

# West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library

"The Old School House in Sims Park"

Volume VIII, No. 6

October 1995

## President's Report

David Spriggs

Our Season Opening was a great success with over 350 guests viewing the new exhibits of the Hacienda Resort, McKay Shoe Repair, 150 years of Florida History and the Pithlachascotee River Historical display in the library.

The addition of the VCR to the "Indian Room" provides interesting watching for our weekend visitors. A schedule of films is listed later in this newsletter.

The By Laws have been reviewed and will be up for final vote at the General Meeting on Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 p.m.

We have filed for a new State Exemption Certificate as ours was not renewed in 1989. We are also ready to file the 501C-3 papers with the IRS.

We are looking forward to a very busy end of this year with the Auto Show flea market, Market Days, the New Port Richey Garden Club decorating our School House for Christmas, the Gazebo musicals, Christmas dinner, new displays, etc. We hope you will drop by and say Hello, or better yet, drop by and help out. We need your help and support.

## Membership

By Edie Hempel

As of September 30, we have on record 243 members in 189 households. Since our last Newsletter, we have received several renewals and one Life Membership (Dominick and Judy DePetrillo).

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joining us in September:

Hilary Marsh  
James and Patricia Mulieri

We regret last month's Newsletter as listing our new member, Sylvia Hemmerly as Sylvia Kennedy. We stand corrected and very much appreciate all Sylvia is doing on our behalf.

## Tribute to Dorothy and Alex Acey Thank You

Alex and Dorothy Acey arrived in Pasco County in 1969 from Detroit, where they owned a men's custom tailoring shop for 40 years. They co-owned a men's haberdashery shop located in Southgate Shopping Center with Eddie Lees until their retirement.

In 1981, they bought a lot in Seven Springs which contained a frame building in disrepair. They later learned that the structure was Pasco's first schoolhouse, built in 1913. After learning of the buildings historical significance, they donated it to the West Pasco Historical Society. In recognition and appreciation of their generosity, they were awarded a lifetime membership in the Society. This experience soon drew them into active participation. Alex was quoted as having said, "In the beginning I knew nothing about history .... now I can't get enough!" He served as the Society's president for six terms. He also served as a co-chairman of the Pasco County Centennial Committee in 1986. For this work, he was nominated by Pasco-Hernando College, for the title of King Pithla in 1987. He was also a civic activist and involved in numerous organizations. In his last year of office, he set a precedent when he stood atop the Oelsner Indian Mound and protested its possible destruction. The mound was later given to the people of Pasco County.

Alex and Dorothy were a team and gave unselfishly of their time and talents. They will be forever etched in our memories, everytime we switch on the copy machine, or walk into the building that was in disrepair, we can be thankful for their generous contribution to further enhance the growth of our Society/Museum/Library. They will always remain with us in spirit.

Their most recent and generous bequest is appreciated beyond words. It will be used to promote our purpose of preserving and furthering the knowledge of the history and prehistory of the State of Florida, West Pasco and nearby areas.

Their memory will always be revered and passed along to future generations by a grateful and dedicated Society.



## Gazebo History by Julie Obenreder

The gazebo was built in 1924 and was paid for by the City of New Port Richey. It was located beyond the old Civic Club near the river in Sims Park. It has been moved 4 times since then, 3 times along the river front and then to its present location next to the museum. The West Pasco Historical Society made necessary repairs and former Vice President, Ken Carter, was instrumental in getting the Rotary Club's help in repainting it.

On August 24, 1995, the Society was given the responsibility of overseeing the operation of the gazebo. All requests for its use may now be referred to the West Pasco Historical Society. Many individuals and groups have shown an interest in using the gazebo for events and special occasions such as weddings. If you would like to schedule a function in the gazebo, please call the museum at 847-0680.

Beginning Sunday, November 19 at 2 p.m., the Society plans to provide a series of **Sunday Musicals**. We plan to provide entertainment on the third Sunday of each month, hosting local musicians and choral groups. Bring your chair and enjoy an old fashioned Sunday afternoon in the park at the gazebo next to the West Pasco Historical Society and Museum. Glasses of ice cold lemonade will be available.

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## Pasco County Historical Preservation Committee

By Anne Brandli

On Thursday evening, September 7, the meeting was called to order and chaired by Co-Chairman William Maytum, who lives in New Port Richey.

Scott Black, also a Co-Chairman, spoke to us concerning the two houses which have been passed by the State for the Historical Register; the Anderson house in New Port Richey, which serves as the Pasco Fine Arts Council located off Moog Road in Centennial Park and the Jeffries house in Zephyrhills.

Eddie Herman, from Dade City, spoke about the property named Stagecoach Village in which there supposedly is a 26 mile house, meaning 26 miles from Brooksville and 26 miles from Pleasant Plains (now called Land O' Lakes). In other words, a half-way house or marker, the Preservation hopes to locate.

