



West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

Spring 2002

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members,

It has been my privilege to serve as President of the West Pasco Historical Society for the past two years. I have enjoyed the enthusiasm and dedication by the members, but most important the comradery with all of you. The determination shown by the Board members to preserve our history and display it is second to none.

Special thanks to all who worked so hard on all of the interesting programs and special events. Our doors have been open frequently and our presence is definitely felt in our community. The restoration of the old church is our next ambitious project and will be a corner stone for future endeavors.

Thank you again for your support and commitment.

All my Best, Ann



GIFT SHOP by Audrey O'Neil

On Saturday March 2nd the strong winds blew over a tree which hit the museum and put a hole in the roof right over the Gift Shop. All the gift items were removed for fear they would get wet as it rained the next day. So it has been decided that it would be a good idea to paint the gift shop walls and shelves while it is empty and give it a new look. We were disappointed that our shop could not be open for the Chasco Fiesta. So we are hoping and welcome any new donations to sell when we do open soon.



LIBRARY NEWS

Our staff has been growing with many new members. The cataloging of books and pictures in the library is still an ongoing project and anyone is welcome to help. It was so wonderful to welcome back Sally Johnson after a long illness. We all missed her.

In case you didn't know, Elizabeth Jones, our former Head librarian, has relocated near her family in Michigan. Friends report that she is very happy in her living arrangements and has met many old friends also there. Here's her address as we're sure she would love to hear from many of her friends living here. Grand Court, 1200 Corporate Drive, Adrian, MI 49221. Telephone 517-263-8802.



EVENTS COMING UP

The second annual Ethnic Pasco Celebration will be held on April 20th, a Saturday, at 1:00 pm.

Attending and performing this year will be:

- ✓ Scottish Piper and Highland dancers
- ✓ The Finnish choir
- ✓ The Greek children dancers
- ✓ The Sons and Daughters of Erin
- ✓ The Polish American Social Club of Pasco
- ✓ The Portugese American Cultural Assc.

The Bank of America is providing a tent cover and the street will be closed in front and will be our stage. We hope to have refreshments representing each country. Please mark your calendar.



Your presence is invited to the
Fourth Annual Mother/Daughter Tea
to be held at the

West Pasco Historical Society
Saturday May 11, 2002 at 1:00pm

Betsy Crisp will be the featured
speaker. Reservations are suggested

Call 847-0680 or 847-3129.

Thank You from Norma Nelson

I wish to express my gratitude to all the wonderful people who have assisted me through the years and because of their efforts we've experienced some great successful Fashion Shows!

Firstly, "thank you" to the participating models, some of whom are working women who took time off to be with us, City and County members who squeezed us into their busy everyday schedules. To our great audience who without them where would we be? For the hours of work Dave and Midge Prace spent making tickets, fliers and programs. To faithful Audrey O'Neil for collecting and wrapping hundreds of door gifts over the years. To Edie Hemple and Julie Hall who always helped and Mary Jane Prichard who always sat at the table with me as we greeted our guests. Mary R. Jones, while still recovering from an auto accident, still modeled and worked the half and half. For George Brandli's patience, great humor and stories. For David Spriggs, his presence and spectacular centerpiece creations. For the invocations given by Anne Brandli, Sally Johnson, and Shirley Hudson. And least we forget, those who took the tickets and sold them. And, lastly, to the gentlemen who assisted our models at the runway.

At this moment we do not know who will be the next chairperson but I would like to assure her that she will have firsthand co-operation with the members of her team - the West Pasco Historical Society! Again, to each and everyone of you THANK YOU.

FYI- The Hysterical Historians Red Hat Society meets at the Museum the fourth Thursday of the month. For information about the group call Queen Mother Bea Baum at 841-1614 or leave a message for her at the museum 847-0680.

Thank you

We want to thank Curator Mary O'Benar and new member Eve McMahon for doing a splendid job on the new display in the main entrance at New Port Richey City Hall. Make it a must to see the display soon. We know you'll enjoy it.

Needed: Refreshment Committee.

The Society needs people who will plan light refreshment for the guests, public and members that come to our various speaking events three or four times during our season. Please call the museum at 847-0680 and leave your name and number and we will contact you. Thank you

Docents orientation and Picnic will be announced for late Spring, early Summer - more later.

