

# West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

VOL XI, #4

WINTER 1999

## The President's Message

by Ann Hildebrand

With the end of summer comes a flurry of activity for the West Pasco Historical Society. The fall season kicked off with a program by Jeff Klinkenberg, a reporter for the St. Pete Times, whose specialty is local history and our environment.

October brought us a program that honored the past and present Mayors for New Port Richey in recognition of Founders Day. With the holidays right around the corner, we will be having other exhibits and programs and an exciting day trip to the Starkey property for a tour on the ranch of how old Florida used to be.

As this century comes to a close, we can look back on all of our accomplishments in our zest for preserving history in our community and making people aware of our rich heritage. With the new century we shall forge ahead with our goals and objectives.

Best wishes for the holidays and may the New Year bring good health and happiness and the continuance of our goals.

## Jeff Klinkenberg SPEAKS AT MUSEUM

Our 1999-2000 season was opened with a bang as evidenced by the standing room only crowd. The guest speaker was Jeff Klinkenberg who is a *St. Petersburg Times* staffer who writes about Florida nature and Florida culture. He is the author of two collections of essays about our state. They are *Real Florida*, and *Dispatches from the Land of Flowers*. Both are published by Down Home Press of Asheboro, North Carolina and are available at bookstores.

Jeff captivated us with musings of his days growing up in Florida, hurricanes, and his travels to the different parts of the state. He read several passages from his book and took many questions from the audience.

In keeping with the Florida nature we had three lovely paintings on display from Carol Spigulia featuring Florida bird life. In addition a display of animal woodcarvings was displayed by Robert Marek.

Light refreshments were served and many people circulated throughout the museum. Thanks to Carol Tuzzeo and her helpers for their efforts.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Nov. 5, 6, 7 | Embroider's Guild of America, exhibits & Antique Cars, Orange Lake.   |
| Nov. 17      | Tour of J. B. Starkeys Flatwoods Adventures, 10:00 am meet at Museum. Bus tour at Starkeys leaves at 11:00 for 90 minute program. Lunch after tour. Call Mary Jane Prichard at 845-4936.  |
| Nov. 20      | The Florida Story of the first Thanksgiving given by Norma Nelson at 2pm.   |
| Nov. 30      | Christmas Tree Exhibit - 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Contest. Trees decorated by organizations or individuals. Winner wins \$25.00 prize. Angels, anyone having a collection, or one or two to add to exhibit, please contact Curator Committee 847-3129. |
| Dec. 1       | General and Board Meeting at the Museum at 1:00pm.  |
| Dec. 15      | Christmas Holiday Dinner, Dimitri's Restaurant, 6:00pm. Call Audrey O Neil, 849-3451 for reservations.  |
| Jan. 5, 2000 | General and Board Meeting at the Museum at 1:00pm. Speaker after meeting.   |
| Jan. 15      | Timeline on local history by Frances Mallett and visitation to downtown or historical homes. Rain date 22.  |
| Feb. 2       | General and Board Meeting at the Museum at 1:00pm.  |
| Feb. 11      | Fashion Show luncheon at Spartan Manor at 11:30am, for info call Norma Nelson, 847-0011.  |



# West Pasco Historical Society, Inc.

## Officers and Directors 1999 - 2000

President .....	Ann Hildebrand	848-1523
Vice President .....	Mary Jane Prichard	845-4936
2nd Vice President .....	Norma Nelson	846-0011
Treasurer .....	George Brandli	844-7802
Secretary .....	Ginny Miller	845-0476
Corres. Secretary .....	Laura Helm	848-3899
Director .....	Julia Hall	376-4171
(2 year term, ending 2001)		
Director .....	Edith Hempel	848-4229
(2 year term, ending 2001)		
Director .....	Alice Mueller	376-0703
(2 year term, ending 2000)		
Director .....	Sally Johnson	849-4877
(2 year term, ending 2000)		
Director .....	Jack Drummond	849-0437
(2 year term, ending 2000)		
Librarian .....	Elizabeth Jones	849-7988
Curator .....	Midge London-Prace	847-3129

