

West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library

"The Old School House in Sims Park"

Volume VIII, No. 5

September 1995

President's Report

David Spriggs

We are looking forward to a busy, exciting, and productive year. If the past Saturdays are any example, it will be. On one recent Saturday, we had 23 members at work (and I mean work!) preparing for the museum's seasonal Grand Opening on September 10 th.

The 1994-95 year was one of great growth, review, reorganization, progress, recognition and self-evaluation. For specific accomplishments please refer to the "Year in Review" article in this newsletter.

I am really pleased with the active part that is being taken by some of our new members and the not so new members who have returned to the fold. There is plenty to do and we need everyone's help and support.

Our "Community Outreach" program is paying off. I feel that we are becoming a viable voice in the community.

To everyone who has helped this past year, a great big "Thank You". We could not have done it without the time and help of our officers, docents, directors, committee chairpersons and the supportive membership at large. It was said we couldn't do it, but we did! Now on to bigger and better things for 1995-96.

See ya' at the "Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park".

NEW HOURS

Saturday	1- 4 p.m., year round
Sunday	1- 4 p.m. Sept.- May
Membership mtg.	7 p.m., 3rd Thursday, Sept.-May
Program mtg.	2 p.m., 2nd Sunday, Sept. - May
Board mtg.	3:15 p.m., 1st Wednesday, year round
Committee mtg.	As Announced

The Society will be open on a special schedule whenever there is a major event scheduled in New Port Richey; Market Day, Antique Car Show, Christmas, March on Art, Chasco Fiesta, etc. Special tours for school classes and others are available by calling the museum.

Season Opening - 95-96

Sunday, September 10

1 to 4 p.m.

Don't miss this one! New exhibits and Displays: Hacienda Resort, "Ye Olde Shoe Repair", Native American Indians, Billikens, Combs, Degenhart glass, Wall pockets, Paperweights, Florida souvenirs, and 150 years of Florida History. An exhibit of an early Florida parlor will feature a working sewing machine, wash tub, wash board, pitcher pump, ironing board and flat irons.

The museum will be observing the Florida Sesquicentennial throughout 1995.

And, YES, refreshments will be served! It will be a great way to spend a Sunday, renew old friendships and meet new friends.

*The Officers and Directors
of
The West Pasco Historical Society*

*Cordially invite you to the
1995-96 Season Opening
of the
Museum and Library
at
"The Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park"
6431 Circle Blvd. New Port Richey
Sunday, September 10, 1995
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

*"Pride in Pasco's Past"
(New Exhibits)*

*Tour the Museum and Library
Join us for Refreshments*

Early Days

by Julie Obenreder

Among the pioneers of the town's early days were Fred and Ollie Sass. They bought the uncompleted Enchantment Inn and made it into a place deserving of such a charming name. It was located on the southwest end of Orange Lake but the jungle growth was so thick residents of the Inn could not see the lake from the Inn's porch.

A room at the Inn cost only \$8 a month. Mrs. Sass operated a restaurant in the Inn and soon opened a small grocery store in the pantry. Fred supplemented their income by hauling freight from the newly built railroad freight station in Elfers to the Cotee River for transport down the river by boat to the new houses under construction.

George R. Sims built a small wooden building beside the river in what is now known as Sims Park. His wife, Marjorie, said the women needed a place to meet for social events. It became the only building available for public meetings. The town began using it for the town hall and all meetings and business was conducted there. Later it became known as the Civic Club. The membership consisted mostly of women.

By the late 1970's most of the ladies were getting quite elderly and the younger women were losing interest. The members voted to give the building to the city.

The city provided much needed repairs; a new roof, painting inside and out, and shoring up sagging beams to straighten floors. It was then rented to various clubs for their meetings at a cost of \$15 per night. There were ample tables, chairs, a piano and a small kitchen. The West Pasco Historical Society held some meetings there before it had its own building.

When maintenance costs became too high the city voted to raze the building. It had so much historical significance the West Pasco Historical Society tried to preserve it.

