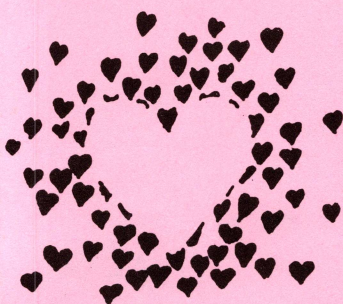


THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

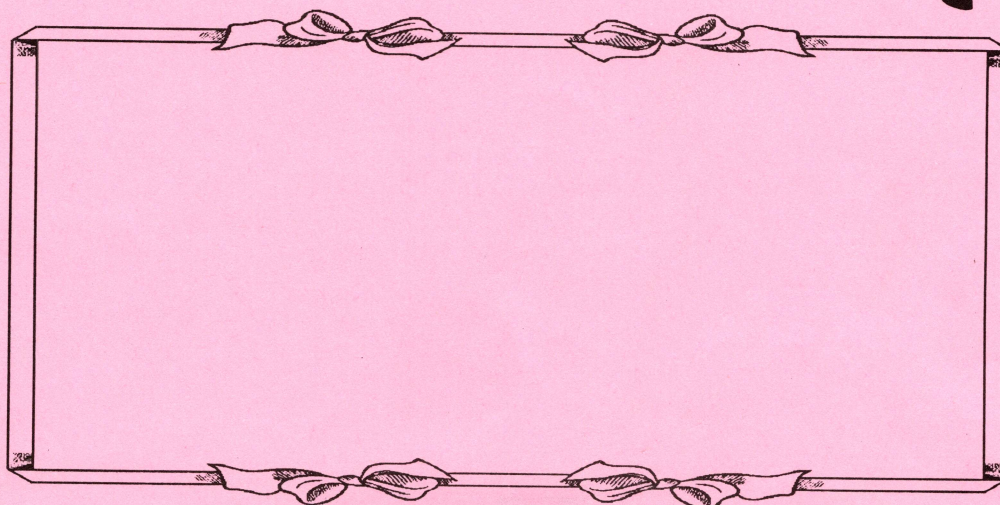
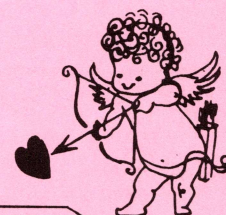
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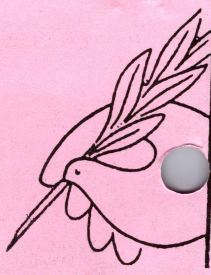
JANUARY 1991



THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 5152
Gulfport, Florida 33737



THE PEN WRITES PROLIFICALLY



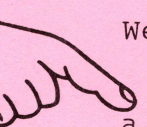
First of all, I want to thank those who worked to make both the Community Celebration of Christmas and Hanukkah and our Society Party successful. T'was a pleasure to work with you all! Special kudos to SUZANNE SEIGWARTH and "her" MANDY who made those beautiful bows for wreaths, tree, and garlands. To KEITH and SUZANNE, thanks for shopping around for just the right tree. Those who string popcorn and made other decorations (including BETTY BELTING whose golden angel topped the tree) surely carried out the theme of only old fashioned decor for our museum. Now all treasures are tucked away for December 1991. It was great to have financial support again for the community celebration from our CITY and the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. It was through the participation of so many that the day was an outstanding one.

Our first Memorial gift was been received from EDNA SANDOR in loving memory of RUTH COOPER. We are trying to decide how best to remember this very special woman, public servant, and friend.

FEBRUARY 14 MEETING 7:30 pm at the MUSEUM



Thankfully, we can report that our beloved Program Chair ALLEAN DAVIS is recovering nicely from hip surgery. She has coordinated our Valentine's Day meeting by inviting Lt. Keith Thompson to tell us about Weedon Island State Preserve. He is very excited about his managing this rare real estate, has excellent slides, and a good sense of humor. Extra treats after the program!



We welcome KAY HIGGINS home again, grateful she is feeling much better.

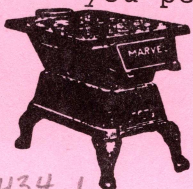
a DISCOVERY...DISCOVERY...DISCOVERY...DISCOVERY...DISCOVERY...DISCOVERY that our City does not have a template of its seal. The plaque we gave to Kathy Hickman in October honoring her as our founder and 1st President, sported the St. Petersburg seal as none for Gulfport was available. The GHS Board agreed to have a Gulfport template made to replace the engraving we had to use. We will present this customized template to the City as a small token of our appreciation for all their support.



