

# THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEPT. 1986

NOTE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1986

Membership Meeting, *thurs* Oct. 2, 1986 at the Museum - 5401 28th Ave., - 7:30PM.

Friends of the Library Book Sale, Antique Car Show, Arts & Crafts, Nov. 1, 1986

Women's Club Bazaar, Nov. 15, 1986 at the Community Center - GHS will have booths bring White Elephants.

Friends of the Library Meeting, Oct 7, & Nov. 4 - 2:30 at Gulfport Multi Purpose Bldg.

GHS Christmas Party Dec, 1986 at the Museum - 7:30PM

Gulfport Community Player presentation of Jack Sharkeys play "SPINOFF" Dec. 4, 5, 6 at 8:00PM and Dec. 7 at 4:00PM.

Special note: Performances begin ~~Thrusday~~ Thursday and run through Sunday for ONE WEEK ONLY.

Our Museum will reopen in October and we again need volunteers to hold the museum open. If you can spare an afternoon or evening, please contact Jan Cooke 327-4928. Your help is appreciated

also need volunteers as groundkeepers. We need to have people to water our plants.

Some of you receiving this NEWSLETTER are among those who have not paid current dues but we are reminding you in this fashion, that we shall be pleased to receive your dues by check or in person at either the Society Office (3134 Beach Blvd., S) or at our first meeting of this Season, October 2nd at the Museum (5301 28th Ave., S.). We thought you might be interested in the following information taken from our files:

| 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986      |
|------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| 16   | 15   | 13   | 18   | 61   | 8 plus ?? |

this total of 131 includes 14 Life Members and a number of Family Members, the latter counting as one in the above tabulation. The increase in 1985 reflects many who became current members because of their financial support of our publication, "Our Story of Gulfport, Florida"

.We are now hoping most of those people will continue with us.

Plans for this year are exciting and challenging - especially the Project adopted by your Board of Directors --preparation of a slide talk show of in depth interviews with long time and informed residents and pictures inside and out, of a number of our historic sites. Our Tour last Nostalgia Day generated lots of interest and we hope to improve it this year. We shall be participating in our Pinellas County Celebration of its 75th year and promise you good programs with refreshments, as is our custom. Watch THE GABBER for announcements and come and bring a neighbor!

Frances Purdy, Membership  
[Committee of one wishing for  
two more members to help]



## THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Official Newsletter of the  
Gulfport Historical Society.  
Distributed free to Society  
Members - City Officials and  
all other interested.

Editor: Catherine Hickman

## GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A voluntary, educational non-  
profit organization whose pur-  
poses are to collect, preserve  
and to publish the history of  
Gulfport and the surrounding  
area. Dues are: \$10 per year *family*  
Life \$50.00. *15 - Single*

## OFFICERS

President - Keith Hickman  
Vice President - Frances Purdy  
Secretary - Judy Ryerson  
Treasurer - Betty Belting  
Asst. Treasurer - Doris Brown

## DIRECTORS

Mary Atkinson  
Doris Brown  
Phyllis Plotnick

## CURATOR

Jan Cooke

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Ways & Means - Mary Atkinson,  
Colleen Camp  
Publicity - *Frances Purdy*  
Programs - Allean Davis  
Building Maintenance - Walter &  
Margaret Brooks & George Payne

## ADDRESS OF THE SOCIETY

3134 Beach Blvd. So. (321-7095)  
Gulfport, Florida 33707

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again time rolls around to  
begin our new season of historical  
activities after a summer filled  
with vacation and for those that  
stayed in the area of, enjoying our  
clear sunny days supplemented by an  
occasional cooling shower.

Hopefully everyone is refreshed and  
ready to pitch in and make this a  
banner year filled with projects  
which will make our Historical  
Society and Museum something that we  
can continue to be proud of. We are  
part of its success.

Keith Hickman

At the most recent meeting of the  
Board of Directors, it was suggested  
that we award a Life Membership to  
the ourstanding member of the year.  
The idea was accepted and the first  
name to be put into nomination was  
Frances Purdy for her work as editor  
of our Book and her present efforts  
with Grace Brajki in updating our  
By-laws. It was unanimously agreed  
that Frances Purdy be awarded her  
Life Membership. And so, while  
Frances diligently continues to  
increase membership and urge payment  
of dues, she won't have to pay hers  
any more.

CONGRATULATIONS, FRANCES

Special Thanks to:

MARGARET BROOKS & SYDNEY BROOKS for  
the terrific job they have done as  
hostesses and for the great  
refreshments they have served and  
to:

THE GULFPORT FIRE DEPT. for our new  
light in front of the Museum. It  
was much needed. So as you now wend  
your way at night to our building  
and back, think of these men who are  
contributing so much to our  
organization.



## I N M E M O R I A M

William George Hauxhurst (better known as Bill Hurst) was born in Glen Cove, New York on March 16, 1924. Bill died in his home on August 20, 1986. Bill came to Gulfport in 1956. Prior to his arrival he worked at a Chemical Company. Bill attended nine colleges and universities. He spoke nine languages, among them Spanish, Italian and Russian. He often spoke of working at the Russian Embassy while attending school.

When Bill and his wife Diane arrive in Gulfport, they purchased the Gulfport on the Rocks which they promptly rehabilitated. For a brief time Diane and Bill lived with Fulton Dry on Beach Blvd. They then moved to Pasadena Estates. Later they purchased the property next to the Rocks and after renovating it, made it their home. While operating the lounge, they also built an Electric Car in Sarasota, operated a Marine Facility and had a Plastic Laminating Business. This active and energetic couple purchased much real estate and always rehabilitated their purchases. In this manner, they helped many poor people find decent housing. One man helped in this project, and Bill, with his usual generosity, gave the man two houses.

Since moving to Gulfport, Bill was always civic minded but non political. Bill was a member of the first Chamber of Commerce and very active in the early Gala Days. For a brief time he and friends printed a small newspaper.

After his wife Diane's death, Bill became even more active, becoming a Life Member of the Garden and Bird Club, the Gulfport Community Players and the Gulfport Historical Society.

No one will ever know of all the kind and generous things Bill did because he did them quietly and with no desire to be recognized. He was loved by many and will not be forgotten.



PROGRESS REPORT ON FLORIDA FRENCH BOX CAR

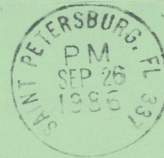
I had a meeting with Councilman Bartell and the City Manager on September 15th at City Hall. Both Gary Bartell and the City Manager approved having the Box Car adjacent to the Museum. This subject will be brought up at the next Council work shop meeting in October. Neither Councilman Bartell or the City Manager can see any problem with insurance coverage. If council approves this project, then it will be open for approval at the next regular council meeting. If there is no objection from the public then the Mayor will appoint a member of the City Engineering Dept. to survey the proper location and make recommendations as to the type of fence & etc. Also, if approved by Council then the City Attorney will draw up the necessary legal papers.

The State of Florida 40/8 will supply some funds to help with the maintenance of the Box Car.

I received a phone call from "Graham Mason, of The Florida National Guard" in reply to our letter to help transport the RR Cross-ties, RR track, size of crane needed to move the box car from the trailer to the track, where the track is to be moved from etc. Hopefully there will be no problems at this point.

Seaboard RR approved our request for FREE RR track from the office of Mr. Lynn Johnson. Mr. David Blair the Yard Master said the RR items will be ready for pick-up on a four day notice from us.

Dr. Richard Culler



GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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*#*  
*App. 305*

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