

January 2012

NEWSLETTER

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West Pasco
Historical Society **2012**

Fashion Show *"Fashions on Parade"*

Fashions by:

Cheri Bloom Bridal & Formalwear
5647 Main Street - New Port Richey

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012

LUNCHEON - 12:00 NOON

FASHION SHOW - 1:00 PM

at

Spartan Manor

6121 Massachusetts Ave
New Port Richey

*Tickets are on sale for a \$22.00 donation at
the Museum or by calling (727)847-3129*

*Seating is limited to 400 with open seating
(no table reservations)*

JULIE OBENREDER MEMORIAL LIBRARY WING

by Dan Callaghan

On December 5, 2011, the Julie Obenreder Memorial Library Wing dedication took place. In attendance were Julie's daughter and niece. An exhibit of Julie's photos, writings and nursing cap were on display. Among those giving memories of Julie were former historical society presidents David and Midge Prace, former president Terry Kline, and former Deputy Mayor of New Port Richey, Marilynn DeChant, as well as Julie's niece Julia McKutcheon. Julie's many contributions to her community and to the historical society were cited, including her assistance to women giving birth

in the Pine Hill community of African-Americans. Dr. Rao Musunuru, the benefactor who made it possible to completely renovate and redesign both the exterior and interior of the Rao Musunuru Museum urged the Board to honor Julie Obenreder, not only our first president but a dominant force in founding the historical society, locating a home for it, and moving the current building to its site in Enchantment Park between Orange Lake and Sims Park. Near the entrance to the Rao Musunuru Museum, a quotation has been placed on the wall of Julie's thoughts regarding our mission:

"I urge those who will follow in our footsteps to continue this important task of preserving the history of West Pasco for all posterity. With determination, no challenge is too great. Working together, all things under the sun are possible."



ANTIQUÉ TIDBITS

by Eleanor Schoepflin

SILHOUETTES: Silhouettes, the most basic of folk arts and also the most formal of portraits, are as personal as thumb prints and have their own aesthetic interest. Until the French gave them the word, Americans were content to call the contrasting outline cutouts "shade" - but the Frenchmen, severely taxed in 1759 by the hated King Louis XV's Minister of Finance, Etienne de Silhouette, saw themselves as mere shadows of their former selves and began to call the cutouts "silhouettes."



The shadow profiles were produced by cutting mechanical tracing or painting. As originally applied, the

term was synonymous with cheapness, or anything reduced to its simplest state. These substitutes for the more expensive oil painting or miniatures were popular from 1770 until 1850 when daguerreotype images replaced the vogue. They may be either hollow cut with the head cut away, leaving the white paper frame for mounting against a dark background or the profile itself might be cut from black paper and pasted on a white background. In America, the Peale family was one of the leading silhouette makers. An impressed stamp marked "Peale" or "Peale Museum" identified their work. Many silhouettes depict famous persons, are signed by the artist and beautifully framed. Frames run the gamut from ogee, to giltwood, to pressed brass.

Often entire families (including the family dog) posed between a bright light and a sheet of white drawing paper. The resulting shadow was then traced and cut out, the paper mounted over a contrasting color and framed. Sizes range from miniatures (4"x5") to 12x14 and priced from \$100 to thousands depending upon whether or not the piece is signed by the subject and/or the artist, their degree of fame, degree of detail, condition and availability of other works by the artist. Full length and family group profiles are particularly valuable. Today's bargains are art deco and modern silhouettes. These are the collectibles of today but the antiques of tomorrow and run anywhere from a few dollars to \$100. - a collectible worth considering.

COMING EVENTS

February 10

(seating open at 11:30 am)

"Parade of Fashions" Fashion Show & Luncheon to be held at the Spartan Manor. Prizes, raffles, gift baskets, and fun for all. February 11 at 1:00 pm Celebrating Black History Month. Program TBA.

March 23—31

Chasco Fiesta. Display of Chasco stuff from past years.

April 7 at 1:00 pm

Keith Kohl from Ocala will present a video overview of the Civil War in Florida. He will give his presentation in Civil War garb. His new book entitled, "Civil War in Florida" will be available for signing. Elections of the board will be held as well.

May 12 at 1:00 pm

Many Faces of Old Glory: the Shot Heard Round the World. A video

presentation of the history of how our flag come about. Very entertaining, this is a don't miss show! Prior to this the Board will be installed.

June 9 at 1:00 pm

David Prace will present a history of the telephone industry. A display of antique telephones and equipment will be shown.

Please note: all programs are held at the museum unless otherwise stated

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I trust all who read this newsletter are enjoying a happy and healthy new year. Now, first things first — remember to support the upcoming fashion show and luncheon, Fashions on Parade, on February 10th at Spartan Manor. This annual event is the Society's major annual fundraiser. Tickets may be purchased by calling 847-3129.

Since we re-opened this past September 10th, our visitors have been impressed with the way the building looks and with the new displays as well as with the refurbished old ones. Your Board and I, however, have a major problem. With all the expense and labor and sweat equity that was expended on the improvements, we are still only open to the public regularly on Fridays and Saturdays for three hours (1 – 4 p.m.). So, I am suggesting that a good New Year's resolution for many reasons would be for you to

support YOUR SOCIETY by volunteering your time. First, museum hours could be expanded. If, for example, only twenty or thirty of you (out of a membership roster of 200+) were to give just three hours a month, we could show off our treasures at least two more days a week! And then, there's the ongoing behind-the-scenes work. Our curator and librarian can always use help in cataloging and data entry. If neither of these suggestions are your cup of tea, how about this? Currently, there are five or six books published by the Society that need to be reprinted ... and re-typed on the computer (at home and with a very generous deadline) so that we can catch up with 21st century publishing techniques.

I sincerely hope you consider these volunteer opportunities. Start the New Year by helping out YOUR SOCIETY, and attend one of the Satur-

day programs listed elsewhere in the Newsletter. Help make history fun for generations to come.

Remember, "We can preserve the past without living in it."

Bob Hubach, President

*History cannot give us
a program for the future,
but it can give us a
fuller understanding of
ourselves, and of our
common humanity, so
that we can better face
the future.*

Robert Penn Warren

BANKS THROUGH THE AGES

by Eleanor Schoepflin

Banks with no mechanical action are known as Still Banks. The first still banks were made from wood, pottery or gourds. Redware and stoneware banks made by America's early potters are prized possessions of today's collectors. Still banks reached the "golden age" with the arrival of the cast iron bank. Leading manufacturing companies included; Arcade Mfg. Co; Hobley, J & E Stevens and A.C.Williams. The banks were often ornately painted to enhance their

appeal. During the cast iron era, banks and other businesses used the still banks as a form of advertising to attract customers. The fine lithograph bank did not reach its zenith until the 1930-1955 periods. These became important premiums whether it be for Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer or Gerbers Orange Juice. Most of the advertising banks resembled the packaging shape of the product. Almost every substance has been used to make a still-bank- die cast - white metal, aluminum, brass, plastic, glass etc.

Many of the early glass candy containers converted to a bank when emptied of the candy. The still banks which attract the most at-



tention and the highest bids from collectors are painted cast iron banks in the shapes of buildings, churches, temples, and military forts of the 19th century. They range in price from \$100 to \$9,000 and everything in between. Register banks are considered still banks although they do have an internal moving part that shows how many coins are in the bank. Perhaps some of you had a register bank as a child - I know I did.



The Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park

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