

West Pasco Historical Society

Museum and Library

"The Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park"

VOL XI, #1

SPRING 1998

From the President's Desk...

A lot of things have been happening these past few months. The museum is always on the move, changes are always in progress, and there are always new things to see. Firstly, there is our new kitchen and then our new chairs. These new acquisitions were all accomplished with funds donated by many individuals. We still need more chairs. If you would like to become a chair donor, they are \$15.95.

We have had a number of events that have been very successful: Speakers such as John Gallagher, County Commission Administrator; Ted Thomas, Vice Mayor of New Port Richey. Our Christmas Gathering was well attended in spite of the terrible weather, and Clara's Birthday Bash was lots of fun. The Union Missionary Baptist Church Youth Choir will be entertaining us on 15 March and I'm sure that it will be exciting. We have lots more planned.

This year, being our 25th anniversary, we have a number of things to celebrate and a schedule of events will be shown elsewhere in this issue. We are, also, going to participate in the Chasco Fiesta with some interesting activities and these will be listed in this issue.

In closing, I have to mention the loss of two very key members of our organization, Harry Hall and Howard Chenoweth. There is not enough space in this entire issue to list their accomplishments except that they were very dedicated to the Society. We will miss them greatly.

CORRECTION

Mr. Jack Smith, Vice President of SouthTrust Bank, has advised us that their address shown in our new Silver Anniversary Calendar is the old one. The new address is 5136 Little Road, New Port Richey, 34655.

Special Thanks...

Our special thanks goes to Tom Burke, of The Printing Place. We find it necessary to go in for all kinds of work for the Society. Many, many times, for small jobs, he will often do it as a gratuity. We really appreciate it, Tom.

Wish List: Desk Top copier, PA system.

WANTED A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

If you like to tinker, handy with simple chores, we have a job for you. We need a Building & Grounds Chairman to fulfill these responsibilities. Also desperately need a Newsletter Editor. No computer or typing skills needed, just need to gather articles together and bring to Printing Place for typing and printing. Only four issues a year. How about someone stepping forward to assume these duties.

2ND Annual Calendar to Celebrate 25TH Anniversary

The West Pasco Historical Society published its 2nd annual calendar last November, thanks to Clara Ann Smith, Midge London-Prace, and the 12 sponsors who helped defray the costs of printing. The calendar displays a collection of our favorite local artists. Samples of Fred Pietch, Kathleen Strode, and Jessie Hyde are portrayed. Early sales were brisk due to a wider sales distribution network. We thank all who were involved. There are plenty of calendars still available and now they are only \$1.00 each. Remember this all goes to the Society.

Library Report by Elizabeth Jones

Our library staff is always present to assist visitors throughout the season. One visitor was so impressed to find we had such a well equipped library that she presented us with a \$200.00 check and stated that she wished all museums would include a historical library. We are proud of our museum library.

We have added to our vertical file many clippings from the vast collection of the late Mary Lou Knight.

Two men, who are managers from the new Applebees Restaurant, which is located on Little Road and near Ridge Road, came in to the museum. They asked for pictures they could enlarge to use to decorate the restaurant. They found just what they wanted in the library on our wall charts. We have been invited to the March 14th open house, so we can view our history displayed there. We are also looking forward to the many visitors we expect during our Chasco Fiesta events.

View Collectors Dreams Monthly by Clara Ann Smith

The library's exhibit table (locked) will become an interesting place to learn more about collectors interests. With the help of librarian Elizabeth Jones, local Questers will exhibit collections. Chasco Questers will start with a collection emphasizing M. I. Hummel figurines. In April Eleanor Schoepflin, of Clayton Woods Questers will have an exhibit, and Fivay Questers will exhibit in November/December. The September/October exhibit will be announced in the Fall. Through the talent of Mary Leitch, we are now enjoying her "Black Heritage Exhibit." Our first librarian, Janet Lewis was responsible for our having this beautiful display case.

Heritage Tea and Other Events

On Sunday, April 19th, at 2:00pm to 4:00pm, we will be holding a Heritage Tea to honor all of our Charter Members. It will be held in Andrus Hall, in the Community Congregational Church,

located at 6533 Circle Blvd. Please come and let these people who began our Society 25 years ago, know how much all their work is appreciated.

