

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 14 – Number 7

July 2012

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7th at the Zephyrhills Depot Museum, 39110 South Avenue. The business meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. and the program is at 7 p.m. Refreshments are always served.

Speakers



Our guest speaker for the July meeting was Jeff Miller, county historian and math teacher at Gulf High School. He presented a slide show of photographs which was very interesting. He began with the ones he knows the best, from the west side of the county. Some of us knew very little of the rich history there, and the show produced so much interest and discussion that Jeff had to rush a bit when he got around to the pictures from the east side of the county. We plan to have him return next summer to finish his presentation. It was a memorable evening, and we are very appreciative of the time and effort Jeff puts in with the Fivay.org site. As his ad below states he welcomes historical photographs from all who are willing to share. Our organization is proud of our association with Jeff Miller.

Our speaker for August will be Shae Davis, recently named as the new principal at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School in Zephyrhills. Ms. Davis began her career as a teacher at Stewart, a post she held for fifteen years. She later became assistant principal at Pineview Middle School, then principal at Thomas E. Weightman Middle School, and now returns home to be principal at Stewart. She will be talking about her career as an educator, her plans for her new post, and the volunteer program in Pasco County Schools. We look forward to hearing from her. 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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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 Maine-ly New England. We enjoyed both the food and the service immensely. 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! Come join us.

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Member Profile

Margie Ann Smith Partain

By Clereen Brunty

And the rest is history, such a famous line but so true about our member, Margie Partain. History blood runs through her veins as you will read below. Born Margie Ann Smith on September 25th in Tampa, FL to Woody and Thelma (Fischer) Smith. She comes from a family of 2 sisters and 2 brothers and was the oldest member. Her dad was born in High Springs, FL which is near Gainesville (our new City Manager, James Drumm, recently moved from High Springs where he was their City Manager). Her mother was born and raised in Thonotosassa, FL. After they wed they moved to the Tampa Bay area where her dad worked for the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department while her mother did babysitting, cleaned houses and did ironing for friends. Margie is the 5th generation living in the bay area.

Also, Margie's great-great-grandparents on her mother's side, William and Emmaline (Davis) Miley, were pioneers of the area living in the Thonotosassa where several Miley family members still live here. In an article in the Tampa Tribune dated August 23, 1992, "One day in 1846 Miley received word that the Seminole Indians were planning an attack. But his wife was in labor so he could not move the family to Fort Brooke which was near the Port of Tampa. That night, a pregnant Indian woman came to the door and was taken in by the Miley's. Before morning, both women had delivered babies. The local Indians apparently were grateful to the white settlers for the hospitality shown one of their tribe members, for thereafter the Miley family was left unmolested. The Miley born that night, Martin, grew up to fight in another conflict when he donned the rebel gray in the Civil War." As the family grew, members fanned out toward Temple Terrace, although the original land, on Miley Road in Thonotosassa, is still in the family. There is a sign "Miley Farm – Mileyville, Florida – Since 1907" hangs at the entrance showing where the Miley homestead was settled in the 1830's on Lake Thonotosassa. Family reunions are still held there.

The article also mentioned, "This land was the first orange grove in Hillsborough County. A U.S. Army general was leading a company through the area and stopped near Miley's property to rest. They were eating oranges that had been sent to them from Cuba. The seed the soldiers dropped sprouted. Miley transplanted and cultivated the seedlings into a grove. The same company of soldiers unfortunately became associated with another first. They were ambushed by Seminoles and became the first company of U.S. soldiers to be massacred by Indians". Miley was also instrumental in saving the citrus trees from the Great Freeze of 1894.

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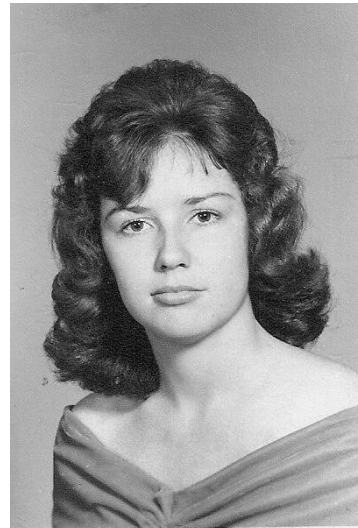
Back to Margie...she lived in Tampa most of her life and attended Oak Park Elementary, Franklin Junior High School and graduated from King High School in 1963



where she was in the National Honor Society and voted Most Outstanding Business Education student for that year. She was always chosen to represent the school for Sport Play Days at other schools. Margie enjoyed playing basketball, volleyball and tennis. She says, "In my mind I think I can still play these sports!"

