

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 18 – Number 1

January 2016

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2nd in the meeting room of the *Zephyrhills Public Library*, 5347 8th Street. 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 January meeting was Louie Sellars. He talked about his personal history in Zephyrhills and his employment, from his youth working for McGavern Plumbing through his long career with the City of Zephyrhills. Louie was quite at home among those in attendance. Most of us already knew him, and those who didn't felt they knew him by the end of his presentation. He's a very personable man, and his stories were true and, in some cases, quite humorous. As I understand it this was not his first visit with us, but it's the first time he's been here since I became a member. We had a terrific time.



Our speaker for the February meeting will be Betty Brown, who has been a good friend to many of us for more years than we might be willing to admit. She worked with my father, Otis Pricher, and provided transport for me to several of my orthodontist appointments in Lakeland when neither of my parents were able to do so. She saw three different managers during her years at the Florida Power Office, two of whom also served as mayors of Zephyrhills. Merle Bright was the manager when I was very young. He was followed by Robert Johnson, who later served as mayor, and then James Bailey, who also served in that capacity. This promises to be an enjoyable walk down memory lane. I hope you'll come join us.

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For a walk down memory lane visit

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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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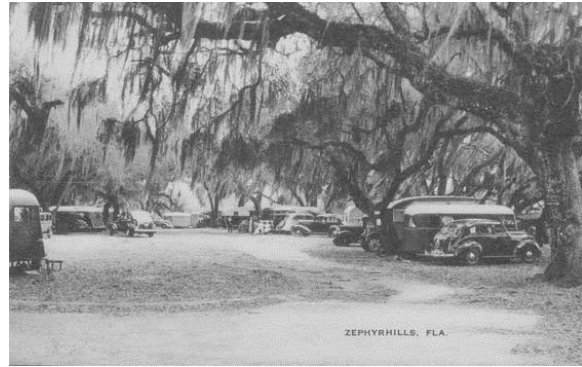
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Frank and Harry

by Jon R. Ferguson

During the 1940s my twin, Jim, and I were able to peddle eggs to the Zephyrhills Municipal Trailer Park which is now known as the Alice Hall Park. We lived right nearby on Third Street. The WPA had created the lake with an island in the middle, cleared areas for camping and for cooking out or picnicking. I'm told that the city did not charge our Northern neighbors to park their trailers there for the winter. This was during the time when the trailers were barely big enough to stand up in and they could be pulled behind most any vehicle. There was a building built with laundry and shower facilities. I guess the present building was their clubhouse. These visitors were often referred to "Tin Can Tourist" because they brought all their purposed food needs, including kerosene in cans for the stay in Zephyrhills, spending very little locally.



We had to learn arithmetic real early because folks wanted to by 1/2 dozen, 1/3 dozen, 1/6 dozen, etc. We made lots of friends and got to know some that came back year after year. Frank and Harry had converted a bus into their living quarters. I believe that both of them were veterans. Harry stayed "in" most of the time, keeping the "home fires" burning, while Frank did odd chores for anyone within walking or bicycling distance. He specialized in cleaning weeds from flowerbeds and gardens. He was good at it. I remember that they dug a hole in the ground near the rear of their bus where the door was. They buried a tin canister in it and kept their foods that needed cooling in it. They had no refrigerator, and I don't think they hooked up to electricity. It amazed us how cool things were when brought out of that hole. Of course, the lid kept opossums, raccoons, etc., at bay.

Frank and Harry were admired for their ingenuity and their friendliness. They were well-known individuals both in the park and in the neighborhood.

Those were the days when honesty was the way of life. Most folks didn't have locks on their doors, certainly not on their windows. A man's word was his bond. Sitting on the porch exchanging tales was the recreation for the family, sometimes neighbors joined in, especially if you owned a swing.

I miss Frank and Harry and the many other friends we made at the park. I think the city was responsible for luring folks to the Pure Water City and allowing many folks to develop commercial parks where the improved, larger trailers became mobile homes and are often left year-round, in or out of parks. Times have surely changed.

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AND HOW DID YOU SPEND NEW YEAR'S DAY?*by Madonna Jervis Wise and Clereen Morrill Brunty*

January 8, 2009

This was the first article posted in the Zephyrhills News in preparation for the town and high school celebrating their 100th birthday.

