

THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

VOLUME 37

NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 1991



May your holidays be filled
with warm and happy memories.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

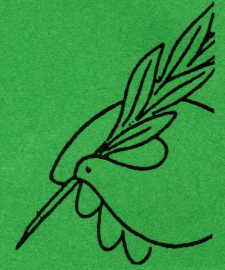
THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 5152

Gulfport, Florida 33737

Miss Frances Purdy
3010 59 St. South #203
- Gulfport, FL 33707

THE PRESIDENT PRIMES HER PEN



Our GULFPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM has received a number of gifts lately. The City's exterminating, painting, and roofing jobs seem to have brought us luck and very favorable comments and we are deeply grateful. Most noticeable is the Holly tree given by EDNA SANDOR as a memorial for former Councilwoman and her dear friend, Ruth S. Cooper. Pastor John Gill's eulogy will long be remembered by the many attending the dedication prior to our October meeting. The granite marker, with plantings around it as well as at the Museum entrance, were gifts from BOB EASTER. MR. WILLIAM

McCANN sent us his hitching post and the City "planted" it. When Representative BILL YOUNG spoke July 4 at the dedication of the Pier Flag, the flag he brought was given to us by our Mayor at Council and it is ensconced in a handsome holder from BOB, displayed with statements made during the ceremonies. AUBREY GASTON visited the Museum and talked about his long time interests in Gulfport and offered a 1939 picture of the building, now the "Golden Bear", and it is on display.



DR. MARY B. PLATZ gave us a priceless ATLANTIC MONTHLY dated October 1866 and we found a page of the NEW YORK HERALD dated October 1865, commemorating Lincoln's life and death. It hangs in the newly decorated office. DORIS KEVIN, Gulfport Library Director, gave us a Fifth Grade READER, dated 1864 and it too, is in the office. BONNIE YOKUM, recruited by ANITA SIMONDS, catalogued our Library and gave us a handsome electric clock for the kitchen.

We have much to be proud of now that our Society has, since 1983, developed the First Methodist Church built in 1910, into a Museum. Wouldn't YOU like to learn what it's like to be hostess some Wednesday or Saturday afternoon? Call 343-3683 or 321-4016 and a Frances can make that happen!

* * * * *

JUDY RYERSON, PHYLLIS PLOTNICK, MARY ATKINSON and others have produced our best yet CALENDAR, our fifth. We are very glad several pioneer descendants shared pictures from their albums so we could feature OLD FACES AND PLACES as suggested by VIRGINIA EASTER WELCH. We thank those who helped us and hope this will stimulate others to write family histories and then share copies for filing in the Museum.

We thank the following who are selling CALENDARS: Gulfport Library, THE GABBER, Vegetable Kingdom, Bay Breeze Beauty Shop, and Mansfield's Beach Pub and Restaurant. The publication is great also because we used professional services again from calligrapher Ruth Pettis, Economy Graphics and Avenue Pressworks, having been very pleased with their work in the past.

JAN. 92						
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REPORTS OF MEETINGS

During our BOARD of DIRECTORS' Meeting September 10 we agreed that our Society should become a member of the new GULFPORT ARTS COUNCIL and also, of the thriving CHAMBER of COMMERCE. We felt it appropriate to support these organizations who are improving the quality of living in our community and we shall try to help them. We are entitled to a representative of GHS in each, other than those who belong now, and members of the Board will share that experience.

We also agreed at this meeting to retain the price of two dollars for our community calendar, in spite of higher costs and the great amount of information contained in this, our fifth issue featuring OLD FACES AND OLD PLACES.

November third we met and agreed to support the efforts of CLAUDETTE RENNEY DEAN to have GLEN OAK CEMETERY safeguarded by historic registration. Her research is all encompassing, listing many Gulfport ancestors buried there. That location, 2010 Auburn Street South, was about to be used for another purpose by the present owner when her intervention stopped that action. We invite members to attend the Hearing at four o'clock November 21 when the St. Petersburg Planning Board will, hopefully, initiate action to preserve this landmark area. We have taken steps locally to secure official support of this project initiated by one of many descendants of those interred in OUR first burial grounds, site also of an Indian mound as documented in our history when formerly named Gulfport (1910), Veteran City (1906), Disston City (1889), Bonifacio (1880) and extended from Bay to Bay.

CATHERINE HICKMAN described the "Cemetery Project" at our November 7 meeting and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the City of Gulfport and it should be placed in our HISTORIAN. (See last page of this issue for the letter). Copies of the research data has been given to our Mayor, Council members and City Manager. If you want more information, please call 345-1011

Frances Purdy, President

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Our CHRISTMAS-HANUKKAH PARTY will be December fifth and the COMMUNITY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION, the following Sunday afternoon. Our members and guests this year will not only dream of a White Christmas, they will see, hear and taste it with very special memories, music and fellowship. If YOU want to help make decorations for the tree, as you have in the past. Watch THE GABBER for announcements. Do plan to come both December 5 and 8. LOTS OF DETAILS LATER.

Watch THE GABBER for information about our January meeting.



Just please remember our new program time is the FIRST THURSDAY EVENING at SEVEN THIRTY in the MUSEUM and visitors are always welcome. We do always enjoy great fellowship and light refreshments served by our Hostess Kay Higgins and her Committee, now each month October - May.

