

"The Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park"

# West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

VOL, XII, #9

Summer 2001

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Ann Hildebrand*

The Historical Society has been bustling with activity this Spring. Our Ethnic Day was a huge success. Several countries demonstrated their heritage.

On May 12, from 1:00 pm to 4:00pm, a Mothers Day Tea will occur. Sue Baillie is to be our guest speaker and will regale all with tales of early West Pasco.

The Catholic Church is due to be placed near our building soon.

The installation of this year's incoming officers will be done on June 13, at 6:00 pm and a reception will follow.

Our Gift Shop is in need of donations. If you are Spring cleaning and want to get rid of "stuff", please consider us. It's a good source of income to our organization.

I hope all of you have a pleasant summer. Thanks for your support to preserve history.



## FASHION SHOW

*by Norma Nelson*

This years Fashion Show was the largest ever in attendees. Todays Woman and Fraynes provided the fashions and thanks to all of our lovely models a good time was had by all. David Spriggs did the honors by MCing the affair and kept everyone in good humor. Our thanks goes out to all of you helped make this event so great.



## 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.



## MEMBERSHIP

Your Membership Committee has been hard at work to update and collect dues from about two dozen errant members. If you are one of these **please pay your dues** and continue with your support of the West Pasco Historical Society. A new, updated directory is being planned to be published for distribution at our season opener in early September. Listing in this Directory is very prestigious. So you don't want to be left out.



## GIFT SHOP NEWS

by Audrey O'Neil

The shelves in the Gift Shop are getting bare, especially after Chasco Fiesta. We were fortunate to have ceramic eggs and other ornaments made by Mary Jane, to sell along with the historical books and pamphlets. So now there is a desperate need for donations. Please look for donations.



## CURATOR COMMITTEE NEWS

by Midge London-Prace

The Curator's Committee recently met and put together a Schedule of Events for the 2002 Calendar. Anyone who may have an idea for an interesting program please get in touch with anyone on the Curator Committee. We appreciate any suggestions you may have.

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

1. **Carol Spicuglia**, for **Gene Van Brunt** a long time artist in our area, donated 27 antique pens, and pen holders. They are in the School house niche.
2. **Mary O'Benar** and **Ruth Teal** donated 3 hand tools, 3 small hardware store goods boxes, two from the Nicholson File Co. with original 5 and 10 inch files and the third from Victors hacksaw blades, in a hinged tin, circa 1937. All are in the museum store. A thermos carafe for use in the kitchen was also donated.
3. **Marie Meade** donated 8 Life magazines, among other subjects are the Kennedy years they will be put in the Library.
4. **Thomas A. Sirios** donated a framed picture of Father Felix Ullrich which will be placed in the restored church.
5. **Doris Szymanski** donated a large framed painting by Kathleen Strode entitled "Harpsichord"
6. **Jane Vaughn** donated a large "Star of Texas" quilt and an off white afghan. These will be on display at a later date.
7. **Edward West** donated a wooden "Pioneer Parlor" sign made at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, located at Fisherville, VA. It will be hung in the Pioneer Parlor.
8. **Katy Casto-Hevey** donated 38 Christmas mugs that will be in the pantry.
9. **Steve Caldwell**, for **Vic Alcienus**, donated four pictures; one is of the corner of Nebraska Avenue and Grand Boulevard with the train depot and Port Richey Land Office, another is of Orange Lake, and two are of ducks at Orange Lake.

10. **Robert E. Randall** donated a book written by him called Which Bible Has No Errors? It is in the Library with our bible collection.

11. **Carole Ritter** brought us a picture of Mr. and Mrs. James McKay who owned the McKay Shoe Repair Store. The Picture was blown up and the copy is in the McKay exhibit.

12. **Marie Meade** donated three books to the Library, "Origins" by Richard Leakey, "The North American Indians" by Fleming and "Berchtesgarden."

13. **Mr. Tony Pastore**, of Able Business Systems donated a Canon PC-6 RE copier.

14. **Sylvia Rantale** from the Finnish/American Club donated these items: a wooden nut bowl, Table cloth, glass plate, wooden candle holder, wooden decoration,



## ETHNIC PASCO CELEBRATION A SUCCESS

The first annual Ethnic Pasco Celebration was held on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and was deemed a success by the looks of the magnificent turnout. Four countries were represented: Greece, Poland, Scotland, and Finland. Inside the museum were beautiful exhibits and videos of each of the countries. Outside we were entertained by children performing Greek dances, a Scottish piper from Dunedin, a review of the history of the Finnish-American Club, and a display of colorful Polish costumes.



## 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	David Prace	847-3129
Director	David Welling	863-5263
Director	Abby Misemer	849-5235
Director	Marc Bowman	842-7353
Director	Sandra Lee Werner	842-7354
Librarian	Susan Dillinger	841-4547
Curator	Mary O'Benar	848-4995



## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS TO BE HELD AT MUSEUM

Put Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. The installation of your new Officers and Directors will be held at the Museum commencing at 6:00 pm. It is



hoped that Commissioner Peter Altman will conduct the ceremony.

The Honorary member for 2001 will also be announced. Refreshments will served and the Museum will be open for your inspection.



