

# West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library

"The Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park"

Volume X, No. 1

March 1997

## ***From the President's Desk...***

I want to thank everybody for their good wishes and declarations of support to me for the future. Each department of the Museum seems to be working very hard in planning for the coming months activities.

We need to grow in terms of increased membership. I encourage you to bring in new people who share the same interests as we do. We have to expand our volunteer base to keep the museum running and I am willing to listen any ideas that any of you may have to accomplish this.

Fundraising will be another important issue that we will have to address. We are currently running on a deficit budget with expenses exceeding our income. Currently we are considering a nominal admission charge of \$1.00 per person. Children under the age of 12 and accompanied by an adult would be admitted free. Of course, WPHS members are admitted at all times at no charge. And special groups that come in by prearrangement such as the scouts or the schools will not be charged. This has been discussed with the city and a request has been made for them to amend our lease. This will not eliminate the deficit, but will reduce it.

Bequests to the Society are always encouraged and are a wonderful way to support us and perpetuate the goals we set. Please inform us if such provisions are made in your will.

With your help we will succeed!

—David Prace

## **75th ANNIVERSARY 75th Chasco Fiesta Heritage Luncheon**

Reminisce Day 1922-1997  
Books, Authors, Door Prizes  
11:30 am  
Monday, March 10, 1997  
New Port Richey Library

Take "Thyme" out to honor the vision and leadership of those who staged the first Chasco Fiesta on March 2nd through 4th in 1922. Tickets are \$6.00 and can be purchased at: West Pasco Chamber of Commerce 842-7651 New Port Richey Library 841-4547

---

## ***Fashion Show a Success***

Nearly 105 people attended the West Pasco Historical Society's Fashion Show at the Sparton Manor. Thanks goes to Frayne's and Today's Woman for supplying the clothing and to Fletcher's Music for the entertainment. Thanks to all of our beautiful models. Thanks to Flowers by GRU for the beautiful table arrangements. We are indebted to Bill Nelson, who again MC'd the program. And last but not least, thanks to Norma Nelson who makes this all possible.

---

## ***Basket of Cheer Winner***

The winner of the Basket of Cheer at the West Pasco Historical Society Fashion Show was Dorothy Licks of New Port Richey.

---

## ***Cub Scouts Visit Society Museum***

Cub Scout Pack 79 from Hudson visited the



Historical Society Museum on Tuesday, February 11th. Thanks to Frances Mallett and Norma Nelson for acquainting approximately ten Cub Scouts with early West Pasco history and Indian lore.

---

### ***Library Report***

Eight members of our library staff attended the Friends of the Library chop suey dinner held at the New Port Richey Library. We enjoyed hearing Anne O'Connell Rust, a Florida author, review her series, "The Floridians." Included are five books: Punta Rassa, Palatka, Kissimmee, Monticello, and Pahokee. We purchased the set, have processed them, and have them ready to shelve.

Other acquisitions are several gifts from members and friends of our library. These include: The Barefoot Mailman, The American Indian, two Archeology books, an assortment of science fiction, and several reference books. We do thank the many donors.

Our exhibit of the history of bells was enjoyed by many over the Christmas season. Edith Hempel, and Mary Leitch donated history and bells for this exhibit. Mary also set up a lovely exhibit of her Christmas Homes. We now have in the case pictures and history of "February Birthdays," to include Washington, Lincoln, and the inventor, Thomas Edison. All of the staff will be happy to assist any interested visitors who wish to come to view scrapbooks, charts, posters, and our shelves of books.

—Elizabeth Jones, Librarian

---

### ***Curator Committee Report***

For January and February the Curator Committee has put together an exhibit honoring our Armed Forces. There are displays saluting the men and women who have served our country. We have a collection of service hats displayed in the hall along with uniforms, and equipment in the museum and meeting room. Their are pictures and artifacts from the Civil War. We have glimpses of personal

histories such as 97 year old, Charles Henn (living in New Port Richey,) who served in World War I. Our member Ruth Helbig loaned us an extensive exhibit of her WAC memorabilia. Those who missed her absorbing account of the history of the women who served our country from the Revolutionary War through the Gulf War missed a wonderful talk. A display featuring Staff Sergeant Elmer Wilson, one of the Tuskegee airmen, who lived in Tarpon Springs until his death last year, was loaned by his wife Mildred. The exhibits will be extended through March to co-inside with the Chasco street parade theme; A Salute to Our Arm Forces!

