

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 16 – Number 10

October 2014

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4th 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 our October meeting was Steve Spina, a charter member of the Zephyrhills Historical Association and current Zephyrhills City Manager. He talked about the beginnings of our organization and its original purpose, the writing of a continued saga begun in Rosemary Trottman's book on the history of Zephyrhills from 1821 to 1921. That purpose was abandoned after the first few years, but the organization continues. Steve presented pictures and information on what the City of Zephyrhills has done and is doing in regard to historical restoration, and challenged our association to help in these endeavors. Those in attendance enjoyed his presentation very much.

Our own Louie Holt will be our presenter for the November meeting. His next set of pictures to be presented to us will, in all likelihood, revolve around Zephyrhills schools. We always have a good time when Louie shows his pictures. Come join us.

The Rosemary Trottman Scholarship Fundraiser Day will be held on October 30th
at the **Abbott Station Restaurant** on Hwy. 301. ZHA members will be meeting at 5:00 p.m., but you can go anytime that day during regular hours. Just show a flyer to your server or say you are supporting the Zephyrhills Historical Association for us to receive 20% of sales.
Contact Judy Meserve at jampwj@aol.com for a flyer.

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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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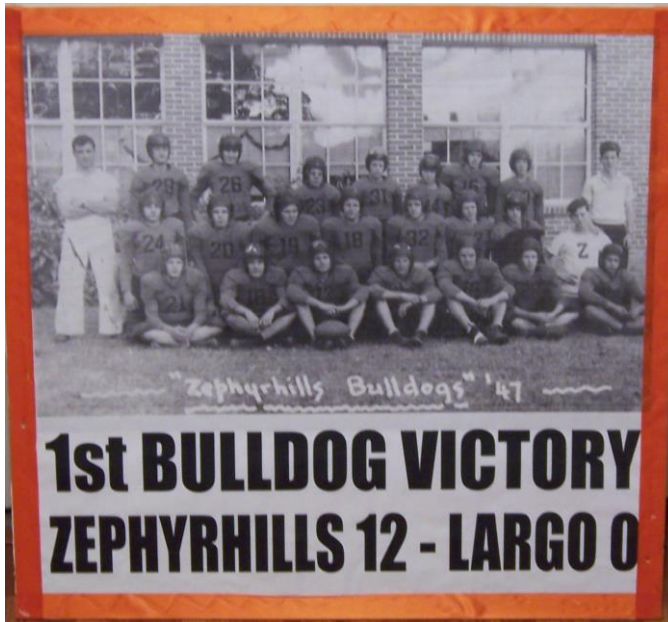
Feature Article

School Homecoming – A Tradition

by Madonna Jervis Wise & Clereen Morrill Brunty

with revision by Clereen Brunty


Homecoming is a festive time in a high school’s schedule of events. Traditionally it has been an occasion for alumni to return to the school and gather for reunions to renew acquaintances. Over time, it has evolved into a signature event for the high school to



boost school loyalty laced with a bit of jingoism for the spirit of the school, and most certainly the camaraderie support of the football team. I imagine every reader has at least one flashback on a memorable event such as the Homecoming game, a lively pep-rally, or memorable homecoming dance.

This year at ZHS the current homecoming week featured a series of confidence-boosting, rally-enhancing merriment that lifted the football team and foster cohesiveness. The scheduled events include designated dress-up days for the week, homecoming

parade, the illustrious football game with coronation of the homecoming court and a homecoming dance. A bit of easing of the school district official code of conduct’s dress code for the week permits students to assemble a creative outfit each day to reveal their true school spirit.

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**ZHS Homecoming Week
October 13-18, 2014**

If you happened to pass by the ZHS campus during that week, the spirit and dress-up days included:

Monday: *Superhero or Villain Day* -Dress up as your favorite superhero or villain.

Tuesday: *Back to the Future Day* -Dress up in outfits from the past or what you think we will be wearing in the future.