Allean Davis,
Program Chairman

PRESIDENTIAL PEN WRITES:

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

This Membership Report was done for our Gwen Goldmann, who continues to be with two of her grandchildren at their home in Richmond, Virginia, after being badly injured in an accident in Idaho. Our prayers are asked for recoveries of all her Son's family.

WELCOME to new members during the summer:

John and Mary Jane Ball
Aubrey and Carol Gaston
Steve Hudgins
David and Cora Kent
Mansfield Beach Pub and Restaurant

During our TEN YEARS, we have accumulated FIFTY life members.

* indicates "honorary"

87 Theodore Anderson	86 Mrs. Ione Kinney
88 Nina B. Anderson	89 Mrs. Clarice Layburn
86 Helene Bazemore	88 Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Marcello
86 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bonyai	86 Lawrence T. McCarthy
88 James Brown	86 Mrs. Irma Newman
89 Robert E. Burke	82 Mrs. Juanita Mann Onweller
87 Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Caldwell, Jr.	87 Mrs. Orin Osgood
89 "Jan" Cook (Deceased)	Mr. and Mrs. Ted Herbert
89 Ruth S. Cooper (Deceased)	(Parkview Motel)
86 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Davis	88 Mr. and Mrs. George V. Payne
89 Mrs. Allean Davis *	86 Dr. Mary B. Platz
86 Mr. and Mrs. Perry G. Davis	88 Mrs. Tavia Pottenger
85 Mrs. Deane A. Durgin	Frances Purdy *1984
86 Michaelena Funaro	89 Mrs. Patricia Rondeau
Nat Futch ? NO	88 Mrs. Jeanne Gray Romine
86 Walter Goetz	90 Mrs. Edna Sandor
89 Rose Gutman	89 Mrs. Johanna Schneidt
1987 1989 Mr. and Mrs. Keith Hickman **	89 Mrs. Genevieve Smith
87 "Kay" Higgins	86 Mrs. Caroline F. Somma
84 Mr. and Mrs. Poul Hornsleth	83 Joseph Webb
86 Earl C. Huckins	83 Mrs. Virginia Easter Welch

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WITH A TEAR AND A SMILE

With the recent passing of Jan Cook, we say goodbye to our museum's curator, our society's artist, a dear friend, and a beautiful human being.

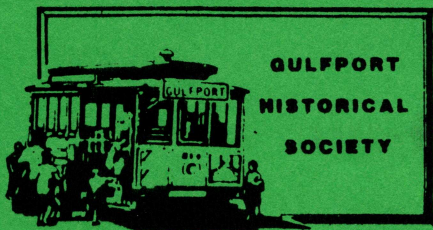
We all knew Jan a little bit differently, and she meant something a little different to all of us. She was a simple person but actually lived a very complicated life.

At the memorial service held at the Quaker Meeting House, many people rose to speak of ways Jan touched their lives. Words and thoughts were expressed time and time again such as "loving," "twinkling eyes," "could make me laugh when I thought I had no laughter left," "would send me a lilittle card for no reason in particular," "enjoyed the simple things in life," "asked how I was feeling when she was very ill," "so generously loved her family and friends," and "brought out the best in others."

On St. Patrick's Day she became a leprechaun, on Easter she was a bunny rabbit circulating around town leaving notes or little gifts in mailboxes, on doorsteps, or on doorknobs to spread her brand of joy.

She had an intuition and a perception that allowed her to see into people's hearts and to alleviate any strain she might find. Through our special memories of Jan we continue to celebrate an extraordinary life....Goodnight, Sweet Princess.

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Gulfport Historical Society, Inc.

(A voluntary, non-profit, association)

Post Office Box 5152

Gulfport, Florida 33737

October 31, 1991

Leslie DeMuth, City Clerk
Gulfport City Hall

Dear Leslie:

For several years Claudette Renney Dean, 720 88 Ave. N., St. Petersburg, 33702 (893-7153) has been researching Glen Oak Cemetery, 2010 Auburn St. S. Some of her ancestors and other early settlers of this area are buried there. The present owner, Mr. Nesbitt, Preacher of St. Jude's Church (a Jamaican sect) has been seeking use of the land for other purposes. Mrs. Dean has been successful in having his quit claim deed estopped (see quotation 75 ALR 2nd 591 et seq (Private and Family Cemeteries) on advice from Mr. Miller, State Archivist. It was reported to her that in 1980 artists wishing to paint the church and burial ground found some sections destroyed, piles of broken markers were in a corner and that cleared space was used for parking. The data she has prepared will further indicate reasons for almost immediate action because her presentation will be made at four o'clock Nov. 21 to the Planning Board of St. Petersburg. She is seeking and receiving wide support from other concerned descendants, the Paleontological Society and others. We ask that our Council be given the opportunity to study this raw data so that hopefully, they will take supportive action for her use.

Our Society has had many inquiries about this situation and will continue to help preserve the history of our residents and community. We of the Gulfport Historical Society strongly support this endeavor. Our chief advocate for it is Catherine A. Hickman, our Founder (1981) and first President.

Sincerely,

Frances Purdy
Frances Purdy, President

cc CAH & CRD

Kay Boatwright, Editor