She was a member of Grant Park Baptist Church and accepted Christ when she was 9 years old. Mrs. Virginia Cloer, who was their GA's (Girls Auxiliary) teacher, helped her learn many bible verses and the true meaning of Christianity. Even though Margie already had a boyfriend, a cute feller at the church, Bobby Partain, caught her eye and let it be known he was interested in her. Bobby had just completed 4 years in the Navy with his main tour of duty being in the Mediterranean. The Smith family knew the Partain family very well as they lived on one end of the street and them on the other. It wasn't long before Bobby and Margie fell in love and Pastor Raydell Almand, who had been her minister for almost 17 years, married them on January 14, 1963.

Margie continued her education and took several business courses at Hillsborough Community College such as Accounting, Bookkeeping and Marketing to further her career. Bobby went into the Merchant Marines in New Orleans hauling coal on a freighter for the Tampa Electric Company. He became 3rd Officer and had his own quarters. Margie was able to be with him on the ship touring around New Orleans area.



After graduation, Margie got a job working in the credit department of Lerner's Department Store for 4 years which was located in the Northgate Mall in Tampa. Another job she held was at the Armenia Avenue Florist where she took orders and inventoried the new shipments as they came in. She did this for about a year. For enjoyment, Bobby would race cars at Golden Gate Speedway where memorable racers like Buzzie Reutimann would run their late model cars. Many of the local folks would come and cheer them on

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In 1967 the birth of her first son, Scott, Margie became a stay-at-home mom. Bobby then went to work for Schlitz Brewery in Tampa as an engineer in the power plant and a couple of years later along came their second son, Daryn who completed their family. Margie kept busy taking care of the family and planning their vacations doing a lot of camping, fishing and swimming. They sometimes would see the same group of campers from all over Florida staying at the same campground. Many became great friends and would always invite friends to join them. They had a big old army tent with plenty of room for all.

Somehow she did find time to get her Real Estate license which she held for 12 years. Scott and Daryn are 1985 and 1987 graduates of Zephyrhills High School. Daryn was a “kicker” on the ZHS football team in 1986-87 school year.

Scott attended Pasco Hernando Community College and took Marketing and is now a District Manager for CVS for the past 26 years. He married Doris and they have a son, Chris, who is married to Amanda and is studying to be a Pharmacist in West Palm Beach. Daryn is married to Kelly and has a degree in Chemistry. They live in Dade City with 3 small children, Megan, 11, Ally, 9 and Jacob, 6 years old. He is supervisor of the lab at Coca-Cola Company in Tampa and has been there for almost 17 years.

Due to Bobby’s job transfer in 1992, they moved to Cartersville, GA. During the 10 years there she attended Woffords Baptist Church and did research on the church for their 150th celebration. Margie also worked at the polls for their county elections. In 2002 Bobby had retired from the Anheuser Busch Company.

Moving back to Zephyrhills, FL in 2002 she continues to keep busy not only with the grandchildren but is very involved in many local historical facets. She attended the First Baptist Church of Wesley Chapel which was formerly called Double Branch Baptist and was appointed as church historian for 3 years from 2003 – 2006. As a member of the churches “Busy Bees” group, she visited nursing homes and helped to make dolls that were given to the Shriners for their Children’s Hospitals as well as lap robes for the Veterans Home in Land O’Lakes. She still continues doing this today. She also works the polls for Kurt Browning, Pasco County Supervisor of Elections

Margie also was selected to be on the Pasco County Historical Preservation Committee. She volunteers at the History Center of the Florida Pioneer Museum in Dade City and at the Zephyrhills Depot Museum where she clips news articles of local interest, does filing and helps with tours when needed. She is also a member of the Pasco County Historical Society in Dade City and loves every minute of it. Margie also worked as curator at the Florida State Fair in the Cracker Country section. She would talk about the buildings and the history of the area. In 2010 she was asked to be on the Main Street of Zephyrhills Founders Day Committee to help plan the 100 year celebration.