Wednesday: *Twin Day* -Dress up with a friend and see if your peers will be able to tell you apart.

Thursday: *Patriotic Day* -Dress up in your best patriotic gear and make Uncle Sam jealous.

Friday: *Spirit Day* -Dress up in your best Orange & Black and get ready to shout at the Homecoming pep rally.

The ZHS Student Council has designated the official parade theme to be “Board Games”.

Seniors: Battleship

Juniors: Candy Land

Sophomore: Clue

Freshman: Connect Four

So what of the history of homecoming at ZHS? We did a bit of digging to reveal to you a few snippets of information. We know of course that the first football team at ZHS was born in 1941-42 and composed of Dick Grange, Dick Tucker, Vernon Shaeffer, B.J. East, Nattie Storms, Bill Duey, Carl Lippincott, Willie Smith, Sanford Delk, Otis Jones, Norman Turner, Merrill Cherry, Carl England, Thurman Clardy, Richard Kelly, Billy Parsons and Coach Thomas Burch Cornelius, and Assistant Coach, W.W. Jackson.

For several years due to World War II, ZHS was without a football team so we can only surmise that homecoming didn't begin until a few years later. In our research we found mention of homecoming around 1949. Below is a few past homecoming events. Savor the memories and enjoy...

1950: Mary Ann Vestal ruled as queen over the ZHS Homecoming Game last Wednesday night and Paula Staples as princess. Others appearing in the half-time festivities were: Lynda Wheeler, Vonda Clardy, Bunny Sue Sibley, and Julia Belle Pracher. Roger Whitworth was king and Jake Sapp, prince. Jean Johnson, the 1949 Homecoming Queen crowned our new queen.

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1953: 1953 Homecoming King and Queen are Raymond Geiger and Joan Myers. Neva Sellars, President of the class, served as emcee for the program.

1956: Colorful ZHS Homecoming festivities began Friday evening at toss-up time, when Bulldogs co-captains, Glenn Miller and Joe Thorn and sponsors, Ann Smith and Margaret Keen were spotted meeting the Crystal River captains and their sponsors on Krusen Field. Drena Hampton was crowned by Carol Hughes, 1955 queen, with a tiara, given last year by former Mayor and Mrs. I.A. Krusen for the purpose.

1959: ZHS annual homecoming festivities will be climaxed this Friday evening with the crowning of royalty during halftime at Krusen Field. A parade of floats will originate at the campus. Led by a police escort, cheerleaders, majorettes, band, and class and organization floats will parade north on 10th street to 5th Avenue and then west to 1st street. The parader's will stop at 5th Avenue and 8th Street for a pep rally. Another rally will be held after the parade. The king and prince have been selected by members of the ZHS football team, under auspices of Student Council President, Bobby Baggett. Loretta Bamberger, homecoming queen for 1958, will crown 1959 royalty.

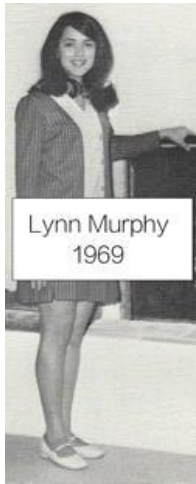
1961: Highlighting the ZHS's 1961 homecoming festivities during halftime of the football game between the Bulldogs and the East Bay Indians at Charles B. Krusen Memorial Field Friday evening was the crowing of Linda Cavin as queen and Frank Kersey as king. Sharing coronation honors with them were Bonnie Rannald as princess and Johnny Clements as prince. Dorothy Daniels, last year's homecoming queen, crowned Queen Linda and King Frank in ceremonies, emceed by David Smith, last year's student council president. Miss Cavin was escorted by Buzzie Reutimann.

