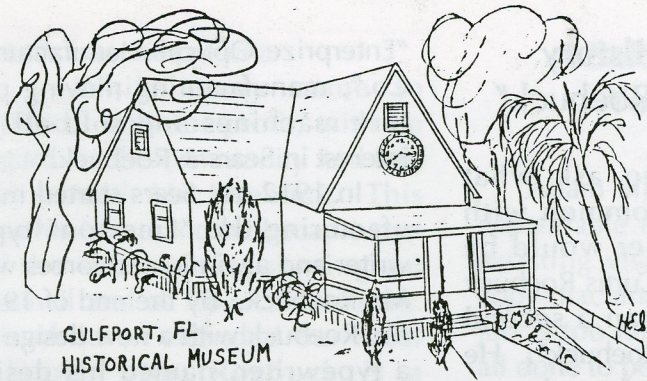




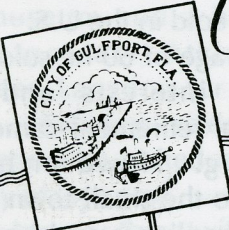
THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 45

Official Newsletter of The Gulfport Historical Society

January 1994

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



City of
GULFPORT, FLORIDA
P.O. BOX 5187 GULFPORT, FL 33737 (813) 321-1158
GATEWAY TO THE GULF

January 5, 1994

Gulfport Historical Society
Catherine Hickman, President
Gulfport, Florida

Dear Ms. Hickman:

On behalf of Gulfport City Council, I would like to wish all a happy, safe and prosperous New Year. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you for your generous contribution to our City, such as preserving our history and providing such well-informed volunteers to greet the public at the museum is just one of the special contributions that is provided by your organization. Your sponsorship of special events such as the Old Fashion Holiday and Nostalgia Day is also greatly appreciated by the City of Gulfport.

Looking forward to another joyful year.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Yakes
Michael J. Yakes
Mayor

MICHAEL J. YAKES
MAYOR

JOHN E. "TED" PHILLIPS
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 1

JACK B. OLSEN
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 2

COLLEEN W. CAMP
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 3

JOHN R. BALL
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 4

ROBERT E. LEE
CITY MANAGER

LESLEY M. DeMUTH
CITY CLERK

TIMOTHY P. DRISCOLL
CITY ATTORNEY

A Gulfport Landmark in St. Petersburg

Due to the boundary changes in the 1920's a very important Historical landmark of Gulfport's is now in St. Petersburg.

The Glen Oak Cemetery established in 1874 by our early settlers was, after a hard three year fight, designated a Landmark in 1992 by the City of St. Petersburg. That City has set up a management plan which includes a fence, lighting, Historic Marker, and upkeep.

This is very important as vandals are stealing tombstones and destroying the site.

The estimated cost is \$4000 which must come from the Public. In actuality not being a St. Petersburg landmark, funding is

very difficult. A committee of concerned people have come up

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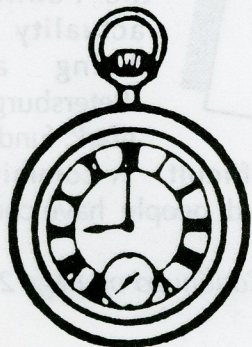
A Page In History **"Alvah Curtis Roebuck"**

the Adopt-a Landmark Program.

Glen Oak was more than just a cemetery. It was used as a meeting place that united the settlements for picnics and worship before a church was built. For many years it was the only burial ground in the southern section of Pinellas County. One by one the people who carved our settlement out of wilderness came to rest here. The Barnetts, Nashes, Torres, Roberts, Wintergill, Leonardy, Phillips, Thomas, Sawyers, Bozemans, Stradas, Webbs, Mears, Eatons, Kimballs, Donaldson, Huffs, Weathers and the list goes on and on, a roll call of our history.

