

# TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 19 – Number 9

September 2017

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</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



Victoria DeGeorge, curator of the Depot Museum, was our speaker at the September meeting. She came to share information about the recent work done on behalf of the Zephyrhills Public Library to have the Zephilsco yearbooks digitized. The work has been completed of the years we had available, and Victoria shared some of the pictures with us as well as demonstrating how to navigate the material. Everyone knows Victoria, so the presentation was rather informal. She chose to display some pictures of folks she knew would be in attendance to remind us that once upon a time we were young and full of hope. Also, it appears we were more than just a little geeky! Everyone in attendance enjoyed the presentation very much, and we certainly appreciate the work Victoria puts in toward making the Depot Museum such a wonderful place to visit.

Our speakers for the October meeting will be the First brothers, Greg and Gary. Greg is the older of the two and has enjoyed a much higher profile in the community over the years. He seems to show up everywhere. He's the play-by-play announcer at Zephyrhills High School football games, and he serves as the announcer for the annual Founders Day Parade. He's a member of our organization, and you've seen one or two of his articles here from his work with the Zephyrhills Free Press. While Gary has had a lower profile he has always contributed to the community. He has maintained the business his dad started. That business, in fact, will serve as the starting point for the presentation. I've left it up to the brothers how it proceeds from there. I had the pleasure of teaching Gary's son Chris a number of years ago, and then I have the pleasure of presenting our Rosemary Trotman Scholarship to his daughter, Sarah, in May. I am really looking forward to hearing from these guys.



**Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, is our next Give-Back Scholarship Fundraiser**  
at **Sergio's Italian Restaurant** on Hwy. 54 West in **Zephyrhills**. We are meeting at 4 p.m.  
Contact Patty Thompson (813-780-8559 – [pattycakeclown1@aol.com](mailto:pattycakeclown1@aol.com)) for information.



## E54 SELF STORAGE

38461 County Road 54  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542

813-788-5969

5x5 | 5x10 | 10x10 | 10x15 | 10x20 | 20x20 | RV | BOAT

**Jeff Miller**

**Pasco County Historian**

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.

| <u>Executive Board</u> |       |                 |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| President              | ..... | Rod Rehrig      |
| Vice President         | ..... | Jerry Pricher   |
| Secretary              | ..... | Anna Boone      |
| Treasurer              | ..... | Clereen Brunty  |
| <u>Board Members</u>   |       |                 |
| Tenci Alexander        |       |                 |
| Polly Gill             |       |                 |
| Bill Kustes            |       |                 |
| Patty Thompson         |       |                 |
| <u>Committees</u>      |       |                 |
| Ads for Tracks         | ..... | Clereen Brunty  |
| Hospitality            | ..... | Tenci Alexander |
| Refreshments           | ..... | Polly Gill      |
| Newsletter             | ..... | Jerry Pricher   |
|                        |       | Clereen Brunty  |
| Programs               | ..... | Jerry Pricher   |
|                        |       | Carolyn Dean    |
| Scholarship            | ..... | Margie Partain  |
|                        |       | Jerry Pricher   |
| Archivist              | ..... | Louie Holt      |

**Boardwalk Boosters**

Clereen Brunty  
 Michael Cockill  
 Carolyn Dean  
 Gina King Granger  
 Greg First  
 Jackie & Terry Lindsey  
 Andrew Nagy  
 Rod & Carol Rehrig  
 Margaret Seppanen

**Scholarship Boosters**

George & Anna Boone  
 Clereen Brunty  
 Elsie Burgess  
 Michael Cockill  
 Maryhelen Clague  
 Carolyn Dean  
 Polly Gill  
 Gina King Granger  
 Thea Johnson  
 Connie Kirkland  
 Bill Kustes  
 Anne Mester  
 Dr. Richard Moore  
 Margie Partain  
 Jerry Pricher  
 Linda Sante  
 Margaret Seppanen