1963: At the half-time Friday night, Judy Smith was crowned Homecoming Queen by 1962 Queen Susan Nichols. Diane Clements was crowned Princess by last year's Princess, Anna Jo Davis. Linda Sante and Mary Stanley were named sophomore and freshman maids. Also out for the coronation was "Big Mike" McGinnis who was crowned Homecoming King for 1963 and Ronnie Carroll, prince. And to top it all off, the Student Council sponsored the Homecoming Dance Saturday night.

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David Myers was in charge of the decorations and entertainment for the night. The room was strung with orange and black streamers meeting in the center. Up on the stage was a huge orange “Z”, donated by the seniors from their float, and that was flanked by foil letters, spelling “ZHS Homecoming.” The FFA String Band performed for us, and the program was emceed by Karol Kelly of Radio Station WZRH.

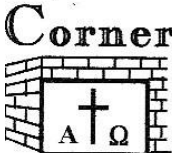
1968: Homecoming was one of the best and most successful for ZHS. There was something for everyone to participate in whether it was sticking a pin into “Voodoo Ram” or cheering the team on at pep rally. The week ended perfectly with the team winning. During halftime of the game the Bulldog Marching Band formed a heart and as royalty candidates were escorted down the center. Everyone held their breath as Mr. Bill Brown (emcee) opened the envelope containing the final results. Sue Douglas was crowned 1968 Homecoming Queen by last year’s queen, Donna Bales. Johnny Braxton was selected by the entire football team to reign with her as Homecoming King. Two very deserving juniors, Sabra



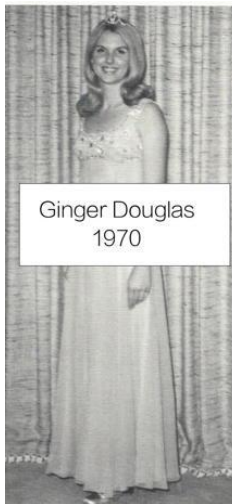
Cooper and Keathel Chauncey, received the honored titles of Homecoming Princess and Prince. Completing the Royalty Court were Lois Wells and Martha Padgett. Juniors captured first place honors with their float, “Darn the Rams.” Second place honors went to the freshmen with their float, “Whip the Rams.” Third place was awarded to the Senior Class with their float, “Dam the Rams.” The sophomores placed last with their float, “Knock Out the Rams,” but they received the honor of burning the “Voodoo Ram” at the bonfire and were recognized for decorating the halls with the best posters. Alumni were recognized at half time by being asked to stand. Mrs. Angie Skinner and Frank Sellars received a gift for being the earliest graduates of ZHS present at the game.

1969: ZHS had its first Homecoming egg toss. ‘Movies’ was the theme for 1969 Homecoming floats. Lynn Murphy was crowned as queen and Johnny Harrelson was crowned King. Kenny Sampson was crowned Prince and Jackie Archie as Princess. Sophomore Maid and Freshmen Maid were Teri Rickard and Carol Brown. Bruce Vogel, junior class president, said that the bonfire, pep rally and car smash scheduled for next Thursday is going to be the best ever. Other activities include tricycle races during lunch hours.



<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>CornerStone <i>Baptist Church</i> 7th Street & 8th Avenue</p> <p>Come be our special guest Coffee & Donuts 10:30***** Worship 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M.</p> <p>Dr. Neal Resue—Pastor * NealDoe1956@verizon.net</p> </div>	<p>In Memory of</p> <p>Ryals Furniture Exchange And Great Parents Powell & Maude Ryals</p> <p>From son James</p> <p>God Bless America</p>
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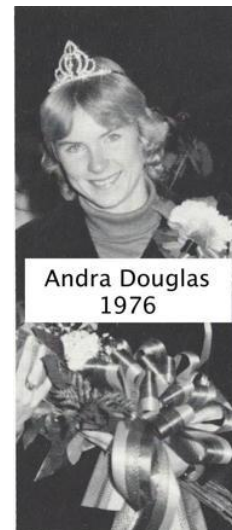
Ginger Douglas
1970

1970: Ginger Douglas was crowned Homecoming Queen.

