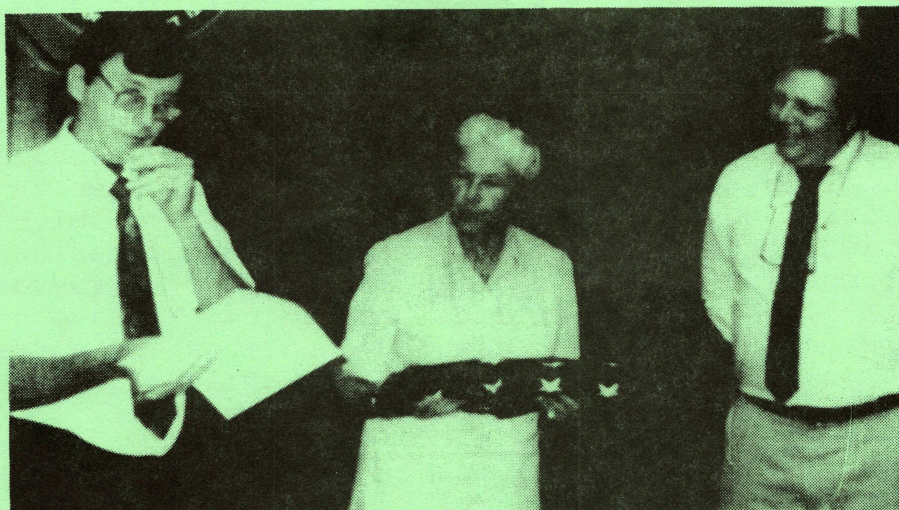


THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

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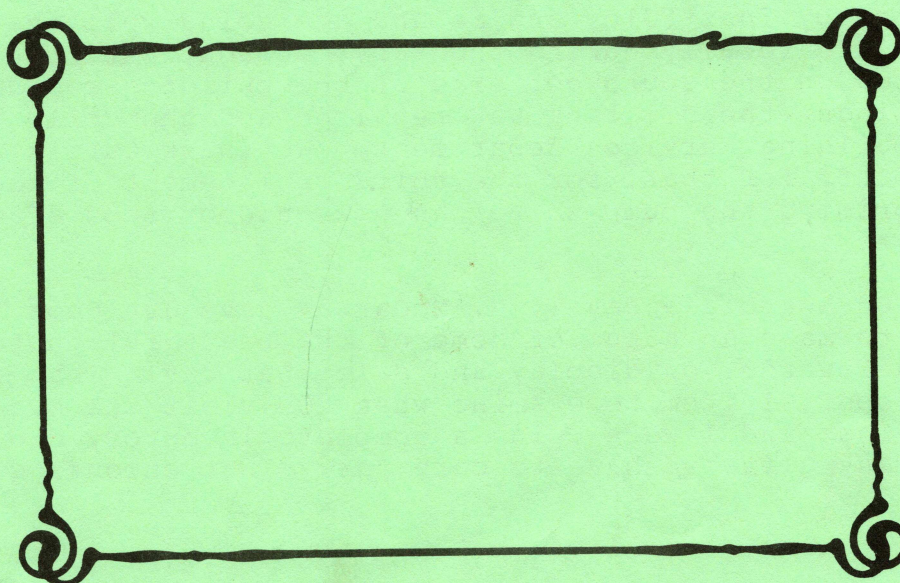
NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1991



Historical Society Receives Flag
Picture from Gulfport GABBER

THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 5152
Gulfport, Florida 33737





THE PRESIDENT PRIMES HER PEN

I hope each of you has enjoyed your "vacation" as much as I have mine--right here at home, as busy as I have wanted to be, doing most of the time what I have liked. Frances Osgood and I kept the Museum open Wednesday and Saturday afternoons as usual until the annual recess, June 15-September 18. During the April-June period we had 97 people spending time there, including visitors from St. Petersburg, Pinellas Park, Tampa, Tallahassee, Palmetto, Ft. Lauderdale, Glen Falls, NY, Clifton Park, NY, Washington, DC, and Waterford, MI. We've had interesting correspondence too, helping former residents learn what happened to their homes and friends and a graduate student from Gallup, NM, with some local research. We have sold books, calendars, stationery and accepted donations and a real old hitching post given by William McCann, delivered through Lee Feder. We thank all who have helped us this way.

