

# West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library

"The Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park"

Volume IX, No. 4

September 1996

## Open House

We will be celebrating our 1996-97 season opening on the 8th of September. Our newest exhibit will be featured whose theme is, "Schooldaze - Now & Then." Refreshments will be served.

## First Ever

A limited edition of a 1997 calendar of Kathleen Strode drawings will be available for five dollars each for holiday giving.

The calendar will contain two never before published sketches of Moon Lake Lodge and the Pasco Building.

This will be a major fund raising activity of the Society and it is hoped that each member will purchase five calendars. The calendars will make wonderful gifts and at five dollars will also be about the same as a quality holiday card.

The art pages of the calendar will be appropriate for framing. They will represent selected sites of historical interest in West Pasco. Orders may be placed for the calendars by calling the West Pasco Historical Society at 847-0680 or 848-2809. Orders may also be placed at the museum or in their gift shop.

This is a limited edition so place your order early. They will be available as of September 15th. For those wishing more than 12 copies special pricing will be available.

## Why Be A Volunteer?

*It's not for money*

*It's not for fame*

*It's not for any personal gain*

*It's just for love*

*It's just to give a tithe of self*

*That's something you can't buy with wealth*

*It's not for medals worn with pride*

*It's for the feeling deep inside  
It's that reward down in the heart  
of helping others far and near  
that makes you a volunteer!*

— Furnished by Jack Drummond

## Curator Committee Report

We have been busy this summer planning for the coming season. We hope you will be pleased when you see the results of our labors, on the displays and Calendar events.

Some of the permanent displays have been freshened up, giving the museum a more spacious look. Mary Jane and Ceil have even put a fresh coat of white paint on the front door to welcome you.

Our theme for the September and October displays will be "Schooldaze, the Old and the New." There have been many changes over the years in the way schooling has been conducted and so we thought you would enjoy seeing the difference between the present and the "old" days. We will have displays from and about the schools here in West Pasco. We would appreciate any articles such as old and current text books, yearbooks, and any other accouterments of education.

We enjoyed putting the calendar for September through December together, so please be sure to put the museum events on your docket.

See you soon - Midge, Ceil, Frances, Mary Jane, and Norma

## Needed

Flea Market items are needed for our booth at the Antique Car Show on October 19th-20th. We will have our booth at the car show, as in the past. We do need items to sell and will appreciate your donations. Perhaps while fall cleaning you will come across such items. Please bring your items to the museum on the



weekends and during the week you can drop them off at Flowers by GRU during the hours of 8am to 3pm. Any questions call David Spriggs at 848-2809.

The museum gift shop could also use items, such as costume jewelry, glassware, art, antiques and collectibles, etc.

We are also looking for antique toys for the Christmas display. Please contact the Curator Committee if you can loan any to us.

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## A Word From Norma

Volunteers have been busy as well as productive throughout the summer at West Pasco Historical Society.

The vote of the Board of Directors was to remain open on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer months. All Committees were fully functional and many inspiring "brain-storming sessions duly examined, reviewed, and projected ongoing changes. There was and continues to be a great deal of comraderie and team harmony with plans that should stimulate both guests and members.

We had several groups visit us for "special tours." The Women's League of the Salvation Army, for example.

The meeting room has been given another glass case enabling us to exhibit loaned artifacts and the Seminole shirt most attractively.

Activities to look forward to: (1) plans for our youth organization is still in the works, with Hilary Marsh as Chairperson; (2) Mark your calendar for the Annual Fashion Show at the Spartan Manor on February 8th. We hope to have the tickets printed soon, so watch for availability. We have need of items for door prizes.

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## Library News

by Elizabeth Jones

Even though several members are vacationing the West Pasco Historical Society, Museum and Library has been open on each Saturday and Sunday as well as on a few special occasions.

The Library Staff of nine has been meeting to discuss and change procedures. Edith Hempel and Anne Brandli have organized procedure for Staff Members which is posted. Edith has given a new

photographic holder and Lillian Kreps is mounting all new exposures. We have ordered and shelved three new books, "Voice of the Everglades" by Marjory Stoneman Douglas, "Black America," and "Genealogy."

