

# **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**

Column VIII No. 3

MARCH 1994

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Adele Gregos, President/Curator

Since my last epistle, we have given tours through the Museum to children from the Grace Christian School and a class from Webster Business College. Coming up next is a tour for the Junior Service League. Just remember that a group desiring a special tour or the slide show, "What's In The Museum" should contact me at 842-8361.

We are pleased that the building improvements which we anticipated this year have progressed steadily and are nearing completion.

The kitchen renovation, bathrooms, gift shop, porch floor, back wall, meeting room, electricity and displays will all be left in tip-top shape. I will make a full report before handing over the gavel to my successor in May.

Many thanks to each of you who helped in any way during the years. We could not continue in this fine community service without your dedication and assistance.

Bless you one and all !

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## **THE FLORIDA ROOM**

Frances Mallett

During the month of March for City Hall in New Port Richey, the Florida Room has furnished items such as old newspaper articles, photographs, and year books for their display of "Chasco Fiesta - Through the Years."

Our group is finding more and more young people who are interested in learning about the history of the old home which they purchased in this area. It is really satisfying when we are able to help them discover some information about their home's past.

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## **REPORT BY RALPH BALSAM, Vice President**

Eliminate "I" and substitute "WE" for "ME" and "MINE" and we'll be doing fine.

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## **EARLY DAYS IN NEW PORT RICHEY**

From the files of Jullie Oberreder

In 1945 as you drove south on S.R. 595 (then old 19) at the edge of the city limits you could see a wide, deep, gaping hole in the ground. This had been the rock crushing plant owned by the L.F. Fernald Co.

In 1938 the company was busy filling contracts to supply finely crushed rock for the paving of several local roads. They employed a number of local men in their operation.

In the the same year they had a contract to furnish crushed limestone and travertine marble for the construction of a new Catholic Church being built in St. Petersburg. The marble was said to be as fine as any imported from Italy. Several hundred tons of crushed rock was shipped to the building of the new church.

In the 1960's the Tranter Construction Company filled that large hole and this was the beginning of the Jasmine Heights Subdivision.

Clifford Tranter and family moved here from the North in the late 1950's and began an extensive building program of low priced houses. Most were two bedroom homes complete with lot and sold for under \$5,000.00. The first subdivision built by Tranter Construction Co. was Jasmine Acres on the west side of Highway 119 north of the city. Jasmine Heights was the second development, Jasmine Lakes, the third, and Jasmine Hills was the last. And at the same time, this was the end of the low priced housing as retirees from the North flocked down to live here in the sunshine and buy a new home.

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## **WE ARE SORRY TO HEAR**

Recently, Ted Sabo suffered a stroke. He is presently at Richey Manor Nursing Home in New Port Richey. Our heartfelt wishes for a speedy recovery.



## OUR REFERENCE LIBRARY

By Jessie Hyde, M.A., Librarian  
Betty Jones, Assitant Librarian  
Mary Lietch, Assistant Librarian

We are very fortunate to receive a large amount of books and a file of clippings from the recently deceased GLEN DILL's library on historical Florida. It will be some time before we can get them all cataloged. We are very grateful for them and thank Edie Hempel for giving them to us.

There are a few copies of the reprint of Dr. Avery's History of New Port Richey and Port Richey. This is the first and authentic history of both Richey's. When these are gone that's it as there are very few originals around town.

We have 10 copies of Kathleen Strode's "Then and Now" at \$3.00. Also, a few copies of W. Neil's "Seminoles" at \$4.95. proceeds go to our Museum Treasury.

Alternately, the library has a lovely collection of books about birds, flowers and cookbooks. Books not about Florida history may circulate.

## MEMBERSHIP, Kathi Balsam WE NEED MEMBERS! WHAT IS A MEMBER?

A member is not merely a dues payer.

A member is a worker as well. And - that's what we need  
- WORKERS.

There are many tasks to be done around the Museum. However, what everyone can and should do is monitor the Museum on a Friday or Saturday afternoon when we are open.

Is it too much to give the Museum 3 hours of your time every few months?

Please sign up so that we can remain open two afternoons a week.

## If You Haven't - Mail Today

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTRY CORNER STORE

Audrey O'Neil

The shelves in the Country Store are almost bare since a lot of items were sold during the Christmas holidays. More items are needed of an attractive and artistic nature that people would really wish to buy. If you have something to donate of a better quality you no longer have house room for, we would very much appreciate your donating. This in turn would raise needed money for our Museum.

