



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

VOLUME 12 Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society January 1986

DISTRIBUTION OF OUR STORY OF GULFPORT

Many responded to the suggestion that this would make a splendid Christmas gift; and those selling copies have been especially enthusiastic - our Vegetable Kingdom, our Gabber office, our Library and of course our Society office have been selling one or two each week. Mrs. Haslam phoned for their second ten copies, promptly delivered by the writer of this article. It was my good fortune to see the absolute rapture on the face of a recipient of a customer given to Florida National Bank customers by Mark Ostrand as a Christmas gift. Many of you will recall he bought 200 copies long before publication date - for that purpose. Actually we have sold nearly 1000 as of this writing - and will be happy to encourage sales of the other 1000. Have you bought your copy? Have you told all your friends and neighbors about the book?

We know you will be proud of the following review, printed in the Dec. Times, by Cathy Cordone, assistant to the book editor. Frances Purdy

REVIEW

For the city of Gulfport's 75th birthday, the Gulfport Historical Society has compiled OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA, a book of essays, vignettes and photographs contributed by local residents and others - including descendants of the city's first settlers - of Gulfport from its earliest beginnings as Bonafacio and Disston City to the present.

Considerable research has gone into

OUR STORY OF GULFPORT. The presentation of the city's history through the eyes of many individuals rather than one long narrative, is a lively, colorful way to bring history to life.

For one living in increasingly crowded Pinellas County, it is amusing to read how Rebecca Slaugther, a widow, and her three children left their home in Madison, Fla. to find a new place to live. They arrived in what is now Clearwater, but after finding 12 families there decided it was too crowded and moved on to Tampa. There she met and married James Barnett, a wounded Confederate soldier. The Barnetts eventually became the first settlers to build a home in Gulfport in 1868.

What comes through in OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, in addition to the obvious dedication of the Historical Society and contributors to provide a thorough and accurate record of their city, is the love and pride they have for their city and its residents.

We thank Cathy Cordone and the many writers of our book, of which we are justly proud.

All those wonderful people who supported our publication with their money as Angels, Benefactors, Sponsors and Patrons were given a current year's membership, good through this fiscal year which ends June 30, 1986. One generous lady wrote us another check for fifty dollars, "so I won't have to remember when dues are due" thus becoming one of our too few Life Members!

We are proud of our expanded membership due in large part this year to the enthusiasm over "Our Story of Gulfport". The membership committee wrote to all members who had not paid their current dues. Only paid members appear on the list printed in this January issue. If your name does not appear, and you have paid, please call one of those on the membership committee:

Nathan White, Chairman 347-0072
Frances Purdy 343-3683
Betty Belting 347-2534

If your name, address, or phone number is not correct, please call.

A telephone committee will be formed to call members to remind them of meetings and inquire if they have transportation. If you would like to serve on this committee or offer rides, contact committee above.

COMING EVENTS

Meeting of the Gulfport Historical Society February 6th. Program: "The Early Settlers of Florida The Seminoles".

March 26 - 30 Pinellas County Festival - Wagon Wheel Flea Market

April 3rd Historical Society meeting

May 4th - Nostalgia Day

LIFE MEMBERS

Deane Durgin
Walter E. Goetz
Bill Hurst
Poul and April Hornsleth
Ione Kinney
Juanita Mann Onweller
Joseph Webb
Virginia Easters Welch

IN MEMORIAM

Richard Bozeman
Harriet Benn White

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

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

Editor: Catherine A. Hickman
3134 Beach Blvd.S.
Gulfport, Fl. 33707
(813) 321-7095

Gulfport Historical Society

A voluntary, nonprofit educational organization whose purposes are to collect preserve and to publish the history and other data pertinent to Gulfport and the surrounding area, to maintain a museum containing materials concerning this City.

