

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 15 – Number 9

September 2013

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1st 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 September was Bob Howell, retired Police Chief of the Zephyrhills Police Department. He talked about his early years in high school, but spent most of the time talking about his experience in various positions with the department. He described his time, spanning forty years, as rewarding and enjoyable. See the Zephyrhills Free Press article on Bob's presentation on page 3.

Our speaker for October will be Brantley Smith, lifelong resident and businessman. He's the creator, owner, and operator of Silverado Golf & Country Club in Zephyrhills, and he has proven always to be a great friend of the Zephyrhills community and Zephyrhills High School. We're quite confident that he'll have some stories to relate in regard to all the changes that have taken place in the time he's been around, and he's likely to share with us some interesting facts about Silverado. We look forward to it!

Thursday, September 26th, 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)

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. Garage Doors Sales & Service</p> <p>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>813 322 3686</p> <p>5327 Gall Blvd. Zephyrhills, FL 33542 www.AbbottStation.com</p>
---	---

I Enjoyed Every Minute

Zephyrhills Free Press September 5, 2013

Story and photos by Geoff Fox



There was a catch in Bob Howell's throat.

The former Zephyrhills Police Chief, who retired in 2002, was talking to the Zephyrhills Historical Association on Tuesday evening about his friend and mentor, former Police Chief Bill Eiland when Howell's voice cracked and he paused briefly.

Eiland had hired Howell, after Howell twice left behind football scholarships at The University of Tampa, and the men had become close. Howell was recalling when Eiland was stricken with cancer in 1995.

"He was the best boss I ever had," Howell said. "He let you do your own thing."


Howell's presentation to about 20 members of the historical association was mostly light-hearted.

"(Howell) had a long history with the city and with the police department," said Jerry Pricher of the historical association. "I admire him, and I'm just glad to have him here tonight."

An Augusta, Ga., native, Howell said his family moved to Zephyrhills in 1954, just before his junior year in high school, because his mother didn't like the harsher Georgia weather.

After quitting the University of Tampa football team, Howell said that he spent two years in the U.S. Army before returning to work for his father's plumbing company in Zephyrhills. Unfortunately, he said, there wasn't much building going on.

One idle afternoon, Howell and Chief Eiland struck up a conversation. "He asked me if I'd come to work for the police department, and he had a job opening," Howell said. "I went over there and I was intrigued. I'd never in my life thought of it."

<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>
--	--

Howell started his career with the Zephyrhills Police in 1962. At the time, he said, there were about five officers on the force, some of whom worked part-time.

Back then, there two traffic lights in town, he said, one at South Avenue and one at Fifth Avenue. He said that his training consisted of an officer showing him how to turn the traffic lights off and on. "That was the beginning of my police career," he said.

Throughout Howell's chat, he showed pictures of old police department staff line-ups, which grew steadily through the years. He also had mementoes that had been dutifully cut out and saved by his wife Barbara.

Howell remembered one occasion when one of the dispatchers wanted to see what it was like to be a police officer. The dispatcher kept bugging him to let him drive a squad car, Howell said.

Finally, Howell relented one evening. "I told him he could drive the car around, but not to pull anybody over," he said.

Several minutes later, the man called. "He says, 'I have somebody pulled over,'" said Howell.

The "suspect" was drunk and wouldn't follow the dispatcher's orders.

"Well," Howell said, "can you physically get him and put him into the patrol car?"

"Oh, no," the dispatcher said. "He's bigger and stronger than me."

Howell eventually got "one of the town drunks" out of his holding cell and had him sit by the phone, while Howell went out to secure the scene. The crowd laughed at the story.

Through his years at the department, Howell worked about every job. "I was a dispatcher, police officer, road sergeant, detective, captain and then chief," he said.

He said that Zephyrhills Police Department was one of the first to use computers. "Computers were a good thing," he said. "In the '80s and '90s, we were one of the best (agencies) in the county as far as being friendly and our response times. If someone stole your geranium off your front porch, we responded, talked to you and tried to solve the crime. We had a good rapport with the community."

