

West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library

"The Old School House in Sims Park"

Volume VIII, No. 8

January 1996

President's Report

David Spriggs

What a wonderful holiday season we had! The Christmas Parade weekend attendance was over 400, the Christmas members' covered dish party had the largest attendance ever and "Betty's Christmas Tour" was a fantastic success. The participation and work on this event by your members was unsurmounted and from the smiling faces and comments I would say a great time was had by all.

It looks like 1996 will be another year of progress for us. The African Exhibit has sparked good attendance, over 50 visitors on Monday, January 15. The Kathleen Strode exhibit and book signing was an outstanding event and the income from the sale of her book, "Now and Then", and the Bellwood Book, "Tales of West Pasco" will bring us income for years to come.

The surprise of the month was the outstanding performance of the Indian Dancer from Inter-Tribal productions that visited the Museum the evening of January 22 in conjunction with the Cub Scouts meeting. The Cub Scouts were in attendance to learn about Florida history. The Indian Dancers are visiting on the West Coast of Florida to take part in the Championship Pow Wow, "Discover Native America 1996" to be held in St. Petersburg January 25-28.

February and March will be more outstanding months of activity at the West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. with our annual Valentine Fashion Show, a trip to Egypt via bus to St. Petersburg, Chasco Fiesta, March on Art in the Park and much more.

If you missed any of these exciting events, you haven't dropped by the "Old Schoolhouse in the Park." Come by and say "hello" and have some fun!

Extra! Extra!

Valentine Fashion Show and Luncheon

Fashions by "Dressed to Kill"

A Valentine Fashion Show will be held at the Spartan Manor, 6121 Massachusetts Avenue in New Port Richey on Saturday, February 3, 1996, sponsored by the West Pasco Historical Society. A luncheon will be served at 11:45 a.m. and the Fashion Show by "Dressed to Kill" under the direction of the owner, Dale Silva, will begin at 12:45. There will be special organ music by Fletcher Music Centers. A full luncheon will include; baked chicken, salad, string beans almonidine, parslid potatoes and dessert.

Bill Nelson will serve as Master of Ceremonies.. Models will include Anne Brandli, Midge Prace, Mary Jones, Audrey O'Neil, Darleen Ballard, Kaye Russo and Ceil Zubrod.

Tickets may be obtained at the Museum when open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. for a donation of \$10.50. Otherwise, you may call, Yolanda Conrow at 849-1703, Mary Jones at 849-7352, Norma Nelson at 846-0011, Audrey O'Neil at 849-3541 or Midge Prace at 847-3129. The deadline to reserve tickets will be Wednesday, January 31.

This relaxing afternoon will include a drawing on a Basket of Cheer and other door prizes.

Come one and all for a wonderful event that will benefit the West Pasco Historical Society.

Gifts for door prizes are still needed. If you would like to donate a gift please call Audrey at 849-3541 or bring it by the museum.

Pinehill As I Remember

by Julie Obenreder

Pinehill went through three name changes starting with "Colored Quarters" in 1925 when it was settled by blacks who came from Georgia seeking work and better living conditions. At that time Pasco County was a segregated area which is why the blacks decided to settle outside the New Port Richey city area. The name later changed to "The Black Community" comprising a population of 75 to 100 people.

Men worked doing lawn work, road work and mostly picked fruit and vegetables in season. Women worked as maids for the more affluent whites. The Butler Laundry, located at the south end of the city on Boulevard South, employed many black women to wash clothes over a scrubbing board.

I came to New Port Richey from Erie, PA in 1945 where blacks and whites went to school together, lived in the same neighborhoods and no one thought much about it.

Segregation was a fact of life here for blacks until the West Pasco Hospital was opened in 1965 (now Bay Shore Hospital). The hospital was built and operated by public tax dollars making it open to both races.

My first real contact with the black community was in 1946. As a nurse-midwife, I met many black people and attended births, sometimes in the middle of the night. There were only kerosene lamps for light, no running water or toilet facilities, and only one community pump outside. If my husband was at home, he would come with me at night to stay with me.

The Booker T. Washington School, located on Pinchill Road, west of the Pinehill Black Community, was a segregated, all black school until 1967. The children could complete eight grades of school but if anyone wished to attend high school, it was necessary to find transportation to Clearwater at their own expense.

A Great Beginning for 1996

The last couple of months have been exciting and busy. Our trial run of "Betty's Christmas Tour of Homes" was received with great enthusiasm by our members and their guests. All who participated seemed quite pleased. Perhaps we will try again next Christmas on a grander scale.

To start this year off, we have given a Florida History Lesson to a large group of fourth graders at Cotee River Elementary School. Soon after, we also hosted a Travel Tour Group from the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce at the museum. Then Bayonet Point Middle School has asked for a pioneer display. Several Scout groups have been helped with several projects.

We at the Historical Society are trying to honor all requests.

Donations

by George Brandli

A major artery pumping life giving substance into our Historical Society and Museum is "Donations". What a dedicated and generous membership we have, giving of their time and money. Looking back over the past six months in 1995, it is rewarding to see how we have been supported. Donations were as follows: \$43.07 in July, \$60.10 in August, \$155.01 in September, \$100.60 in October, \$308.57 in November and \$397.00 in December. A total of \$1,064.35 in six months.

Not included in the above, but of major impact, were the bequests honoring the memory of Julie Chenoweth and Alex and Dorothy Acey. We deeply miss them in our midst. The memorials given in their honor enable the society to advance to new heights.

Other major gifts were received from Baillies Bluff Questers Chapter #886, the Antique Automobile Association, Attorney Ernie Cole, and other bequests and memorials.

We'd like to thank our guests and society members for reaching out to support the West Pasco Historical Society.

Down the Hall

By Frances Mallett

After receiving numerous requests for the famous Mallett oatmeal cookie recipe, it was decided to put it in the newsletter with a bit of history.

When Susan Mallett Eckstein was in 4-H during the early 1960's, she needed to learn to cook. She tried this cookie recipe which everyone seemed to like. Over the years, Susan has literally baked thousands of oatmeal cookies for 4-H, schools, churches, historical groups, and home. Some of the women leaders of the 4-H group were Lois Schumacher, Mrs. Frank Smith and Anne Moran.

Oatmeal cookies

1/2 cup vegetable shortening (Crisco solid)
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 egg
1/4 cup water
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup plain flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
3 cups quick oatmeal
1 cup raisins

Preheat oven to 350. Beat together shortening, sugars, egg, water, and vanilla until creamy. Combine flour, salt, and baking soda. Add oatmeal and mix well. Add raisins and mix. Bake on greased cookie sheets. Drop by teaspoonful onto cookie sheets. Bake at 350 F. for 12 to 15 minutes. After baking, allow cookies to cool a bit, then remove from the cookie sheets. Enjoy!