Dues are:

Individual - \$ 5.00 per year
Family - 10.00 per year
Life - 50.00

Address of the Society
3134 Beach Blvd.S.
Gulfport, Fl. 33707
(813) 321-7095

Address of the Museum
5301 28th Ave.S.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY:

President - Keith Hickman
Vice President - Frances Purdy
Secretary - Judy Ryerson
Treasurer - Betty Belting
Directors:
Mary Atkinson
Nathan White
Doris Brown

CURATOR - Jan Cooke

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ways & Means - Mary Atkinson, Colleen Camp
Publicity - Doris Brown
Programs - Allean Davis, Ruby Walker
Building Maintenance - Walter & Margaret Brooks and George Payne
Membership - Nathan White, Frances Purdy, Betty Belting, Colleen Camp
Criteria - Jan Cooke, Nathan White

Additional dues were received to late to be included in the roster of members:

Tom Hucknall 2314 Woodlawn Circle W. 33704 894-0518
Stella Tamm 5614 12 Ave. S. 345-6689

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Museum assistants to be on duty 2:00 - 4:00 or one evening a week.
Contact Jan Cooke.

Museum assistant substitutes.

News gathers, writers and typists. Contact Catherine Hickman.

Sign makers and painters for wood signs to be used for Nostalgia Day markers of historical sites in Gulfport. Contact Betty Belting or Mary Atkinson.

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If you have friends who would like to become members and support the Gulfport Historical Society, we will be glad to receive their dues:

Individual \$5.00
Family \$10.00
LIFE \$50.00

Make check payable to Gulfport Historical Society and mail to:
3134 Beach Blvd.S.
Gulfport, Fl. 33707

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Before we go into a second printing we would like to sell the books we have. With this in mind, you may send a check and have copies mailed to you or to any out - of - town address.

Please send OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA at \$12.00 per copy_____ COPIES

\$ _____

Postage and handling

\$2.00

Total enclosed _____

Mail to:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE (if local) _____

DID YOU KNOW - That for a period of about three years, 1925 - 1928, there were two separate water systems supplying parts of Gulfport? For some time before 1920 the then settled parts of the City, generally south of Gulfport Blvd. between 49th and 57th Streets had had running water. Initially a private company had operated this system, but the City took it over in 1925 and contracted to purchase the water wholesale from St. Petersburg, an arrangement which has continued ever since.

In the meantime, in 1925 when the Rolyat Hotel, the Pasadena Golf Course and the associated Pasadena Estates development were under construction, the development company established its own water works with wells, pumps, and "the highest elevated water tank on Florida's West Coast" located where 62nd St. crosses Bear Creek. Mains were laid throughout the development, between 7th and 15th Aves., and between 61st and 64th Sts., and to the hotel, the Golf Course, and its club house.

In 1927 the real estate development boom exploded, the Pasadena development company went bankrupt and was unable to pay its taxes. Early in 1928 the City took over the Pasadena water system in payment of \$7,500 in back taxes, interconnected that system with the City system, and removed the Pasadena pumping station and storage tank, thus establishing only one water system to serve all of Gulfport. (Two of the four concrete foundations of that water tank can still be seen, just west of the 62nd St foot bridge across Bear Creek)

W.B.Simonds

GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
3134 Beach Blvd.S.
Gulfport, Fl.
33707

MEMBERSHIP LIST of GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY as of 1/9/86

