

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 15 – Number 6

June 2013

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 2nd 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

There was no speaker at our June meeting. Instead we saw a demonstration of our new projector and screen with slide shows of The Depot Museum and membership events.

Jeff Miller will be our speaker for the July meeting. You may remember that he was our speaker last July but ran out of time just as he was getting to his pictures from our side of the county. He's a serious historian, and I'm quite sure those who attend will be happy they did so.

And don't forget, coming up this weekend:



**43rd ANNUAL ZHS ALUMNI,
FACULTY & FRIENDS REUNION**

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2013

**ZEPHYRHILLS LIONS CLUB
5827 DEAN DAIRY ROAD
ZEPHYRHILLS, FL**

**11:00 A.M. – REGISTRATION BEGINS
1:00 P.M. – LUNCHEON
2:00 P.M. – ANNOUNCEMENTS & RECOGNITIONS**

Thursday, July 25th, is our Ruby Tuesday Scholarship Fundraiser

We are meeting up at 5 p.m. on that day, but you can come anytime.
Contact Clereen Brunty for flyer (20% of sales goes to scholarship fund)

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Jeff Miller

Pasco County Historian

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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.

 <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>ABBOTT STATION RESTAURANT 813 322 3686 5327 Gall Blvd. Zephyrhills, FL 33542 www.AbbottStation.com</p>
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Member Spotlight
Barbara Hubbard Ohman

By Clereen Brunty, Margie Partain, & Patty Thompson

October 14, 2012, ZHA members, Margie, Patty and Clereen had the pleasure of visiting with the oldest “charter member” of the Zephyrhills Historical Association still living, Barbara Hubbard Ohman. She now lives at The Edwinola in Dade City.



The Edwinola is a historic 1912 hotel building being used as a retirement residence, with independent and assisted living apartments. The hotel once offered Model T shuttle service from the local Seaboard Railroad station. In 2012, the building's 100th anniversary was celebrated. A three-story building with Doric columns, wrap-around porches and a Mansard roof, it was named after owners Edwin and Lola Gasque. After World War II it struggled to compete against newer hotels and was converted into a residence for the Gasque family in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1975 it was purchased by Marlene and Robert Sumner, who turned it into a restaurant. In the 1980s it became a retirement home with an 8-story building attached. It is located at 14235 Edwinola Way.

<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>
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Barbara Hubbard Ohman was born on August 22, 1924 in Plymouth, Michigan to Homer and Gertrude Hubbard. She and her 2 siblings were raised in Wayne, Michigan where they attended school. She graduated from Wayne High School in 1942.



Growing up in Michigan, Barbara's dad owned a coal company. She remembers living next to a railroad track and as kids they would put a penny on the tracks for the train to flatten them. They would come out in all shapes. She also remembers sliding down the snow banks and having fun on the family camping trips in central Michigan. Her mom was an interior decorator and loved dressing up many of the homes in her town. In Wayne, her mom also planted many apple, pear and peach trees and enjoyed the luscious fruit.

Barbara's mom's family was of the early settlers in Plymouth, Michigan and there is even a street named after them. Her grandmother, Hilmer, was an artist and would often go to the local park and paint scenic views. Barbara had a brother, James H. "Jimmy" who died at a young age and a younger sister, Gretchen, who currently lives in California.

While working in a chicken hatchery keeping records, Barbara attended Michigan State College taking Liberal Arts courses and studied agriculture. She learned how to number each chick at birth by clipping a ring on his or her foot that noted who its dad and mom were. She would even enter some into the state fair.

Barbara married Oscar Ohman, an electrician, and they have 3 children, Janet, Marilyn and Russell. They owned Ohman Electric where Barbara kept the books. The family liked to camp and Oscar and Barbara would enjoy canoeing.

During WWII she joined the Women's Land Army and helped maintain the crops. Barbara has donated several items to the Zephyrhills WWII Barracks Museum.

The Ohman family moved to Zephyrhills in 1975 carrying 3 goats in their car. People would see them in the window and would ask, "What kind of dogs are they?" Barbara even got a job working at the Chamber of Commerce in town.

Back home she attended the Congregational Methodist Church where her mother was a Sunday School teacher. When they moved to Florida she would often attend the First United Methodist Church in Zephyrhills.

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Barbara joined the Zephyrhills Historical Association in 1980 when it was formed under the leadership of Rosemary Trottman and other charter members including Mayor Robert Johnson, Lillian Graham, Alice Hall, Christine A. Paris, Vera C. Morrill, Arlene Thornbury, Monica Piat, Lois C. Miller, Steve Spina, Geraldine Kerr and Janet Cruver. As stated in the minutes of the first meeting, “The primary purpose of this Association is to research and prepare materials for inclusion in a sequel to Mrs. Trottman’s book, “History of Zephyrhills 1821 – 1921”, covering the period from 1921 to the present time and to preserve the history of Zephyrhills. Barbara has held the positions of Secretary and Treasurer.




She remembers riding in the Founder’s Day Parade with the historical group along with Steve Spina who was also City Manager at that time. Alice Hall had given her a “duster”, sort of like an apron, that she wore over her clothes while riding in an open car.

In 1988, Barbara along with Lillian Graham, Oscar Ohman, Kenneth Higginson and Jon Stephenson visited the last home that Rosemary Trottman lived in located on 6th Avenue. The house was built in 1910 and in the 1930’s was the home of J.W. Boothe who owned a crate mill on Hwy. 301. It is now owned by Bobbie & Jim McLeod.

The Zephyrhills Historic Home Tour was created by the Historical Association in 2008 with members identifying several homes and buildings of historic value. There are approximately 400 historic homes in Zephyrhills. The association chose homes built before 1935 for tour purposes to keep in close proximity. The homes on the tour are ones that owners so graciously agreed to participate.



