



West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

VOL XI, #4

SPRING 1999



ANNE BRANDLI Went to Heaven January 23, 1999

UNTO HIS FATHERS

And my people brought Pyesa
to a sheltered burialground
in a forest grove and as we
gave my father back to the earth
I spoke the words of Na-na-ma-kee

be as the birds of the air and trust how far
your wings will carry you

raise up children on the seeds of the wind
and bend with the breath of seasons

carry the heart of others in your arms and know
the weight of trust

plant firm feet in sun and shade, accept the touch
of nature's reason

follow the road to the mountains, many paths lead
to the top

tread lightly the fields of others, their crops
must also grow and reach for light

draw power from storms and natural violence,
you are the energy in the veins of earth

all living things touch the air and waters for life,
the family of man is a brother to every creature

nurture the seedling and the dying oak, the smallest
streams hold the magic of stars

we are a small tribe in the heavens, all children
are the moons of time and the suns of eternity

then I went off
into the woods
and cleared my vision
with weeping.

I don't think I'll forget the first time I put a mention of Anne in the Newsletter and I spelled Anne, "Ann". She very firmly told me it was "Anne" with an "e".

She was just as firm in her beliefs and ideas, a firm belief in God, heaven, the American Indian and those less fortunate. She idolized her husband and children - you could see it in her eyes.

A lady of many accomplishments: wife, mother, pilot, camper, photographer were among her many achievements. She was proud of her heritage as a member of DAR, the Historical Society and her tribe affiliation. Heaven's gain is our loss.

I feel that the poet, Michael Borich, in his book, "Black Hawk Songs" expresses our Anne.

By David C. Spriggs

WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1999 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Feb. 3, 1 PM	Board Meeting
Feb. 12, 12 Noon	FASHION SHOW at Sparton Manor
Mar. 3, 1 PM	Board Meeting. 2 PM Show and Tell
Mar. 19-28 1-4 Open	Chasco Fiesta, plan program for first week. Night opening on selected nights.
Mar. 19-28 All Week, 1-4 PM	Chasco Memorabilia, New Port Richey Stamp Club and Chasco Exhibits. 2 PM Native American Exhibit Program
Mar. 27 & 28	West Pasco Art Guild and Historical Society artists will have a working display from 10 AM to 4 PM.
Apr. 7, 1 PM	Board Meeting. Auction to be conducted by David Spriggs at 3 PM.
Apr. 10, 1:30 PM	Speaker: Eleanor Shoepflin. Subject: Condensed Milk Containers.
April ???	TIMELINE PRESENTATION to Long Island Club by David and Midge Prace.
May 5, 1 PM	Board Meeting
May 13 or 20	Date to be announced later. INSTALLATION DINNER

DESK Volunteers and Hosts-Hostesses-

Chair - Clara Smith 868-3601

Thank you for helping us get a regular one day a MONTH - Volunteer system started! We are making progress - slow but sure. If you know anyone who will help us, please let Clara know at the desk, only Friday & Saturdays from 1 to 4:00 PM. I'd like to get the duties scheduled through December 1999. Happy New Year!

"ARE WE MAKING RUTS FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW"

George Brandli with credits and assistance to Page Thomas, a researcher in Texas on railroad lore.

The United States Standard railroad gauge (the distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That is an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England and the United States railroads were built by English expatriates.

But why did the English people build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "They" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. O.K! Why did the wagons use that odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagons would break on some of the old long-distance roads because that's the spacing of the old wheel ruts.

So, you ask, who built these old rutted roads? The first long-distance roads in Europe were built by Imperial Rome for the benefit of their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were either made for or by imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

So, we have the answer to the original question. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original military specification for an Imperial Roman army war chariot.

An item of interest is that the Imperial Roman chariots were made to be just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.

In your quiet moments do you ever wonder which horses we are following as we build the future of our Museum and Library? Are we truly making ruts the correct width for other generations to follow?

MEMBERSHIP

Julie Hall and Edie Hempel

Now that we are in the New Year we are hoping that all our members will renew their memberships for the year 1999. We had a great response to our initial billing for which WE THANK YOU!

Have you paid your dues yet? If not, please do so as soon as possible. We are counting on you! You will save us time and postage if we don't have to send you a reminder. Many thanks.

DOWN THE HALL

Frances Mallett

On December 5, 1998, we at the West Pasco Historical Society were asked to participate in the dedication of the newly restored Court House at Dade City. We furnished six docents for the occasion, all were dressed in period dress. Those serving were Mary Jane Prichard, Audrey O' Neil, George and Anne Brandli, Ceil Zubrod, David Prace and Frances Mallett.

It was a beautiful day - very festive.

Jack Bates made a video of the ceremonies, which turned out really well. Jack and his mother, Grace Rossi, presented the video to the West Pasco Historical Society, and the tape can be viewed at the Museum and Library.