Down the Hall

By Frances Mallett

The West Pasco Historical Society will be observing Florida Sesquicentennial throughout 1995. On display will be the brightly colored poster sent to the Society by Secretary of State, Sandra Mortham. Other items will include pictures and stories pertaining to Florida in its early development.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Belva Green, Ann Brandli and alternate Sam Eaton. They have been chosen to represent the West Pasco Historical Society on the Pasco County Preservation Board.

Special Demonstrations

By Mary Jane Prichard

Market Day, September 9th, will be very special at our Museum. We have invited the Gulfview Chapter of Embroidery Guild of America to have some of their members give a demonstration of their work, as well as display items made for their Ways and Means Project Bazaar.

Don't miss seeing these examples of creative stitchery of the needle arts. We feel very privileged to have the Gulfview Chapter visit our Museum. Their Chairperson is Edna M. Sutch and President is Mrs. Dee Mullins.

Thank You for these Recent Donations

By Doris Syzmanski

A Stromberg Carlson crank telephone, 1912 donated by Louis and Janet Zabel

Nursing Kit, c. 1916 and Camp Fire Girl's dress, c. 1915 donated by Dorothy Harinshfeger

Ginger Jar donated by Maxine Nieman

Straight razor, Coke bottles and sock darning donated by Julie Obenreder

Advertising pencil, "Adamek Builders Supply" donated by Don Combs

Hat boxes donated by Yolanda Conrow

Mileage machine - from NPR to "all places" donated by the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce

School desk, c. 1935 donated by Wallace Brindise

Painting of the Hacienda Hotel donated by Mr. and Mrs. Mike Battista

Painting of Picnic Tree donated by Frances Farrell

Custard cups donated by Carolyn Vilk

Picture frames donated by Joan Rees

Button case donated by Talsco of Florida

Corn Husk Dolls donated by the Drummonds

Scrapbooks of author Harry G. Millen donated by Dorothea Prisament

Scrapbooks, local places and people donated by Irene Pottinger

Pottery shards (turpentine pots) donated by Jack Loebel

Color television donated by David Jones

Kitchen pump donated by Liz Duff

Officers and Directors 1995-96

David C. Spriggs	President	848-2809
Doris Syzmanski	First Vice President	842-4158
David Prace	Second Vice President	847-3129
George Brandli	Treasurer	844-7802
Yolanda Conrow	Recording Secretary	849-1703
Elizabeth Jones	Corresponding Secretary	849-7988
Ceil Zubrod	Director (2 year term)	847-4808
Howard Chenowith	Director (2 year term)	863-4226
Sam Eaton	Director (2 year term)	937-5514
Mary Jane Prichard	Director (1 year term)	845-4936
Frances Mallett	Director (1 year term)	849-5165
Jessie Hyde	Librarian	849-7268
Doris Syzmanski	Curator	842-4158

Committee Chairpersons

Docents	Virginia Tinsley	842-2512
Publicity	Ceil Zubrod	847-4808
Buildings & Grounds	Sam Eaton	937-5514
Government Relations	Ceil Zubrod	847-4808
Native American	Norma Nelson	846-0011
By-Laws	Howard Chenowith	863-4226
Membership	Edie Hempel	848-4229
Publications/Production	Sylvia Hemmerly	863-6605
Creative Writing	Julie Obenreder	848-5034
Computer Operators	David & Midge Prace	847-3129
Gift Shop	Bernie Denley	842-2977
Market Day	Barbara Gorski	849-6496
Trips and Tours	David Jones	376-5906
Chasco Fiesta	Frances Mallett	849-5165
Historian	Peggy Carr	847-2078
March on Art	Mary Jane Prichard	845-4936
Newsletter	Karen Arendell	848-2809
Fund Raising	Open	
Membership Drive	Open	
Building Fund	Open	

Library Staff

Jessie Hyde	849-7296
Mary Leitch	842-4767
Ann Brandli	844-7802
Karen Arendell	848-2809
Elizabeth Jones	849-7988
Peggy Carr	847-2078
Jean Darrin	949-2163

Pasco County Preservation Board Representatives

Belva Green	942-7354
Ann Brandli	844-7802
Sam Eaton	937-5514

We need help with all of the committees. Please call the Chairpersons listed or contact David at 848-2809. Please Call. We need you.

