

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 20 – Number 3

March 2018

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 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.

Speakers



Steve Spina, Zephyrhills City Manager, was our guest speaker for the March meeting. He's also a member of our organization and was here from the beginning. His task on this night was to update us on the progress and plans concerning the Depot Museum and the Jeffries House. Our association is committed to helping the City in whatever way we can to open these up to the public.

We are already in the process of taking an inventory and deciding what items belong where. In the future we will be called upon to help staff these facilities so they can be open as much as possible. It was an informative evening for us.

Roxanne Geisenheimer, Executive Director of the Samaritan Project of Zephyrhills, Inc. was scheduled to be our speaker in January, but our meeting came on a very cold night, and she got tied up at work. One of the missions of the Samaritan Project is to provide shelter for the homeless during extremely bad weather. I told you and Roxanne at the time that we would try to schedule her another time, and she has graciously accepted. She will be here in April to tell us about her organization. Come join us!



Tuesday, April 24th, 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) for information.



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Zephyrhills, FL 33542

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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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President	Jerry Pricher
Vice President	Rod Rehrig
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Tenci Alexander		
Clereen Brunty		
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Hospitality	Tenci Alexander
Refreshments	Polly Gill
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		Clereen Brunty
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Kathy Burnside	Gina King Granger	Jeff Miller	Tammy Kay Ryman	Madonna Wise
Rosemary Carrigg	Lyden Green	Barb Moore	Kim Sanders	

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

March 7, 2018 by Special to The Laker/Lutz News
by *Madonna Jervis Wise*

The theme of this year's 108th Founder's Day in Zephyrhills is "Timber, Turpentine and Moonshine." The trio of products played an important role during Zephyrhills' early days.

Vast pine and cypress were abundant throughout the area and provided raw materials for building. Besides timber, they provided turpentine and related products.



Around 1931, 19-year-old Lonnie Tucker watches for revenuers. He is pictured in Wesley Chapel with his moonshine still. (Courtesy of Madonna Jervis Wise)

Greer's Lumber Mill, operated by Jim Greer, was the largest employer for the first two decades and fortified settlers with resources to build their cracker homes.

The Great Depression closed Greer's Lumber Mill. But, the town began to flourish again after 1932, when I.A. Krusen purchased 13,000 acres and opened the Krusen Land & Timber Company.

Later, Camp Number 39 of Hercules Powder Company was opened in Zephyrhills and had the distinction of being the largest employer in the city from 1946 until its closing in 1962.

Farmers and ranchers within a 35-mile radius contracted with Hercules to remove pine stumps, which were processed into products such as rosin, turpentine and pine oil, as well as byproducts used in paper, paints, varnishes, adhesives, asphalt emulsions, gun powder and dynamite. Although Zephyrhills was less distinguished for moonshine than neighboring communities, such as Wesley Chapel, an occasional settler turned to moonshine stills, as well as charcoal kilns and cash-crops, to subsist.

When Prohibition banned the manufacture, transportation and sale of alcohol, moonshine stills provided an alternative source of liquor. Even after Prohibition ended, occasional moonshining continued until the 1950s. Several families still hold moonshine recipes.

Marlo Hilton, a hometown girl and 1998 Zephyrhills High School graduate, remembers using a metal detector at her family's ranch to explore the area to the west of her home, where Stanley Ryals, her great-grandfather, had his moonshine still.

"They were a tough breed," said Hilton, who spoke lovingly of her iconic great-grandfather, who died in 2000. Ryals used profits from bootlegging, as well as the sale of sweet potatoes, to purchase 640 acres in the Zephyrhills area. Later, he opened Zephyr Lumber and Saw Mill where he logged, cut and sanded timber. Ryals contributed much to the city, serving as president of the chamber of commerce in the late 1950s and as a founding member of Zephyrhills Noon Rotary Club, where he had a 30-year perfect attendance record.

Ryals' father-in-law was Wesley Wells, the chief of police in Zephyrhills.



Gina King Granger

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Stanley Ryals, for whom the Founder’s Day brew, ‘Ryals n’ Shine,’ is named, is shown here with a draft horse in Zephyrhills. He was 45 at the time. Ryals was a Zephyrhills businessman who operated the lumberyard and earned funds in his early years from moonshining to purchase a section of land. Much of that land is still owned by his family on Eiland Boulevard. (Courtesy of Marlo Hilton)



His grandson, Boe Hilton (who is Marlo’s father and a 1971 graduate of Zephyrhills High) observed that his grandfather understood people and knew how to build upon their strengths.

The most notorious bootlegger in the area was Clarence Lane, who described himself, in a 2005 interview, as one of the top 10 moonshiner/bootleggers in Florida. Lane said during the 1930s many of his customers were law enforcement officers and judges. Lane said he began moonshining as a teenager, learning the skills from his father. His first still was in Kathleen. Later, he moved to Zephyrhills.

