

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

VOLUME 10 - NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - SEPTEMBER 1985

FROM THE PRESIDENT--

Dear Members:

We have a big year ahead of us! The history book we have been eagerly looking forward to will be available soon. Published copies will need to be sold and all the purchased copies will need to be distributed.

Gala Days will be in October and the big day will be October 12, when we plan to have the historical museum open.

Plans and goals for the new year will be :

- working on the museum building
- creating more interesting museum displays
- cataloging mountains of material, and
- in general, making it an enjoyable, educational place to visit.

I look forward to working with you this coming year and hope everyone can find some time to work on our worthwhile projects. Anyone giving freely of their time will find it satisfying and very much appreciated.

I want to thank those of you who have put in long hours working on the history book, as well as other museum projects in the past. Much has been accomplished in the short time the Gulfport Historical Society has been alive...so, let's keep it moving forward.

Keith Hickman
President,
Gulfport Historical Society



MAYOR JOHNSON'S GALA DAY REPORT--

A gala time is being planned for the celebration of Gulfport's 75th birthday and we hope the calendar of events includes something for everyone.

The month-long celebration begins with the long awaited sale of the history of Gulfport. THANKS to everyone who has made this possible.

Full details will be available in the Program that is being printed and will be free to our citizens. A brief overview of the month's activities is as follows:

- Oct. 4 - Gulfport Community Players--8p.m.
- Oct. 5 - Story Telling Time for children at Library
- Oct. 6 - Gulfport Community Players--8p.m.
- Oct. 6 - Gulfport Community Players--4p.m.

Oct. 11 - Golf Tournament - Pasadena Golf Course

Gulfport Community Players--8p.m.

Oct. 12 - Parade - 10:30 a.m.

Ski Show - Beach--following Parade

Boat Parade - Beach "

Birthday Cake Cutting "

Art & Craft Show - Clymer Park-12-6

Open House - Historical Soc. Museum

Open House & Demonstration - Scout Hall

Civil War Encampment - Clymer Park

Spaghetti Supper - United Meth.Church

Teen Dance - Beach Pavilion--7-10p.m.

Gulfport Comm. Players--8p.m.

Dance at Casino-Impacs--8p.m.

Oct. 13 - Concert in Clymer Park--11-4p.m.

Art & Craft Show - Clymer Park--11-4

Oct. 18 - Antique Car Show - Clymer Park

Octoberfest - Holy Name Church

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MAYOR'S REPORT --continued ★

- Oct. 19 - Antique Car Show - Clymer Park
Octoberfest - Holy Name Church
Fish Fry - Gulfport Fire Station-
12-3p.m.
- Oct. 20 - Antique Car Show--Clymer Park
Octoberfest - Holy Name Church
Berry Patch Cloggers - Clymer
Park 2p.m.
- Oct. 25 - Kids & Kubs Ballgame - Hoyt Field
6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 26 - Street Dance (tentative)
- Oct. 27 - Band Concert (tentative)
- Oct. 30 - Haunted House - Community Center
- Oct. 31 - Haunted House - Community Center
7:00p.m.

Gulfport has had seventy-five years of interesting history and we are proud to be making a small piece of history to be added for the future. We hope all of you plan to take part and make this a real month of "Gala Days."

★
Yvonne Johnson
Mayor,
City of Gulfport

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A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Just a reminder that you can order your book on the history of Gulfport by sending a check made out to:

THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
%HICKMAN REALTY
3134 BEACH BOULEVARD
GULFPORT, FLORIDA 33707

If you have already ordered a book and not received your receipt, you may also pick it up at the Hickman Realty office.

Thank you all for the wonderful support you have shown this tremendous project. You'll love the book!

Doris Brown

DID YOU KNOW...Pinellas County broke away from Hillsborough County in 1912...Cattle grazed on open range around Gulfport and milk could be had for the taking, if you wanted to try your hand at a wild cow!... Some of the first houses were windowless with leather straps for hinged doors... Pineapple was plentiful in Gulfport at one time--they were grown under slatted coverings.

THE LATEST ON "OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA"

We are justifiably proud of our pre-publication sales of "OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA" and of the splendid response we had from our invitations to possible contributors. Thank you, again, for without such outpourings of support, our tasks would have been just too much.

You should know that the manager of our branch of Florida National Bank, Mark Ostrand, promised to buy 200 copies of our book and he brought us the check the other day. He is the first to recognize the probable (we hope) public relations value of this publication--may other commercial enterprises in Gulfport follow his example.

