

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 18 – Number 5

May 2016

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7th in the meeting room of the *Zephyrhills Public Library*, 5347 8th 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



The Zephyrhills High School Chorus, under the direction of Luan Gore, performed for us at the May meeting. This was their fourth appearance in as many years, and they performed wonderfully as always. Ms. Gore always seems to find and polish the musical talents in these terrific young people. We always enjoy their presentation so much. We look forward to their return in May of 2017.

Our speaker for the June meeting will be Hazel Massey, who was the cafeteria manager at Zephyrhills High School for a number of years. She was also very active in the Order of the Eastern Star at the time my parents and Clereen's parents were also active. Her daughter, Melanie Massey Foltz, is still active in that organization. Melanie was our speaker just a few months ago, and we've been looking forward to her mother's visit ever since. We hope you'll join us.



Tuesday, June 28th, is our next Give-Back Scholarship Fundraiser
at **Sergio's Italian Restaurant on Highway 54 West**. We are meeting at 5 p.m. on that day.
Contact Patty Thompson (813-780-8559 – pattycakeclown1@aol.com) for information.

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Jeff Miller

Pasco County Historian

For a walk down memory lane visit

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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Refreshments	Polly Gill
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Programs	Jerry Pricher Carolyn Dean
Scholarship	Margie Partain Jerry Pricher

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 <p>Clereen Morrill Brunty ZHS Alumni Contact</p> <p>clereen@tampabay.rr.com</p> <p>813-782-8763</p>	 <p>chalet flowers</p> <p>Kim Tim Maryann Sanders owners</p> <p>Ph: 813-788-2874 chaletflowersfl.com</p> <p>5002 7th Street Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p>
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Editor: Jerry Pricher, 5138 20th Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542
Phone: 813-788-2547 email: jerry@pricher.net

Scholarship Recipients

Although we don't have any pictures to share at this point, we're pleased to announce our scholarship winners for the Zephyrhills Historical Association this year. Alexandra Harwell received the Rosemary Trottmann Scholarship, and Felicia Riggs received the Zephyrhills Historical Association Scholarship. President Rod Rehrig presented the awards on May 12, 2016 at Zephyrhills High School. We are hopeful that both ladies will attend our June meeting, so everyone will have a chance to meet them.

Memorial Day — Residents of Pasco County Who Died in Military Service *from the Fivay.org site*

The following list of Pasco residents who died in military service is taken mainly from a newspaper article.

WORLD WAR I: Wylie Arnett, John G. Bekeart, Raymond L. Boone, Solon L. Brown, Jessie D. Cochrane, William R. Craig, John P. Davidson, John Olin Hay, Joe Holmon, Dan Jackson, Vaden Kobbs, Elijah J. M. McMorris, John M. O'Berry, William R. Smith, Milfrid S. Streblow, Homer B. Sumner, Wambolt Sumner, Cassie R. Thomas, Eugene D. Tucker

WORLD WAR II: Theodore Barthle, George R. Baxmann, Elmer W. Brady, Cecil A. Braxton, Luie L. Clements, Robert H. Colgan, Goree J. Equevilley, Hiram T. Fisher, Cecil E. Gaskins, Joseph W. Goodbred, Leonard E. Gude, Paul S. Hodges, Willis W. Jones, Roy R. Land, Francis G. Lemacks, Garold C. Lessig, Harold L. Lessig, Lawrence A. Madill, Mark H. Mayo, Daniel P. McClain, Chester R. McKay, Earnest Nettles, Clyde B. Oakley, Hicks R. Phillips, Ernest E. Pierson, Jack E. Pinholster, Louis H. Rachel, Frederick A. Rausch, Richard D. Sanders, Fred D. Sessions, Carmen A. Sirico, Will Stanford, Jake W. Stephens, Carmon C. Thompson, James E. Thornton, Warren E. Trottmann Jr., Jesse E. Walker, Francis E. Woods, John C. Workizer

KOREA: William Barfield, Willis Blakely, Francis M. Egemon, Harold J. Eiland, John C. Perry Jr.


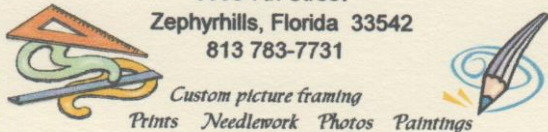
VIETNAM: Steven K. Brooks, Louis C. Goi Jr., Joseph Gordon, William A. Haddock, Felton R. Fussell, Arthur R. Moody III, Johnny Lewis, Donnie M. Stokes, Harry L. Thain

SINCE 2003: Sgt. First Class Paul R. Smith, April, 4, 2003; Staff Sgt. Wentz Shanaberger, March 24, 2004; Lance Cpl. Joshua Dickenson, Dec. 12, 2004; Sgt. Michael D. Rowe, March 28, 2006; Specialist Patrick J. Miller; March 29, 2008; Sgt. Marcus Mathes, April 28, 2008; and Specialist Johnathan O'Neill, June 15, 2009.

