

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

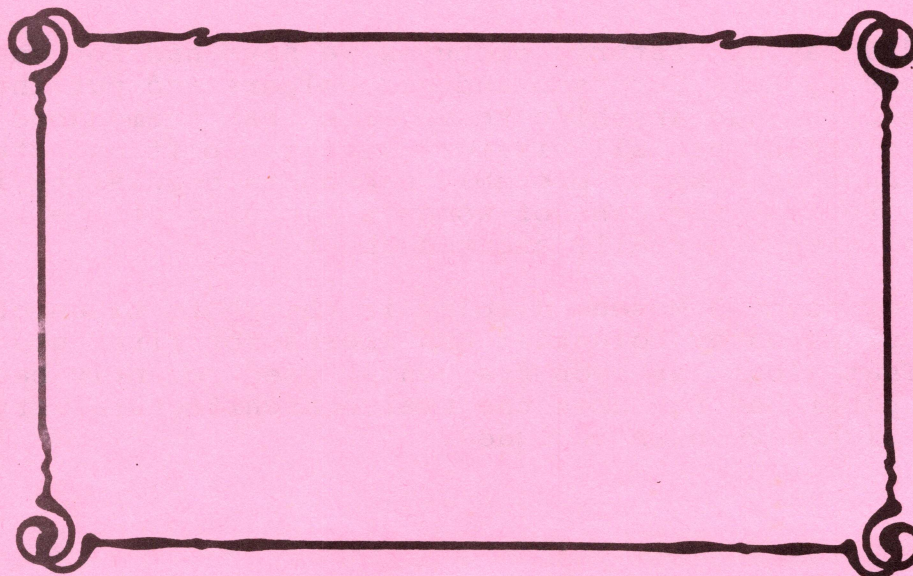
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NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

The incumbent President helped initiate this Society in 1981 and has served continuously principally as Membership Chairman, Bylaws Chairman, as Editor of OUR STORY, as Vice President two terms and during the last four years often doubled as Secretary and/or Membership Chairman. Sharing responsibilities as ex-officio member of the Museum Committee has been highly rewarding. Concern about the major objective of this group commenced with helping Jan and Lois with housekeeping duties such as initiating an inventory. Later it meant recruiting potentially qualified members into what has become a group of six fairly well trained hosts for Open Hours. I am most grateful to those with whom I have shared four hours weekly duty for many weeks. One most obvious improvement is the now useable "Archives Room" formerly stacked floor-to-ceiling with items shoved onto already bulging shelves. Two of us took each handful, sorted the contents and with help from the other two, placed items together which belonged together into boxes with labels. The boxes that were not needed have been stacked, closed, for future use.

The donation of the three ton Air Conditioner unit was indeed a splendid gift and its six month inspection included replacement of any and all parts found not to be in proper working order (no cost, by Leon's). Directions for its care should be followed--signs are posted and there is a complete file on that unit in the Office. The placement of that unit caused a domino effect--the old wooden poorly constructed shelves fell apart. Our request to the City Administration was promptly answered affirmatively and three metal shelving units were supplied and installed for us. These improvements have been broadly applauded and thanks extended!

During the first year of my second term I wrote a ten year History of the Society, citing information from Minutes. Current history has been maintained by the production of ten-to-date scrapbooks starting in July 1989 (costs of albums have been reimbursed). I shall continue this activity since it has been appreciated by many and again, will be useful in the future. Most regrettably, one piece of pictorial history was lost when apparently, her sons believed it was Jan's since Norma Edwards was her close friend and had done the photographs at her request. The donor of the twenty dollars for that to be done was gracious about the loss when he was told what happened.

The display of historic pictures we have had for some time was totally redone by Lois Cordasco and her helpers and put into chronological order. None of us had anything to do with that tremendous contribution of work. We are proud when all visitors migrate to it and study it carefully. Another display probably second in popularity is what Johanna Schneidt did for us--the case of women's clothing at the turn of the century. Children are really excited about it.

Another special Museum display is the photo album of "beautiful and old houses" prepared by volunteer Bus Zieres for first use during Nostalgia Day 1992. That album has been frequently used recently because the 1993 calendar we published features the twelve architectural styles found here. Several of which have been included.

Lots of correspondence has been personally maintained responding to requests for information, for calendars, to express gratitude for The Gulfport Historian and yes to pay dues. Invited by the Editorial Board of Town Shores News the President wrote articles about Gulfport History under our logo, quoting from OUR STORY.

We've continued membership in the Florida Historical Society, Florida Confederation and Pinellas Paleontological Society--their bulletins are available in the office. Locally we continue membership in the Chamber of Commerce. The Society is a member of the Gulfport Arts Council and many of us enjoy their tours. Tours of the Garden and Bird Club are splendid and this year, their second stop was in our front yard where a few of them planted flowers before going to the spectacular yard of Hilda and Tom Morrison. We again participated in the Chamber's Business Showcase.

