

# **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. 4

October 1994

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Dave Spriggs**

September opening was a fantastic success. We also received front page coverage with photos in the St. Petersburg Times, Tampa Tribune, Suncoast News and West Pasco Press. Over 400 people attended, the largest crowd being on Sunday, September 11th. The new exhibits, consisting of school house classroom, Zane Rankin Grocery, Florida Sitting room, New Port Richey Post, Thomas Meigan Theatre and home, and the New Port Richey and Port Richey Hall of History section were all a great hit with the visitors. The Cobalt glass display, the Mola display and the autographing of the book, West Pasco Heritage by five of the original writers of the Historical Society were accepted with enthusiasm. The opening was also a financial success by bringing in \$800.

We have applied to the Pasco Tourist Council for a grant to purchase audio visual equipment and a computer.

The kitchen has been redone and is a big hit with the volunteers as a place to have coffee, cake and to take a break.

The storage room has been cleaned out and shelving installed.

The library display of old newspapers has created lots of attention.

The new sign by the street and restored sign on the building has brought a lot of favorable comments.

At last a budget has been drawn up and approved.

The Country Store has been restocked with new, fresh consignment merchandise, shop now for Christmas!

We have had three tour groups visit the Museum and have three more scheduled.

Hope to see you at the "New Look" Museum.

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## **Antique Auto Show and Flea Market**

On October 22nd and 23rd - Sims Park

We will have a booth at the Flea Market and participate in the Antique Fashion Show. If you would like to participate in the show or have an item to be sold in the booth, call Doris at 842-4158 or Dave at 848-2809.

VERTICAL FILE

## **A BIG THANKS (Recent Donations)**

**Mr. & Mrs. Lee Szymanski**

Pressure cleaning the outside of the building.

**Carl Ferguson**

New sign and refinishing the sign on the building.

**Ken and Bill Malik**

Pedal Printing Press, over 100 years old.

**Mr. and Mrs. Stephen P. Parag**

Large workroom layout desk.

**B. Lewis**

Antique sewing Machines.

**Marc W. Bowman**

Assorted Antique tools.

**Charles P. Carson**

1953 Tampa Tribune/Chasco Edition

**Virginia Decker**

1969 Tampa Tribune/Moon Landing Edition.

**Ida Bruner**

Copies of history book for resale.

**Heather Fiorentino**

Military documents, swords, knives, in camera and assorted items belonging to Charles W. Rose, a former City Manager of New Port Richey.

**Dorthea Prisament**

Antique Flat Iron.

**Yolanda**

Antique House Jack and Steam Iron.

**Mr. & Mrs. John Chiz**

Assorted Antique Printing tools and compositor.



*New sign made and donated by Carl Ferguson*

**WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEW PORT RICHEY MUSEUM LIBRARY**



## STOP BY

Hudson Seafest, Friday, November 4th from 4:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., Saturday, November 5th from 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. and Sunday, November 6th from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.. We will be having a display and offering memberships, "West Pasco Heritgae" and eating those fantastic Grouper sandwiches. Come by and join us, there will be an extra chair.

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### REFERENCE LIBRARY

*by Jessie Hyde, Eliabeth Jones,  
Mary Leitch and Anne Brandli*

Our library has been very fortunate to have received several important donations.

Ida Brunner ordered and paid for 30 copies of the reprint of Dr. Avery's Genesis of New Port Richey History. This is the first authentic history of the city. The books are now on sale for \$5.00 each.

Anne Brandli has joined the library staff and is learning to catalog books. There are many from Glen Dill's donation to do. We are very pleased to have her assistance.

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### COUNTRY STORE

Bernice and Barb

The Gift Shop committee is pleased to report that the "New" Look & Smell in the Gift Shop has been very well received. Sales during the open house were good and we are looking forward to even better ones during market days and the Antique Car Show.

We are gearing up for the Christmas season and are requesting items for that, from our crafters at "Two B's and Me". If there is anyone who would like to place their crafts in the Gift Shop, please let us know, so we can get together. If there is anyone who enjoys needlework, please give us a call also, as we need your talents for a special project.

Thank you to all for the co-operation we have received. It has made our job so much easier. By the way, we welcome any suggestions on how you feel we can improve.

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### THANKSGIVING POW WOW & FESTIVAL

Where: Bobby Henry's Seminole  
Indian Village

Tampa Reservation  
5221 North Orient Road  
Exit #5 on I-4

(Just North of Florida State Fairgrounds)

When: November 15-20, 1994

For further information,  
contact JOANIE HENRY at (813) 620-3077

## FROM THE FILES OF JULIE OBENREDER

The headline in the New Port Richey Post, (a forerunner of the New Port Richey Press), January 4th, 1916, stated "New Port Richey Leads in its first year!!!" The article goes on to say, "New Port Richey is Booming!!! Development has set in all sides."

Following is partial list of what happened in less than a year.

A rock road was constructed by the county, at a cost of \$135,000. connecting New Port Richey with Tarpon Springs, Tampa, St. Petersburg and other points in Pinellas County.

A new iron bridge was constructed by the county over the Cotee River.

The Tampa and Gulf Railway inaugurated daily train service between New Port Richey, Tarpon Springs, St. Petersburg and points south.

A post office was established and every month showed phenomenal increases.

A local and long distance telephone service was installed.

