



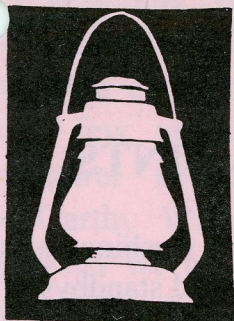
THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

February, 1996

LOOK WHAT'S COMING UP

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On **Tuesday Feb. 13th**, the General Meeting of the Gulfport Historical Society will be held at the Museum, 7:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be **Kathy Monahan of the Tarpon Springs Preservation Society**. If you have been to Tarpon Springs, you know just how active they have been in preserving their historic past. Ms. Monahan can, and will, give us ideas and information regarding preservation of our buildings, maybe even YOUR own home. Refreshments will be served.



On **Tuesday, March 12th**, in place of the regular General Meeting, the Gulfport Historical Society will hold the **First Annual Lantern Tour**. This is a self-guided tour of some of Gulfport's most unique and historic homes and buildings. The tour begins at the Museum at 7:00 pm. As you follow the lanterns, you will enjoy the history of our Gulfport ancestors and feel the romance that still lingers. You will

want to take this rare opportunity to visit with today's caretakers and to become acquainted with our past. A "first-time" experience for new and long-time residents. For information and reservations, call 327-005 or 321-1948. Cost is \$5 for advanced reservations and \$6 at the door and is part of the fund raising efforts for the Museum expansion. Refreshments will be served back at the Museum at 9:00 pm when a brief report will be made to the membership.

Nostalgia Day '96, will be held on Saturday, **March 30th from 10 am to 3 pm**. Plans include the ever popular Trolley Rides, smoked fish, live music, art & crafts, family reunions, 10 cent ICE CREAM CONES, hot dog, soda, free cake and coffee, and much, much MORE! If you are interested in helping out with this event, please call Margaret Brooks at 321-1948.

OVER OUR SHOULDER

With our City Council election rapidly approaching and candidates discussing many issues concerning the voters, it is interesting to see how these concerns have changed over the years. Looking back over the Council meetings of **eighty years ago**, we see what their concerns were. The paying of bills, putting in sidewalks, (which interestingly the land owners were required to do at the order of the council), and requesting money for projects. Mr. Wintersgill, representing the Gulfport School Board, requested a donation of \$6.00 from Council to defray the expenses of Domestic Science Instruction. After much debate it was considered inadvisable to grant the request. An example of the unusual was Ordinance 100 concerning cattle running loose. That took up several meetings. It seems there was the question of enforcement and even the legality of the question. Finally the Ordinance was ordered indefinitely suspended. The recommendation was then made that Council take action whereby rabbits, skunks, etc, could be exterminated. After much discussion to modify the present ordinance governing the discharge of fire arms to allow the shooting of the rabbits, skunks, etc, be permitted, under certain restrictions, the Mayor suspended, by proclamation the ordinance for a period of thirty days. This ended all discussion of the subject. There was an Ordinance passed providing for the registration of births and deaths and another which directed that building permits be required from all persons erecting structures to be used or intended to be used to house human beings, therefore, putting a stop to persons buying chicken coops and calling them "home". A motion was made to repay Dr. Robbins fifty dollar of the two hundred he had loaned the Town, with another fifty to be paid him when available. Recess was taken for ½ hour for the public discussion of establishing the line of Palm Ave. After hearing from various property owners Council reconvened. A complaint was made that

the palm trees at Dr. Robbins place were overhanging the sidewalk and menacing pedestrians.

Reading back over the problems, maybe they were really not that different after all.

NEVER TOO YOUNG TO HELP THE MUSEUM

The Gulfport Recreation Department has two very special youth groups that are helping to raise money for the museum expansion. On Wednesday, February 14th, the **Tot Time Program** for pre-school age children will hold a Valentine's Day Ice Cream Social for their parents. The **After-School Program** for elementary children will hold two fund raisers. The first one was an Ice Cream Social on February 6th and the second one will be a Penny Pitch Day on February 22nd.

A **very special thank you** to our future historians.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS



With all our modern washing products today, many of the old standbys of the days gone by are all but forgotten. But, in some cases old can be better. For the removal of those hard to remove stains like yellowing, mildew, rust, etc, without damage to the material, "Grandmaw's" bleach is still the best. Take some lemon juice (fresh) or ½ of a lemon and wet the spot, sprinkle table salt over the area wet with lemon juice and gently rub. If colored item, set aside and repeat if necessary until spot fades. For whites place item in the sun for about an hour. You need not let any left over lemon go to waste. If you are not in the mood for lemonade, "Grandmaw" also believed rubbing lemon halves on the skin removed the discoloration of age spots and/or freckles. A final rinse after washing your hair with lemon juice removes all soap residue and leaves light hair with a glorious shine.

