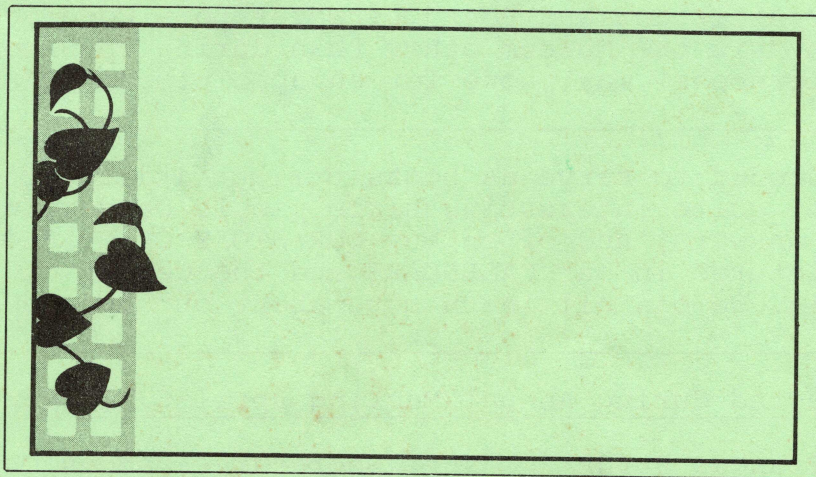


THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

VOLUME 27 NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAY 1989



THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 5152
GULFPORT, FL 33737



Thanks



FROM THE PEN OF PRESIDENT PURDY

First and foremost, I want to thank Keith Hickman. His Presidency has allowed us to build rapidly but thoughtfully. Because of his leadership, characterized by ardor, kindness, and calm, we have increased our offerings to the membership and the community without compromising quality. Two Hickman administrations have brought us far. Thanks to both Keith and Cathy-Honorary Life Members. Welcome back to our Board, Keith, as immediate past-president.

THANKS TO CITY COUNCIL--FOR:

- giving the Museum THE old City CLOCK when Bahama Bill took it off the Casino wall. We have had it repaired, rewired, illuminated with neon tubing, painted, and mounted on the front wall over the porch. Thanks to Keith Hickman, Lum Atkinson and other volunteers. People are stopping to take pictures.
- approving underground piping, placement of a water pump and faucets so we can use hoses to more easily care for our three Christmas trees and two magnolias. It's our hope that one day there will be sprinkler heads in the front entrance area and that some landscaping will again be done.

During our Board meeting May 4 it was agreed we shall meet from now on the first Wednesday evening-to avoid conflict with any Thursday Council meetings. We also agreed that the keys for the Museum's front door dead bolt will be held by the City Manager for necessary entries, by Curator Jan Cook, by her Assistant and Board Director Lois Cordasco, and by me. Those wishing to visit the Museum other than during open hours (Wednesday and Saturday afternoons) may phone for an appointment (343-3683).

Volunteers are needed to serve as hosts during visiting hours. Such assignments are usually quite interesting since people wander in, browse, ask questions, give answers, and often buy OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA. They like the pictures in our CALENDARS and the wealth of information our first two contain. We can all learn more about our unique community.

(1) Officers elected during Annual Meeting April 6, 1989:

President-Frances Purdy
Vice President-Erni Perrone

Secretary-Frances Osgood
Treasurer-Johanna Schneidt
(continuing)

(2) Standing Committee Appointments (Each chairperson is encouraged to have at least two helpers. Those additional courageous souls will be noted in a Fall publication).

Editorial/Publications- Phyllis Plotnick
Membership- Richard A. Bullis
Museum- Jan Cook, Lois Cordasco

Program- Allean Davis
Publicity/Public Relations- Catherine Hickman
Ways and Means- Anita Simonds

(3) Select Committee Appointments

Calendar- Judy Ryerson & Phyllis Plotnick
Maintenance- Keith Hickman

Research- Mary Atkinson
Meeting Hostess- Kay Higgins

It is planned that the third edition of our popular City Calendar will be available in October for early Christmas shoppers. It promises to be better than ever and different. The City and the Chamber of Commerce are again helping in this endeavor. We shall print only 1000 this time and will take orders from folks wanting large quantities now. They make wonderful gifts for new home buyers, customers, former residents, friends and relatives.

