

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 18 – Number 6

June 2016

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 5th 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

Hazel Massey was scheduled to be our speaker in June, but she was called away at this last minute. We have rescheduled her for August. Louie Holt took up the challenge, and with less than a day to prepare, showed us some more of our collection of photos of early Zephyrhills. He had previously shown us a collection of pictures of downtown business on 5th Avenue. This time he showed us a series of pictures of businesses located in other parts of the city. As usual, we found the evening informative and pleasant. Thanks, Louie!



Our speaker for the July meeting will be Suellen Smith, who is the current Cafeteria Manager at Zephyrhills High School. She takes part in other activities there as well, and this will be the topic of her discussion. Suellen has also been receiving quite a bit of press over the past couple of years and has received some awards. Kim Smith will be joining us to introduce her mother, and she'll be depended on to do the bragging. Kim is also a former scholarship winner with us, so it will be a sort of "coming home" for her as well. We hope you'll join us.

Tuesday, July 26th, is our next Give-Back Scholarship Fundraiser
at **Mike's Smokehouse on 7th Street**. 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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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: Jerry Pricher, 5138 20th Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542
 Phone: 813-788-2547 email: jerry@pricher.net

June Meeting



Felicia Riggs
Scholarship Recipient



Jim McElwee and Bill Kustes
Bill presented Jim with an award for 60 years with VFW

**Stewart Alums Crack Capsule
Those Were The Days Of 89¢ Gasoline**

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine, Zephyrhills Free Press – May 19, 2016

Students from the 1986 graduating class at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School got a blast from the past last week when they opened up their 30-year-old time capsule.

Shannon Jennings Riva was in eighth grade when she helped decorate the capsule.

“I’ve thought about it many times over the years but I never realized we set a date for 2016,” she said. “I kept wondering if it got dug up or what happened.”

Riva said looking at it now, she remembers coloring it, but could not recall what she chose to include in the capsule.



Last week, the dingy trashcan with the cap duct-taped shut was placed on a table of the media center at the school. The can was decorated with a colored mural reading: DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 2016.

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“The only thing I remember in there is a blow pop,” Steven Rinck joked before the capsule was opened. Rinck was the teacher in charge of the capsule project.

Once the tape was ripped off and the can opened, hands dove in one after another, pulling out plastic bags of sealed documents, magazines, newspaper clippings, t-shirts and other memorabilia.

A Life magazine displayed Molly Ringwald on the cover. Clippings reminded students of the times when Ronald Reagan was president, Marty McFly had time travelled, gas was 89 cents per gallon, the devastating Challenger shuttle explosion, and the rare appearance of Haley’s Comet.

Rick Saylor, Ty Schoenig, Scott Yount, Tommy Gregory and Riva were some of the original class members who created the capsule that were able to attend the May 13 unveiling.

“I’ve tried to keep track of them,” Rinck said. “I was able to resurrect couples I knew that were in the area and they were able to find others.”

The time capsule was a project for a gifted class taught by Rinck, at what was then called Zephyrhills Middle School. The name was changed shortly after the time capsule project was completed. The class was made up of 10 eighth graders and two seventh grade students at the time.




“I hadn’t really thought about it, I mean, once he [Rinck] brought it to my attention I remember doing it as a class, but I didn’t think that it was 30 years, because I just don’t think you want to accept that time has gone by that fast,” said Rick Saylor, now principal of Centennial Middle School.

The 1986 class charged fellow students 25 to 50 cents to be included in the time capsule. A fund of \$250 was raised and invested and Rinck went to the bank a couple of weeks ago and collected the fund, which had grown into \$3,000. A gift from the class of 1986, the money was donated to the current gifted classes at Stewart Middle.

A video recorded by the 1986 class was screened and included interviews with all members of the class and a tour of Zephyrhills Middle School as it stood at the time. The video showed students working on their respective jobs for the capsule project.

Scott Yount could not stop laughing as he watched his 14-year-old self on the screen. He later found a letter he had written to his future self, that he read with a smile across his face.

“Obviously 30 years later, a lot of things have changed, but it’s very interesting to see the thought process and state of mind I was in at that time as a kid and what we thought the future was going to hold for us,” he said.

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“Thank you,” said Tommy Gregory as he went to shake Rinck’s hand after watching the video. “Standing here watching this, it feels like you’re still teaching us.”

Rinck said the time capsule project was partially designed as a challenge for the next generation of kids to continue with the tradition – something that would be special and significant for the campus and the school.