Mr. Murray Mears of Dade City and Florida Power Corp have donated the fence material needed. John T. Leslie, sons of the Confederacy Group of Tampa (Mr. Leslie laid out the second subdivision in Gulfport) will replace veteran's stones and St. Pete Preservation has offered to clean remaining stones. Manpower is needed to erect the fence and clean up. If you would like more information on this program or how you can help with money, materials, or labor, contact Linda Lennon 893-7281 St. Pete Planning Dept. or Claudette Dean 327-0505 Gulfport Historical Museum.

Your help is greatly needed.



If you were to ask what Gulfport has in common with "Sears", the answer would be "Roebuck". Alvah Curtis Roebuck was much more than a second name in "Sears & Roebuck". He was a business genius. A very independent person, whose only yardstick for success was his own, for he rejected the trappings of the "Social World" of the successful.

Perhaps his down-to-earth attitude was a reflection of his pioneer heritage. His great-great grandfather served in the Colonial Army of Virginia and later became one of the first two white settlers of Mercer County, Ohio.

Mr. Roebuck was born Jan. 8, 1864 in Indiana to Samuel and Mary (Wolf) Roebuck, both of English ancestry. At the age of 13, because of the death of his father, it was necessary that young Alvah learn a trade. His choice was watch-making and engraving. His first job after graduation from school was with R.W. Sears of Chicago, as head of watch assembling, timing and repair. When Mr. Sears disposed of his business in 1889, Mr. Roebuck, then 25, bought 1/2 interest in the watch business and changed the name to "A. C. Roebuck Co." taking full management of the company. In a short time he owned the entire company.

Again joining forces with Mr. Sears selling watches and jewelry by mail, by 1895, they added other lines of merchandise, moved to Chicago and changed the name to "Sears & Roebuck". With some the story would have ended there, but not Alvah Roebuck. As a side business he had organized an

"Enterprize Optical Manufacturing Co.", manufacturing moving picture machines and sold all his interest in Sears & Roebuck.

In 1912 Mr. Sears started manufacturing the "Emerson" typewriter and again joined forces with Mr. Roebuck. By the end of 1912 Mr. Roebuck with a new design for a typewriter, named his design "Woodstock Typewriter" and changed the name of the company to Woodstock and became President, Treasurer and Manager. As soon as the company was well established, he resigned and turned his attention to redesigning the Motograph, moving picture machine. The company was soon making half of the Movie Projectors sold in the U.S.

At the age of 60 he sold all his business interests and with thoughts of retirement came to St. Petersburg. However he was attracted to the small town atmosphere, friendliness and beauty of Gulfport. In January of 1924, Alvah Curtis Roebuck and his wife of 24 years, Blanch (Lett) Roebuck and their two children Lucille May and Alvah Curtis Jr. made Gulfport their home, buying a lot and erecting a "Sears" Kit Home.

End of story? Not by a long way. He became so impressed with Kit Homes he forgot retirement. He began buying lots, erecting houses with the help of Gulfport tradesmen, and selling completed homes. Always having to improve on what existed, he bought a tract of land west of 52 St. from 30 Ave. to the waterfront and stated redesigning and building homes. This area known as "Roebuck Park", with the homes almost 70 years old, stand today as a tribute to a man with a vision and his architectural style tran

Continued

scends into the present.

While many came to Gulfport only for profit, with no regard for the community and left not so with Mr. Roebuck. This was his home and he became part of the community serving on Council and as Council President. His children attended our local schools. Mr. Roebuck is a Gulfport resident and builder to be remembered.

Claudette Renney Dean



Museum Report

December was a busy time at the museum and a big Thanks goes to Mary Atkinson and Maureen Langdon for their help with Holiday decorations. Everyone who visited enjoyed the display of toys past.

In January there will be a display on WW II honoring our servicemen.

The job of making up our History Scrap Books in an ongoing project. Helpers are always welcome. No experience necessary. We are growing and many new people are finding their way to the Museum. All seem to enjoy our historic displays and many are surprised at the extent of that History. Donations keep coming in. A big Thank You goes to George and Laurette Payne, Tim McCarthy, Ruth Huff Saylor, Susan Silva, Louie and Bobby Worthington, Mary Atkinson, T.C. Roberts for our December donations.