**The Little Parrot** (with thanks to my friend Rafe Martin)

*by George Brandli*

The little brown toned parrot was enjoying the azure blue sky and the warmth of the sun shining and warming her feathers. Then, the clouds began to gather and the storm came with lighting bolts striking among the trees. Sparks struck in the dry forest floor and flames soon were soaring high into the trees. The little parrot flew high above the fire and headed toward the safety of the river, but as he flew, she saw that her little friends were trapped by the circle of flames and could not escape.

What could she do? She had to save her friends. The little parrot then turned and flew to the river. Dipping her wings into the stream, she flew back over the raging inferno and shook the drops of water onto the blaze. over and over, her feathers singed and breathing hard from the roiling smoke., she continued to fly to the river and then return to shed the few drops of water.

High above in the heavens, the Gods of the universe were lolling on their golden couches and partaking of their favorite foods. They looked down and saw the little parrot and began to laugh loudly at the foolishness of this stupid bird thinking that she could extinguish such a fire. One of the Gods though felt sorrow for the little parrot and so transformed himself into a huge golden eagle and swooped down. He flew alongside the small flame scorched parrot. The huge eagle called, "Stop you foolish little bird, save yourself, you'll never put out the fire." The parrot flew on to the river and back again and again and called to the eagle, "I don't need advice, my Mother could have told me that, what I need right now is for someone to help me, I can't do it alone." The golden eagle silently flew on and then seeing how the little parrot cared for the others, his great golden eyes filled with tears and he began to weep. Huge torrents of tears fell from his eyes, increasing each moment until it was a deluge of water raining down on the flames and the fire was soon extinguished.

Some of his tears fell upon the tiny brown parrot who had cared so much for her friends that she almost gave her life, but was how marked by the smoke and flames,

scorched and beaten, she smiled her gratitude. Some of the tears from the giant eagle fell upon her and she was then transformed. As her little friends on the forest floor watched her loop and dive high over their heads, each spot on her body where the eagles tears had touched a brilliant color appeared, there was brilliant yellows, greens, blues, reds and she was a colorful speck in the sky as those below her cheered their hero.

We here at the Society must also have the faith and the determination to provide the means for the continued life of this organization. Those before us had the faith that it could have life and through their care and love, made their trips to the river to bring life giving Water to extinguish the doubts that it would succeed. Now, we must become the golden eagle and our "tears" must fall upon this museum and library in whatever form that may take. Each of us in our own way can be that eagle.



**Native-American Study Group  
to be formed by Terry Kline**

Wouldn't you like to know more about the local Indians that lived in our area, and their life style? How about other interesting history subjects? Then let's form a study group. Give me a call and I'll set up a meeting. 846-0157



**THIRD ANNUAL MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEA**

May 12 — 2:00 to 4:00pm

at the *Little Schoolhouse in Sims Park*  
6431 Circle Blvd, New Port Richey

Featured speaker will be Sue Baillie  
There will be four generations  
of Baillies in attendance

Please bring a photo of your Mother - Daughter -  
Grandmother to share with us

Exhibited will be  
a collection of Beatrix Potter by Sarah Williams  
and a collection of eggcups by Dorothy Browne

Tea and other refreshments will be served  
The public is invited - Please RSVP  
For information call 847-0404 or 847-3129





**NEW MEMBERS**

**Peter A. Altman**

6115 Lafayette Street  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
842-3262

**Jo Baughman**

5915 Seaside Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
847-1614 (I)

**Tom & Marion Brown**

4823 Ebbitide lane  
Port Richey, FL 34668  
846-1598

**Doris Jones**

7837 Hardwick Drive #323  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
372-2727

**Brenda McLain LaPointe**

2058 Sunset Point Road #14  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
442-0607

**Eleanor M. Millar**

7851 Edinburgh Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
847-7410 (I)

**Sally Smith**

5807 Montana Avenue  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
847-7500

**Southern Sun Landscape**

P.O.Box 661  
New Port Richey, FL 34656  
Att: Thomas Al Girouard

**Sarah Spangle**

6509 Circle Blvd  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
842-8777 (I)

**Janice Vabel**

6735 Pin Cherry Lane  
Port Richey, FL 34668  
844-3378

**David Welling**

15225 us 19 Suite 201  
Hudson, FL 34667  
863-5263 (I)

**CHANGE ADDRESS**

**Marc & Judy Bowman**

4650 Bay Boulevard #1048  
Port Richey, FL 34668

**Victoria & Thomas J.**

**McDonald**

8831 Planters Lane  
New Port Richey, FL 34654

**Joseph & Ruth MacDougald**

4101 Bayshore Boulevard, NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

**Roxann Mayros**

6073 Fall River Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34655

**Dana & Jeffrey Strait**

1367 S. Boulevard  
Chipley, FL 32428  
850-415-6780

**Virginia J. Tinsley**

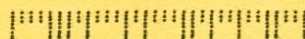
5738 Montana Avenue  
New Port Richey, FL 34653

**Don & Dorothy Vinson**

90 S. Highland Ave  
Tarpon Springs, FL 33689

**DECEASED**

**Sam Y Allgood, Jr.**



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

West Pasco Historical Society  
6431 Circle Boulevard  
New Port Richey, FL 34652