## Committee Chairpersons

Docents/Publicity .....	Midge London-Prace	847-3129
Buildings & Grounds .....	Bette Farmerie	849-0242
Government Relations .....	David Spriggs	848-2809
Native American .....	Norma Nelson	846-0011
By-Laws .....	Open	
Membership:		
.....	Julia Hall	376-4171
.....	Edith Hempel	848-4229
Publications/Production .....	David Prace	847-3129
Gift Shop .....	Audrey O'Neil	845-4936
Trips & Tours .....	Joan Rees	845-8747

## Committee Chairpersons Continued

Chasco Fiesta .....	Frances Mallett	849-5165
Historian .....	Lillian Kreps	842-8714
Newsletter .....	David Spriggs	848-2809
Fund Raising .....	Open	
Special Projects .....	Clara Ann Smith	847-0404

## Library Committee

Elizabeth Jones .....	849-7988
Julie Hall .....	376-4171
Mary Leitch .....	842-4767
Edith Hempel .....	848-4229
Alice Mueller .....	376-0703
Lillian Kreps .....	842-8714
Frances Dee .....	934-5402
Bea Baum .....	841-6933
Sally Johnson .....	849-4877
Advisor - Susan Dillinger .....	841-4547

## Curator Committee

Midge London-Prace .....	847-3129
Laura Helm .....	848-3899
Frances Mallett .....	849-5165
Norma Nelson .....	846-0011
Mary Jane Prichard .....	845-4936
Audrey O'Neill .....	849-3451
Bea Baum .....	841-4933

## Pasco County

### Preservation Board Representatives

Joy Lane .....	846-8499
Norma Nelson .....	846-0011

## Museum Plays Key Role During New Port Richey's Founder's Day

The West Pasco Historical Society kicked off New Port Richey's 75th Anniversary Founder's Day with a program called, "Voices From the Past". On October 6, to a virtual packed house, our museum hosted three former Mayors of New Port Richey as well as the present one. These included Robert Prior, Debra Prewitt, and Peter Altman. John Durney was still up North but sent a message to be read.

Each of the Mayors spoke of some of their experiences and accomplishments. We were also entertained by wonderful story about mayors by George Brandli. A proclamation from the Society was presented to Mayor Peter Altman.

In attendance in the audience were several city Councilmen, former Deputy Mayors, a former County

Commissioner, and a sitting Commissioner. The questions and stories were lively, and certainly enjoyed by all. Light refreshments were enjoyed and our thanks go to Frances Mallett for furnishing the delicious carrot cake. Thanks also to Audrey O' Neill and Sally Johnson for pitching in.



### MUSEUM RECEIVES AWARD

Your Museum received an Award of Excellence for the month of October. This award is given to businesses and organizations by the Design Committee of the New Port Richey Community Cooperative. Ann Addino was the presenter. This award can be seen on the porch of the Museum.

*by Mary Jane Prichard*



## CURATOR COMMITTEE

by Midge London-Prace

I would like to thank all of you who have given my family your prayers for my Mother. She has improved dramatically, although not out of the woods as yet. Thank you for caring.

This Summer we received some very interesting donations.

1. Found on our front porch were these three items-(a) *Masters and Masterpieces*, a book of the 20-year history of Silent Films. Included was our own Thomas Meighan, along with many other famous Silent Film stars. There are some repairs that are needed before it can be displayed. (b) A book titled *Where Gush the Geysers* published in 1910. The pictures are very beautiful, and lots of information is given about Yellowstone Park. (c) 15 books titled *Art and Artists of our Time*.
2. Rita Hill Real Estate, had clients named Mr. and Mrs. Ben Williams who donated 23 stuffed animals.
3. Mr. Tom Young, of Ultimate Video, donated 10 volumes of National Encyclopedia. Also Updates for 1945 through 1954. 2 volumes of Lincoln Library of Essential Information. All now reside in our Library.
4. Sandy Werner donated a large number of stuffed animals, and along with the earlier stuffed animals, are for sale in the Gift Shop just in time for Christmas.
5. Joan Rees donated some interesting long Johns to our vintage clothes collection.
6. Jeannine Humphrey donated a spoon that her Uncle collected from cereal boxes and gave to her mother when she married in 1925. The spoons were silent movie stars. This one is for Thomas Meighan.