MUSEUM REPORT

by Curator Claudett Renney-Dean

Been down to our Museum Lately? We are ever changing with new articles coming in all the time. Lately we have received a beautiful 1880 vintage cloak and four beautiful carved dining chairs from Mrs. Vogal of Tampa, and a World War I lighter from Jim Dance, to mention only a few. WE NEED OUR NEW ADDITION!

A big thank you to our new museum workers, Lindy Marshall, Genealogy Researcher, and Jessie Marshall who is an expert on the Seminole and Civil Wars and local history, making him a much sought after speaker. Frank and Marilyn Skeith, along with Grace Dankwater, are hard working and faithful researchers. Their contributions to our efforts are gratefully appreciated. Last but not least, without who's dedication and hard work the museum could not have continued over the past few years, a special thank you to Margaret Brooks, Jim Dance and Tim McCarthy. With the aid of our new museum workers we are able to have the necessary open hours to qualify for grants. Not only do they keep the museum open for visitors, but are busy with important historic research.

We have had many interesting visitors among them were the great-great grandchildren of Capt. Chase, ie Chase Park (See *Our Story of Gulfport*.) The family was very impressed and happy with our efforts and have offered us their assistance. Please remember, the more help we get the more we can do. We invite you to help in any way you can, time, money, donations of books or memorabilia and yes, moral support. All is needed.

GENEALOGY

By Lindy Marshall

Genealogy begins with YOU. Start your search documenting your birth record, then your parents marriage and their births. Continue with their parents and so on. When you don't know something always go first to a relative for import. Just remember that information must be backed up with V.R. (Vital Records). Prove it, get documentation. If I had a dollar for every "old Aunt's" tale, I could hire a Genealogist to do the work for me.

Take what you have and visit first, the L.D.S. Library, better know at the Church of Latter Day Saints, Family History Center. The Librarians there are more than happy to help you get started. They help with problems, as well as teach you how to record your findings on computer disc or hand written charts, both available there. I really recommend buying their book "*The Handy Book for Genealogists*". It lists every state and county, the records available, and where to write for them. Their computer access in Salt Lake City is the largest Genealogical source in the world. L.D.S. does charge a small fee for ordering records and microfilm, and you may have trouble finding empty machines to work on. Be a smart shopper and try the Largo Libraries Genealogical collection before ordering. Largo has microfilm readers, computers and books. Census records are available, and their book collection is the best in Pinellas, though they consist largely of genealogies before 1900.

All you need now is a lot of time and loads of patience. One last thing to think about, "Take pride in your heritage, as you can't take credit or blame for it."

THE MEMORY TREE

The concept of a "Memory Tree" came from Colleen Camp and will be a life size, 3-dimensional, Florida orange tree made with twisted wire trunk and limbs with metal leaves and oranges. The tree will be on permanent display within the proposed addition to the Gulfport Historical Society Museum. Names to be remembered will be engraved on the leaves and oranges. The cost of a leaf is \$50 and an orange \$100, with all proceeds going toward the new addition. To have the name of a family member or loved one placed on the tree contact Margaret Brooks, GHS Treasurer, at 321-1948.

Gulfport Historical Society, Inc.

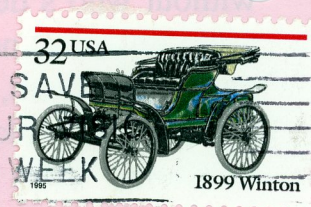
(A voluntary, non-profit, association)

Post Office Box 5152

Gulfport, Florida 33737

The proposed cost of the addition is \$60,000 and we hope to be able to raise this sum within one year and begin construction by January 1997. If you have not been in the museum within the past 3 months, you will be very surprised at just how full it has become. The new addition will include space for more and even better displays, along with a meeting area, a climate controlled room for delicate documents, and much needed ADA approved rest rooms. If you are interested in helping raise funds for this worthwhile endeavor, please contact Judy Ryerson, President, at 343-9614 or Mary Atkinson at 347-0187.

When you visit the Musuem be sure to see the artistic impression of the tree that has been created by Claudett Renney-Dean displayed there.



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