

# 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. 3

JUNE 1994

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dave Spriggs

Your new officers and directors have been busy developing plans for the future. The mandate for change, given by the election of your new Board, has created a flurry of activity. The following are projects under way at this time.

1) Curator, Belva Green, and her Committee, consisting of: Audrey O'Neil, Norma Nelson, Ceil Zubrod, Frances Mallet, Sam Eaton, Jessie Hyde, Edie Hempel and Jack Breland, are busy inventorying the Museum collection, rearranging displays, revising loan and gift forms, updating the numbering system and acquiring and scheduling displays for the coming year.

2) Membership Chairman, Edie Hempel, has updated the records and contacted 44 delinquent members, resulting in 19 renewals and 3 new members, including several life.

3) Julie Obenreder has accepted the challenge of updating our book, West Pasco Heritage, and adding the last 20 years' information to it. We are seeking permission to reprint 2 other books on our local history.

4) By-law changes have been approved for membership categories, dues increase and officially putting the Curator and the Librarian on the Board of Directors.

5) We have reclaimed our two seats on the Pasco County Preservation Board which have not been filled for the last few years.

6) We have met with the Port Richey Preservation Board concerning a working relationship.

7) We have joined the New Port Richey Downtown Cooperative as part of our "Getting Acquainted" program.

8) The Board and Membership have unanimously approved the purchase of a computer that will allow us inventory control, membership listing, financial records, newsletter layout, contact with other museums and libraries, fax and phone answering and many other procedures.

9) The Board approved our having a Sunday afternoon meeting (2nd Sunday afternoon if possible) from 2 to 4 p.m. for a talk or other activity in addition to our regular meeting on the 3rd Thursday, so that our members who cannot attend evening meetings may participate. We will also work on providing transportation.

10) Treasurer, Doris Syzmanski, is working on a budget and financial plan. Also there will be a revised procedure for handling cash as recommended by audit.

11) The Board has held 5 meetings with all members in attendance.

12) Current minutes, financial records, committee reports, etc. are posted in the hallway.

As you can see, the Board is working and we need your help and support to reach our goal of becoming the premier Historical Society, Museum and Library in the State. We Can do it!

Be sure to mark Thursday, September 15th on your calendar and attend the "Kick Off" of the season for your West Pasco Historical Society.

P.S. DON'T FORGET TO MAIL IN YOUR TALENT AND RESOURCES SHEET (THE YELLOW SHEET) YOU RECEIVED IN THE MAIL.

## **IN MEMORY**

It is with great regret we announce the loss of a charter member, Pauline Stephenson Ash, who passed away June 4th, 1994.

She was a native of Elfers, owner of Ash Realty, and author of "Florida Cracker Days of West Pasco".

Pauline was a vibrant person involved in many organizations including, the Democratic Party as a Committee woman for Pasco County, member of Asbury United Methodist Church, Eastern Star and West Pasco Historical Society.

## **FROM THE FILES OF JULIE OBENREDER**

Frances Mallett suggested this column should be dedicated to all Past Presidents of the West Pasco Historical Society.

I will start with the outgoing President, Adele Gregos. She and her husband, Andrew, have contributed much over the years in physical labor, time, talent and materials. Adele did an outstanding job as Curator keeping all the displays fresh and interesting. Although she is now going out of office, we hope she will continue to share her many talents with the Society.

I was not privileged to know Harry Hall when he served as President but understand he and his wife, Julia, contributed greatly to keeping things running smoothly.

No member will ever forget Alex Acey and his wife, Dorothy. Alex served longer than the usual term and he admitted his knowledge of history was miniscule when he took office but he grew with it and became very adept at making historical speeches and finally becoming the Chairman of the Pasco County Centennial Celebration, a yearlong task of traveling, and enacting the part of Samuel Pasco for whom our County was named. We had to bid a sad farewell to him when he passed away.

Norma Nelson stepped into the President's office twice. She was one of the first women to become a member at the organizational meeting in 1974 and she has been untiring in her commitment, donating time, talent and materials. Recently

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She has taken on the responsibility of the Indian Room at the museum as her special project. The magnificent charcoal portraits of our State's most noted Indians were done by Norma, a very talented artist, and are worth a visit to the museum just to view them.