CURATOR COMMITTEE REPORT

by Midge London-Prace

Recent donations to the museum are as follows:

1. Sandy Huff, by way of Ronnie Sue Irland, donated a vintage easel and mat cutter.
2. Judy Perry, Jessie Hyde's great niece donated a painting she did for Jessie of the museum. It is on display in the library.
3. Robert Mounts donated an Allen Business adding machine.
4. Audrey O' Neil donated three necklaces that belonged to her aunt Jessie Hyde. They are on display in the museum room.
5. Lillian B. Kreps donated a barber set that belonged to her uncle Robert Klaas. It included a razor strop, a hair clipper, 3 straight razors, and a barber brush. All are on display in the store in the Museum room.
6. Frances P. Cripps brought us a donation from May Plennert which was a number of copies of pictures as follows: Thanksgiving day Nov. 30th, 1922 and Boat Club same date, tombstone of Isaac Hudson, wharf and dock in Hudson. 10 copies of pictures of sites in Odessa, Zephyrhills, Trilby, Elfers, Dade City, Lacoochee, N.P.R. train station, San Antonio, Sam Pasco. Also a copy of the Charter of Port Richey.
7. Julie Obenreder donated a metal clothes rack. We will display vintage clothing and hats on it.
8. Eva Gratton donated a backgammon set which is in the museum in the Pioneer Parlor.
9. Edward C. Pittman donated photographs of the Anderson house and boat parade of 1964. Also a trophy from the boat parade in 1961 and a plaque from the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Gift Shop News from Mary Jane Prichard

Your donations have been greatly appreciated.. The holiday season was good this past season thanks to our members donations and crafters items. We are always seeking more collectibles and other items to sell in the gift shop. We would like to thank those of you who are helping us by working in the shop. Any one interested in spending one afternoon a month in the gift shop let me know. Have a Happy New Year.

ATTENTION WE ARE PLANNING AN AUCTION

To be held on April 7th , at 3:pm - following the meeting of the Board.. This is a fund raiser with David Spriggs acting as Auctioneer. Individuals and companies are needed to donate items. We will be glad to pick items up. Call Mary Jane Prichard at 845-4936 if you have something to donate.

Addendum to Membership Roster #5

Add to List

Arthur Card
P.O. Box HM 740
Hamilton, Bermuda HMCX
xxxxxxx (I)

Deborah & Richard Estabrook
9200 Hunt Club Lane
Port Richey, FL 34668
727-841-8592 (F)

Mary F. Clarke
P.O. Box 2053
New Port Richey, FL 34656
727-843-8763 (I)

Chasco Questers #546
CIO Eleanor Buehler, Pres
4615 Stonehaven Place
New Port Richey, FL 34652
727-849-9109 (B)

Clayton Woods Questers
C/O Mrs James S. Crowell
12709 Charter Oak Way
Bayonet Point, FL 34667
727-868-5880 (B)

Fivay Country Questers
C/O Virginia Ahrens
11803 Bayonet Lane
New Port Richey, FL 34654
727-856-9344 (B)

Carolyn Penfield
8520 Winding Wood Drive
Port Richey, FL 34656
727-862-3363 (I)

Beverly Rich
4131 Glissade Dr
New Port Richey, FL 34652
817-845-3099 (F)

Kirk & Julia Schram
14135 Dream Oak Dr
Hudson, FL 34669
727-868-3316 (F)

Change of Address

Dell & Marilyn DeChant
6119 Illinois Ave
New Port Richey, FL 34653

Phyliss Gibson
7927SR52 #136
Hudson, FL 34667
727-863-7441

Dorothy Harnish
4123 Prado Lane
New Port Richey, FL 34655

Lena Hazard
11919 Nature Trail #203
Port Richey, FL 34668

Curt H. & Ruth Helbig
10818 Teer Lane
Port Richey, FL 34668

Sharon Krewson
6385 Conniewood Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34653
727-815-8844

Mary Ann McSalis
6141 Chesham Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34653

James W. & Dorothy Mitchell
8324 SR 54
New Port Richey, FL 34655

Wilfred & Betty Raymond
7121 Amora Ave
New Port Richey, FL 34653

Wanda C. Bujnarowski
P.O. Box 326
Webster, IL 35597

Change Listing

Barnett Bank to Huntington Bank

Florence Reveillac to:
Arthur & Florence Reveillac (I) to: (F)

Walter A. Casson (B) to (F)

Audrey O' Neil (I) to (L)

Deceased

Anne Brandli
Ruth Smith
Kathleen Strode
John Smith

Change Telephone No.

Frances Farrell 861-2938

Correct Spelling

Elizabeth Longham to Elizabeth Longiaru
Eleanor Shoeplin to Eleanor Schoepflin

Delete

Julia Ann Luikart
John Marx

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By Julie Obenreder

There was no place in town for the ladies to meet and socialize in 1916. Marjorie Sims explained the need for such a place to her husband, George R. Sims. He had already donated several acres to the town. The Town Council voted to name one of the parcels "Sims Park."

A group of women met and founded the "Women's Civic Club." They decided to have a wooden building built on the waterfront.

