



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

No. 2-1

NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nov., 1983

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members:

In the event you have not heard the great news - the Gulfport City Council unanimously approved the leasing of the GEMS building to the Gulfport Historical Society for use as a museum! So now, in addition to persuing our current activity of researching history for our book, we must also turn our attention to creating and maintaining an historical museum.

We need YOU !

Primarily, we need someone to act as Curator - someone to take charge of that museum, which will also house the Society's archives. Surely, there must be one among our members who has had a dream of a retirement activity like this. If that thought hadn't occurred to you - think about it now!

Once we gather our material and arrange our first displays we shall have to decide when to open the museum to the public, and what days per week and what hours per day it will be open.

Whoever takes on the Curator's job will need lots of part time help, even if each helper puts in only an hour or two a week.

And, we will need people to clean and to perform minor maintenance. We will need people with lots of creative ideas to help in designing and constructing displays.

We have come a long way, and it looks like a bright future. This community is supporting our efforts. Lets reciprocate, and do a bang up job for the community!

Sincerely

Catherine A. Hickman, President.

DUES

If you have not yet paid your 1983 - 84 dues, please do so soon.

You can pay at the November meeting, you can leave the payment at Catherine Hickman's office, 3006 Beach Blvd., S., or you can mail the payment to Treasurer Doris Brown, 5044 - 27th Ave. S.

If you have any questions about this, please call Doris at 321-2172

NOVEMBER MEETING

NOTE CHANGE OF DAY

TUESDAY, Nov. 15th - GEMS Bldg. - 7:30 PM
53rd St at 28th Ave. S.

We will hear portions of a taped interview with Mr. Richard Bozeman, a retired attorney and a resident of Gulfport. Mr. Bozeman will be present to answer questions and to lead the discussion

Mr. Bozeman is decended from Joshua White, a member of Gulfport's first (1910) City Council. He is also a great grandson of John C. White who settled in the Curlewarea of Central Pinellas many years before the Civil War. He has a wealth of personal and family memories to pass on to us.

There will also be discussion of the reasons for probable changes in the type of organization of the Society - see separate article, below.

Social hour with refreshments will follow.

NO meeting in December.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES

Taking on the responsibilities of operating a museum in a leased building will almost certainly require a change in the type of organization of the Society. Since our founding we have been a voluntary, non-profit educational association. Probably we will have to change to something like a not for profit educational corporation. While such a change will make no apparent difference to our members, all should be aware of it. So, come to the November meeting and hear the full story.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of Society officers for the two year term ending June 30, 1985 was held June 13, 1983:

President, Catherine A. Hickman *
Vice-President, Genevieve Smith *
Secretary, Ruby Walker *
Treasurer, Doris Brown

* Reelected

All results were unanimous.

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Official Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society. Distributed free to Society Members, Gulfport City Officials and all others interested.

EDITOR: Willard B. Simonds
6218 - 10th Ave. S. (345-7938)
Gulfport, FL, 33707

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 per year; Family, \$10 per year; Life, \$50.

Officers (terms expire June 30, 1985)

President, Catherine A. Hickman
Vice President, Genevieve Smith
Secretary, Ruby Walker
Treasurer, Doris Brown

Directors (terms expire June 30, 1984)

Nathan White
Mary Atkinson
Judith Ryerson

Address of the Society

3006 Beach Blvd. S. (321-7095)
Gulfport, FL, 33707

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the period July 1 to Oct. 31, 1983

On Hand, July 1, 1983 \$913.87

Received (Dues)	\$70.00
Expenses	None

On Hand, Oct. 31, 1983 983.87

Surplus as of 10/31/83

Royal Trust Bank	974.45
Cash	9.42

TOTAL \$983.87

Doris Brown, Treasurer

OCTOBER MEETING By Genevieve Smith

Our first meeting of this season was a success, with good attendance in spite of the heavy downpour of Florida "Pineapple Juice."

A taped interview of Mr. Irving Slaughter, made by his son Cecil, outlining and detailing many early happenings in the area was played. It brought forth much comment and discussion by those present.