The first President was Julie Obenreder who held the organizational meeting at her home in 1973. Ten ladies joined her that evening and elected her President. During her tenure the book, "West Pasco's Heritage" was written and published. Later when the Seven Springs School became available, she undertook the task of raising \$8,000 to move it into Sims Park. Her husband, Roy, volunteered two years of labor to assist in the remodeling and renovation of the old building to become the beautiful museum we have today. Many members also helped in this renovation and must be given many thanks. I would like to dedicate this column to my husband as he is no longer with us.

And now, in closing, let us all get behind our incoming President, David Spriggs, and continue to make this museum a show place in our county.

### **INSTALLATION – POTLUCK – SUCCESS!**



THE FOOD WAS GREAT – THE COMPANY OUTSTANDING  
LARGE CROWD FILLED THE ROOM

### **"FROM THE FILE -1988"**

#### **WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Ida Brunner

"Alex Acey asked me to tell you a little bit about the beginning of the West Pasco Historical Society. When I got involved, an historical society was not yet considered.

Early in 1973 a small group of ladies, approximately ten, met at the New Port Library to take a course in creative writing. Some of the ladies were: Julie Obenreder, Norma Nelson, Emma Quinn, Bea Lewis, Janet Lewis, Della Shaver and Estelle Garner. After a few lessons, the teacher left. Emma Quinn was the first Secretary.

Julie O. was our lady with the vision and she realized the urgency to interview pioneers and record their accounts of the early days, so the group organized to write a history of the area. Very little had been recorded before this. I joined them about this time and was appointed Treasurer. I think we had about \$10.00 from some candy they had sold.

In May, 1973, Attorney Richard Williams was engaged to charter the "West Pasco Historical Society" with the State of Florida. He did the legal work for \$35.00.

Julie Obenreder, being a poet and author, started writing in earnest and began checking to see who could publish a book.

E. R. Parkinson, who owned a very small restaurant in downtown New Port Richey, applied for the job as publisher and began pushing for the material as we got it written. Julie assigned topics for others to cover and the work progressed a little faster, but before the book was finished, our publisher died. We had to pick up boxes of printed but unbound pages, get them put in order, and find a bindery to finish the job. We had ordered 2,000 books. Norma Nelson let us set up our ping-pong tables and provided a work shop in her cottage.

Spring, 1974. Participation in the Chasco Fiesta included a Musical Daze Review and we entered a float in the street parade. We won a trophy for "Best Non-Commercial entry."

October, 1974. We helped the City of New Port Richey celebrate its Golden Anniversary celebration during the four-day celebration. We sponsored a banquet at the Hacienda Hotel for 400 guests, ending with cutting a huge birthday cake in Sims Park honoring pioneer citizens.

March, 1975. James L. Hollingsworth, Ph.D., arrived in West Pasco to teach Political Science at the P-HCC. He edited the book. Though the book wound up with fourteen authors, he didn't change a word. He must have liked the uniqueness of it. "West Pasco's Heritage" was dedicated to E. Miller Smith, Mayor-Councilman, City of New Port Richey.

1975. We were very busy raising money to keep going. We put on a silent auction and a dinner at the Moon Lake Dude Ranch. We also had a pioneer Christmas Party.

1976. Julie put on an essay contest for students above the fourth grade, and we gave prizes to the winners.

We published an Historical Cook Book; sold 100 from the original order, reordered 100, and sold 200 at \$2.50 each.

March 1981. Alex and Dorothy Acey donated the old Seven Springs school house to The West Pasco Historical Society after Julie Obenreder begged them not to raze the building but to permit the Society to move it to Sims Park in downtown New Port Richey. It cost \$8,100.00 for the moving and many, many hours to rebuild it to its original state. The Rotary Club renovated the gazebo after it was moved by the West Pasco Historical Society, to the park before the building was dedicated in January, 1983.

1984. Members of the Society donated \$200.00 toward the restoration of the Statue of Liberty. The money was not taken from the Treasury. Leonard Carr sponsored the project.

### **REFERENCE LIBRARY**

Jessie Hyde, Librarian

**PURPOSE:** To preserve and further the history of Pasco Library and Florida.

The public is welcome to use our materials and to do research here. Librarians will gladly help you. Members may draw out non-referenced books for three weeks. Non-members may draw out books upon submitting proof of Driver's License or ID card. No late-fee fines are charged.