We are looking forward to many more "early birds"--sales before the deadline of September 15th--the next day the price will be twelve dollars. If YOU know someone who has not yet bought, please remind them of not only the bargain, but also of the fun of being one of the first to read this book of fact, whimsy, memories and hopes. Our 344 pages are well sprinkled with pictures at the end of each of the five sections of the book. All will be more than grateful to Genevieve Smith for her artistic illustrations, as well as for her write-ups of schools and our college. Bill Simonds has given us scholarly history with maps of transportation and other public utilities. Carl Norberg covered our waterfront; and about forty others added their accounts to make what we believe will be a readable book for all who love Gulfport--past, present and future residents.

Mailing instructions will be released in the GABBER soon to facilitate YOUR sending gifts or filling orders for YOUR friends who are not here. The Society office is open weekdays from 9-5 to accept orders; and on and after October first, to deliver YOUR book. Members of our Distribution Committee will attend club meetings October 1-11, so we urge you to attend those to which you belong. Be among the first to decide whether or not you like this first publication of our Society!

Frances Purdy
Editor, "OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA"

A JOB WELL DONE!

Catherine A. Hickman is to be commended for her energetic and productive years as president of the Gulfport Historical Society. Following is a note from Catherine:

Dear Friends,

It was my pleasure to serve as your president since the beginning of the Gulfport Historical Society. In the brief time of its existence, this Society has made great strides in preserving Gulfport's past.

We must certainly take pride in the efforts of our members to publish "Our Story of Gulfport, Florida." Under the able leadership of Frances Purdy, I think we can call it a job "well done." My thanks to all who labored in the cause.

Secondly, we can look with pride to our acquisition of a building for Gulfport's museum. Our thanks to the people who scraped and painted and repaired our building. Grateful acknowledgement goes to the many who have contributed memorabilia for all to enjoy.

Our Nostalgia Day picnics were all memorable occasions and great opportunities for old and new friends to meet.

Now, we are getting ready for the biggest and best party Gulfport has ever held--Gala Days. I hope you will participate in the many activities that are being planned throughout the city.

We can look back with pride to our accomplishments, including this newsletter that Bill Simonds founded for us, but we cannot stop here. We must continue to develop the museum, hold it open more often, etc. We need new goals to accomplish--identifying important old buildings, erecting plaques, establishing a route to the buildings and making a map to follow.

Put on your thinking caps, friends. We have accounted for the past--now, we must plan for the future.

Catherine A. Hickman
Immediate Past President

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Official newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society. Distributed free to Society members, Gulfport city officials and all others interested.

Acting Editor: Genevieve Smith

GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A voluntary, non-profit, educational organization whose purposes are to collect, preserve and to publish the history of Gulfport and the surrounding area. Dues are:

Individual	- \$ 5.00 per year
Family	- 10.00 per year
Life	- 50.00

MEMBERSHIPS

The Gulfport Historical Society is a member of the MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, St. Petersburg, the FLORIDA HISTORY ASSOCIATES and the FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS (Current & new)

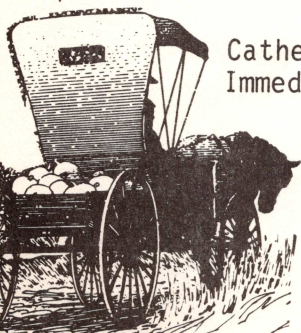
Officers:

President, Keith Hickman
Vice President, Frances Purdy
Secretary, Judy Ryerson
Treasurer, Betty Belting

Directors:

Nathan White
Mary Atkinson
Doris Brown

DID YOU KNOW...In 1932, the Florida Military Academy of Jacksonville purchased and moved cadets into the Rolyat Hotel (now Stetson Law School.) These were extremely luxurious accommodations compared to the barracks they were accustomed to...



FROM THE EDITOR

The editor and contributing members of THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN shall strive to preserve the dignity and integrity of the Newsletter through its appearance and published material. The Historian welcomes suggestions and input from members and friends. News items and brief articles of historic local interest are needed. The content should in every way reflect the objectives of the Gulfport Historical Society. The next issue of the GULFPORT HISTORIAN is planned for the early spring. If you have a contribution, be sure to contact the Society office.

IN MEMORIAM

Edward J. Maloney
Served as Editor

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THE GALA
FESTIVITIES COMING
DURING THE MONTH OF
OCTOBER, 1985. PASS THE
WORD AND INVITE ONE
AND ALL TO GULFPORT'S
BIGGEST PARTY EVER!**



NEXT MEETING



The next meeting of the Society is at the museum on Thursday, October 3, 1985. Bring a friend! Pass the word--7:30 p.m.

CHECK YOUR ADDRESS

Please check your name and address label carefully. If there is an error or change, please notify the Treasurer.

Gulfport Historical Society
3134 Beach Boulevard South
Gulfport, Florida 33707