



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 23

Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society

September, 1988



A sneak preview from the 1989 Gulfport Calendar. Classic photos, specifics on meetings and special events, exclusive city information, business briefs from our indispensable commercial sponsors can be yours soon.

Gulfport Historical Society
3134 Beach Boulevard South
Gulfport, Florida 33707



THE PRESIDENT PROCLAIMS...

As the heat of the summer leaves us, it is time to start a new season of meetings and activities. With the help of all of you, we will assuredly have a year filled with interesting and enlightening projects. The 2nd Gulfport Calendar, the 2nd Gulfport Old Fashioned Holiday, and our 8th Nostalgia Day are already on the docket. Your ideas for new activities are most welcome. With the membership we have, I have no doubt our dreams can become our reality. Hope to see you at this season's first meeting October 6.

Keith Hickman

DUES DUE?

We'll be happy to receive your dues at the October meeting. We'd be more than pleased to learn of your interest in becoming a life member. Let's make this the best year yet for our Society, financially speaking.

*Johanna Schneidt, Treasurer
Frances Purdy, Membership
Chairperson*

PROGRAM "PROMO"

On October 6 at 7:30 p.m. at our Museum (5301 28th Avenue So.), we will begin our new season with a program about SPECIAL POSTCARDS. Jim Brown, President of the Postcard Club of St. Petersburg, will speak with us about his hobby. Anita Simonds and I would also like to share our collections with you.

Mr. Brown invites you to bring your postcards for evaluation. Please do. Refreshments will be served while you swap stories about how you acquired your cards.

*Allean Davis
Program Chairperson*

CALENDAR COUNTDOWN

Hot off the press Oct 3rd. Get yours at the Oct. 6th meeting, at Hickman Realty, or at Compucom, our printer located in Pasadena Shopping Center (6800 Gulfport Blvd. S.). \$2.00 each make this calendar the best buy around.

STOCK UP NOW.

They make special holiday gifts. We've taken suggestions about last year's calendar and incorporated them in this year's. We hope you are pleased.

*Judy Ryerson & Phyllis Plotnick
Calendar Chairpersons*

MUSEUM MUSINGS

Our Museum has been the recipient of many services and treasures throughout the summer.

Notice the sturdy new steps and repaired porch floor as you enter the Museum.

No job seems too large or too small for Lum Atkinson and our President, Keith Hickman, who have: trimmed tree branches scraping the Museum roof; installed hooks; driven nails; sawed shelving, and much more.

I mention just three items of new memorabilia (you'll have to come and see the rest for yourself!).

****Two authentic park benches (won't they look great on the porch?) through the courtesy of Nancy and Ronald Gibson.**

****An early mullet net from Nina Anderson.**

****The top of Gulfport's dismantled water tower which Judy Ryerson salvaged for the Museum.**

Frances Osgood, Anita Simond, Lois and Masha Cordasco have been such willing workers and cordial hostesses--hopefully they will spend, once again, part of their Wednesday afternoons at the Museum along with any and all who would like to join in learning and preserving Gulfport's history.

Jan Cook
Curator

The Purdy Report

This senior volunteer and advocate has been enjoying a rewarding "vacation at home" doing odd chores around the house, running errands for myself and others, and writing letters for our society.

What letters you may ask? When former residents and others interested in Gulfport ask us questions, I enjoy responding. I corresponded with Catherine Renny Young who sent us a clipping about May Day, 1935 as well as the mustering out papers for James Barnett and Samuel B. Slaughter. I learned that Esther Johnson Thorp is collecting memories from her aunt about their family ostrich farm once located on Tangerine Avenue. Althea H. Murphy's daughter, Mickey, informed me that she is sorting through her mother's papers for memoirs of the first Gulfport drug store. A TIMES article about the "Ice Cream Alley Chapel and Cemetary" led me to Jean Tipton and a subsequent interview with her aunt, Miss Lois Johnson. I am so pleased that we now have a tape about the construction, dedication, and activation of that church and cemetary.

Through the GABBER, we thanked Boca Ciega High School's three bands for their concert in Clymer Park and reported on Holy Name's kindergarden class celebrating their graduation with a visit to our museum.

We were asked by a professor at Hillsborough Community College to help him update his historical information about Gulfport. Being able to be a resource to students and scholars is gratifying.

Are you following the reconstruction activities at Stetson? We have given considerable help to architect Charles Canderday whose firm is in charge of that most needed work. When we were writing OUR STORY, Genevieve Smith did a splendid bit of research on the Rolyat Hotel. The Canderday architectural firm has used that study to best authenticate their restoration efforts.

A final note--we frequently correspond with members who have moved away, but still write about their Gulfport memories and their continued interest in the Society's activities. Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Stoddard of Glen Ellyn, Illinois are such loyal members.

As you can see, it has been a busy summer. An active fall awaits us--one that promises to be filled with requests from others and our reaching out. How easy it is to do both as a member of so fine a Society.

Frances Purdy
Public Relations Chairperson

A QUIZ
(In Pursuit of Truth & Trivia)

1. What was the name of the fish company where fisherman delivered their catch before it was transported to St. Petersburg? HINT: It was at the foot of 52nd Street and was in it's heyday at the turn of this century.
2. How many Casino's have been located on the property at the foot of Beach Boulevard?
3. What was the name of the bayou just east of Osgood Point where fishing and boat building took place in the early years of Gulfport?
4. The bank on the corner of 58th Street and 22nd Avenue South has had 4 names. What are they?
5. Who just completed an outstanding index to OUR STORY OF GULFPORT?

ANSWERS

1. HIBBS FISH COMPANY.
2. THREE. THE FIRST WAS BUILT IN 1905. IT WAS DESTROYED BY A HURRICANE IN 1921. THE SECOND WAS BUILT IN 1923. IT WAS OWNED BY THE STREET CAR COMPANY, BUT WAS SHORT LIVED DUE TO POOR ENGINEERING ("IT SWAYED WITH THE DANCERS AND SHIVERED IN STORMS"). TORN DOWN IN 1925. THE THIRD IS THE PRESENT. IT WAS BUILT AS A WPA PROJECT IN 1934.
3. CLAM BAYOU.
4. FIRST BANK OF GULFPORT (CHARTERED 1950), ROYAL TRUST BANK OF CANADA, FLORIDA NATIONAL BANK, FIRST GULF BANK.
5. BOARD MEMBER LOIS CORDASCO.

QUOTES OF NOTE

Histories of the downfall of kingdoms and revolutions of empires, are read with great tranquility.

Dr. Johnson

When government policies or historical accidents make the attainment of individual self-respect difficult, the nationalist spirit of the people becomes more ardent and extreme.

Hoffer

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

Santayana

Repetition is reality, and it is the seriousness of life.

Kiekegaard

Happy the people whose annals are boring to read.

Montesquieu

LET US VOTE NOVEMBER 8, AS IF OUR ETHICAL LIVES DEPENDED ON IT.

Plotnick