



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Official Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society

November 1995

GENERAL MEETING

On Tuesday, November 14th the regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership and all guest of the Gulfport Historical Society will be held in the Museum located at 5301 28th Ave. So. Meeting time is 7:30 pm. The program will feature the members of the Largo Historical Society demonstrating the art of corn meal grinding the old fashion way.

ACTIVITY REPORT

What a busy summer! Since this year saw not only the City of Gulfport's 85th Anniversary, but the Museum's 85th, the State of Florida's 150th and the Casino's 60th, there was a lot to be done. Members of the Society participated in the 4th of July parade and presented special programs, at the Museum on several Saturdays. The paintings of Richard Gray found a permanent home back in the Casino for which they had originally been painted.

One of the biggest successes came with the "Hands Across The Bay" boat trips. This endeavor was coordinated with the Gulfport Beaches Museum at Pass-A-Grille and featured a boat trip to and from Pass-A-Grille or vice versa. Upon arriving in Gulfport, passengers were

greeted by a shuttle bus that took them to our Museum where they toured the exhibits and were treated to a program by a small band of Key West Avengers (Civil War Re-enactors). They were then able to board the shuttle bus and visit the Arts Village and other shops and restaurants in the beach area before loading up for the boat trip back to the island.

We boarded the boat going from Gulfport to Pass-A-Grille, and after a very enjoyable ride landed at the historic Merry Pier. From there we were conducted on a short walking tour of historic buildings ending at the Gulf Beaches Museum. After touring the exhibits we caught the boat back to Gulfport.

Five trips were sold-out in all, with three coming from Pass-A-Grille to Gulfport and two going from Gulfport to Pass-A-Grille. Many people have requested that this activity be repeated and it will be. Watch for the announcement of date and time.

We ended our summer activities with the October 7th Birthday Bash celebration of the City's 85th Anniversary. The Fire Department Fish Fry was very popular as always and three large birthday cakes were

devoured. New this year were children's carnival games which brought many eager young faces to the museum. The SPIFF'S dancers were wonderful as were the "One More Timer's" who are always crowd pleasers. With cannon booming, the members of the Florida 7th and the Key West Avengers presented a fascinating look at a part of the Civil War. Many people do not realize that many of the original settlers of this area were first stationed here during the war and returned later with their families to live.

1996 HISTORIC CALENDARS NOW ON SALE!

Our 9th Annual Historic calendars are now on sale. The price is still only \$2.00. Get yours now as supplies are limited. The sale of our calendars represent approximately 60% of the operating budget of \$1800 a year for the museum. Hint -- the calendars make great Christmas presents.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

In the last newsletter were you were asked to watch for a very important announcement regarding the Museum. Well here it is! With the approval of the City of Gulfport, the Gulfport Historical Society is planning on expanding the museum by adding an addition onto the back of the building. Our goal is to raise \$60,000 for this project which will almost double the size of our display and meeting area, provide new handicapped accessible restrooms and provide for a climate controlled storage area for valuable, delicate documents. This addition will duplicate the exterior look of the present building including the windows and frame siding.

We are now accepting applications for persons wishing to serve on the **BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE**. Contact Society President, Judy Ryerson, if you are interested in helping with this very important project.

WANTED! A NEWSLETTER EDITOR!

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