

# West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library

EDITOR

"The Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park"

GARY BAIRD

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JULY/AUGUST

## From the Presidents Desk...

We are halfway through our Summer Season and have been operating at half speed. But in spite of this, we did participate in a number of activities such as our second annual Thanksgiving in July for a large number of students from Spain. Also, as you can see from some of the reports in this issue, plans are in motion for a very busy and exciting new year. For those of you who don't know, the year 1998 is WPHS's 25th anniversary, and we have some things planned to celebrate this event.

I am very pleased to announce some new appointments to staff: Julie Obenreder has agreed to serve in the capacity of 2nd Vice-President. Julie Hall has been appointed to an open position of Director. Roxann Mayros has been appointed to the position of Publicity Chairperson. And last but not least, Mary Jane Pritchard will serve as Historian in addition to her other duties. My thanks to all of you!

A new Membership Directory is in the works and will be available during our season opener on September 14.

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### Help Wanted

There will be a clean-up day at the Museum on Monday Aug. 25th from 10 A.M. 1 P.M.

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## Curator Committee Report

By Midge London-Prace

We have been busy with the planning of our new season exhibit. The Theme "Y'all come, and they did!" will be about the people who came to this state through the decades. First the Native Americans, then the Explorers, the Pioneers, and lastly the tourists-retirees-snowbirds!! If you have any items that would lend themselves to this, such as souvenirs, postcards, Indian, or pioneer items, please loan them to us for the months of September/October with our thanks.

We again have made a few changes in the Museum room arrangement. Please stop by and see them.

Ceil Zubrod is going on to some new ventures and we want to thank her for all the Curator projects that she has been instrumental in over the years. Because of her fine work the museum has been enriched in many ways.

On Wednesday, August 27th at 10:30 A.M. there will be a memorial Hibiscus Planted in the Memory Garden for Mary Lou Knight; Her collections of famous American Women half dolls, and porcelain figurines, including George and Martha Washington will be on view. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome, especially Questors.



## **Membership**

By Clara Ann Smith

Membership records indicate a huge potential future for the individual, family, life, and business membership categories. Following our fall membership committee plans and meeting with the board; a.e. The membership drive will be launched prior to the beginning of the 1998 - 25th Anniversary Year. Our campaign will encourage the membership motto- "EACH ONE - GET ONE"!

Membership drive - our goal will be to increase community awareness and teach folks more about our local heritage. Our committee will work with our officers and committee to stage a beautiful silver tea with the Curator and Docent Committees on May 17, 1998, the day the charter was issued in 1973. Music in the bandshell and other activities are being considered.

Following our fall board meeting, our 25th anniversary celebration will open with a monthly lecture series (2nd Saturday of month) and a youth essay contest. Mrs. Julie Obenreder (our 2nd Vice-President) will open the lecture series on Jan. 10, 1998. The history began in Julie's living room with 8 or 10 interested community leaders in May 1973.

If you are interested in assisting in our 25th Anniversary plans, please contact the President David Prace, Julie Obenreder, or myself Clara Ann Smith. more details will be announced following the September 3 Board Meeting.

Emphasis in our membership drive will be placed on the business community and the

"Each One - Get One" campaign. If you haven't read and/or reviewed Julie's book entitled "West Pasco Heritage" published in 1973; may I suggest reminiscing with this book.

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## **Membership Update**

The Bd. of Directors meeting of Aug. 6, 1997 approved a plan to provide renewal memberships on a rotating basis. Individual notices (and/or phone calls) will be sent to current members prior to the anniversary date of their joining or their last renewal date, whichever applies. This will ensure each member receives a full years membership and benefits. Watch for your notice and please send in your renewal without further notices. Your continued support is appreciated.

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## **Library News**

By Elizabeth Jones

Although many staff members have been on vacation, we have been busy in the library. We have new shelf labels placed to assist guests in finding their choice of books. Our exhibit case now displays the history of the oldest city, St. Augustine, and the life of Henry Flagler and his Southbound train from St. Augustine; also Henry Plant, who founded Plant City. Come in and view our exhibits and enjoy some new books.