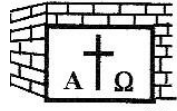
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She joined the Zephyrhills Historical Association around 2005 and has served as Secretary in 2008-2010 and 2012-2014. She has chaired the Scholarship Committee and was on the Audit Committee. Margie enjoys helping the group with fundraisers and the dinner night-out's once a month. She truly lives by the association's 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."*

Margie says her most favorite hobby is her Grandchildren! She keeps busy attending their school functions such as gymnastics and soccer. She babysits them in the summertime and often picks them up after school to help out. She babysat Jacob since he was 9 days old! She is not your typical grandmother who sits the children in front of a TV with a cartoon or video playing but takes real interest in teaching them all of Life's Lessons. She will play waitress and make them snacks, have treasure hunts, sets up a carnival atmosphere with a play fish pond, face painting, ring toss on the clown's nose, spin art, minute to win it trials and even set up a tent for camping. They would only watch TV just before going to bed while enjoying a huge bowl of popcorn. Sometimes they will bake cookies and once made homemade applesauce. She also enjoys gardening and takes the grandchildren around the yard to find bugs, butterflies and tell about her plants. Margie has a beautiful yard and takes pride in her flowers. I would say she definitely has a "green thumb". Now attending the Fellowship Baptist on Fort King Road in Zephyrhills, she helps in the kitchen when they hold their Pot Luck dinners once a month. Other hobbies of hers include crossword puzzles which she enjoys doing the Tampa Tribune one first thing every morning. She says her favorite color is "all" colors, her favorite book is the Bible especially the Book of Proverbs where it tells all of us how we should live our lives. Her favorite movie show is any of the Andy Griffith series and her favorite music is anything southern gospel and country. Her favorite restaurant in the area is Golden Corral but she enjoys them all!



<p>CornerStone  Baptist Church 7th Street & 8th Avenue Come be our special guest Coffee & 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 Ryals Furniture Exchange And Great Parents Powell & Maude Ryals From son James God Bless America</p>
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From the Desk of the Editor

I had planned to give a full report of this year’s ZHS Alumni & Friends Luncheon held, as always, on the last Sunday in June. Clereen sent along her full report to me, but there’s just not going to be enough room in this newsletter to include it all. I’d rather pass on an abbreviated report on the reunion luncheon than edit out any of what she has written in her member profile. So what I will attempt to do is pass along the highlights of the meeting and follow it with some pictures.

The rain and winds of Tropical Storm Debby came our way this year, so only about 150 die hard friends attended, but we had a great time. I opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. At my request Steve Van Gorden, ZHS principal and new Mayor of Zephyrhills, gave his report on the school before leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. In his report he mentioned the Odyssey of the Mind Team and their 11th place finish at the WORLD tournament. He talked about the Junior ROTC, which was ranked 28th in the nation, the ZHS Band receiving Superior ratings at State for the second year in a row, the Female Vocal Ensemble receiving a Superior at State, and Cadet Nancy Tran being selected as the top cadet for our school district during the annual summer camp.

Quite often in the past I have asked our dear and departed friend, Dick Tucker, to give the invocation and blessing. This year, quite appropriately, Justin Aultman, who is the Children’s Minister at Dick’s home church, Westside Baptist, did the honors, and we observed a moment of silence for Dick and all others who have gone on before us.

The oldest grad present this year was Norma Stone Forbes, Class of 1937. The person travelling the farthest was once again Linden Laviano, Class of 1957, coming from Lake Forest, California. The largest family present was the Forbes Family, and Judi Dunnigan, Class of 1973 won the 50/50 drawing.



Steve Van Gorden



Justin Aultman



Odyssey of the Mind Team



Cadet Nancy Tran

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Norma Stone Forbes, Class of '37, and Vance Forbes



The Forbes Family



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Class of 1957



Class of 1962



Class of 1972



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