In honor of this festive time of the year, we reviewed the archives of Zephyrhills School history that mentioned the celebration of a “New Year” and came up with some fun remembrances. We found New Year’s events with educational focuses mentioned in five articles in the *Zephyrhills News (Colonist)* archives. See if any of these jog your memory?




JANUARY 1, 1920: The Zephyrhills Colonist (the Zephyrhills News’s previous name) reported an exciting New Year’s Day basketball game in 1920. “Our local basketball team has secured a game with the St. Petersburg boys for New Year’s Day, to be played here. This is expected to be one of the best and fastest games of the season as both sides are lining up for a hard fight and everyone is invited to come out and see some snappy playing.”

JANUARY 1, 1931: “The graduating classes of ZHS for the years 1928, 1929 and 1930 with a few invited guests enjoyed a social at Sunset Beach on Lake Pasadena the evening of January 1st. The merry-makers began to gather at 8 o’clock and continued to arrive until 9. Uncle Frank Tousey, the genial proprietor and manager of Sunset Beach was at the door to welcome each arrival with his smiles and best wishes for the New Year.

Music for the occasion was furnished by the radio and Uncle Frank’s famous one-man band. Pool-golf claimed the attending of a few while others played bridge and many were dancing.

Uncle Frank started the game by callin’ Paul Jones which led to many others. Refreshments of sandwiches—all kinds—cake and hot chocolate were served.

Those present of the different classes were: 1930 class—Sadie Turner, Althia Guy, Cecil McGavern, Charlie Slater, Owen Gall and Fred Gill; 1929 class—Celia Linkey, Angie LeHeup, John Pennington, John Loomis, Robert Sibley, and Arthur Austin; 1928 class—Edith Plank, Tillie Reutimann, Lucile McGavern, Robert Campbell, James Campbell, Nelson Naber, Clarence Darby and Bob Gill. Guests were: Mrs. Fred Gill, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Craig, Miss Esther Plank, A.N. Black of New Port Richey and Sam McGavern.



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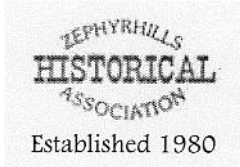
(Note that the modern-day alumni group was born out of the class of 1950. Jaynell LeHeup was responsible for the modern-day Alumni movement which continues to thrive.)

JANUARY 1, 1931: Mrs. Vogel entertained the seventh and eighth grades and their teacher, Mrs. Guy, to a New Year's picnic for her daughter, Frances, at her home north of the city. Games, basketball, football and contests were greatly enjoyed by the following: Alberta Corbin, Isabelle Austin, Rita Spellman, Helen Grant, Ruth McCoy, Marguerite Reutimann, Eva West, Dorothy Boyer, Ruth Higginson, Delma Harrell, Pearl Baldwin, Elma Ryals, Mary Spellman, Sarah Parsons, Anlee Cripe, Laura Rogers, Audrey Fulgham of Tampa and Frances Vogel as well as Ernest Linkey, Horace Williford, Emil Reutimann, Donald Plank, Glenn McDowell, James Mott, Athel Thomas, Robert Seaberg, Clifford Wilson, Reggie Clark, Robert Cook, Jack Parsons, Richard Gaskins and Louis Gall. The hostess was assisted by Mrs. Claude Cook, Mrs. Ed Seaberg, Mrs. J.T. Fulgham and Miss Edith Parrish of Tampa.

