

West Pasco Historical Society - Museum And Library

6431 Circle Boulevard • New Port Richey • Florida 34652

"The Old School House in Sims Park"

(813)847-0680

Volume VIII No. 2

JANUARY 1994

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Adele Gregos, President/Curator

I wish every member a healthy and happy New Year.

Can you believe that we are about to start our eleventh year as a Society? The old school house is 81 years old and gaining in stature and beauty as it ages.

Last year at this time we were in the throes of building the new addition. Everything went smoothly with the help of the City of New Port Richey.

This year we have implemented many much needed improvements. The latest is a small refrigerator, flooring, shelving and general redecoration of the kitchen, hall and bathroom areas. We are in the process of sanding and painting the exterior kitchen wall which has been partially replaced. Also, a larger and more practical carpet has been purchased for the Meeting Room. There is the constant upkeep on electrical outlets, exit lights and odd jobs to maintain fire regulations.

You can see that maintaining the Society's building is much like maintaining our homes. It seems that there is always something to replace, repair or redo. All of this takes manpower either volunteer or hired. We are accomplishing all this as economically as we can for the good of the Society.

In addition, a hearty *Thank You* for the successful Rummage Sale headed by Gene Sniffen, of our Ways and Means Committee with Doris Szymanski; the Auction headed by David Spriggs, and the Christmans Dinner organized by Audrey O'Neil and Edith Hempel.



Adele, showing her miniatures on exhibit during November and December.

THE FLORIDA ROOM

Frances Mallett

The Florida Room Committee welcomes Julie Obenreder to its staff. Julie is a welcome addition because she brings her vast knowledge of local history as well as her great personality to the position. She has also agreed to write historical articles for our Newsletter.

During a recent visit I had with Abby Mizmer, a local New Port Richeyite, the talk turned to the possibility of getting the Junior Service League interested in taking an active part in the Museum. Several women of this group are interested in local history and would like to help preserve historical material for future generations. Let us hope the Junior Service League will agree to help our Florida Room and our Society and will bring their fresh energy and enthusiasm to share with us in our projects.

HELP! MISSING BOOKS

Jessie Hyde, M.A., Librarian,

Our Reference Library is dedicated to the preservation of the history of West Pasco. Most of the requests we can answer but a few stump us. However, we have the most information of anywhere in the county.

Two of our valuable scrapbooks disappeared at the time of the Antique Cars crowd. One was of the local PTA, the other was of the Pierce Elementary School. We are sorry to lose these scrapbooks. We have scrapbooks of the Women's Club from about 1918, the time the Women's Club started. They were a big help in starting New Port Richey.

The library received the lovely painting donated by local artist, Fred Pietsch. Many thanks.

We have been busy cataloging old books, manuscripts, etc. We aim to have everything in the library cataloged.

GLENN H. DILL

LONG TIME HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBER DIES

GLENN DILL, local historian and one time radio announcer/disc jockey/personality and newspaper columnist, died December 5 at age 83. he was a Charter member of the West Pasco Historical Society.

He also wrote more than 1,000 columns for the Suncoast News and the New Port Richey Chronicle, many of which were used in his book, Suncoast Past. The book can be found in all Pasco County libraries. He was also an environmentalist and conservationist. Some of his more than 250 awards can be found in the Glenn Dill Reading Room at Pasco-Hernando Community College.

EARLY DAYS IN NEW PORT RICHEY

From the files of Jullie Obenreder

Dr. Elroy W. Avery was the first Mayor of New Port Richey and the founder of the New Port Richey Library. He celebrated his 91st birthday on July 14, 1935 at his home on the Boulevard North. Due to failing health only a few intimate friends visited him to celebrate the day but he received many cards and letters.

Dr. Avery not only began the city library but practically supported it during the lean years. He said he greatly appreciated the honor of having the library named "The Avery Public Library."

The Avery Public Library was incorporated in 1919 with the Board accepting a 50 X 150 foot lot donated by Dr. and Mrs. Avery as being the most desirable site for a proposed new library building. A bond issue to build at this location was placed on the ballot but was soundly defeated by the voters - 163 to 39. This was a disappointment to Dr. Avery but he continued his work with the library. (The site he chose is now the site of the West Pasco Historical Society Museum.)

The name was later changed to the New Port Richey Library by a vote of City Council. No reason was ever given for this change BUT it was another disappointment to Dr. Avery. This act of the City Council deleted his name from the building which housed the many books he had donated making a nucleus for today's library.