## DOWN THE HALL

by Frances Mallett

We, here at the West Pasco Historical Society, were very pleased with our opening program. Jeff Klinkenberg, from the St. Pete Times who spoke on Florida and was very much enjoyed by all. The other was our celebration of Founders day with a tribute to the past Mayors of New Port Richey.

With the upcoming celebration of the millennium the county has established a committee to handle the planning of the festivities for year 2000. Our own Pat Mulieri is chairperson and she has appointed Sandra Werner, (another West Pasco Historical Society member), and Mayor Eileen Ferdinand of Port Richey, plus myself to handle the history portion of the West Pasco area. The week of April 1st through the 8th has been designated as 1900's week. We plan to spotlight all of the communities from Aripeka to Odessa. Each area will have a day to share their history. We are looking forward to a great year.

## BRANDLI'S MUSINGS

by G.L.Brandli

My designated Indian name is 'kakanaka' and I am a blood brother of the Iroquois Indian nation. I wish to tell of an ancient Indian myth that has meaning to me.

One bright day father sky and his wife were relaxing on a cloud. His wife was complaining that a tree prevented her from seeing over the clouds. Father sky had the tree removed and his wife (later to be known as mother earth) went over to look down through the hole in the cloud opening. Leaning over the edge, she slipped and fell through. In the mists below, was a planet covered with water. The animals there saw her falling. A huge turtle came to the surface and a beaver dove to the bottom of the sea and brought up mud which the birds helped pack on the back of the turtle. Mother earth, her new name, landed on this platform of mud on the back of the turtle as she had slipped through the hole, she had grasped some seeds in her hands. Over time, the great chieftain of the universe made the land spread and the people flourish. However, the people began to complain that the land seemed too barren and needed cover. So, the great chieftain, using the seeds that mother earth had brought down with her, created trees, most of them hundreds of feet tall. The people then complained that wasn't what they wanted, the trees were too tall. The great chieftain then lowered the height of the trees. The people said that wasn't what they wanted, there were too many trees and they wanted cleared spaces. This the great chieftain did for them. They then had a meeting and voted that all of that green color in the clearings was boring and they wanted color. So, the great chieftain created flowers for them. Soon, the people gathered again and said that wasn't right, the color was nice, but there was no movement at all. Now the great chieftain was becoming disenchanted with all of this and trying to make everyone happy. But, trying once again to satisfy these people, he created beautiful gossamer winged creatures that flew from flower petal to flower petal and he named these creatures "flutterbies" but, once again, as we do with so many things in this life, we messed this up also.

Try to relate this Indian myth to yourselves and to our museum and library. Failing in this effort, dwell for a moment on the individuals who founded and nourished our society. Are we truly interpreting the basic desires and plans? If yes, then we are to be commended, but we must use care not to create "butterflies."

**Don't Forget!!!!!!!!!!!!**  
**The Calendars are in!**



West Pasco Historical Society  
Museum & Library, Inc.  
2000 Calendar



Homes along Dixie Highway, now Grand Boulevard.

**They're On Sale  
NOW!!!!**



## **GIFT SHOP**

*by Mary Jane Prichard*

We have many stuffed toy animals for children as Christmas gifts. We also have a collection of work by Kathleen Strode, a local artist. She drew and painted portraits of many local residents which we would like to have identified, if possible. Maybe you can help us to do so. There are also other scenic sketches and paintings for sale done by Kathleen. Come shop with us!!

## **FASHION SHOW**

*by Norma Nelson*

Mark your calendar!! Luncheon/Fashion Show will be held at the Spartan Manor, Friday, February 11, 2000 at 11:00am. Donation of \$12.00. Styles for the millennium will be ushered in by members of the West Pasco Historical Society. The fashions will be presented by *Today's Woman* and *Fraynes*. There will be lots of door prizes and also a drawing for a Basket of Cheer. Tickets will be available soon for the basket. For information call 846-0011 or 847-3129.

## **Starkey Ranch Flatwoods Adventure**

*by Laura Helm*

A Tour of Starkey Ranch Flatwoods has been arranged for members on November 17. The attendees will meet at the Museum at 10:00 am. We will then car pool to the park for our 11:00 am bus tour. After the tour of about 90 minutes, lunch will be served from Larry's Deli, consisting of sandwiches, salad, and dessert. Price for tour and lunch is \$18.25. Call Laura for reservations, or sign up on sheet in hall of museum. Laura's phone number is 848-3899.

