



THE GULFPORT HISTORIAN

Volume 16

Newsletter of the Gulfport Historical Society

January 1987

"How do I love thee?"
Let me count the Valentines!

Friends

Refreshments

Music

News



February 5, 1987 (7:30 PM)

A special February program will feature Allean Davis sharing her collection of Old-fashioned Valentine's Day Cards.

Bring your favorites - old and new.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - SHARING THE JOY

On December 11, GHS members and friends really rang in the spirit of the holidays with class. From the tree trimming, to the refreshments, to the music provided by pianist^{John} Arnold and vocalist Don Ward, to the bell ringing from our own collection, it was a wonderful evening.

MEMBERSHIP

The list of members has been compiled with names, addresses, and phone numbers (when available). It is our sincere hope that this enclosure helps acquaint you with other GHS members and facilitates contact socially and "Societally."

An analyses of our membership indicates that we have 256 (that's right 256!) members represented as follows by classification:

- 19 Life members
- 42 Family members
- 152 Individual members
- 3 Corporate members

Notice we now have 19 LIFE members. We are especially grateful to them for their support. One LIFE member said, "Now I don't have to remember to send in dues each year!"

Speaking of sending in dues, several people on the list have paid dues only to June 1986. Please contact Betty Belting or Frances Purdy if you have any question about your membership status. We want you to continue to grow with us. Our past is rich, our future promises to be filled with creative and challenging adventures.

Membership:	Single	\$ 5.00
	Family	10.00
	LIFE (Indiv.)	50.00
	Corporate	25.00

Make✓out to GULFPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
and mail to 3134 Beach Blvd. S
Gulfport, FL 33707

Thank you, all.

Frances Purdy, Membership Chairman
Betty Belting, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance on hand November 30, 1986 was \$3,400.49. An unusual expense in December resulted from the much-needed cleaning of the museum (\$100). In December four more people became LIFE members, many dues payments were received, and book sales were numerous. Balance on hand as of December 31, 1986 was \$3,702.33.

We would never be in such a stable financial way if it weren't for our members and for our patrons who made the publication and sale of Our Story of Gulfport a reality. We are anticipating hefty expenditures for the museum and for upcoming special events. With our treasury in good standing, however, we will be able to do things right.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM WELCOMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSES

As 1987 begins so will the visits of children from Gulfport and Holy Name Elementary Schools. Art and writing projects will be recommended, museum certificates will be presented to all participating, and the Gabber will publicize the visits. The society has donated copies of Our Story of Gulfport to elementary grade teachers for use with their classes. What a wonderful way to "bring home" a course in civics!

THE "HISTORIAN" TRAVELS NEAR AND FAR

Besides the mailings to members, "The Gulfport Historian" is sent to state and local historical societies and delivered (in bulk) to City Hall, the Gulfport Library, and to the "Gabber" office.

BYLAWS COMPLETED

TAKING NOTE OF HISTORY:

- Our Society's Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Secretary of State December 19, 1983.
- The Constitution, prepared by Willard B. Simonds, was adopted August 10, 1983.
- Our first bylaws were adopted by the Board of Directors January 8, 1987.

These were prepared by Grace Brajcki and Frances Purdy, with MUCH help from Board members - to whom the authors are most grateful!

Frances Purdy

- * An incredible amount of time and painstaking work was devoted to the development, drafting, and finalization of the bylaws. Deepest appreciation and respect go to Frances and Grace. They certainly made history!

PINELLAS TAPE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND SEEKS GULFPORT TAPES

Jill Cantar of the Pinellas Tape Library for the Blind contacted GHS Museum Curator Jan Cook about our taped interviews (some 50 interview obtained by that dedicated hero of all time, Helen Ross). Ms. Cantar wanted to copy the tapes, in turn making the information available to visually impaired people through her library. President Kieth Hickman contacted Ms. Cantar and suggested she use Our Story of Gulfport as a reference for a tape (since it incorporates the interviews). She agreed that would expedite her efforts, and so Kieth delivered a copy of Our Story ... to her office January 7. Ms. Cantar and her staff were delighted to receive the (dare we say) famous publication and noted they had been able to find little historical county material for her library.

GULFPORT AND THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

On January 1, 1912 Pinellas County was created from Hillsborough County. This year Pinellas County is celebrating its 75th Anniversary, its Diamond Jubilee. "Twenty-Four Cities, One Great County" is the theme of the year-long celebration. Mary Atkinson and Frances Purdy are representing the GHS in the planning of various Jubilee activities. Of over forty events scheduled for the celebration, one, of course, will be our "Nostalgia Day." Nostalgia Day 1987 (April 11) will be bigger and better than ever (even though last year will be tough to top). The County will be sending "Jubilee Wagon" that features a medium show along with other entertainment. Mark your calendars now. The place to be on April 11 is Gulfport!

(A TV tape about our city is in the making for the Jubilee. Details in the next newsletter.)

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

To the one and only, inexhaustible Frances Purdy. Our membership chairman was recently elected president of Neighborly Senior Services' board of directors. This outstanding organization has numerous programs that profoundly touch thousands in our community and county.

MANY THANKS TO ...

Madeline (Winnie) Wynn for offering to type the "Historian" bimonthly. Her generosity and graciousness are greatly appreciated. - Editor

WORDS OF WISDOM

The past is not dead. It isn't even past.

- William Faulkner

The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or woman.

- Willa Cather

The lovers of romance can go elsewhere for satisfaction but where can the lovers of truth turn if not to history.

- Katharine Anthony

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS OF DAYS GONE BY *

February 1942

The Gulfport Garden and Bird Club started an annual habit of planting 800 petunias in February and 1000 more in December along the main streets of our city. These Victory Gardens (right here in Gulfport) were among the finest anywhere.

February 1972

Bernice R. Perry becomes Gulfport's Acting City Manager.

February 16, 1985

In celebration of the 67th anniversary of the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence from Russia, the Lithuanian flag was raised at our Gulfport Library.

* All excerpted from Our Story of Gulfport

*Gulfport Historical Society
3134 Beach Boulevard, South
Gulfport, Florida, 33707*