1971: Joni Palmer was crowned queen at halftime of the football game between ZHS and South Sumter High. Crowning the new queen was Ginger Douglas. Glenda Sisk, last year’s princess, crowned this year’s junior class winner, Janet Edmonston. Elected in voting within the football squad were James ‘Ricky’ Giles as King and Van McKenzie as Prince.


1973: Featured in the coronation of Homecoming Royalty at halftime of Friday night’s football game were six ZHS students: Sue Sinacola, Queen Carl Hill (no. 10), King; Princess Patty Rutherford, and Prince, Larry Hilton (no. 60). Flanking the group was Marta Meengs, freshman maid and Carla Burkham, sophomore maid.

1974: Karen Hughes was chosen by her fellow classmates to reign as the 1974 ZHS Homecoming Queen. The halftime coronation ceremonies were a highlight of the football game with Dunnellon Friday night. Others on the field at the climax of the ritual were Carla Burkam, sophomore maid; Dirk Padgett, Homecoming King; Christi Spoto, Princess; John Fries, Prince and Nancy Dockery, Freshman Maid.



Andra Douglas
1976

1976: The homecoming royalty at Krusen Field were King Ricky Padgett, named by the football team; Queen Andra Douglas, chosen by the student body and Trish Inman as Princess and Phil Fries as Prince. Chairman of the float committee is Beaty Cunningham and he said the parade float theme will be “Song Titles.” Floats will be judged on originality, construction, and appearance and the trophy will be awarded at halftime Friday night.

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Lynn Murphy & the Douglas Girls with Jean Murphy, Christine Douglas, and Raebelle Surratt

1978: Big events include a bonfire today after band practice and coronation rehearsal, and the annual Homecoming parade through downtown Zephyrhills. Teresa Ashbaugh is parade chairman. Candidates for Homecoming Queen are: Angie Baker, Brenda Howell, Cindy Dann, and Darlene Roman.

1980: Chosen to reign as the 1979 Homecoming Court were King Jim Delbridge and Queen Maria Spoto along with Prince Gene Brown and Princess Karen Bailey. Miss Angie Helm was chosen Sophomore Maid.

1995: Homecoming court is: Deana Deno, queen; Ricky Moore, king; Emilee Lewis, princess; Kevin Barry, prince; Rana Prior, sophomore maid; Brad Wernsing, sophomore squire; Elisia Rickard, freshman maid; and Will Stimpson, freshman squire. A series of special contests and dress-up activities are sponsored and underway to boost enthusiasm.

Going to the homecoming game is like going to a class reunion but better! You get to see family and friends from all class years and enjoy catching up. Congratulations to the 2014 ZHS Homecoming Court.

From the Desk of the Editor

Mother of Van McKenzie, and Grandmother of Telisha McKenzie, who sent this along to me.



Mother Maggie McKenzie

Mother Maggie Lee was born January 24, 1927 to the late Reverend Mills and Clementine Cooper in Sardis, Georgia. She was the 2nd of 13 children.

She met and married the love of her life, the late Deacon Eddie McKenzie and remained so for 43 years until death did they part. To this union 6 children were born and because of their faithful commitment to God, five of the six are in some form of ministry.

Her legacy of ministry continues to provide guidance and instruction to every soul that the Lord placed in her path. She was appointed as Church Mother in her early 20s. Her love for the Lord was evident by her unselfish contributions to the work of the Lord. The first Sunday school at Victorious Church of God in Christ began under the leadership of Mother McKenzie. She served untiringly through the years as Youth President, Prayer Warrior, Maintenance Engineer, Spiritual Counselor, and as a much sought after cook for the church. In her local community she was affectionately known as "Shorty Momma," where the neighborhood children would seek out her famous cornbread and her melt-in-your mouth buttermilk biscuits. Her home was the "Inn" where countless pastors, elders, and evangelists lodged and dined.

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