I close by wishing everyone a happy and healthy summer. May we all come back together in the Fall continuing to celebrate the preservation, progress and fellowship that make the Gulfport Historical Society so special. I am honored to serve as your president.

Frances Purdy

NEW MEMBERS

We have gained nine new members since our last Historian. A hearty welcome to:

Life members: Patricia Rondeau, Councilwoman Family member: Mr. & Mrs. T. C. Roberts
Genevieve Smith

Individual members: Leah Bell Joseph Griffin, Councilman
Carole Bohrer Adele Smith
Emily Rodgers Colyman Elmer Zieres
Richard Cooks

A Nostalgic Memorable Day

Loyal volunteer members of the Gulfport Historical Society greeted over 200 guests during the 1989 Nostalgia Day celebration at our museum in Chase Park. The museum was spruced up and decorated by our curator, Jean Cook and her faithful assistants: Johanna Schneidt, Lois Cordasco and Frances Osgood.

The gramophone, donated by George Payne, was demonstrated and enjoyed by all who listened. Quilts, afghans & (purportedly) a shawl belonging to Abe Lincoln, were displayed on newly erected railings. Also on exhibit, were some old fashioned bathing suits..... really old! Lum Atkinson and Keith Hickman helped the ladies with their displays. They put up boards containing objects and pictures for the "What is it?" and "Who are they?" quizzes.

Alta Lunan greeted people from her vantage point on the porch and gave instructions as to what was happening and where.

Inside, members had the guest book signed and sold tickets for the trolley ride.

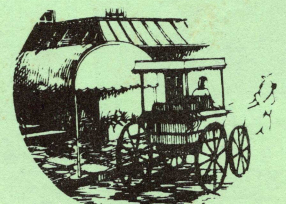
Judy Ryerson conducted tours all day long with an occasional breather for a "pit stop". Two fireman, Mark Hubbard and Craig Giovo drove the fire vehicle which pulled the trolley.

Val Dutcher emceed the entire day beginning with the shuffleboard tournament and ending with Floyd Johns and his "Riff-rafts" playing music of the 50's in Scout Hall for everyone's listening and dancing pleasure.

It was a lovely day and I thank all who took part.

Catherine Hickman

A toast and salute to Chairpersons Johanna Schneidt and Cathy Hickman for orchestrating this terrific day. - Ed





We have had some interesting and informative programs this past year. In October, Jim Brown, past president of the St. Petersburg Postcard Club, talked to us about the history and the value of old postcards. Several members brought old cards to "show n' tell" and a lively discussion followed.

There are many ethnic groups living in Gulfport whose members offer us, at every turn, new perspective and understanding. We asked several foreign-born neighbors to come to our Christmas Party. Mary Adams from England, Raisa Bojanizsky from the Soviet Union, Dorothy Esten of Norway, Ernest Schmitt from Germany, Nino Gallino of Italy and Marie Hummer from France shared with us memories of special traditions particular to their respective homelands. After the program, Christmas Carols were sung, greetings exchanged, Chanukah lights kindled and delicacies devoured. Everyone agreed it was a happy, hopefilled holiday gathering.



In February, Paul Hitchens, a young St. Pete lawyer and native Pennsylvanian, gave use some "Inside Information on the Battle of Gettysburg". He was a forceful speaker and stimulated much discussion.

I look forward to being your Program Chairperson again next year and welcome your suggestions and comments.

Allean Davis

Allean continues to work hard behind the scenes coordinating our programs and then graciously introducing our guests to us. We are enriched by her efforts. In wanting to somehow express our appreciation, we presented Allean with an honorary life membership at the Annual Meeting.



The Board

MUSEUM MOMENTS AND MOMENTOS (our new column)

It was a hot Saturday morning - 90°. Two men climbed a 15 foot ladder onto a blazing 98° roof. One of the men blistered the palm of his hand on that roof. Four hours later the deed was done - the clock was hung on the front of the museum. The clock used to hang on the west side of the Gulfport Casino, facing the beach, telling generations of children when it was time to go home for dinner. Then a few years ago, "Bahama Bill", who was leasing the Casino, decided to re-decorate and remove the clock. Mike Bonfield, a city employee, heard about it, checked with Judy Ryerson, a Society member and she hastily acquired it for our museum.

Thanks Lum, Keith, Mike and Judy!

