



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

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Official Newsletter of The Gulfport Historical Society

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All Treats! No Tricks!



That could well describe our first meeting of the year. Amid jack-o-lanterns and fall arrangements furnished by Margaret Brooks and Ruth Huff Saylor, the enthusiasm of the 25 members in attendance set the stage for what should be one of our most interesting and productive years yet. Already in the works are plans for a Dance and Walking Tours to enjoy and learn of the Architectural Heritage of Gulfport.

A committee was formed for the enlargement and refinement of our Historic Survey and promotion of Historic Preservation. If you had the misfortune to miss this meeting and wish to be a part of this or any other committee you may still sign up.

After the short but informative business meeting, we had to test our memory and strain the brain a little when our president, Cathy Hickman passed out a quiz on local fish. Some of the answers proved interesting, if not just a little humorous.

Stella Mansfield shared her beautiful pictures and gave a very informative talk on her recent trip to the Mayan Ruins, which com-

plemented Archeology Month at our museum.

Social time was enjoyed with apple cider and halloween cookies furnished by Mary Atkinson, as we caught up on the happenings over the summer, and explored the new additions to our museum.

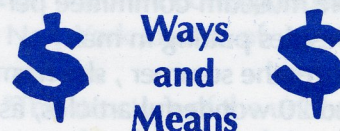
Our next meeting will be November 8th at 7:30 p.m. Come and get informed, have fun, and bring a friend.

Do you live on an Archeological Site?

If you live within the city limits of Gulfport, the answer to this question is very likely yes. The Gulfport Historical Society and Museum have joined in the celebration of Florida's first Archeological Week which is themed "Archeology is Here". For the month of October the museum has exhibits and information on Gulfport, and surrounding areas. Check it out, you may be pleasantly surprised.

Do you live in a noble savage?

Come to the museum, see if your property is listed, or give us any information you have on the history of any of the properties listed or missed.



Committee Report

We are proud to announce on February 5, 1994, we are having a dance with a silent auction. "The Impacts", a well-known local band that got their start at the Gulfport Casino, will be playing the music my generation grew up on.

The dance and auction will benefit the Gulfport Historical Society. Please help us to preserve the history by donating items for the auction and attending the dance.

The Historical Calendar, I love Gulfport buttons, post cards, note paper and a book for only \$6.00 called "Our Story of Gulfport" are on sale at the museum.

Soon we hope to have displays set up in different public places with interesting information about Gulfport's history. Also we are planning a coloring book using historical sites in Gulfport as a theme.

We are looking forward to an exciting year.

Stella Mansfield, Chairman



Welcome Home:

Ruth Huff-Saylor, who recently retired from HRS, has returned to her roots, having grown up in Gulfport with her three brothers. Her Mother was a writer for the Gulfport Tribune in the 40's leaving us with some excellent articles on Gulfport history. Talent must run in the family as Ruth is an accomplished artist and writer.

Letting no dust gather under her feet with retirement, Ruth is a valuable museum committee person. Besides putting in many hours over the summer, she has donated 20 wonderful articles, as if that is not enough, she is serving as Membership Chairperson for the Historical Society.

Setting an example for us Ruth?

John Green, the new manager of our Casino, is not a stranger to Gulfport. He and his brother Ken, grew up here attending local schools, and spending all their spare time at the beach, as all good Gulfport young people have always done through the years. John, as yet, is not a member of the Historical Society, but with his interest in Gulfport, and our history, I'm sure it won't be long. Good Luck Johnny.

Congratulations

Carl Norberg and Helen Ross
were married early
this summer. They are
residing at Helen's home
in Gulfport.

A Salute to Gulfport

I am not of Pioneer Lineage. My family moved to Gulfport in 1933 and we lived here until 1944. Yet, I have always considered Gulfport my home town. I became aware of my fondness for Gulfport as I was doing research for "My Life History Book" that I want to leave to my children, grandchildren and any to follow. I didn't want them to think I was born just a grandmother. Writing about my childhood brought back many wonderful memories of Gulfport and what a wonderful place it was to spend my childhood. Now almost a half a century after I left Gulfport, I find myself moving back, and I am excited about it.

I stopped in to do some research at the Gulfport Historical Society Museum and I became hooked. I had attended some of the past festivities, enjoying them. Although it was hard to recognize some, and coming up with names was impossible, but going through the old albums and other memorabilia I knew them, then and now. All these albums have been contributed by many interested in preserving the past.

The revamping and updating of the museum is coming along slowly. We sure could use the assistance of more members. A handful can't get done what a dozen or so can accomplish. If you have time, we have the projects.

Going through the membership list I noticed many "old timers" have withdrawn from membership. We would like to hear from you. The museum is soon to have a phone, give us a call.

Ruth Huff-Saylor
Membership Chairman

Applause Applause For

Poul Hornsleth of Caldwell Realty. He has just presented the Society with a book he prepared from the tax rolls on homes built in Gulfport before 1945 and their owners. Would you believe it contains over 600 homes? Proves quite a few got missed in the survey. Way to go Poul. Thank you.

