

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

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NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

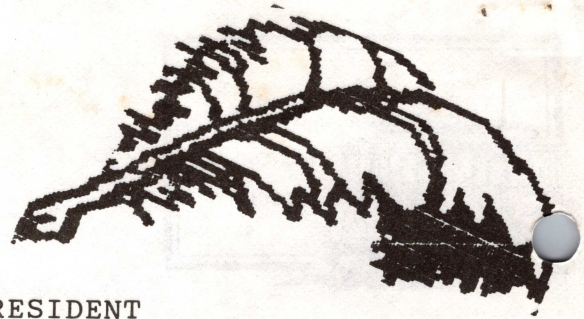
DECEMBER 1990



THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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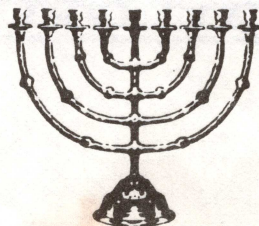
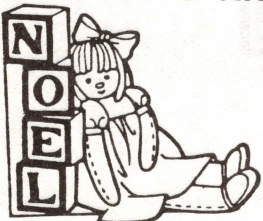
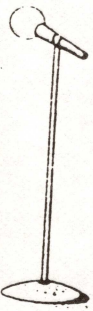


FROM THE PROLIFIC PEN OF OUR PRESIDENT

Historically speaking, the immediate past had us celebrating Founder's Day on October 11. It was our great pleasure to honor Catherine A. Hickman with a plaque (for hanging in the Museum) and a ten year written history of our Society. A copy of this same history is on file for members to borrow.

On October 13, we, with some 2000 other folks, celebrated our City's 80th birthday. Members invited visitors to sign the huge birthday card made by the Recreation Department. Hundreds did and the masterpiece is now on exhibit in City Hall. Soon it will find a permanent home in the Museum. On that October day, a record 163 visitors signed our Museum guest book. We were so proud that Stetson University College of Law brought two glass display cases to the Museum for the celebration. One, from the days of the Rolyat Hotel, contained silver, china, stemware, and linen. The other, from the days of the Florida Military Academy, held a uniform, a cap, a milk bottle, a sword, and a saber. The College staff was pleased to be included in this event, and we to host them. Another first for our Society.

Now the present is busy with our Old Fashioned Holiday planning. With a super committee headed by Mary Atkinson, December 9 promises to be our best holiday celebration ever. Ex-curator Jan Cook is helping as Consultant Extraordinaire, making posters and guiding our thoughts artistically as usual. Others on the committee include Suzanne Seigwarth, Anita Simonds, Frances Osgood, and Presidents Sue Talmadge (C of C) and Frances Purdy (GHS). Yes, indeed! We are co-sponsoring this event with the City and the Chamber of Commerce. The Museum will be adorned in new attire this year. It will be decorated as it would have been years ago. Ambitious members and guests will make popcorn strings, cranberry chains, and other old-timey decorations so that children can learn how families used to prepare for the holidays. Short programs, MCed by Lions Club President Art Padula, will be presented after the Girl Scouts raise the colors. Musicians will be playing inside and out, and we hope to have some antique cars and other attractions in our yard. Many artists and groups are asking for space along the sidewalk to sell their arts and crafts. Flying in from noon to 2PM, Santa will be taking Christmas gift requests and handing out candy canes. Cake, cut by several City VIPs, will be served with coffee. Members, please come and bring neighbors. We'll be selling 1991 Calendars, Museum notepaper, OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA, and opportunities to buy and win a beautiful music box donated by our Membership Chair, Dick Bullis. You all come enjoy, meet old friends and make new ones. Chatting and eating will be easy at tables and chairs between the buildings. WE HOPE FOR A LOVELY FALL DAY!!





Finally, on our full calendar of happenings, we will hold our GHS Holiday Party for members and their guests on December 13 at 7:30pm. This year we will get to hear how celebrating is done in several different parts of our country. Dorothy Hunt will talk about what New Englanders do; she's a Connecticut Yankee. Carol Perdue will share what the holidays were like for her south of the Mason-Dixon Line, and Keith Hickman will let us in on a few secrets about Christmas in Idaho. There will be special refreshments and music and a lovely gift will be given away. Calendars and our other GHS items will be on sale for those of you who still need holiday gifts for that certain someone.