Howell said with pride that there never has been an unsolved murder in Zephyrhills, and he lauded the work currently being done by Police Chief David Shears and his force.

"I just feel blessed to have been involved with the police department," Howell said. "I love retirement, but I had a wonderful career. I enjoyed every minute."



<p>Dine In - Take Out Delivery - Catering</p> <p>The Sandwich Spot</p> <p>39013 CR 54 Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p> <p>"Best Cubans in Town"</p> <p>813-783-6396</p> 	<p>Party with Patty Cake Clown</p> <p>Parties for children or for the young at heart</p> <p>Call Patty at 813-780-8559 for additional information</p> <p>Featuring Balloon Animals</p> <p>Member of Zephyrhills Historical Association, Ladies Shrine, and First United Methodist Church</p> <p>Retired Teacher</p> 
--	--

<p>WATSON CLINIC <small>LLP</small> <i>Dermatology at Zephyrhills</i></p> <p>Rick L. Moore, M.D. Dermatology</p> <p>6901 Medical View Lane Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 www.WatsonClinic.com</p> <p>Office: 813-788-7867 Fax: 813-783-7187</p>	 <p>MAIN STREET <i>Zephyrhills, Inc.</i></p> <p>5224 7th Street • Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p> <p>Gina Granger Executive Director</p> <p>(813) 780-1414 Fax: (813) 783-3475</p> <p>www.mainstreetzephyrhills.org Email: info@mainstreetzephyrhills.org</p>
---	--

Marshal to Constable to Chief Over the Years

By: Clereen Brunty

I spent some time going through microfilm of Zephyrhills News articles at the City Library to try to uncover the mystery behind our town’s lawmen. There have been many stories as to who was the first Chief of Police, but in reviewing not only the articles printed in the Zephyrhills News over the years and reading the first City Council minutes, I find a varying list. In the early years when Abbott Station was founded, Federal Marshals were appointed to defend our town but may have only held the positions for a short time when someone else would be appointed.



So this story is going to be based on what was printed by Bernie Y. Wickstrom, Editor of the Zephyrhills News. It also includes the Open House of a new facility on 9th Street where our longest standing Police Chief, William R. “Bill” Eiland, gives us an overview of his tenure with the department and how quickly the community grew over the years.

Zephyrhills News — July 9, 1981

Although Abbott Station changed its name to Zephyrhills in 1910, it did not officially become an incorporated town until 1914. Prior to that date law enforcement, what there was of it, was by a Federal Marshal such as Marshal Dillon of “Gunsmoke,” although his activities were much less exciting and of such little note that there is almost no history of law enforcement of the time.

Since 1914 City Council annually appoints a Town Constable or Chief of Police to serve for one year. It has been only recently recalled in detail that Zephyrhills was once a “walled” city – well, not actually walled, but fenced in. That was because in the early years and into late in the 1920’s, Florida had an “open range” policy similar to that in the wild west, cattle grazing virtually at will and livestock ownership determined by the brand.

One of the primary jobs of the Town Constable – in addition to providing overnight housing for those tempted by demon orange wine to overindulgence – was the impounding of stray cattle which might happen to wander into town, either breaking down the perimeter fence or by coming in through one of the four compass gates. According to Mrs. Rosemary Trotman, local historian, at one time in the early 20’s there was a bitter dispute as city officials aired the complaints of cattlemen that the Zephyrhills Constable was actually driving cattle into town, inside the fence, just so he could collect the fees for their later release.

<p>CHALET FLOWERS</p>   <p>5002 SEVENTH STREET ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA 33542</p> <p>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>
--	--


There were two hold-ups of the American State Bank in 1914... The role of the Constable changed title in the decades which followed. As automobiles became faster and speed control arrived, the Constable was permitted to deputize certain citizens to help maintain the peace during celebrations, or in case of some larger problem, and many began to call him “Chief.”

