

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 18 – Number 11

November 2016

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3rd 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. There will be ***no scheduled meeting in December***. Our Christmas get-together is set for Thursday, December 8th, 5 p.m., at the Wedgewood Manor Community Clubhouse, 37420 Wedgewood Drive (off Geiger Road). *Also remember that Members will be decorating the Oregon Christmas tree at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills on Sunday, December 4th at 12:30 pm.*

Speakers



Buck Winslow, as Moses, entertained us all at our November meeting. Those in attendance were treated to a history of the life and times of this historical figure. No burning bushes, snakes, or locusts are allowed in the meeting room of the library, so Buck has to do his best to appeal to the imagination of his audience, and that he did. I have to admit he made a pretty believable Moses. I also have the feeling this is not the last we'll see of Buck Winslow, although we will probably not have a repeat performance of this particular character. He seems to enjoy what he is doing, and we enjoyed having him do it.

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.

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Jeff Miller

Pasco County Historian

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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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Editor: Jerry Pricher, 5138 20th Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542
Phone: 813-788-2547 email: jerry@pricher.net

Broasted Chicken

by Jon R. Ferguson

I believe that it was John Lanham, his wife and son, who operated a place at the south end of Zephyrhills that cooked and sold the very best broasted chicken I ever had. That had to be in the early 1960s. I believe that it was either in a former service station that became a pizza parlor or a separate building next door. The broasting was done in a pressure cooker/deep fryer combination. It was always the same: perfect! The name of the place may have been “John Doe’s”. On Sundays after church you had to wait 7 or 8 folks deep to get your orders, but no one minded. The aroma just made you hungrier and hungrier. I don’t recall any side orders or bread, but I do recall that wonderful chicken. Does anyone else remember this?

From the Desk of the Editor — Jon Ferguson


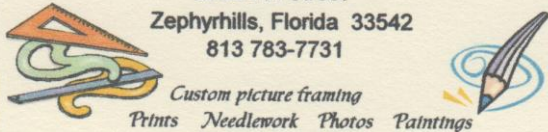
Jon sent me this article quite a while ago. I’m unsure whether I already published it or not, but I place it here in tribute to his many contributions to this publication over the years. We lost Jon on November 1st at the age of 82. I first became aware of our loss when a fellow genealogist, Mary Perry, posted a statement at Elmer’s Genealogy Corner on Facebook. Jon has been a true friend over the years, and I will miss his articles and his encouragement. He sent a whole box of materials to me some time ago. He also sent one to Margaret, so we will probably be presenting information provided by Jon for years yet to come. Mary’s post and Jon’s Obituary follows, along with Ann Parkinson’s full tribute.

Originally posted by my cousin Ann ParkinsonA treasure to everyone who knew him and all of the Genealogy World. His loss is both stunning and over-whelming. He is once again with his beloved Nadine

JON RONALD FERGUSON

1934 - 2016

Jon Ronald Ferguson and his twin, James Donald Ferguson, were born in 1934 in rural Zephyrhills, Florida, to Lawrence Sumner and Tennie Velma Barber Ferguson. They graduated from Zephyrhills High School in 1951. Jon worked at Pasco Packing Company in Dade City for about four years prior to enrolling in Florida Christian College, Temple Terrace (Tampa), FL on scholarships and gifts from friends and family “and a broken shoe string”, where he received an AA in 1957. He worked for a short stint at Bank of Zephyrhills prior to being drafted into the U.S. Army as a Conscientious Objector. He reached the rank of Specialist-4. He served just short of two years which allowed him to re-enter college. He had taken courses by correspondence and at the University of Tampa, but stopped short of completing another degree.

 <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> 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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He met the love of his life, another twin, Ima Nadine Chambers, while serving in Ft. Bliss, TX. He returned to a cashier's position at the Bank of Zephyrhills, which was held for him while in the Army, and was promoted to Loan Officer. Nadine and Jon married on December 24, 1959. He worked a couple years with Florida Refrigerated Services, Dade City, before obtaining a position with the Federal Government. They moved to Jacksonville in 1967. The major portion of his government employment was with the Small Business Administration (SBA). His favorite duties were serving on a Disaster Cadre where he was able to help victims in Florida, Mississippi and California.




