

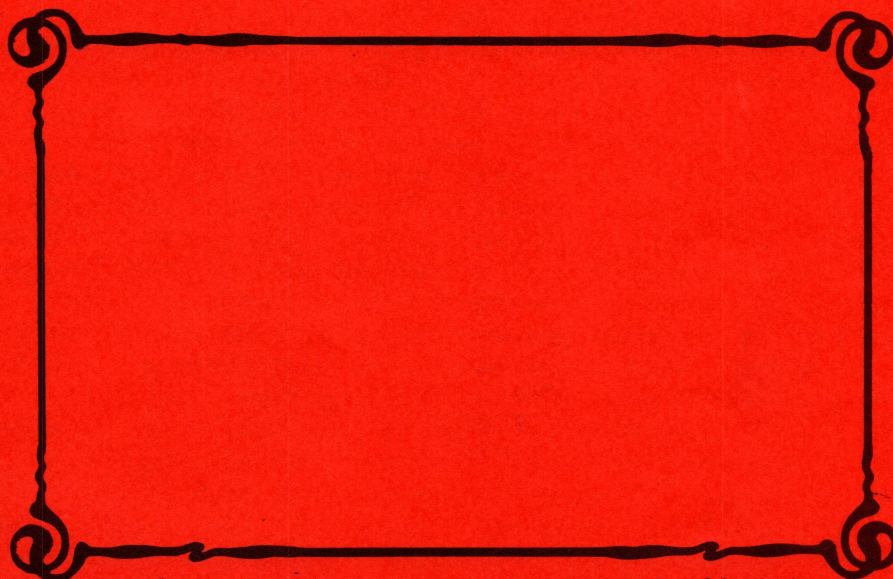


THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 41 NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOV 1992



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



Presidential Pen Writes



Time has flown quickly since I had the opportunity to talk with all of you members of our Society. Some have been especially busy in the Museum relocating memorabilia much of which was discovered by us, only as we removed contents from the former west storage room. Now that room is "the Archive Room", tidied with contents suitably boxed, labeled and stored with club scrapbooks, on metal shelving supplied by our City. Many members and visitors remember how it used to look before the city and we accepted the donated three ton heat pump and they admire it and other improvements. Stored are many objects to be displayed when replacements happen - space is very limited as you know. We have received sixty items this year and Anita Morton has typed information about each, adding it to the Inventory initiated by Inez Foley in Spring, 1991. Anita has also made a cross index of houses identified by the Historical Survey. Members are encouraged to inspect that data prepared according to criteria established by the National Register. Some have found inaccuracies, are correcting them and such corrections will be entered into the Tallahassee and City of Gulfport computers.

It seems timely to review the background of that survey, reasons for having it done and criteria for selection of houses and sites. Secretary of State Jim Smith notified Gulfport on June 20, 1989 that the Comprehensive land Use Plan was minimally consistent with the historic preservation aspects but did not meet requirements promulgated in Sections 163.3177 and 163.3178, Florida Statutes and Chapter 9J-r, Florida Administrative Code identification of known historical resources for preservation within the City of Gulfport. I received copies of relevant documents, met with City Planner Ted Potyka to receive instructions about how our Society should proceed in cooperation with the City to accomplish the required Survey. On August 8, 1990 this information was presented to our Board of Directors and the next day I notified Ted that we would recruit at least 200 hours of volunteer services, the value of which would be partial "in Kind" payment to Historic Properties of St. Augustine, employed to conduct the Survey in accord with Florida criteria for designation of historic properties. Their professional staff would train our volunteers and this plan was presented to membership by Ted and their president, Jim Adams. Training sessions were promptly held by Steve Olausen and me with the recruited members, research was conducted and submitted for compilation together with data obtained by Staff from many sources including block by block study of our City. Quoting from requirements "any historical structures in the City older than 50 years of age (not just earliest buildings and sites) need to be located and evaluated to determine their historical significance". Considerable responsibilities were assumed and many uncounted hours too, were devoted to participation in this challenging endeavor. We have been proud of our services and of the cooperation attained in the group of a dozen members who worked with me. Perhaps these statements will dissuade further adverse criticisms about properties identified - 401 of them - and help everyone understand that state and federal regulations govern many of our actions even when it comes to homes of forefathers. It is highly gratifying that this project has stimulated dormant interest in local history and hopefully, will lead to publications which will be valuable to many past and present residents. An example is in "The Gulfport Gabber", November 12, 1992, page 37, "Sea Grape Point" by Claudette Renney Dean. Surely her stimulating talk about "The Gulfport Pioneer Family" at our meeting November 9th will get more history buffs writing!

Presidential Pen (continued)

On November 10, 11 and 17 we had sixty Kindergartners from Gulfport Elementary School with their teachers and several parents, in equal groups. Frances Osgood, Anita Morton, Bonnie Yokum and I thoroughly enjoyed sharing items chosen by team teacher Betty Soutullo in our planning session. Many pictures attest to the exciting interaction of those morning half hours in our scrapbook and at their school. We hope they will return with other family members for more complete examinations of what they especially liked. We were moved by their thank you's, posters with words and drawings which we shall proudly display. Come see them and more!