The original gifted program students presented a 2016 silver dollar to current students at the middle school who have taken it upon themselves to put together another time capsule, which will be opened in 2046.



Steven Rinck, Rick Saylor, Shannon Jennings Riva, Ty Schoenig, Scott Yount, and Tommy Gregory stand with documents and memorabilia that had been stored in the capsule

Twin Lingo, Can you Imagine?

by Jon R. Ferguson

Mother was 40, Dad was 49 when Jim and I were born in 1934. We had a brother age 9 and another age 18 and a sister age 21. The Great Depression was going on. Even the little town of Zephyrhills, Florida was not exempt. We moved from place to place and had no playmates. It was, therefore, common for us to develop a language all our own. It is said that even Mother and Dad could not understand us, but we got along famously well together. Now picture this if you dare: here are two youngsters of about 4 or 5 years old that could not speak so that anyone could understand them. What did you have on your hands?... possibly a carnival side show or should they just be confined to an institution? How embarrassing can this be?

Now a miracle worker comes on the scene. Mary Francis Granger moves to town to help take care of her aged parents and to begin a Kindergarten. Somehow she hears of the twins who needs help and contacts our parents. Voila!, except for one thing. Where is the money coming from? I do not know the answer to this, but Miss Granger decided to take us on as a challenge.

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Yet another problem exists. How are the boys going to get from their home on Third Street to the Kindergarten on Eleventh Street? If we got off a beaten path we couldn't tell anyone who we were or where we wanted to go. I can remember many times that Miss Granger would meet us at Highway 301 and make our crossing safe from thereon...and at the end of the training session she could sometimes walk us back to the highway crossing, or better still, sometimes could drive us home, but there were other children who needed attention.

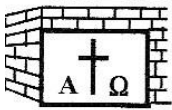
I can recall the little slates that were handed out for us to write on with the chalk she handed us, and the larger slate that she would put things on for us to copy. I also recall lining up in rows for refreshments or games with the other students. I cannot tell you the names of any of the other students now.

The most embarrassing thing I remember is using the outhouse. It was nicely concealed between the kindergarten and the Granger home. It was a shared facility. I had gone to relieve myself and had hooked the door closed. Before I was ready to return to class someone tugged on the door only to find it locked. I knew it had to be an adult, but whom? After a little struggle, I heard footsteps coming toward the kindergarten, and Miss Granger's mother was hollering that she needed to use the facilities but one of the students must be in there. I sheepishly escaped. I think that experience has made me cautious of using public rest rooms even today!

Now as we began to become more normal and learn a few things, I asked my brother if he could read the cross-arms at the railroad tracks. He looked puzzled, but I said look carefully and sound it out like Miss Granger taught us. It says: "Watch out for teachers". That was my interpretation for "Watch out for the cars". I think mine makes more sense even today! I wonder what ever happened to those cross-arms.

Another embarrassing moment involving Miss Granger occurred when she had taken us home in her car...probably to collect our tuition...and the front right wheel ran over the grease trap at the kitchen sink and stuck her there until we could get several of the nearby men to lift and push her car out of that situation. We children just had to stay out of the way. I was thankful, even then, that it wasn't the septic tank!

Overall we must have spent the better part of two years with Miss Granger. She was able to promote us to Second Grade. This always made us a year younger than most of our fellow students, but our size made up for that! We were among the tallest. Miss Granger continued operating "The Child's Garden of Learning" for years after this. Her students always received a good head start over their peers. Miss Granger never married. Her favorite color was blue. She wore it a lot. It did not matter if the hues matched, as long as it was blue! She was slightly built and a little stooped. I towered over her, but even after I completed high school I would meet her in the Post Office or thereabouts and she always recalled my name.

<p>CornerStone  Baptist Church 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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I talk fast now, trying to catch up on those years that no one could understand me. You have to learn to listen fast.

God Bless our teachers!