**CURRENT MEMBERSHIP**

|                   |                   |                 |                 |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Tenci Alexander   | Michael Cockill   | Val Hiatt       | Rick Moore      | Kim Sanders       |
| Raymond Alvarez   | Richard Crouch    | Beverly Holmes  | Dale Myers      | Mary Ann Sanders  |
| Darlene Bamberger | Carolyn Dean      | Louie Holt      | Andrew Nagy     | Tim Sanders       |
| Beverly Barnett   | Irene Dobson      | Thea Johnson    | Peggy Panak     | Linda Sante       |
| Elaine Benjamin   | Vicki Elkins      | James Kaylor    | Margie Partain  | Jason Sasser      |
| Art Besinger      | Greg First        | Jean Kaylor     | Dusty Perkins   | Margaret Seppanen |
| John Bolender     | Gail Geiger       | Connie Kirkland | Nancy Perkins   | Steve Spina       |
| Anna Boone        | Nathan Geiger     | Bill Kustes     | Bob Porter      | Al Stone          |
| George Boone      | Judy Gibson       | Jackie Lindsey  | Penny Porter    | Patty Thompson    |
| Clereen Brunty    | Polly Gill        | Terry Lindsey   | Jerry Pricher   | Steve Turner      |
| Elsie Burgess     | Gina King Granger | Emilie Mastin   | Carol Rehrig    | Terry Turner      |
| Kathy Burnside    | Lyden Green       | Anne Mester     | Rodney Rehrig   | Dave Walters      |
| Rosemary Carrigg  | Sue Green         | Jeff Miller     | Sharon Reisman  | Buck Winslow      |
| Vera Chenkin      | Betty Hall        | Barb Moore      | Jim Ryals       | Ernie Wise        |
| Maryhelen Clague  | Rex Hiatt         | Dr. Rick Moore  | Tammy Kay Ryman | Madonna Wise      |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  <p><b>Clereen Morrill Brunty</b><br/>                 ZHS Alumni Contact</p> <p><b>clereen@tampabay.rr.com</b></p> <p><b>813-782-8763</b></p> |  <p><b>chalet flowers</b></p> <p>Kim Tim  Maryann Sanders<br/>                 owners</p> <p>Ph: 813-788-2874<br/>                 chaletflowersfl.com</p> <p>5002 7th Street<br/>                 Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p> |
|---|--|

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

**From the desk of the Editor:**

Clereen notified me this week that City Hall was in the process of being demolished. We both missed it. Fortunately she was able to make contact with city foreman Jeff Aker, who shared some pictures with us. Some great memories come to mind at the passing of this city icon. My high school graduation was the second one in the gym, which also no longer exists, but all the proms and dances during high school were here, together with some from my years as a teacher.



**OFF the Chart media**

Gina King Granger  
Social Media & Digital Marketing Strategist

(813) 602-1818  
PO Box 1718 Zephyrhills FL 33539  
gina@offthechartmedia.com

*Artistic Expressions*

5906 7th Street  
Zephyrhills, Florida 33542  
813 783-7731

Custom picture framing  
Prints Needlework Photos Paintings  
Computer photo editing

Beverly Koehler Barnett, Owner      aeframer@gmail.com

**History of Zephyrhills Municipal Auditorium aka City Hall**

*By: Madonna Jervis Wise & Clereen Morrill Brunty*

April 29, 2010




**Call us Sentimental!**

The bond that brought Madonna and Clereen together in this enterprise of writing about community memories is a sentimental vein that runs through both of us for the symbolic charm and history of experiences, places and events. The handling of a historical treasure such as the exquisite ink bottle Rick Moore uncovered at the site of the first 1910 school, at the Clock Restaurant or the collector’s items of bottles Frank Thomas shared with us from the Seaboard Coastline Railroad in our recent interview will bring a flood of memories and speculations about times gone by. *It’s better than an ice cream sundae!* When we make the connections with today and hear from our readers about their reminiscences, we are just giddy with excitement. *Call us unusual, but there are lots of us sappy romantics out there.* This week we would like to continue with our gusto over tangible symbols of our history! **How about the Municipal Auditorium, now known as City Hall?** The two of us could break out in a Bob Hope rendition of *Thanks for the Memories* (by Leo Robin & Ralph Rainger) when we think of the Zephyrhills Municipal Auditorium and the stories that it holds of our history—the events, the romances, the productions, the conversations that occurred in the location!

