

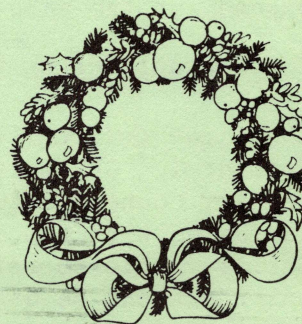
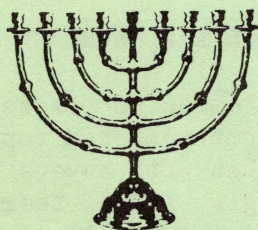
THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN



Volume 20 Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society November, 1987



Holiday Greetings



Gulfport Historical Society
3134 Beach Boulevard South
Gulfport, FL 33707



"It would be a good thing if man concerned himself more with the history of his nature than with the history of his deeds."

Hebbel



What A Way To Begin Our Year...

Our first program following the summer hiatus was outstanding. Museum curator Jan Cook shared information with us that she gleaned from a three-day seminar on preservation of documents sponsored by the St. Petersburg Historical Museum. We learned among many other facts that mulberry wood paper is a good choice for documents because it is chemical free and will not "creep" in time. Jan advised us not to store important papers or letters in shoe boxes because of the damaging acidic content of the cardboard. She told us how ultraviolet light (like that found in fluorescent bulbs) can harm documents (maybe one day we can exchange our museum's fluorescent for incandescent lighting). Jan talked with us about having documents dry cleaned, demildewed, deacidified, and repaired. She urged us to make sure that whenever we go to have documents framed, we make sure the personnel we choose do "museum mounting". Many thanks to Curator Cook for a fine program and for all the time and energy she continually expend for the sake of the Society and the community.

CALENDAR SALES BULLISH...PROMISES TO SURPASS DOW INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE

The first *Gulfport Historical Calendar* was hot off the presses as planned October 1. GHS President Keith Hickman presented the first numbered copies to City Council October 1. Sales have been fast since then with buyers impressed with the quality of the calendar and eager to give (send) them as holiday gifts to friends and relatives. An exceptional value for \$2, these calendars can be easily mailed to loved ones or used as stocking stuffers. One thousand have sold to date. We aim for 2000 by Christmas and Chanukah. Come and get 'em. Help support your Society and be "in the know" (all Gulfport happenings noted on the calendar with room to spare for your personal entries).

By the way, with calendar sales have come increased book sales. People are wanting to learn more about those charming places pictured on the calendar. *Our Story of Gulfport* is filled with facts and wonderful stories. It too makes a thoughtful personal present.

WELCOME TO...

New member, Mrs. Oma Cross who was Curator of the St. Petersburg Historical Museum and the Haas Museum for over 40 years. Greetings to Mrs. Cross's good friend Mrs. Beth Matthews, also joining our membership this month.

NEXT GATHERING

Our next meeting will be held December 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the museum. Come get into the Christmas spirit with songs, old fashioned tree trimming, and holiday refreshments. We have work to do to prepare the museum for the first All Gulfport Old Fashioned Holiday just three days later.

Allean Davis
Program Chairperson

SPEAKING OF...

Our Old Fashioned Holiday Celebration. Betty Belting and Mary Atkinson have been at the helm organizing what promises to be one extraordinary afternoon. On Sunday, December 6 from 1-5 p.m., our museum and the Scout Hall will be transformed into a Holiday Wonderland. Strolling minstrals, locally handmade crafts, face painting, a campfire, and of course, Santa will be there. The Open Bible Presbyterian and Methodist Churches will all present programs. Congregation Beth Shalom will tell the story of Chanukah. Holy Name Elementary, the Puppeteeres of Boca Ciega High School, the Coterie Club, the Musicmakers of the Gulfport Women's Club and the Garden & Bird Club will also have presentations. Each program will be 15 minutes in length and take place on the stage of Scout Hall. Of course, a live tree and refreshments will also deck the halls. Come, bring the family, dress in old or new, and ring in the Holiday Season with a feeling of community.

FALL HAPPENINGS OF DAYS GONE BY

October 12, 1910. Gulfport was incorporated. There were 38 registered voters at that time. Thirty participated with 23 voting "aye" and 7 voting "nay". The limits of the City included choice farmland lying 2 miles from the corporation line of St. Petersburg and extending from the east shore of Clam Bayou to the sandy shores of Boca Ciega Bay. "Gulfport is an appropriate name since it is the point of embarkation for Gulf of Mexico points on the West side of the peninsula," stated the Oct. 11, 1910 issue of the "Independent."

Fall 1926. Gulfport Junior High School opened at the corner of 1001 51st Street South. Located on 8.57 acres it housed 977 students and cost \$116,300.00 to build. It's name was changed to Disston Junior High in 1927.

December 1, 1947. Reverend Elsie Davies began her long and successful pastorate at the First United Methodist Church of Gulfport.

October 1983. The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center was completed.

All of the above excerpted from Our Story of Gulfport.

[WANTED...]

By Our Curator

--OLD ROCKING CHAIRS. In good repair for appearance and rocking enjoyment on our museum porch.

--MULLET NETS. To remind us and future generations of our early settlers' source of income and pride.

= A FINAL WORD =

"There is probably no history, only biography."
Emerson