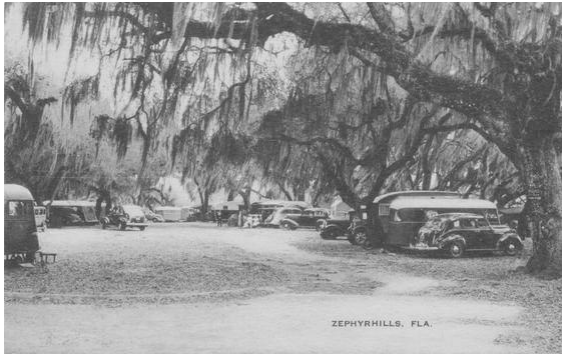


Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 14 – Number 3

March 2012

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3 at the Zephyrhills Depot Museum at 39110 South Avenue. Business meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. and program at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.



Tin-Can Tourists at Zephyr Lake about 1930



Bob Winters

## Speakers

Our guest speaker for the March meeting was Bob Winters, of Winters' Mobile Home Park. He talked about the history of mobile home parks in Zephyrhills, particularly as they related to Zephyr Lake. The lake has always had the power to draw folks to it, even back to times when original natives of Florida used it. Tin-Can tourists wintered there in the early twentieth century, but when the WPA did their work around the park in the thirties they were displaced. Lincoln Cabins accepted them. The area eventually converted to what became our modern day mobile home park. Bob talked about the early days and the changes that have taken place during his lifetime here. We enjoyed his presentation very much.

Our speaker for April will be Manny Leto, Director of Marketing at the Tampa Bay History Center. We look forward to hearing from him. Come and join us.

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Please consider contributing old photos for the website.

My email address is on the opening page

#### ZHA Mission Statement

The mission of the Zephyrhills Historical Association is to research, gather, and share local historical information with all generations, through our literature, programs, and scholarships, and to volunteer assistance to the Zephyrhills Depot Museum and WWII Barracks Museum.

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Secretary	Margie Partain
Treasurer	Jo White
Alternate	Patty Thompson

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 Bill Kustes  
 Bob Porter  
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Hospitality	Rose McKell
Refreshments	Gail Geiger
Newsletter	Jerry Pricher
Programs	Clereen Brunty
Scholarship	Irene Dobson Margie Partain Jerry Pricher

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 Maurice Humphries  
 Polly Humphries  
 Vicki Elkins  
 Gina King Granger  
 Margie Partain

**Scholarship Boosters**

James & Jean Kaylor  
 Rick Moore, MD  
 Jerry Pricher  
 George Boone  
 Betty Hall

**Monthly Dinner Out**



Several members meet for dinner at a local restaurant once a month. We meet at 5 o' clock on Friday, a week and three days after our regularly scheduled meeting. This past month we met at Village Inn and had a great turn-out! We enjoyed good food, good service, and wonderful conversation. Our meeting place varies each month. Usually whoever is having a birthday in that month gets to decide where we meet. It's great fun!

 <p><b>Clereen Morrill Brunty</b>                  ZHS Alumni Contact  <b>clereen@tampabay.rr.com</b>                  813-782-8763                  www.zhsalumninews.websiteanimal.com</p>	<p>All types of repairs Over 30 yrs experience</p> <p><b>JIM'S MANUFACTURED HOME SERVICE INC.</b>                  MOBILE HOME SPECIALIST</p> <p>James Brunty, owner                  (813) 782-8763 Insurance Claims</p>
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Editor: Jerry Pricher, 5138 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542  
 Phone: 813-788-2547 email: jerry@pricher.net

**Zephyrhills Historical Association participates in the  
102<sup>nd</sup> Founders Day celebration - March 10, 2012  
Theme: Unsung Heroes: Past & Present**

By Clereen Brunty

Saturday, March 10, 2012, Main Street (5<sup>th</sup> Avenue) came alive with sounds of sirens, bands, bagpipes and car horns. The celebration of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Founders Day celebration was underway led by the JROTC Color Guard and this year's Grand Marshal, Greg First, as the town's unsung hero and also a member of the Zephyrhills Historical Association. Hundreds of men, women and children of all ages either watched the festivities and enjoyed receiving beads and candies thrown from the floats.



