

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 15 – Number 4

April 2013

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 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 will be served.

Speakers

Our speaker for the April meeting was Jean Murphy. She told the group how the McClain and Murphy families came to be in Zephyrhills, a bit about her husband Pat's history, and talked about all the folks who were around at the time and helped them feel at home. There was an obvious twinkle in her eye when she talked about their years in the house on Dairy Road (behind the current Florida Hospital), and about the parties that used to be held at the home of I. A. Krusen. The love she has for this town was unmistakable from the moment she started speaking. Jean Murphy is herself one of this city's treasures. All



who were in attendance enjoyed hearing her.

Our program for May will be a performance by the Chorus from Zephyrhills High School, under the direction of Luan Gore, a lifetime resident of our fair city and herself a graduate of Zephyrhills High School. She is also the daughter of Fred and Louise Gore, names which are no doubt familiar to those who know anything of the history of Zephyrhills. Come join us.

EAST 54 MINI STORAGE

Boat • RV Storage
Business Workshop Rental

813.788.5969

John Bolender

38461 CR 54 East • Zephyrhills, Florida 33542

Jeff Miller

Pasco County Historian

For a walk down memory lane visit

www.fivay.org

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.

 <p>Garage Doors, Inc. Kerry Ryman President</p> <p>36413 SR 54 • Zephyrhills, Florida 33541 Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-788-6773 E-mail: kerry@rymanconstruction.com License # GDI 09084</p> 	 <p>Zephyrhills Museum of Military History <i>A City of Zephyrhills Facility</i></p> <p>Open Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>39444 South Ave. (813) 780-0078</p>
--	---

Member Spotlight
Rex & Valentina (Trehearne) Hiatt

By Clereen Brunty




Rex is the proud son of Leslie and Ethel Hiatt, born in Hartford City, Indiana on February 12, 1930. Growing up the only boy and youngest of four siblings, Rhoena, Bernice and Thora were like mothers to him as he is 12 years younger than Thora. Attending the Upland Friends Church in Indiana, Rex was the church treasurer for a few years.

He attended Jefferson Township High School in Upland, Indiana and graduated in 1948. He even attended classes with his oldest niece, Evelyn.

Upland is a town in Jefferson Township, Grant County, Indiana. The population was 3,845 at the 2010 census. It is most notable for being the home of Taylor University, a Christian college with 1,920 students, as of 2011.

Rex enjoyed being a farmer most of his younger years but when his Uncle Sam told him that he should do more with his life because of all of his talents. He decided he would be an auto mechanic and also became a wholesale dealer with The Elmore Company where he sold anything from light bulbs, flashlight batteries and fuses to receptacles to the mom and pop stores as well as to the local schools.

He also worked as a salesman and retailer for Service Soft, a water softener business. Then the opportunity came when he was able to purchase his own water softener business which he operated for 17 years from 1978 – 1995.

<p>Shirts & Caps, founded in Zephyrhills in 1982, is now an internet-based national supplier of custom screen printed t-shirts. Still family owned and operated; find us online at www.ClassB.com!</p> 	<p>Artistic Expressions Custom Picture Framing specializing in the framing of needlework 5906 7th Street Zephyrhills, Florida 33542</p> <p>(813) 783-7731 Beverly Koehler Barnett, Owner E-Mail: aeframer@aol.com</p>
---	--

Rex was also President of the Upland Town Board for two years and Upland Town Manager for two years. He was sent to the Ivy Technical Community College for a few weeks to learn a trade in water treatment and received his licenses for Gravity Filter (GF), Pressure Filter (PF) and Distribution Systems (DS).

Now you wonder when Rex had time to date or have a social life. In the early 1950's he met Valentina "Val" Trehearne through her cousins who he had dated some but when he ran out of cousins he was introduced to Val who was visiting them from Michigan and it was love at first sight!



In December of 1951, Rex enlisted in the Air Force and served for 6 months, after which he received a hardship discharge to help with the family farm. Rex and Val dated for a couple of years, got married, and Rex was drafted by the Army. The hardship was over, but he thought it really just began. He served for 18 months as Special Category Assignment of the Army

Reassigned to the Air Force (SCARAF as it is referred to) and was stationed at Walters Air Force Base in Mineral Wells, TX. Rex & Val would continue to write letters back and forth to each other and anxious for the day they would be together again.



Rex and Val were married on June 12, 1954 in the Trinity Lutheran Church of Sturgis, Michigan. It was a very rainy day and as they said their "I DO"s, there was a loud clap of thunder which was like God giving his approval for a long happy life together! On their way to a week-long honeymoon at her family Lake James cottage in Angola, Indiana, they drove up to a stop light in St. Joe, Michigan when a man rammed into the back of their car. No one was hurt and the police let them go but cited the car behind. What a way to remember your honeymoon! — With an accident!

