

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society December 1986

HEAR YE HEAR YE



The 2nd ANNUAL GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARTY



will be celebrated

7:30 P.M.

December 11

At our museum



Come one, come all (guests warmly welcome) for an evening of tree decorating (with garlands of popcorn and cranberries, of course), holiday singing and refreshments galore.



Wear oldfashioned garb or new

Bring a snack to share if you have the time

Old toys cards, or decorations would be fun to see - so please bring if you can.

= = = Special thanks to Mrs. Allean Davis, Program Chairperson for organizing this special event. She surely put together a terrific party last year.= = =



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some of you missed the October 2nd meeting when Phyllis Plotnik showed beautiful pictures of Gulfport. Within a year these photos will become part of a slide -tape show, our 1986-87 special project. The pictures stimulated many comments from Sydney and Walter Brooks, who can provide wonderful anecdotes about the many buildings in our city that command historical interest. Delicious refreshments were served at the close of the meeting by Margaret Brooks, Ruyby Walker, and Marilyn Taylor. Even as the night grew late, people were reluctant to go home.

The Board of Directors meeting was held at the museum on November 6th. Action was taken on a lengthy agenda. The Christmas party was planned, our review of the proposed by-laws was continued, and our involvement in the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Pinellas County was discussed (Mary Atkinson and Frances Purdy will represent the GHS during the County's planning stages).

We look forward to wishing you a Merry Christmas December 11th.

Keith Hickman

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand as of October 31, 1986 #3090.67

Our income has just about balanced our out go since June 30, with 20 dues payments, 2 life memberships, and the sale of 24 books. Our expenditures have been for maintenance of the Museum, supplies and refreshments for meetings, rental of a projector, and newsletter costs. Due to the efforts of Frances Purdy, we now have copies of "Our Story of Gulfport" in the libraries of Birmingham, Al., Jacksonville, Clearwater, Tarpon Springs and Seminole, Fl. If it were not for our many volunteers, expenses would be much higher, so here's a big "Thank You" to these splendid people who help maintain our museum.

Betty Belting

A MESSAGE: IN COLLABRATION FROM THE TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

The Treasurer and Membership committee Chairperson are trying to be sure all who wish to become members or to pay dues, do so. You may bring or mail your check to the Society office, 3134 Beach Blvd.S. If you need us to do so we shall collect at your home if you will phone 321-7095 or 343-3683. Our mailing list now includes well over 150 addresses, including 12 new members this Fall and the following Life Members:

Mrs. Helene Bazemore

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Davis

Mrs. Deane Durgin

Mr. Walter Goetz

Mr. And Mrs. Poul Hornsleth

Mr. Earl Huckins

Mrs. Ione Kinney

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence T McCarthy

Mrs. Irma Newman

Mrs. Juanita Mann Onweller

Dr. Mary Broadbent Platz

Miss Frances Purdy (Honorary)

Mr. Joseph Webb

Mrs. Virginia Easters Welch

If you think you do owe dues for 1986-87, why not call to check--or pay fifty dollars and not have to wonder each year! We are planning to perpare a scroll of life members for displays in our Society Office and in the museum-- so be among the first--deadline December 31, 1986!

Betty Belting and Frances Purdy

DUES for 1986-1987
were due June 30, 1986

Not paid

We don't want to lose anyone as a member, but
if your name is on this note, please renew:

Single	\$5.00
Family	10.00
Organization/business	25.00
Life (individual)	50.00

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
Gulfport Historical Society

Mail to:

Gulfport Historical Society
3134 Beach Blvd. S
Gulfport, FL 33707

T H A N K Y O U !

CURATOR'S COMMUNICATION

= IT'S OFFICIAL =

Our Gulfport Historical Museum is open for visitors every Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 10 - 12. Make history by signing the guest book, working the magical, old timey potato peeler, or listening to fascinating tapes (produced from interviews obtained by Helen Ross with longtime residents).

If those times aren't convenient, call the Society Office at 321-7095 or 343-3683 to make special arrangements. A visit to our ever-expanding museum is a treat for a sunny or rainy day.

Great opportunity for our community's children: Thanks to the efforts of Betty Belting and Mary Atkinson, Gulfport Elementary and Holy Name students will be taking field trips to our museum and preparing projects (art, research, etc.) about their unique hometown.

Jan Cooke

(Volunteers to act as guides are always needed and appreciated; training will be provided.)

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As a relative newcomer to Gulfport (transplant of 83'), I have much to learn about this charming, historically rich city. The Society has offered me a wonderful education through the bi-monthly meetings and the incredible publication, "Our Story of Gulfport". In addition, the membership has a way of offering even more: a sense of belonging to a "neighborhood" very difficult to find in a world where separation and expediency are the norm. This newsletter provides me with a way to become involved in this community. Your comments, advice, and suggestions are requested.

My thanks to Catherine Hickman, former editor of the HISTORIAN for her valuable assistance to me and for the layout and typing of this newsletter. She sure has made my working on this publication a pleasure.

Phyllis Plotnik

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS *

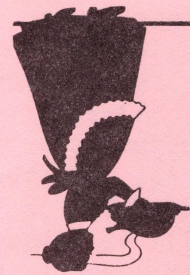
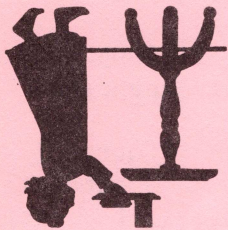
OF DAYS GONE BY

Dec. 24, 1884 The Waldorf Hotel, a waterfront, luxury edifice built by Captain William B. Miranda opened its doors. This 26 room hotel was the pride of Hamilton Disston, a Philadelphia saw-manufacturer, whose finances helped develop much of Florida's real estate. The hotel, largely destroyed by a gale in 1901, was never a success. It was finally dismantled and its lumber was used to build small houses in the area.

Dec. 1, 1913 Gas from the St. Petersburg plant built to manufacture gas from coke or coal was turned on. Branches, however, were not run to Gulfport areas until 1924.

Dec. 1, 1947 Rev. Elsie Davies began her long and successful pastorate of Gulfport's First United Methodist Church.

*All excerpted from "Our Story of Gulfport"



Bullport Historical Society
3134 Beach Boulevard, South
Bullport, Florida 33707

Holiday Greetings