On hand besides books, are pictures, maps, valuable old newspapers, documents, etc. There is more historical material in this library than any other place in the county.

In addition there is a survey of the graves of local cemeteries which is useful for genealogical research. Also, we have many interesting scrapbooks.



## YEAR END REPORT

Adele Gregos, President & Curator

During the 1993 summer recess a handful of faithful volunteers spent many hours on the following projects: Refurbishing the gift shop, kitchen, bathrooms and meeting room; reorganizing the filing system; retyping exhibit legends; installing emergency lighting and updating all electric circuits to meet building codes; building display cases for the Seminole Indian clothing; obtaining 4 table top display cases; installing locks on display cases and labeling keys; converting unused cabinet parts into display cases; installing new carpet, refrigerator and office safe; installing new floor coverings in kitchen, baths and hall; covering windows with plexiglass for hurricane protection; replacing the front porch floor, painting and sealing; publishing a membership list; and conducting 15 meetings during the year.

Special events which the Society participated in or sponsored: two successful Auctions and Rummage sales; Fashion Show and Luncheon; exhibits of rocks, glass, communications equipment, teddy bears, antique dolls, madonnas, silhouettes, swords, pipes, snuff boxes, coins, Civil War memorabilia, antique car show, Christmas parade, Chasco Fiesta, March on Art; Trip to Seminole Indian Village in Tampa; demonstrations by local artists; annual fund-raising raffle; slide presentations to various community groups.

Nearly 2,000 visitors signed our guest book. They came from 22 states and 8 foreign counties.

Volunteers donated over 2,400 hours. Without their devotion we could not open our doors to the community. They know who they are. They merit our highest praise and gratitude.

I will be taking a long delayed Sabbatical. I wish the new administration a successful year. Have a lovely summer and God bless all of you.

## WINNERS OF PRIZES FROM RAFFLE

### HELD IN MAY

Norma Nelson

We are pleased to announce the winners of the following prizes held for the benefit of the West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library.

**FIRST PRIZE** – Original scrimshaw donated by Adele Gregos entitled "Olde Mill" and won by Billy DiCorte (Billy's Auto Shop).

**SECOND** – Collector Plate of Copenhagen Porcelain donated by Doris Szymanski and won by Allen Grave.

**THIRD** – Afghan "Galaxy" created by Sue Wolff and won by Ceil Zubrod.

I should like to extend my appreciation to our contributors for their generosity.

## WATCH FOR THE YELLOW SHEET

– Members Round Up –

It's Coming In The Mail !

Please Return It ASAP !

*Thank, You*

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

1994 – 1995

President .....	David Spriggs .....	848-2809 or 863-1815
Vice President .....	Jack Breland .....	849-3275
2nd V. President .....	Audrey O'Neil .....	849-3451
Secretary .....	Belva Green .....	942-7354
Cor. Secretary .....	Elizabeth Jones .....	849-7988
Treasurer .....	Doris Szymanski .....	842-4158
Director .....	Howard Chenoweth .....	863-4226
Director .....	Frances Mallett .....	849-5165
Director .....	Sam Eaton .....	937-5514
Director .....	Edie Hempel .....	848-4229
Director .....	Ceil Zubrod .....	847-4808
Curator .....	Belva Green .....	942-7354
Librarian .....	Jessie Hyde .....	849-7269

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL THE ABOVE WITH  
YOUR IDEAS AND COMMENTS.

## **A BIG THANKS**

(Recent Donations)

### **NEW PORT RICHEY GARDEN CLUB**

#### **RICHEY ANTIQUE CAR CLUB**

#### **FLOWERS BY GRU**

#### **PITHLACHASCOTEE QUESTERS**

*In memory of E. Carter*

#### **R. EDDY**

*Foreign coins*

#### **MRS. M. MARCHMAN**

*Paper cutter for library*

#### **MR. & MRS. STEPHEN P. PARAG**

*Microwave oven*

#### **MR. & MRS. T. SABO**

*Civil War Times*

#### **ABCO PRINTING, H.D. HELMRICH**

*Library control cards*

#### **MR. & MRS. RAYMOND AHLGREN**

*Antique Indian beadwork & barber shop implements*

#### **NATASHA BUKSHTAL**

*Russian rubles*

#### **VERNICE PRICE**

#### **GEORGE E. KAMPS**





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Address Correction Requested