



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 13 Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society March 1986

FROM THE SUN COAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
WAS THE FOLLOWING REVIEW

GULFPORT'S 75th Birthday:

For the City of Gulfport's 75th birthday, the Gulfport Historical Society has compiled "OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA", a book of essays vignettes, and photographs contributed by local residents and others-including descendants of the city's first settlers of Gulfport,- from its earliest beginnings as Bonafacio and Disston City to the present.

Considerable research has gone into the story of Gulfport. The presentation of the city's history through the eyes of many individuals rather than one long narrative, was a lively, colorful way to bring history to life. The book is available from the Gulfport Historical Society 5301 28th Ave.S.

NEXT MEETING APRIL 3RD, 1986

Mark Ruffner of the Konglomerati Foundation will talk about Ephemeris & related antique advertising. It promises to be a different and informative meeting.

..... NOSTALGIA DAY, May 3rd, 1986!!!
Fish Fry by the Fire Dept. \$3.50
Flea Market, Indian Display, Street
Car Tour of Historical Sites.
BE THERE!

We will have a table to sell books at the Friends of the Library sale April 5th, 1986.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

GULFPORT'S SECOND ANNUAL SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

April 11, 12, and 13, 1986

Shore Blvd.S and Beach Blvd.

Gulfport Community Players present

KISS OR MAKE UP by Jack Sharkey
at the gulfport Community Center
April 11, 12, 18, 19 at 8 P.M.
Sun. Apr. 13. Matinee at 6:30 P.M.
Tickets at the door \$3.00

Museum Hours 2-4 Monday thru Friday

TIDBITS

Jean Willis, art instructor for Gulfport Elementary School is setting up a display in celebration of the 60 anniversary in May. She is using material borrowed from the Museum. It is nice to see cooperation between organizations.

Johanna Schneidt is decorating a display case donated by Rae Robinson.

Among the many items donated by Geo. Payne is a stereopticon and slides. Thanks again, George.

Helen Ross has planted geraniums and other plants bordering the walk. Jan Cooke waters the plants.

Don't forget you can donate items for the Flea Market afternoons when the Museum is open.

OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA WAS PUBLISHED THE FIRST OF OCTOBER. Many noticed there were pages at its conclusion for NOTES! That suggested to readers that they could write their corrections, additions and other comments. Now we wonder if YOU notice articles in our newspapers that pertain to topics described in our book. If you put clippings of the story last week in the TIMES, for instance, about The CLOVER FARM OF GULFPORT, you would be updating what we wrote and maybe someday, you or another reader would be happy to have that additional information. For several years I have been asking both original and present owners of the Clover Specialty Company why they use St. Petersburg as their address since geographically they are in Gulfport (9th Ave. west of 49th St.S.) I was excited by the TIMES address (Gulfport) and went to find out if indeed the Safcos had yielded to local pressure and changed. They have not, believing the first address is known the world over. Have you visited this one place in the world, most popular on March seventeens each year? Truly it is one of the things "that make Gulfport unique"- that's what we chaptered it on our pages 285-6!

Other items include the stories and pictures of our new Pier and the Public Works Building, which I expect other history buffs have already stuck in the proper section of our "best seller". If you haven't bought at least one copy, why wait another day? Our Library is our most active agent, the Bazaar and our office at 3134 Beach Blvd.S. are on your way to our beach, where you can enjoy fantastic music and dance - another "unique feature" of our fine city of GULFPORT.

Submitted by
Frances Purdy

From the desk of our Treasurer:

1985-86 has been a banner year for our Society.

"Our Story of Gulfport, Florida" was published and generated excitement in our town including the October "Gala Days" parade. Here are some facts on the year:

Dues:	40 Individual	@ \$5	\$200
	18 Family	@ 10	180
	4 Life	@ 50	200
Angels, Benefactors, Sponsors,	Patrons		7200
Sale of books			5772

2000 books printed @ \$11,256.90 and paid for.

QUINTESENTS

Who are they? They are our five-year members who created the Gulfport Historical Society in 1981. They drew up the constitution, applied to the State of Florida for incorporation, persuaded the Council to give us our Museum building, painted and repaired it, collected and sorted and labeled items to furnish it, drummed up new members published and promoted "Our Story of Gulfport, Florida" and served as officers these growing up years.

Fred and Florence Allen
Harold Anderson
G.L. And Mary Atkinson
Walter & Margaret Brooks
Colleen Camp
Allean Davis
Keith & Catherine Hickman
Poul and April Hornsleth
Frances Purdy
Judy Ryerson
Willard and Anita Simonds
Richard and Genevieve Smith
Stella J. Tam
Ruby C. Walker
Nathan White

Let's face it folks, people can make things happen.

The participation in the Pinellas County Fair was coordinated though the Gulfport Historical Society.

THANK YOU TO OUR LIFE MEMBERS who have contributed \$50 to assist us in our first five years.

Juanita Mann Onweller 1982

April Hornsleth 1983

Poul Hornsleth 1983

Bill Hurst 1983

Joseph Wabb 1983

Virginia Easters Welch 1983

Alice R. Durgin 1985

Walter E. Goetz 1986

Ione Kinney 1986

Laurence T. McCarthy 1986

Irma L. Newman 1986

HAVE YOU READ YOUR HISTORY BOOK?

Who was the first permanent settler of Gulfport?

When did he arrive?

What year was the first street-car run in Gulfport?

When was the last run made?

Where is the area known as "Fiddler" Flats?

Who opened the first Library in our City?

What was the name of the hotel that now houses Stetson School of Law?

What was the name of the newspaper founded by McPherson? When was it published?

Who is the Editor of the BOOK?

Who was the first President of the Historical Society?

These were easy questions. Wait til I get to the tough ones.

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Official Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society. Distributed free to Society Members, Gulfport City Officials and all others interested.

Editor: Catherine A. Hickman
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Gulfport Historical Society
A voluntary, nonprofit educational organization whose purposes are to collect preserve and to publish the history and other data pertinent to Gulfport and the surrounding area, to maintain a museum containing materials concerning this City.

Dues are:
Individual - \$ 5.00 per year
Family - 10.00 per year
Life - 50.00

Address of the Society
3134 Beach Blvd.S.
Gulfport, Fl. 33707
(813) 321-7095

Address of the Museum
5301 28th Ave.S.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY:

President - Keith Hickman
Vice President - Frances Purdy
Secretary - Judy Ryerson
Treasurer - Betty Belting
Directors:
Mary Atkinson
Nathan White
Doris Brown

CURATOR - Jan Cooke

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ways & Means - Mary Atkinson, Colleen Camp
Publicity - Doris Brown
Programs - Allean Davis, Ruby Walker
Building Maintenance - Walter & Margaret Brooks and George Payne
Membership - Nathan White, Frances Purdy, Betty Belting, Colleen Camp
Criteria - Jan Cooke, Nathan White

Last year our beloved Edward Maloney at his personal expense, paid for and gave out I ♥ Gilfport buttons. Everyone was so delighted with these buttons, that we had some more made and sold them for 50¢. We still have some left and they will be available for purchase at the Museum and on Nostalgia Day. We hope that this Nostalgia Day will be the best ever. We urge you to mark your calendar, tell all your friends and neighbors, announce at all your club and church meetings and contact old time residents who are within driving distance to attend. Our fantastic Fire Dept. will have a Fish Fry and don't forget, the Mayor makes the "Grits".

See you there!

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