Notes: A memorial at the old court house in Dade City has these additional names: Robert Cehtemer, Robert Holt, Lyman Williams, and Lynn Williams.

AN Trevor Wayne Maki died one day after a training accident aboard the USS Enterprise which took place on April 13, 2000.

Cpl. Joshua D. Harris died when a helicopter crashed during a training mission at Camp Pendleton, California, on Jan. 22, 2004. Harris had previously served in Iraq.

 <p>Gina King Granger Social Media & Digital Marketing Strategist</p> <p>(813) 602-1818 PO Box 1718 Zephyrhills FL 33539 gina@offthechartmedia.com</p>	<p><i>Artistic Expressions</i></p> <p>5906 7th Street Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 813 783-7731</p>  <p>Custom picture framing Prints Needlework Photos Paintings Computer photo editing</p> <p>Beverly Koehler Barnett, Owner aeframer@gmail.com</p>
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Lightcap's Drive-In

by Jon R. Ferguson

As far as I know Lightcap's Drive-In was the first and only drive-in restaurant in Zephyrhills. Rex and Ruth Lightcap were the owners. They lived in Richland. They had one young daughter, Lena, who stayed with Ruth's mother while they worked. I knew them from church attendance. I recall that the business was located in the first block north of Tyre's service station on the west side of Highway 301.

I had held little piddling jobs before, like handing out locker keys at the swimming pool and mowing grass, but the drive-in was my first "steady" job. I began there while a freshman in High School. That would be 1947. I recall that my parents had to sign an "okay" because of my age, and I had to get a Health Certificate. Their shopping had to be timed and completed before opening at 5 p.m.

School didn't end until 3 in those days, and I'd go to work several nights per week, beginning at 5 and work until eleven. On weekend nights we were open until 2 a.m. and we were expected to be present at church in a few hours! We always made it!






My major job was peeling potatoes (sometimes as much as 200 pounds) and shrimp plus cutting up chicken. I would sit toward the back of the restaurant in case my help was needed elsewhere, but usually Ruth handled the curb-hopping and filling the inside orders. Rex did most of the cooking and shared taking inside orders. They were both well-liked social folks, which led for a successful business, but the fried chicken and French fries along with the hamburgers fried in butter were a lure also. You wouldn't believe the prices, so I won't tell you 'lest I exaggerate. The remarkable thing was that Ruth never wrote down an order. As far as I know she never got one mixed up. The pinball machine and jukebox on the counter took in many a coin unless Ruth had a break and she knew how to get a free game.

I was slowly worked into being an assistant cook, dishwasher and inside clerk. We froze milk and scraped it before adding ice-cream to make a thick shake....good, good, good!

Many an hour was spent by folks just hanging around to see what was happening and who else was visiting. The only hectic times we had was when school buses stopped after a game. We normally had a phone call notice and would prepare a host of burgers and put out the "fixins" to be added by each diner. I recall once having three busloads at one time, but all was peaceful and dignified...I guess everyone was getting tired...and they wanted to be welcomed back! Young folks were respectful back then.

Normally my mode of transportation was my two feet, but once in a while my dad would drive me over and get a little snack and visit. Rex and Ruth took me home after work...

Now visualize this: nothing went to waste, they had hogs to feed. We kept edibles separated from other trash and I straddled the buckets in the back seat while they rode up front. We all smelled the same about that time anyway.

 <p>Garage Doors, Inc. Sales & Service</p> <p>Kerry Ryman President</p> <p>36413 SR 54 • Zephyrhills, Florida 33541 Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-788-6773 E-mail: kerry@rymanconstruction.com License # GDI 09084</p> 	 <p>ARMY STRONG <i>Airborne-Ranger, "All The Way"</i></p> <p>MICHAEL J. COCKILL Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)</p> <p>8469 Maybelle Dr. (352) 596-9751 (h) Weeki Wachee, FL 34613 (352) 584-0758 (m) mcockill@tampabay.rr.com</p> <p>ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!</p>
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My pay was \$3 per “short” night or \$5 on “long” nights, plus all I wanted to eat. Believe it or not, after a few days, an employee doesn’t get hungry around fast food, but I did learn to eat my first “chicken liver sandwiches” there.

I worked two years with them until the business was sold and I never looked back. You ought to see the mess I can make trying to cut up a chicken now. I seldom eat hamburgers or fried chicken even now after all those years.

