

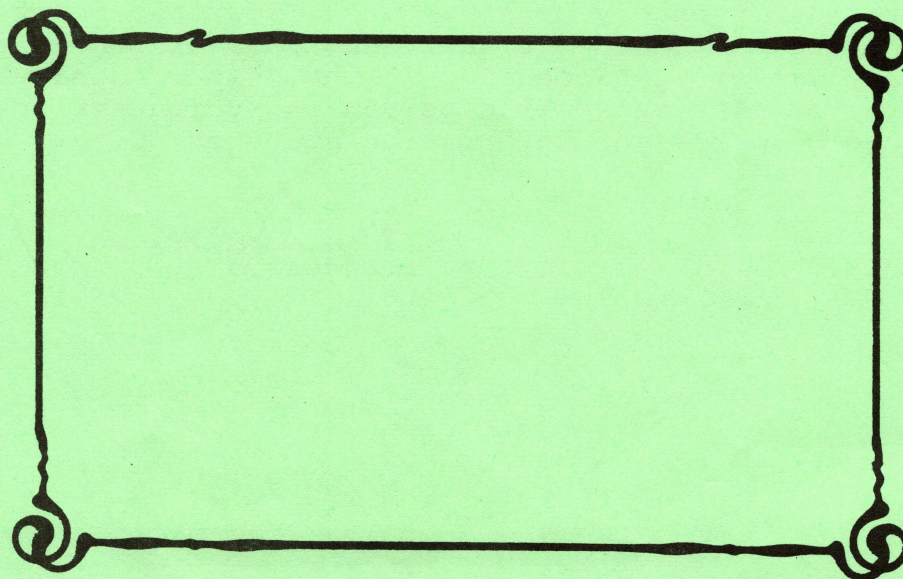


THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 42 Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society Jan 1993



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



The Presidential Pen Writes

Our schedule continues to be busy and challenging, especially in Museum duty with three or four other devoted members. There is always the element of expectation as we go for two hours or more on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Two of us like working outdoors and repairing things inside--and others enjoy hosting visitors more. Perhaps you would like to read about a recent afternoon. On Wednesday a woman who had given us an unusual small lamp came to find out what we had learned about it. She suggested the proper location for it and we'll try to find out more about its history. . . A former resident visited and was excited about the vast displays, amazed at some handmade small tools and of course, enjoyed pictorial displays of Gulfport starting with pictures from 1908. . . Another man came to see if it was worth bringing his family--it was and he will!!!. . . A couple rode their bikes over, they are spending their Winter in Pass-A-Grille but had never been to our City. They will return with their guests from their home in upper Ontario. They were delighted to find how similar our Museum is to theirs where they volunteer!. . . Another new homeowner wanted to check out what the Historic Survey had discovered and will soon have copies of "his" four pages--costing him twenty cents. . . One woman came bouncing in to see if we were all right. She travels over the State in her business so time here is limited. She was excited about the changes made since she spent her precious hours in town, pouring over City Directories and writing reports for the Survey. She joins us in hoping we shall have an Historic District in the foreseeable future. While she was looking around. . . in came Amy, one of our frequent visitors. This fifth grader at Gulfport Elementary School comes when she can but this time she wanted help--not skinned knee repairs! She wondered how to dress for a class trip to Heritage Park! How lucky for her that Trish heard our suggestions about skirt and shirt--she yearned for a hat and at once was offered a sunbonnet. Bonding took place at once and Trish and Amy are friends. . . During the early part of the afternoon Tom Harper, donor of our air conditioner brought framed directions for use of the thermostat and the Fire Inspector came and made complete rounds leaving advice on what should be done. . . And of course there are other days when we can take care of housekeeping duties, filing, inventory updates, etc. Now that items are suitably stored and labeled we hope to start encapsulating precious papers. With so many different happenings at the Museum, don't YOU wish you had been there? If you're like us you can volunteer to help and give enthusiastic welcomes and information about our City.