Preliminary plans for Gulfport's 1985 Golden Jubilee were presented. Many volunteer workers will be needed to make this event the success it will be!

OUR MEMBERS

Membership list as of Nov. 1, 1983. To save space only the ZIP Code is given for addresses in Gulfport.

LIFE MEMBERS: Bill Hurst, Juanita Onweller,
Joseph Webb, and Virginia Welch.

Allen, Fred & Florence, 5960 - 30th Ave. S.	#311	33707
Anderson, Harold C., 1620 Park St. N.		
St. Petersburg, FL.		33710
Anderson, Nina, 1701 - 51st St. S.		33707
Anthes, Mr. & Mrs. L.E., 4635 - 29th Ave. S.		33711
Anthony, Dolores D., 5818 - 18th Ave. S.		33707
Atkinson, G.L. & Mary, 2625 - 58th St. S.		33707
Beum, R.T. Jr. & Jean, 2900 - 45th St. S., #25		33711
Brenn, Chris, 3309 - 15th St. N.		
St. Petersburg, FL,		33704
Brooks, Sydney, 2644 - 49th St. S.		33711
Brooks, Walther & Margaret, 5118 - 29th Ave. S.		33707
Brown, Charles & Doris, 5044 - 27th Ave. S.		33707
Camp, Colleen, 726 - 60th St. S.		33707
Carr, Nellie H., 2905 - 52nd St. S.		33707
Chase, Mrs. J. Frank, 1709 Crescent		
Sherman, TX		75090
Clymer, Mr. Jay P., 5280 - 23rd Ave. S.		33707
Conron, Agnes, 1513 - 60th St. S.		33707
Davis, Mrs. L.L., 2807 Beach Blvd.		33707
Davis, Perry G. Jr. and family, 2619 - 56th St. S.		33707
Denne, Fred, 6020 Shore Blvd. S.		33707
Forsdahl, Emma, 5137 - 9th Ave. S.		33707
Fussell, Mrs. Florence, 5001 - 20th Ave. S.		33707
Fussell, Theodore, 4917 - 10th Ave. S.		33707
Gauthier, Olive, 2900 - 45th St. S.		33711
Gray, Mary Lou, 34 Shady Dr.		
New Port Richey, FL,		33553
Griffen, Mrs. Juanita, 3061 Beach Blvd. S.		33707
Harwitt, Marie, 246 Readington Rd.		
Somerville, NJ.		08876
Hayes, Sterling, 470 - 3rd St. S. #406		
St. Petersburg, FL,		33701
Hendley, Mr. & Mrs. H. Glenn, 5601 Gulfport Blvd. S.		33707
Hickman, Keith and Catherine, 5926 Gulfport Blvd. S.		33707
Hodsdon, Norma, 7230 - 4th St. S., #440		
St. Petersburg, FL,		33702
Hornsleth, Poul & April, 2846 Skimmer Pt. Dr.		33707
Hucknall, 2314 Woodlawn Cir. W.		
St. Petersburg, FL,		33704
Hudson, Rose Ada, 5310 - 21st Ave. S.		33707
Huff, Austin H. & Helen C., 3036 - 11th St. N.		
St. Petersburg, FL,		33704
Humphries, Wade L., 2803 Beach Blvd. S.		33707
Hurst, Bill, 5427 Shore Blvd. S.		33707
Lumley, John L., 5227 - 27th Ave. S.		33707
Maloney, Edward, 3102 - 57th St. S.		33707
Mann, Mrs. Sallie, 7071 - 49th Ave. N.		
St. Petersburg, FL,		33709
Marshall, William L., 5600 Tangerine Ave.		33707
Mathews, Richard B., 5702 - 26th Ave. S.		33707
Mathews, Thelma B., 3102 Dupont St. S.		33707
Michaelson, Mike & Helen, 2519 Beach Blvd. S.		33707
Morris, Edna Webb, 197 Mobile Ave.		
Longwood, FL,		32750

OUR MEMBERS (Continued from Page 2)