From Jeff Miller’s HISTORY OF PASCO COUNTY site at fivay.org — “Railroads” page

A Railroad Ran Through It (2002)

This article appeared in the Tampa Tribune on Oct. 18, 2002.

By CAROLE JEFFARES HEDMAN

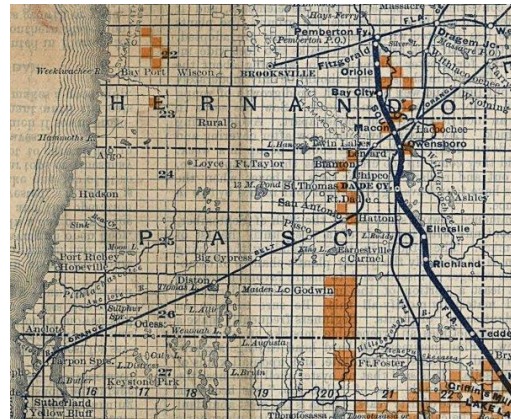
SAN ANTONIO – The crowds have been coming for 35 years on the third weekend of October to this otherwise tranquil community where folks still gather for homespun fun. Thousands are expected to be here Saturday and Sunday as the 36th San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival gets under way in City Park. The festival will feature the usual snake shows and gopher tortoise races that put San Antonio on the sightseers' map.

But for a short time in the 1970s, a group of entrepreneurs hoped to bring others to the community to experience a different tourist attraction.

It was called the Orange Belt Railroad, named for the original railway system that came through these parts in the 1880s.


The original Orange Belt Railroad was chartered in 1885 by three men who wanted to build a 35-mile, narrow-gauge railroad line from Lake Monroe, part of the St. Johns River, to Lake Apopka.

The men purchased \$9,400 worth of cross-ties from Russian immigrant Peter Demens at his sawmill in Longwood. But when they were unable to pay, Demens took possession of the railroad, according to a booklet on railroads by the late Rev. Marion Bowman, former abbot of Saint Leo Abbey.



Demens formed Orange Belt Investment Co., borrowing money from friends and floating a \$50,000 bond issue to complete the road to Oakland, a city east of Clermont. Five days after Demens completed the tracks to Oakland in 1886, he received a charter to extend the railroad 110 miles farther to St. Petersburg, via San Antonio. With funding from the Armour meat packing family in Chicago, the line was extended from Trilby to San Antonio on the way to St. Petersburg. The first train, hauling construction materials, arrived in San Antonio on Nov. 27, 1887. The first passenger train didn't pass through San Antonio until Feb. 13, 1888.

A depot was built at San Antonio a short time after the railroad came through. It was about a mile west of where the depot stands today on Railroad Avenue, off Curley Street. Demens continued to own the Orange Belt Railroad until 1893, when it was taken over by railroad baron Henry Plant. Plant replaced the old-style system with standard gauge in 1896 and operated it under the names Sanford and St. Petersburg Railway and Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad.

<p style="text-align: center;">WATSON CLINIC <small>LLP</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dermatology at Zephyrhills</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rick L. Moore, M.D. Dermatology</p> <p>6901 Medical View Lane Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 www.WatsonClinic.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Office: 813-788-7867 Fax: 813-783-7187</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Zephyrhills Museum of Military History</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A City of Zephyrhills Facility</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">39444 South Ave. (813) 780-0078</p>
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Atlantic Coast Line then acquired the line in 1902 and served San Antonio for nearly 75 years.

The St. Leo Depot had been built in 1890 and lasted 15 years, despite pleas from the abbot at Saint Leo Abbey to improve it. In 1906, Atlantic Coast Line built a new depot 500 feet north of the first station on the west side of the track. That station lasted until 1927.

It was at that time that San Antonio changed its name to the City of Lake Jovita.

The change was proposed by W. E. Currie, who was building a golf course on property northwest of what was then Saint Leo College. The change was supported by builder Lucius Herrmann whose son, the Rev. Stephen Herrmann, later became college president. Currie and Herrmann both had problems with building materials being shipped, even from Tampa, to San Antonio, Texas.

During the Florida land boom the word “beach” and other descriptions were added to make cities sound more enticing to visitors. City fathers thought “Lake Jovita” was more appealing than “San Antonio.”

The abbot also agreed to give up the depot at St. Leo to allow a new station to be built at Lake Jovita east of the old San Antonio station, a few hundred yards in the direction of the college.

Railroad workers burned down the old St. Leo Depot in July 1927. After five years as Lake Jovita, San Antonio was returned to its original name.