**GRADUATIONS**

Throughout the 1950s the Home Movie Theatre hosted the graduation ceremony but the 1959 graduation ended this decade-long tradition when commencement was hosted at the brand new Municipal Auditorium, and until the ZHS Gymnasium was built in 1968, many of the graduations of the 1960’s occurred at the Municipal Auditorium.



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  <p><b>Garage Doors, Inc.</b><br/>Sales &amp; Service</p> <p><b>Kerry Ryman</b><br/>President</p> <p>36413 SR 54 • Zephyrhills, Florida 33541<br/>Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-788-6773<br/>E-mail: kerry@rymanconstruction.com<br/>License # GDI 09084</p>  |  <p><b>ARMY STRONG</b><br/><i>Airborne-Ranger, "All The Way"</i></p> <p><b>MICHAEL J. COCKILL</b><br/>Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)</p> <p>8469 Maybelle Dr. (352) 596-9751 (h)<br/>Weeki Wachee, FL 34613 (352) 584-0758 (m)<br/>mcockill@tampabay.rr.com<br/>ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!</p> |
|--|--|

The 1966 graduation is an example. The *News* reported *Commencement exercises for the 87-member graduating class of ZHS, largest in the school's history, were held Friday evening in the Municipal Auditorium. Mrs. John Braswell played a prelude of piano selections and the traditional 'March of the Priests,' as the processional for the white cap and gown-robed seniors.* The scholarship medal was won by Don Heidler, and the citizenship award went to Gloria Kinnard. Tom Porter won the school's activities, and Harriett Morton, Brant Blessing and Mary Fish won school spirit awards.

In 1965, again the Municipal Auditorium was the scene of commencement exercises for the 81-member class. Lillian Johnson won the citizenship award and Larry Chauncey was awarded the athletic medal with Bob Winters as school spirit. The salutatorian Barbara Thompson said that those of 1965 who join the business world are accepting the responsibility of *guarding the democratic principle as applied to business and of making good use of our sense of fairness and our ethics.*

In 1964, 84 students received diplomas at the Auditorium and class president Ray Preston Bolt's talk was entitled *On the Fringe of Destiny.* He said that, *while we have the good fortune of being born into a nation with endless possibilities, we have the even better fortune of being born into a government dedicated to preserving these possibilities for every person, and our enthusiasm will not be dulled by the thought of social security to help us when we are old or unemployed--the existence of such a program is very good but we prefer to take care of ourselves.* In 1964, Nancy Overhuls was general chairman of the graduation event with senior class colors of white and red used in the decorations. Mrs. Ray Bolt was in charge of the dance at Municipal Auditorium and Mr. and Mrs. John F. Clements presided at a "splash party" at Municipal Pool after.

## PROMS

Proms that occur for the juniors and seniors were somewhat of a 'rite of passage' in the 1960's era and beyond do in fact continue yet today in a bit of a morphed state. You might be interested to know that the recent ZHS prom on April 2<sup>nd</sup> was held at the Tampa location of the Bayanhian Arts & Cultural Center while the 2009 prom was at the Sheraton Riverwalk. There was a time however when the Municipal Auditorium right here in Zephyrhills was the rockin' place for the prom! The preparation and parent involvement represented a community effort.

## Here are some glimpses that will make you smile...

Debbie Padgett and Kevin Ryman were crowned queen/king of the 1976 prom at the Municipal Auditorium. Coronation of the royalty came with Miller Newton, Student Council President, crowning the pair with aluminum pan crowns (hastily manufactured by teacher/sponsor Jean Hawes from cookie plates after the purchased crowns were misplaced!