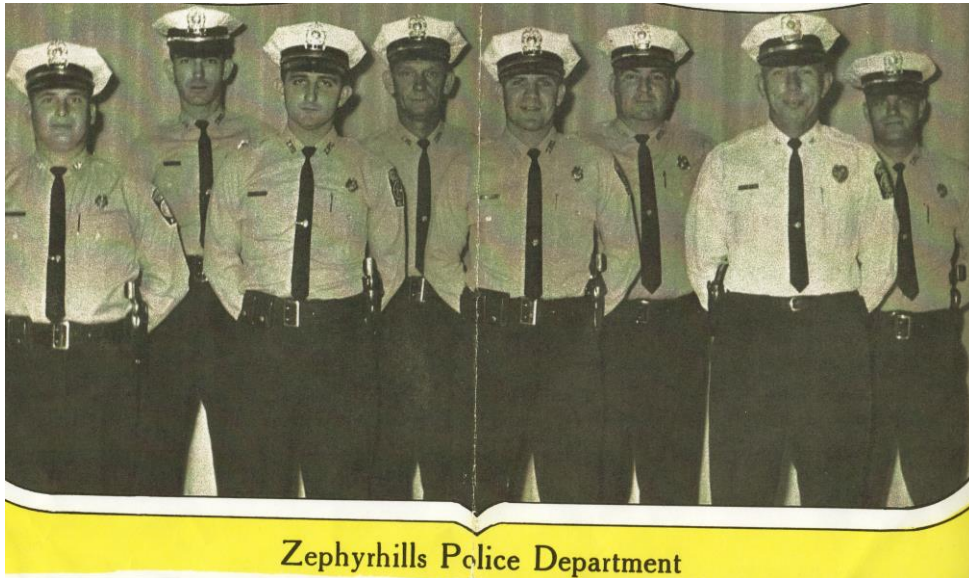
Our Community’s Top Lawmen — 1910 to current

- 1910 – 1913 Federal Marshals
- 1914 – 1924 Constable Peter E. Bobb
- 1924 – 1929 Constable “Chief” Jack “Hawkshaw” Jackson
- 1930 – 1937 Constable Jimmy Boggs
- 1938 – 1940 Constable Frank Forbes
- 1941 – 1944 Constable Jack Shernau
- 1945 Chief of Police Jim Marlow
- 1946 Chief of Police D. K. Lafferty
- 1947 Chief of Police Henry “Hank” Taylor
- 1948 – 1951 Chief of Police Frank Forbes
- 1951 Acting Chief Frank Norton
- 1951 – 1952 Chief of Police Frank Eiland
- 1953 Chief of Police Paul McQuadie
- 1954 – 1959 Chief of Police R. W. Wells
- 1959 Chief of Police Lance Edgeman
- 1960 Chief of Police N. N. Chamberlain
- 1960 – 1961 Chief of Police Ed Wiseman
- 1961 – 1976 Chief of Police W. R. “Bill” Eiland
- 1976 (7 weeks) Chief of Police Phil Ratliff
- 1976 – 1996 Chief of Police W. R. “Bill” Eiland
- 1996 – 2002 Chief of Police Robert G. “Bob” Howell
- 2002 – 2003 Chief of Police Jerry Freeman
- 2003 – 2008 Chief of Police Russell Barnes
- 2008 – current Chief of Police David Shears



David Shears

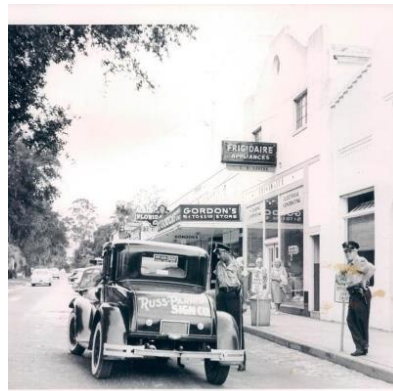
<p>CornerStone  Baptist Church 7th Street & 8th Avenue Come be our special guest Coffee & Donuts 10:30***** Worship 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Dr. Neal Resue—Pastor * NealDoe1956@verizon.net</p>	<p>In Memory of Ryals Furniture Exchange And Great Parents Powell & Maude Ryals From son James God Bless America</p>
--	--