Upon his retirement from the SBA in 1988 he resumed his passion for genealogy. He held many positions with the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society, Jacksonville, including 10 one-year terms as President and was also a member of the West Nassau Genealogical Society, Callahan. He attended many workshops and seminars plus giving programs by the dozen. His days were filled with research and writing articles for genealogy publications plus articles for the Zephyrhills Historical Association.

His past passions were plants of many kinds (ferns, African violets, herbs, succulents, daylilies, et al) and hand embroidery. He taught himself cross-stitch before he started school. Later he joined the LeMoyné Chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America (EGA) and served as President for years. He won many major awards in the Duval County Fair, including Best of Show. Upon his retirement he was determined to cross-stitch a quilt for his twin's retirement in 1989. He designed most of 30 rectangles depicting a stamp from each of the 30 years Jim worked for the U.S.P.S. Family members also helped constructing the quilt. That quilt has won "Best of Show" every time it was entered in contests. He was instrumental in forming the DuClay Chapter of EGA and was Founding President of the Sun Region EGA. He retired from stitching after the quilt!

Jon and Nadine were parents of three children. Nadine, former ZHS Girls PE and Athletic Teacher, died on December 13, 2011. Jon joined her on November 1, 2016. He is survived by daughter, Mellyn (Ferguson) Whetstone and husband, James, Stephanie Ferguson (formerly Robert) Johnson, and Gregory Chambers Ferguson; his twin brother, James D. "Jim" Ferguson and wife, Arneta (Howard) Ferguson, plus very special friends, Michael E. Lawson, Bill Di Stanisloa, and Robert Hendry, a host of church family, grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, nieces, nephews, cousins and in-laws. He loved them all.

A private burial service will be held at Jacksonville National Cemetery where he will be interred in the grave with his wife.

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 <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 ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!</p>
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The loss of Jon, a very dear friend and Genealogy buddy, is very deeply felt, not only by me, but the entire Genealogy Community. He always gave so much to so many and always without thought of repayment or even thanks. He did it because he wanted to and it needed to be done. He was a true 'Southern Gentleman'. Jon...you will always be remembered and never replaced. Rest well with your sweet Nadine, my friend, and know your efforts will live on for many, many years to come, especially the cemetery work in Duval County. You were A Prince, A Treasure, A True Friend to many and I will deeply miss you. — Ann Parkinson - November 02 at 07:35 PM

From Jeff Miller's fivay.org site:

This article appeared in the Tampa Tribune on July 4, 2003.

Driven To See The Big Screen (2003)

By CAROL JEFFARES HEDMAN

DADE CITY - A slice of Americana is tucked along busy U.S. 301, just north of downtown.

Patrons — some in pajamas — still head there to hang clunky speakers on their car windows and watch the latest movies on a big outdoor screen.

The Joy-Lan Drive-In, one of 10 drive-in theaters left in the state, has survived 53 years, and manager Ray Patterson and his wife, Doris, hope to have a grand anniversary celebration next summer.

They're seeking patrons with memorabilia, nostalgic memories and any information about Joy-Lan's history. The couple also want to spread the word about the drive-in's existence, hoping it will be preserved for future generations.



"I went when I was a child and now I take my grandchild," 52-year-old Doris said. "I want him to be able to take his grandchildren. But people don't even know it's open." Doris has what she calls Joy-Lan's "birth certificate," an occupational license dated Oct. 25, 1950.

According to *The Dade City Banner*, the drive-in opened March 9, 1950, with the showing of *Challenge to Lassie*, starring Edmund Gwenn, Donald Crisp and the legendary collie.

The *Banner* announced on Jan. 20, 1950, that construction was to begin on the theater. Carl Floyd of Haines City, manager of the Floyd Theatres chain, said the \$55,000 drive-in would be completed in five weeks. It would have room for 250 vehicles.

"The new theatre will be an exact duplicate of two Tampa drive-ins, the Dale Mabry drive-in, and the new Funland [Fun-Lan] theatre," The *Banner* reported.

Contractor Ed Jenner built both Tampa drive-ins and was hired for the Joy-Lan job. He had built about 20 other theaters throughout the country during the previous two years.

