

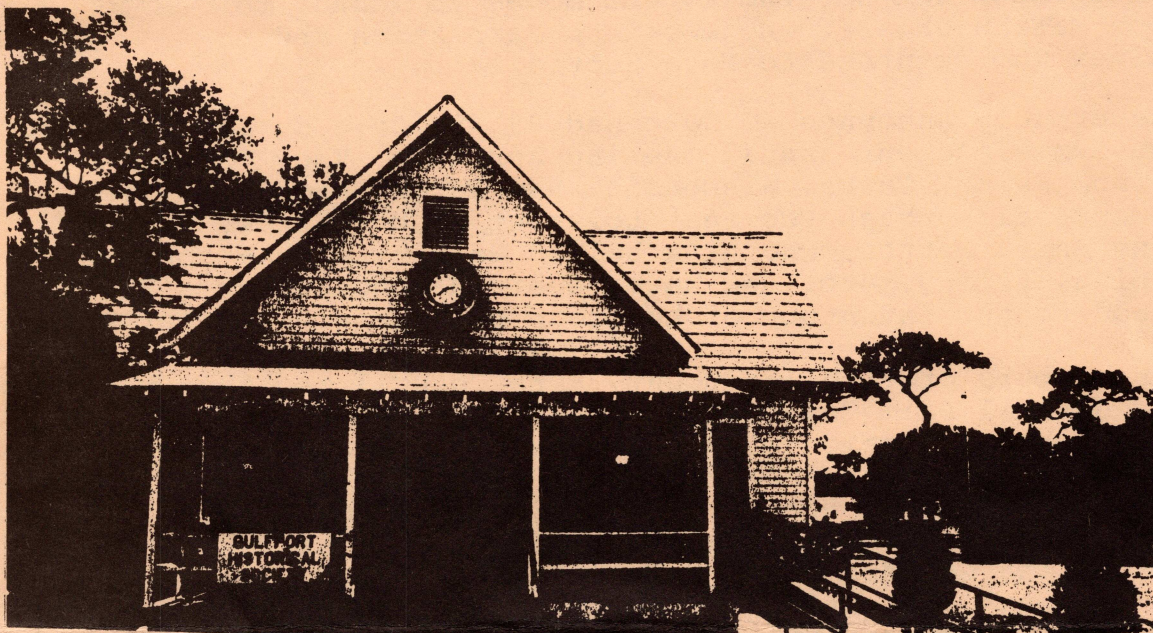


THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 40

NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPT 1992

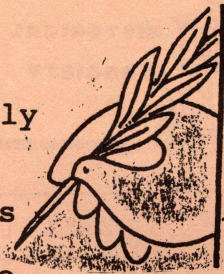


THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 5152
GULFPORT, FLORIDA 33737

Miss Frances Purdy
3010 59th St., So. #203
Gulfport, Fl. 33707

Presidential Pen Writes

It's a pleasure to welcome to our official family Bonnie Yokum, Secretary elected by the Board, July 13; and appointees Anita Morton and Eileen Lewis, Chairmen of Membership and Publicity/Public Relations Committees respectively. We have had to say goodbye to friends Suzanne Siegwarth and her family who moved to Idaho, to Howard and Marian Shearer who moved to Plantation and to Susan Haines who returned to Nova Scotia.

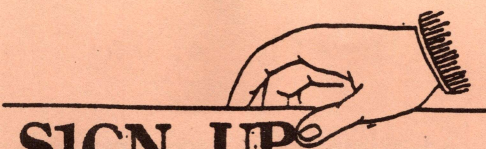


We proudly announce we have had 89 visitors during open hours at our Museum since our annual meeting April 9. They included couples from Maine, Texas, Wisconsin, New Jersey and Tennessee. I want to especially thank two heat tolerant good friends, Frances Osgood and Anita Morton, who have helped me many ways - hostessing, housekeeping, filing, etc. We have received about fifty gifts this year to add to our inventory of hundreds of treasures in our Museum.

As members of Pinellas County Arts Council together with our Library and Sabal Palm Galleries, we shall be celebrating National Learning through Education Week. We plan to display some very rare papers and books, small handmade tools, special photographs, cosmetic aides and more; and our Historic Survey Data filed by Anita. Several members will explain these treasures and serve light refreshments, September 23 and 26, from two to four. Thereafter, open hours will continue as usual. We are more than glad that by then we shall be suitably aired! Tom Harper, Vice President of Leon's is donating a three ton unit and with City approval and assistance, a long awaited improvement is being made. It has been suggested that in the near future we should automate the oil furnace. Donations will be appreciated if you wish to help pay our costs for installation and wiring - Treasurer Bob Easter will be glad too! In anticipation, some checks have been received - Thank you!

