



# West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

VOL XII, #10

AUTUMN 2001

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Season Opening was well attended. Brenda Knowles stepped in the last minute because of a cancellation and did a magnificent job. There were many questions after her talk on Hudson history, so much that we had to end it. As you will see from the Fall Schedule there are many opportunities for you to come to programs and exhibits this season. We hope you will participate.

Remember volunteering is a way to become a vital part of your museum. Do you enjoy retail sales and being surrounded with beautiful and interesting objects? The Gift Shop is the for you!

Do you want to know more the area and it's history? A Docent position is one you'd enjoy!

Are you behind the scene type of person? The Curator's committee is where you belong!

Perhaps you have a special skill you'd like to share. Committee work can be so rewarding!

Do you prefer a quiet setting with books, articles, and written history? The Library is just the place for you!

None of the above? The only limitation is your imagination!



## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The Installation of Officers was held on June 13. The following Officers where installed by Commissioner Peter Altman:

President .....	Ann Hildebrand
Vice President .....	Midge London-Prace
2nd Vice President .....	Norma Nelson
Treasurer .....	George Brandli
Secretary .....	Ginny Miller
Corres. Secretary .....	Laura Helm
Director (2 year term, ending 2003) .....	David Prace
Director (2 year term, ending 2003) .....	David Welling
Director (2 year term, ending 2002) .....	Abby Misemer
Director (2 year term, ending 2002) .....	Marc Bowman
Director (2 year term, ending 2002) ....	Sandra Lee Werner
Librarian .....	Susan Dillinger
Curator .....	Mary O'Benar

## 2001 HONORARY MEMBER

The Honorary Member for 2001 was Frances Mallett. Frances received a beautiful clock engraved with her name. Some of her many achievements are listed below:

7<sup>th</sup> Generation native Floridian

Member of WPHS for over 27 years

Played major force in WPHS representation - Street Parades, Boat Parades

Chief keeper of the "Down the Hall" exhibit

Served on BOD of Pasco County Centennial Committee 1987

Served on Pasco County Centennial Committee

Organized Millennium Fashion Show at WPHS

Thank you for all your dedication Frances.



## FOUNDERS DAY

Founders Day will mark New Port Richey's 77<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On October 26<sup>th</sup> a dinner on the grounds of the Museum will lead off the weekend's events. The theme will be the Roaring 20's. The catered full dinner will be held under a tent near the gazebo, where Henry Fletcher will conduct the era's big band jazz sounds for dancing in the Street. There will also be a silent auction. Reservations are necessary, cost is \$20.00 which will benefit the West Pasco Historical Society and the Greater New Port Richey Main Street. Call (727) 842-8066 and support your society.



## MOTHERS DAY TEA REPORT

What a wonderful event our third Mothers Day Tea turned out to be. An overflow attendance meant tables in the library. Our speaker, Sue Baillie, was a delight as she told us about life here after the second world war. With humor,

she remembered many of the small and big changes, in this area over the years. The setting and food was lovely and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Our donations of tea cups served all our needs. If any one would like to donate dessert plates for our next tea, it would be very much appreciated. We hope to be able to hold our future teas in the renovated Our Lady Queen of Peace Hall.



## GIFT SHOP NEWS

by Audrey O'Neil

We hope you all had a wonderful Summer. Do come visit the gift shop as the season opens. We have new items donated over the Summer. If your clearing out during the fall cleaning think of us. We appreciate your donations and look forward to seeing you in the new season.



## CURATOR'S NEWS

by Mary O'Benar

The Curator Committee met on Aug. 16 and drew up this year's schedule of special displays plus wall decorations to compliment programs and other events. Some highlights will be WWII memorabilia, the stilt houses, and many more of our best treasures, West Pasco historical photos and postcards.

This year the committee will try meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, two weeks after the Board Meeting. This is so that the pea-green new curator won't be too many days away from a meeting-full of seasoned experience and good advice.

The committee decided to hire some of the Fall Cleanup work done. And so Mrs. Barbara Heath of NPR spent a long day on a very thorough deep cleaning job. She worked far beyond her pay, being awfully determined to help us out. This place had totally worn her down by the time she approached the museum room where it is impossible to move cabinets and scrub all the woodwork as she had most everywhere else.

Volunteers comprised mostly of Terry Kline's friends and family finished the rest as best we could. I especially thank his son for having the muscle to do such a thorough job with a carpet cleaner. So the basics are done up pretty well, and it remains for cupboards, shelves, cabinets, displays to be cleaned by docents and other members throughout the year.

A couple of disasters have occurred over time in the collection and were discovered this summer. Something terrible leaked in the museum room, the most damage being done to the toys in the Burnham wagon. All the dolls are ruined beyond any hope of repair, and it was a heart-breaking discovery. The wagon will recover with treatment, I believe, but it seemed best that the area be kept clear in case of another leak. This meant moving some things around. I hope you like the extra walking room that was a surprise result of the rearranging.