Bob Easter continues trying to contact the former Custodian of Haas Museum to arrange receipt of their sun dial. The other items we asked for were not offered but we keep hoping they may be.

A Dahoon (Florida) Holly tree given by Edna Sandor as a memorial for Ruth Cooper, was planted by Showcase Nursery on August 15, thanks to Bob who checked out several nurseries and trees on advice from Keith Hickman, our horticulturist. Bob is also responsible for placing in a handsome mahogany cabinet the flag given by Congressman Bill Young on July 4 to the City, who gave it to our Society for safe keeping, August 24. Now he plans to improve the entrance to the Museum by planting shrubs and flowers. The large poinsettias given us at Christmas were planted by Inez Foley and me and are doing well, having been watered carefully during the "dry" season, but the smaller ones planted on the southwest side of the building succumbed to oil drippings--the oil tank was repaired and the coils replaced by our Building Services Department. We thank Curtis Tack and his Staff for that, for the third replacement of the clock and for priming the pump so we can use outdoor taps after their long rest.

On Nostalgia Day T. M. McCarthy gave Jan Cook twenty dollars to make an album of some of the beautiful photos done by Norma Edwards, on display and sale that day. That is another very special item to examine when YOU visit the Museum. Only when Inez and I were doing a complete inventory did we realize how many gifts we have to care for. That encouraged the two

Franceses to rearrange many for more attractive display and now, we can proudly invite YOU to see what a six hour cleaning and limited painting job can do together with a reupholstering of the office chair by Ken Habershon.

We are deeply saddened by the continuing illness of our beloved Jan Cook, former Curator. We pray for her to have peace.

Judy Ryerson, Phyllis Plotnick, Mary Atkinson and I have been busy preparing the 1992 CALENDAR whose sale will be launched at our meeting on October 3. This fifth edition featuring "Pioneer Faces and Old Places" requested by some residents, should be very interesting and enjoyable as well as informative. A thousand copies will be available on and after October 3, again at THE GABBER office, Vegetable Kingdom, Mansfield's Beach Pub and Restaurant, Bay Breeze Beauty Shop, the Library, and from volunteering members for \$2.00.

Frances Purdy

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

A very happy "Hello" from your new and far away membership chairperson.

I am off on a 50-day cruise around South America, but I will get down to business and do my best for our Historical Society when I return.

I am looking forward to meeting you all and working with you this year.

Gwen Goldmann
New Membership Chairperson

WELCOME to our second EDITOR, Kay Boatwright, who volunteered to take over when Phyllis Plotnick resigned. We promise, don't we, to give her input when she wants it, right??

Fran

REGULAR MEETING DATES

The first meeting of the Gulfport Historical Society will be October 3 at 7:30 P.M. The tree given as a memorial to Ruth Cooper (late Council person) by Edna Sandor will be dedicated by Reverend John Gill of their Church. Our Mayor, City Manager and City Council will be invited to make comments.

Plans for the coming year will be discussed following a report of the Board Meeting held September 10 by the President. Refreshments will be served and dues will be collected by Treasurer Bob. The fifth edition of our calender will be available for \$2.00.

Our second meeting will be held on November 7 at 7:30 P.M., when I will share my sister's story "How the Declaration of Independence was Born." This is a fascinating and brief bit of history. We believe you will enjoy it.

Plans will be completed for our Christmas Party to be held on December 5, when we will celebrate a "White Christmas." More about this in the next Gulfport Historical Society Newsletter.

Allean Davis
Program Chairperson

LONG AGO



FIRST THINGS IN GULFPORT

THE FIRST FAMILY to live in Gulfport was that of James and Rebecca Barnett, 1867.

THE FIRST CHILD born was James Barnett Jr., 1873 (-1950).

THE FIRST NEWSPAPER was The Sea Breeze. It had seventeen issues and was published from April 1, 1886 until April 1, 1887, when it merged with the Herald.

FIRST POST OFFICE - 1885

