

# TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 18 – Number 3

March 2016

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> in the meeting room of the *Zephyrhills Public Library*, 5347 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The business meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and the program is at 6 p.m. Refreshments include drinks, which are provided, and food brought in to share by members.

## Speakers

Our speaker for the March meeting was Melanie Massey Foltz. She presented several examples of her quilts and spoke at length about their construction and the historical circumstances



attached to many of the items. It was obvious to all in attendance that she loves her craft and puts in a great deal of time in producing a lasting product. Melanie also talked about her family and their history in Zephyrhills. We hope to have her mother, Hazel, as our speaker, possibly in June. I'm hoping at that time we can get her to talk about her years in the Order of the Eastern Star, an organization which was such an integral part of the families of so many of us who grew up here.

Our speaker for the April meeting will be Barbara Rooks Pittman. It's appropriate that she follows Melanie, as they have been close friends since childhood. Rooker, as she is known to many of us, will most likely talk about the history of her family's skating rink in Crystal Springs, which closed just a few years ago. Her mother may also be in attendance. It promises to be a great evening. I hope you'll come join us.

**Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, is our next Give-Back Scholarship Fundraiser**  
at **Sergio's Restaurant on Highway 54 West**. We are meeting at 5 p.m. on that day.  
Contact Patty Thompson (813-780-8559 – [pattycakeclown1@aol.com](mailto:pattycakeclown1@aol.com)) for information.

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For a walk down memory lane visit

[www.fivay.org](http://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.

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Hospitality .....	Tenci Alexander
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Newsletter .....	Jerry Pricher Clereen Brunty
Programs .....	Jerry Pricher Carolyn Dean
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 <p><b>Clereen Morrill Brunty</b> ZHS Alumni Contact <b>clereen@tampabay.rr.com</b> <b>813-782-8763</b></p>	 <p><b>chalet flowers</b> Kim Tim  Maryann Sanders owners Ph: 813-788-2874 chaletflowersfl.com 5002 7th Street Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p>
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**FOUNDERS OF ZEPHYRHILLS**

Published in The Zephyrhills News

*by Madonna Jervis Wise and Clereen Morrill Brunty*

for Countdown to Centennial

December 10, 2009

**From humble beginnings**, Zephyrhills Founders Day has grown into a wonderful celebration of civic pride and an opportunity for community members to gather for fun, food and fellowship sandwiched between the pageantry of a parade in March of each year which offers other home-spun activities. Together the folks of Zephyrhills show the surrounding community why we are called “The Friendly City.”

Can you imagine what it would be like today in the 21st century to plot out land, develop and plan a new town? There would be community visioning, development of infrastructure, facility planning, environmental studies and organization of cultural and philanthropic projects, not to mention permits and approval?

Sans the approvals and processes, the founders of Zephyrhills must have been challenged with decisions, environmental issues of an untapped nature and the extraordinary blending of people from all over the country. For this week’s countdown, we wanted to introduce you to a few of these early land developers, sometimes acknowledged as founders. We have included a synopsis about Simon J. Temple, Dr. Joseph M. Abbott, Captain Howard B. Jeffries and his wife, Helen Mar Jeffries.

Our town was officially founded in 1910. The history however, is much broader than the 1910 to 2010 span. Native Americans were the first to occupy the area. Zephyrhills was a prime-location for the Indians who needed a clean and ample water supply, stone for tools and plentiful firewood. They lived in villages in the area particularly around Lake Buddy and Lake Zephyr. Remnants and artifacts from the area, now housed in the local museums have provided clues to their day-to-day life.

The first recorded history began with the arrival of European explorers such as Ponce de Leon in 1513 and De Soto in 1539. The area was under Spanish and some French influence until 1763 when Great Britain gained control of Florida. As an indirect consequence of the American Revolution regarding allies, Spain obtained a second era of control which was short-lived. British influence on the continent was quite established by this time and Spain soon ceded Florida to the U.S. in 1821. Florida became a state in 1845. In the late 19th century agriculture took hold when cattle ranching and settlers began appearing in the area, particularly close to streams and lakes.

The Oakdale Community near present day Zephyrhills was the first settlement with residences, a school and post office. Thus, the modern story unfolds. The early photos of our town look quite similar to a characteristic ‘wild west town.’

