

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 7 - NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - SEPTEMBER, 1984

MEETING NOTICES

SEPT. 14, 15 & 16 at 8:00 PM - THE MURDER ROOM - GULFPORT COMMUNITY PLAYERS
October 8 - - - Guest Speaker, LYN FREIDT, - - Rare Postcard Collector - -
NOVEMBER MEETING - - - - - NATHAN WHITE AND FRIENDS -

In addition to our Members, Gulfport Historian Mailings go to:

20 Gulfport City Officials, 4 Newspapers, 2 Statewide Historical Societies, 2 Local Historical Societies and a few individuals who have performed outstanding services for the Historical Society.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

A brief glance at our past tells us that we have made great strides in making our Historical Society an important part of the Cultural scene in our City of Gulfport.

Our informative Newsletter, previously Edited by Bill Simonds and now by Ed. Maloney.

Our Museum soon to be opened under the able leadership of Agnes Conron; Our "History Book" to be Published in October, 1985, being guided by our capable and distinguished, Frances Purdy.

What a wonderful group of people with whom to be associated! So many Members' generosity and hardwork led to the repair and painting of our Building. The people who collect and sell "Used Items" to help our Treasury must also be recognized.

My sincerest thanks to All who have given of their time and money for our past success.

Now, what does the future hold, and how can you help? Ed. Maloney needs contributions of Articles for his Newsletter, Agnes needs volunteers for the Museum, Frances can still use people to write up the various items for the History Book.

I need and welcome input from our Members.

I look forward to seeing you at our future Meetings and at any other time.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE A. HICKMAN, President.

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 \$10.00 per year, Life \$50.-

Officers (terms expire June 30, 1985)

President, Catherine A. Hickman

Vice-President, Genevieve Smith

Secretary, Ruby Walker

Treasurer, Doris Brown

Directors:

Nathan White

Mary Atkinson

Judith Ryerson

Address of the Society

3006 Beach Blvd. So. (321-7095)

Gulfport, Fla. 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 December, 1984. The Deadline for anything to be included will be December 1st.

EARLY FLORIDA BOOKS

"THE WPA GUIDE TO FLORIDA" was one of nine books and pamphlets produced by the Florida Division of the Federal Writers' Project. It was first published by the Oxford University Press in 1939, when it was called "FLORIDA: a Guide to the Southern-most State". Like most of the project's other Florida publications, it was a popular travel book. Among the other Florida guides were books on birds, Spanish Missions, the Seminole Indians and various cities and towns.

Floridans in the Writers' Project also contributed to more regional projects, including those on the Intercoastal Waterway, U.S. 1, slave narratives and folk-tale collections.

Florida's GUIDE was one of the most popular Writers' Project publications, and the project's directors had no trouble finding a publisher to print it for a mass audience.

PANTHEON has Republished the Guides to several states and cities and plans to publish more. Given the general excellence of these books - they are well written and they give us an invaluable "snapshot" look at places now utterly changed. It seems logical that state university presses ought to consider republishing some of the volumes of more local interest. It need not be a University Press, for that matter, but someone with some resources ought to undertake this project.

In Florida's case, there are several volumes in existence that would need no more work at all prior to republication. There is also a lot of material that needs organization and editing but could well yield even more pamphlets or books.

Think what a wealth of information we could have with a little digging.

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

BOOK EDITOR

MALCOLM JONES

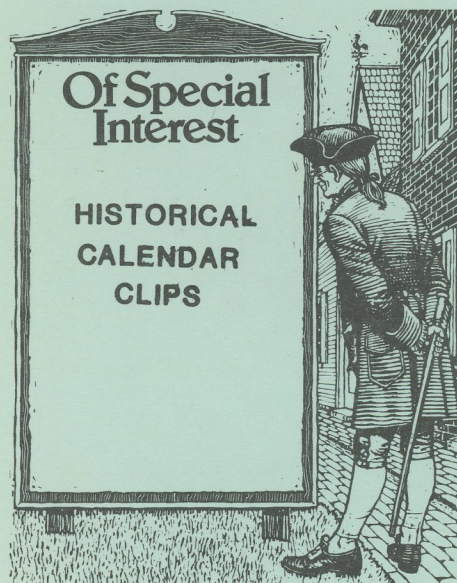
THE CURATOR'S CORNER - It has been a privilege and a pleasure to be the "Curator" of our newly-born Historical Museum. The newspapers, clippings, pictures, diaries, letters, scrap-books, historical write-ups and tapes are a delight and a challenge. One small problem is where to put them once catalogued. In other words, I need help! ideas, first; strong arms and backs, next. We have 6 areas to consider:

1. One small room on your left as you enter: Office, no problem.
2. Second small room: Store Room - when shelves are cleaned and painted.
3. Kitchen: The Refrigerator needs attention.
4. Third small room at the back - ideas needed - a library for books and periodicals? a lockable room for more precious items?
5. Alcove off main room - more ideas - rope it off and use it for furniture temporarily on loan? small tables and chairs for looking at old scrap-books, newspapers, etc.?
6. Main Room - ideas needed again - Divide into 2 smaller areas with a movable divider, possibly the 2 large Gray paintings on wheels or the long bench?

Meantime, of course, the Museum is being used and is open for small Tours. It can also be used by anyone having papers to write for the History of Gulfport Book which we are hoping to have published in 1985. There is a wealth of material here, thanks to many generous contributors. It could be used as a checking reference (for accuracy) for Material already written or a quick glance might add a paragraph or even a sentence of interest to your paper.

If you are interested, either in research or just browsing, please phone me and we can meet there at your convenience. In any event, I shall be there at the Museum every Tuesday between 2 and 4. (The air-conditioning works fine!)

AGNES CONRON, Curator.
Phone: 381-1790



- 1821 - After three years of Spanish rule, the United States took over Florida..... the government also carried on long-running chases on pirates.
- 1842 - The Armed Occupation Act (Homestead Act) became effective and gave impetus to the white settlement of the peninsula (Pinellas County)
- 1856 - A pine, timber home was built in the lower peninsula (Pinellas County) on a small fenced tract at about Lakeview and Twentieth Street. The family had a truck farm selling to Tampa Markets.
- 1877 - There were two stores in lower Pinellas for the purchase of flour, salt and coffee. Settlers raised vegetables, including pumpkins and sweet potatoes and watermelon.

... more CALENDAR CLIPS next issue ...

EDITORIAL BOARD

Thank you, HELEN ROSS, for the interviews you have held; GENEVIEVE SMITH for the drawings you are doing and THANK YOU - All who have been interviewed, All who have typed and written for our "History of Gulfport. We shall be more than happy to hear from others who wish to help us in this exciting project.

All churches and many service organizations have completed their stories and each day, writers are bringing us what they have written about buildings, development of Services and, especially, their recollections of how it all was and has come to be.

By mid-September, our COMMITTEE: AGNES CONRON, GENEVIEVE SMITH, WILLIARD SIMONDS, and our President, CATHERINE HICKMAN, and I will be meeting regularly to review and select what will become: THE BOOK OF OCTOBER, 1985, when we will all celebrate Gulfport's 75th Birthday.

FRANCES PURDY, Chairman
Editorial Committee.

ST. PETERSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY- Best Wishes to DOROTHY WHITE, the new Director of the St. Petersburg Historical SOCIETY. Her Society has been supportive and cooperative at all times to the Gulfport Historical Society.

GET WELL - BILL HURST, one of our most active and beloved Members, was seriously injured in an automobile accident recently. We pray for Bill's speedy recovery.

NEW MEMBERS - MR. GUST J. THANOS and MR. and MRS. STEVE SHIRAH.

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