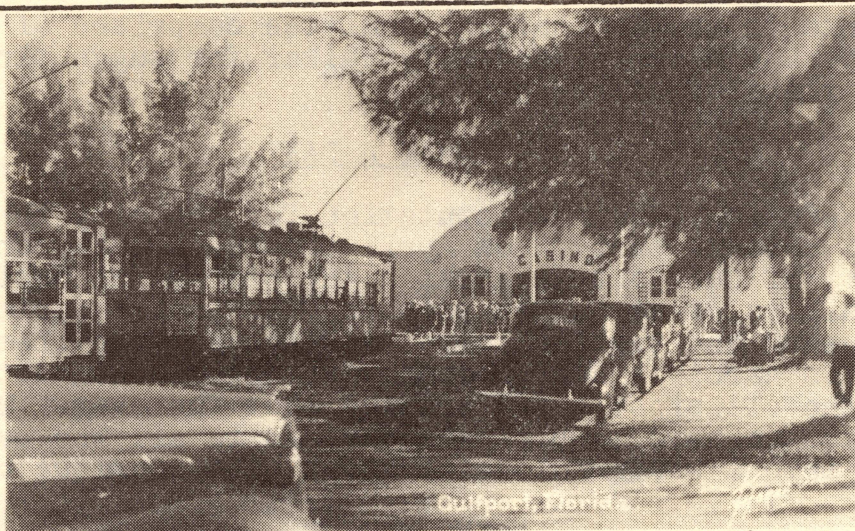


THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 18

Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society

June 1987



Gulfport's Very Own Calendar featuring photos of City Landmarks (old and new), Special Events, Club Activities and Local Business is in the works (see page 3).

Gulfport Historical Society
3134 Beach Boulevard South
Gulfport, Florida 33707

OFFICERS ELECTED

Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected by the membership (at our annual business meeting, April 2) to serve as the Society's officers:

President - Kieth Hickman
Vice-President - Frances Purdy
Secretary - Judy Ryerson
Treasurer - Johanna Schneidt

Special thanks to the Nominating Committee comprised of Margaret Brooks, Catherine Hickman, and Ruby Walker for suggesting the outstanding slate of officers.

WHAT A DAY

Gulfport is winning itself a reputation for the city that really knows how to throw a party. On April 11, the GHS in conjunction with the City of Gulfport celebrated the 6th Annual Nostalgia Day. With art exhibits, flea market goodies, the incomparable Fireman's fish fry, museum and trolley tours, and Doctor Goodvibes Medicine Show there was hardly a dull moment. We had the biggest crowd, the best fish, the classiest tours and the most fun ever. Thanks to all who worked so hard to plan the day and to all who came to turn those plans into a wonderful celebration of our unique city.

THE MUSEUM

The hub of the activity on Nostalgia Day was our Museum, located at 53rd St. and 28th Ave. So. Again on May 19, this wonderful "house of history" was the center of activity. Sixteen fifth graders from Mrs. Obrasenski's class at Holy Name came on a field trip to the museum. Curator Jan Cook, Betty Belting and Frances Purdy helped the children explore the camera collection, scrapbooks, kitchen gadgets, and antique toys. Can you believe our visitors never saw a roller skate key? Time moves on. One day, who knows, maybe skateboards will be a novelty to youngsters visiting our museum.

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM:

A number of people donated items to our Museum during the Nostalgia Day celebration:

- a copy of the original Torres sub-division of land, from Jane Saievas. (See page 36 in Our Story of Gulfport, Florida.)
- a varied collection of early hair curlers, from Iola Owens.
- a parasol, given by Jean Krans.
- a shawl, from Jessie O'Hara.
- and, a wide assortment of old cameras from Bob Pitcock.

Thank you, all!

Mary Atkinson and Jan Cook were given the opportunity of selecting two display cases from the St. Petersburg Historical Society warehouse. Since the warehouse contents were moved to smaller quarters, the surplus cases were loaned to us for "X" number of years.

Thanks go to Lum Atkinson for giving up a morning to move the heavy glass cabinets from St. Pete into our Museum building.