Dine In - Take Out
Delivery - Catering

The Sandwich Spot

39013 CR 54
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

"Best Cubans in Town"

813-783-6396

MAIN STREET Zephyrhills, Inc. 

5224 7th Street • Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Gina Granger
Executive Director

(813) 780-1414 Fax: (813) 783-3475

www.mainstreetzephyrhills.org
Email: info@mainstreetzephyrhills.org

They have a daughter, Melissa Etzen, and a grandson, Ryan, who live in Dickinson, Texas. Melissa is a medical research compliance officer for the University of Texas, Galveston Branch, to make sure the government follows the rules and regulations of medical services. While Melissa was attending high school, she was in the band. Rex was President of the Band Booster Club and would often carry their instruments to competitions as he had a closed in work van that was large enough to hold them. Ryan is currently attending the University of Texas College at Tyler taking medical courses.




Another venture Rex was involved in is the Upland Fire Department which he did for 20 years and was appointed as Assistant Chief. He also worked at the local election precinct for 49 years with half of the time acting as Inspector. Rex says he has been 'Jack-of-all-trades' and has enjoyed every adventure along the way.



Today he continues to volunteer as a transporter for cancer patients for Cancer Services of Grant County in Indiana. He has been driving patients to appointments since 2004 and is only reimbursed for his mileage he puts on his truck and car. Sometimes the trips could be close and at other times more time-consuming. Last July Rex was recognized in the Grant County Chronicle-Tribune for his undying service to this organization.

He became acquainted with the Cancer Services Volunteer Drivers Program when Val was ill. He said he started soon after she finished her own cancer treatments. Val says Rex has a good heart and praises him for taking the time to help others in need. Sometimes Val would ride with him to keep him company. It is also very helpful for the women patients to feel more comfortable on the ride. He said he took a patient to Fort Wayne more than 20 times and will occasionally take his laptop computer to help pass the time while he waits for to take them back home. Occasionally, Rex and Val will volunteer at health fairs and First Friday events.

<p>CHALET FLOWERS</p>  <p>5002 SEVENTH STREET ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA 33542 813-788-2874</p> <p>MARY ANN · KIM · TIM SANDERS</p>	<p>LITTLE ANGEL CHRISTIAN STORE</p> <p>5522 7th Street (behind Kentucky Fried Chicken) Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 Toll Free (800) 290-9650 (813) 782-7600</p> <p>labor of LOVE STAN & CHARLOTTE GRAMS</p> <p>BIG ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU - SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU</p>
--	--

One of Rex’s hobbies is collecting toy trains. He received his first train set when he was around 10 years old and now owns at least 20 small train engines and enjoys attending train shows. Each year he is invited to display his trains at the Upland Lions Club in Indiana and the Pioneer Museum in Dade City at their Train Shows. Rex owns a 1940’s era Lionel toy train and said he would like to build a miniature model of the town of Upland. He and Val spend winters in Zephyrhills where he also helps to maintain the model trains at the Depot Museum.




Each August, Rex & Val would carry a trailer for the Upland Lions Club to Portland, Indiana and sell Hawaiian Shaved Ice at the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Show “Home of the World’s Largest Antique Engine & Tractor Show”. And as if this not enough to keep Rex & Val busy, they also volunteer, when needed, at the Upland Lions Club delivering meals on Wednesdays at noon to the homebound.

Even though Rex doesn’t have a favorite color he enjoys listening to country music – the old classic kind – on the radio station WCJC, a live broadcast from Marion, Indiana. He enjoys eating at the Village Inn as well as gardening at his Indiana and Florida home. If you asked him his favorite past time he would say “tinkering” at anything and loves taking photos of family and friends.

Now for the heartrending story of Valentina (Trehearne) Hiatt who was born on a January 12, 1933 in Daugavpils, Latvia, which is in Europe, to Elizabeth & Vladimar Patronowich. The family moved out in the country in Riga, Latvia before the war started. About 4 years or so later, the family moved to downtown Riga and lived in an apartment. At age 6, the Russian government invaded Latvia just before WWII started, took her father to Russia and he was never heard from again.

While living in Riga, her mother got a job working in a bakery. WWII had started and Val remembers only attending 1st grade when her mother was killed by the Germans during all the bombings. Val was taken in and cared for by her neighbors. The German soldiers searched many of the apartments in the area where Val was staying and told them they would be coming after them in 3 days and to not hide as they would be taking them to Germany.

Many of the families were taken by the German government by boat and then by train box cars to Gera, Germany which was an industrious town on the Eastern section. They were all put in a displaced persons camp or DP camp which is a temporary facility for displaced persons coerced into forced migration.

