



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

VOLUME 9 - NEWSLETTER OF THE GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY - JUNE, 1985

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We are coming to the end of our fourth year of existence as an Historical Society. Our Nostalgia Day, with the Fire Depts. Fish Fry, was great. The firemen called me to their meeting May 6th and presented me with \$100, their profit from the Fish Fry. Please thank them when you see them.

Betty Belting and Frances Purdy are doing an excellent job on pre-publication sales for our book. They are also trying to get Patrons, Sponsors, Benefactors, and Angels. Bill Hurst and Ida McLaren are our first Angels. Many are becoming Patrons and Sponsors, and we thank them all gratefully.

Frances has been working closely with the printer to get our book out in October.

Be sure to attend our next meeting, June 10, 1985. We will hold elections of new officers. It has been my pleasure to serve as your President for the last four years, but I believe it is time for a change.

Sincerely yours,

CATHERINE A. HICKMAN, President.

CURATOR'S REPORT

Summer Plans for Gulfport Historical Museum: Our final aim is to have the Museum really ready for visitors by the time of the October Gala Days. First Step - Completion of the ongoing inventory. We could use some more help. Come to the Museum on Tues. from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. If this hour is not convenient, phone 321-1790 (Agnes Conron) or 327-4928 (Jan Cooke) for a special time to work there. Second Step - Meeting of "Small Committee" to make decisions re changes to be made, repairs, placing of present furniture and objects, displaying things on loan (furniture, paintings, glass, etc.), and if so, proper security and the raising of money to pay for everything (bake sales, auctions, garage sales, etc.) Third Step - Open public meeting (Big Committee) to draft people qualified to get things done - appraisals of contents, insurance on valuable items, workers, plumbers, painters, sign-makers, etc. Fourth Step - Our own private opening prior to October Gala Days, with a picnic, fish fry, pot-luck supper or whatever to help us celebrate properly our gigantic (?) achievement!

AGNES CONRON, Museum Curator.

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Official Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society. Distributed free to Society Members, Gulfport City Officials and all others interested.

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GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A voluntary, nonprofit, educational organization whose purposes are to collect, preserve, and to publish the history of Gulfport and the surrounding area. Dues are:

Individual - \$ 5.00 per year
Family - 10.00 per year
Life - 50.00

Address of the Society

3006 Beach Blvd. So.
Gulfport, Florida 33707
(321-7095)

From the Editor:

The Editor and contributing members of THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN shall strive to preserve the dignity and integrity of the Newsletter through its appearance and published material. The Historian welcomes suggestions and input from Members and friends. News items and brief articles of historic local interest are needed. The content should in every way reflect the objectives of the Gulfport Historical Society.

MEMBERSHIPS - The Gulfport Historical Society is a Member of the MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG, the FLORIDA HISTORY ASSOCIATES and the FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

NEXT ISSUE of the GULFPORT HISTORIAN is planned for September, 1985. The deadline for anything to be included will be August 15, 1985.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee has submitted the following names:

President: Keith Hickman
Vice President: Frances Purdy
Secretary: Judy Ryerson
Treasurer: Betty Belting

And to replace Judy Ryerson as a Director, Doris Brown.

THANKS!

On behalf of the Editorial Committee of our Society, let me thank all who have helped us prepare OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA, by sharing memories writing, typing, taping, selecting and deciding! It has been an especially rewarding experience to meet people who really care about our City - about how it has been, is now and will be in its tomorrows. We are delighted with the excitement generated by pre-publication sales which were sparked by Betty Belting, through her personal appeals and delivery of letters from President Hickman. Angels, Benefactors, Sponsors and Patrons have responded generously and truly, we enjoy such examples of confidence in our efforts. If the "past is prologue to the future" then let's each of us help maintain their high standards of personal and group behavior to insure Gulfport's bright and secure future.

Frances Purdy, Chairman
Editorial Committee

HURRICANE SEASON

Official hurricane season is June 15-Nov. 15. Since 1951, only three major hurricanes have struck the Florida mainland. When a storm is on the way, there will be plenty of warning. Keep battery radios turned to weather reports. Put in a store of canned food, canned heat and water; bring lawn furniture indoors; put boats in dry storage, if possible; stuff partly-full freezers with newspapers to keep food frozen longer; and during the storm, STAY INDOORS!