JANUARY 1, 1972: The New Year's holiday was the occasion for a reunion of 16 members of the ZHS class of 1958, who were guests of the Sunland Restaurant, New Year's Day. Fifty of the original 55 class members are living. In all 40 persons attended, including John Clements, faculty member who was class sponsor. A portable TV set was provided by Dale's Firestone Center in order that bowl games could be viewed. The 15-year picnic reunion in the summer of 1973 has been tentatively planned. Pictures in the photo are: Mrs. Floyd (Margaret Nelson) Cherry of Zephyrhills; Mrs. John (Darlene Wilson) Bamberger of Zephyrhills; Mrs. Bill (Mildred Smith) Carter of Temple Terrace; Mrs. Albie (Clara Mae Adams) Fowler of Dade City; Mrs. Floyd (Barbara Peeples) Kersey Jr. of Zephyrhills; Mrs. Carlton (Ruthie King) Kennedy of Zephyrhills; and Mrs. Roy (Gloria Lewis) Jones of Zephyrhills. Also were Brantley Smith of Zephyrhills; Murray Thomas of Plant City; Marion Nesbitt of Richland; Ralph Massey, Donnie Nelson and Larry Bazzell, all of Zephyrhills. Class Sponsor Clements of Zephyrhills, Harold Hunt of Gainesville, Roger Sibley, Jr. of Zephyrhills and Charles Bloom of Des Plaines, Illinois, Mrs. Bamberger, Mrs. Kennedy and Bloom arranged the reunion.



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ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 5TH, 2016

The Regular Monthly Business Meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order on January 5, 2016 at 6:04 PM by President Rod Rehrig. The invocation was presented by Vice President Jerry Pricher and was followed by the pledge of Allegiance.


The secretary read the minutes from the November 3, 2015 meeting and were approved by Jerry Pricher and seconded by Bill Kustes. The minutes were amended by Jerry Pricher and approved (the Christmas party date was corrected from the wrong date of December 6, 2015 to December 7, 2015.)

The treasurer’s report was given by Clereen Brunty. The SunTrust CD Account balance was \$6,724.69 as of November 2015. The beginning balance on November 3, 2015 in the Sun Trust Checking Account was \$3,432.09. (Error made September 1, 2015) (\$3,482.09-\$3,432.09). Receipts are cash on hand, \$33.00 and 50/50, \$12.00 for a total deposit of \$45.00. Disbursements are zero. Balance on December 1, 2015 was \$3,477.09. An adjustment was made June 6, 2015 by the audit committee - \$141.02 resulting in a bank balance of \$3,336.07.

Old Business: Regarding fundraisers, so far no money has been received from the dinner at Mike's Smokehouse Barbeque & Grill. We will follow-up and Patty will check on new eating places. Margie thanked all who participated in the Christmas tree decoration at Florida Hospital. See Margie if you want your ornament back. Next year our tree will be "Oregon".

New Business: Leo Wagner proposed that the minutes be included in the newsletter for the benefit of those who can't attend meetings as well as for those who aren't here full time. The motion passed with some abstentions. There was a reminder regarding membership dues, \$15.00/year as well as Boardwalk Boosters and the Scholarship Boosters. Board of Directors members are needed for 2016-2017. Polly Gill agreed to stay on. Patty Thompson, Tenci Alexander and Bill Kustes also volunteered to serve on the Board. In addition, Tenci Alexander volunteered for the hospitality committee. Clereen will purchase more red tickets. Bill Kustes suggested getting new speakers. Jerry will ask Carolyn to help in getting new speakers and Nathan was suggested as a possible speaker. Polly reminded Margie to announce the availability of ZHA tee shirts for \$10.00 a piece. Polly will bring them to the next meeting. There was discussion about having a microphone at the meetings. Margie said the microphone is at the depot and needs to be charged. Dining out for the January birthdays (Val Hyatt and Anna Boone) will take place January 15th at 4PM, Mike's Smokehouse Barbeque & Grill.

Jerry Pricher moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Clereen Brunty. The meeting was dismissed at 6:32PM.

 <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>	<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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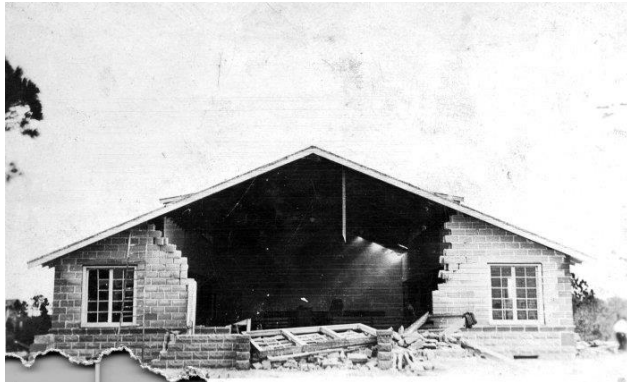
1921 HURRICANE
from Fivay.org site

This page discusses the 1921 hurricane as it affected Pasco County, Florida, and Tarpon Springs, Florida.

