

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 16 – Number 7

July 2014

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> 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 include drinks, which are provided, and food brought in to share by members.

### Speakers

Our speaker for the July meeting was Mike Mira, who owns and operates two restaurants in Zephyrhills, Maine-ly New England and the Island Breeze Cuban Café. Mike did talk a bit about his history here and about his two restaurants, but the bulk of his presentation had to do with The Rotary Club, an organization for which he has great passion. He shared great insights for us about the history of the organization and about the many great things they've done over the years in our community, in our country, and across the world. We enjoyed his presentation greatly!

Louie Holt will once again be our program in August. The last time he was on the program he displayed about ninety pictures from just one of the folders he has prepared of historical pictures of Zephyrhills. He will be showing a different group of pictures this time. He continues to work on putting all this together so we will have a variety of programs to offer as an association. This is what we bought the equipment for two years ago, and we are thankful that Louie has taken on this responsibility. If his last presentation is any sort of guide we will have a fun and informative meeting. Come join us.

### On Losing a Friend



We lost a true friend of the association on June 29, 2014 at about 7 p.m. Cris White served in many capacities over the years, most recently as a board member, but he had just stepped down in January from the office of president. It seemed to many of us that the man never met a stranger. He brought good cheer wherever he went and immediately made friends with those whom he contacted. He was always willing to pitch in and help, whatever the need. Those shoes are going to be mighty tough to fill!

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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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**P.E.O. Visit to Depot Museum**




Historical members, Sandy Pricher and Clereen Brunty were hostesses to the ladies of P.E.O. Chapter BG of Zephyrhills, Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at the Depot Museum. They are also members of the P.E.O. organization as well. Other historical members, Louie Holt, presented a slideshow of old photos of Zephyrhills while Betty O'Dell managed the Gift Shop.

The ladies enjoyed their tour of the museum provided by curator, Victoria DeGeorge, who gave details of the model train display and artifacts. As a special surprise to the depot, Paul & Wanda Herrmann of Dade City, donated a push lawnmower originally built by the Reutimann's in the 1920's with a Maytag washing machine engine. It even has the patented plate on top showing made in Zephyrhills, Fla. Also, Luan Gore donated a banner from the Zephyrhills High School Marching Band, which we believe was hand made by historical member, Irene Dobson, in the early 1970s. Visit the Zephyrhills Depot Museum for an enjoyable trip back in time. These were the simpler days of living without computers, cell phones, and other high tech equipment of today. The museum is open Thursday's & Friday's 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Saturday's 9:00 a.m. to noon. There is no admission fee!



**THE BIRTH OF THE ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

The Zephyrhills Historical Association held its first meeting at the Chamber of Commerce on July 23, 1980 at 2:30 p.m. The primary purpose of this Association is to research and prepare materials for inclusion in a sequel to Mrs. Trottman's "History of Zephyrhills 1821-1921", covering the period from 1921 to the present time and to preserve the history of Zephyrhills.

<p><b>Shirts &amp; Caps</b>, 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 <a href="http://www.ClassB.com">www.ClassB.com</a>!</p> 	<p><b>Artistic Expressions</b> 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: <a href="mailto:aeframer@aol.com">aeframer@aol.com</a></p>
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Mrs. Trotzman mentioned that the story begins in 1922. At that time an oak tree was planted in front of Mrs. Trotzman’s home on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

The following comments were suggested:

- We must decide just what sort of book to finish up with
- Photographs are needed and hope somewhere to find one of Jesse Stebbins and grandfather Stebbins.
- Should have a better picture of the little brown church in Crystal Springs
- Mrs. Morrill made suggestion to perhaps call the book “Recollections”
- Must mention Florida in title and first sentence in second book
- Bob Johnson mentioned he had never seen picture of Air Base during World War II – Alice has photographs of boys, but not of the building. Mrs. Trotzman suggested Alice talk with Dr. Brownlee
- A certificate is needed – also picture of old band stand
- It was suggested that Janet Cruver contact owner of Mr. Herb Wayman’s collection of pictures
- Steve Spina plans to check Taylor Brown survivors

A roll call was made by Alice Hall and each participant disclosed type of work to be contributed:

Barbara Ohman	Share typing
Christian Z. Paris	Leg work
Dave Ayers	Give radio time
Mrs. Vera C. Morrill	Work on years 12/1933-40 and 1953
Mrs. Arlene Thornbury	Typing, meeting with those wishing to share information
Monica Piat	Share typing Parke letter
Lois Miller	Sit in on interviews (shorthand)
Bob Johnson	Assist in sorting notes – placing in chronological order
Alice Hall (along with Lillian Graham)	Assist in rough spots
Lillian Graham	Work on the 30’s
Steve Spina	Airport and the 40’s – research in Tampa
Geraldine Kerr	Help with interview with Victor Johnson
Janet Cruver	Picture of Airport
C.F. Anderson	Working on library and teaching profession

Alice Hall will have information at next meeting on photos of former mayors, etc. – Oakside Cemetery – veterans of six wars – Civil, Spanish, American, World War I and II, Korean and Vietnam – to be an historical site.