A program to be scheduled this coming year will concern a three-day workshop, attended by Jan Cook, regarding correct preservation of photos, documents, and other paper items.

CATHERINE HICKMAN HONORED

At the Board of Directors Meeting held May 5, Catherine Hickman, founder and first president of the GHS was nominated by Frances Purdy (first honoree) to receive the second Annual Honorary GHS Life Membership Award. The vote was unanimous.

Congratulations Cathy. We are grateful to you for your vision and indefatigability (that's a fine word for you, Cathy. - ed.).

MAJOR GHS PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Representatives from the Gulfport Historical Society and the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce are meeting weekly as co-sponsors of the 1st All-Gulfport Calendar. Old-time pictures of Gulfport landmarks are being selected and new photos of their current counterparts (e.g., old pier/new pier) are being taken to be included in the calendar. Organizations in Gulfport have been invited to list their public events for inclusion on the calendar. Businesses are being solicited to sponsor pages through ads which will be printed at the top of each month's page. Publication is planned for October 1. The price will be only \$2 (could there be a better buy anywhere? Are we for real?) When you plan for your holiday shopping, think about the All-Gulfport 1988 Calendar. What a special gift! The Premier Edition no less!

The wheels keep turning and the planning is well underway for the first (a big year for GHS "firsts") Gulfport Old-Fashioned Holiday. Again the date, time and place:

Sunday, December 6, 1987

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

GHS Museum and Scout Hall

Santa has already been contacted and, with a twinkle in his eye, accepted our invitation. A live tree will be decorated with olde-timey ornaments. Strolling musicians and caroling will fill the halls with song and homemade crafts will be on display and available for sale. Many more activities are planned and will be reported in subsequent issues of the "Historian."

At the May 28 Council work session the GHS requested the cooperation of the city for the All-Gulfport Calendar and asked the city to co-sponsor the Old-Fashioned Holiday. Council approved both requests.

LOOKING AHEAD - TO THE FALL

Understandably, activities slow down (and often come to a halt) during our infamous summer months. Like all savvy Southerners, the members of the GHS hibernate from June to August, resuming meetings in September. With that in mind, the officers and board of the Society wish everyone a restful, fun, fan and freon-filled summer.

"Historian" - September 1987

Next Board meeting - September 3, 1987

Next Membership meeting - October 1, 1987

SUMMERTIME HAPPENINGS OF DAYS GONE BY

Fares on the Gulfport trolley line increased from 10¢ to 20¢ (or 15¢ via tokens purchased in advance) August 1928.

The Lions Club, chartered in June 1948, is the oldest continuously operating civic club in Gulfport.

July 1, 1950 Shaffer's Kindergarten and Nursery at the corner of Clinton and Shore Blvd. opened. Here the Shaffers (Joe, Valentine and their four daughters) and their lifetime friend, Helen Mengerink, with her son and daughter, made their home and took care of children daily, weekly, monthly, on weekends and overnight. They also ran a "school" for little tykes. The Shaffers are remembered by many Gulfportians for the healthful, loving care and early education they provided.

On July 21, 1965, The Sunshine City Boat Club, a long-time fixture in St. Petersburg harbor until ousted by the City to make room for the Bounty exhibit, signed a lease with Gulfport. The Club was awarded a settlement of \$25,000 and came to Gulfport with \$30,000 and a strong, growing organization. The first order of business was to change its name, after its predecessor of 1910, to the Boca Ciega Yacht Club.

June 25, 1970 our Police Department got its first air-conditioned car.

IMPORTANT AND IMPRESSIVE NUMBERS

166 members are mailed the "Historian" each month.

GHS treasurer, Johanna Schneidt, reported a balance of \$3,441.91 as of 4-30-87.

Over 300 folk, young and young at heart, newcomers and life-long residents signed the guest book and visited our Museum on Nostalgia Day.

A "HISTORY QUOTE"

"No period of history has ever been great or ever can be that does not act on some sort of high, idealistic motives, and idealism in our time has been shoved aside, and we are paying the penalty for it."

Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947)