



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 6 - - - - Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society - - - June 1984

MEETING NOTICES

Everyone interested is invited, and urged, to attend our Meetings. You do not have to be a member of the Society. - - - In addition, you do not have to be a resident of Gulfport to become a member of the Gulfport Historical Society.

JUNE 11th - 7:30 PM - GULFPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 28th Ave. So., at 53rd St.

JULY and AUGUST - - NO MEETINGS.

SEPTEMBER - Next issue of the GULFPORT HISTORIAN .

OTHER MEETINGS

July 4th - - GULFPORT AMERICAN LEGION POST 125, Annual Flag Burning Ceremony.

September - Labor Day Week-end - Lions Club Annual Fish Fry at the Beach.
Lions Club Annual Beauty Pageant at the
Gulfport Community Center.

GULFPORT COMMUNITY PLAYERS - Will be opening their new season with a Play
to be presented in September.

KONGLOMERATI PRESS - They will be conducting a Writing Workshop for senior
adults. For information, phone at 323-0386.

MAY 14th MEETING -

Mr. Robert Fischer read his poem, "THE LEGEND OF BOCA CEIGA."
The story of a little known episode of local history with a
touching love story twist; told in poetry.

THE ST. PETERSBURG ARTS RESOURCE COMMISSION

The Gulfport Historical Society has joined THE ST. PETERSBURG ARTS
RESOURCE COMMISSION, a local organization devoted to development
and support of Arts Groups in this area.
We are also a Member of the Florida State Historical Society and
the Florida Historical Confederation.

In addition to our Members, Gulfport Historian mailings go to:
20 Gulfport City Officials, 3 Newspapers, 2 Statewide Historical
Societies, 3 Local Historical Societies and a few individuals
who have performed outstanding services for the Society.

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Official Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society. Distributed free to Society Members, Gulfport City Officials and all others interested.

Editor: Edward J. Maloney
3102 57th St. So. (343-7498)
Gulfport, Florida 33707

GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A voluntary, non-profit, educational organization whose purposes are to collect, preserve, and to publish the history of Gulfport and the surrounding area. Dues are: Individual, \$5.- per year; Family \$10 per year, Life \$50.-

Officers (terms expire June 30, 1985)
President, Catherine Hickman
Vice-President, Genevieve Smith
Secretary, Ruby Walker
Treasurer, Doris Brown

Directors: (terms expire June 30, 1984)
Nathan White
Mary Atkinson
Judith Ryerson

Address of the Society
3006 Beach Blvd. S. (321-7095)
Gulfport, Fl., 33707

From the Editor:

The Editor and contributing members of THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN shall strive to preserve the dignity and integrity of the Newsletter through its appearance and published material. The Historian welcomes suggestions and input from Members and Friends. News items and brief articles of historic local interest are needed. The content should in every way reflect the objectives of the Gulfport Historical Society.

NEXT ISSUE of the GULFPORT HISTORIAN is planned for September, 1984. The deadline for anything to be included will be September 1st.

DUES

If you have not paid your 1984-85 Dues, please do so soon. You can pay at the June Meeting, or you can leave the payment at Catherine Hickman's office, 3006 - Beach Blvd. So

DUES cont.,

or you can mail the payment to Treas. Doris Brown, 5044 - 27th Ave. So. If you have any questions about this please phone Doris at 321-2172.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of Feb. 13, 1984 - - - \$780.26
Petty Cash - - \$ 9.42

3 Deposits - -
Donations \$95. 3 Dues - - \$110.-
Disston Rummage - - - - - 128.50
Dues - - - - - 85.-
2 Life members and 1 dues 105.-

\$428.50

Total \$1208.76

Expenditures

Fla. Power (Feb. - May) \$74.17
Gulfport (March - May) 59.61
Rogers Cummings, Ins. 212.-
Cert. of Occupancy 5.-
E.S. Mahoney - - - - - 79.35
Royal Trust (checks) - - 33.51

Total - - - - - 463.64

Balance - \$745.12

THANK YOU!!!!!!- -

Color Guard from Gulfport American Legion Post 125 for participating in our Disson City Day.