Many of our staff helped Jessie Hyde, a retired librarian, celebrate her 95th birthday on August 4th, hosted by her niece Audrey O'Neil.

## **Down the Hall**

By Frances Mallett

The Curator Committee headed by David Spriggs, sponsored the Thanksgiving Dinner for the visiting Spanish students again



this year. We served 27 students that really seemed to enjoy our American Turkey. Most seemd to enjoy all of the trimmings but a few ate only the food that was familiar to them, such as the cuban bread and the fruit. The story of the first Thanksgiving was given to the students by Norma Nelson. Those helping prepare and serve the dinner were, Howard Chenowith, Sam Eaton, Ceil Zubrod, David and Midge Prace, Susan Eckstein, David Spriggs and Francis Mallett.

#### **Pasco's Past**

By Julie Obenreder

A few articles from the 1928 copies of the New Port Richey Press were very interesting. The H&S Motors proclaimed "The buyers of 110,000,000 tires can't be wrong" and went on to praise the merits of Goodyear products.

The advertisement for coming attractions at the Meighan Theatre were Richard Barthlemis in "**The Noose**" and Greta Garbo in the "**the Mysterious Lady**".

Weekend rates at the Gulf Aprings Lodge on the Gulf at Hudson were available at \$5.00 single, \$9.00 double, and Sunday Chicken dinner was only \$1.00. Room and Board Cash Only was \$12.00 per week.

In the grocery section the People's Cash Grocery featured 5 lbs. of sugar for 31 cents, sliced bacon for 32 cents per lb. and fancy potatoes 10 l bs. for 23 cents.

Sapp's Fish Market had redfish and mullett for 10 cents per lb. Register's market sold milk for 10 cents a quart and banannas 2 lbs. for 7 cents.

Gulf High School estimated an enrollment of 180 pupils.

The New Port Richey press offered 50 cents for each new

subscription brought in by young people. The New Port Richey Hardware and Supply R. Draft, Prop., offered cook stoves, auto accessories, tires, tubes, and other neccessities to meet Tampas

#### **Pasco's Past-**

prices. Dr. Avery, founder of the New Port Richey Library, donated enough books to get the library started. He also decided to quit doing so much traveling and advertised the following, 1 horse, \$125.00, 1 harness, \$25.00, 1 wagon, \$30.00 or \$160.00 for all. Also offered for sale were 4 lots on Florida Ave. 50 by 150' for \$100.00 each; or for sale a good 5 room house 50 by 75' lot, on Missouri Ave. for \$650.00 - Cash preferred.

Fred Frierson announced the opening of a modern day store, also a soda fountain.

In February, 1922, plans were underway for the first Chasco Fiesta which began March 2, 1922 and lasted 3 days. Mrs. George R. Sims was the first Chasco Queen, she rode in a large open touring car decorated with fresh flowers.

#### **Ruminations from George**

By George Brandli

Yes it is true. The WPHS Museum and Libray cannot function without money. It is also true that for many months it seems to me that money is the all prevailing subject during meetings and conversations. However, there is also another area without which the society could not function at all. We could have thousands of dollars in the treasury and the society would be as dead as the proverbial door nail (whatever



that means).

I am speaking of the Docents (derivative of doc'tere meaning to teach or lecturer) that come here day after day, hour after hour, sharing their knowledge with our visitors, planning new exhibits, cleaning the premises, emptying trash, dusting, washing, rearranging and other items that many may not realize. These dedicated individuals spend their own money to purchase items for the society. They never mention this to the group, but I am aware of their expenditures. Who are they? Just look around and note these quiet dedicated people. They are the true backbone of this organization. A huge thank you should be given to them. They are the unsung heroes. The society would collapse without them. Please, if you only support the society with your membership, which is important, pause the next time you see them and convey a note of gratitude. This organization is so important to our area and is recognized by the city of New Port Richey and Pasco County as a Historical gold mine of long ago treasures and reference material.

