



GULFPORT HISTORIAN

September, 1996

Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society

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ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

We wish to thank all those who have updated their dues and welcome our new members. Look closely at your mailing label at the date listed after your name. The date is the year/month that you last paid your dues. Dues are payable annually. Please feel free to invite a relative or friend, who would be interested, to join and support the Gulfport Historical Society. Membership dues are a major contributing factor in the annual operating budget of the Museum and the Society.

COMING EVENTS:

FIRST GENERAL MEETING of the 1996/97 Season

Tues, Sept. 10th, 7:30 pm
at the

GULFPORT FIRE STATION

5312 23rd Avenue South

"Our Fire Department and It's History"

Hear from Fire Chiefs:

Tim McCarty

Nathan White

Brian Brooks

Do our firefighters really
slide down the pole?

How many fires do we have
each year in Gulfport?

How many rescue calls are
answered by our

Firefighter/Paramedics?

How do I get on a "help needed" list for
evacuations?

Ask your questions and get answers from
some of the finest Firefighters in Florida
and take a Tour the Station

SECOND GENERAL MEETING

On Tues, Nov, 12th the Gulfport Historical Society will present a brief history of the Gulfport Methodist Church by Mrs. Betty Barrs. The program will be held at the Gulfport Fire Station 5312 23rd Avenue South at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served and plans will be shared for the future of the Gulfport Historical Museum (the original Methodist Church building), including renovation, restoration and expansion. Be sure not to miss this informative evening.

SATURDAY, OCT. 12, 1996

CITY BIRTHDAY BASH !!!

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

at the Museum

5301 28th Avenue South

Introducing
a NEW Trolley Tour

Fire Dept. Fish Fry

Live Entertainment including a
BLUE GRASS FESTIVAL

Childrens Games

Arts & Crafts

Free Birthday Cake

Tour the Museum

Meet Gulfport's

KING & QUEEN
PRINCE & PRINCESS

Smoked Fish & Ribs

Children's Games

and Much MORE!!!

Co-Sponsored by:
The Gulfport Historical Society and
The City of Gulfport



OLE HOUSE, WHAT TALES DO YOU HAVE?

Oh sad, abandoned, weathered house, what stories could you tell, we're we to ask and you respond? We see your time worn sides with empty windows interposed, and doors askew no longer useful to bar the wind and cold. How many nights did those openings project the light of home and hope and love to those coming from afar toward that welcome glow? How many anxious eyes look through the mist outside, with fears for those who should be here, as hours and days go by? The welcome call of those who lived within these sagging walls, to friends who stopped. "Get down and set awhile" we hear through that gapping door.

The roof that kept off the rain and snow is sagging now beneath the stress of time, and rafters which once rang from joyful song can no longer bear their load.

Oh sad abandoned, weathered house, sad but beautiful recollections flow around your leaning broken chimney, of joys and sorrows unmeasured. A wedding in the parlor; or Grandpa laid out there in hid Sunday best. Never to fill this room with the sound of his laughter, the smell of his pipe, or the stories he told to the young ones on his knees. Mama sitting by the lamplight reading the book of books to guide her brood in the way.

Remember the smells of that kitchen with its' sand, soap brush scrubbed floor. The iron stove with the reservoir on the end and warming ovens over. Aroma of biscuit, and meat, and peas, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions and all. With watermelon cooling under the water shelf to be enjoyed "after your dinner settles".

The porch so crooked and leaning now with the well worn step, the chain hung swing, and the rocking chair no longer in their places. How many hours did these folks sit in hard earned rest as the moon came up and the soft breeze blew to cool their burning brows? Maybe a marriage was proposed right here by the step or just yonder under the old oak or by the gate beyond.

How many generations has this cozy old bedroom seen? How many births? Deaths?

Could you tell a tale if you dared to speak? Of the plans and

dreams of some many young with so many years to go, or of the reflections on the wasted years of those whose years are gone?

Author: Walter Mack Brooks
July 1992

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SECURITY SYSTEM AT MUSEUM

Recently a full security system was installed in the Museum by Brinks & Co. Brinks installed the system for free and the monthly monitoring is being paid for by Mansfield's Beach Pub, Gulfport Memorial Funeral Home and the American Legion.

When we asked the board members for articles for this newsletter we receive not one but three praising Christine Brown for her hard work, tenacious hours of research, letter writing and telephoning to accomplish this project. Christine contacted many different companies and met with four of them to get the best deal on the best system. She then followed up and secured the sponsorship of the above business and club to pay for the system. As a result, the Museum is now fully protected by a state of the art security system.

**A very special THANK
YOU to our SPONSORS for
making this system possible
and a WELL DONE
CHRISTINE!**