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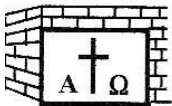
One of the projects the Zephyrhills Historical Association did was to raise money to purchase a granite bench to be placed in Zephyr Park in memory of all who served our country in days gone by. In this picture are Rosie McKell, Dick Tucker, Margie Partain, Genevieve Smith, Emily Mastin, unknown member, Lee Reynolds and Barbara Ohman



Some of Barbara’s favorite things she like to do is gardening, crossword puzzles, playing cards, music as she plays the piano a little and had played the clarinet in the school band along with her sister, Gretchen, who played the trumpet. She also likes history, dancing and musical movies. She also loves cats and collects artificial bugs. When she was young she used to enjoy water skiing and says she had a bathing cap to match each of her swimsuits.

Her daughter, Janet and son-in-law, Jim Phinney live in Dade City and Janet works at Walmart and has been an employee with all 3 stores in Zephyrhills, old and new. Remember when Walmart was on Hwy. 54 West where Allen Road Mini Storage and Habitat for Humanity building is? Then it moved to the plaza where Bealls is located today on Hwy. 301 until the 24 hour super store was built just less than a mile away.

We really enjoyed visiting with Barbara and loved her sense of humor. We are sure she has many more stories to tell and hope to one day visit her again to hear more.

<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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Memories of My Kindergarten Teacher

by Jon R. Ferguson

Mary Frances Granger owned and operated “Mary Frances Granger’s Child’s Garden of Learning” next door to the home on 11th Street, Zephyrhills, Pasco County, FL, which she shared with her parents, Frank and Ida C. Granger. Miss Granger was born on March 6, 1884 in Somerset, Pennsylvania. She was an only child. She never married.

By 1930 the family had moved to Zephyrhills. Frank Granger built the furniture used in the Kindergarten. The “school” was divided into two rooms. The “necessary” was an outhouse between the home and the school. I can remember locking myself in there once and Mrs. Granger, who was quite elderly, almost broke the door down before I could get out!

My twin, Jim, and I were born in rural Zephyrhills, off Highway 54, on what later was known as Ryals Road. We were the youngest of five children of Lawrence Sumer Ferguson, Sr., and Tennie Velma Barber. We were nine years younger than our nearest brother. We had developed a “twin lingo” and got along fine between ourselves, but no one could understand us. Now, can you imagine having two cute little boys about four or five years old that couldn’t speak an intelligible language? This was during the Great Depression. Money was not available for a specialist who could attempt the challenge of teaching us, but Miss Granger “took us on”, in about 1939 or 1940.



I recall sitting near her slate where she would write a word and repeat it several times, hoping that we would catch on that we should say it out loud. She provided play time with the other students. I really believe that is where we gained the confidence to learn how to converse so that others could understand us.

Our house was at 712 Third Street. The kindergarten was across town on 11th Street. Transportation was not available, so we walked. Often Miss Granger would walk with us as far as the railroad and across U. S. Highway 301. When we were “well taught” I thought that I could read the crossing arms at the railroad. I read it as “Watch out for teachers”. To everyone else it read: “Watch out for the cars”.

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The kidnapping of the Lindberg child was quite a frequent topic during this period. He was Charles Lindberg, Jr., but was called “Little Jon”. On day Miss Granger drove us home, probably to collect her pay, but in the conversation with mother, she asked if it wouldn’t be nice to drop the “h” in John so that the twins would have the same number of letters in their name? That was accomplished. We did not have official birth certificates at the time of our birth at home, but obtained them when Jim wanted to play basketball as a junior in high school. So then, it became official, Jon and Jim had the same number of letters in their name. Smile. I’m sure that they never thought about spelling Jim “Jihm”.

I almost forgot the best part: Jim and I graduated from Kindergarten and skipped first grade. That speaks volumes for the ability of Miss Granger.

After I had moved to Jacksonville, I heard that the kindergarten was closed and that the furniture was being sold. I bought three of the chairs for Jim and three for me, so that our children could have one each. None of them survived our children’s childhood!

Miss Granger was ten years older than our mother. When she dressed to go out she wore blue...any shade of blue...all shades of blue. She apparently thought that blue matched, so wear it. She lived to April 2, 1971. She died in Plant City at age 87.

Origins of Place Names in Pasco County, Florida

From Jeff’s site at www.fivay.org

Wire Road

According to a 1922 article by C. B. Taylor, “By the way, the route which this first telegraph linetook is known as ‘The Wire Road’ to this day, though the present Wire road does not quite follow the original route all the way.” According to J. A. Hendley, “The first telegraph office in this section was located at Tuckertown. The federal government built a line from Ocala to Tampa via Tuckertown along the public highway which is known to this day as the Wire road.” This is the widely accepted origin of the name, although maps from the period when Hendley wrote this show that Wire Road did not run to Richland (Tuckertown) but instead took the route of today’s Fifth St. through Dade City from approximately its intersection north of town with River Road of today. Exiting Dade City to the south, Wire Road took the route of today’s U. S. 301 from Dade City to Greer, with an eastward jog at Greer (off from 301 of today), then south into Zephyrhills. The latter part of this route is still today named Wire Road.

The name Wire Road is found in County Commission minutes of Oct. 10, 1887, when commissioners approved a new road stretching from the Lanier Bridge to Wire Road. “Petition No. 2. Presented by J. R. Sumner for road from bridge on Withlacoochee River in Sec. 32, Tp 24, R22 to the Wire Road.” In 1887 telegraph lines apparently did not exist along Wire Road.

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