FLORIDA AFTER DISNEY PANEL

If you couldn't make this program held on January 19th you missed a great program. A panel discussion was held featuring:

Sonny Vergara, Southwest Florida Water Management District

Dr. Marc Yacht, Pasco County Health Department

Jed Pittman, Clerk of Circuit Court

Phil Chesnut, Gulfstream Bank

Erica Klevers, Pasco County Growth Management
and moderated by our own Ann Hildebrand.

Each panel member had a different viewpoint on how Disney influenced growth and expansion in Central Florida. A big thanks to Clara Ann Smith for heading up this project.



ANTIQUE TIDBITS by Eleanor Schoepflin

Collecting "Old Sleepy Eye" - Collectors of pottery and mill items formed the Old Sleepy Eye Collectors Club of America. Old Sleepy Eye was a well known Indian Chief born in 1780. His tribe lived in Minnesota around a lake which still bears his name. The Sleepy Eye Milling Co. was established in 1883 in the town of Sleepy Eye. The mill produced flour and cereals under numerous names and most of these brands used an Indian Chief on the label. The mill closed in 1921. During its existence, many advertising premiums were issued including a chalkware match holder, bronze paperweight and letter opener, wooden ruler, teaspoons, cloth and paper flour sacks, calendars, cookbooks, fans, buttons, plates, postcards, tin advertising signs, biscuit cutters, wooden boxes, sheet music, trading cards, clocks, etc.

The pottery items collectors like to acquire include a pottery mug with a verse manufactured by the Minnesota Stoneware Co. of Red Wing and in 1903 the Weir Pottery Co. of Illinois made a group of heavy stoneware items that had a Flemish blue relief decoration of an Indian Head, trees and teepee motif on a grey background and in cobalt on white. In 1906 Weir merged with six other potteries to form Western Stoneware Co. who expanded the Indian Head line to items made of a lighter weight clay. This line continued until 1937. Items made in colors other than cobalt on grey or white are very rare but include brown on white or yellow; green on white, solid brown, green, yellow, white, red and blue-black on yellow and variations of all of the above.

Limited editions of steins were made from 1952 to 1973

TIDBITS continued

and since 1979 Western Stoneware Co. had produced a 40 oz. stein each year, all marked and dated, each in a different color. (This was true as of 1984 at which time the source of this information was printed.) Needless to say "Old Sleepy Eye" collectibles are extremely hard to find and escalating in price. Perhaps this article will help the reader identify a piece at a flea market, auction, shop or garage sale.



BUS TRIP TO MICANOPY AND MARJORIE RAWLINGS STATE HISTORIC SITE

Clara Ann Smith has planned a bus trip from the museum on Thursday, April 25th leaving at 9. You will go to Micanopy, described by Bill Murphy in his "One Tank Trip Book," as a premier antique center and on to Marjorie Rawlings State Historic site. The feeling there makes you think of a simpler time. Lunch is "on your own" at the newly reopened Yearling restaurant. Members, friends, and the Red Hat Societies are encouraged to join us. Bus cost is \$20.00. Reservations may be made by calling Clara at 847-0404 or leaving a message at the Museum, 847-0680, before Monday April 22.

FROM THE MUSEUM CURATOR by Mary O'Benar

ANTIQUe, TOOLS INFORMATION UPGRADED:

Many thanks to new member Frank Mooney of New Hampshire, who walked into the museum as a visitor one day and stayed to help. Frank did our museum a great service identifying and researching our backlog of old tools, among other chores, and we sure hope he'll be back next year.

CITY HALL DISPLAY:

If you happen to be in New Port Richey City Hall, please take a look at our new display on Early Sims Park. Credit for the tedious hours it took to pull this topic together into a display goes to new member Eve McMahon, and thanks for the loan of her ceramics to Mary Jane Prichard. There's a lot of info in this display, next time we'll go for something simpler!

CHASCO & CIVIL WAR:

If you haven't been around lately, maybe you haven't heard how well our efforts to widen our Civil War presentation went during Chasco. Having the 79th N.Y. Highlander re-enactors camped on our front lawn brought Chasco visitors into the museum ready to see and appreciate our Civil War displays. We expanded display of our own permanent collection, and we looked good

alongside the war-era memorabilia on loan from John Raabe. Martha Williams brought in an excellent display on Civil War Veterans' local grave sites. Plus we had Confederate money, personal savings in Frances Mallet's family.

