

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

VOLUME 25

NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY, 1989

I'd like to be your little beau,
Because I'm small
don't say me "No!"
If you'll just wait
I'm sure to grow.

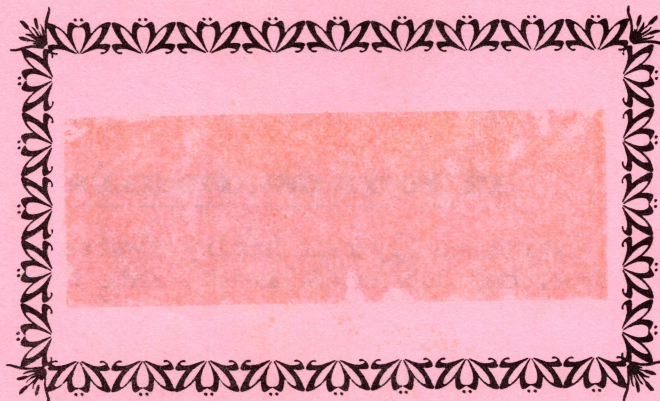


At last year's February program, Allean Davis gave attendees antique valentines from her collection. This is one of those lovelies.

GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 5152

GULFPORT, FL 33737



Neon Plastic Signs Co.
1417 - 49th St SE



THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is a voluntary, non-profit association whose objective is to preserve and to publish the history of Gulfport and the surrounding area.

Everyone interested is welcome to join. Dues per year are Individual, \$5.00; Family, \$10.00; Organization, \$25.00; Life, \$50.00 (one time).

Organization

President-Keth Hickman
Vice-President-Francis Purdy
Secretary-Judy Ryerson
Treasurer-Johanna Schneidt

Directors

Mary Atkinson, Lois Cordasco
Phyllis Plotnick
Catherine Hickman (Past President)

Curator

Jan Cook
(Museum hours
Wed. 2-4 p.m.)

NEW MAILING ADDRESS OF THE SOCIETY: P.O. BOX 5152, GULFPORT, FL 33737 321-7095

MUSEUM ADDRESS: 5301 28TH AVENUE SO.

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN -- The official Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society.
Editor-Phyllis Plotnick, 345-3809. (Suggestions always welcome.)



DECEMBER MEMORIES

Program Chairperson Allean Davis really arranged a treat for all at who attended the December meeting. A panel of speakers reminisced about Christmases spent in their homelands. From Mary Adams, native of England, we learned the real story about mince pie and ginger wine. From Russian born Raisa Bojanizsky, we learned that the Soviet Christians are celebrating the millenium of Christianity; i.e. the country was baptized 1000 years ago in Kiev. Dorothy Esten of Norway spoke of Christmas trees being set up on the mastheads of all Norwegian ships and only white lights were used for decorating their homes and trees. Ernest Schmitt, born in Germany, spoke of December 6th as Santa Claus Day and about fireworks on New Year's which were used to chase out the evil for a good year. Nino Gallino from Italy spoke of the traditional family dinner which was held on Christmas eve and that fish, rather than turkey or ham, is always the main fare. French born Marie Hummer spoke of Père Noel filling the children's polished shoes which are lined up by the fireplace and of New Year's greetings being sent instead of Christmas cards.

After the program, Jeremy Hummer played the synthesizer. Christmas carols were sung, Chanukah candles were kindled, exceptional hors d'oeuvres, holiday sweets, and drink provided by Kate Higgins & staff were devoured, popcorn was strung, and friendships were enjoyed. A joyous beginning for a hope-filled season.

OUR 2ND OLD FASHIONED HOLIDAY



Wind, dark skies, and eventually rain hardly thwarted the festivities on December 11th. Thanks to Chairpersons Johanna Schneidt, Kate Higgins, Bob Gurski, and Lois Cordasco we had perfectly timed entertainment, fine craft exhibits, and holiday refreshments. Fran Purdy, Johanna Schneidt, Jan Cook, Bob Gurski, Lois Cordasco and Kate Higgins turned the museum and scout hall into a wonderland with their decorations. Bob Gurski did a superb job as emcee. The City donated a uniquely decorated sheet cake; Santa (Dave Fleisher) had his knee warmed by many children of all ages; over 150 people signed the museum's guest book, and the Youth Group of the First United Methodist Church sold out of hot dogs. Despite threatening weather, the day was blessed with the talents of many and the good will of all.

YOUR BOARD AT WORK

A particularly productive GHS board meeting was held January 5th. The following news and views were excerpted from the minutes:

- 1) Lois Cordasco donated a microwave oven to the museum
- 2) The Board authorized the purchase of cleaning supplies and an electric broom
- 3) The Board authorized the rental of a Post Office Box for the Society and an address stamp
- 4) The Board established an Acquisition Committee and will ask Frances Osgood, Anita Simonds, and Lois Cordasco to serve with Jan Cook (as ex-officio member) as members of the committee
- 5) Our Treasurer reported that the recently disbanded Newcomers' Club of Gulfport generously donated \$50.00 to the GHS
- 6) Johanna Schneidt again volunteered to Chair Nostalgia Day. Cathy Hickman has agreed to Co-Chair.
- 7) The Board asked Judy Ryerson to check on purchasing a portable speaker system for use during our meetings and celebrations.
- 8) Kate Higgins and Catherine Hickman will be asked to serve on the Nominating Committee
- 9) Progress on the repair of the Casino (one day to be museum) clock is on "hold."

NEXT BOARD MEETING, MARCH 2ND Input to Board Members welcomed.

JUDY RYERSON,
Secretary



A MEMBERSHIP "FIRST"

We have collected dues from many but some are payable yet (check YOUR green card). This Chairman and the Treasurer will gladly take care of you if you wish to renew or join. I am very pleased to announce we have five new LIFE members:

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Marcello, #314, 3010 59th Street So.
Mr. and Mrs. George Payne, #203, 2850 59th Street South (honorary) and
Mrs. Bradley Layburn, #711, 5980 Shore Blvd. South

This is a "first" that five should be from Town Shores in a single reporting -- may we be enabled to repeat this report!!

FRANCES PURDY
Membership Chairman

7:30 P.M. FEBRUARY 2ND MEETING AT THE MUSEUM

We will be honored to have as our speaker, Attorney Paul Hitchins. Mr. Hitchins has his office on Central Avenue, and he teaches business law at Eckerd College during evening sessions. He will, therefore, come to our meeting at 8:00 p.m. which will allow us time for a membership meeting from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. His topic will be, "Inside Information about the Battle of Gettysburg." He grew up in that area and knows the battle fields well. Maybe we will be lucky enough to stir up some pleasantly controversial discussions since many of us are northerners, eh?

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND TRAVEL BACK WITH US 125 YEARS!

ALLEAN DAVIS,
Program Chairperson

Quote of Note

*Life must be lived forwards, but can
only be understood backwards.*

Kierkegaard