Enter our recognized land developers:



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**Simon J. Temple** originally bought the plot (280 acres) that became Zephyrhills property on November 11, 1886 from Florida Railway & Navigation Corporation. Temple had many business endeavors throughout Florida (hence Temple Terrace, etc) and he named the area of Zephyrhills Abbott after Dr. Joseph M. Abbott. The original plot of the town was laid out and recorded on April 18, 1888 in Brooksville, then the county seat. When the train came through in 1896, ‘Station’ was affixed to the town’s name of Abbott.

**Dr. Joseph M. Abbott** (1844-1906) Abbott had been a doctor in the Confederacy who was committed to saving lives and worked himself into total exhaustion. Near death in Texas, Abbott’s friend convinced him that moving to Florida would help his convalescence. When he arrived in Zephyrhills weighing ninety-eight pounds (quite a site for a fellow of six feet two inches in height), his health improved quickly and he went into a partnership to set up a sawmill where the old Zephyr Shopping Center and the previous overpass on Highway 301 were located. Later he returned to medicine and was the proprietor of an apothecary at 301 and 5th Avenue. His wife was Henrietta (1855-1915).


**Captain Howard B. Jeffries** (1843-1934) Jeffries was born in Lafayette, Indiana and after serving in the Civil War as a Union officer, he became a reporter with the *National Tribune*. He partnered with his son-in-law, Raymond Moore, and purchased 35,000 acres at Abbott Station and developed Zephyr Colony Company to sell land to northern Civil War Veterans as a retirement colony.

**Helen Mar Jeffries** (1847-1931) A stately lady of the day, she married Captain Jeffries in Carbondale, New York. She must have been an industrious hostess and worker. She and her daughter and son-in-law made the trek to the area and were supporters of the business managers of the Zephyrhills Colony Co., which was formed in January 1910. She also had a son, M. Jeffries who was a doctor and resided in New York City. Her husband was commander of the Florida Department of the G. A. R. and she hosted many encampments.

**106th Founders’ Day Parade — Saturday, March 12, 2016**





*ZHA wins  
Best Misc Car-Truck Entry  
presented by Jodi Wilkerson  
and received by Clereen Brunty*



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ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!



ZHA Members with PEACE signs



ZHA President Rod Rehrig & wife, Carol



1911 Ford Model T Tourabout Driven By Carolyn Porter Morris with grandson and nephew



1914 Ford Model T Touring Car Driven By Steve Boyd with Joyce Duncan, Maryhelen Clague & Bill Kustes



1919 Ford Model T Touring Car Driven By Ferman "JR" Geiger with Penny Porter & JR's wife, Fay and children



1925 Ford Model TT 1 Ton Truck Driven By Marcelo Nobrega with Anna Boone, Mikaela Nobrega, Margie Partain, Carolyn Dean, Marcelo and Polly Gill

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**Zephyrhills Museum of Military History**

*A City of Zephyrhills Facility*

**Open Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**39444 South Ave.**

**(813) 780-0078**



1925 Ford Model T Roadster Driven By Fran Newsome



1925 Ford Model T Touring Car Driven By Tom Graham with Rod & Carol Rehrig



1926 Ford Model T Speedster Driven By Charlie Bolkening with wife



1927 Ford Model T Roadster Driven by CW Hemingway with wife, Marcia Hemingway

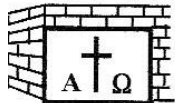


1923 Ford Model TT Wrecker Driven By Allan Woodle



Anna Boone, Clereen Brunty, Polly Gill, Margie Partain and Carolyn Dean in back of truck

# 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

In Memory of

**Ryals Furniture Exchange**  
And Great Parents  
**Powell & Maude Ryals**

From son James

**God Bless America**



FunT Car Club Members



Model T's on Parade



Photo courtesy of Dave Walters, Zephyrhills Free Press [www.facebook.com/ZephyrhillsFreePress](http://www.facebook.com/ZephyrhillsFreePress)

