

West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library

"The Old School House in Sims Park"

Volume VIII, No. 8

March 1996

President's Report

David Spriggs

Well it's here! The month of months - March. We had a very successful February at the Old School House. Black History Month was a big success with an outstanding display of African art, probably the largest in the state, put together for the month long celebration. We thank all of the exhibitors who helped out; Earl Albert, Belva Green, Norma Nelson, Fredi Prager, Midge Prace and others.

Please note that at the February Board Meeting it was confirmed that we would hold our monthly business meeting together with our monthly Board Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:15 p.m. It was also confirmed that our Program meeting would be held on the second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.

It was with regret that we accepted the resignation of Jessie Hyde, our librarian. Jessie has served the Society for many years doing a fine job that has made us all proud of her. We hope she will provide us with advice for many more years. Thank you, Jessie. Betty Jones has been appointed librarian for the remaining part of the year.

Sat., March 2 - Exhibit, "Walking in Their Shoes", recognizing the women of West Pasco for Women's History Month.

Wed., March 6 - 3:15 p.m., Monthly Business and Board meeting

Sat., March 9 - starting at 8 a.m. and throughout the day
Market Day
Chasco Street Festival
Chasco Parade
Indian PowWow

Sun., March 10 - 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. - "Poetry at the Old Schoolhouse"

Sat., March 16 - Chasco Boat Parade - Our entry, "Women of History". Come out and see Frances, Midge, Judy, Ceil and Belva with Capt. Dom DePetrillo at the helm.

Sat. & Sun., March 16 & 17 - Craft Show in the Park

Sat. & Sun., March 30 & 31 - March on Art - Artists at work in the Old School House under the direction of Mary Jane Prichard.

Wed., April 3 - 3:15 p.m. - Election of Nominating Committee

March is Chasco Fiesta, Poetry and March on Art - Don't miss it - the biggest Month of the year. See ya at the Old School House in the Park.

The Family

George Brandli

Family, now that is an interesting word. It brings up thoughts of belonging, togetherness, sharing, providing, consideration and helping all the others in the group. Others of course are welcome to join into the family and then they also share in keeping the family functioning at its best. Now, a person does not have to do these things, but it gives a hollow insincere ring to that person when they state to others they are a member of that family, yet they contribute nothing to keep it going in unity.

On the same basis is your membership in the West Pasco Historical Society and Museum. This also is a family. We also belong, share, work, provide, give and strive to make our "Family" the best of any and we take pride in doing this, spending untold hours and, yes, many times giving our monies to our family. Membership is so much more than just sending in money once a year and then stating that we are a "member", but think about it. Are we really a valid part of the family? Are we really interested? Will we volunteer to help clean? Work at Market Day? Work at Rummage Sales? Work at Auctions? Work as a hostess of host on weekends? We must give some serious thought to our contribution as a real member of the Historical Society Family. We should have "Family Members" falling all over each other to participate at all functions. Your membership monies are vital to the survival of the Society, your being a bona-fide member of the family would enhance our growth.

Membership Report

Edie Hempel

As of February 29th we have on record 258 members in 204 households. Since January, eight new members have joined:

Helen Asdourian	Betty Rizzi
Wally Casano	Michael Samartini
Joan Gallagher	MaryRuth Shuflata
Arlene Niles	Margaret Vaupel

We thank you for your support and interest in the WPHS. To date we have 22 Charter members and 51 Life members.

For those of you that have not paid your dues for 1996, please do so as soon as possible. Kindly send your check to Edith Hempel, Membership - P.O. Box 1014, New Port Richey, FL. 34656. Many thanks and appreciation for your support.

Marjorie Sims by Julie Obenreder

Since this is Women's History Month, I am reminded of the woman who was the first woman of prominence on our city. She was Marjorie Sims, wife of our city founder, George R. Sims.

She was a woman of high fashion, always immaculately dressed. On the hottest of summer days she would walk to town with white gloves, silk hose, high heeled slippers and carrying a parasol.

She was the first Chasco Fiesta Queen in 1922. She led the parade in an open car decorated with fresh flowers.

The Sims' home was located just north west of the area now known as Sims Park. Sims donated several acres of land to the city to be used as a park.

In 1916, Marjorie prevailed upon her husband to build the Civic Club on the river front at the north end of the park. It was used as a town hall to conduct city business, church services on Sunday and all other social functions.

The Woman's Club had charge of it until the club disbanded and the city took over the building. When City Council decided it was too expensive to maintain it was razed by a vote of Council members.

The West Pasco Historical Society held their meetings there and other functions such as their annual Christmas Party from 1973 until 1981. The Woman's Club charged fifteen dollars a night for its use. It was very convenient as it had an ample supply of table, chairs and well equipped kitchen.

Pasco County Historical Preservation Committee

By Anne Brandli

Discussion was held on sites or structures that have been previously mentioned to have marker of plaques. The committee decide to place plaques at the Mount Zion AME Church; and at the following cemeteries if a structure to support a plaque can be built: Loyce, Vereen, and Greenfield. A marker will be placed at the Dade City Cemetery.

Burbridge mentioned that the County needs to know if the sites listed in the historical book require flagging for building permit conditions. She asked the members to review the book and report back next month. Also, she will send a county map to Eaton so he can mark the locations of the old sawmill sites.

Members broke up into groups on reviewing the historical resources listed in the historical book for corrections of supplements. Maytum suggested that he planned to have on public hearing on structures and sites that need to be added to the County's register.