On Saturday, May 9th, join us at 1:00pm and enjoy the beauty of Hibiscus blooms. Mona Giordano, of the Pest Control General Store on U.S. 19, will be at the museum to lecture and answer questions regarding plants, trees, etc. Our Hibiscus Memorial Garden should be beautiful at this time. Come and enjoy!

Our 25th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Sunday, May 17th between 1:00 to 4:00pm. We are having a special open house for all our members and friends. There will be music, food, special events, along with the exhibit about the beginning of the Society and all that has been accomplished in these last 25 years. Under the tent outside or in the museum you will be meeting and greeting old friends. Come and join us for this very special day.

Fund Raiser

We have a fund raiser raffle this year that we hope all of our members will support. WPHS in cooperation with the Building Industry Assc. and students from the Marchman Technical Education Center/New Port Richey Marine Institute will be building two children's "Dream Play Houses." The Building Association and other donors are supplying materials and the kids are supplying the labor. One house will be displayed in front of the Historical Society and the other will be placed on a flatbed trailer. The tickets, at \$1.00 each, will be available at the Society and all branches of AmSouth, Barnett, First South, Nationsbank, and Village Banks. Also at Gone Again Travel, who donated a sponsor sign. Additional locations will be Allgood Variety, Ted Thomas Insurance, The tickets are being sent to our members. Please purchase them even though you may not have small children. If you win the house it can be donated to a Nursery School, playground, church, or some other worthy place.

Curator Committee by Midge London-Prace

Since our last newsletter a lot has happened, so let me get right to reporting what we have been up to. If you haven't been to the Museum lately you will find all permanent exhibits in the main Museum room. With the wall cases and display cases that can be moved we decided to try and display as much as we can of our donations. We have a display of Civil War items next to the Civil War sword by the door. Next we have taken kitchen utensils from yesteryear and high lighted them in another case. We found many items having to do with textiles and made an interesting display with them also using the weaving loom and lace maker.

On the east wall in the Museum room, is a display telling about the Pine Hill neighborhood where the Black community was started. We are beginning with the history of the Booker T. Washington school and its remarkable teacher, Ruby Copeland who taught for over 20 years in the original one room school. We would love to add to this display and welcome any new material anyone may have about the Pine Hill area. Without the help of Anne and George Brandli who contacted Mr. Eugene Scott we wouldn't have much of this display.

The kitchen project turned out well. Our thanks goes to Mary Jane Prichard, Audrey O'Neil, Midge Prace and Donna Lyle for painting, stenciling and making the new curtains and tablecloth. Home Depot did a great job installing the cupboards, sink and counter. But most of all thanks goes to those who donated the money to make it possible. They are Maxine Clayton, Howard Chenoweth, Mary Jane Prichard, Ceil Zubrod, Audrey O'Neil and Midge and Dave Prace. The

convenience of having hot water and closed in storage was appreciated at our Christmas party . The once a month birthday/pass-a-dish suppers after the Board/General meetings in January, February, and March were well attended but we'd like to see more of you coming out to them. The meetings are the first Wednesday of the month at 3:00pm.

Our 25th Anniversary exhibit is coming along and almost finished. We are looking for memorabilia such as old snapshots, slides or articles from the first couple of years after forming the society. The Meeting/Indian room is where the main exhibit will be. We plan to have special events during the week of the Chasco Fiesta this month. A listing of all events through May is included in this newsletter along with the flyer of Chasco Fiesta schedule. Watch the newspaper announcements also. We will be open from 1:00 till 4:00 every day and need your participation as visitors and docents, etc. Please call Virginia Tinsley if you can give us some time as a docent, so she can schedule the day or days you will be available, her number is 842-2512. Mark your calendar and support your society.

The following donations were given to the Museum, and we extend our thanks.

