



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 21 Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society January, 1988

WINTER HAPPENINGS OF DAY'S GONE BY

January 1, 1885. The arrival of the first railroad at Tampa.

January 15. Opening day of mullet fishing for years and years.

January 27, 1917. The first worship service of the Gulfport Presbyterian Church was conducted by Reverend James T. MacLeon.

February 7, 1922. Permission was granted to Mrs. Griffin for the Michigan Society to play checkers and dominoes in City Hall.

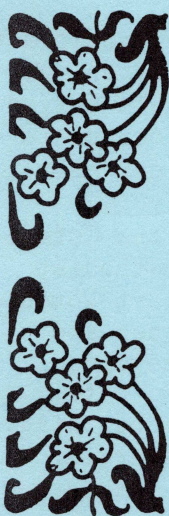
February 5, 1939. The Gulfport Community Church, a nondenominational group with Reverend Jacobsen as pastor and 39 charter members, was organized.

January 1974. The Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee was started by City Council.

All excerpts borrowed from Our City of Gulfport, Florida.



Gulfport Historical Society
3134 Beach Boulevard South
Gulfport, FL 33707



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-Frances Purdy
Secretary-Judy Ryerson
Treasurer-Johanna Schneidt

Directors

Mary Atkinson, Doris Brown
Phyllis Plotnick

Curator- Jan Cook

Address of the Society

Hickman Realty
3006 Beach Boulevard South
Gulfport, FL 33707
321-7095

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN-The official Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society. Editor-Phyllis Plotnick, 345-3809.

FIRST ANNUAL OLD FASHIONED HOLIDAY---500 THUMBS UP!

HATS OFF

DID YOU GO? We hope so, to the OLD FASHIONED HOLIDAY on December 6. The Historical Society dreamed up this all-Gulfport event to start the festive season off right. The day was bright and brisk and the activities were many and varied.

Church groups, social and civic clubs, and schools put on programs that ran non-stop from 1:30-4:30 that memorable Sunday afternoon. One of the presentations was about the Story of Hanukkah. Dreidels were given to the audience and children enjoyed spinning these tops decorated with Hebrew letters. We were treated to singers, dancers, a puppet show, a scene from Bell, Book & Candle, a demonstration on the making of potpourri balls, and even a historical fashion pageant. City officials were there as were the Girl and Boy Scouts and Santa Claus. Several antique cars graced the grounds and a lesson about sailboating was provided. There were handicraft tables with lovely items for sale and a table designated for children who were taught about making decorations. Of course, refreshments were served in the museum where a Christmas tree trimmed with old fashioned ornaments was joined by a Menorah with lighted candles. These symbols of our Holy Days set the tone of this glorious season.

Participants in the celebration were the Gulfport Players, the Coterie Club, Congregation Beth Shalom, the Presbyterian Church, First Methodist Church, Gulfport Open Bible Church, Holy Name Sixth Grade, Gulfport Women's Club, the Boca Ciega Puppeteers, the Ukelele Ladies, and the Garden and Bird Club. Donations were received to go toward expenses for the Old Fashioned Holiday and for the upkeep of the buildings. One added note: many people had never been in Scout Hall until December 6. That building, in sad need of repair and paint, may now get the attention it deserves.

We publicly thanked the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce for their contribution of personnel.



We've Somethings
To **CROW** About...

Put the next OLD FASHIONED HOLIDAY on your calendar. The date is December 4, 1988. We have new ideas and lots of suggestions. Let us know what YOU would like to have us do for this special event.

Mary Atkinson and Betty Belting
Co-Chairpersons of the OLD FASHIONED HOLIDAY

On behalf of everyone who shared the pride of their accomplishments, I thank Betty, Mary and all "HOLIDAY" committee members for the time, energy, and creativity that they pooled to make December 6th one spectacular, memorable day.