Also, considerable textile deterioration is evident in several places. Docents and other members, PLEASE CHECK to see that all reachable WINDOW BLINDS ARE PULLED DOWN before you lock the building, that will slow the process somewhat.

The rearranging included very patient volunteering from Miss Brienna Lyerly, 9 years old, in 4th grade at Anclote. It should be noted that she arranged the small porcelains, etc. in the old china cabinet by herself.

Frances Mallet and I have devised a special project to keep us busy. We are gathering items to represent "West Pasco at Work." So far we have photos such as livestock, etc. and some real treasures in old cosmetics from Port Richey and tiny hand-blown vials from the perfume factory. A very local feature will be a collecting pot from the Clarks' pine sap harvesting. We'd like to show a wide spectrum of how Pasco people made a living. If you have any items for this project, please contact us.

Lastly, several things this summer have prompted me to ask you, a1 to consider this policy: THIS MUSEUM DOES NOT DISCUSS POSSIBLE DOLLAR VALUES OF ITEMS WITH THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR BELONGINGS OR OURS. This month, one can answer "appraisal" inquires by mentioning the Appraisal Fair Weekend coming up in NPR Oct. 13 and 14 to benefit Main St. New Port Richey, Richey Suncoast Theatre, and the West Pasco Art Guild.

### DONATIONS RECEIVED AS OF SEPT. 2001

#1012: From Marie Meade, 2 books for LIBRARY. Origins by Richard Leakey, also The North American Indians.

#1013: From Tony Pastore of Able Business Systems, a much-needed copier.

#1014: From Sylvia Rantala, wooden nut bowl, candle holder and several other Finnish decorations.

#1015: From Bruce Frame, Moon Lake Lodge vase (on display), 2 tiny books (Child's Garden of Verse, Finnish Hymnal).

#1016: From M. O'Brien, many items incl. Nutcracker, 'Pony' bottle (in STORE) and Royal typewriter.

#1017: From Midge London-Prace, 12 various old-time tin advertising containers (in STORE).

#1018: From Betty Seydell, very large 1980's shuffleboard trophy retired to NPR Club after Pasco vs. Pinellas competition was won many times running.

#1019: From Sybil Northrup, full length gored brown skirt owned & worn by Clarisse Eastman Morgan, early 1900's.

#1020: From Bruce Frame, period Moon Lake Lodge postcards, also (copies of) Moon Lake photos.

#1021: From Ruth Teal, boy's hankie from 1910's embroidered with ball player (a set with the wool cap in Schoolhouse), 1935 G.I. tin sewing kit, bone crochet hooks, 2 early 50's meerschaum bubble pipes.

#1022: From William Rene, Florida artist, PAINTED FISH GALLERY, Fine Arts Print, Traveler Palms. Given by the artist to WPHS as Founder's Day Dinner Raffle Prize.

#1023: From Patrick Vostello, 8 pieces of 40's - 50's photo equipment, excellent condition. Kodak Tourist 11 bellows camera (lg. negative) & field case, on display.

#1024: From Marc Bowman, numerous booklets and other useful paper artifacts from NPR's history.



## LIBRARY NEWS

Our Library people have been looking through the books for ones that are not appropriate because they do not pertain to West Pasco, Pasco or Florida. Our Head Librarian, Susan Dillinger will review them and perhaps have use for them at the New Port Richey Library. We always have people who enjoy the collection of pictures in the library. More display panels such as our present wallpaper hangers or a sample rug hanger display are needed. Anyone who may know someone in either business should ask for any unused display.



## MEMBERSHIP

by Julie and Edie

As of the close of the season last June, we have 255 members in 198 households. of this group 61 are listed as Life members.

We welcome any of you to upgrade at any time. We thank all of our members for their support.



"Thank you" to all of our wonderful friends for the get well cards and meals on wheels. The response was heart warming. Our best to all.

Midge and Dave Prace



## ANTIQUE TIDBITS

by Eleanor Schoepflin

The lovable Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls were the, creation of Johnny Gruelle, who made up stories about their adventures for his daughter, Marcella. The little girl died in 1916 after a long illness, and Gruelle sought solace from his grief by writing the stories down. The first book, Raggedy Ann Stories, was published in 1918. Eventually there were 25 books in the series.

The publisher, P.F. Volland, requested Raggedy Ann dolls to sell along with the books. At first, the Gruelle family made them by hand, but by the end of 1918, they licensed Volland to manufacture the dolls in quantity. Raggedy Andy dolls were introduced in 1920. The soft rag dolls with their yarn hair, show button eyes, and smiling faces, proved to have enormous appeal. Soon other characters from the books were made into dolls, including Beloved Belindy, Eddie Elf and Pirate Chieftain.