McMannis, Jim & Marion, 1500 Serpentine Dr. St. Petersburg, FL,	33705
McMannis, William H., 1 Beach Dr. SE., #1207 St. Petersburg, FL,	33701
Nash, Kenneth & Polly, 2001 - 68th Ave. S. St. Petersburg, FL,	33712
Nelson, Mrs. Myrtle, Spruce Creek, PA,	16683
Norberg, Carl A., 3682 Belle Vista Dr. E. St. Petersburg Beach, FL	33706
Onweller, Juanita Mann, 2936 - 27th Ave. N. St. Petersburg, FL.	33713
Payne, Mr. & Mrs. George, Sr., 2531 - 56th St. S.	33707
Perfater, Aubrey, 2201 - 52nd St. S.	33707
Perrault, Helen, 3101 - 56th St. S.	33707
Perry, Joe & Bernice, 1002 - 61st St. S	33707
Pippen, Jo Rich, 340 - 5th St. S. St. Petersburg, FL,	33701
Pollard, Jack. 4743 Baywood Pt. S.	33711
Purdy, Frances, 3010 - 59th St. S. #203	33707
Roberts, Rhoda, 2641 Quincy St. S. St. Petersburg, FL.	33712
Roberts, Rose, 4125 Park St. N. St. Petersburg, FL.	33709
Ross, Helen, 6215 - 11th Ave. S.	33707
Rossman, Elsie, 840-65th St. S.	33707
Ryerson, Judith C., 5855 - 27th Ave. S.	33707
Shearer, Harold & Marion, 5302 - 28th Ave. S.	33707
Simonds, Willard B. and Anita K., 6218 - 10th Ave. S.	33707
Sjostrom, John & Julia, 6111 - 2nd St. E. St. Petersburg Beach, FL,	33706
Slauter, Mr. & Mrs. Cecil, 11235 Dempsey Rd. Brooksville, FL.	33512
Smith, Richard & Genevieve, 1613 Gray St., S.	33707
Stephens, Dr. A.L., 5313 Gulfport Blvd. S.	33707
Stoddard, C.W., 593 Midway Park Glen Ellyn, IL,	60137
Tamm, Stella, 5614 - 12th Ave. S.	33707
Taylor, Marion, 2813 - 57th St. S.	33707
Thomes, Charles L. & Rose E., 8701 - 4th St. N. #311 St. Petersburg, FL,	33702
Walker, Ruby C., 2614 - 58th St. S	33707
Watson, Lorraine, 5720 - 23rd Ave. S.	33707
Weathers, Robert R., Box 1424, Brooksville, FL,	33512
Webb, Joseph, 189 Mobile Ave., Longwood, FL.,	32750
Welch, Virginia Easters, 5730 - 28th Ave. S.	33707
White, Harriet, 2915 - 50th Ave. S.	33707
White, Nathan L., Sr., 2850 - 59th St. S. #601	33707
Williams, Bert, 2609 - 52nd St. S.	33707
Wood, Fred & Emma, 5413 - 21st Ave. S.	33707
Woodbury, William & Millidean, 1208 - 60th St. S.	33707

TOTAL of 82 members, including 24 family memberships.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR OWN NAME AND ADDRESS CAREFULLY. If an error is found, or if an apartment or lot number should be added, please notify the Editor

In addition to our members, Society mailings go to: 20 Gulfport City Officials, 3 newspapers, 2 statewide historical societies, and a few individuals who have performed outstanding services for the Society.

TYPIST FOUND !

Mr. Jack Lefton of Gulfport saw, and responded to, our appeal in the May issue for someone to transcribe our interview tapes onto paper. Since June Mr. Lefton has devoted countless hours to copying many of those tapes onto hundreds of pages of typing. This makes it practical for a researcher into any area of Gulfport history to determine what each of those interviewed had to say about that particular subject, without having to listen to many hours of taped conversation.

Mr. Lefton is performing a practically priceless service for the Society.

Many thanks !

NEW COUNTY HISTORY

"PINELLAS PENINSULA" sponsored by the Pinellas County Historical Society, and authored by June Hurley Young is the first complete County history to be published since W.L.Straub's 1929 "History of Pinellas County."

It will be available in the bookstores about December 1st, with a retail price of \$29.95. The Gulfport Public Library will have a copy, donated by the Friends of the Library.