Through the efforts of our Treasurer, George Brandli, we have an enclosed glass case to protect the corn husk dolls Jack Drummond gave us from the collection of his late wife. The case was made and given by Mr. Billy Quinn of Tri-City Glass and Mirror, Inc. We also have a new holder for our newspapers. This was made by George Brandli. Edith Hempel has presented us with many Florida bulletins. They are on exhibit in holders given to us.

We have fine rapport with the City Library and their head librarian, Susan Dillinger, is acting as our advisor. A visit of our Staff to the City Library is planned for early September.

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## Notes from the Past

by Julie Obenreder

New Port Richey was the site of much construction from 1912 until 1929 when it slowed due to the great national depression. The first brick building in town was built by George R. Sims in 1919. It was located at the corner of East Main Street and Grand Boulevard. The building has been well preserved and now serves as the office of a local attorney.

In 1921 the First State Bank building was constructed across the street from the Sims Building at the corner of East Main Street and the Boulevard.

The main mode of transportation was by horse and buggy. Mr. Edward Boone owned and operated a blacksmith shop. He shod the horses and also had a welding business.

The city water supply was from deep wells. Water lines were laid on top of the ground or at best buried just a few inches deep. The city fathers decided to build a central water system which was a large wooden tower just east of the Arcade Building. One deep well was drilled with a water supply enough for the entire population.

On November 12, 1924 George R. Sims donated to the new city of New Port Richey some very valuable parcels of land, all of which was known as Enchantment Park (later named Sims Park) and the land surrounding it, known as the "circle" plus all the land extending south from Massachusetts Avenue to Virginia Avenue, plus all the streets and alleys within the newly incorporated city limits.



## Down the Hall with Frances Mallett

The highlight of our summer was serving a real American Thanksgiving dinner to 24 Spanish students. The occasion was highlighted by a history lesson given by Norma Nelson explaining the first Thanksgiving. The turkey dinner was prepared and served by Ceil Zubrod, Susan Eckstein, Frances Mallett, Howard Chenoweth, and David Spriggs.

This fall, we are spotlighting West Pasco schools using the theme, "The Old and the New." You can hardly believe how our local schools have grown over the past 20 years. The following chart shows some amazing figures.

### Changing Times in the School System

Growth Area	1974-75	1996-97
Students	21032	44361
Instructional Employees	1016	2896
Other Employees	631	2210
Total Full-time Employees	1747	5108
Total Revenue	\$26 million	\$292 million
Number of Schools	20	47

Source: Pasco County School District

## THANK YOU

The following donations have been received by the Curator Committee:

Mrs Harry Harden . . . . Walnut edged beveled mirror  
 Jane O. Vaughn . . . . . Quilt, Compote dish,  
 Initialed hand mirror, Doll cradle  
 Kristi Theurer Pride of New Port Richey Board Game  
 Tammy Young Old New Port Richey Press newspapers  
 David Spriggs . . . . . Tin lunch box of Floyd Brunner  
 Howard Chenoweth . . . . . Bronze Statue of Massasoit  
 Patricia Lusby . . Tax maps and plats, Framed picture,  
 Land owners tax books, Aerial view book

## Fall Schedule

### September 1996

1st Sunday 1:00p Opening of Schooldaze Exhibit  
 4th Wednesday 3:15p General Meeting/Board Meeting  
 8th Sunday 1-4:00p Open House for new season  
 22nd Sunday 2:00p "The Trees of Florida" by Butch Mallett

### October 1996

2nd Wednesday 3:15p General Meeting/Board Meeting  
 12th Saturday 1:00p Quilters display and demonstration  
 13th Sunday 1:00p Quilters display and demonstration  
 19th Saturday 9:00a Antique Car Show and Flea Market(need items)  
 20th Sunday 9:00a Antique Car Show and Flea Market  
 30th Wednesday 9:00a Trip to St. Pete for "Alexander the Great" and lunch at Staceys