Another finding (and not a pleasant one) involves the replacing of our roof. "Too many holes and broken shingles for further repairs," states Public Works Director Curtis Tack. A conference with our city manager is planned to insure quick action and "roof remedy."



We may be receiving some items from the closed Haas Museum. We will keep you posted as soon as we know the specifics.



POTATO CHIPS 10

MALTED MILK MILK SHAKE 6

ICE CREAM SODA 10

GH34-1

I know some of you would enjoy acting as hosts to visitors who frequent the Museum during OPEN HOURS, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2-4pm. Children of all ages, international tourists, and neighbors visit our Museum. Please let us know if you can help by calling 343-3683 or come tell either of the FRANCESSES (OSGOOD and PURDY).



TOM MORRISON has volunteered to work again on improving the landscaping at the entrance to the Museum. There is so much potential to beautify our grounds. Please let us know through the channels noted above if you would like to help us spruce up the Museum, inside or out.



Some folks formerly receiving the HISTORIAN will not because dues are very much in arrears. "Please pay if your green card indicates it has been a year since you paid," begs Membership Chair Dick Bullis. Come to the February 14 meeting and catch up or send a check to the P.O. Box noted in our return address block.

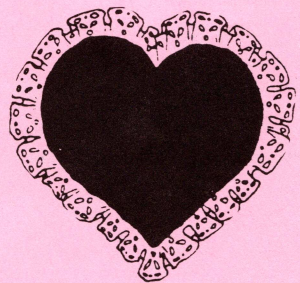
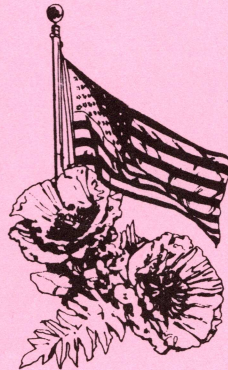
That beautiful, interesting, and informative brick street display of photographs by NORMA EDWARDS has been returned to her, less three she donated to us. Many thanks to JAN COOK and NORMA for respectively suggesting and sharing such loveliness. Hundreds saw the the photos even more anxious to save the brick streets we have left in Gulfport. St. Petersburg corrected bumps on Park Street by carefully removing bricks, fixing underbeds, and replacing these wonderful red block landmarks. Here's to that happening in Gulfport where and when indicated.

In closing I want to say that I hope you will mark your calendars (the Gulfport one!) for February 14 and April 18. We promise our last two programs of the year will be most interesting. Besides, the socializing of GHS members and guests is always special.



Precious Peace and a Happy Valentine's Day to All,

Fran Purdy



History is Forever

"LOVE IS ETERNAL"

The lovely words in the title of this article were those inscribed inside the wedding band Abraham Lincoln gave to his wife Mary Todd. For Mary and Abe, love did prove eternal and able to withstand all the trials of their tumultuous marriage.

The month of February has long been known as the "Love Month." With the war in the Gulf, the world seems to be faced with hatred rather than love. Families are separated by thousands of miles and friends are divided by their feelings about the war. Few people seem to remember that "Love is Eternal" and that it can heal all bitterness.

The custom of sending Valentines or Love notes would help lessen the hatred and assuage the verbal wounds. Valentines have been messengers of love since the first was sent in 270 A.D. The Emperor Claudius had forbidden anyone in his realm to marry because he felt that married men made poor soldiers. He knew they were loath to leave their families. One young Bishop whose name was Valentine opposed the emperor and encouraged lovers to come to him for secret ceremonies of marriage. Of course Valentine was soon arrested and told to renounce his Christianity which he refused to do. While in prison, he became friends with the daughter of the jailor. The young woman was blind and Valentine talked to her, read to her, and converted her to Christianity. But, alas. On a cold February morning, Valentine was taken from his prison and stoned to death. He wrote a farewell note to his young friend and signed it, "From your Valentine." This phrase has certainly lived long beyond its writers death.

And so the custom of sending Valentine's cards was started in February. Except for Christmas, more cards are sent to celebrate the "Love is Eternal" message of February 14 than for any other holiday of the year.

(The editor wants to thank ALLEAN DAVIS for writing this loving and most welcome article.)

QUOTES OF NOTE

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Absence makes the heart grow fonder:
Isle of Beauty, fare thee well!
Thomas Haynes Bayly

Love all, trust a few,
Do wrong to none.
William Shakespeare

Love is something if you give it away,
You'll end up having more.
Malvina Reynolds