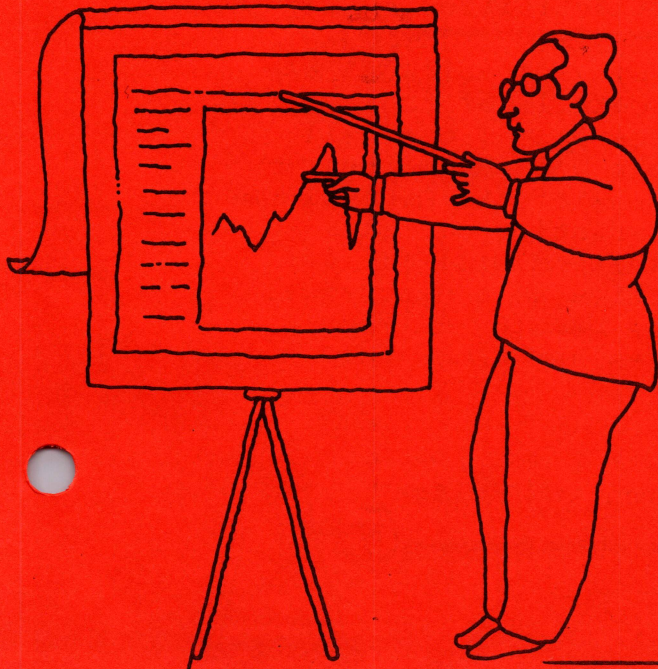
I thank most sincerely, Judy Ryerson and her committee for producing the sixth and best Community Calendar. It features pictures of the twelve architectural styles identified by the Survey and it recognizes many long-time City employees at their jobs. "Your City Government" shows elected officials and the organizational chart followed by a splendid new facet - "A Full Service City" - enough to make each resident very proud! Local organizations are tabulated with information helpful for those seeking avenues for volunteerism in service groups. This calendar is a fine two dollar gift for former and present residents - easily mailed and highly practical with spaces for YOUR dates and for City and club meetings. They are being sold at the Library, selected businesses and members and at the Museum.

Thank you, Bob Easter, for locating and bringing to the Museum the two beautiful handmade rockers, given in loving memory of Jan Cook, Curator. The brass plates will be affixed shortly, made by Castle Company. The collection given by several friends, almost exactly covered costs and everyone entering the door, sees and sits, rocking as Jan wished she could have when we didn't have them for her. We remember.

For all of us I thank Kay Boatwright who volunteered in October 1991 to serve as Editor of this newsletter. Additional responsibilities now claim the time she gave the Society. Eileen D Lewis, Publicity and Public Relations Chairman has accepted the invitation to become Editor. She will welcome relevant information for publication.

Let me close by wishing you happy holidays with relatives and friends, recoveries for illnesses, and freedom from grief - in so far as possible. Counting our blessings should be daily rituals but at this Season, that is and should be especially popular.

Frances Purdy



Financial Statement October 31, 1992

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$2741.32
DEPOSITS	\$ 320.00
INTEREST	\$ 4.01
CHECKS WRITTEN	\$ 505.82
BANK STATEMENT BALANCE	\$2754.02
OUTSTANDING CHECKS	\$(194.51)

Robert D. Easter
Treasurer



Membership Committee Report

In the September "Historian", we asked that you check your green card for updating your renewal. Several members have done so, but many have not. Dues paid to April 1992 should be renewed NOW.

This would be a good time to consider Life membership. Not only would it preclude your having to "keep track" of your membership status, but would also help provide funds needed for maintaining the Museum.

Special thanks go to Committee member Sydney Brooks, who has enrolled two new members and two past members. We are also pleased to have three new Life members. Our membership now stands at 165--92 Individual, including 49 Life, 72 Family and 1 business.

Don't be left out of the next Historian. Send you check for dues to the Gulfport Historical Society, P. O. Box 5152, Gulfport FL 33737-5152.

Anita Morton
Membership Chairman

FIRST THINGS IN GULFPORT (from Museum's files)
First house built by Barnett Family on York St., 1867
First school, 49th St. and 27th Ave
First sidewalk, east side of Beach Blvd, 1909



Public Relations & Publicity Report

I am pleased to report that as a result of forwarding a a press release to the St Petersburg Times, the paper now publishes a weekly notice of our Museum's hours in the paper's Calendar of Events column.

The Gulfport Gabber has graciously printed all press releases dealing with membership meetings and updates on Museum activities.

All Society members should be aware that the City of Gulfport has workshops planned during December to discuss details of the Beach Boulevard/Shore Boulevard Redevelopment area. I urge all members to attend one or more of these meetings and share their ideas with the Redevelopment Board. The success of the Redevelopment project will depend highly on promotion and marketing our city. What cherished traditions, architecture, activities will fit into the future Redevelopment plans? Your perspective as a Historical Society Member will be invaluable. Call Lesley Demuth, Gulfport City Clerk, for more information on exact dates and times for these Redevelopment workshops.

Eileen D. Lewis
Publicity Chairman and Editor