Bob Johnson suggested writing to the Railroad Company requesting a lease to this Association and felt it important to do so now!


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The following officers were nominated and elected

- |                         |    |                |
|-------------------------|----|----------------|
| Mrs. Rosemary Trottmann | -- | President      |
| Mayor Bob Johnson       | -- | Vice President |
| Mrs. Lillian Graham     | -- | Secretary      |



Rosemary Wallace Trottmann was the 1985 grand marshal of the Zephyrhills Founder's Day Parade. Trottmann published *The History of Zephyrhills 1821-1921* in 1978 and served as a teacher in Zephyrhills schools for many years. Trottmann founded the Zephyrhills Historical Association, whose inaugural meeting was July 23, 1980. (Courtesy of ZHA.)

Steve Spina will handle publicity


The next meeting will be held August 20, 1980, Wednesday at 2:30 at the Chamber of Commerce, council chambers.

Byron Kennedy, a publisher interested in publishing the second volume, would be available to talk with us at a future meeting. Mr. Kennedy will bring books and show the type of work he will do for us.

Paul Camp of the University of South Florida Historical Library would like papers and manuscript to preserve in the Library at the Tampa campus.

**The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual ZHS Alumni, Faculty & Friends Reunion**

In honor of this annual friendship celebration, Clereen Brunty and Madonna Wise have chronicled the evolution of the alumni reunion process in our area. The very first Zephyrhills Alumni gathering occurred in 1931 when graduates from the classes of 1928, 29 and 30 congregated at Sunset Beach at Lake Pasadena. The *News* reported that music was provided by Uncle Frank Tousey, the genial proprietor of Sunset Beach, who was known for his one-man band entertainment. A business meeting was held and the officers of the first group were Arthur Austin, President; Tillie Reutimann, Vice President; Edith Plank, Recording Secretary; Sadie Turner, Corresponding Secretary and Charlie Slater, Treasurer. No doubt the Stock Market Crash and subsequent Great Depression ended the first alumni reunion efforts but it did re-emerge many years later in 1971.

<p><b>CHALET</b>  <b>FLOWERS</b> </p> <p>5002 SEVENTH STREET                  ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA 33542                  813-788-2874</p> <p>MARY ANN · KIM · TIM SANDERS</p>	<p><b>LITTLE ANGEL</b>  <b>CHRISTIAN STORE</b></p> <p>5522 7th Street (behind Kentucky Fried Chicken)                  Zephyrhills, Florida 33542                  Toll Free (800) 290-9650                  (813) 782-7600</p> <p><b>labor of LOVE</b>                  STAN &amp; CHARLOTTE GRAMS</p> <p><b>BIG ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU - SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU</b></p>
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The modern-day alumni group was spearheaded by Jaynell LeHeup Vickers and born out of her own ZHS class of 1950 which graduated 28 students. At the twentieth reunion bash of the class of 1950, several commented that they would enjoy reconnecting with friends and former classmates from other classes as well. Jaynell, known for her energy and willingness to take charge, engaged the challenge and became the organizer for just such a project. She worked for many years in coordinating the alumni event. Jaynell LeHeup Vickers also wrote a column in the Zephyrhills News for awhile and was a tireless supporter of ZHS. She passed away in 2007 and will of course, be missed at future events. While at ZHS, Jaynell was a cheerleader, class secretary, a member of the cast of the plays, *Fantasy in the Attic* which she and her classmates wrote and the comedy, *Boarding House* under the direction of their teacher, Matilda Clement.

What were things like in 1950 in Zephyrhills? The public school in Zephyrhills (the only one back then) opened that year with a record enrollment of 673 of which 281 were high school students. In Pasco County there were nineteen total schools (before integration-'14 white, 5 colored schools') with school attendance in the entire county at 3,900. A whopping total of 39 school buses transported children throughout the county (Source: *Zephyrhills News*, September, 1950).

ZHS alumni and friends are well aware of the tremendous growth of the school and county as many have lived these changes and endured the growing pains. Throughout the time however, the school has been a source of constancy and regeneration.