Our visitors seemed to be very interested in the Civil War things, more interested than we really expected. A second re-enacting group has asked to join in next year, so our 'war effort' could get bigger. We all should pat ourselves on the back for how good we did during Chasco!

Special recognition to our youngest member Brienna Lysterly and to Grandkids Michael, 10, and Sarah, 12, who helped our very new member Merle Freitag put in long Chasco hours. These three fresh and hopeful faces really added a bunch of dollars to the donation jar!

PLEASE LOOK IN YOUR JUNK DRAWERS AND TOOLSHEDS, WE WANT TO FIND CHEAP TREASURES:

Members: if you have wooden nickels, tokens, coins, stamps, etc. from local or Florida businesses would you please consider donating them to the museum? We are building a collection, especially of cheap metal tokens. These are largely worthless items on the collecting market, but valuable to us as history if we can accumulate a large group. We are particularly looking for 1970's± Beach tokens from Gulf Harbors and Lunch tokens from Gulf High School. Many local tokens are issued by fraternal organizations or clubs for a free drink, some like this may be still be in use. Other examples are old tokens from toll roads and wooden nickels for free milk or bread from grocery stores. Especially Important to us are Company tokens from Florida lumber camps and produce farms. Please ask your friends and relatives to look for their forgotten Florida tokens, too.

TEXTILES

A curator's team of Bea Baum and new members Ruth and Merle has started trying to clean some of our fabrics under the advice of a heritage textile specialist. Bea is carefully laundering some of the stronger, plainer garments and we all spent a day de-dusting and re-airing the museum fabulous quilts. With the advice, this procedure went well and the quilts look quite a bit brighter. Our textiles have suffered damages because we are such an old (and low-tech) building. Antiquated textile should be preserved at 55% humidity, impossible in our building.

If you know of anyone who owns or manages a climate-controlled Storage Facility and would donate the museum a little bit of room, Please let Mary or Midge know. It is strongly advised that we keep our quilts in such storage until the church is finished or our own air system can be renovated.

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



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

DONATIONS RECEIVED JANUARY TO MARCH, 2002:

#1036: From Jackson Family, Georgia Ave., NPR: wool U.S. army-issue blankets used throughout WW I.

#1037: From Phil Dahlgren, Veterans Village, NPR:
a) Smithsonian Book of North American Indians
b) new, large kitchen knife.

also, from Catherine Barrowman, Safety Harbor: 120 individually packed servings of flavored coffee creamer.

#1038: from Mary Jane Prichard:
Tintype of 3 school boys in uniform (in tintype case, Museum Rm.); Truman newspaper; Jimmy Carter bio. magazine; Pasco County Centennial Book; Antique book: Ulysses among the Phoenicians, Bryant, 1871; Ballbrand: box of rubber seals for canning jars (in Store)

#1039: from Pasco Coin Shop, Hudson:
Local wooden nickel, out of print issued as advertising by 'The Money Shop', a now-defunct business (on display in hall).

#1040: from Eve McMahon, New Port Richey:
3 framed sand paintings, now, perfect condition

#1041: from Pat Pfaff, New Port Richey:
1960 artist's map of the proposed Gulf Harbor development also showing nearby areas.

#1043: from Kurt S. Browning, Pasco Co. Supervisor of Elections:
One of our now-historic Vote- a-Matic booths, sample punch card ballots, and Ballot Box #12. (plus a little sprinkling of chad)

#1045: Robert Bragg, Holiday:
A beautiful Conley Folding Plate Camera, c.1920, accompanied by information from an expert. (should be central to an expanded camera display next year.)

#1046: Loaned from Terry Klein Family, New Port Richey: Civil War Etchings loaned for Chasco, returned.

#1047: Terry Kline Family, NPR:
a) 21 Florida postcards & 2 multicard folders, 1960s -70s vintage
b) Viewfinder reels (in Viewfinder on Display in Museum). c) antique auto tools: valve grinder, valve seater & compound.

#1048: Dennis Witt, Holiday:
a) small animal trap, round design (on display in Store) b) wooden framed Bucksaw of considerable age.