

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 16 – Number 12

December 2014

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6th 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 presenters for the January meeting will be our very own Rod Rehrig and his barbershop quartet, "Solid Gold!" These men have agreed to donate a half hour of their time and talent as a donation to our association, and we are most appreciative. We have Rod to thank for that. He's has been an active member since joining us recently, and we are very much looking forward to this presentation. This may be our final meeting at the Depot Museum, as the new City Library is now complete. Their meeting room will provide us a great deal more space. We sure can use that!

From the Desk of the Editor Membership and Advertising

It's time again to ask for your monetary support in regard to our organization and this newsletter. Dues are \$15 per year, advertising for members is \$15 (non-members is \$25), Boardwalk Booster is \$5, and contributions to the scholarship fund are welcome in any amount. If you are renewing and nothing has changed you can simply mail your check to me or bring it to a meeting. If something is different you are welcome to send me an email to keep the records straight. Thanks in advance.

The Rosemary Trottman Scholarship Fundraiser Day will be held on January 27th 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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Editor’s Note:

Clereen sent this material to me two years ago, and I overlooked it. Then last year I did not have room for it. Well, this year I do, and since it’s excellent material, and since the timing is right, here it is!

Pearl Harbor Remembered in Zephyrhills

December 7, 2012 marked the 71st year since the Pearl Harbor invasion. Some members of the Zephyrhills Historical Association attended the event including Rex & Val Hiatt, Clereen Brunty, Bob & Penny Porter. Also ZHA member John Bolender is the director of the museum. Several news articles were printed to recall this day. We thank all our news correspondents for their interviews and documentation for us to never forget what lives were lost and the ones who survived this tragic event.



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By GARY S. HATRICK | Special correspondent

TBO.com online

Published: December 05, 2012

Imagine being one of the few people who lived through a major historical event and also recorded it for posterity. Now imagine that it took about 40 years for you to get credit for what you did.

That was the experience of Navy Chief Warrant Officer Clyde Daughtry, a Georgia native.

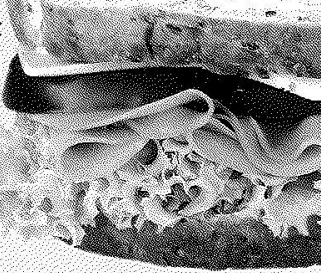

Daughtry was a naval photographer's mate first class stationed on the USS Argonne in Pearl Harbor the morning of December 7, 1941. He shot some of the only footage of the Japanese attack, but about 40 years passed before he officially was recognized for his work — after the film was found and declassified.

Thanks to John Bolender and other volunteers at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History, Daughtry and all other military personnel who were at Pearl Harbor on that infamous day will be honored Saturday.

Daughtry might have been forgotten if not for Bolender buying some WWII memorabilia about four years ago. The memorabilia contained some of Daughtry's personal and professional work and letters.

Bolender said that based on the early letters, it appears Daughtry was trying to get a copy of the footage he shot; later, he's just trying to be acknowledged as the photographer who recorded the event.

Based on the records, it appears to have taken several years of persistence. Among the highlights is a letter dated November 25, 1969, by retired Rear Adm. C. Baldauf. He wrote to Daughtry: "Of course I remember very well your actions on 12/7/41. As soon as the G.A. (general alarm) was sounded you grabbed your camera and dashed topside. You were shooting long before the first U.S. gun was manned. We ran your film — just a few frames — and then quickly took them to Eastman Kodak to get a negative and ... a few positives."

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The admiral wrote that a day or so later a famous movie director asked to see the film.

Baldauf wrote: "We ran a few frames from one of the positives and he jumped up excitedly and shouted 'For God's sake stop that film — it's priceless, don't run it.' We then told him that we had made a negative and he said, 'Thank God — that will be shown throughout-out the world.' "

Bolender said the famous director was John Ford, noted for films and documentaries of Pearl Harbor.


In 1983, the National Archives recognized Daughtry as the maker of the film. Another letter among his records states: "You will be pleased to learn that with the copy of the film, the curator for the Navy also received a facsimile copy of the original film box which included your name as the photographer. Thus, you were immediately identified in the Navy's permanent historical records as the photographer who captured for posterity those violent, momentous events that shook America awake and helped shape modern world history. Whenever the film is copied, as it was for the National Archives, or is otherwise used, your name is always cited as the photographer".

"In addition, I shall arrange to have a copy of this letter entered into your retired personnel file where it will serve as perpetual testimony to your valorous deeds on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941."

It was signed by Chapman B. Cox, assistant secretary of the Navy for manpower and Reserve affairs.