Medford Griffin, Jim Pollock, Preston Strickland, Paul Davis, Glenn Miller, Bob Howell, Bill Eiland, Larry Rickard
Photo courtesy of Polly Gill



Chief Wells' car in front of Station



Lance Edgeman and Frank Norton



Randy Belasic, Joe Rinaldo, Chad Folsom, Rob Perrault, Chief Russell Barnes

<div data-bbox="304 1727 463 1814" data-label="Text"> <p>Patty Thompson 813-780-8559</p> </div> <div data-bbox="601 1771 685 1869" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="500 1869 757 1945" data-label="Text"> <p>NOTARY PUBLIC PERFORMS MARRIAGES</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="887 1705 1071 1760" data-label="Text"> <p>Dependable Service Reasonable Rates</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1177 1705 1401 1760" data-label="Text"> <p>Satisfaction Guaranteed Licensed</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1001 1808 1283 1869" data-label="Text"> <p>NATHAN C. GEIGER Lawn Service</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1073 1913 1209 1943" data-label="Text"> <p>813-782-7577</p> </div>
--	---

**Zephyrhills City Council Highlights
The First Few Years**

By: Margaret Seppanen

November 1914 – Meeting to incorporate the town attended by 77 registered voters living within the proposed corporate limits. Sixty-five men voted FOR, 12 voted AGAINST. Election held immediately naming W. C. Boggs as mayor, five aldermen – Nathaniel Lester Wright, S. J. Lyons, Adrean D. Penry, S. G. Allen and W. J. McLaughlin. Peter O. Bobb appointed as Marshal. P.T. Williams – City Clerk

December 1914 – P. T. Williams (clerk) will act as Town Assessor at 25c per hour

February 1915 – Town census complete – 552 inhabitants – P. T. Williams paid \$28.50 (114 hours) for taking census. Marshal will be furnished with revolver and handcuffs - \$9.00. Floyd Gibson appointed night watch for Town, will be paid \$3 the first of each month.

April 1915 – Paid George Pomeroy 75c for hog trough. Clark & Fuller paid \$39.20 for building jail and pound

May 1915 – Marshal to collect town taxes

June 1915 – Adrean Penry paid \$1.50 for quilt at jail

August 1915 – G. B. DeWers paid \$3 for painting four ten-mile per hour signs

September 1915 – Marshal to notify Thomas Bill that his bull has been declared dangerous to public safety and he must take care of it.

November 1915 – Council members, City Clerk, and Marshal will all receive \$1 a night for attending meetings (2 meetings each month).

January 1916 – S. J. Lyons to investigate the matter of a water system for the Town.

February 1916 – John Bennett asked to close his poolroom saying it has become objectionable.

March 1916 – L. G. Chancey paid \$3 for setting out three oak trees

April 1916 – Property owned by H. G. Turner unsanitary and a menace to health of Town. Marshal to confer with Mr. Fiksdale with reference to punishing his boys inhumanely.

November 1916 – Polls open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May 1917 – Floyd A Gibson appointment Marshal. Dr. W. C. Rice appointed City Health Officer – will be paid \$4 a month for services.

June 1917 – Appoint two guards to guard City Jail at night. Mr. Epler asked for electric light to be placed at corner of 5th Avenue and 12th Street – a 60-watt light will be placed there. A street bar door bought for City Jail.

July 1917 – Purchase stop watch and badge for Marshal. Mayor instructed to remit \$5 fine imposed on Mrs. Annis L. Boggs for speeding. (Mayor Boggs wife or mother?)

November 1917 – 100 ballots printed for election.

February 1918 – Council wants to pay for lights in City Hall each night they are used instead of paying a fat rate of \$1.50 per month.

March 1918 – Petition presented to council signed by 240 citizens against the sale of cigarettes or cigarette material in the City. Reward of \$2 offered for conviction of party or parties who removed the speed limit signs.

June 1918 – Petition to prohibit stock running at night signed by 64 citizens.

<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> 
---	---