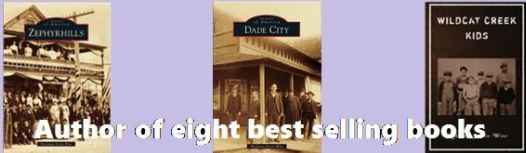


Photo courtesy of Dave Walters, Zephyrhills Free Press [www.facebook.com/ZephyrhillsFreePress](http://www.facebook.com/ZephyrhillsFreePress)

*In addition to the Drivers, Riders, and Walkers in the parade, ZHA was also represented by Rex & Val Hiatt – who helped at Zephyrhills Depot Museum for 5k Race and Sharon Reisman & Art Besinger – who helped with Gift Shop in Zephyrhills Woman's Club*

**2016 Founders Day Parade Award Winners**

- Best Business Entry: San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union*
- Best Youth Organization: Zephyrhills Little League*
- Best Marching/Walking Unit: Pasco County Parks & Recs*
- Best Mobile Home/RV Park: Rainbow Village*
- Best Equestrian Unit: Pasco County Sheriff's Office*
- Best Misc. Car/Truck: Zephyrhills Historical Association*
- Best Club Entry: ZHS SWAT & SADD Club*
- Best Religious Organization: First Baptist Church of Zephyrhills*
- Best Display of Theme: Sundance 55+ Community Park*
- Best Overall Entry: Sundance 55+ Community Park*



**Author of eight best selling books**

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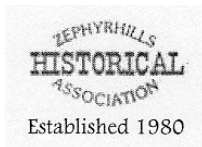
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## ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2016

The Regular Monthly Business Meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order at 5:30PM by President Rod Rehrig who gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Anna V. Boone read the minutes from the February 2, 2016 meeting and they were approved by motion by Jerry Pricher, seconded by Terry Lindsey.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Clereen Brunty with a motion to accept by Bill Kustes and seconded by Patty Thompson.

Old Business: Patty Thompson announced the dinner at Mike's Smokehouse which will be at 5PM on March 22, 2016. There was a reminder to take a flyer to get credit for the Zephyrhills Historical Association and to pass out flyers.

Margie Partain and Patty Thompson contacted four restaurants but none showed an interest. Margie brought up a past event at Cici's Pizza (no longer in business) which included clearing the tables and eating there. Hungry Howie's might be approached with the same offer as well as Coney Island's when they open up. Clereen suggested checking with Terra's which is in the old Cici's location. Patty Thompson will contact them.

Clereen reported about Founders Day, the theme of which will be THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT: THE 60'S. She and Margie made posters and ribbons for our parade entry and said there will be antique cars and a wrecker in our Zephyrhills Historical Association group. MAIN STREET might put us at the end because of the length of our unit. We are to assemble at 9:30AM, probably at 17th. St. MAIN STREET will post the line up order online Wednesday night. There was discussion about having a gift shop at the Woman's Club table and requests for volunteers to work at the gift shop. Participants in the parade will be Carolyn, riding, Jerry, Polly, George, Anna and Terry walking, Bob and Penny Porter riding as well as Irene and Rod. We were reminded to wear our Z.H.A. tee shirts. Tenci will also be in the parade.

Margie contacted Ms. Simons at the high school regarding the scholarships and if she isn't able to provide the necessary paperwork in time for the awards ceremony, scholarships might be presented a second time to former recipients to help with their education.

New Business: Jerry made the motion that we make librarian Vicki Elkins a lifetime member of the Zephyrhills Historical Association and it was seconded by Carolyn Dean and agreed to by all present.

There was discussion regarding the Marine Corps League 13th Annual Golf Tournament. For a donation of \$40, a sign with the name of our organization will be placed on one of the holes. The motion was made by Bill Kustes, seconded by Jerry Pricher and approved.

Sharon Reisman and Art Besinger agreed to work in the gift shop. Patty asked should we do a raffle? Rod Rehrig announced a free concert presented at the Seventh Day Adventist Church by Florida Hospital on March 12, 2016, 5PM. and suggested arriving by 4:30PM. It is done for Easter by the chorale.

Regarding the March birthdays, dinner at Scotland Yard was discussed and Rod will call to see if they are open at 4:00 PM. on March 11, 2016. If not, we will go to Mike's Smokehouse. It will be announced via e-mail.

A move to adjourn was made by Jerry Pricher seconded by Carolyn Dean and approved. The meeting concluded at 5:59PM.