Ms. Burbridge urged all of us from the West Pasco Historical Society to be ever watchful for historical sites in West Pasco. Please write your suggestions and observations of Historical Places that you would like to see honored with a marker or a plaque, Mail to the WPHS or bring your paper to the general meeting.

March on Art Weekend Mary Jane Prichard

On Saturday, March 30 and Sunday, March 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the March on Art Weekend around Orange Lake, there will be "Artists at Work" in the West Pasco Historical Museum.

- * Jean Boyers will demonstrate miniature painting techniques
- * Elaine Girouard will demonstrate watercolor and show her miniatures
- * Ronnie Sue Irland will do life sketches of people who visit
- * Donnie Lyle will do decorative tole painting
- * Mary Jane Prichard will do sculpture ceramics
- * Carol Spiculia will paint nature and animals in oil

Down the Hall By Frances Mallett

It has been a great experience as we have been working with the women of West Pasco, for our Women's History Month display. We do not realize just how many people live and work in our community until we become involved in something like this. The Society plans to continue this theme in the Chasco Fiesta Boat Parade by taking some women from history on a boat ride on the beautiful Pithlachascottee River. Thanks to all who helped with this project.

Gift Shop News by Bernice Denley

The month of January was our most profitable yet thanks to a two day visit from artist, Kathleen Strode. The wonderful compilation of local scenes in her book, "Now and Then", attracted many visitors who were anxious to purchase the book and have it autographed by the author. For those of you interested in our local history, Strode's book is a must purchase, at only \$5.00 plus tax.

February saw less traffic but we did gain some new crafters, so do come by and see their wares.

Remember, we always welcome interested parties who are willing to volunteer time in the shop and artists willing to display their work.

From the Library by Elizabeth Jones

The library staff has been very active in assisting members and friends in early history reference. We are missing Jessie Hyde who had to resign because of ill health. She did so much in early history reference. Our exhibits now dwell on pioneer women and we join our City Library in presenting interesting material.

Visit us and enjoy.

From the Desk of Norma Nelson

The Valentine Fashion Show, held on Saturday, Feb. 3rd, was a great success thanks to all the cooperation from the Board of Directors, the members, and all those who purchased tickets. We thank: Dale Slive, owner of "Dressed to Kill"; the models; Stefan Weismueller, who played the organ from Fletcher Music Centers; Bill Nelson, our M.C.; the lovely flowers from "Flowers by Gru" and the great dinner we had at the Spartan Manor. The fundraiser netted \$734, plus a \$20 donation. This was by far our most successful Fashion Show.

Our speaker for the month of February was Randy King, Executive Director of the Creek Indian Confederation of Florida. He gave a well delivered talk on the history of Florida Indians, the Creek Confederation and the Chasco Fiesta Program.

Do You Have a Historical Home

By Belva Green

Persons owning or knowing of historical homes in West Pasco County, especially those who have some proof of the provenance, are invited to contact Belva Green (942-7354), member of the West Pasco Historical Preservation Board, to put the information and photo in the book, *The Historical Places of Pasco County*, by James J. Horgan, Alice F. Hall and Edward J. Herrmann. This book is being updated now.

The Man Who Says Yes

By David Spriggs

Our unsung hero, the man behind the scenes, the man who if you call and say, "Can you.....?", and who always says "Yes", is DAVID PRACE. David is the one responsible for our new professional image in uniform labeling of exhibits, including the layout of our latest exhibit, "Walking in Their Shoes", brochures, member directory, tickets, badges, certificates, etc., and the general operation of our computer system.

Thank you, David, for your outstanding workmanship and uncounted hours of effort.



Basket of Cheer Winner

Sheila A. Huller of Palm Harbor had the winning ticket for our Basket of Cheer which was drawn at the Valentine Fashion Show.

Buiding Maintenance Report

By Sam Eaton

Howard Chenoweth and Sam Eaton repaired the motion-sensitive light on the front porch of the museum. The flag pole was straightened through the auspices of Ceil Zubrod and the City Manager, Mr. Seaber. WPHS is grateful, indeed, for their help.

For Sale - WPHS has a light that comes on at dark and goes off at daylight for sale to anyone who is interested.

Poetry at the Old Schoolhouse

Sunday, March 10 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by
The West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

in coordination with
The Hudson Writers' Critique Group

at the West Pasco Historical Society, For more information call (813) 847-0680

Addendum to Membership Roster

Add to List:

Helen Asdourian
8113 Golden Bear Loop
Port Richey, FL 34668
842-2294 (I)

Wally J. Casano
7153 Carlow Street
New Port Richey, FL 34653
848-7565 (I)

Francis & Madge Ebner
8513 Fox Hollow Drive
Port Richey, FL 34668
862-7430 (F)

Joan Gallagher
5629 Moog Road
New Port Richey, FL 34652
847-1310 (I)

Betty Rizzie
6721 Parkside Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34653
849-6831 (I)

Margaret Vaupel
8240 Golden Bear Loop
Port Richey, FL 34668
843-0605 (I)

Change Address:

Andrew K. & Adele L. Gregos
11401 Winwood Place
Port Richey, FL 34668
861-3977

Roscoe Henderson
1218 Willow branch Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32205

Virginia Hopkins
66 Hillside Drive
North Haledon, NJ 07508

Change Listing:

From: Mr. & Mrs. William North
To: Chris North

Yolanda Conrow
From: Zip 34652
To: Zip 34653

Betty Jones
From: Betty
To: Elizabeth

Deceased Members:

Clare H. Harshaw

William North

Orla Olsen

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

WEST PASCO HISTORICAL
REFERENCE LIBRARY

VERTICAL FILE

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