## **LIBRARY NEWS**

*by Elizabeth Jones, Librarian*

All were in attendance at the Museum, for the review of Jeff Klinkenberg's book, *Land of Flowers* and were so pleased. Many purchased the book, which includes stories of a snake man a sad poet and a lightning stalker with many others. We have a copy in the library that may be taken out if one cares to. We have many new books by Florida authors and we are now waiting to receive two that were out of print when ordered. A newer set of reference books has been given to the library. We have the set recorded and placed on the shelves for all to use. Five of our librarians attended the dinner and play presented at the New Port Richey Library recently. Come in and view several new pictures of former city officials on display. While in, check on all our new books.

## **Membership First Call**

*by Edie Hempel*

This is our first call to you to remind you that your membership dues are now payable on an annual basis effective January 1. We are hoping for 100% renewal before the next century!

If you were a paid-up member in 1999, you may pick up your new Membership Roster 2000 at the museum any Friday or Saturday, between 1:00 and 4:00pm. This will save your Society postage and envelopes expense. We thank you for your cooperation.

## **Fenton Art Glass Company**

*by Karen / Gift Store*

The Fenton Art Glass Company began producing glass at Williamstown, West Virginia in January 1907. Organized by Frank L. and John W. Fenton, the company began operations in a newly built glass factory with an experienced master glass craftsman, Jacob Rosenthal, as their factory manager.

Fenton has produced a wide variety of collectible glassware through the years, including carnival, chocolate, custard and pressed glass, plus mold-blown opalescent glass. In the 1920's, stretch glass, Fenton dolphins, jade green, ruby and art glass were added.

In the 1930's, boudoir lamps, dancing ladies and slag glass in various colors were produced. The 1940's saw crests of different colors being added to each piece by hand.

Hobnail, opalescent and two-color overlay pieces were popular items. Handles were added to different shapes making the baskets they created as much a favorite then as they are today.

Through the years, Fenton has beautified their glass by decorating the pieces with hand painting, acid etching and copper-wheel cutting. Today, each hand-painted piece is signed by the artist.

There are several Fenton Collectors' Clubs including the Fenton Art Glass Collectors of America, Inc., P.O. Box 384, Williamstown, West Virginia 26187. Annual August shows and club meetings are held where the Fenton Art Glass Company Museum is located near the factory site in Williamstown. Tours of the factory are available, and information regarding these tours is available by calling the Fenton Company.

Information by Worman's Antiques and Collectibles Price Guide, 33rd edition and the Antique Trader Antiques and Collectibles Price Guide.

# **Year 2000 Calendars Are Now On Sale!**





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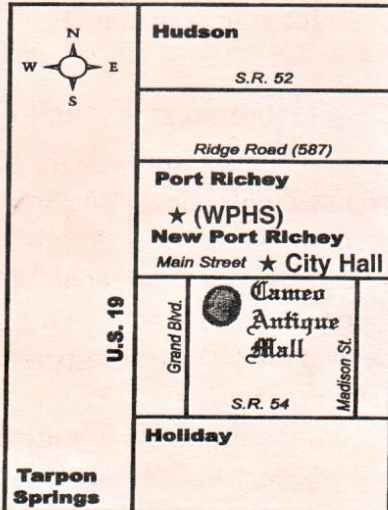
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 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July & August  
 Tuesday-Saturday

September-June  
 Monday-Saturday



# Happy Holidays

## West Pasco Historical Society's CHRISTMAS PARTY

**December 15th**

**6:00 PM**

**Dimetri's Restaurant**  
**5312 Sunset Road**

\$8.00 Per Person tax & tip included

**BUFFET STYLE-**

Please make reservations by  
 December 11th

Call Audrey at 849-3451 Daytime

Mary Jane 845-4936 Evenings

***Let's have a good turnout!***

## West Pasco Historical Society

6431 Circle Boulevard

New Port Richey, FL 34652

Elizabeth Jones  
 5800 Delaware Avenue  
 New Port Richey, FL 34652