NOSTALGIA DAY - 1985

Yes, indeed, we did have the fourth NOSTALGIA DAY and perhaps it was the best yet! We heard many say so, and of one thing we are sure - the food was the best! Thanks to our wonderful Fire Department, for THEY were THE ADDED ATTRACTION! Who made the grits and cole slaw? Our multitalented Mayor Johnson! Another year and again, Sydney and Margaret Brooks made the coffee and tea - produced all the necessary plates, cutlery, napkins and refills - with smiles for all! And again, Big Orange Drinks were the generous and appreciated gifts from Burger King. The City gave us another huge cake decorated with our logo, originally drawn by Genevieve Smith - and who cut it? Madam Mayor!

About two hundred registered in our Guest Book, many became members or paid their dues and a score or so bought OUR STORY OF GULFPORT, FLORIDA, to be published in October. Many went home proudly wearing "I ♥ GULFPORT" buttons donated by Attorney Ed Maloney. Members dressed in historical costumes added greatly to the happy atmosphere and to their roles as hostesses or workers in the Flea Market conducted by Mary Atkinson and her Committee.

After lunch the old-style fishing boat which attracted much deserved attention, was described by Sherman Bliss and then he and Ollie White (Nathan's Cousin) demonstrated how nets were made and repaired. Mrs. Laura Collins, a popular octogenarian of our City, told the history of her bell collection and then gave the Museum about thirty of them. Keith Hickman taped her story so you may hear it if you missed that day.

Presiding over this exciting program was Nathan White, one unique Emcee, who always makes sure people have a great time talking with one another and him, about old times. Friends were reunited and many made new acquaintances and promises to get together again. One heart-warming reunion was between C. J. Allen and Bill Mahoney - Andy Anderson Post buddies.

Helen Ross and Cecil Slauter introduced Nat Futch to many. He is the son of Melissa Slaughter Futch who was the daughter of Rebecca Slaughter. The planned sing-a-long to be led by Walter Brooks with Elsie Miscovic at the pianola, was skuttled by the threat of rain. But later in the Museum, Mayor Johnson, Bill Mahoney and others gathered and sang for their pleasure while a few hummed along as they searched scrapbooks for familiar faces - and found them!

Did you know that two years ago when Nathan was Emceeing, he spied Jim and Marion McMannis who had brought Gwen Vogel. He soon left the podium, joined them for picnic goodies but kept his eye on Gwen! Three months later they were married!!

Captain George Hensley circulated from the Fish Fry area, in and out of the Museum, over through the Flea Market section, and among the tables using the Fire Department's video camera - another FIRST! Come to the annual meeting June 10th and enjoy that tape. YOU may be in pictures -- moving, that is; and there will be "stills" too, taken by several wandering photographers that day.

For what we know is a grateful community, let us say "thanks a lot" to Catherine Hickman, President and Founder of the Gulfport Historical Society, and to her most helpful husband Keith. They quietly arrange many good things to happen for, and to, us!

Frances Purdy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GULFPORT 1910-1985

On October 12, 1985, our fair City and your friend and neighbor, intends to stage the biggest, best, happiest 75th Birthday Party our town could ever hope to see! We invite YOU to participate in our giant parade to start 11:00 A.M., Sat., Oct. 12, 1985, with the theme being HAPPY BIRTHDAY GULFPORT 1910-1985.

If you have a BAND, FLOAT, SPECIAL VEHICLE, MARCHING ORGANIZATION OR GROUP, please respond no later than June 30, 1985, so we can make up the Parade lineup, with a special spot reserved for YOUR unit. Send response to Mary Atkinson, 3134 Beach Blvd., Gulfport, Florida 33707, 813-323-0778.

SPECIAL THANKS to Charles Benbow, the ARTS Editor of the St. Petersburg Times, and Michael Slicker, owner of Lighthouse Books, 1735 First Ave. N., St. Petersburg, for informing us in regard to the FLORIDA ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR in Tampa. We plan on having a booth there when the Fifth Annual Book Fair is held in Tampa in March, 1986.

NEW MEMBERS

Earl and Ruth Huckins
Theo Downey
Nat Futch
Walter and Betty Williams
Bill and Alma Garlington
Tavia Pottenger

Kali Gillespie
George and Betty Belting
Edna C. Sanford
Donald and Delores Kelly
Nelda and Robert Hamm, Jr.
Dehart and Jean Krans

Forrest and Norma La
J.F. and A.Y. Johnso
Leola Danylieko
Louis and Miriam
Connell

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