At age 19, Lonnie Tucker from Wesley Chapel, worked in Zephyrhills for I.A. Krusen during the day in the Lumber Company. He also operated a still near the current location of Saddlebrook Resort.

Tucker later worked at Moody’s Hardware, in Zephyrhills, for more than a quarter-century.

His daughter, Anna Jo Bracknell, will be on hand at Founder’s Day for one of the porch talks at the Howard B. Jeffries house. She plans to share stories about moonshining during her 1 p.m. talk on March 10.

Zephyrhills’ 108th Founders Day

When: March 10 (Parade begins at 10 a.m.)

Where: Downtown Zephyrhills in the morning and early afternoon; Zephyrhills Airport in late afternoon

Cost: Free admission

Details: There will be an old-fashioned hometown parade; food and drink available for purchase; children’s activities, a skydive demonstration and fireworks to cap off the day.

<p style="text-align: center;">WATSON CLINIC <small>LLP</small> Dermatology at Zephyrhills</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;">In Memory of</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ryals Furniture Exchange And Great Parents Powell & Maude Ryals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">From son James</p> <p style="text-align: center;">God Bless America</p>
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Historical Association Group



Model T Group



1911 Ford Model T Tourabout,
Driven by Bob Porter with Penny Porter



1919 Ford Model T Touring,
Driven by J. R. Geiger

Author of eight best selling books

Madonna Wise Books
 Author, Research & Consulting
 Madonna Jervis Wise **813-469-8627**
 Zephyrhills, Florida MadonnaJWise@gmail.com
 Murphy, North Carolina <http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com>

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

Founders' Day 2018 Continued



1925 Ford Model T Touring,
Driven by C. W. Hemingway




1926 Ford Model T Touring,
Driven by Charlie Bolkening



1927 Ford Model T Depot Hack,
Driven by Marcelo Nobrega





1923 Ford Model TT Wrecker,
Driven by Allan Woodle

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ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!



MARCH 29, 2018 – COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

All veteran's and veteran organizations are invited to participate in the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam war on **MARCH 29, 2018 from 2-4 pm at HUMANA GUIDANCE CENTER, 7920 GALL BLVD, ZEPHYRHILLS FL 33541.**

At this event all Vietnam veterans are to be thanked and honored, including POW and MIA, and those who made contributions on the home front. Humana will host a pinning ceremony.

Semper Fidelis!
Bev Holmes,
Paymaster & Chaplain Marine Corps League
P O Box 1124
Zephyrhills, FL 33539
~~~~~

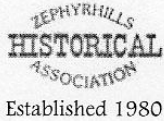
*Three Zephyrhills High School graduates enlisted in the military  
and were Killed in Action in Vietnam:*

- Johnny Lewis, class of 1965 and killed in action in 1967
- Donnie Stokes, class of 1961 and killed in action in 1968
- Harry Thain, class of 1962 and killed in action in 1972

***These men will never be forgotten...and thank you to others who served***

**MARCH 29, 2018 – COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR**





## ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

### BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> , 2018

The March 6, 2018 business meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by President Jerry Pricher. He gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes of the February Meeting were read by the Secretary, with a motion to approve made by Bill Kustes, seconded by Clereen Brunty and agreed to by all.

The Treasurer's Report was read by Clereen, substituting for Andy Nagy, who is out of town. Bob Porter made a motion to approve the Report as read, seconded by Terry Lindsey and accepted by the group.

There were no visitors.

Old Business: Patty Thompson passed out flyers for our next Rosemary Trottman Scholarship Fundraiser. It will be at Sergio's on March 27, anytime from 11 AM until 9 P.M. with our group generally meeting at 4:00.

Jerry spoke briefly regarding scholarships, stating that he has sent out reminders for transcripts and so forth to be submitted by scholarship applicants.

Other Old Business: Regarding Founders' Day, Patty brought in signs to be displayed during the parade depicting some names (Krusen, Greer and Hercules, for example) associated with this year's theme, "Moonshine, Turpentine and Timber." Bob Porter says he expects at least 7 - 9 antique cars and it is hoped we will have a final count by Friday night. Clereen will be at the Cornerstone Church at 9 A.M. on Saturday if some need a ride to the starting point. If there are walkers, they can carry our banner and Association members are encouraged to wear their Z.H.A. t-shirts. Clereen also has some shirts for sale.

New Business: Beverly Holmes said she has received a letter from the Marine Corps League in reference to commemorating the Viet Nam War on March 29<sup>th</sup>, where there will be a pinning ceremony and any Viet Nam Veteran can attend. Bev will provide further details via e-mail.

For this month's dinner out, Art Besinger has chosen Sergio's and the date will be March 16th at 4 P.M.

Other New Business: Membership dues are due.

Clereen called for adjournment, seconded by Polly Gill and agreed to, ending at 5:45

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

Steve Spina is here tonight to update us on progress at the Depot and the Jeffries House.