Starting January 15, 1994, the Saturday hours for the remainder of the winter will be 1 - 3 p.m.

Stop in and pay us a visit and bring a friend. We love visitors. NO CHARGE.

A Salute To a Fine Young Man

Adam Silva, a most able and dependable museum worker from assisting visitors to working the copy machine is a great help. No job is too large or too small, and all done to perfection.

Adam is a young man of many interests from woodworking, sailing, to biking. He is always involved in community projects. Perhaps his interest in local history and legend comes from loving in on of Gulfport's historic homes and the shared interest and support he receives at home reinforces his quest. If he continues on his present course he will be Gulfport's future historian.

For his tender age of 13, this young man has earned the respect of the adults who work with him.

We are proud of you, Adam, keep up the good work. You are a real P.R. person for the youth of Gulfport.

Message From The President



Dear Friends,

Thank you for a wonderful beginning for my second time at being your president. I appreciate your support and help in the projects we have begun and will continue to be attempting. I cannot accomplish anything without you.

I wish all of you the happiest of New Years. May this be the best you have ever had.

January meeting at the museum will be Tuesday, January 11, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. See you there!

Catherine Hickman

Calendar Distribution Report

January 1994						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

It has been a pleasure to again distribute the Society's Calendar, 325 to date, because Library Staff and selected merchants have been gracious about supplementing sales at the Museum. First deliveries were made as follows: Oct. 24, Library, 25 (Judy had given Doris 10 - I accepted \$18.00 and added the last one to may count); Bay Breeze Beauty Salon, 25; Vegetable Kingdom, 40; Suncoast Food Store, 5 (new depot); and The Gabber prepaid for 20; Mary Atkinson, for 10. Remaining to be sold are about ten of the 145 accepted by the Library, 20 at VK, and too many at BBBS. I have sold 18 of the 20, kept and have 16 in the car. Several of us sold 23 at the Lion's Breakfast 11/7 and others, 13 from the Library supply at the Arts Council Fiesta 11/27-28.

I delivered complimentary copies to each of the 14 advertisers and collected \$300.00 balances due. Mary gave the remaining 2 theirs while collection an addition \$100.00 due. Monies were collected routinely and given Acting Treasure Margaret Brooks or Treasurer Inez Foley. I received a FUNB check for \$100.00 payment for fifty calendars delivered by Margaret to the Bank at their request. Financial data is available.

An announcement in the Gabber January 7 was discussed with vendors 12/31 and states that after January 15, calendars will be

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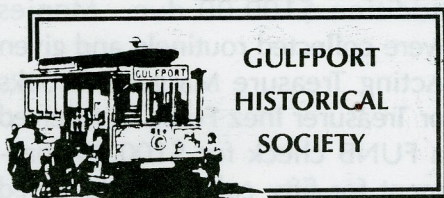
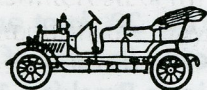
Continued from page 3

Calendar Distribution

available at the Library and the Museum (Wed. 9-1 and Sat. 1-3). For the Society I thank those who have sold or will sell, to help us with this worthwhile project.

The Calendar describes our City government, lists community organizations with data to enable contacts to be made by those interested in joining or in avoiding conflicting dates for meetings. Some may be interested in helping with volunteer services needed in our community, others may collect them or use facts to document family histories. Many long time residents may well have information which could be used in future calendars - if so please call President Cathy Hickman, 345-1001.

Frances Purdy



P.O. Box 5152
Gulfport, Florida 33737

Book Review

"Tales of Old Florida"
edited by Frank Appel and
Tony Meisel

This book consists of a collection of stories written from 1886 to 1911; a time when much of Florida was still a frontier. A wilderness of swamp, beach, dense forest with abundant wild game brought adventure seeking people from the North.

Their recanting of their trips, be it turtle hunting, bird watching, shooting razorbacks, to Tarpon fishing is interesting and again humorous; much like the fish stories that grow with time. The storyteller is always the Hero, but then it's their story.

Even with some stories seeming repetitious it enables you to get a more reliable realism of the impending situation.