**Front:** Jerry Pricher & Bob Porter  
**Middle:** Clereen Brunty, Irene Dobson, Gail Geiger, Jo White, Penny Porter, Mary Helen Claque, Bill Kustes  
**Back:** Terry Lindsey, Nathan Geiger, Cris White

Our first Unsung Heroine went to Rosemary Trottman, founder of the Zephyrhills Historical Association whose inaugural meeting was held on July 23, 1980. In the photo at right Mrs. Trottman serves as Grand Marshal in the 1985 Founders Day Parade. Trottman published *The History of Zephyrhills 1821-1921* in 1978 and served as a teacher in the Zephyrhills schools for many years. (Photo courtesy of ZHA)



Members of the Zephyrhills Historical Association participated in the parade riding in five vintage cars with their Unsung Heroes and Heroine being recognized.

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Riding in the first vintage car was Cris White, President of the Zephyrhills Historical Association in a 1911 Model T Ford driven by Richard Porter, son of members Bob & Penny Porter.

Our second Unsung Hero was given to William “Bill” Kustes, former Army Paratrooper and Zephyrhills High School’s 1<sup>st</sup> Golf Coach, which formed in 1962, waving from a 1919 Model T Ford driven by Bob Porter with his wife, Penny with Mary Helen Claque as passenger, all ZHA members.



The third honor of Unsung Hero went to Dick Tucker, Korean Army POW and member of the Zephyrhills High School’s 1<sup>st</sup> Football team in 1941. He was not able to participate. Tom Graham, owner and driver of the 1925 Model T Ford, carried Irene Dobson, who is well known as our community’s civil rights activist and a couple of his friends.

Grandson of Bob & Penny Porter and his wife Fay sported a 1926 Model T Speedster while Marcelo Nobrega and his son cruising in a 1926 Model T 4-Door Sedan.



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Also walking in front of the cars were members sporting their new blue and white tshirts with **Zephyrhills Historical Association - Est. 1980** on the front and motto, **Preserving the History of Zephyrhills** on the back...



**Front:** Nathan Geiger, Gail Geiger, Jo White, Clereen Brunty  
**Back:** Terry Lindsey and Jerry Pricher

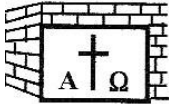
A gift shop was set up in the Women’s Club with Margie Partain, Betty O’Dell and Ken Cummings selling trinkets, history books and raffle tickets for donations for the association’s Rosemary Trottman Scholarship Fund where \$1,000 is presented to a Zephyrhills High School graduate each year in her honor.



Betty O’Dell & Margie Partain talk about ZHA & what donations are for while Ken sells a 50/50 raffle ticket.



Jim McElwee & Ken Cummings keep an eye on the money

<p><b>CornerStone</b>    <b>Baptist Church</b>          7th Street &amp; 8th Avenue          Come be our special guest          Coffee &amp; Donuts 10:30***** Worship 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.          Dr. Neal Resue—Pastor          * NealDoe1956@verizon.net</p>	<p>In Memory of  <b>Ryals Furniture Exchange</b>          And Great Parents  <b>Powell &amp; Maude Ryals</b>          From son James  <b>God Bless America</b></p>
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Winner of the 50/50 drawing was Sharon Lee, winter resident from Michigan who lives in Country Aire Village in Zephyrhills



Winner of a 3 month family membership to the YMCA valued at \$281.50, Patty Thompson of Zephyrhills.



Winner of a collection of gift certificates to various Zephyrhills cafés, restaurants, hair salons and entertainment valued at \$140 was Clereen Brunty, who donated them back to ZHA for a grab-bag.