Special Thanks

Roger Naused of Eagle Electric Enterprises rewired and repaired our ceiling fans. Now all the fans go off with the light switches, no more pulling chains and getting a stiff neck from looking up until they stop spinning. Thank you!

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Battista of New Port Richey donated an original painting from the Hacienda Hotel. They were the former owners of the Hacienda for sixteen years. They have also loaned many items from the hotel for our Special Exhibit for the fall opening. The Battista's plan to offer other Hacienda items in the future.

Market Day News

By Bernie Denley

Market Day on July 8th brought the museum some very welcomed visitors. The Yellow Cab Company provided complimentary transportation from the Market Day site to our front door which was greatly appreciated. The intense summer heat of summer caused a cancellation of Market Day in August. But, we are now looking forward to our continued participation in September. Yellow Cab will once again provide the complimentary transportation.

Publicity

By Ceil Zubrod

Look for information and planned activities for the West Pasco Historical Society in Kay Teddy's column in the *St. Petersburg Times* and Nancy Howard's Bulletin column in the *Tampa Tribune*. Ceil Zubrod will be submitting all public service announcements.

If you have an item of interest you would like publicized in the papers, please submit them to Ceil in a timely manner. The papers prefer at least three weeks advance notice.

Membership

By Edie Hempel

To date, the West Pasco Historical Society lists 184 members. Of these, fifty are life members of the society. On July 25th, letters were mailed to those members who had not as yet paid their yearly dues. Six have already responded with renewals but we are still waiting to hear from some of you.

We count on the interest, presence and financial support of all members to continue the great work we are doing at the society. We are proud of our museum and library, not only for the work we are doing today but for future generations. If you haven't renewed, please do so today.

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined since July:

Karen Arendell

Joseph Kearns

Sylvia Kennedy

Laurie McWade

Anyone interested in joining the West Pasco Historical Society, please fill out and send in the membership application at the bottom of the page.

Flea Market Booth

Please check your bureaus, cupboards, garage, closets, etc. and donate items we can sell at the Flea Market Booth. We need all kinds of items; dishes, pots and pans, costume jewelry, antiques, books, collectibles, crafts, paintings, small furniture and appliances. You name it, we need it. Let's make this a major fund raiser. If you don't feel you have items we can sell, a donation of \$2, \$3, \$5 or more would be appreciated. Just mail your check or drop it off at the West Pasco Historical Society. Just mark your check, "Flea Market". Or call David at 848-2809 and we will arrange to pick up your items. Please donate. We need your help.

Enclosed is my contribution for membership in the

West Pasco Historical Society, Inc.

6431 Circle Boulevard
New Port Richey, FL 34652

..... Individual (\$8.00) Family (\$12.00) Business (\$25.00)
..... Youth (\$3.00) Life (\$100.00) Sustaining (\$500.00)

Please make checks payable to the West Pasco Historical Society, Inc.

Year in Review

By Ceil Zubrod

The following is a listing of the highlights of our 94-95 museum year. As you can see we have had a very busy and productive year.

