



GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER, 2012



SEPTEMBER 21 MEETING

We are looking forward to seeing old friends and new at our first general meeting of the 2012-13 season on Friday evening, September 21. We'll gather at Scout Hall at 7 p.m. where President Miki Vaughan will welcome everyone and introduce Deborah Frethem's new one-act play, "Henry's Cemetery." Afterwards, all are invited to tour the redecorated and renovated Museum to see our several new exhibits, and enjoy some refreshments.

As before, hours are 2-4 each weekday afternoon and 10-12 on Saturday mornings. Call 327-0505 or email us at admin@gulfporthistoricalsociety.org for more information.

THE MANN-WILSON FAMILY

Our latest tribute to one of Gulfport's early families is a showcase featuring the Mann-Wilsons. Their history begins back in Cortez at the turn of the 20th century and continues up to today, with a special look at one of the town's most beloved people, the late Colleen Camp. Thanks to Cindy Shallow for sharing many of these precious family pictures.

A WONDERFUL NEW ADDITION TO OUR ARCHIVES

is this c. 1942 photo of Reese Whitworth and his grandson Wayne Bowen on Gulfport's treasured 1925 LaFrance fire engine. Mr. Whitworth served in the fire department, often as acting or assistant chief, for over 20 years, starting in 1933. The LaFrance was renovated in 1997, at a cost (\$12,000) exactly the same as its original purchase price, and now shows up at many of the city's special events. Thanks, Mr. Bowen, for this and other photos from your family collections.



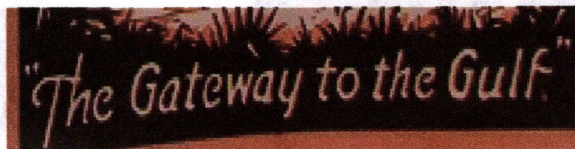
A Word from our President

I'm looking forward to our General Meeting and getting back into the swing of things after our two-month closure and cleaning. We will be featuring the talents of Deborah Frethem with her one-act play. Hopefully other members will share their interests and talents in future meetings. What a great way to get to know each other!

Miki



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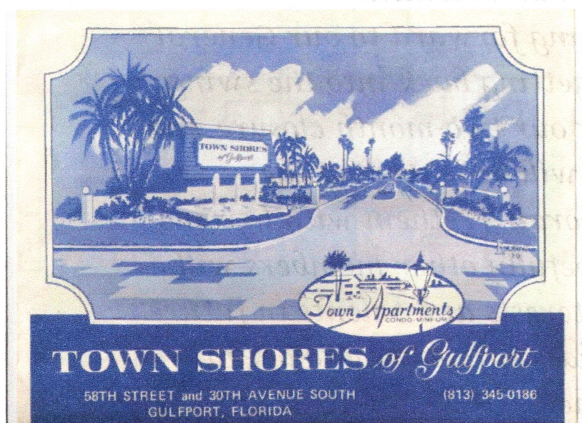


NEW EXHIBITS FOR FALL

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE RICH"

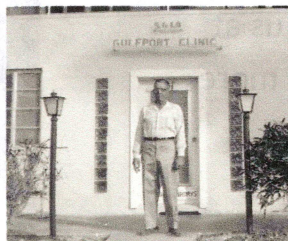
Guidebooks, maps, and brochures about Florida tourism in the 1950s-1970s attempt to dispel the myth that visitors and potential residents had to have plenty of money to buy or rent here. One 1953 book explains how a couple can live comfortably on \$110 a month, maybe \$125 if they insist on having a car. Food is budgeted at \$50 and clothes as little as \$3, but while the electric (\$10) and telephone (\$5) bills must be paid, they might be able to cut back on the \$7 allowed for recreation.

Even 20 years later a nice one-bedroom apartment in the newly built Town Shores "Condo-Mini-um" could be had for \$14,495. And an adult ticket to Disney World in 1974 was only \$5.75!



"GULFPORT'S NAPRAPATHS"

Drs. Colin and Grace McLellan arrived in Gulfport in the early 1940s and built their home and clinic at 5619 Shore Boulevard in 1946. They were 1928 graduates of the Chicago College of Naprapathy, and practiced this form of medicine, a sort of hybrid of osteopathy and chiropractic, for the next 30 years. Their clinical notes, complete with names and addresses of the patients, became teaching tools given out to others who received treatment at the clinic. Reading them is a sharp reminder of life before the age of much concern for privacy issues!



Colin was a great organizer; among the groups he helped create were the Sea Scouts, the Boomerangs, the Kids and Kubs, and the musicians group playing at the beach pavilion, which he often joined with his banjo.

This month's heading is from a great Art Deco brochure, probably published in the 1930s