Mansfields Beach Pub, The Apothecary, Back Fin Blue Restaurant, Gulfport Memorial Funeral Home, Gulfport Library and the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce. Remember, the sale of the Calendar is **60%** of the operating budget for the Museum!!

Gulfport Historical Society
**P. O. Box 5152
Gulfport, Florida 33737**

THE MEMORY TREE

Order your "Memory Tree" leaf (\$50) and/or orange (\$100) today to ensure that the names of your loved ones will be passed on to future generations.

The "Memory Tree" will be a life size three dimensional Florida orange tree with engraved metal leaves and oranges on display within the new addition to the Museum when completed.



Frances Purdy
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