Volland went out of business in 1934 and legal rights were given to Exposition Doll and Toy Co. They made dolls for less than a year, because of competition from Mollye Goldman and her unauthorized version of the dolls. Gruelle, who had patented the designs in 1915, filed a lawsuit to protect his patent. He won, so the Goldman dolls were made only from 1935 to 1938.

The Gruelle family signed a 25-year agreement with Georgene Novelties Co. to make the dolls from 1938 to 1962. When the contract expired, the family transferred the rights to Knickerbocker Toy Co. which had the contract from 1962 to 1982. Since then, dolls have been made by Applause Toy Co. and the Hasbro Co. A pair of Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls in good condition (ca. 1931) can bring as much as \$2,000.

## FALL TRIPS FOR OUR MEMBERS !

Gone Again travel has planned two fall trips for the New port Richey Library and the West Pasco Historical Society members.

**October 17<sup>th</sup>** a trip to the **Ringling Museum of Art** and Lunch at Millers Dutch restaurant is planned

Departure: 9:00 am from the Museum  
Parking: City lot across the street  
Return: 5:00 pm  
Cost per person: \$39.00

**November 5<sup>th</sup>** a trip to the **Webster Flea Market** and **Rogers Christmas House**

Departure: 7:30 am from the Museum  
Parking: City lot across the street  
Return: 5:00 pm  
Cost per person: \$20.00

Pick up reservation forms at the Museum, New Port Richey Library, or at Gone Again Travel, 5140 Main Street, Ste 4, New Port Richey.



## MEMORIES OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS

by George Brandli

Perhaps some of you may remember the 30's and 40's, or you may not, but my thoughts regressed to the days of butchering out hogs, when the neighbors all came to help with the sausage grinding, laughing and all going home with a piece of liver as the reward. Mornings eating mush, fried with honey and milk and served both hot and cold. The milk man with his wagon and horse. The ice man with the large chunks of ice and he would shave off a piece for the children to suck on. Money was in short supply, but with the meat from the hogs, eggs from the chickens and the apples and potatoes buried in pits with straw and newspaper, plus the canned meats and sliced cabbage soaking in a large crock pot, we enjoyed our freedom without any locks on the doors, or fear of being mugged or assaulted. Life Was Good.

Recently in cleaning out some old files, I uncovered our original budget that carried us through two years of marriage. We used an ice box in the summer and a window box hung outside the kitchen window in the winter.

Total monthly income: \$105.00

\$ 40.00 Food  
\$ 2.00 water bill  
\$ 1.00 electric bill  
\$ 2.75 Hospitalization Insurance  
\$ 17.50 rent  
\$ 2.00 gas bill  
\$ 1.92 Life Insurance Premium  
Total \$ 67.17

Total Cash remaining: \$37.83

\$ 3.60 movies  
\$ .40 popcorn at movies  
\$ 1.00 church pledge  
\$ 1.30 hair care  
\$ 6.96 Bus trip for two trips home  
\$ 2.00 dry cleaning  
\$ .25 stationary and stamps  
Total \$ 15.51

Total cash remaining \$22.32

\$ 3.50 rental of adding machine  
\$ 5.00 household finance for refrigerator.  
Total \$ 8.50

Total cash remaining \$ 13.82

Why don't each of you jot down some of your memories of your early life as a child or young adult and share them with us. Perhaps we can start a memory book of life as it once was.



*"Until I started getting the newsletter, I never knew what our company did."*

## IN MEMORIAM

A memorial service will be held on Saturday November 17.

Some of our members have passed away over the past few months. We would like to remember them with a memorial given at the museum in their memory. Sam Y. Allgood, Jr., Katy Casto-Hevey, James E. Clark, Dr. James L. Hollingsworth, Elizabeth Longiaru and others. If you know of any others please contact Frances Mallett.



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas party will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 7540 Ridge Road on December 12<sup>th</sup>. We always have a great time there and maybe Father Christmas will come to visit as he's done before. For information call Frances Mallett 849-5165 or Midge London-Prace 847-3129



## THE INDIANS OF WEST PASCO by Terry Kline

The question I'm most asked is, "Who were the Indian's that lived in our area?" We know from the archaeological record, that people have lived here for nine thousand years. When the Spanish first arrived, the Indians of this area were known as the "Tocobaga." These were a confederacy of small tribes ranging from Charlotte Harbor to the mouth of the Withlacoochee River, referred to by archaeologists as the Safety Harbor culture (named after the location of their main town on Tampa Bay at Philippe Park). They were the first to make pottery and built many of the mounds along our coast. Like their sworn enemy the "Calusa" to the south, they depended greatly on the Gulf. But because of geological differences, took more advantage of wetlands and river valleys for food. They also had stone technologies, which the Calusa lacked. Unlike their "Timucuan" neighbors inland and to the north, they did no farming but depended on the forest for their sustenance. After disease from Europe almost annihilated these people, the few remaining joined the Creek and Miccosukee to become the present day Seminole.