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WATSON CLINIC</b> <small>LLP</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dermatology at Zephyrhills</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rick L. Moore, M.D.</b><br/>Dermatology</p> <p>6901 Medical View Lane<br/>Zephyrhills, Florida 33542<br/>www.WatsonClinic.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Office: 813-788-7867<br/>Fax: 813-783-7187</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">In Memory of</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ryals Furniture Exchange</b><br/>And Great Parents<br/><b>Powell &amp; Maude Ryals</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">From son James</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>God Bless America</b></p> |
|--|--|

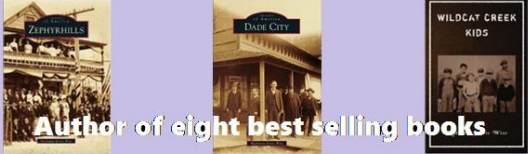


In 1974, the prom at the Municipal Auditorium featured the band, *Alias Fox*, and decoration chairs were Jan Rucks and Cheri Wynne. In 1973, 300 attended the prom with theme *Hawaii '73*, and Janet Edmonston and Joe Wells were crowned with music by “Jefferey,” a Chicago-based rock band. Prom servers dressed in Hawaiian grass skirts or beachcomber attire were Jan Jordan, Karen Calhoun, Betsy Dobson, Judy Padgett, Linda Geiger, Dale Maggard, Doug Lail, Cliff Hebel, and Randy Bahr.

In 1971, *News Daze* reporter Valerie Wickstrom wrote: *‘Age of Aquarius’ was the theme of the Junior-Senior Prom Saturday night in Municipal Auditorium. Decorations featured a mammoth horoscope wheel in the middle of the floor depicting the various signs.* 1970 theme was the Circus while 1969 featured the popular television show, *Twilight Zone*, as the theme. In 1968 *News Daze* columnist Janette Dunnigan reported, *‘Gone With the Wind’ was carried out beautifully with home-made murals relating to the novel.* She said, *It’s been a long time since the Municipal Building looked so good. Even with the rainy weather once you got inside the entire mood changed and it was as if you were back in time. No one even knew who was nominated for queen except President Dale Palmer. About halfway through, he introduced teacher, Mr. John Geiger, who did the honors of crowning Cliff Cooper and Laura Achillich.*

In 1964, ‘Outer limits’ was theme of the Prom at the Municipal Auditorium.

A large committee headed by Larry Turner, Junior President, literally transformed the spacious auditorium into an out-of-this-world setting for the traditional event. The walls of the auditorium property were covered with murals featuring craters, rocket launching pads and the like. Green lights glowed in the blue crepe paper draped ceiling. Assisting with the transformation process were David Myers, Charlene Collier, Ronnie Carroll, Marcia McGinnis, Linda Hayden, Barbara Thompson, Lillian Johnson, Kaye Henry, Joe Maniscalco, Doris Posey, Dickie Dibble, Michael Massey, Susan Bucey, and Charlene Breckenridge. ‘Fantasy of the Sea’ was the theme of the 1963 Prom in Municipal Auditorium. Linda Copper reigned as queen and Hennon Styles as king of the annual dance.

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  <p><b>Author of eight best selling books</b></p> <p><b>Madonna Wise Books</b><br/>           Author, Research &amp; Consulting<br/>           Madonna Jervis Wise<br/>           Zephyrhills, Florida<br/>           Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p><b>813-469-8627</b><br/> <a href="mailto:MadonnaJWise@gmail.com">MadonnaJWise@gmail.com</a><br/> <a href="http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com">http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</a></p> | <p><b>Joni Gauger</b><br/>owner</p> <p><b>Cutting Edge Beauty Salon</b></p> <p>813-782-4001<br/>           cell 813-469-3437</p> <p>6132 Ft. King Rd.<br/>Zephyrhills, FL.</p> |
|---|--|

We would of course be remiss to not mention that the extraordinary Follies and Miss Zephyrhills pageants, which took place during the Founders Day weekend, were orchestrated at this location for many years as well as band concerts and end-of-the year program banquets from the school for FFA, FHA and so many more clubs. Teas, parent meetings and an array of events make up the history of this unforgettable location.

**Additional Info on Wesley Chapel**  
*from Jeff Miller's Pasco County Historical Site*  
*at fivay.org*

**1877-78.** A list of Hernando County schools in 1877-78 shows school No. 10 at Wesley Chapel with G. Godwin the teacher. However, opening and closing dates are left blank, perhaps indicating that no session was held that year. Another list shows D. Godwin as the trustee. The school may be older; school board records before that time were lost in a fire.