GULFPORT GABBER - For the picture of our Historical Museum.

JOHN TONKIN - For donating the roof repair work on our Historical Museum.

GEORGE PAYNE - for donating his services with the Excellent Paint Job he did on the Historical Museum Bldg.

BILL HURST - for donating the Paint.

BILL SIMONDS - for "Computerizing" our Membership List and our Mail List.

DONATIONS!!!

Catherine Hickman	\$25.-
Bill and Anita Simonds	\$25.-
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Thomes	\$25.-
Robert D. Easter	\$10.-
Carl Norberg	\$10.-

MUSEUM CURATOR

Agnes Conron has agreed to act as Museum Curator. Please help her in all ways possible.

Your continued support to our new Museum Curator will be appreciated.

URGENTLY NEEDED:

CHAIRS! CHAIRS! CHAIRS! CHAIRS!

DISSTON CITY DAY

On April 14, 1984, the Gulfport Historical Society held our 3rd day of Nostalgia but this time, with the title of "Disston City Day" in honor of the first plat-

ing of this area by Hamilton Disston.

Another First was the ribbon cutting ceremony marking the leasing by the City to the Society of the former Red-Cross, GEMS Building.

Nearly two hundred persons signed the Guest Book, wandered slowly through the antique artifacts and furniture while gazing reflectively over scrapbooks and old records and lots of memorabilia given or lent to us

by present and former residents.. Oldsters reminisced as they met former school friends, folks who had attended their weddings and also present neighbors and friends. Newcomers became more respectful of our Community because they saw and felt deep regard for the old and precious relics of days in what was once a little fishing village.

As announced, at eleven o'clock, the Color Guard of Gulfport American Legion Post 125 presented colors, the ribbon in front of our new Museum was cut by Councilman Bert Williams, "In Memory of My Father, a former Mayor of Gulfport". Councilman George Prigun and Judy Tonkin were also present and they joined in the applause. A flag flown over the White House was presented from Congressman C.W. Bill Young and it will become part of the Treasures of the Museum.

Appropriate patriotic music was provided by the Mount Vernonaires.

Valorous members under the Leadership of Mary Atkinson and Colleen Camp had collected second hand Articles of a great variety and All of them were sold to increase our Treasury by over One Hundred Dollars.

Many People brought their picnic lunches as usual, coffee and cold drinks were handed out, with smiles from Margaret Brooks and her kitchen help. Later, the beautifully decorated Cake donated by the City of Gulfport was cut by Mrs. Sydney Brooks. Chairs, mostly one of a kind, have been given and more are being sought.

- - - We had more people than chairs at our May Meeting. - - - - -

Please come to our June Meeting and bring your friends and neighbors.

The Meeting will be held at the Gulfport Museum Bldg., 53rd Street and 28th Avenue South on June 11th, at 7:30 PM.

GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



FRANCES PURDY

LIFE MEMBERS

- (1) RICHARD BOZEMAN.
- (2) POUL and APRIL HORNSLETH.
- (3) BILL HURST.
- (4) JUANITA ONWELLER.
- (5) JOSEPH WEBB.
- (6) VIRGINIA WELCH.
- (7) HARRIET BENN WHITE.

NEW MEMBERS

- (1) HELEN EVANS
- (2) GARY CHAMBERS
- (3) IRVING SLAUGHTER
- (4) MR. and MRS. HENRY KNEBSER
- (5) GRACE DRANKWATER
- (6) STEPHEN RESIG
- (7) MARY HOWARD
- (8) EMILY and ARTHUR ROUTMAN
- (9) MRS. JO SCHNEIDT

THE ST. PETERSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY REORGANIZES

"Everyone who has visited the St. Petersburg Historical Museum in recent years recognizes what a crowded, and generally uninteresting, hodgepodge of unrelated historical artifacts it has become. Much of the collection has little or nothing to do with local area history. This situation is the result of a policy of many years standing of accepting and displaying anything which anyone wished to donate.