This clubhouse had a small kitchen and became the headquarters for the town's social gatherings. It was also used for Sunday Church services, as a polling place for elections, for political rallies, town meetings and for many other events such as the annual Christmas party.

A deed was made out by Mr. Sims to the Women's Civic Club which had many active members. They had several fund raisers to provide for some of the town's many needs such as street lights, fire fighting equipment and the building of a water reservoir at the eastern end of Main Street.

There was a large cedar tree in front of the building. The women decorated it every year at Christmas time. One of the more portly men acted as Santa Claus handing out popcorn, candy and one wrapped gift for each child.

In the 1970's the Club membership began to dwindle and the few active women reduced in number to about eight could not keep up with the expenses so at their last official meeting they voted to give the building to the City.

The Council accepted it but soon discovered it needed much repair. The roof leaked, termites were eating away at the wood, front steps needed replacing. Upon inspection it was decided it would be too expensive to repair. The final decision by City Council was to raise the building. The cost also proved prohibitive. So the New Port Richey Fire Department did a controlled burn and the old Clubhouse went up in flames.

A CONDENSED MILK HOLDER QUIZ

What is a condensed milk holder?

For what purpose was it used?

When were they first made?

Is there an opening in the cover? If not, why not?

Do they all have a whole in the bottom?
If so, what was its purpose?

Must they have an underplate to be complete?

Are they all handpainted on porcelain?

Were they ever made of other materials, such as metal?

What is the average value today?

For answers to these and other questions, plan to visit the West Pasco Historical Museum during the month of April where a large collection will be on display. Eleanor Schopflin will speak April 10 at 1:30 on this subject.

From the President's Desk

What an exciting year!!! Your Society is growing and we have participated in many activities since we have reported to you in the past. Among these are:

- Taste of Olde Elfers: We had a display table, sold books, George Brandli was featured as "The Old Storyteller."

- Dade City Courthouse Dedication: We were invited by Commissioner Ann Hildebrand to be present as a team to act as guides during the opening of the old courthouse. Thanks go to George and Anne Brandli, Frances Mallett, Audrey O'Neil, Mary Jane Prichard, and Ceil Zubrod for participating. All were dressed in period costume for this occasion. The West Pasco Historical Society was mentioned as a contributor in the County Proclamation which was read at the first session of the County Board at the courthouse.

- Dade City Courthouse Historical Room: We were asked by the County Commissioners to participate in setting up an exhibit in conjunction with the Pioneer Museum to be displayed in the new history room at the County Courthouse. Our exhibit consists of mounted pictures of West Pasco locales, Clark family bible dating to the 1870-80s, New Port Richey Womens Club minutes book ca. 1916-1920, Indian artifacts of West Pasco over 4000 years old.

- Presentations were made to four civic groups.

- Richey Region Antique Automobile Association: Again we co-hosted the RRAAA auto show and our traffic through the museum was tremendous. Needless to say the donation bowl had to be emptied several times.

- Christmas Festival of Trees: Thanks to the spearheading of Anne Brandli, we had over 16 Christmas trees on display from different organizations and individuals. Visitors were urged to vote for their favorite and the winner, the Audubon Society, received the \$25 cash prize.

In addition to these activities we hosted the Embroiderers Guild and the Quilters Guild respectively. A Tupperware sale was conducted at the Museum as a fund raiser and netted the Society \$30. And for those of you who missed the Christmas party, all we can say is that we had a wonderful time thanks to Mary Jane Prichard and Audrey O'Neil.

Don't forget that we need your support. Buy calendars. We can use more chairs. See you at the Museum.

David Prace

THE BAKER HOUSE

Edie & John Bauer

Located in Centennial Park, Holiday is open to the public every Saturday till June from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is free. **The Baker House** will also be open for **Sunday In The Park** on Sunday, February 14, 1999 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Come and see how some people in Pasco County lived at the end of the last Millennium.

!!!MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Annual February Fashion Show



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Friday, February 12th at Noon

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Reservations No Later Than February 10th

For Info Call: Norma Nelson @ 846-0011

Midge London Prace @ 847-3129

Mary Jane Prichard @ 845-4936

LIBRARY NEW

Leon and Doris Szymanski kindly placed a Santa Claus exhibit in the library case for December and it was enjoyed by many. We explained it was the beginning of a large exhibit being on display at Pasco-Hernando Community College Library.

Now we will enter the New Year with an exhibit of the history of bells.

Do come in and see the extended list of videos we have that you may choose from. This list includes varied past Chasco Fiesta parades and the week's activities, a varied selection of

Elizabeth Jones

Indian tribes, also varied plant life.

Due to the cooperation of the New Port Richey Library, we have doubled our shelf of children's books.

We are very proud to have the book just published by a resident of Lutz. The book is entitled: CITRUS, SAWMILLS, CRITTERS, CRACKERS by authors Elizabeth Riegler MacManus and Susan A. MacManus. The book was donated by Maxine Clayton. We are especially pleased as this is in the Florida section of which we had very little information.

Come in and use all the items that we have.

West Pasco Historical Society

6431 Circle Boulevard

New Port Richey, FL 34652