

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

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October 2021

We will have a Board Meeting **only** on November 9<sup>th</sup> in the meeting room at Zephyrhills Public Library. I have reserved the room for 5 p.m. Lori thinks they will be opening the room to full capacity in January, but we are limited to ten people or less for the time being. We will also be required to use masks and be socially distanced. Bev and Clereen are going to be out of town on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. That's the reason I scheduled it for the second Tuesday rather than the first.

### Future Meetings

Folks, we will probably have to wait until January or February to start our full meetings again, and we are still unsure about the meeting place or time, but we will let you know. We do plan to have our regular Christmas Dinner in December. We customarily have it on a Monday, so it will be either December 6<sup>th</sup> or December 13<sup>th</sup>. We hope that Bill and Maryhelen can secure the clubhouse for one of these nights. More than likely we will have Gail Fisher cater it for us. She does such a good job. This will be one of the topics we will discuss at the Board Meeting. You will get all the details in next month's newsletter.

**Patty has arranged our next fundraiser for November 16<sup>th</sup>, 4 p.m. at Sergio's.**



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**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.

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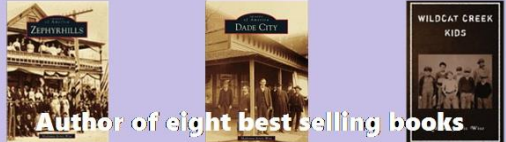
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 <p><b>Clereen Morrill Brunty</b>                  ZHS Alumni Contact</p> <p>clereen@gmail.com</p> <p><b>813-782-8763</b></p>	 <p><b>Author of eight best selling books</b></p> <p><b>Madonna Wise Books</b>                  Author, Research &amp; Consulting</p> <p><b>813-469-8627</b></p> <p>Madonna Jervis Wise                  Zephyrhills, Florida                  Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p>MadonnaJWise@gmail.com  <a href="http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com">http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</a></p>
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**The Café at Trilacoochee**  
 from Jeff Millers fivay.org site  
*written by Theresa Osbron Smith*  
*edited by Mary Carmen Andreu Smock*



The cafe at Trilacoochee was a familiar landmark at the crossroads of US 301 and CR 575 in the early 40s, 50s and 60s. It was located halfway between Trilby and Lacoochee. I don't remember eating in the cafe but I remember the Andreu family who owned it during the 40s and 50s.

Vasco "Big Boy" Andreu and his wife Mary Anne Acosta, had two daughters, Mary Carmen and Mildred. They purchased the cafe in 1940/41 from Henry Hancock, the father of Martha Jewell Hancock May (C.D. May) and Helen Hancock Walters (Dr. W. H. Walters).

Mr. Andreu worked for Cummer and Sons at their other mill sites and followed them when they started the mill at Lacoochee. He was a train engineer and worked with Mr. Philip Mickler.

Mrs. Andreu ran the restaurant, cooking along with her mother-in-law Mary Magdaline "Mamie" or "Ma" as she was commonly called, and Mae Gideons (my maternal grandmother). Other workers in the restaurant included Bessie Robbins, Mildred Polk Hartzog and Etta Stanley.

Mary Carmen remembers that her grandmother, Mrs. Mamie Andreu, would take her and her sister to Mr. Harvey's chicken farm, Feather Hills Farms on Mt. Zion Road west of Dade City, to purchase little yellow chicks. Mrs. Mamie would then raise those biddies to butcher for meals at the restaurant. She was very proud that her chickens never touched the ground and felt that her chickens were the cleanest in the area. Many Dade City residents traveled to the "Crossroads" on Sunday after church to have fried chicken. Mrs. Mamie was also famous for her chicken and dumplings.

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Mr. Andreu died in 1962 at the age of 60; Mrs. Andreu died in 1966 at the age of 64. They are both buried in the Dade City cemetery.

The Andreu family lived in the restaurant which was "L" shaped. The restrooms were outside at the end of a boardwalk on the west side of the building with access from the restaurant.

On the property was a building that contained two cabins. These cabins were mainly used by traveling salesmen. They were not advertised as a "motel". When Mr. Andreu's father, Newton Elred "Ba", passed away, the building was converted into a house for his mother. When the property was sold, the front part of the house was moved to Florida Avenue in Dade City which is still standing today.

Mary Carmen's son and her sister Mildred's first two children were born in their grandmother's house.

The Andreus sold the restaurant to Hassell "Red" and Ruth "Trudy" Bowman in the early 50s. The Bowmans had two sons, Hassell, Jr. "Freddie" and Albert. They were from Maryland and we thought they talked funny. And to top it off, they wore SHORTS. No boy in our area would be caught dead wearing shorts, they were for sissies. However, these boys did become part of our neighborhood and very close friends of our family. My brothers and I spent many hours with Freddie and Albert, playing Monopoly when we were young, then riding around in Freddie's green Dodge convertible when we were teenagers. Freddie had to have that top down, even if it was 40 degrees. He just rolled up the windows and turned the heater on full blast. And no one can forget the taste of Red Bowman's hamburgers. Oh, the memories of going to sleep listening to the jukebox playing songs like "Down Yonder", "Cold Cold Heart", and "I Can't Stop Loving You", just to name a few.

I was saddened when they tore down the old cafe/bus station and built a new one further back from the corner as it seemed to take the heart out of Trilacoochee for me. The same people were still there but a special place with many memories was no longer standing.

One memory in particular still remains so vivid to me. Several of us would catch the school bus at the cafe to be bussed to Dade City. One morning a circus truck was parked in front of the bus station where we were waiting for the bus. Imagine our surprise when we saw the men unload an elephant out of the back of that truck. We all looked at each other wondering where do we go from here? The cafe was closed so we couldn't go inside; we must have looked like a bunch of chickens scurrying around, trying to find a place to go. I don't remember all the details after that but I think they used the elephant to push the truck to get it started as I do remember the elephant pushing the truck forward. That was our first encounter with a major wild animal, a far cry from a raccoon or possum.



*Red and Trudy Bowman*