Also a dedication plaque was presented to the German Prisoner of War Camp in Dade City on October 1st at 2 p.m.

The Historical Preservation Committee meetings are open to the general public but only board members may vote on proposed issues. The committee has been asked to decorate the Old Dade City Courthouse for Christmas.

## QUESTERS, Chapter 886 Holds Fund Raiser for West Pasco Historical Society

The QUESTERS, Baillie's Bluff Chapter, No. 886, will entertain members and guests of local Questers' chapters at a fund raiser for the West Pasco Historical Museum. The event will be held at the Centennial Park Library, 5740 Moog Road, New Port Richey, on Thursday, October 26 at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited. There is no charge to attend.

The fundraiser is to supply the basis for applying for matching funds from the Preservation and Restoration grant program of the state Questers' organization toward the purchase and restoration of display cases for the museum.

Mrs. Margaret Toscano, president of Baillie's Bluff Chapter said, "If the museum needs more and better cases to display the antiques and artifacts in its care, we will try to help them through this fund raiser.

Refreshments, a boutique, and a tour of the Baker House, restored pioneer home at the Library complex, will be offered. George "Doc" Brandli, well known whittler and spinner of tales will be relating old time stories at 2 o'clock and again at 3 p.m. Guests may also visit the near-by Pasco Fine Arts Council and art gallery.

For further information, call 847-3616 or 847-6007.



## Down the Hall

By Frances Mallett

We continue to celebrate Florida's Sesquicentennial throughout the year of 1995.

One of the exciting events that happened during the month of September was when WTVT Channel 13's Deanna Lawrence visited the museum to do a segment for "Down Home Florida", which was aired on Thursday, September 14.

Teachers in the area are receiving copies of maps, stories and history from our files to help them celebrate the past 150 years of Florida History.

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## Publicity by Ceil Zubrod

As requested in the September Newsletter, please alert Ceil Zubrod of any information you would like publicized in the local newspapers. Items should be submitted to her at least 3 weeks in advance of the event you wish to advertise.



## Gift Shop News

By Bernie Denley

The month of September produced the long awaited increase in traffic through the Museum during Open House and Market Day. As a result, the Gift Shop is thriving once again.

New Crafters have supplied us with beautiful personal and decorator items, great for home and holiday selections.

Mary Jane Prichard has brought in more of her exquisite ceramic creations and Anne Brandli's handbag line is quite fashionable, especially the evening designs. The "Designs in Glass" collection provides the perfect gift for the person who has everything. And, of course, our home fragrances are great for adding a divine aroma to any room. Make sure to check out the frankincense and myrrh for Christmas.

Please remember, we are always seeking new artists to add distinction and elegance to our little shop. You may contact Bernie, our store manager, at 842-2977 for information.

## Matchbox Car Exhibit

We are please to have on loan part of the collection of Matchbox Cars belonging to Ricardo A. Villapando. Those on display date from 1953 and are all "made in England". The original cars and other Lesney Toys were made in England starting in 1948. Ricardo's collection consists of over a 1,000 pieces. This special exhibit will be of particular interest to those car enthusiasts visiting the Antique Car Show on Saturday, October 21 and Sunday October 22.

## "Celebrate the Children" Day

"Celebrate the Children" day on October 14, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., at Crews Lake, is a very special day for children with special needs. The Optimist Club of Port Richey has asked us to sponsor an event. We will participate by providing fun and crafts.

## October Schedule

|                   |                   |  |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| Saturday, Oct. 14 | 8:30 a.m. - 4p.m. | Market Day   |
| Saturday, Oct. 14 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  | "Celebrate the Children", Crews Lake, Hudson         |
| Sunday, Oct. 15   | 1-4 p.m.          | Museum Open  |
| Thursday, Oct. 19 | 7 p.m.            | Membership Meeting, vote on By Laws                  |
| Saturday, Oct. 21 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.   | Antique Car Show and Flea Market                     |
| Sunday, Oct. 22   | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.   | Antique Car Show and Flea Market                     |
| Thursday, Oct. 26 | 1:30 p.m.         | Questers #886 fund raiser at Centennial Park Library |
| Saturday, Oct. 28 | 1-4 p.m.          | Museum Open  |
| Sunday, Oct. 29   | 1-4 p.m.          | Museum Open  |
| Tuesday, Oct. 31  | 4-6 p.m.          | Halloween stories told by Great Witch at Sims Park   |