<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>
--	--



She was responsible for getting and bringing back food to her camp families which was several blocks to walk to the main kitchen. The city was bombed often and Val lived there for a several years under terrifying conditions. As a child this was a traumatic life to live.

One day the members of the DP camp were ordered by the German Police to follow them as they were trying to leave the country. Not knowing where they were going, they did as they were told. There was continual bombing with lots of walking, walking, and more walking in the countryside for at least three days. They were very hungry, as they had no food or water. They would rest at night and often they would see a house and would go up to it. They would ask for food and water, and at times they did receive them.

All at once the German Police were no longer around. Unaware of what was really happening, the

families continued walking and came upon some American soldiers. The soldiers not knowing who they were and why they were there, used one of their own who could speak German and found out the families were being forced by the German Police to go somewhere unknown. Understanding their situation, the American soldiers told them to stay put and gave them their own rations for nourishment. They found out the German Police were taking them to a huge incinerator but the American soldiers had saved them from death!



They were boarded on a truck by the United Nations and taken to Wurzburg, Germany to another DP camp with other Latvians and other nationalities for several months before the US government realized Val had no parents. She was placed for five weeks in an orphanage in the country of primarily polish children and was then taken to Heidelberg, Germany where she was tested to make sure she was in good health and had no diseases before they would allow her to go to the United States.

She then boarded a boat headed for the United States and met a Lithuanian woman who supervised several of the DP camp children & families including small babies. Val helped her with the children as it took eight days for the trip to New York. Then she was placed in another orphanage for only a month when a nice family adopted her. The sister of the adopted parents, who was attending a college in Chicago, was also a worker for a Lutheran charity service, had heard about the orphan children.

<p style="text-align: center;">WATSON CLINIC <small>LLP</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dermatology at Zephyrhills</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rick L. Moore, M.D. Dermatology</p> <p>6901 Medical View Lane Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 www.WatsonClinic.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Office: 813-788-7867 Fax: 813-783-7187</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dependable Service Satisfaction Guaranteed Reasonable Rates Licensed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NATHAN C. GEIGER Lawn Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">813-782-7577</p>
--	--

Knowing her sister wanted another child, as they had a 6 year old son, told her to meet them at the Lutheran Headquarters in Detroit, Michigan to be introduced. Val was about 13 years old when she was adopted by Bill and Alma Trehearne of Sturgis, Michigan. Val’s younger brother, Paul Trehearne, currently lives in Salem, South Carolina with his wife.

Val graduated from Sturgis High School in 1953 and was a member of the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) where she enjoyed all sports, especially volleyball. She also was on the yearbook committee and in journalism. Val got a job at a telephone company in Sturgis, Michigan operating the “plug-in” style system – she would say “number please” and did this for a few years. She was also an office clerk for Kirsches in Michigan, which is a company that made blinds and curtain treatments. After Val & Rex were married, she attended Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana for two years where she earned her Associated of Arts degree as a Librarian. Living in Upland, Indiana, a position became available and Val was asked if she would like to be Director of the Library in Upland, which she did for 20 years. Now she is enjoying her retirement.



Val was a member of the Lutheran Church in Sturgis and was in the youth group as well as the church ladies group. She enjoys flowers and says roses are her favorite. She has an awesome collection of cookie cutters primarily the metal shapes kind. Her collection count is over 1,000 which some she hangs on her wall at home and some she uses while baking cookies with her daughter, Melissa, when she was a child.

Her favorite color is blue, her favorite song is God Bless America, her favorite book is the Bible and her favorite eating place is Red Lobster. She enjoys romance movies, musicals including piano and classical styles such as Sound of Music.

Rex and Val have been active members of the Zephyrhills Historical Association since 2004.



Coming soon — the story of our Depot Museum, pictured here in 1927

<p>Rinnai</p> <p>BAHR'S</p> <p>Lenny Bahr Kevin Bahr Owners</p> <p>PROpane GAS AND A/C INC.</p> <p>4441 Allen Rd. Zephyrhills, FL 33541 Ph. (813) 782-5013 bahrs.ac@tampabay.rr.com • www.bahrspropanegasandac.com</p> <p>Amana LATEST AND LARGEST AND LARGEST</p> <p>Sales Service Installation</p> <p>15229 US Hwy 301 Dade City, FL 33523 Ph. (352) 567-7678</p>	<p>Cutting Edge Beauty Salon</p> <p>Joni Gauger Stylist / Owner</p> <p>6132 Ft. King Rd. Zephyrhills, Florida 33542</p> <p>813-782-4001 or 813-469-3437</p> 
---	---