"The drive-in here will be modern in every respect with individual automatic speakers and the latest RCA equipment," The *Banner* reported.

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Floyd Theatres also owned the Pasco Theatre in Dade City which, like the Vivian Theatre in Lacombee, was a “walk-in” movie house. Both theaters no longer exist.

“Drive-In Theatre Opened in Dade City Last Night,” proclaimed The *Banner* on March 10, 1950. The Joy-Lan had risen from a field in six weeks, “near record time.”

Charles R. Lambert, former assistant manager of the Pasco Theatre, managed the new drive-in, working with Betty Jo Green, Betty Jane Drawdy and Edward McNally.

Lassie Leads The Way

The Joy-Lan was open seven nights a week, with two shows nightly: at 7 and 9.

“Almost unique for theatregoers will be the feature of no previews or advertising trailers. The only interruption between the first and second shows each night will be a five-minute intermission,” The *Banner* said.

Along with *Challenge to Lassie*, the premier included *Down Dakota Way*, starring Dale Evans and Roy Rogers.



Good Sam, with Gary Cooper and Ann Sheridan, was on the marquee for March 12 and 13, 1950.

Children 12 and younger who accompanied their parents got in free, and Doris Shirah, now Patterson, was among them.

“I’ve been coming here ever since I was 5 or 6 years old,” she said.

As a mom, Doris brought her own daughter, Jeanne Carver, now 38. Doris now brings her 9-year-old grandson, Michael J. Carver.

Bring Your Own Snacks

Things have remained pretty much the same during those three generations. For example, Ray runs the projector that was used when the drive-in opened.

Even the concession stand is the same, Doris said, with prices still relatively low compared with those in today’s walk-in theaters. A large popcorn is \$2.75 and a large drink is \$2. But patrons may bring their own refreshments, too.

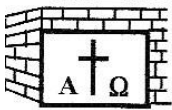
“We don’t mind people bringing food with them. What we like is seeing people enjoying seeing the movie,” Ray said.

Admission is \$2.50 per person, with children 9 and younger admitted free. Even with those prices, Doris said, “you’d be surprised” that people still try to sneak in.

Thursday night is carload night, when as many people as can pack into a vehicle are admitted for \$2.50.

“Don’t matter if you bring 20 people in, it’s still two dollars and a half,” Ray said.

Joy-Lan’s admission is the lowest of any American drive-in, according to the Web site www.driveinmovie.com. The Pattersons don’t know what patrons paid when Joy-Lan opened, but many other drive-ins charged about 40 cents per person in 1950.

<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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From Boom To Near Bust

The country's first drive-in theater opened in February 1938 in Miami, the second one in Jacksonville the following year. Growth was slow at first, with 22 drive-ins operating in Florida in 1948. But within five years, that jumped to 158 and the boom was on. The peak years for outdoor theaters in America were 1955-59. Then the numbers began to decline. But the closing of drive-ins in Florida was more gradual than in other states.

There were 133 drive-ins in Florida in 1972, but that dropped to 117 by 1977. In 1982 there were 93 drive-ins remaining and more than half of those closed within five years. Only 42 drive-ins were left in 1987, and by 1998 there were 19 in Florida.

Joy-Lan's fate looked similarly doomed in the 1990s. The drive-in closed in early 1995 when its parent company, Mastec Inc., sold the Pasco Theatre to another company. A condition of the sale required the drive-in to shut down to avoid competition. Floyd, the original owner of Joy-Lan, had built a company of more than 50 indoor theaters and drive-ins in Central Florida. In 1969 he named Harold Spears as president of Floyd Enterprises.

That company was sold in the late 1970s to Burnup & Sims Inc., which retained Spears as president of Floyd Enterprises. Mastec merged with Burnup & Sims during the early 1990s. Soon, Mastec sold all its indoor theaters to another theater company, Carmike, but continued to operate the drive-ins. Then the drive-ins gradually were closed and, in 1996, Spears was told to close the remaining drive-ins. To save some for future generations, Spears formed Sun South Theatres and bought the Joy-Lan, along with the Silvermoon in Lakeland, Fun-Lan in Tampa and Lake Worth Drive-in, formerly the Trail Drive-in.