Tours of the Museum had far reaching results when our City Manager brought his Administrative Staff and another, when Eckerd College Harbor residents came with their social director and bus driver. We hope both groups will return, especially the latter because when their date was established we did not know the gift of display cases would be made and therefore, a most unusual disarray prevailed. We want them to see it now. A highlight illustrating another important community linkage--with the Methodist Church who built in 1910, the City building we now lease. When they celebrated their 75th Anniversary January 26, 1992 they invited the writer to be their guest and she invited them to visit the Museum after their services and luncheon. Former Pastors and others were happy to explore their first sanctuary, even to sit on their pew and chat about what used to be where. We invited the current Pastor to dedicate the Memorial tree given by Edna Sandor. Several years ago we combined our Nostalgia Day with their Springfest and that has proved to be a great mutual benefit.

The newly organized Gulfport Arts Council, Keep South Pinellas Beautiful and the Chamber of Commerce have been encouraged to help us with their unique methods of contributing to the growth and care of Gulfport. Recruitment and on-going support both financial and participatory has to be cultivated by interacting with other groups. Change occurs regardless of human wishes. It's our task --often painful, to adjust with it for the greatest good for the greatest number of those affected.

We have invested lots of happy times with the young generation of residents--especially heartening were the reactions heard and read from the sixty some kindergarteners who visited us in three groups. Even more satisfying is having those who came years ago return trailing younger ones with them.

When the City decided to identify historic sites and buildings for possible nomination in the National Historic Register the Council employed Historic Properties of St. Augustine to conduct a survey to comply with that procedure. Our Society was invited to participate and the Board volunteered members would spend at least 200 hours assisting with data collection. About a dozen members met with the "experts" early in 1992, received training and spent hours with City Directories scanning for houses possibly qualified. Eventually final reports were received and a copy was given to the Society for use in the Museum. Anita Morton collated that information into four 4" binders, cross-indexed by case number and location. Anita has helped many use that easily accessible data. The next step is for an Ordinance to be prepared, discussed by residents, and thereafter approved by Council designating the Historic District.

Calendars this year promoted interest in the Historical Survey because the theme used architectural styles found in our City. We thank the Library staff for selling over a hundred calendars this year, the Lions for letting us sell them during their popular breakfasts and the Chamber for having many of their members sell them in their places of business. After Nostalgia Day the calendars are priced at \$1.00. It is highly appropriate to thank Judy and her committee for another fine job. Most of the costs of production have been met by advertisers cooperation.

Most sincerely I thank the members who have served with me on boards, the chairmen and other volunteers who have made these happenings occur. Many have donated their talents, time energy, money and know-how for the collective good of our Gulfport and its Historical Society and Museum.

For those leaving office let me extend our best wishes to those who will follow. May you be as proud and satisfied as we four have been and are. My favorite quote is from the Sanscrit:

"Look to this day
for yesterday is already a dream
and tomorrow is only a vision.

But today, well lived, makes every yesterday a
dream of happiness
and every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Salutation of the Dawn."

Frances Purdy
PRESIDENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In August, 1992, I was appointed to serve out the remaining term of the Secretary's office, which up until that time had several different members as Secretary. Since that time, I have attended all Board Meetings and Membership meetings, and taped and transcribed them. I have tried to transcribe the tapes in a concise way, which at times was difficult, and if there are questions concerning any of the reports or minutes, the tapes are available.

In addition to my duties as Secretary, I have helped during Open Hours at the Museum. As one of the "Museum Four", I have enjoyed meeting the visitors, especially the children who are so curious about some of the things they see. Other duties during Open Hours are housekeeping and gardening. But most of all, I treasure the friendships made.

Bonnie Yokum
SECRETARY

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mary Atkinson reported she had represented the Society in the Chamber of Commerce and on the City's Special Events Committee. On the latter she has suggested and offered to manage the Arts and Crafts tables during the July Fourth Celebration. Vendors will bring tables and chairs and be located along the side of the Casino. This idea seemed to be popular and we shall expect many to be happy for this opportunity to sell their creations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance March 1, 1993. . . .	.\$2253.33
Income, dues and sales	.136.52
Interest	3.34
Expenditures	.134.87
Balance April 1, 1993. . . .	.\$2258.32

Bank balance is \$2325.43
Outstanding checks 67.11
Act. Balance. . \$2258.32

Robert D. Easter
TREASURER

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

During 1992-1993, I assisted with the preparation of the proposed Historical Society recruitment and membership brochure.

The St. Petersburg Times and The Gulfport Gabber were regularly advised of all membership meetings, special events and Museum hours. The St. Pete Time agreed to publish the Museum's days of operation, hours and a short synopsis of what the Museum offered in their weekly Club Calendar column. The Gulfport Gabber has graciously printed all news releases supplied to them throughout the past year.

Acted as the Editor of the Gulfport Historian newsletter since October 1992. Together with Fran Purdy was responsible for the compilation, layout, typesetting and printing of the newsletter. Collating and mailing of the Historian was handled by Fran Purdy and Museum staff volunteers.