Anyone who enjoys history, or is interested in how things were done in the days gone by, would enjoy this book.

It is easy reading and one that can be picked up when you have a limited time for reading enjoyment.

I give it a : "Thumbs Up".

Claudette Dean

Keith's Famous Fudge



3 cups sugar
2/3 cup Hershey's cocoa
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups milk
1/4 cup butter
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Butter an 8 or 9 inch pan. Set aside. In heavy 4 quart saucepan combine sugar, cocoa and salt, stir in milk. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a full rolling boil. Boil without stirring, to 234 degrees F (soft-ball stage). Remove from heat. Add butter and vanilla. Do not stir. Cool at room temperature to 110 degrees F (lukewarm). Beat until fudge thickens and loses some of its gloss. Quickly spread in to prepared pan. Cool. Cut into squares. Enjoy.



GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROSTER - JANUARY 1994

Aldrich, Elizabeth	323-8952	4801 9 Ave. So., 33711	Gaston, Aubrey & Carol	392-8727	12785 Park Blvd., 34646
Anderson, Harold	347-0354	1610 Park St. No., 33710	Gloonan, Alice	347-9989	5800 15 Ave. So., 33707
Anderson, Nina	321-1737	1701 55 St. So., 33707	Goetz, Walter E.	321-1907	4902 31 Ave. So., 33711
Anderson, Theodore	321-1111	666 49 St. So., 33711	Good, Rita	321-3863	5017 Tangerine Ave., 33707
Andrews, Susan	323-1260	2532 Beach Blvd., 33707	Gregg, Shirley	343-3410	3018 59 St. So., 33707
Atkins, Margaret	327-2393	2210 Kingston St. So., 33711	Groth, Otto & Rose	345-9408	5510 17 Ave. So., 33707
Atkinson, Geo. & Mary	343-4398	2625 58 St. So., 33707	Gulfport Fire Dept.	321-1158	5314 24 Ave. So., 33707
Aust, Karen	367-1197	PO Box 66345 SP, 33736	Gulfport Gabber	321-6965	1419 49 St. So., 33707
			Gutman, Rose	344-2238	6025 Shore Blvd., 33707
Ball, John & Mary Jane	321-4556	5133 9 Ave. So., 33707	Harris, Virginia		PO Box 46592 SPB, 33706
Bazemore, Helene	397-6247	3019 Beach Blvd., 33707	Hawkins, Emmett	321-0420	5235 6 Terrace So., 33707
Beddow, Elizabeth	321-3890	5413 30 Ave. So., 33707	Hebert, Sandy	321-8582	2808 Beach Blvd., 33707
Beem, David & Carol	347-3122	6351 6 Ave. So., 33707	Hickman, Keith & Catherine	345-1001	5929 Gulfport Blvd., 33707
Bell, Ann	321-3620	5215 28 Ave. So., 33707	Higgins, Kay	321-5239	1038 55 St. So., 33707
Belting, Geo. & Betty	347-2534	6020 Shore Blvd., 33707	Hoon, Prescilla	327-8370	4319 26 Ave. So., 33707
Blue, Trish	867-3555	4500 37 St. So., 33711	Hornsleth, Poul	347-1414	2846 Skimmer Pt. Dr., 33707
Boatwright, Kay	347-9933	6020 Shore Blvd., 33707	Huckins, Earl & Ruth		2509 State Route 248
Bonfield, Betty	345-5371	1407 59 St. So., 33707	Huckins, Norma		Rexville, 14877
Bonyai, Stephen	343-2869	5960 30 Ave. So., 33707	Hudgins, Steve	343-8366	2825 57 St. So., 33707
Brinton, Joseph	321-9275	2865 51 St. So., 33707	Huff-Saylor, Ruth		6009 Kipps Col. Dr., 33707
Brooks, Walter & Margaret	321-1948	5118 29 Ave. So., 33707	Huff, Stuart		
Brooks, Sydney	321-8830	2644 49 St. So., 33711	Hunt, Dorothy	344-2163	54 NE 103 St., Miami Shores