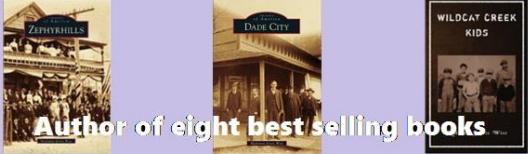

Mary Francis Granger (March 6, 1884-April 2, 1971) was apparently the only child of Franklin B. Granger (1851-1934) and Ida C. Granger (1858-1939). All were born in Pennsylvania. All died in Florida. All are buried in “Husband Cemetery”, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

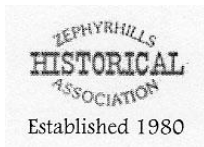
THE FUTURE MEETS THE PAST AT THE TRAIN DEPOT MUSEUM

by Andrea Figart

On Thursday, June 16, the Chancey Road Church’s Summer Camp enjoyed an interactive tour at the Zephyrhills Train Depot Museum. Led by Victoria DeGeorge and assisted by volunteers from the Zephyrhills Historical Association, children and their chaperones were able to view original materials chronicling the rich history of Zephyrhills. Children participated in a tour led by Victoria DeGeorge and Margie Partain; explored the caboose with stewards, Louie Holt and Jerry Pricher; were entranced with the train layout and working trains conducted by Bob Baldwin; and had fun window-shopping the gift store and making train bookmarks with Betty O’Dell. The visit wrapped up with each child receiving a conductor’s hat and train whistle, and happy toots could be heard amongst the many “thank you’s” as the group departed. The camp’s adult chaperones were appreciative and commented on how nice their visit to the Train Depot Museum was. The Library is very appreciative of the ZHA’s Depot Event Committee, whose volunteers helped ensure these youngsters had an engaging cultural experience that they will always fondly remember!



 <p>Author of eight best selling books</p> <p>Madonna Wise Books Author, Research & Consulting Madonna Jervis Wise Zephyrhills, Florida Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p>813-469-8627 MadonnaJWise@gmail.com http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</p>	<p>Cutting Edge Beauty Salon</p>  <p>813-782-4001 813-469-3437</p> <p>Joni Gauger owner/stylist</p> <p>6132 Fort King Rd. Zephyrhills, Florida 33542</p>
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ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 7TH, 2016

The June 7, 2016 meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order by President Rod Rehrig at 5:30 p.m., followed by the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. The May 3, 2016 minutes were read by Secretary Anna V. Boone, with a move to accept by Jerry Pricher, seconded by Clereen Brunty and approved. Treasurer Clereen Brunty gave her report. A move to accept it was made by Bill Kustes and seconded by Louie Holt and approved by all.

Old Business: Patty Thompson and Margie Partain reported that we haven't received any money from the May fundraiser at Mike's Smokehouse. Rod said he will check with them.

This year's scholarships were presented by Rod Rehrig to Alexandra Harwell and Felicia Riggs on May 12 at the high school. Alexandra sent a card to the Association thanking us for the scholarship funds which will go toward her tuition as she attends the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg. Felicia was present and thanked the Zephyrhills Historical Association in person. She will be studying Marine Biology at the University of West Florida. Margie Partain enumerated Felicia's many accomplishments, and Felicia also spoke about her activities. Both she and Alexandra were listed in the ZHS 2016 Top 20 Bulldogs. Margie then read a piece by Booker T. Washington, which was about success.

Other Old Business: There was discussion regarding spreading out the scholarship funds so that money might be available to previous recipients with the view that it might give our organization more visibility in the community. Continuing students would need to provide transcripts. A motion was made by Louie Holt to present funds to previous recipients, seconded by Bill Kustes. The motion carried. There was one objection.

Clereen brought up the subject of nametags, asking if anyone needed one, and reminding that there is a fee of \$.50 if one doesn't wear his or her name tag.

New Business: Andrea, the librarian, said the Depot Museum falls under the library department and that it should be spotlighted, as it is such a gem. She asked for volunteers to be on a committee for planning events at the Depot Museum. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Clereen passed out flyers regarding the 50th. Anniversary of the Viet Nam War. There will be recognition and remembrance of those who served. It will start at 2 p.m. on June 27 at the East Pasco Adventist Academy, 38434 Centennial Rd., Dade City. Included will be Rod's group singing the National Anthem and God Bless America. Congressman Gus Bilirakis will present lapel pins to those who served in Viet Nam.

Other New Business: Bill introduced Jim McElwee, whom he described as an old faithful member of the Zephyrhills Historical Association. Jim has been a member of the American Legion for 60 years. Bill presented him with a plaque honoring him, as well as a tee shirt with American Legion Post 118 written on it.

Rod announced the Flag Day program beginning at 10 a.m. on June 14. He with the Honor Guard will be replacing the American Flag at Jim's residence, the America House, then at the Elks Club and the V.F.W. There will be a proper disposal of the flags ceremony.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Porter, seconded by Judy Meserve and agreed to by all. The meeting ended at 6:10 p.m.

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