1. A small display case to use in the Gift shop given by Mary Leitch.
2. A painting of a local bridge scene done by Norma Nelson in the seventies was given by PHCC library staff members, Vonnie Maytum and Ruth McCormick.
3. A Citrus Cookbook from Sun Groves, c/o Bud Llewelyn and Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Severs - given to Clara Ann Smith.
4. A Haag-Streit Ophthalmic Slit Lamp Microscope, circa 1900, given by Dr. Frederick A. Hauber, Pasco Eye Institute.
5. A collectors porcelain plate from the Eagle Liberty Society, a gallery print by Norman Rockwell, "The doctor and doll." also a collection of St. Nicholas, a jaw harp, harmonica, and a music tape of Civil War music from the North and South, donated by Norma Nelson.
6. Eight post cards in a frame of 1920s scenes taken locally, donated by Walter C. Rice. (They have been enlarged and are on display.)
7. A Phoenix Organ, now in the Meeting room and has been played at several functions, a travel iron, set of sleigh bells, button wreath, window ornament and a book on Seminole Indian designs, donated by Clara Ann Smith.
8. Slides of Chasco Fiesta from 1952 through 1964, donated by Ethel Gossett.
9. A framed picture by local artist, Fred Pietsch, of the War Memorial and Baptist Church on Circle Boulevard given by his widow Ilse Pietsch.
10. A television and video stand with glass doors, given by Midge and David Prace.

Gift Shop by Mary Jane Prichard

Members are meeting on the second Monday of the month to make items that will be for sale in the gift shop. Come and join us and bring you ideas for things to make. If you are a crafter and would like to put your things in on consignment, please bring them in for us to sell for you. We are also looking for paperback books to sell.

Artist Weekend

We are honoring Elaine Girouard on March 28th and 29th. She will have a display of her work. She has taught art in the area for many years. Other artists that will be working in the museum are: Ronnie Sue Irland, sketching visitors; Donna Lyle, decorative painting on wood; Carol Spicuglia, wildlife painting; Fern Ursa, acrylic painting; Jo Schmidt, acrylic painting; and Mary Jane Prichard, sculptured ceramics.

Addendum to Membership Roster

#2

Add to List:

Delzer & Coulter, Attys
7920 U.S. Highway 19
Port Richey, FL 34668
848-3404 (B)

Lucy B. Grose
11742 Spring Tree Lane
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863-6384 (I)

JoAnn Spencer Hettel
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Bushnell, FL 33513
352-793-5697 (I)

Julia Luikart
P.O. Box 1224
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Andrew Massler
4903 Bonito Drive
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Marie B. Meade
6740 Hucklberry Drive
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849-3806 (I)

Malcolm Neel
7280 Broadmoor Dr. #15
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842-6282 (I)

Dana & Jeffrey Strait
5525 Richey Drive
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Kathleen Strode
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New Port Richey, FL 34652
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Change Phone #:

Agnes Morrison 848-8810
Ann McCullen 372-0215
Sharon Krewson (delete Tel No)

Change Address:

Marie Behnke
5813 Lake Bend Ave
Tampa, FL 33614

Herbert E. Houglund
2330 Maple Road #182
Williamsville, NY 14221

Mary Leitch
4452 Garnet Dr Twr6 #304
New Port Richey, FL 34652

Mary (Laurie) Weiss McWade
6502 Adams Street
New Port Richey, FL 34652
847-3201

James & Patricia Mulieri
12850 McBride Road
Spring Hill, FL 34610

Virginia Tinsley
6711 Embassy Blvd #240
Port Richey, FL 34668

Delete from List::

Jack & Toni Breland
Olive Cameron
Bernadette Denley
James & Hanna Engue
Gail Harrison
Wm. & Brenda Nelson
Ruth E. Rice
Lee & Joan Szymanski

Deceased:

Howard Chenoweth
Helene DeWinter
Louise Embree
Harry Hall
Fred Pietsch

Come see our new chairs!!

The Society has been given donations for buying new padded folding chairs. We have been able to buy 24 chairs to date. We want to thank all of the contributors. The chairs are \$15.99 at Sam's if any one would care to make a donation for one or two. We also would like to purchase five matching card tables at about \$20.00 each, for use at our suppers. This makes table hopping easier and lots of fun! The ones we do have are becoming very rickety and rusty! The chair contributors are Maxine Clayton, Howard Chenoweth, Virginia Tinsley, Frances Mallett, Mary Jane Prichard, Ruth Joyner, Audrey O'Neil, and Julie Hall.

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6431 Circle Boulevard
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