Brown, Charlie & Doris	321-2172	5044 27 Ave. So., 33707	Johnson, Johnny & Yvonne	321-4268	3010 59 St. So., 33707
Brown, James A.	323-0894	5221 Delette Ave. So., 33707			5012 17 Ave. So., 33707
Burke, Robert	343-0206	5921 Seabird Dr., 33707			
Caldwell, R.W. & Adele	321-1212	6614 Flamingo Way So., 33707	Kelly, Evelyn	347-0462	911 Fremont St., 33707
Camp, Colleen	343-0165	726 60 St. So., 33707	Kent, David & Cora	327-5368	2814 Beach Blvd., 33707
Carlson, Joyce	866-8260	PO Box 58067 Tierra Verde, 33715	Kevin, Doris	347-7091	8080 32 Ave. No., 33710
Casey, Melvin		1407 53 St. So., 33707	Kidder, Nat	327-8440	5320 Delette Ave., 33707
Clark, Dorothy		2907 Clinton St. So., 33707	Kimball, Robert & Doris	347-7091	
Cloonan, Alice	347-9989	5800 15 Ave. So., 33707	Kimball, Roberta	343-7652	5955 30 Ave. So., 33707
Crimaldi, Elsie	347-6831	2850 59 St. So., 33707	King, Helen	343-5425	2829 57 St. So., 33707
			Kinney, Ione		5755 6 Ave. No., 33710
Davis, Frank	343-6414	2807 Beach Blvd., 33707	Kranz, Jean	397-3399	17117 Gulf Blvd. #335, 33706
Davis, Perry G & F	343-1080	2619 56 St. So., 33707			
Davis, Arthur & Mair	321-3186	5302 Jersey Ave. So., 33707	Labarbera, Muriel	345-6741	1613 Gray St. So., 33707
Dean, (Renn) Claudett	576-7478	720 88 Ave. No., 33702	Lanning, Pamela	347-2809	6144 10 Ave. So., 33707
DelBene, Lorraine		2660 Miriam St. So., 33711	Layburn, Clarice	381-1017	5980 Shore Blvd., 33707
DelBene, Mrs. Delia		2660 Miriam St. So., 33711	Lewis, Eileen	343-6549	2308 58 St. So., 33707
Distasio, Mr. & Mrs. Louis	321-3294	5214 21 Ave. So., 33707	Linecome, R. & J.	343-7060	3010 59 St. So., 33707
Dolphin, Robert & Rita	323-3504	3014 52 St. So., 33707	Livingston, Gary	345-2380	555 62 St. So., 33707
Dorney, Theo	321-9785	2645 48 St. So., 33711			
Drake, Mary T.	321-8276	5101 9 Ave. So., 33707	Mahlbacher, Robert	323-2484	2814 54 St. So., 33707
Drankwalter, Mary	327-5674	2714 53 St. So., 33707	Mahoney, Evelyn	343-4689	531 12 Ave. So., 33707
Durgin, Alice	347-3587	5980 Shore Blvd., 33707	Mansfield, Stella	347-9299	5501 Shore Blvd., 33707
Dutton, Janet	347-8732	8724 134 St. No., 34647	Marcello, Theresa	343-2088	3010 59 St. So., 33707
			Marcy, Peg	321-1687	4771 Baywood Pt. Dr., 33711
Easter, Robert & Chris	323-0900	5107 18 Ave. No., 33710	Marshall, Patricia	347-7633	5602 28 Ave. So., 33707
			McCarthy, Laurence	321-0206	5217 21 Ave. So., 33707
Feinsod, Mr. & Mrs. Al	321-1637	2900 45 St. So., 33711	Mamannus, James	867-4304	1700 Serpentine, 33705
Fellman, Carolyn	323-1260	2532 Beach Blvd., 33707	Melberg, Ingoff	327-2994	4928 24 Ave. So., 33707
Foley, Inez	345-8680	6020 Shore Blvd., 33707	Mills, William	345-8398	6331 11 Ave. So., 33707
Forsdahl, Emma	321-4140	5137 9 Ave. So., 33707	Morris, Edna		197 Mobile Ave., Altamonte
Fuhrer, Frances	327-2297	1811 53 St. So., 33707	Morrison, Tom & Hilda	321-2415	5120 28 Ave. So., 33707
Funaro, Michelina	345-6646	5960 30 Ave. So., 33707	Morton, Anita	347-0462	911 Fremont St. So., 33707
			Nangle, Coriene	321-6269	2613 48 St. So., 33711
			Norberg, Carl & Helen (Ross)	360-8853	3682 Belle Vista SPB, 33706