Allen, Fred & Florence	5960 - 30 Ave S #311	33707	347-4790
Anderson, Ernest	5505 Gulfport Blvd		
Anderson, Harold C.	1620 Park St. N, SP	33710	347-0354
Anderson, Mrs. Nina	1701 - 51 St S		
Atkinson, G. L. & Mary	2625 - 58 St S		343-4398
Bazemore, Helene G.	3019 Beach Blvd S		347-6247
Belting, George & Betty	6020 Shore Blvd S		347-2534
Beum, R. T. Jr. & Jean	3580 - 38 Ave S SP	33711	867-9134
Blades, Dorothy	4763 Baywood Pt. Dr S	33711	321-3323
Bonyai, Stephen K & Josephine F.	5960 - 30 Ave S		
Brajcki, Grace	2819 - 52 St S		321-8124
Brann, George & Rose	5613 - 16 Ave S		347-3166
Brooks, Mrs. Sydney	2644 - 49 St S Gulfport	33711	321-8830
Brooks, Walter & Margaret	5118 - 29 Ave S		321-1948
Brown, Charles & Doris	5044 - 27 Ave S		321-2172
Caldwell, R. W.	5201 - Gulfport Blvd		321-1212
Caldwell, R. W. III	3020 - 51 St. S		321-8346
Caldwell, R. W. & Adelea	6614 Flamingo Way S		
Camp, Colleen	726 - 60 St. S		343-0165
Clymer, Jay	5820 - 23 Ave S		343-6524
Connell, Louis & Miriam	2708 - 47 St S		321-8948
Conron, Agnes	1513 - 60 St S		381-1790
Convery, Frank W	7336 - 2 Ave N, SP	33710	
Cook, Jan	5019 - 27 Ave S		327-4928
Cordasco, Lois M.	1913 - 59 St S		343-4178
Danylieko, Leola	2826 - 46 St S	33711	321-5359
Davis, Arthur W. & Marian	5302 Jersey Ave S		321-3186
Davis, Mrs. L. L.	2807 Beach Blvd. S		343-6414
Davis, Perry G Jr & Louayne	2619 56 St S		343-1080
DelBene, Delia	2660 Miriam St S	33711	
Del Bene, Lorraine	2660 Miriam St S	33711	
Domke, Russ & Rose	4711 - 18 Ave S	33711	321-8392
Downey, Theo	2645 - 48 St S	33711	321-9785
Durgin, Deane A & Alice R	5980 Shore Blvd S		347-3582
Easter, Robert & Chris	5541 - 1 Ave N SP	33710	381-5700
Florida National Bank	2001 - 49 St S		
Fortune Federal S & L	6818 Gulfport Blvd S SP	07	
Friends of Gulfport Library	c/o James Plato, 2813 Skimmer Point Dr.		
Funaro, Michelina V.	5960 - 30 Ave S		345-6646
Futch, Nat	4924 - 5 St S, SP	33705	867-6760
Garlington, Bill & Alma	4746 - 25 Ave S		321-6210
Geller, Herman, Mr&Mrs.	6600 Sunset Way N, SP	Beach 08	
Gillespie, Kali	5619 Shore Blvd S		
Goetz, Walter E	4902 - 31 Ave S #114		321-1907
Good, Rita	5017 Tangerine Ave S		321-3863
Gulfport Fire Department	5314 - 24 Ave S		
Gulfport Gabber	1419 - 49 St S		
Gulfport Lions Auxiliary	c/o Shaffer, 5826 - 19 Ave S		
Gulfport Garden & Bird Cl.	c/o Irma Newman		
Hamm, Robert R & Nelda J	1014 - 60 St. S		343-1374
Hayes, Dr. James & Shirley	5900 Shore Blvd S		344-2346
Hickman, Keith & Catherine	5929 Gulfport Blvd S		345-1001
Home Federal Bank	2808 - 58 St. S		
Hornsleth, Poul & April	2846 Skimmer Pt. Dr.		347-1414
Huckins, Earl & Ruth	RD 2, Box 17A, Rexville, NY	14877	
Hudson, Rose Ada	5310 - 21 Ave S		321-5223
Hurst, Bill	5427 - Shore Blvd S		
Johnson, J. F. & Yvonne	5012 - 17 Ave S		321-4268
Kelly, Donald & Delores	2810 - 53 St S		321-3634