This year is no different when over 400 past and present students, family, teachers, administrators and friends of Zephyrhills High School gathered to enjoy the 44<sup>th</sup> Alumni Reunion at the Zephyrhills Lions Club. The covered-dish luncheon brought in some wonderful "home cooking" and lots and lots of desserts.

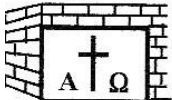
Jerry Pricher, President of the Alumni Association gave the welcome and our newest Mayor, Gene Whitfield, led in the pledge to the flag. A moment of silence was given for those classmates who are no longer with us.

After the luncheon, President Pricher recognized the oldest graduates present who were again, Vance Forbes, Class of 1933 and his lovely wife, Norma (Stone) Forbes, Class of 1937. They recently celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!!!



The youngest graduates present were our recent graduates from Class of 2014, Zackery Ross, Charity Cangro, John Cooksey, and Kaitlin Greenough.

The alum traveling the farthest all the way from Oregon was Nancy (Overhuls) Robinson, Class of 1964. She was also celebrating her 50<sup>th</sup> reunion with other classmates.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CornerStone</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Baptist Church</b> 7th Street &amp; 8th Avenue</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Come be our special guest Coffee &amp; Donuts 10:30***** Worship 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Dr. Neal Resue—Pastor * NealDoe1956@verizon.net</p>	<p>In Memory of</p> <p><b>Ryals Furniture Exchange</b> And Great Parents <b>Powell &amp; Maude Ryals</b></p> <p>From son James</p> <p><b>God Bless America</b></p>
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 <p><b>813-780-7000</b>          36606 STATE RD 54          ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33541          BALLOONCITY1@AOL.COM          www.BalloonCityZephyrhills.com          LOCATED IN THE SWEET BAY SHOPPING CENTER</p>	 <p><b>Zephyrhills Museum of Military History</b>  <i>A City of Zephyrhills Facility</i>  <b>Open Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</b>  <b>39444 South Ave. (813) 780-0078</b></p>
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The family with most members present went to the Stephenson Family with 11 in attendance: Reuben & Jeanette (King) Crawford '54, Roger Blake '58, Marco Stanley '72, Cheri (Dukes) Long '70, Laurie (Dukes) Mitchell '72, Mary (Stephenson) Spencer '50, Diane (Ravello) Calzon '76, Ruthie (King) Blake '58 and Jon Stephenson '66.

Carolyn (Porter) Morris, '74 won the 50/50 drawing. Two ZHS scholarship recipients were present, Charity Cangro was awarded the Zephyrhills Alumni Association CAPS Award and Kaitlin Greenough was awarded the Zephyrhills Historical Association Award.



Several teachers, past and present, from the five Zephyrhills schools attended the reunion. Some are even graduates of Zephyrhills High School who later joined the District of Pasco County School System. Amongst the group were Ellen Palmer, Jerry Pricher '69, Coach John Clements, Principal Louis Freijo and wife, Glenda Freijo, Bernice (Curtis) Rooks '40, Bill Baker '54, Nancy (Massey) Perkins '70, Liz Geiger, Lynn (Nichols) Timmons '60, Luan Gore '77, Vivian Johns, Bill Kustes, Ron Jeffries, Charmaine (Barrow) Long '71, John Geiger, Charles Rodgers, Dale Palmer '69, Alan Knight.

The ZHS Alumni Reunion is always held on the last Sunday in June at the Zephyrhills Lions Club on Dean Dairy Road. Come join us...

<p>Gail Fisher  <i>Special Events Coordinator</i>          Cell (813) 997-2358</p>  <p><b>SILVERADO</b>          GOLF &amp; COUNTRY CLUB</p> <p>Office (813) 788-1225 • Fax (813) 780-7869          36841 Clubhouse Drive • Zephyrhills, FL 33542          www.golfsilverado.com</p>	<p>Brantley Smith  <i>Owner and Operator</i></p> <p>Dependable Service      Satisfaction Guaranteed          Reasonable Rates      Licensed</p> <p><b>NATHAN C. GEIGER</b>          Lawn Service</p> <p>813-782-7577</p>
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Class of '54



Class of '64

### Aerial Photo of Downtown for Depot Museum

Jim Daniels, class of '64, presented a large colored photo of downtown Zephyrhills, taken in 1963 by Tom Simard, also from the class of '64, at the Annual ZHS Alumni & Friends Luncheon to Jerry Pricher, acting on behalf of the Zephyrhills Historical Association, to be displayed at the Depot Museum.



### Member Bob Porter Celebrates 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday



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