## November Schedule

|                   |                  |   |
|-------------------|------------------|---|
| Wednesday, Nov. 1 | 3:15 p.m.        | Board Meeting                                   |
| Friday, Nov. 3    | 5-8 p.m.         | Booth at Hudson SeaFest                         |
| Saturday, Nov. 4  | 1-4 p.m.         | Museum Open                                     |
| Saturday, Nov. 4  | 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.  | Booth at Hudson SeaFest                         |
| Sunday, Nov. 5    | 1-4 p.m.         | Museum Open                                     |
| Sunday, Nov. 5    | 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Booth at Hudson SeaFest                         |
| Saturday, Nov. 11 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  | Market Day                                      |
| Sunday, Nov. 12   | 1-4 p.m.         | Museum Open, Program - 2 p.m.                   |
| Thursday, Nov. 16 | 7 p.m.           | Membership Meeting                              |
| Saturday, Nov. 18 | 1-4 p.m.         | Museum Open                                     |
| Sunday, Nov. 19   | 1-4 p.m.         | Museum Open, Gazebo Musical - 2 p.m.            |
| Saturday, Nov. 25 | 1-4 p.m.         | Museum Open                                     |
|                   | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Ybor City trip-Gallery Walk-Columbia Restaurant |
| Sunday, Nov. 26   | 1-4 p.m.         | Museum Open                                     |

## December Schedule

|                   |                |  |
|-------------------|----------------|--|
| Saturday, Dec. 2  | 1-4 p.m.       | Museum Open, Christmas Exhibits                    |
| Sunday, Dec. 3    | 1-4 p.m.       | Museum Open  |
| Wednesday, Dec. 6 | 3:15 p.m.      | Board Meeting                                      |
| Saturday, Dec. 9  | 9 a.m.- 8 p.m. | Market Day, Museum decorated, Christmas Parade     |
| Sunday, Dec. 10   | 1-4 p.m.       | Christmas Open House with NPR Garden Club          |
| Thursday, Dec. 14 | 6:30 p.m.      | WPHS Christmas Dinner, 1st Presbyterian, Ridge Rd. |
| Saturday, Dec. 16 | 1-4 p.m.       | Museum Open  |
| Sunday, Dec. 17   | 1-4 p.m.       | Museum Open, Gazebo Musical - 2 p.m.               |
| Thursday, Dec. 21 |                | No Meeting   |
| Saturday, Dec. 23 | 1-4 p.m.       | Museum Open  |
| Sunday, Dec. 24   |                | Closed   |
| Saturday, Dec. 30 | 1-4 p.m.       | Museum Open  |
| Sunday, Dec. 31   |                | Closed - Happy New Year!                           |

## **The Meeting Room by Norma Nelson**

Do you have any educational or documentary videos on history, archaeology, Native Americans or the Civil War you would like to share with the Society? We are presently making an inventory of such tapes that could be made available for viewing during museum hours. "How to tapes" would also be welcome. Please contact Norma at 846-0011.

### **October and November Schedule**

Oct. 7 & 8     Anasazi  
Oct. 14 & 15   The Cherokee Nation  
Oct. 21 & 22   The Great Indian Wars (1840 - 1890)  
Oct. 28 & 29   I Will Fight No More - Forever  
  
Nov. 4 & 5     Seminole Adventure & Journey to Big Cypress  
Nov. 11 & 12   Native American  
Nov. 18 & 19   Native American  
Nov. 25 & 26   Dances with Wolves

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A special **Halloween event** will be sponsored by the city of New Port Richey in Sims Park, on Tuesday, October 31, from 4 to 6 p.m. The WPHS will be participating to make it a delightful evening with witches and ghouls running amuck. Norma Nelson will let loose her inherent spirits.... so come if you dare.

**The West Pasco Historical Society, Inc.**  
**6431 Circle Boulevard**  
**New Port Richey, FL 34652**  
Address Correction Requested

## **Donations Needed**

Items are needed for the WPHS fundraiser Flea Market Booth on October 21 and 22. Look around your house for any items you may not be using or no longer want (no clothing, please). You may drop off your donations at the Society ASAP; if you need items picked up, call 848-2809. If you want to help but don't have items to donate, please send a check to the West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Every bit helps.

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### **Special Demonstrations**

Frances Mallett will demonstrate sewing on her treadle sewing machine on Market Day, November 11. We hope to show crochet rug making techniques as well.

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### **Library Notes by Jessie Hyde**

The library has an exhibit of old English, French and German language Bibles on display for the month of October. The oldest was published in 1829. There is also a "Concordance of the Bible".

We have been working with the NPR Library on several research requests. The last one was from the Historical Society in the State of Wisconsin.

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| BULK RATE<br>U.S. POSTAGE<br>PAID<br>HOLIDAY, FL<br>Permit No. 22 |
|---|

Mrs. Jessie Hyde  
4524 Slippery Rock Road  
New Port Richey, FL 34653