**June 2, 1878.** The Double Branch Baptist Church is constituted, with 24 adult female and 10 adult male charter members. The church is said to have been named by founder Thomas Ashley Boyette for two landmark branches of water converging on the property line along nearby Boyette Road. The branches are now said to be channeled into culverts that run under Boyette Road. Ordained ministers T. H. Jaudon and R. T. Caddin were at the founding of the church to witness the Constitution. The church met at Matchett (Magic) Lake, off Elam Road near Holton Cemetery.

The first pastor of Double Branch Baptist Church was Benjamin L. Ray 1878-1879. Henry D. Ryals was pastor in 1880, 1888-89, 1898-99, 1905-07, 1914-16, and in 1920. J. Irvin Spivey was pastor in 1882, 1891-94, and 1900-01. J. T. Pittman was pastor in 1884. J. W. Giddeons was pastor in 1902-1904. An early Baptist Ministerial Directory shows that Benjamin L. Ray was pastor of Double Branch Church from 1877-1882.

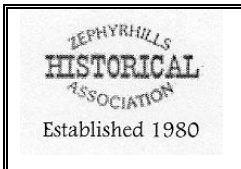
**1883.** Minutes from 1883 indicate that Thomas Boyette was appointed Superintendent of the Sunday School at the church.

**1883-84.** A list of Hernando County schools shows teacher B. L. Blackburn and trustees J. A. Boyett, W. R. Smith, and J. J. Gillett. **Information on the Wesley Chapel school is [here](#).**

**1885.** Double Branch Baptist Church becomes a member of the Hernando Baptist Association and the Florida Baptist Convention. R. T. Caddin was the pastor at that time.

**Sept. 1887.** Voting precincts are established for the newly-formed Pasco County. Wesley Chapel was designated Precinct 4.

**Mar. 15, 1888.** A post office named Godwin is established, with Jacob Godwin the first postmaster.



## ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

The Regular Monthly Business Meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order by President Rod Rehrig at 5:30 P.M. He led in the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with the Invocation.

Minutes from the August 1, 2017 meeting were provided by the Secretary and a motion to accept them was made by Al Stone, seconded by Bill Kustes and agreed to by the group.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Clereen Brunty, with a motion to approve made by Beverly Holmes, seconded by Al Stone and agreed to by those present.

There were no new members or guests to introduce.

Old Business: Regarding Fundraising, there are flyers available for the Scholarship Fundraiser at Sergio's on September 26, any time between 11 A.M.-9:P.M. though the group meets there to eat and fellowship around 4:00 P.M.

The Secretary read a thank you note sent to the Association from Scholarship recipient Shelbie Pollock.

Other Old Business: Clereen asked that member profiles be filled out and turned in to her.

New Business: There was discussion about volunteers for offices to be filled for the years 2018-2019. The list of nominees needs to be ready by October for voting in November. Jerry Pricher agreed to be a nominee for President and Rod Rehrig for Vice President. Someone is needed for the Secretary's position.

Jerry announced that Victoria DeGeorge, the Depot Museum curator, will be giving a presentation regarding the digitalized Zephyrhills High School yearbooks which will be available at the library and can be downloaded by individuals who bring in a thumb drive to the librarian. Jerry has also has been in touch with Jeff Miller about putting it on his website at [www.fivay.org](http://www.fivay.org).

For a Good of the Order item, Clereen gave an update on member Irene Dobson who resides at Zephyr Haven in the Alzheimers unit. Her daughter said she is doing well and enjoys the company of a long time friend there and that she would welcome visits. She also said Irene has problems with remembering but remembers some things well.

Beverly Holmes said she has a copy of the newsletter from the Oswego, Michigan Historical Association and will bring it in if anyone is interested in seeing their format.

Clereen announced that a 1983 ZHS graduate, Steve Marshall, will be a guest on the Penn and Teller – Fool Us Show on September 14 at 8 P.M., Channel 44 doing his magic act.

Terry Lindsey suggested going to Sonny's BBQ for the September birthdays and Rose Carrigg agreed. The date will be September 15 at 4:00 P.M. Rod will contact Sonny's.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerry, seconded by Bill and agreed to by all. The meeting concluded at 5:50 P.M.

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

Our guest speaker for the evening is Victoria De George, Depot Museum curator.