Editor

CALENDAR UPDATE

Over 1200 1988 Gulfport Calendars have been sold. Don't be without your 1st Edition, collector's copy. Still available at Hickman Realty and other fine Gulfport businesses.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM-Beholding a 2 Billion Year Old Treasure

Our Program Chairperson, Mrs. Allean Davis, announces that we shall have an exciting slide show trip through beautiful Arizona, February 4th. Come to the Historical Museum at 7:30 p.m. to hear and meet Mr. & Mrs. Robert Garritson who live in Pelican Bay Plaza. Allean, who also knows many special spots like the Grand Canyon, assures us this will be a time to remember our trips there or imagine them with this delightful couple who has "done" most of the States by car and with camera. Bring your neighbors-refreshments will be served by the Board members.

OUR MUSEUM

We need to identify some members who will be willing to serve as part-time Hosts and Hostesses at the Museum. At least two groups of school children are interested in a "hands on" visitation with their teachers and we want to invite them as soon as we can properly show them our treasures. Please call the Society office-321-7095 if YOU can assist. Two hours, one or two afternoons a week, would sure help. Be assured, those of us who have conducted tours will help you!

Judy Ryerson,
Secretary

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have just completed a study of our Membership card file and discover we have the enclosed four pages of mostly Gulfport residents who have been or are dues paying people. Thanks for your support with which we have accomplished a number of our goals. That encourages us to continue hunting for volunteers to staff our Museum part time, offering exciting and informative programs to members and their guests alternate months, and conducting the business of the Society as your Board of Directors. Proudly we list the following as LIFE MEMBERS:

Mr. Theodore Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen K. Bonai
Mrs. Deane Durgin
Mr. Walter Goetz

Mrs. Helene Bazemore
Mr. & Mrs. Perry Davis
Ms. Michaeleno Funaro
Mrs. Catherine A. Hickman*

Mrs. Edwin W. Higgins
Mr. Earl Huckins
Mr. T.L. McCarthy
Dr. Mary B. Platz
Miss Caroline Somma

Mr. & Mrs. Poul Hornsleth
Mrs. Ione Kinney
Mrs. Irma Newman
Miss Frances Purdy*
Mr. Joseph Webb

*Honorary

Mrs. Virginia Easters Welch

We find that some who financially supported OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA, giving us from \$35.00 to \$1,000.00, have not continued the current membership granted at that time. We are continuing YOU on the HISTORIAN mailing list, hoping to hear from YOU now.

Another group, sixty-four in fact, paid dues during 1986 and YOU also are being sent the HISTORIAN this time. Please consider renewing your membership.

Thirty six paid dues in 1987 before the end of June and twenty three more before the end of the year.

We do know that without reminders and sometimes even with them, that it is just hard to get at the task of paying dues, especially when meetings are only every other month. However, expenses continue. Utility bills and other costs of having our Historical Museum, postage, printing and the events we have sponsored for Gulfport, such as the Holiday Celebration are costly. We are most grateful that Hickman Realty gives the Society use of office and phones!

The City, the Chamber of Commerce and the general public shared expenses of publishing the GULFPORT CALENDAR. Now we are planning another Nostalgia Day, scheduled for April 9th. Please plan to attend to enjoy reminiscing, music, entertainment and lots of good food! We want to keep sponsoring top flight events that benefit our entire city. A new Standing Rule adopted by the Board may be of mutual benefit. Upon receipt of your dues we shall send your green Membership Card dated on that day and that should be a reminder to you that you are a member in good standing for a year from then. Please use the tear-offs!

Frances Purdy, Chairman
Membership Committee

Gulfport Historical Society-Dues (Individual) \$5.00, (Family) \$10.00,
(Organization) \$25.00, (Life) \$50.00.

Name _____ Phone Number _____
Address _____
street city zip

Please mail to The Gulfport Historical Society
3134 Beach Blvd. S.,
Gulfport, Florida, 33707.

Yes. I would like to become a member of the Gulfport Historical Society and I enclose dues (check choice). __ (Individual) \$5.00, __ (Family) \$10.00, __ (Business) \$25.00, __ (Life) \$50.00

Name _____ Phone Number _____
Address _____
street city zip