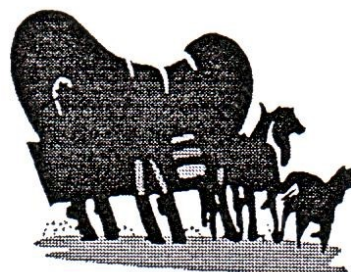
### November 1996

2nd Sunday 1:00p Opening of Holiday exhibit of Trains and Toys  
 6th Wednesday 3:15p General Meeting/Board Meeting  
 10th Sunday 2:00p "Childhood in New Port Richey," Joan Rees of Gone Again Travel

### December 1996

4th Wednesday 3:15p General Meeting/Board Meeting  
 6th Friday ? Victorian Christmas Stroll at Plant Museum, meet at WPHS  
 12th Thursday 6:00p Annual Member "Christmas pass-a-dish" Dinner at the First Presbyterian Church, 7540 Ridge Rd.  
 14th Saturday 9:00a Christmas in the Park and Parade  
 15th Sunday 9:00a Christmas in the Park and Parade  
 31st HAPPY NEW YEAR!

How many months have 28 days?  
*All of them!!*



**Add to List:**

Wanda C. Buijnarowski  
10821 Jamaica Blvd.  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
856-1671 (I)

Frances Cripps  
7602 Valley Court  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
842-6165 (I)

Susan Dillinger  
5939 Main Street  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
841-4547 (I)

Bob & Kim Dowd  
3225 Bluff Boulevard  
Holiday, FL 34691  
938-4475 (F)

Rosemary Grosvenor  
10805 Boatswain Dr.  
New Port Richey, FL 34654  
856-0130 (I)

Donna Lyle  
9539 Vim Segovia  
New Port Richey, FL 34655  
----- (I)

Arlene M. Niles  
12300 Oak Forest Lane  
Bayonet Point, FL 34667  
863-1929 (I)

Silvia O'Brien  
12232 Saddletrap Row  
Bayonet Point, FL 34667  
868-0198 (I)

Donald & Marge Prichard  
4420 Summer Lake Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
376-3980 (F)

Michael A. Samartini  
5633 Vermont Avenue  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
849-6787 (L)

Maryruth & Michael Shuflata  
4360 Marine Parkway  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
848-7598 (F)

Carol Spicuglia  
7710 Bayleaf Drive  
Bayonet Point, FL 34667  
868-4633 (I)

**Change Address:**

Earl J. Bates, Jr.  
5206 Miller Bayou Drive  
Port Richey, FL 34668  
849-5560

Jessie C. Hyde  
6400 Trouble Creek Rd. #17  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
849-7269

Doug Krupp  
P.O. Box 841  
Aripeka, FL 34679

West Pasco Art Guild, Inc.  
6206 Jefferson Street  
New Port Richey, Florida  
34652

**Change Listing:**

Helen DeWinter:  
Please correct name to  
Helene M. DeWinter

Harvey & Elaine E. Gregerson:  
Please change Wild Drive to  
Wilds Drive

Emil Renner, Sr.:  
Please change listing to  
Emil J. & Ellen Renner (F)

John Smith:  
Please change Hudson  
to Bayonet Point

Joan Rees:  
Please change listing to  
Gone Again Travel  
5242 Main Street  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
845-8747

**Delete from list:**

Muriel Brown

Drew Davis Ins. Co.

Bill Hendrickson

Margaret Merritt

Suzanne Schlenker

Annette L. Beno

Jeanne B. Collins

Bertha Deveau

Sue Dieterman

Helen Johnson

Loren & Margaret Miller

Karen Sue Miyashiro

Bud Sturgell

Gene & Frances Wagenseller

**Deceased:**

George Kamps

Hannah Knecht

**West Pasco Historical Society, Inc.**  
6431 Circle Boulevard  
New Port Richey, Florida 34652