And the Lake Jovita Depot became the San Antonio Depot. But it burned in the late 1940s, said Eddie Herrmann, grandson of Lucius Herrmann and a Pasco County historian.



Eddie Herrmann recalled how he and his mother, Rose, went to the fire and sprayed water on gas tanks across the street from the depot to keep them from exploding. They saved the tanks belonging to his father, Joe Herrmann, who was away that night.

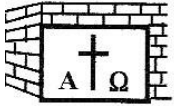
But Herrmann’s truck and tractor tires, along with baskets used for shipping fruit, which were stored at the depot, were destroyed.

The cause of the fire was unknown for years. But in later years a

former depot agent received a confession from an old railroad employee who said he started the fire with an errant flare.

The depot was rebuilt in 1949 and continued to serve San Antonio until 1972, when service was discontinued. Atlantic Coastline had merged with Seaboard Air Line Railroad in 1967 to become Seaboard Coast Line.

The building was left abandoned and forgotten until a group of Tampa residents organized under the name of Robert Most and Associates tried to revive the depot as headquarters for their railroad excursion in 1976.

<p>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</p>	<p>In Memory of Ryals Furniture Exchange And Great Parents Powell & Maude Ryals From son James God Bless America</p>
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Operating as Orange Belt Railroad, the train pulled passengers on a 90-minute round- trip from San Antonio to Blanton on weekends and holidays, beginning in mid-1976. The last trip was Feb. 21, 1978.

In 1979, the fair authority deeded the depot to San Antonio.

Through city and volunteer efforts, the depot was restored. It is used as a community meeting room and is leased to Rattlesnake and Gopher Enthusiasts Inc., the nonprofit group that hosts the Rattlesnake Festival, for storage.

The depot will be the start and finish point for Saturday’s Rattlesnake Run, 5- and 1-mile footraces.

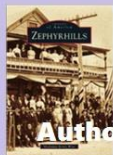
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR



CONGRESSMAN GUS BILIRAKIS AND THE PASCO COUNTY VET CENTER INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A CEREMONY TO RECOGNIZE AND REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED IN OUR UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES DURING THE VIETNAMWAR.

Monday, June 27th, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
East Pasco Adventist Academy
38434 Centennial Road
Dade City, FL 33525

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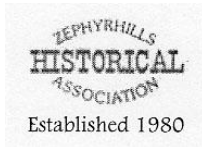
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Joni Gauger

owner/stylist



6132 Fort King Rd.
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ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

MAY 3RD, 2016

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

The April 5, 2016 minutes were read by Secretary Anna V. Boone with a motion to accept by Judy Meserve, seconded by Jerry Pricher and approved.

The Treasurers Report was given by Clereen Brunty. A move to accept the report was made by Jerry Pricher, seconded by Bill Kustes and approved.

Old Business: Patty Thompson reported that the scholarship fundraiser at Sergio's Italian Restaurant had brought in \$113.98 and that they would like to have us again. Patty suggested that our fundraiser dinners and night out meals are too close together and could the dates be moved further apart starting in June. Our next Rosemary Trotman Scholarship Fundraiser event will be at Mike's Smokehouse on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

Margie Partain has been advertising on the internet and she and Patty have delivered some announcements in person.

Regarding the scholarships, they will be presented by Rod Rehrig on May 12 to the recipients and their names will be announced at our next Association meeting.

New Business: Clereen Brunty announced that County Commissioner Mike Moore will be honoring Bill Smith and Ruth Smith Adams at the Dade City Courthouse on Tuesday at 1:00 P.M. and would like ZHA members to attend. They have been a source of information regarding days gone by in Pasco.

Margie Partain announced the National Day of Prayer observation Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at Zephyrhills City Hall.

Rod Rehrig introduced visitors Jeff Cook, an Honor Guard for the V.F.W. and Al Stone who is a Living Historian and portrays Robert E. Lee.

Rod also told us about going to Coney Island Hotdogs with the barbershop quartet and singing "Goodbye My Coney Island Baby," which was recorded.

Those with May birthdays include Jerry Pricher, Gail Geiger, Carol Rehrig, and Louie Holt and the dinner will be at 4:00 P.M., May 13, 2016 at Scotland Yard.

There was a question as to why some dinners are at 4:00 P.M. and others at 5:00P.M. and an explanation was provided by Clereen Brunty. Fundraisers are at 5:00 so Clereen can attend after work and the 4 o'clock time is to avoid the winter rush.

A motion was made to adjourn by Clereen Brunty and agreed to by all. The meeting ended at 5:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Anna V. Boone, Secretary, Zephyrhills Historical Association

The Zephyrhills High School Encore Chorus, under the direction of Luan Gore, provided musical entertainment after the business meeting.