## FASHION SHOW OF FEBRUARY

Norma Nelson, Chairperson

Thanks to all who contributed to make our Fashion Show the wonderful and festive occasion it turned out to be. Miriam Grosse and Mary R. Jones belted out the publicity. Dorothy Nelson prodded me with a two-tined fork whenever she thought I was falling asleep on the job. Many fervent thanks to all those members who sold tickets.

Edie Hempel was there to greet the guests as was Howard Chenoweth whose annual assistance with the tickets is invaluable. Audrey O'Neil and Frances Mallett not only wrapped gifts but handed them out. Yes, and thanks to the many who provided us with the door prizes and to David Spriggs for the flowers and corsages.

The models, Bertha DeVeau, Belva Green, Mary R. Jones, Marguerite Marchman and Kay Russo provoked us all to change our present wardrobe to some more exciting fashions.

## ... THANK YOU ...

I wish to thank all of you have worked weekends at the Museum. Please sign up for March and April - we need you.

Marion Swartz



## MARCH PROGRAM



Stephen P. Parag II will be the guest speaker on March 17th at 7:00 p.m. for the West Pasco Historical Society. His topic will be "Cameras of Yesterday and Photographs of Tomorrow."

Stephen is President of Parag Communications Inc. (an advertising & communication agency) with offices in Tampa. He is a graduate of Gulf High School and attended college in Gainesville. He and his wife Ronda Maher Parag reside in Palma Ceia, Tampa.

## 21 APRIL - AUCTION - APRIL 21

## GOING - GOING - GONE!

Bring a Friend to Bid  
Bring an Item to Sell





### '1,000,000 YEARS'

During the months of March & April, Leonard and Mae Taylor of the Anclote Earth Science Club will display a million year old treasure. Florida's State Stone "Agatized Coral" will be featured. The late Wilma D. Bonar describes its history:

### BURIED TREASURE

Agatized coral in many colors is found all over the state of Florida. Sometimes these heads are solid; sometimes, as around Tampa Bay, they are hollow and known as geodes. Agatized coral is properly called "Psuedomorph after coral" because one mineral has been replaced with another. Long, long ago these "rocks" were colonies of little animals belonging to the phylum coelenterata. One of the anthozoas; they grew as polyps. Coral is the name of

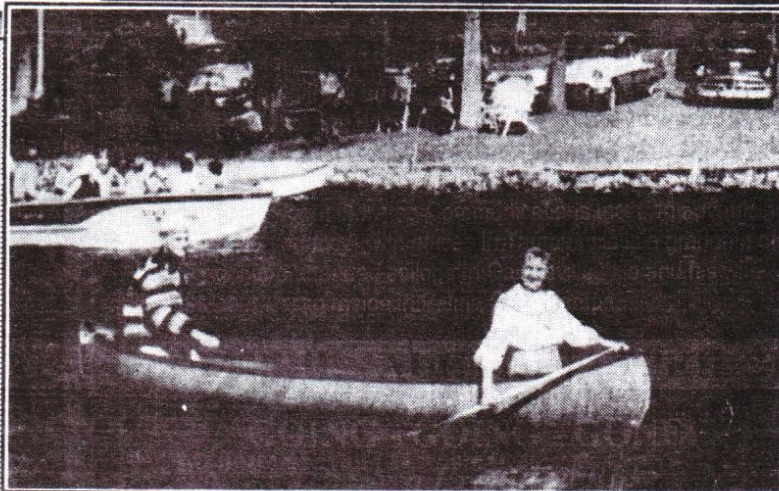
the limy skeleton with which they encase themselves. Diluvial action of some kind covered these colonies of animals. These waters contained other minerals. Over a long period of time the carbonate of lime skeleton was replaced by the mineral quartz. This form of quartz is called chalcedony. (cal-ced'-o'-ny). The geodes found in the Tampa area may have centers of carnelian, agate, and quartz crystals. In the northern part of Florida heads of various shades of yellow, banded with blue have been found. Solid carnelian heads have been found. The geodes are found in many colors, sizes and formations. They are highly prized as specimens and are used to make beautiful jewelry. They have come to be called "Ballast Point Diamonds" because they were first found in quantity at Ballast Point.

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### Indian garb is donated

Florence Lange, left in photo above, donated garments sewed by Seminole Indians to West Pasco Historical Society. She and her husband, Max, bought the garments in 1955 to wear every year in the Chasco Fiesta Boat Parade (right). Florence Mallett of the historical society accepted the gift.





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6431 Circle Boulevard  
New Port Richey • Florida 34652  
Address Correction Requested

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