Killeen, Edward & Joanne	5621 - 19 Ave S	381-2505
Kinney, Ione	3066 - Clinton St S	
Knights of Columbus, Pius XII		
Krans, Dr. DeHart & Jean	6060 Shore Blvd S	381-3479
Krebser, Mr/Mrs. Henry	4806 Coronado Way S 33711	321-1143
Lamb, Forrest & Norma	5619 - 23 Ave S	381-9718
Layburn, Bradley Sr.&Clarice	5980 Shore Blvd S	381-1017
Leonhard, Albert O & Helen	5900 Shore Blvd S	347-5984
Lunan, Mrs. Fred	P.O.Box 5038, Gulfport 33737	343-5137
Mahoney, William J. & Evelyn	5613 - 12 Ave. S	343-4689
Marcello, Alphonse & Theresa	3010 - 59 St S	343-2088
Marcoux, Jeanne	3108 - 56 St S	347-7242
Mathews, Mrs. Thelma B.	3102 Depont St S	343-0163
Michaelson, Mike & Helen	2519 Beach Blvd S	343-5323
Morris, Edna Webb	191 Mobile Ave, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714	
McLaren, Ida	4771 - Baywood Point 33711	321-5540
McMannis, William H.	1 Beach Dr. SE #1207, SP 33701	821-1034
Nielsen, A. C. & Marion	5112 - 31 Ave. S	
Norberg, Carl A.	3682 Belle Vista Dr. E, SPBch 33706	360-8853
Onweller, Juanita Mann	2936 - 27 Ave N, SP 33713	323-2996
Payne, George V & Laurette	5313 - 20 Ave. S	327-6535
Perrault, Helen	3101 - 56 St. S	
Perry, Joseph M & Bernice	1002 - 61 St. S	
Platz, Dr. Mary Broadbent	5900 Shore Blvd S	381-6090
Plotnick, Phyllis	1161 - 23 Ave N, SP 33704	823-7336
Pottenger, Tavia	5950 Pelican Bay Plaza, 33707	
Prigun, George	2938 Beach Blvd.	321-6426
Psaledakis, Peggy	877- 114 Ave N, SP 33702	576-3943
Purdy, Frances	3010 - 59 St. S	343-3683
Rautman, Dr. Arthur & Emily	2813 - 48 St S 33711	321-7910
Resig, Stephen	2865 - 51 St S	321-2509
Ross, Helen	6215 - 11 Ave S	347-2068
Rossman, Elsie	840-65 St S	347-2796
Russ's Landscape & Nursery	4711 - 18 Ave S 33711	
Ryerson, Judith C.	5855 - 27 Ave S	343-9614
Sanford, Edna C	5900 Shore Blvd S	343-0757
Schearer, Howard & Marion	5302 - 28 Ave S	321-5405
Schneidt, Johanna S	5302 - 11 Ave S	
Shirah, Steve & Martha	6721 - 14 St S SP 33702	
Simonds, Willard & Anita	6218 - 10 Ave S	345-7938
Slauter, M/M Cecil	11205 Dempsey Rd, Brooksville FL 33512	
Slauter, Irving	11205 Dempsey Rd, Brooksville 33512	
Smith, Richard & Genevive	1613 Gray St S	347-2257
Southeast Bank NA	1075 Pasadena Ave, SP 33707	
Stack, William F	Hotel Les Marquis, 12E.31st St, NYC 10016	
Stoddard, C. W.	593 Midway Park, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137	
Suncoast Inn	2937 Beach Blvd S	
Tamm, Stella J	5614 - 12 Ave S	345-6689
Thomes, Charles L. & Rose	5601 - 5 Ave N#339, SP 33710	343-2941
Todsen, Shirley	1002 Pelican Dr S, SP 33707	347-0629
Vegetable Kingdom	5006 - 22 Ave S	
Walker, Ruby C.	2614 - 58 St S	347-9968
Watson, Lorraine	5720 - 23 Ave S	343-6110
Webb, Joseph	189 Mobile Ave, Altamonte Spr, FL 32714	
Welch, Virginia Easters	5730 - 28 Ave S	343-5046
White, Nathan L Sr & Gwen	2850 - 59 St S	347-0072
Williams, Bert	2609 - 52 St S	321-7047
Williams, Walter & Betty	5409 - 26 Ave S	
Wood, Fred & Emma	5413 - 21 Ave S	321-5442
Women's Club of Gulfport	c/o Clarice Layburn, 5980 Shore Blvd S	