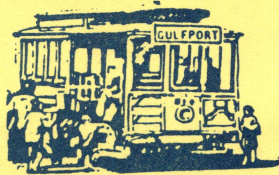


# THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

VOLUME 17 NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARCH 1987



TAKE A NOSTALGIC TRIP  
TO THE PAST!

SATURDAY, APRIL 11<sup>th</sup>, 1987  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

JOIN US AT OUR

6<sup>th</sup> annual **NOSTALGIA DAY**

OLD-TIME ENTERTAINMENT!

A REAL  
Medicine Show

APRIL  
11<sup>th</sup>

Trolley Rides

Music



ARTS

CRAFTS

COME IN OLD-FASHIONED COSTUME  
FLEA MARKET  
CHASE PARK  
53RD ST. AND 28TH AVE. SO.

DRINK & DESSERT FURNISHED  
Fish Fry  
GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
IN COSPONSORSHIP WITH  
THE CITY OF GULFPORT

With cudos to Jan Cooke for again designing a wonderful Nostalgia Day poster.

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

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Official Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society. Distributed free to Society Members - City Officials and all other interested persons.

Editor: Phyllis Plotnick  
Typist: M. "Winnie" Wynn

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GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A voluntary, educational non-profit organization whose purposes are to collect, preserve and publish the history of Gulfport and the surrounding area. Dues are: \$10 per year; Life Membership, \$50.00.

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OFFICERS

President - Keith Hickman  
Vice President - Frances Purdy  
Secretary - Judy Ryerson  
Treasurer - Betty Belting  
Asst. Treasurer - Doris Brown

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DIRECTORS

Mary Atkinson                      Doris Brown                      Phyllis Plotnick

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CURATOR

Jan Cooke

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Ways & Means - Mary Atkinson and Colleen Camp  
Publicity - Frances Purdy  
Programs - Allean Davis  
Building Maintenance - Walter & Margaret Brooks and George Payne

\*\*\*\*\*

ADDRESS OF THE SOCIETY

3134 Beach Blvd. So. (321-7095)  
Gulfport, Florida 33707

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MEETINGS

General Membership, 7:30 PM, 1st Thursday, Feb., April, June, Oct., Dec.  
Board of Directors, 7:30 PM, 1st Thursday, Jan., Mar., May, Nov.

## HAPPENINGS

### PAST

Bouquets and bravos to Allean Davis for making our February Valentine's Meeting a night to remember. Allean told us about the history of this holiday and shared with us her collection of antique Valentine cards - from Vinegar to Tuck Valentines. We oohed and ahed over those designed by Ester Holland and Kate Greenway. Delicious hot cider (prepared by Margaret Brooks) and the guitar and harmonica playing of John Arnold topped off a grand evening.

On March 16, Nathan White, Judy Ryerson and Phyllis Plotnick traveled to the Vision Cable studios in Palm Harbor where they taped a 30 minute program on the history of Gulfport for Pinellas County's 75th Anniversary celebration. Nathan did a beautiful job sharing his many boyhood experiences in Gulfport in his inimitable story telling way. Judy and Phyllis, in early century garb (loaned to them by GHS members Johanna Schneidt and Erni Perrone), discussed the goings on in Veteran City on October 11, 1910, the day before the City was incorporated as Gulfport. Phyllis played the newcomer to town and Judy the "Welcome Wagon" hostess with all the answers to make a new family feel at home. The show is expected to be shown on television in approximately four weeks. The Pinellas County Broadcast Department will have the exact time and date by April 1st. Call 462-4724 and ask about the Gulfport segment of "Pinellas Past."

On March 18, Curator Jan Cooke hosted a group of 30 children and six mothers from Ms. Modica's class of Holy Name School. This wide-eyed group of 7 and 8 year olds had an opportunity few primary grade youngsters have. How many of us had a hometown museum to visit? The children's homework assignment: to draw a picture and write a story about their field trip to the Gulfport Historical Museum. Lunch at McDonald's completed the youngsters' day "in town."

We are very proud of GHS founder and board member, Catherine Hickman, for qualifying for the Gulfport Mayoral run-off election and coming within 6% of the winning vote. Cathy received 1135 votes to Bert Williams' 1313. It was truly a well-run race.

### PRESENT

A warm welcome to new members:

Richard Bullis 6119 3rd Ave. So. 345-1421  
Erni Perrone 30th Ave. So. 343-3602

New Life Members:

Theodore Anderson 666 49th St. So. 321-3111  
Catherine E. Higgins 1038 55th St. So. 321-5239

Their support is greatly appreciated.

Our museum is now open Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10:00-12:00 noon as well as by appointment, arranged by calling 323-0778. Jan Cooke will show you all the nooks, crannies, pots, pans, pictures, art, and artifacts of days gone by.

### FUTURE

Saturday, March 28, at 2:00 PM, the Gulfport Garden and Bird Club will be planting magnolia trees at the Gulfport Historical Society Museum, 3501 28th Avenue, So. The public is welcome.

April Meeting: On Thursday, April 2, at 7:30 PM we will hold our bimonthly meeting at the Museum, 3134 Beach Blvd. So, Gulfport. The theme of the meeting will be "Business and Pleasure" (Getting in the vote and Primping and Prepping for Nostalgia Day). The meeting will blend business with festivities. Being our annual business meeting, we will hear reports from our present officers and vote on our future officers.

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 \*  
 \* The following slate of officers has been formulated by \*  
 \* the Nominating Committee, Margaret Brooks, Catherine A. \*  
 \* Hickman and Ruby Walker: \*  
 \*  
 \* President - Keith Hickman \*  
 \* Vice President - Frances Purdy \*  
 \* Secretary - Judy Ryerson \*  
 \* Treasurer - Johanna Schneidt \*  
 \*  
 \* Nominations will gladly be received from the floor. \*  
 \*  
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Refreshments will be served while we prepare for our 6th Annual Nostalgia Day.

NOSTALGIA DAY - April 11. Come one, come all to the best celebration yet. Trolley tours, a real-live medicine show, a flea market (with bargains galore), and the Lions Club's delicious fish-fry will highlight the day.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1987. (1:00 PM - 7:00 PM) SAVE THE DATE  
THE FIRST ALL GULFPORT HOLIDAY PARTY

The GHS will host this special event to open the Christmas season. Gulfport clubs, civic organizations, and businesses will be invited to participate. Christmas carols, Chanukah candles, games, group skits, crafts, dancing and Santa Claus, of course, will be only part of this celebration.

#### APRIL HAPPENINGS OF DAYS GONE BY

April 1, 1886. "The Sea Breeze" was published. Disston City (24 years later to become Gulfport) will forever hold the distinction of having had the first newspaper on the Pinellas peninsula south of Clearwater.

April 1905. Captain John F. Chase's dream of a community called Veteran City came to pass. On April 5th of that year the trolley line was completed. Everybody that was anybody in St. Petersburg rode the trolley to Veteran City to participate in the dedication of the city that only five years later became Gulfport.

On April 21, 1952 a deed was recorded on two lots by Max and Minnie Emsig for the purpose of building a synogogue. The building was completed a year later and dedicated as Congregation Beth Sholom, located at 1844 54th Street, So.

April 1982. The first Nostalgia Day was held. The GHS, in co-sponsorship with the City of Gulfport, set this day apart from all others so that old-timers and newcomers could get together at Chase Park and share memories. Today that special meeting day remains embellished by many unique activities.

APRIL 11 NOSTALGIA DAY #6

SEE YOU THERE!