



Gulfport Historical Society Newsletter

December, 2012

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 THE MUSEUM JOLLY TROLLEY CHRISTMAS PARTY 7 P.M.

Want to experience a real old-fashioned Gulfport Christmas? Join us for the Jolly Trolley party on Friday evening, December 14. We'll meet at the Museum and take off on the trolley to tour some of the town's prettiest seasonal lights. There'll be carol singing led by Gail Biron and an appearance by Holly Berry, the Christmas elf, to guide us around town with her happy holiday stories! Following the tour, we'll return to the Museum for some festive refreshments and a chance to visit and exchange good wishes for Gulfport's 103rd year.

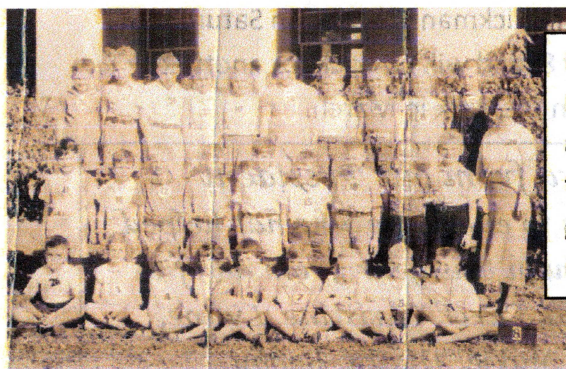
Because we must pay the city for use of the trolley, we are asking for small donations to help defray that cost. Space is limited to just the trolley's 25 seats, so please call Miki at 321-5705 to reserve your place.

This month's header is a 1965 postcard of Gulfport Beach.

SOME MEMORIES OF LIFE IN GULFPORT

Thanks to Phil Reed, the Society has received some pages of autobiographical notes by Nathan White. Nathan was born here in 1925, the grandson of both John Campaign White, the town's first marshal, and Nathan McKinney, mayor in 1921-23. He of course attended Gulfport Elementary, and some of the most delightful remembrances are of his school days. Here's one short excerpt; we'll do more in future issues.

"Mr. Moore was the janitor and the father of Cora Moore, the third grade teacher. In the wintertime he would operate the boiler room and at recess we would sneak in and warm up and have a chat with him. He was always so friendly and good to all of us. On the exterior wall of each room, under the canopy-type windows, was this long iron exposed steam heater. Those who sat in the closest rows were burning up and those on the other side of the room were freezing. There was only one control handle and I think it was just 'Off' and 'On.' We had three emphatic NO-NOs. 'Don't touch the radiator,' 'Don't open the windows,' and 'Don't complain.' What you got is what you got."



Miss
Moore
and her
third-
graders
in 1935



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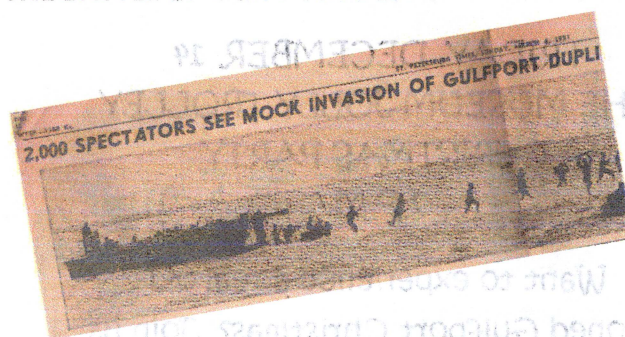
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ANTIQUES IN THE PARK

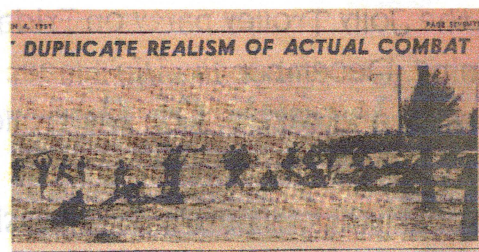
Thanks again to Hula Hula Productions for inviting the Museum to co-sponsor Antiques in the Park on Saturday, November 3. We had a great day there and sold many of our de-accessioned treasures. We still have some vintage buttons and postcards, as well as the beautiful old Singer sewing machine, which can be seen at the Museum. Drop by and make an offer!



THE BATTLE OF GULFPORT BEACH



D-DAY? No,
March 3,
1951, on our
waterfront



"Gulfport was invaded, fought over and finally lost yesterday by an 'aggressor' force of 75 Florida Military Cadets who tangled with a defending force of some 100 National Guardsmen," wrote Paul Mitchell in the *St. Petersburg Times*. The realistic test of Gulfport's civilian defense machinery included members of American Legion Post 125, National Guardsmen, civilian riflemen, and medical corpsmen fighting house-to-house while an "interested public" watched.

Hula Hula will be presenting a Christmas Collecto-Rama at the Hickman Theater on Saturday, December 8, and will be back for another Antiques in the Park in March.

A Word from our President

*Thanks to everyone who has helped us through this year, from all of us -
Priscilla, Carol, Christine, Lynne,
Cathy, Marie, Diann, Bobby
- and Miki*

Gulfport Historical Society members took part in the 2012 Veterans Day Parade