Board members of the newly initiated Keep South Pinellas Beautiful, Inc. have promised to improve our landscaping with help from the Garden and Bird Club. We are grateful for these and other blessings including a fire alarm that proved to be false. Well founded concerns prompted neighborly action and our Fire Department and I responded promptly in a terrific storm on August 7. Our Police Department now has an emergency key. We really are very fortunate to have simply super public safety services, aren't we? We deeply regret that the Doreen Holly tree given by Edna Sandor and the azalias from Bob Easter died from lack of water and possible infestations. Plans are made for replantings when some limited irrigations can be provided. The rain keeps our little bluettes popping into bloom for a day or so, cheering us as we go in to take care of our Society affairs. The greatly admired items in "room displays" arranged by Inez Foley for Nostalgia Day have been returned to their individual places to make room for repairs and displays mentioned above.

The final report of phase one of the Historic Survey of Gulfport is now available in City Hall, our Library and Museum - for reading at locations. We realize we could not have participated in this fantastic study without continuing guidance from Ted Potyka, City Planner and the staff from Historic Properties of St. Augustine employed by our City for this purpose.



SIGN UP

Supplies for the encapsulating project and the coding of our Museum inventory have been received and work will commence as soon as possible. Volunteers may call 343-3683 to offer help with the first project. Then we shall begin the task of coding lists compiled by several devoted members during many hours. We shall follow directions from Florida Historical Library Archivists, with whom we hope to visit on day.

As we anticipate another busy Society year let's be proud of what has been accomplished and excited about what is to be done to make ours the best possible Museum for our best city! We look forward to seeing you all September 23 or September 26 and second Monday evenings (a change) at 7:30 until May 1993.

Coming Events

Program Committee Report

We are happy to announce three planned programs - the other four will be included in the next issue of our Historian.

Oct 12 - Value of Antiques

Knowing and Collecting Them - Allean Davis

Nov 9 - The Gulfport Pioneer Family - Claudette Renney Dean

Dec 14 - An Old Fashioned Party - Board of Directors

We anticipate seeing you all at each of these meetings, hoping the new date (second Mondays at 7:30) will be convenient for you.

Allean Davis, Chairman

Mary Atkinson, Co-Chairman

Membership Committee Report

I am pleased to serve as the new Membership Chairman, assisted by Committee members Mary Atkinson, Sydney Brooks and Janet Dutton.

At the time when the historic survey of pioneer homes and buildings has been completed, we are experiencing renewed interest in our community and in our Society.

In reviewing the files, I note several individuals have for various reasons, let their memberships lapse. Committee member Mary Atkinson is checking the list with the thought that past members may reconsider membership, and will send in their dues before the October meeting.

We have a total of 152 memberships--83 individual, including 46 life members, 68 family and 1 business. Our green cards show date of payment and date due. Please check your card and if you owe since April 1992, send your check to the Gulfport Historical Society, P. O. Box 5152, Gulfport, FL 33737-5152 so you will be included on our next mailing list.

Anita Morton, Chairman

THANK 
YOU

Some additions to our inventory include an Indian fishing sinker, Jack hammer/tack remover, unborn calfskin coin purse, kitchen clock, sugar bowl from England, (over 100 years old), handmade garden tools, safety deposit box (very old), glass doored small bookcase, wine jug and baby dresses, wedding veil, nine scrapbooks from the Gulfport Yacht Club, story of miniature golf course built here - (one of the first in the South), tatted booties, letters to and from Al Lang and other baseball "greats", a clickin whell", 1905 wedding dress with veil and tiarra, ceramic salt box, 50 year old "bit" tool, wooden scribe, vise -- and more! Come see!!

It was planned that this issue would be mailed earlier than it has become possible but this gives us the opportunity to update you on actual improvements presently being completed in the Museum. Installation of the air conditioning unit had "domino effects" which the City is caring for, namely: floor boarding, window pane replacement, three units of metal shelving, replacement of some ceiling panels and bulbs and much assistance with moving heavy articles. Thank you Mike Bonfield!

IMPORTANT

Calendar Update

Chairman Judy Ryerson is too busy to write about the Calendar group who have the 1993 issue nearly ready for the printer - delaying to receive permission from owners of houses being featured this year. The thirteen selected represent twelve types of architecture identified by the Historic Survey team, within Gulfport. More about this very special publication will follow with announcements about its availability, hopefully by October 12 when we have our first program meeting at seven thirty in the Museum. Working with Judy are Mary Atkinson, Phyllis Plotnick, Erni Perrone, and President Frances Purdy. Thanks!

Public Relations Chairman

With pleasure we announce that Eileen D. Lewis accepted our invitation to become Chairman of Publicity/Public Relations, and will chose members of her Committee shortly. She stepped in to help Kay Boatright, Editor, this month because she was unable to entertain house guests and prepare THE HISTORIAN. We thank Eileen and look forward to working with her especially as she will assist all committees attain their goals for this coming year. Membership, for example, has a draft of a recruitment pamphlet ready for considerations and later recommendation to the Board of Directors. Eileen brings a rich background to our Society in this role. Eileen has been involved in marketing and public relations for over 20 years, enjoying a diversified background in corporate and non profit publicity direction.