Other parade entries included Ladies of the Oriental Shrine with another association member, Patty Thompson as High Priestess-elect riding in a convertible waving to the on-lookers.




Motorcycles, go-carts, bumper car bikes and clowns from the Egypt Shrine organization followed as well as floats of all kinds with Kings & Queens from local mobile home parks, Miss Pasco and her Court, United Daughters of the Confederacy and Sons of Confederate Veterans marching in uniform, high school and middle school bands, several church floats depicting the theme with their Unsung Heroes & Heroines riding or photos on the sides. The Zephyrhills News honored Jack Linville for his many years as owner of the Zephyr Egg Company as well as the City of Zephyrhills sporting their City Utilities heavy equipment tractors and department trucks. And there were several political figures pushing for votes, several little league players, peewee cheerleaders and other children's clubs followed shouting cheers and chants. Many of the young and young at heart went home with a neck full of beads or pockets full of candy.

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### Founders Day Has Soggy Start In 1949

A special section found in the Pasco Tribune, A part of the Tampa Tribune, March 4, 2008

Most folks who have spent more than a couple of years in Zephyrhills have heard the story of the first Founders Day Parade. It's become such a legend that memorabilia from that rainy day in 1949 is included in the Zephyrhills Depot Museum. And in recent years, the parade found national recognition in the Library of Congress. The parade unofficially started on a soggy September day in 1949. The Lions Club had planned what was to be called "Pioneer Day" but a threatening hurricane brought heavy rains and sent the Lions Club members seeking shelter.

While the men stayed dry, several members of the local Garden and Women's Clubs continued to dress in their pioneer clothes for the day and marched down Fifth Avenue in what would be remembered as the *first* Founders Day Parade. Marching to accordion tunes played by Doris Gorrecht, the women proceeded down Fifth Avenue. Out front were Elsie Daniels and Mary Gore. Their heads were through a double ox yoke but they still managed to keep step with the music while Willa Rice cracked her bullwhip. Rice, who later served as Zephyrhills' first and only woman mayor - 1957 through 1960 - was dressed as Simon Legree, the ruthless slave dealer from the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Longtime civic leader Alice Hall donned her grandmother's Civil War bonnet and black shirtwaist as she sported a mock sawed-off shotgun. Stopping at Bill Skinner's City Drugs, Hall leveled the shotgun and ordered drinks for the house. Passing her mother's old clothespin basket around the room, Hall gathered donations and the gang was off for their next hit at Neukom's Drug Store. Wondering what to do next, the women heard the whistle from the nearby railroad tracks and headed for another holdup. Hall stood in the middle of the tracks, waving her shotgun at the train, and "for whatever reason it didn't run me down," Hall said in a 1994 interview at the age of 89. The women boarded the train, passed the basket, and after thanking the donors, allowed the train to proceed.

The women raised \$39 that day giving 10 percent to the Lions Club. But the payoff has been big for Zephyrhills. The tale of that "first" Founders Day Parade is now listed in the Local Legacies project with the Library of Congress and can be found on the library's website: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/legacies/FL/200002872.html>

Former U.S. Rep. Michael Bilirakis contacted Betty Kennedy, then executive director of Main Street Zephyrhills, with hopes of getting the long-running Founders Day Parade as an official Local Legacies entry in the library's project. The project was conducted as part of the Library of Congress' bicentennial celebration. The year-long project documented creative arts, crafts and customs representing community life, as well as signature events, how communities observe local and national historical events and the occupations that defined a community's life. Documentation on Founders Day includes a program, newspaper supplement and photographs. However, the only photo on the website is of Tourist Club members marching in a Founders Day Parade. The other documentation is at the Library of Congress. The Founders Day Parade was moved to March the second year with hopes of no threatening hurricanes and to correspond with March 10, 1910, the date that Zephyrhills officially was founded.

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### Centennial Celebration

Next month we will include information on First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), in Zephyrhills, who just celebrated their first 100 years.



Christian Church, Zephyrhills, Fla.

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