- * Inventoried museum collections.
- * Rearranged permanent displays, showing grocery store with Zane Rankin's logo, early Pasco parlor, printing press and Thomas Meighan corner.
- * Revised loan and gift forms.
- * Updated membership records.
- * Added last 20 years information to the West Pasco Heritage in a separate book to be printed and sold.
- * Retrieved over 95 copies of West Pasco Heritage from storage.
- * Revised by-laws.
- * Reclaimed two seats on the Pasco County Preservation Board.
- * Established a budget and completed an audit.
- * Joined New Port Richey Downtown Cooperative and the Chamber of Commerce as part of our "Community Outreach" program.
- * Applied for and received a \$2000 grant to purchase a computer.
- * Added a second Sunday afternoon program to accommodate guests who cannot drive at night.
- * Remodelled kitchen.
- * Installed shelving in storage room.
- * Installed new sign at the corner of Grand Blvd. and Circle drive. Restored sign over front porch.
- * Conducted a number of tour groups.
- * Participated in local Market Day Cooperative activities by presenting handouts on the museum and selling copies of the West Pasco Heritage.
- * Raised money via annual fashion show.
- * Participated in Hudson Seafest with a booth publicizing museum and selling books.
- * Travelled to St. Petersburg to see "Treasures of the Czars" with members and friends.
- * Participated in the Chasco Fiesta celebration with a float in the street parade. We won honorable mention in the Boat parade. Exhibits at the museum depicted Fiestas from yesterday. Special speakers spoke on various topics.
- * Held a potluck dinner for Christmas.
- * Celebrated the 75th anniversary of the New Port Richey Library by giving a large painting of Dr. Avery to the library.
- * Welcomed over 3,500 visitors through the museum and library.

In Memory

It is with great regret, we announce the loss of the of the following Society members:

Dorothy Acey
Claudine Chase

Helen Betlinsk
Mary Hougland

By-Law Changes

By Howard Chenowith

It has been a number of years since the By-Laws have been reviewed and updated. Minor changes have been completed and will be presented at the Membership meeting on September 21st at 7p.m. The final vote will be held at the general meeting at 7 p.m. on October 19th.

Native American Indian Culture

By Norma Nelson

This season we will focus on starting a library of video programs on many subjects such as Indian culture, Indian mounds and other educational features on Saturdays. If anyone has videos of interest we would be more than happy to have you give us a call.

There will be new displays of primitive Kachina dolls and a wonderful map showing the locations of all the various Indian tribes in America.

We hope to continue our hands-on special tours through the museum for public school classes.

Our Reference Library

By Jessie Hyde

Mrs. Thomas Dixon donated a copy of the Chasco Fiesta Indian Legend, a plaque and photographs from past Fiestas. Mr. Dixon was a former chairman of the pagent.

The historical files are maintained and updated by Mary Leitch who also ran the library when the librarian was ill. This was greatly appreciated.

In September the library is featuring the history of our beautiful Pithlachascotee River.

Gift Shop News

By Bernie Denley

We are still receiving compliments on our new Gift Shop decor. Sales have been slower during the summer months but copies of the West Pasco Heritage continue to be a big seller. This certainly indicates the public's interest in our local history. Encouraging, isn't it, since that's what we are all about.

With our new hours of operation beginning in September, Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m., we will be seeking more volunteers to clerk in the shop. Anyone who is interested may call Bernie at 842-2977 or Dave, our President, at 848-2809.

Remember, that we are always looking for new craftspeople who wish to put their work on display for consignment sales. All proceeds of any antiques or collectibles that you wish to donate for resale will go directly to help the West Pasco Historical Society.

September Schedule

Saturday, Sept. 2	1-4 p.m.	Museum Open
Sunday, Sept. 3	1-4 p.m.	Museum Open
Monday, Sept. 4		Visit to Pioneer Museum in Dade City
Wednesday, Sept. 6	3:15 p.m.	Board Meeting, open to all members
Saturday, Sept. 9	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Market Day
Sunday, Sept. 10	1-4 p.m.	Season Grand Opening Reception
Saturday, Sept. 16	1-4 p.m.	Museum Open
Sunday, Sept. 17	1-4 p.m.	Museum Open
Thursday, Sept. 21	7 p.m.	Membership Meeting - Review of By-Laws
Saturday, Sept. 23	1-4 p.m.	Museum Open
Sunday, Sept. 24	1-4 p.m.	Museum Open

October At A Glance

Museum open on Saturdays and Sundays

Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 3:15 p.m.

Membership Meeting on Thursday, October 19, 7 p.m.

October 21 and 22 - Antique Car Show in Sims Park Saturday and Sunday. Will be open extended hours and will have a Flea Market Booth at the show.

The West Pasco Historical Society, Inc.

6431 Circle Boulevard

New Port Richey, FL 34652

Address Correction Requested



Mrs. Mary Leitch
5410 Poinsettia Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34652