If you would like to know more about the Indigenous Indians of this area, join our Indian Club. Call 846-0157.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2001-2002

by Midge London-Prace

There are some exciting programs coming up that I want you to take note of, Please mark your calendar. We hope you will support your Museum in the coming months.

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|---|---|
| October 26 <sup>th</sup>                  | Founders Day dinner at museum with Greater NPR Main street event  |
| November 3 <sup>rd</sup>                  | BD/General Meeting 10:00am  |
| November 17 <sup>th</sup>                 | Memorial Service for deceased members - Frances Mallett   |
| December 5 <sup>th</sup>                  | BD/General Meeting 10:00am  |
| December 1 <sup>st</sup>                  | Christmas Tree Display - Clara Ann Smith  |
| December 12 <sup>th</sup>                 | Christmas Party at First Presbyterian Church at 6:00pm  |
| January 2 <sup>nd</sup>                   | BD/General Meeting 10:00am  |
| January 19 <sup>th</sup>                  | Florida after Disney Program - Clara Ann Smith  |
| February 6 <sup>th</sup>                  | BD/General Meeting 10:00am  |
| February 8 <sup>th</sup>                  | Annual Show Fashion Luncheon - Norma Nelson   |
| March 6 <sup>th</sup>                     | BD/General Meeting 10:00am  |
| March 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup>  | Chasco Fiesta - Memorabilia exhibit - Flint napping demonstration by John A. Chambers, Cherokee Longhair band |
| March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> | New York 79 <sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders encampment at museum  |
| April 3 <sup>rd</sup>                     | BD/General Meeting 10:00am  |
| April 20 <sup>th</sup>                    | 2nd Annual Ethnic Pasco Celebration - Midge London-Prace  |
| May 1 <sup>st</sup>                       | BD/General Meeting 10:00am  |
| May 11 <sup>th</sup>                      | 4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Mother/Daughter Tea at Museum  |
| June 5 <sup>th</sup>                      | BD/General Meeting 10:00am  |
| June 12 <sup>th</sup>                     | Installation of Officers at museum 7:00pm   |



*Happy  
Halloween*

## Officers and Directors 2001-2002

President .....	Ann Hildebrand	848-1523
Vice President .....	Midge London-Prace	847-3129
2nd Vice President .....	Norma Nelson	846-0011
Treasurer .....	George Brandli	844-7802
Secretary .....	Ginny Miller	845-0476
Corres. Secretary .....	Laura Helm	848-3899
Director (2 year term, ending 2003) .....	David Prace	847-3129
Director (2 year term, ending 2003) .....	David Welling	863-5263
Director (2 year term, ending 2002) .....	Abby Misemer	849-5235
Director (2 year term, ending 2002) .....	Marc Bowman	842-7353
Director (2 year term, ending 2002) .....	Sandra Lee Werner	842-7354
Librarian .....	Susan Dillinger	841-4547
Curator .....	Mary O'Benar	848-4995

## Committee Chairpersons

Docents .....	Midge London-Prace	847-3129
Publicity .....	Linda Kahn	849-9360
Buildings & Grounds .....	Richard Scholl	842-5692
Government Relations .....	David Spriggs	848-2809
Native American .....	Terry Kline	846-0157
By-Laws .....	Open	
Membership .....	Julia Hall/Edith Hempel	376-4171/848-4229
Publications/Production .....	David Prace	847-3129
Gift Shop .....	Audrey O'Neil	845-4936
Trips & Tours .....	Joan Rees	845-8747
Chasco Fiesta .....	Frances Mallett	849-5165
Historian .....	Lillian Kreps	842-8714
Newsletter .....	Open	
Fund Raising .....	Open	
Special Projects .....	Clara Ann Smith	847-0404

## Library Committee

Susan Dillinger	841-4547	Julie Hall	376-4171
Mary Leitch	842-4767	Edith Hempel	848-4229
Lillian Kreps	842-8714	Sally Johnson	849-4877
Frances Dee		934-5402	

## Curator Committee

Mary O'Benar	848-4995	Laura Helm	848-3899
Frances Mallett	849-5165	Norma Nelson	846-0011
Audrey O'Neil	849-3451	Bea Baum	841-6933
Midge London-Prace		847-3129	

## Pasco County Preservation Board Representatives

Joy Lane	846-8499
Norma Nelson	846-0011