Let us all join and say **Thank You For Who You Are And What You Do.**

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### **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 Segregational area which is why the blacks decided to settle outside the New Port Richey area. The name was later

changed to "The Black Community" comprising a population of from 75 to 100 people.

Men worked doing lawns, road work and mostly picked fruit and vegetables in season. Women worked as maides for the 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. 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 1945 (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 toilets 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 Congress Street, 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.



From Our Friends at Baker House comes news of programs for the 1998 season at Centennial Library.

**Edward J. (Eddie) Herrman** - Native of San Antonio, Fl. member of Pasco Cty Historical Preservation Committee and one of the Authors of the "Historical Places of Pasco County".

Program: Pasco Cty Post Offices - Past & Present.

Saturday, September 27, 1997 - 10:30 A.M. Followed by a tour of the Baker House.

**John Raabe**, Geologist - former advisor to Sonora Desert Museum and Curator of Science at Daytona Beach Museum. Vice President of the Concourse Council.

Program: Ancient Indians of Florida - a slide program with artifacts from the Tarpon Springs area.

Saturday, October 25, 1997 - 10:30 A.M. Followed by a tour of the Baker House.

**Dr. Charles Arnade** University of South Florida

Program: Spanish Florida

Saturday, November 29, 1997 - 10:30 A.M. Followed by a tour of the Baker House.

**Frances Mallett**, West Pasco Historical Society

Program: Early Port Richey and New Port Richey, Florida

Saturday, January 24, 1998 - 10:30 A.M. Followed by a tour of the Baker House

**Brenda Knowles**

Program: Early Hudson and Aripeka, Florida

Saturday, February 28, 1998 - 10:30 A.M. Followed by a tour of the Baker House.

**Joan Rees**, owner of Gone Again Travel.

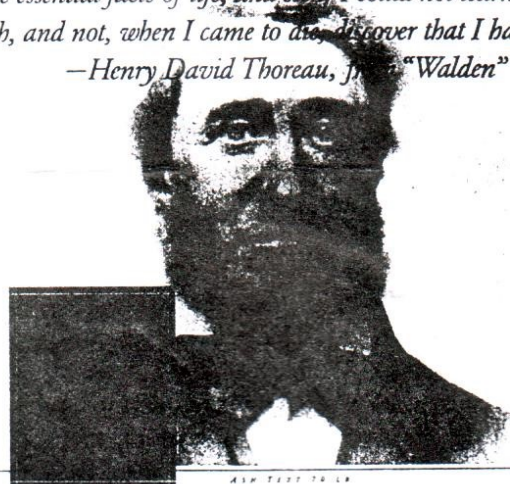
Program: Key West, Florida

Saturday, March 28, 1998 - 10:30 A.M. Followed by a tour of Baker House.

Saturday April 25th and Saturday May 23th of 1998 are Mystery guests.

*"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."*

*—Henry David Thoreau, from "Walden"*



**"ACTS OF CREATION ARE ORDINARY**

John Muir (1837-1914), who once

**NARILY RESERVED FOR GODS AND**

worked for the U.S. Forest Service, was an

**POETS, BUT HUMBLER FOLK MAY**

write and create of wildlife management

**CIRCUMVENT THIS RESTRICTION**

in terms and instrumental in defining

**IF THEY KNOW HOW. TO PLANT A**

some people may find this the best

**PINE, FOR EXAMPLE, ONE NEED**

"A Sand County Almanac" is considered

**BE NEITHER GOD NOR POET;**

a classic in environmental literature

**ONE NEED ONLY OWN A SHOVEL."**

—John Muir from "A Sand County Almanac"

**Add to List:**

Ed Collins  
P.O. Box 978  
Port Richey, FL 34653  
847-8100 (I)

Ann Hildebrand  
5400 Pilots Place  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
848-1523 (I)

Roxann Mayros  
6446 Arbor Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
372-8215 (F)

New Port Richey Garden Club  
c/o Ann Buchanan  
4702 Heavens Way  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
849-1675 (R)

**Change Zip Code**

Eileen Cooper  
From: 34619  
To: 33759



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