Mrs. Young is the author of the book, "The Don Ce-Sar Story, and of a series of articles on major figures of Florida history which ran in the Evening Independent. She spoke about that series at our Society meeting of Nov. 9, 1981

HISTORIAN - BACK ISSUES

Copies of all previous issues of the Gulfport Historian are available, free, to anyone who can make use of them, while supplies last. We have found them to be helpful in explaining the work of our Society to prospective new members.

At Catherine Hickman's office, or from the Editor.

WAGON TRAILS MAP

Cecil Slauter sent us a map of Gulfport, marked up under the direction of his father, Irving Slaughter, showing the routes of the wagon trails of the early days to and through Gulfport. It will make a very valuable addition to our records. Thanks, Cecil and Irving!

NEXT ISSUE of the GULFPORT HISTORIAN is planned for the end of February, 1984. Feb. 15th is deadline for anything to be included.

WHAT HAS THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE BEEN DOING ?

Holding monthly meetings and trying to organize that which has been accomplished towards our History of Gulfport.

No one can ever thank Helen Ross enough for her continuous and painstaking efforts to listen to, talk with, and record the memories of the "old timers" who are willing to share their knowledge with us. The "Collecting and Collating" committee Mary Atkinson, Chairman, has with limited help, organized and filed countless clippings, pictures, and other memorabilia. It will be wonderful when we have our Museum to properly store and display this material. At our next meeting we hope to hear first readings of work done to date by Gen Smith on SCHOOLS and by Bill Simonds on TRANSPORTATION.

Agnes Conron is performing an outstanding, and seemingly endless job of extracting and codifying pertinent information from old City Council minutes.

Ruby Walker and I lunched with local authors Doris Waltz and Marjorie Kennedy and talked about their publishing experiences. We have done some descriptions of important local buildings.

PLEASE help us if you can talk or write about local history. Every bit of help we can get is needed if the book is to be a success. Call Catherine Hickman at 321-7095, or me at 343-3683.

Frances Purdy, Chairman
Editorial Committee

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

As this issue of the "Historian" is being printed, the Society's annual White Elephant Sale is in progress in connection with the Antique Car Show at Clymer Pary. Co-chairmen are Colleen Camp and Mary Atkinson, working with Helen Ross, Thelma Mathews, Helen Michaelson, and others.

1982 - 83 FINANCIAL REPORT

A complete financial report for the Society year, July 1, 1982 - June 30, 1983, and showing all income by sources and all expenses by categories will be in the next issue of the Historian.

FIRST SCHOOLS By Genevieve Smith

The earliest known school on the Pinellas peninsula was the "McMullen Log School", built in 1853, two or three miles southeast of Clearwater. As the southern part of the peninsula was settled, schools were built as needed.

The Disston City School, built in 1886 was located on the east side of Disston Blvd. (49th St) at 26th Ave. S. It was nicknamed "Prop College" because of the logs propped against its sides to keep it from collapsing during windstorms. Mr. Arthur Norwood, an Englishman who had settled in Disston City was the first teacher.

In the early years community life centered around activities in the schools. Christmas pageants were enhanced by the excitement of the children gathering Florida Holly.

Editor's Note: The "Sea Breeze" in 1886 and 1887 carried several items about community and political meetings, and about visiting preachers holding church services, in the schoolhouse.

CASINO MOMENTOS

After almost 30 years of semi-seclusion, two large mural paintings of wildlife scenes which graced the Gulfport Casino during its peak year as a famed dance hall will again be on public view.

Painted about 1940 by Dick Gray, who managed the Casino for many years and was a noted artist, they were displayed on either side of the Casino stage. But when the Casino was remodeled in the 1950's, and the stage moved from the water end to the street end, there was no longer room for them.

The City donated them to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Gulfport Flotilla #716, and they have hung in that group's clubhouse ever since.

Through the efforts of Nathan White, the Coast Guard Auxiliary has redonated them to the Gulfport Historical Society for display in its historical museum.

They will serve as memories of our Gulfport Casino of the days when it was famed as the leading ballroom of the area.

GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Gulfport, Florida 33707