

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 23 – Number 10

November 2021

Annual Christmas Dinner

Dinner is set for Monday, December 6th, 5 p.m., at the Wedgewood Manor Community Clubhouse, 37420 Wedgewood Drive (off Geiger Road). Gail Fisher will be catering the event for us, and she'll take care of everything. The cost will be \$25 per person, and we'll be having Prime Rib, like we did two years ago. It promises to be spectacular!

New Officers and Board

It was time to submit new officers and board for the coming two years. We came up with the following recommendations at our November Board Meeting. I will become President and Rod will be Vice-President. Anna and Andy will stay in their current positions as Secretary and Treasurer. Erica Freeman will replace Clereen on the Board of Directors, joining Patty, Bev, and Polly.

Future Meetings

I am confident that we will have a meeting in January, but the place and time are still in the works. I will let you know in our December Newsletter.

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. Please mail your checks to **Andrew Nagy, 5548 23rd Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542**. Thanks in advance.

**There will be no fundraisers in December.
We will resume our dinners at Sergio's in January.**



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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.

<u>Executive Board</u>		
President	.....	Rod Rehrig
Vice President	.....	Jerry Pricher
Secretary	.....	Anna Boone
Treasurer	.....	Andrew Nagy
<u>Board Members</u>		
		Clereen Brunty
		Polly Gill
		Beverly Holmes
		Patty Thompson
<u>Committees</u>		
Hospitality	.....	Clereen Brunty
Refreshments	.....	Polly Gill
Newsletter	.....	Jerry Pricher
		Clereen Brunty
		Erica Freeman
Programs	.....	Jerry Pricher
Scholarship	.....	Louie Holt
		Jerry Pricher
Archivist	.....	Louie Holt
Depot Museum	Carolyn Dean
Fundraisers	Patty Thompson

Boardwalk Boosters


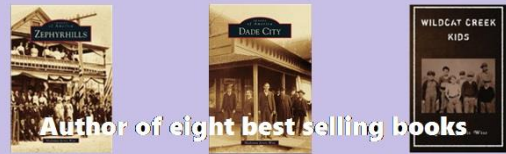

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 Carolyn Dean
 Greg First
 Fay Geiger
 Thea Johnson
 Jackie & Terry Lindsey
 Bill Kustes
 Andrew Nagy
 Rod Rehrig
 Margaret Seppanen

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 George & Anna Boone
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 Duke Chadwell
 Jeff Cook
 Carolyn Dean
 Greg First
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 Louie Holt
 Thea Johnson
 Anne Mester
 Dr. Richard Moore
 Andrew Nagy
 Anna Poe
 Jerry Pricher
 Linda Sante
 Margaret Seppanen
 Patty Thompson
 Steve & Terry Turner

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

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 <p>Clereen Morrill Brunty ZHS Alumni Contact</p> <p>clereen@gmail.com</p> <p>813-782-8763</p>	 <p>Author of eight best selling books</p> <p> Madonna Wise Books Author, Research & Consulting</p> <p>Madonna Jervis Wise Zephyrhills, Florida Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p>813-469-8627 MadonnaJWise@gmail.com http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</p>
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Mueller Glass Studio

by Erica Freeman

Buchau is a small Bavarian town in Germany that’s existed for centuries. It’s sandwiched in between the Brandenburg Alps and the very large Achen Lake. It was here on April 17, 1888 that Karl Joseph Mueller was born. At the time, Germany was a leader in advancements for manufacturing, including a cylinder sheet method that was able to make larger sheets of glass for windows. Woolworth’s had also started importing glass Christmas ornaments from Germany. It made sense for Mueller to go into it.



By December 1912, Mueller boarded the Königin Luise in Bremen, bound for New York City. In a short time, he found employment and a wife, Mathilde Schaefer. Their apartment in the Bronx was just a few blocks away from the zoo, which in 1916 became the first zoo to have its own hospital on the premises. This was the same year that Mueller filed his Declaration of Intention of Citizenship although it was less than five years after entering the country. Any white male immigrant was eligible for this form as long as they had lived in the United States for at least five years, had a steady job and was without a criminal record. Mueller also had to swear “I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein: SO HELP ME GOD.”

Mueller’s pride at becoming an American and his faith were very important to him. Alice Hall reported that “According to Mueller, young persons today need to look to historical events of our nation for inspiration as well as religion, “as one was founded on the other.” While Mueller formed the secular Mueller-Dunn Company of Newark, New Jersey, it also contained the smaller The Mueller Studios, Inc. As the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum explains Mueller advertised itself as a firm of designers, craftsmen, and decorators, particularly of “modern bars, grilles, and taverns” while Mueller Studios “specialized in making decorations, murals, mosaics, statues, altars, communion rails, pulpits, and memorial tablets for churches.” Mueller-Dunn Company dissolved in 1934, but Mueller Studios continued from Belleville, New Jersey.

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Beverly Koehler Barnett, Owner aelframer@gmail.com

Just after World War II in 1945, Mueller was commissioned by St. Leo Abbey to construct a stained glass window. The design and installation required his personal attention. Perhaps it was the wide green spaces or the gently rolling hills reminded him of home. Whatever the reason, he fell in love with east Pasco and made plans to move his company here. In 1952, he lived in a modest house with his wife on 7th Ave West as part of their 35 acres; 20 acres were in between West 54 and 7th Ave West, and the remaining 15 acres were on the north side of 7th Ave West. The dirt pathway linking his house and business to both roads is still known as Studio Drive although both it and 7th Ave West, now 8th Ave, were eventually paved. A 1962 newspaper article mentioned the West 54 entrance had “Muellerville” above the gate. Employees lived on the 20 acres along Studio Drive.

In 1962, Mueller opened a stained-glass exhibition with tours and field trips for the local school children. Not only did it contain his own work and others throughout the centuries, but it was also on top of a fall out shelter which could hold 24 people along with shuffleboard for exercise, gas power appliances and chemical toilets. The walls had 28 inches of steel.

Former neighbor Suzann Hodges Cornell described “I used to ride my horse down the road (dirt, at that time) by the fence surrounding the Mueller home and stained glass studio. No matter how many times we (the horse and I) went by the fence, my horse would still jump 6 feet sideways as soon as the Great Danes ran to the



high wooden fence and put their paws over, barking like crazy.” Another neighbor, Mark Steve, remembers Mueller having a loud voice even when talking with friends; too used to all the loud equipment in the studio. In the late 60s, the Steve family acquired the 15 acres on the north side of 7th Ave West. Mueller gave his new neighbors this stained-glass artwork.

The stained glass started as thick milk glass that was painted and coated into the shapes needed before more detailed work was done. Sometimes, mistakes were still made or pieces weren’t needed after all. The refuse was dumped on site. Jackie Massey Washburn describes her yard, part of the Steve property, as “glass everywhere I dig. It’s too pretty to throw away.” Recent construction even uncovered an old stove and a car bumper with illegible license plate from the Mueller era.

Mueller’s studio outlived him as did the artwork found at the First United Methodist Church downtown, St. Joseph’s Church across from it, Mount Vernon and many more. His nephew, Franz Mueller, took over the business in 1971 at his uncle’s death, including the stained-glass windows at the First Presbyterian Church. Mueller Studios closed in Zephyrhills when a former employee killed Franz and then himself in December 1975.

Thank you to Mark Steve, Gary Steve, Jackie Massey Washburn, Suzann Hodges Cornell, Jessica Boydston, Ancestry, Wikipedia, Alice Hall, Al Pike and Madonna Wise.