Dr. Avery passed away December 1, 1935 after a long illness. A room in our new city library has been designated "The Avery Room" which contains many volumes written by him. It is appropriate that we should remember and honor this generous, scholarly man.

REPORT BY RALPH BALSAM, Vice President

As 1993 draws to a close we can look back with great satisfaction to the accomplishments of this year. We hope that in 1994 we can look forward to continued growth in a harmonious atmosphere. Let us start the new year with a clean slate and a positive attitude, working together with greater effort for West Pasco Historical Society. All help, no matter how small or how great, is truly appreciated.

DUES DUE JANUARY, 1994

Enclosed is my contribution for membership in the
West Pasco Historical Society Inc.

6431 Circle Boulevard • New Port Richey • FL • 34652
(Check One)

_____ \$ 15.00 Patron Member
_____ \$ 5.00 Single
_____ \$ 8.00 Family
_____ \$100.00 Life

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CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Christmas Dinner was held in the beautifully decorated Garden Room of the Eleni Restaurant in New Port Richey on Friday, December 16th. Our president, Adele Gregos, gave a little talk and then introduced our speaker of the evening, Mayor Debra Prewitt. We were delighted to have her at our dinner and to hear her talk concerning telephones for the hard of hearing.

The dinner was delicious with the tables decorated with flowers donated by David Spriggs of Flowers by Gru and favors by Audrey O'Neil. We thank Audrey O'Neil chairman, with Edith Hempel, her assistant, for their fine efforts on our behalf.

COUNTRY CORNER STORE

Audrey O'Neil

I want to thank everyone who contributed items and Christmas ornaments to sell in the Country Corner Store. Many items were sold on the day of the Christmas Parade, December 4th.

Thanks again for helping make our little gift shop a success in 1993! Donations of merchandise are needed for 1994.

WE ARE SORRY TO HEAR

DOROTHY ACEY, wife of former president, the late Alec Acey, is gravely ill at Orchard Ridge Nursing Home, New Port Richey. Flowers have been sent from "Her Friends from the Historical Society" for Christmas. You might wish to send her a card.

JANUARY 20TH PROGRAM

TREASURES OF THE DEEP

Doris Szymanski, Speaker

Ships in hurricanes and what happened to them over 350 years ago as they traveled from Havana, Cuba to Spain with valuable cargo for King Phillip V of Spain, with gold, silver and jewels for the Royal Court that never reached its destination. Doris was involved in the purchase and sale of some of this treasure.

THE CURATOR'S REPORT

Adele Gregos

During March and April the Anclote Earth Science Club will offer a rock, gem and mineral show. Don't fail to see these fabulous works of Mother Nature.

Also, please remember that we always need members to greet visitors at the front desk, have them sign our Guest Book, answer general questions about visiting hours, membership, and smile. Without volunteers we cannot open and show what is on view.

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A MISCELLANY OF GLASS EXHIBIT

Miriam Grosse, Publicity

The West Pasco Historical Society Museum in Sims Park will feature a **MISCELLANY OF GLASS** during January and February. This exhibit will feature more than 100 pieces of blown, pressed, cased, frosted, crackled, painted and etched goblets, bowls, figurines, candlesticks and curios from the United States and foreign countries. The range of the display is from the utilitarian to pieces of fine art. They are the property of several members of the Society.

The Museum and Library are open on Fridays and Saturdays between 1 and 4 p.m. It is accessible to the physically handicapped. There is no admission charge.



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Owner/President

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813-863-1815

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Address Correction Requested

FASHION SHOW

Tired of your clothes - longing for something new with style and uniqueness?

Come to the Fashion Show on **Saturday, February 12, 1994**

At the **Palm Room of Seven Springs Country Club.**



LUNCHEON AT NOON

FASHION SHOW AT 1:00 P.M. by FASHION BUG

DONATION: \$10.00

As always there will be lots of door prizes and we look forward to seeing you and sharing another entertaining afternoon.

IN THE MEANTIME... Look for some special gifts that we hope to exhibit at the Museum. Donations for the tickets will be \$.50 each or three for a dollar. The drawing will be on the day of the Chasco Fiesta Parade at the Museum. You need not be present to win.

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

Dorothy Nelson..... 847-5674
Norma Nelson..... 846-0011
Gene Sniffen..... 845-7563
Florence Reveillac..... 869-3239
Miriam Gross..... 376-4799
WPHS Museum..... 847-0680
OPEN 1:00 - 4:00 p.m Fri. & Sat

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