Okamoto, Lorimar	323-4266	7685 E. Danielle Circle, Anaheim
Olson, Jack	576-3730	5020 26 Ave. So., 33707
Onweller, Juanita	321-4016	2001 83 Ave. No., 33702
Osgood, Frances		2610 47 St. So., 33711
Owens, Sherman		RR2 Box 622, Spring Hill
Padula, Arthur	321-5717	2508 50 St. So., 33707
Parkview Motel	321-8582	2808 Beach Blvd., 33707
Parzyck, Marion		6114 9 Ave. So., 33707
Paul, Helen	327-1341	5230 29 Ave. So., 33707
Payne, George & Laurette	344-6535	2850 59 St. So., 33707
Perrone, Erni	343-3602	5727 30 Ave. So., 33707
Phillips, John "Ted" & Goldie	343-0107	2850 59 St. So., 33707
Platz, Dr. Mary	381-6090	5900 Shore Blvd., 33707
Plotnick, Phyllis	345-3809	3038 Dupont St. So., 33707
Pottenger, Tavia	347-4412	PO Box 10982
Purdy, Frances	343-3683	3019 59 St. So., 33707
Purtee, Barbara	343-2227	5705 17 Ave. So., 33707
Rautman, Arthur & Emily	321-7910	2813 48 St. So., 33711
Reed, Ruby	321-6457	3025 50 St. So., 33707
Roberts, TC	321-2436	5307 23 Ave. So., 33707
Rondeau, Patricia	381-1912	1212 Fremont St. So., 33707
Ryerson, Judy	343-9614	5855 27 Ave. So., 33707
Saieva, Jane	321-1367	5233 Delette Ave., 33707
Sandor, Edna	381-1578	6025 Shore Blvd., 33707
Schearer, Howard & Marion	305-792-5361	Plantation
Schneidt, Johanna	704-847-0114	Mathews New Town, NC
Simonds, Anita	345-7938	6218 10 Ave. So., 33707
Skeith, Frank & Marilyn		5320 28 Ave. So., 33707
Smith, Adele	343-0418	5925 Shore Blvd., 33707
Smith, Richard & Genieve	545-5867	6343 92 Place No., 33565
Somma, Caroline	343-0978	5960 30 Ave. So., 33707
Soutullo, Joseph & Elizabeth	343-8531	7242 33 Ave. No., 33710
Speechley, Steve & Jo An		5934 Skimmer Pt., 33707
Stanton, Ken	381-6483	804 59 St. So., 33707
Stoddard, C.W.		593 Midway
Taylor, Marilyn	321-1180	2813 57 St. So., 33707
Todson, Shirley	521-3269	2644 49 St. So., 33711
Toth, Diane		1033 50 Ave. No., 33703
Walker, Ruby	347-9968	2614 58 St. So., 33707
Webb, Joseph		189 Mobile, Altamonte
Weber, Thomas	345-6652	2102 56 St. So., 33707
Welch-Easter, Virginia	343-4046	5730 28 Ave. So., 33707
Wetling, Kirsten	321-1255	2316 49 St. So., 33707
Worthington, Harley	323-3392	2802 53 St. So., 33707
Wright, Jane	541-4790	10008 Daffodil St.
Yokum, Yvonne (Bonnie)	345-0070	6282 10 Ave. So., 33707
Young, Catherine		7372 Orchard, Fairview
Zieres, Elmer	347-6226	3010 59 St. So., 33707