Joy-Lan's New Life

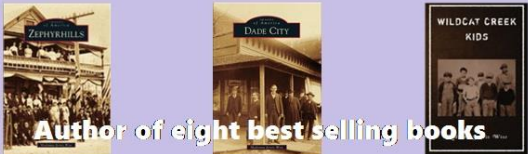

Spears reopened Joy-Lan on Oct. 11, 1996, with the sci-fi thriller *Independence Day* showing on the original screen. Like many former drive-ins, Joy-Lan took on operations of a flea market/swap shop while it was closed and has continued to operate the sales from 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

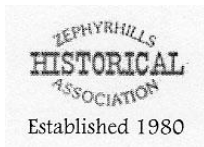
It helps the drive-in survive, Ray said. Joy-Lan is closed Monday and Tuesday nights, but he would like to open it every night. That would be possible, Ray said, if more people knew the drive-in existed. Those who do come drive from as far as Sarasota, Orlando and Inverness. Some nights there are as many as 180 cars, he said.

Joy-Lan can accommodate about 400 vehicles, he said, because people can park where they want and tune in on 87.9 FM. But if they want to listen to the movie the old-fashioned way, they have to park in one of the first four rows where about 80 speakers are hung from car windows.

Movie times are 8:45 and 10:30 p.m. Fridays through Sundays. On Wednesdays and Thursdays the movie begins at 8:45 p.m. unless there's a double feature. Ray takes requests for new releases, changing the films on Fridays. Joy-Lan shows only new releases, he said. "Our motto is, 'If there's not but one car here we still play the movie,'" Ray said. "I've only shut down one time."

The weather was so bad, he said, that he had to shut off the projector. But he couldn't do it fast enough to prevent the projector's lightbulb from burning a nickel-sized hole through the film strip. All three cars that weathered the storm got free passes.

 <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

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2016

The Regular Business Meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order by Vice President Jerry Pricher, who gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the October meeting were read by Secretary Anna V. Boone and approved by Clereen Brunty, seconded by Art Besinger and accepted.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Clereen Brunty. A motion to accept the report was made by Bill Kustes, seconded by Sharon Reisman and agreed to by all.

Old Business: Reporting on scholarship fundraising, Patty said that \$15 was received from Beef O'Brady's where we ate on October 25. The next fundraiser will be at Chili's on November 15. Chili's donated \$20 in gift cards and they will be included in our 50/50 Raffle today.

There was discussion regarding whether or not to have dinner in December since there's a Christmas party. It was suggested that we wait until January and go to Sergio's.

Margie Partain reminded us that tree decorating will take place on the first Sunday in December. She has done research to get ideas for decorating our Oregon tree such as; Oregon is the chain saw carving capitol, milk is the state drink, it is famous for its Douglas fir trees as well as Crater Lake. Jerry said Eugene is the track and field capitol of the U.S. The time for decorating will be at 12:30 p.m.

Patty said she understood the Chili's people to say they will see that we get \$50 minimum from our fundraiser.

Other Old Business: None

New Business: Margaret Seppanen reported that Canter Brown, Jr. will be a speaker at the Florida Southern College lecture series on February 16, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hollis Room. His topic will be Henry B. Plant: The Real Story of the King of Florida. She brought us informative flyers regarding the event.

Clereen updated us on Irene Dobson. She had broken a hip in July and has been in Zephyr Haven, improving with therapy, and that she really loves to have visitors.

Sharon Reisman requested prayers for her son, David, on Monday as he undergoes a serious surgery related to cancer.

Our November birthday person is Betty O'Dell who is not present. Jerry suggested Scotland Yards since Bob Porter had wanted to go there for his birthday but it wasn't opened at the time. We will meet there at 4:00 p.m. on November 11.

There was a motion to adjourn by Bill Kustes, seconded by Art Besinger and agreed upon by all. The meeting ended at 5:50 p.m.

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

Addendum to November 1 minutes: Librarian Andrea Figart put a sign-up sheet on the table for volunteers to work at the depot, planning to keep it open 2 days a week. As our guest speaker for the evening, Buck Winslow will be giving us a presentation of Moses of the Bible