Also for February and March there is a display of African Artifacts and carvings that we will feature on loan from David Spriggs.

In march we will be putting together a Chasco exhibit for the 75th anniversary being celebrated this year. We expect our members will participate in the Boat and Street parades, as well as other Chasco activities.

Dorothy L. Browne will display her extensive collection of eggcups to tie in with the Easter holiday. She has written an interesting history of the use of eggcups that will be given as handouts during the exhibit.

Leading into March/April will be our "March On Art" exhibits, with artists demonstrating their art in both the museum and meeting room. If any of our members have something that may be used in the above displays please contact Mary Jane Prichard or Frances Mallet.

Please be sure to see the two new wall display cases in our Museum. We had them made through the generosity of the Baillie's Bluff Questers, Chapter 886 and member Bea H. Lewis. Our thanks goes to Ceil Zubrod and her committee for their hard work finding and arranging for them to be made by Frank Jaramillo.

Thanks goes to the following for articles that were given to the Society.

1. Vintage World War I newspapers were found



at the front door with a card from Larry Cotton of L.A. Action Productions.

2. A display case measuring 8 foot long was donated by Katy Casto-Hevey. It will soon be in the Meeting room.

3. A Microfiche machine was donated by Dorothy Prisament.

4. Vincent Mallett donated a desk which is being used in the gift shop.

—Midge London-Prace

A special thank you goes to Life Member Bea Lewis for her gift of \$1,375.00. Her gift is very timely in that some of it will go for the construction of one of the two much needed wall cases.

### ***Antique Buttons***

Historically, buttons are as old as garments themselves. They have been found in pre-historic and ancient burial grounds the world over. The National Button Society was founded in 1938. Collecting buttons is a popular and interesting hobby. There is a tiny world portrayed in the many types of buttons. Casper Wister was making brass buttons in Philadelphia as early as 1750. The Shaker Colony in New Lebanon, NY was making them in 1789. The most popular of the Victorian period were the story buttons. They were usually brass or gilt and the subjects were from well known stories such as fairy tales, heroes, nursery rhymes, nature subjects, and literary characters.

Also, military or uniform buttons are highly collectable, as are the Pennsylvania Dutch made buttons which were tole or painted tin. The term "pearl" refers to the inside of fresh-water shells. In small towns along the Mississippi River small industries turned out the fresh water pearl shell which was used in button manufacture. Buttons are a part of fashion and have been made out of many substances, such as from wood, ceramics, plastics, bone, shell, cloth, glass, metal, etc.

—compiled by Midge London-Prace

### ***Gift Shop News***

We still have some of our Historical Society calendars to sell at \$1.00 each. The pictures are of historical places in this area and were drawn by Kathleen Strode, a well-known, local artist. Be sure to get them for yourself and your friends. We also have Chasco Fiesta T-shirts at \$6.00 each.

If you have any collectibles you can give or any crafts you do that can be put in the gift shop on consignment, please call 845-4936.

—Mary Jane Prichard

### ***Calendar of Events***

Mar 8 . . . . . Market Days

Mar 10 . . . Chasco Fiesta Heritage Luncheon

Mar 13-23 . . . . . Chasco Fiesta

Apr 5-6 . . . . . March on Art

### ***Down the Hall***

The hallway is being rearranged to better display the early days of the growth of Port Richey and New Port Richey. More work will be done to identify pictures and artifacts presently displayed. There are some nice handouts which talk about Florida "things" on the counters. Please help yourself next time you are at the Museum.

The wall shelf has been "borrowed" to display military caps for our Salute to the Armed Forces display. Please come in to see it, I know you will enjoy it!

—Frances Mallett

We have enough people who tell it like it is - now we could use a few who tell it like it can be.

—Robert Orben

**Addendum to Membership Roster**

**#6**

**Add to List:**

Mary Ann McSalis  
4923 Doener St.  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
842-7745 (I)

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Williams  
6515 Circle Blvd.  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
847-4198 (F)

**Deceased Members:**

Winifred C. Harris  
Vaughn Dee

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