

# West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library

"The Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park"

Volume X No. 2

May/June 1997

## From the President's Desk...

All sorts of things have been happening at the museum: new wall cases, floor cases on wheels, new exhibits, etc. Our Curator's Committee has been working very hard to make this all happen.

Chasco Fiesta was a great week for us. We were open everyday of the fiesta and hosted over 350 visitors. While we opted out of the street parade we did participate in the boat parade and we were awarded third place in our category.

March on Art, held in early April, was a huge success for the Museum, thanks to the presence of our guest artists. More about this elsewhere in the newsletter. Please note that we hosted nearly 950 visitors.

My personal thanks to all of you who work so hard to make the West Pasco Historical Society a success.

David Prace

## Cotee Elementary School Visit

Thanks to Frances Mallett, Sam Eaton, and Midge-London-Prace, on March 25, Students from two classes of the Cotee River Elementary School (51 students, teachers and aides) received a "State of Florida History lesson".

## Help Wanted for Docent Duty

By Virginia J. Tinsley

Requirements are: three hours a month, a smile on your face, and the willingness to meet new people. There have been a number of times that we don't have enough people per shift. The hours are Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 pm. Please call me at 842-2512 to donate one afternoon per month.

## WPHS at Baker House Cracker Festival

The Society participated in the Baker House Cracker Festival on April 13th. We had a table to display our early photos and documents on West Pasco history. Frances Mallett had her old treadle Singer sewing machine sewing up a storm. Book sales were very brisk.

## THANK YOU

1. \$1,000 from Howard Chenoweth in memory of his wife Julie.
2. \$1,000 from the estate of Winifred Harris.
3. \$50 from the Fivay Questers.



## Curator Committee Report

By Midge London-Prace

We had a very successful Chasco Fiesta week, Made possible by those volunteers who did docent duty each day) thanks to you all. The March on Art, with the in-house artisans: Mary Jane Pritchard, Elaine Girouard, ronnie Sue Irland, Donna Lyle, Fern Ursa, and Jean & Denver Boyers, was our best turnout yet for this event. A great part of the success is due to Mary Jane's planning! Thanks again. Our new exhibit features prints of 20 American artists with a short bio about their lives. Some will be familiar and others will be new to you. Please come and enjoy some of this Americana.

Please note the arrangement of the cases in the museum, they have been put on wheels making it easy to load and move. We have two "special" exhibits for you. The first is a beautiful collection of Cloisonne vases, jars, and other items loaned to us by our member Wanda Buijnarowski. This ancient art process is so unique and the history is very interesting. The second special display we owe to the hard work of Ceil Zubrod, who single-handedly brought it about. It consists of two quilts, one made by Carol Betts for the sesquicentennial of the Statehood of Florida and is displayed in the center of the meeting room. The second is a lovely quilt made by Joan Ziegler, which is the classic Flower Basket design. Don't miss either of these quilts.

## GIFT SHOP NEWS

By Mary Jane Pritchard

Business is doing quite well thanks to donations of merchandise and purchases by members and friends of WPHS.

I would like to thank the gift shop volunteers for their dependable assistance during the past year. You are an unbeatable team.

Because of the brisk sales we need articles donated to the gift shop. **Think of us when you do your spring cleaning.**

## LIBRARY NEWS

By Elizabeth Jones,

Librarian

Our exhibit case displays the "Glory of Spring" and we have many books to be enjoyed on that subject. We now have title names to help locate the books. We appreciate the gift of many books from members and friends during the past month.

## LIBRARY NEWS

In Cooperation with the City Library, we loaned a picture of the former Pierce School, now the City Library to be used by the State Library.

Our Staff to assist you during open hours are as follows: Bea Baum, Ann Brandli, Frances Dee, Harry and Julie Hall, Edith Hempel, Lilliane Kreps, Mary Leitch, Alice Mueller, and Susan Dillinger is our Advisor.

West Pasco Historical Society, Inc.



Museum and Library

The Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park  
New Port Richey, Florida



### **Down the Hall**

By Frances Mallett

The 75th anniversary of Chasco Fiesta was celebrated in grand style by the West Pasco Historical Society.

We had a display of Chasco celebrations through the years, including the first one in 1922.

A boat was decorated for the boat parade and was awarded a third place in the non-commercial category. We also furnished photos and articles about Chasco Fiesta to local newspapers for use in their commemorative Chasco editions. Vintage Clothing was furnished for a fashion show for Junior Girl Scout Troop # 228.

Calusa Boy Scout Troop #146 was given a Florida history tour of the museum. This Florida history lesson helped the Boy Scouts earn their Florida history badge.

We participated in the Baker House Cracker Festival with a display of articles, maps, and pictures from the 1880's. Also demonstrated the treadle sewing machine, which proved quite interesting to the younger children.

The Suncoast Hibiscus Society Notified us that they would no longer be able to care for the Hibiscus Memory Garden. One Saturday, April 19th we were able to have a group to work in the garden to weed, fertilize and trim the hedges around the museum. Those working were Midge and David Prace, and Frances Mallet with her grandsons, Victor and Benjamin Mallett.

### **Pasco's Past**

By Julie Obenreder

The first public school in New Port Richey was established in 1914. Before this time, the children of New Port Richey had to go to school in Port Richey. During the day, the building was used as the elementary school 1-6; at night, community meeting were held; and on Sundays, church services were held. This building was donated to Port Richey by H.R. Nicks, pioneer developer. To get to this school, the children would travel by way of Madison Street going north crossing Massachusetts Avenue and continuing north through the Hill From. This route was covered with palmettos and was very difficult to travel, so attendance at school was quite irregular. Later on, the school in New Port Richey was established, with grade 1-6 also, on Central Avenue on the second floor of a building known as Idelwyle. A Miss Carrie Tate of Dade City was the first teacher assisted by Miss Minnie Jones. There were 30 pupils enrolled. In 1915, a New School (Pierce Grammar School) was built at the corner of Main Street and Madison Street (now the site of the New Port Richey Library). Seven students graduated in 1918 but then they had to travel to Tarpon Springs if they wished to attend High School. It wasn't until 1922 that Gulf High School, located at Gulf and S. Boulevard, finally was built and opened.

**Addendum to Membership Roster #7**

**Add to List:**

Gary & Mary Baird  
12803 Vassar Court  
Hudson, FL 34667  
862-7018 (F)

**Change Address:**

Ernestine Loving  
9552 Bunker Hill Ct.  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

Dorothy L. & Herbert W.  
Browne

6901 Alken Circle  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
----- (F)

**Deceased Members:**

Bill Dunlap  
  
Bea H. Lewis

Beverly K. Dunn  
12237 Saddle Strap Row  
Bayonet Pt., FL 34667  
863-6609 (I)

Jacinda Jesse  
6011 Louisiana Avenue  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
842-3273 (F)

Frank & Nina Terry  
7328 Skyview Avenue  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
842-9254 (F)

Carol D. Tuzzeo  
2713 Easter Place  
Holiday, FL 34691  
863-6609 (I)

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