Sincerely,

Frances Purdy
Frances Purdy

Transcribed Meeting Report

Our Secretary Bonnie Yokum has been busy transcribing tapes of meetings. Thank you for a helpful decision--taping sessions. These tapes and reports shall be retained and shared appropriately.

Treasurer Report

Balance in account	\$2086.91
Deposits	662.50
Interest	2.90
Checks drawn	520.48
Adjust check #702	30.00
Balance January	\$2261.83

Our correspondence this month included this from C. W. Stoddard to Frances Purdy. "Thanks for your note and the Calendar. Deposit the balance as a donation and enclosed is a check for five dollars for 1993 dues. Calendar was quite interesting, rather surprised to see a house we rented the first floor of in 1931-32, 2701 Beach Blvd. Originally we had rented the rear bungalow but my Grandmother couldn't stand the rattle snakes coming close from the banana trees to the West so when the front house became vacant we moved in. It seems to me someone in the Sackrider family lived on the 2nd floor. I was at St. Petersburg High those years and didn't really pay too much attention to who was who. Thanks again." Mr Stoddard lives at 593 Midway Park, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137.

Membership Report

Our Membership Chairman Anita Morton reports enthusiasm for our Society continues to grow with membership now numbering 173. However, there are several whose dues are unpaid for 1992-93. New applicants accepted in February are credited for next year's payment. Postage, printing and maintenance of records use up a large portion of dues. Send checks payable to our Society, P. O. Box 5152, Gulfport FL 33737-5152.

We are sorry to report that the five members who paid life time dues lately cannot be given metal cards. We miss John Arnold, who for years made them for us. Our President found another source but recently he ran out of plates and cannot be resupplied. We hope to find a suitable badge for other "lifers"--now totalling about 50. Do you have any ideas?

Program Report

Our Program Chairman Allean Davis is valiantly trying to recover from her illness and appreciates very much cards like the one we sent from our January 11th meeting. Vice President Mary Atkinson asked Claudette R. Dean to invite speakers for these last three months of our fiscal year. Member Virginia Harris, representative of Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, shared her vast knowledge of historic procedures and some details about Pass-A-Grille experiences in similar projects to ours. In February we shall learn about this area's involvement in the Civil War and in March, hear about the Spanish Landing near the present Park Street at 17th Avenue North. Details will be announced in The Gabber.

Publicity/Public Relations Report

Publicity Chairman Eileen Lewis was recently nominated to serve on the newly formed Redevelopment Advisory Board. As a Gulfport business owner and member of the Historical Society, Eileen welcomes any ideas from fellow Society members that will help preserve Gulfport's architectural heritage and small town ambiance. The Redevelopment Advisory Board will begin meetings in the near future.

Meeting Announcement

The Board of Directors will meet February 1 at 7:30p.m. and General Membership, February 8 at 7:00p.m., the latter essentially to elect a Nominating Committee who will be responsible for preparing a slate of officers to be elected at the Annual Meeting April 12. Two members shall be elected by the Board during their session and the third, later by other members. (BYLAWS, Article V, Sections 1, 2 and 3). Our three Directors were elected last April to serve two years.

Garden and Bird Club Tour

The Garden and Bird Club have invited us to be included in their Garden Tour of Homes February 11 and to receive plantings from them. The Tour will start at the Sabal Palm Galleries, proceed to the Museum to plant, and then go to five other sites of special interest in Gulfport. Our City has given approval for this improvement and we thank those who will grant an aging wish!

Historical Calendars

Our Community calendars are very popular. We thank the library and various businesses who are selling them. Again we thank Judy Ryerson and her group who did the best ever production. Many are excited about seeing pictures of their houses or those of neighbors and most are amazed that twelve types of architecture have been built in our City. It was a clever idea to use Historic Survey data and "Bus Zieres" photographs in this fashion!



I apply for ()NEW or ()RENEWAL membership and enclose my check for \$ _____ Annual Membership.

()Individual dues \$5 per year ()Business dues \$25 per year
()Family dues \$10 per year ()Life dues \$50

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to: Gulfport Historical Society, P.O.Box 5152, Gulfport FL 33737-5152.