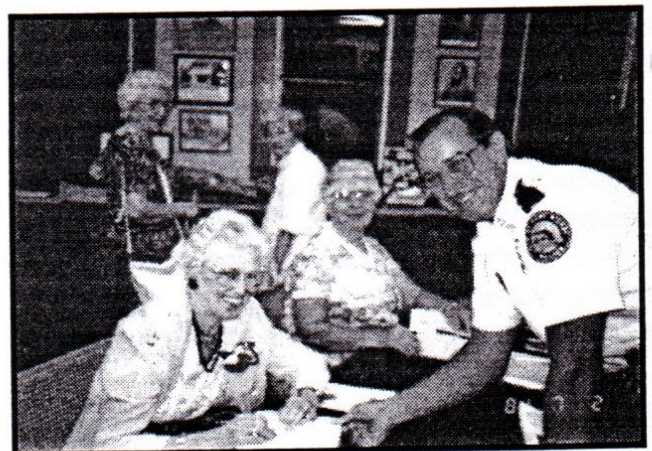
A new school was constructed at a cost of \$2,500.00.

A community club was organized with fifty members. Material was ordered for a clubhouse to be built in Enchantment park.

A new church was built at a cost of \$3,000.

A Board of Trade was organized in 1916 by George R. Sims with meetings held weekly to discuss projects for the advancement of the town.

Local residents are hardly pioneers with great visions, and are beginning to see their dreams come true.



*Julie signs for Chief*

### MARKET DAY

Market day for us has been a big success thanks to Doris Szymanski and Edie Hempil who manned the booth the second Saturday of each month and sell memberships, books and the note cards made by Norma Nelson. We need volunteers to help with this project. If you can help, phone Doris at 842-4158.



## DOWN THE HALLWAY

by Frances Mallett

Three cheers for the successful Fall opening of our Museum and Library. Everyone worked hard to get ready and it certainly paid off in compliments for our efforts. Many of the "old timers" were so surprised and pleased to see the emphasis placed on West Pasco history. I was so sure that we couldn't find room for all the things that were planned but, lo and behold, it all fit.

Since we are stressing West Pasco History, we will have two groups of Questors, one on November 1st and the other on November 10th, and another group, the Bookworm Club, on October 21st, who will be visiting our Museum in the next two months for private tours.

Thanks again for everyone's support.

## HISTORICAL ARTIST

Kathleen Strode attended the Open House. She is known for her many sketches and paintings of local buildings and scenes. Her collection of early sketches are on permanent display at the Museum. For true collectors there are some of her originals on sale in our Library. If interested see Librarian Jessie Hyde.



*Strode display in Meseum.*

## DOWN THE ROAD SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Oct. 20**, Thurs.-7:00 Program: Wild Flowers of Florida, talk by Jack Drumond, Regular Meeting afterwards.

**Oct. 22**, Sat.-9 a.m. Antique Car Show and Crafts Show (We have a booth)

**Oct. 23**, Sun.-9 a.m. Antique Car Show and Crafts Show (We have a booth)

**Nov. 2**, Wed.-1 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting. (All invited)

**Nov. 4**, Fri.-5 p.m. Hudson Sea Fest. (We have booth)

**Nov. 5**, Sat.-10 a.m. Hudson Sea Fest. (We have booth)

**Nov. 6**, Sun.-10 a.m. Hudson Sea Fest (We have booth)

**Nov. 12**, Sat.-8 a.m. Market Day and Art Festival (We have a booth)

**Nov. 13**, Sun.-2 p.m. Finnish American Group - Program and Display

**Nov. 17**, Thurs.-7 p.m. Finnish American Group - Program and Display with General Meeting after

**Dec. 2**, Fri.-1 p.m. New Exhibit: Santas of the World

**Dec. 7**, Wed.-1 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

**Dec. 10**, Sat.-8 a.m. Market Day and Christmas Parade, etc.

**Dec. 11**, Sun.-2 p.m. Xmas Open House

**Dec. 15**, Thurs.-6:30 p.m. Xmas Pot Luck and Party

**Jan. 4**, Wed.-1 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

**Jan. 8**, Sun.-2 p.m. History of Moonlake Lodge.

Speaker: Mrs. Harry Naused

**Jan. 14**, Sat.-8 a.m. Market Day (We have booth)

**Jan. 19**, Thurs.-7 p.m. History of Moonlake Lodge and General Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Harry Maused

## TREASURES OF THE CZARS

A bus trip is planned to St. Petersburg to view the fantastic Russian exhibit. Sometime in January, date to be announced. If you are interested, please let us know. Interest does not obligate you. Cost is estimated at \$23.00 per person. You need not be a Society member to attend.

## NEW WINDOW OF HISTORY PLANNED THE HACIENDA

We are planning a new "Window" for November with the help of Debbie and Mike Bastisti, former owners of the Hacienda. Don't miss it.



# **FINNISH AMERICAN DISPLAY**

by Norma Nelson

Mayor Peter Altman is expected to proclaim the month of November as Finnish American month in New Port Richey during the November 1st Port Richey Council Meeting.

The West Pasco Historical Society, in conjunction with the Finnish American Club, will be featuring displays all during the month of November such as educational types of documentation, antiques, wall hangings, wood sculptures, Finnish artifacts and apparel.

Lectures and entertainment will be presented on both Sunday, November 13th at 2:30 P.M. and Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. on November 17th in our Museum. The lectures will include the "History of Finnish American Club in New Port Richey" by Irene Kallio; "A Brief History of Finland" by Darlene Ballard, president of the Finnish American Club, and "Finland Today" by Christine Pertillo. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

The first settlers arrived in New Port Richey at the turn of the century. The organization date when the Finnish American Club of New Port Richey received its Charter was 1950. The new Clubhouse was built at 409 East Delaware Avenue with dedication ceremonies on June 6, 1951.

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Address Correction Requested