A transcript of an interview with Daughtry for a documentary is noted to have been conducted "about one week" after the film was found. In the interview, he says he has seen parts of his film in "Hollywood war movies" but that it had been edited down so as not to show the casualties he recorded.

Daughtry retired as a chief warrant officer in 1958 with 27 years of service. He died in 1985.

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A copy of Daughtry's film that credits him for the work can be found on YouTube and boasts more than 38,000 views.

Bolender said the original film was lost. He will show a copy at the Pearl Harbor event.

The film had been severely degraded before it was copied. The copy shows the effect of years of improper storage.

On Saturday, visitors to the World War II Barracks Museum, as it used to be known, will have an opportunity to view all sorts of WWII memorabilia, along with some of Daughtry's work, and visit with up to seven Pearl Harbor survivors.

The Pearl Harbor event will include some military memorabilia and vehicles from the personal collections of Bolender and other volunteers, including Japanese uniforms from the collection of Greg Benton, of Riverview. Re-enactors wearing period uniforms will be on hand, and a reconstructed C-47 aircraft will be on display.



By DAVE WALTERS / News Reporter

The Zephyrhills News

Published: December 13, 2012

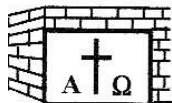
Franklin Roosevelt called December 7, 1941 as “a day which will live in infamy.”

Werner Klemm remembers it as the day where he pulled his fellow Navy sailors from the burning oil in the middle of Pearl Harbor.

It was a day that moved so fast, it was a blur at the moment, but lives vividly in his memory.

Klemm, along with other fellow Pearl Harbor survivors, proudly told their stories over and over again to emphasize the need to “Remember Pearl Harbor” at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History Saturday.

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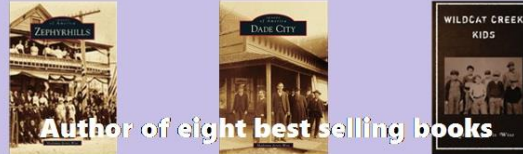
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Surrounded by Pearl Harbor historical museum displays, Klemm recalled that fateful day that pulled the United States into World War II.

“I think of the fellows I served with,” Klemm said, who was just 18-years-old at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. “I was ready to go ashore just after colors. I was waiting at the gangway and I saw the planes coming and they were fluttering down. The bombs started to fall on Fort Island. I saw the plane come right over our ship and I saw the big red circles on the sides.




“They started dropping the bombs on the battleships and the air was full of planes. There were two air raids and it just seemed like one long raid. I ended up on a 40-foot boat pulling guys from the burning oil and getting them to shore. It seems like it was yesterday.”

It was actually 71 years ago. Pearl Harbor survivors are few and far between, but Klemm, George Kass, Wig Wigmore and Charles McClelland made sure people remembered Pearl Harbor.

Pearl Harbor is often skimmed in history books. They wanted to be living history. They gave history lessons explaining the attack with maps and life experiences.

Wigmore was on his way back from breakfast at the mess when he saw Japanese planes coming. He reported to his post at headquarters. He lived the attack from his command post and wants to make sure people never forget the 2,390 service members and 49 civilians killed in the attack.

“We heard the great phrase, “Remember Pearl Harbor” and today, it’s only a whisper,” said Wigmore, who was 19 on the day of the attack and 91-years-old now.

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“We have so many things to remember and I think it’s great that kids can come through here and learn about Pearl Harbor.

“It’s really uplifting to have people come by and want to hear about Pearl Harbor and thank me for my service.”

John Bolender, the director of the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History, felt there was a need to bring history alive at the museum to keep the memory of the events of Pearl Harbor fresh in everyone’s minds.

“This is a day that is being lost. We are giving out flyers and kids didn’t know what Pearl Harbor was. It was sad,” Bolender said. “We think the tribute for Pearl Harbor is important. These guys can’t travel anymore and we are picking up the locals and bring them here.

“There are about 3,000 to 4,000 Pearl Harbor survivors left and that number is dwindling daily. The youngest guy we have here is 90-years-old. Next year, some of the guys may not be with us.”

Klemm welcomed everyone opportunity to reach out to the children and educated them about his experiences at Pearl Harbor.

“They don’t teach them about it anymore,” said Klemm, who served 11 years in the Navy. “One of my great-granddaughters never heard of Pearl Harbor, but they know Pearl Jam. Today, kids don’t have a sense of history. They have too much going on.

“Any chance I get to talk to children is an opportunity to preserve history.”



December 2014 at ZHA



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