With a new President and mostly a new Board of Directors this year the Society has embarked upon a complete reorganization of the Museum.

A professional Museum Director and Fund Raiser has been hired and placed in complete charge of both the Historical Museum on the Pier and the Haas Museum on 2nd Ave. So. Under her direction everything in the Historical Museum not related to local area history will be placed in storage. The space thus gained will be devoted to frequently changed and carefully coordinated displays and exhibits always related in some way to the local area. This is the general plan followed by the better museums of all types.

The St. Petersburg Historical Society is determined that its Historical Museum will come to be ranked with the best."

ST. PETERSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The above article is included in this issue with the thought in mind that we can learn from the Reorganization Plan of the St. Petersburg Historical Society.

The Editor

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

We have a faded picture of a small building beside the trolley tracks in an open field with a sign reading "Veteran City". It was probably taken about 1905. Penciled on the back a note, "Passenger Station, Freight Station, and Post Office".

- 1.) Where was this Station located?
- 2.) When was it discontinued or demolished?
- 3.) The Trolley company had other stations between Veteran City and St. Petersburg. Where were they, and their names?

Call Bill Simonds, 345-7039. if you have any information about these questions.

Thanks!

GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

3102 57th Street South

Gulfport, Florida 33707

NEW MEMBERS

HELEN EVANS (1)

FRANKLIN J. JONES (2)

IRVING S. JONES (3)

MR. JAMES W. JONES (4)

MR. JAMES W. JONES (5)

MR. JAMES W. JONES (6)

MR. JAMES W. JONES (7)

MR. JAMES W. JONES (8)

MR. JAMES W. JONES (9)

MR. JAMES W. JONES (10)

LIFE MEMBERS

(1) RICHARD JOSEMAN

(2) FREDERICK J. JONES

(3) RICHARD JOSEMAN

(4) RICHARD JOSEMAN

(5) RICHARD JOSEMAN

(6) RICHARD JOSEMAN

(7) RICHARD JOSEMAN

(8) RICHARD JOSEMAN

(9) RICHARD JOSEMAN

(10) RICHARD JOSEMAN

JOHN CAMPAIGN WHITE

Dedication

14 May 1984

I want to say a few words this evening about my uncle John Campaign White, my mother's brother. He was also brother-in-law to our fellow-member Harriet White; in fact he was best man at the wedding of his brother Barney to the then Harriet Benn. He was also the grandfather of our fellow-member Nathan White.

More important to the history of Gulfport, he was the most active individual in getting Gulfport incorporated as a municipality, and then became its first mayor. He was also the first law enforcement officer in this area. In this latter job, as well as in the preparation of the incorporation bill for presentation to the State Legislature, he was no doubt assisted by his first cousin of the same name who was then county judge. In those days there were five men in this area named John Campaign White, and all of them closely related. They can be confusing to people who did not grow up with them.

I think a society concerned with the history of Gulfport should have some sort of memorial to its foremost politically active early settler, and it is with a great deal of pride that I herewith donate to the Gulfport Historical Society this portrait in oils of my uncle JOHN CAMPAIGN WHITE, Gulfport's first MAYOR and first MARSHAL.

RICHARD BOZEMAN

Our Life Member, RICHARD BOZEMAN, surprized and delighted the Members of the Gulfport Historical Society at the May 14th Meeting with a Donation of an oil Portrait of his Uncle, JOHN CAMPAIGN WHITE, the first Mayor of Gulfport.

This Donation by Mr. Bozeman was warmly received by all the members with a round of applause to him for his generosity.

The Donated Portrait of JOHN CAMPAIGN WHITE, Gulfport's first Mayor will occupy a prominent place on the wall of the Gulfport Historical Society Museum.