Eileen D. Lewis
PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

These past nine months have been very rewarding for the Membership Committee. Membership in our Society has grown considerably since August 1992, due in part to the enthusiasm shown for the historic survey, participation of the local Bird & Garden Club, Chamber of Commerce, and City cooperation in many of our endeavors.

The Museum is now air-conditioned, the entrance graced by lovely plants, and over 90 items have been donated in 1992, adding much interest in our Museum.

My committee members, Mary Atkinson, long-time Gulfport resident, Sydney Brooks, of the pioneer family, Janet Dutton, who purchased "The Cottage" at Beach Boulevard and I have purged old records for potential renewals. In keeping with the by-laws, suggested procedures and objectives, we held meetings and placed phone calls to encourage member renewals.

A new application form with the GHS logo was printed and is in use, together with the "green card".

August total memberships were 152; today, memberships total 176. The breakdown is as follows: August 1992- 83 individual, including 46 Life, 68 Family and 1 Business. At April 1993: 101 Individual, including 65 Life, 74 Family and 1 Business. These additions have generated \$1,095.00. Many renewals are "catch up" to April, 1993. The dues for 1993-1994 are now due.

A suggestion for a recruitment folder has been drafted for the new administration's possible use.

A list of Life Members, Honorary and Honorary Deceased, from inception to date, is also attached.

Life membership of \$50.00 for an individual is not transferable. We are sorry we cannot get metal name plates for the latest 12 new Life members. Instead, new cards will be prepared and laminated.

Attendance at our meetings has been primarily members - some interested in our history and others interested in our current activities.

I wish to thank President Purdy for her guidance, and my committee members for their assistance in helping our membership grow.

Anita Morton
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

- April 2, 1992 - Annual Meeting and Election of Directors. David and Cora Kent, new residents and artists opening Sabal Palm Galleries. "Making Current History"
- Oct. 19, 1992 - Regretably, Allean Davis became ill and we were fortunate that Flo Mallory assumed the announced topic of Some Collectables and what makes people become Collectors"
- Nov. 9, 1992 - Claudette Renney Dean described "Pioneer Homes of Gulfport"
- Dec. 14, 1992 - Hanukkah candle lighting and Christmas memories with dolls, by Phyllis Plotnick, Inez Foley and Dorothy S. Hunt.
- Jan. 11, 1993 - Historian Virginia Harris shared her dedication to tracking local histories with us. She is deeply concerned with recently opened Gulf Beaches' Museum in Pass-A-Grille.
- Feb. 8, 1993 - Lt. Goodrich related the Confederate Army recollections of Bob Watson (Fort Myers resident), similar to what local soldiers might have reported.
- Mar. 8, 1993 - Hermann Trappman, Boyd Hill, Nature Bay Village developer, artist and expert on ancient history of this locale, took us way back but recovered us into the present with his pictures and relics and invitation to Boyd Hill.
- Apr. 12, 1993- Annual Meeting and Election of Officers.
Ted Potyka, Redevelopment Project Director updated us on Historical Survey with follow up workshop scheduled for April 26, 1993 at the Senior Center.

Allean Davis
PROGRAM CHARMAN

MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Museum duty is never boring. An afternoon might find youngsters stopping by on their bike rides, asking "what's in there?" They ask questions, look at the displays and seem pleased they made the stop. A tennis family playing at Chase Park, looking for a tennis ball, stopped in, bought items and expressed pleasure for having "found" the museum...tourists with family ties here, enjoy the photographs, artifacts, and reminisce over their stays here in the "old" days...kindergarten tours were a joy. Their thank-you notes in the form of drawings of the things they liked, were wonderful. Some of the children returned later with their families. Genealogy buffs do research on various aspects of Gulfport's history.

The Historic Survey has been well received. The official records are contained in four volumes, easily located and cross-referenced for viewers, several of which have been xeroxed for the members for a mere 20 cents plus postage for those mailed.

The ten scrapbooks of photos, newspaper articles, clipped and inserted by President PPurdy, are a continuing source of interest, and are great reference books when dates, etc are needed.

We volunteers have taken a renewed interest in matters concerning our City, Osgood Point, Garden and Bird Club, Chamber of Commerce events, etc. Our President's contact with the director of Heritage Park led to our request for even temperatures for our treasures, which the city approved and assisted in the installation of the air conditioning unit. Visitors as well as our volunteers may now enjoy our museum in comfort.

When not on museum duty, we have toured the Bradenton Historical Village, The Pioneer Florida Museum in Dade City, the new St Petersburg Historical and Flight Museum, Pinellas Pioneer Settlement, and the dedication of the Gulf Beaches Museum at Pass-aGrille always seeking new ideas, meeting people and spreading the word about OUR Museum. These tours were enjoyed as the result of President Purdy's dedication and enthusiasm.

Most importantly, encapsulation of important documents were demonstrated at a workshop held at heritage Park, for which supplies are on hand for use by the new Administration.

Volunteering at the Museum is a very satisfying, worthwhile endeavor.

ANITA MORTON,

Frances Osgood, Bonnie Yokum
MUSEUM COMMITTEE