Congratulations and Thank you

goes to Judy Ryerson and her committee, for a beautiful job done on our 1994 calendar - but isn't it always? What have you got planned for us next year Judy? The 1994 calendars are now on sale. Judy tells us they are going fast, so you better hurry and get yours.

Thank you is really inadequate to express our gratitude to the following:

Virginia Harris for her many wonderful gifts to our museum but especially for the beautiful show cases, without them we would not have been able to update the museum.

Keith and Cathy Hickman for the much needed copy machine. You many now get copies of museum material at a cost of 15¢ per copy. The charge is to cover operations and supplies for the machine.

Get Well Wishes

To "Cousin Tim", Laurence McCarthy, who's been feeling a little under the weather. Hope you are up and about real soon. Your smiling face is missed all over Gulfport.

Words of Wisdom

If you mean to do a thing - and mean to do it really.
Never let it be by halves - but do it full and freely.

Museum Report

Many hours have been spent this summer by your Museum Committee working at opening up two additional rooms for display. One is for tools and trades. The other, products found in country stores. A research area has been set aside with educational materials. We also have a limited access archives room to be used only under the supervision of the museum curators. This section houses documents that require careful handling due to the fragility of the material. We hope the changes will meet with your approval.

Our open house on July 4th brought 25 new visitors, with sales and donations of \$64.00. We have received 44 gifts not including display or research materials over the summer.

A big thank you to our donors:

Virginia Harris, Allen Henkle, Judy Ryerson, Tim McCarthy, Bob and Sue Coe, Don Dyer, Walter and Margaret Brooks, Cary Livingston, Louie Worthington, Ruth Huff-Saylor, Ken Stanton, Cathy Hickman, Jane Sieva, Wayne Prather, and Mary Mahony.

In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Allean Davis, 92, who died October 1, 1993 at home. Born in Springfield, MO, she came here in 1960 from Austin, TX.

She was President of Friends of the Library, member of Pasadena Community Church, and Gulfport Historical Society's Program Chairman. She lived her life with pride and dignity. Allean was a dear friend to us all and will indeed be missed.

Read any good (or bad) historical books lately? If so let us know.



Book Review

"Classic Cracker" by
Ronald W. Haase

I have read many fine publications of historic architecture, the builders, methods and materials. Unfortunately, Mr. Haase's, is not among them. Being in historic preservation, I started reading Mr. Haase's book with much anticipation and ended it with total disappointment and shock.

A great disservice was done to his readers with his need to vent his prejudices and lack of knowledge of both American and Florida history. Had he divorced himself from his love affair with Marjorie Rawlings, and availed himself of historical facts, perhaps he would have been able to express to his readers the effects of each period of colonization and its contribution to our architecture deemed vernacular (native to) or what emerged as *Classic Cracker*.

Perhaps Haase did not know there is an accepted standardized description of Florida wood-frame vernacular architecture that he could have used as a foundation. He could have informed his readers of the use and effects of building material and concepts of construction instead of spending so much time on the character assassination of Florida "Crackers". Haase has indicated that only the most primitive conditions existed here and that civilization came only with the carpetbaggers, that our choice of style in building could not have been an intelligent decision, for we had no basis for intellect.

Is he forgetting that the first newspaper was published in Florida in 1783 (growing to 44 publications in the state by 1845)?

The only purpose I can find for this book is to advertise and promote Hasse's pirating and exploitation of Florida's architectural heritage.

The only recommendation I have for this book is to burn it.

Claudette Renney Dean

A page in History Date line Nov. 10, 1860 Discovery of a Cave in Florida

The following account of the discovery of a remarkable cave in Florida is from a correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce.

"The structure of the understratum of rock and earth in Florida is cavernous to a great extent...

A few days ago, Mr. Henry Wooten and myself started on a hunting expedition...we pursued a deer into a hammock, and attempting to ride through it, Mr. Wooten's horse stumbled into a small sink...On rejoining me, he said he had discovered a cave...we pursued this passage for nearly half a mile, it growing larger at every step...We finally entered a sort of square doorway, and found ourselves in a cavern of the most beautiful appearance...But the most wonderful thing that met our view in this cave was a Latin inscription, graven on solid rock. The inscription stated that a party of Danes had visited this cave in 1050, and that a priest who had accompanied them had left this memorial of their visit. The name of this priest was Marcus Poleus...This wonderful cave is of easy access...about ten miles from Waldo."

****Footnote:** The Civil War broke out a short time after this was written. If this cave was ever found again or explored in later years, I do not know at this time. Would anyone like to help me find out?

**The Gulfport Historian is the official newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society.
Everyone is invited to submit articles of local interest.**

Welcome newcomers...join and you receive our newsletter regularly.

- ☐ I apply for new membership
- ☐ Renewal
- ☐ Individual dues \$5.00 a year
- ☐ Family dues \$10.00
- ☐ Lifetime dues \$50.00

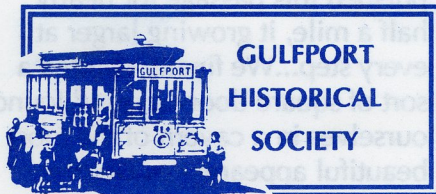
Name _____

Married women please include your maiden name

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ Area Code _____



**GULFPORT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 5152
Gulfport, Florida 33737