I'd like to welcome back those members who are returning from up North. We sure are glad to see you again. For those of you who will not be able to be with us on December 9th or 13th, we wish you happy holidays. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone blessed good health. For members and friends who have not been well, I hope for your early recovery and a better 1991.

Fran Purdy



OMA CROSS



November 21, 1990-October 29, 1990

Oma Cross was founder of the Haas Museum and former curator of that museum and the St. Petersburg Historical Museum. GHS members Helen Evans and George and Laurette Payne remember her with the following words:

She was indeed a rare person as were her treasures. Many times we say a person is devoted to a cause. Here was a woman who made the world recognize that museums are living, breathing houses of knowledge. Indeed the world is a better place for having her as a teacher, poet of beauty, and a docent of culture.

We urge everyone who has yet to visit the Haas Museum to go before its closing February 1, 1991.



MUSEUM QUIZ



1. What is the name of Gulfport's first newspaper, copies of which can be viewed at the Gulfport Historical museum?
2. Name the park in which the Gulfport Historical Museum is located.
3. Name the ambitious entrepreneur for whom the park was named.
4. Now the Museum, the building first served as the First United Methodist Church of Gulfport. What year was the church built?
5. When was the official ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for our Gulfport Historical Museum?

Answers and more information found in, OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA.



QUIZ ANSWERS

5. Nostalgia Day, 1984

4. 1910

3. Captain J. F. Chase was eager to see Disston City become a place where veterans of the Civil War could spend their last days. He helped bring about the change of the city's name to Veteran's City.

2. Chase Park

1. "The Seabreeze"



Give
us

Join up!

MEMBERSHIP MESSAGE

Hand!

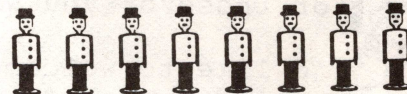
Hi,

"Tis the season" to bring a friend to our next meeting, to give a gift of membership, and to be thankful for a wonderful club like our Historic Society. Membership is on the rise. Let's make 1991 a record year! Volunteers are always welcome and greeted with open arms. There are lots of ways to help and lots of things to learn. Happy Holidays to all!!

CUDOS to Our Board Members...



Dick Bullis



Erni Perrone for running in and completing her 1st marathon. She crossed the finish line of the infamous New York City Marathon (26.2 miles) on November 4.

Phyllis Plotnick for retiring from the U.S. Army Reserves after over 21 years of service.

PERSONAL MEMORIES OF GULFPORT CHRISTMASES PAST

by Emily Rautman



Come Christmas 1953, my little son and I decided to make cut-out Christmas cookies, decorate them, and deliver them on December 25 to our elderly neighbors.

Instead of typical northern snow to contend with on our neighborhood deliveries (Remember snowsuits and mittens?), we had a steady downpour of rain which erased any doubt that one was living in the subtropics. Rain water stood three inches deep on our sidewalks and on the soggy lawns.

Not to worry: Having moved from the northland not too many years earlier, we were well prepared with rubber galoshes and a pair of red rubber boots for our three year old.



A bit glumly, we put on our rubber footwear, took our umbrellas and our boxes of Christmas cookies (hoping they would not lose their crispness in the 100% humidity), and waded through the water to deliver our holiday gifts amidst the showers.

The following year, 1954, our little boy and I again delivered cut-out Christmas cookies to our neighbors in a weeklong downpour of rain. Again we carried our umbrellas, BUT now as True Floridians, we abandoned not only boots and galoshes but also our shoes and stockings and delivered our holiday gifts barefoot in the rain.

Now in 1990, we would gladly accept that much-needed rain even on Christmas Day itself.

QUOTES

Persistent prophecy is a familiar way of assuring the event.
Gissing

It takes time to ruin the world, but time is all it takes.
Fontenelle



The major fact about history is that in large part it appears criminal.
W.E. Arnold, Jr.

The epidemic of world lawlessness is spreading. When an epidemic of physical disease starts to spread, the community approves and joins in the quarantine of the patients in order to protect the health of the community against the disease....The will for peace on the part of peace-loving nations must express itself to the end that nations that may be tempted to violate their agreements and the rights of others will desist from such a course. There must be positive endeavors to preserve peace.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