The hurricane, later estimated as category 3, made landfall around Tarpon Springs on Oct. 25, 1921. Maximum winds recorded at Tarpon Springs were 100 miles per hour.

Peter Joseph (“Joe”) Baillie later recalled that damage in New Port Richey was extensive, boats that had been moored along the river were floating in the streets and many homes were without roofs.

The *New Port Richey Press* (unseen) reported, “A heavy storm struck New Port Richey and vicinity on Nov. 1, causing considerable damage, but no loss of life.”



The *Tarpon Springs Leader* reported on Oct. 28, 1921, “Elfers and New Port Richey, where citrus culture is among the principal industries, suffered heavily on account of the storm.”

In a 1972 newspaper interview, Leland Poole recalled, “I remember it like yesterday. It happened Oct. 27, 1921. Elfers was just about solid citrus then. It stripped the trees. No oranges or grapefruit that year. It hit New Port Richey too.

They were just building the Community Congregational Church. Blew the whole back out. Knocked down wires all over.”

In 1976 Maxine Gause recalled attending the Elfers school. “Only perhaps 10 kids came that day to school, out of about 75 usually. But my mother was a substitute teacher that day, so we attended. When our upstairs classroom door blew in, my mother tried to tie it shut, but couldn't. So we had to take turns standing against it, a few at a time, until the storm finally eased up. We were frightened!”

In 1976 Pauline Stevenson Ash also recalled attending the Elfers school. “During that hurricane, most of the windows blew out, and we took turns sweeping out the water, for almost seven hours!”

A history of the Church of Our Lady, Queen of Peace in Port Richey says that the hurricane lifted the church from its foundation, leaving it facing west. It had originally faced south.

At Fort Dade, near Dade City, an old two-story building which had earlier housed the Mount Zion Methodist Church and the Masonic Lodge was destroyed by the hurricane. According to a historic marker, the building was constructed in 1872.

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On May 12, 1922, the *Dade City Banner* reported, “The October hurricane blew several trees down on the Prospect church, almost completely destroying it. The people of the neighborhood have just completed the rebuilding of the edifice and on Easter night had their first service. As no clergyman was present, a lay service of prayer and song was held”

On May 19, 1922, the *Dade City Banner* reported, “The October hurricane certainly had it in for the churches of Pasco [the community of Pasco -jm]. The Baptist church was lifted off its foundations and now stands with a zigzag look as if it had just woke up ‘the moraine after the night before.’ It is still in usable condition though and the regular services are being held as usual. The Methodists’ place of worship was completely destroyed. It was an unusually fine building for so small a community and its loss is a distinct calamity. Plans are on foot for re-building before the year is out.”



The *Dade City Banner* reported, “The turpentine business in the Darby section, known as the Amelia Still, suffered severely in the tropical storm of October 25, when the building was damaged and possibly a third of the timber blown down.”

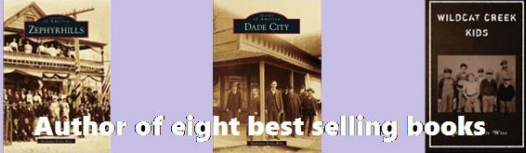

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From the Desk of the Editor

Louie Holt recently pointed me in the direction of the website which is a link to the University of Florida Digital Collections at [HTTP://UFDC.UFL.EDU](http://ufdc.ufl.edu). This is not quite so easy to use as Jeff’s site, so give me some time to figure out the best way to display it. I was hoping to show the heading, a few articles, and some advertisements from the September 1914 Dade City Banner in this issue, but all the methods I tried did not produce an image that printed well enough to be legible. Give me some time, though, and I will figure it out. In the meantime, any of you who are interested can check out the web site for yourselves. It certainly has some interesting material.

The 2016 ZHA membership and advertising is due each January. Thank you for those who have sent your renewal. For those who have not done so, please make check payable to ZHA and mail to our new Treasurer, Clereen Brunty, 3606 Lanier Road, Zephyrhills, FL 33541. If your ad has changed, please include a new business card.

Any questions, email her at Clereen@tampabay.rr.com.

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