



West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

2nd QUARTER 2003

A Message from your President

Dear Members,
Now that Spring is here and Summer will soon be upon us it's time to come to the museum and participate in the planned events. Please mark them on your calendar after you've read the Calendar of Events information. I want to thank everyone who worked during the extra days we were open during Chasco. We couldn't have done it without you. I hope you were able to meet the artist **David Leonard** whose paintings we were lucky enough to display. We hope to have him come and speak about them next season. On April 24 we will be having a General meeting a 7:00pm at the museum. **Mike Olson**, our Tax Collector, will speak about West Pasco history and the history of some of the early families. He will be answering your questions, so jot down anything you might want to ask him. I hope to see you soon, and want wish you a wonderful Summer. Regards, Midge

Gift Shop News by Audrey O'Neil

We have just received some very nice new items from Merle Freitag and Marilyn O'Brien. Mae Taylor gave us necklaces of polished stones. Come and see them, they are lovely. Georgia Robinson has her creative wooden mirrors on consignment. Thanks to all who have given items to the shop during this past year. Drop by and enjoy shopping with us.

Report on February Fashion Show

The Spartan Manor was the scene of our annual Fashion Show. Valentines day was the theme. A collection of Antique Valentines recently donated by Mrs. **Virginia Reddy** were on display. She explained to us that it was her father's valentine collection from his boyhood. Each valentine was prettier than the next and were admired. George Brandli, our Master of Ceremonies, was especially entertaining with his home spun tales and kept the event flowing. What would we do without him? The fashions were by Fraynes Fashions, and narrated by **Ginger Cavitch** and **Jeanne Kisby**. Our models looked lovely in them. Again this year Mr. **T. J. Frayne**, our local manufacturer had a word to say, we love to have him

attend. The door prizes, 50/50, flower auction (Flowers by Gru), and "grand prize" kept people on the edge of their chairs. To end the event **Mary R. Jones** entertained us, which we always look forward to every year. This year Mary's daughter, from Orlando, came and even modeled an outfit for us. We thank her for helping out. And last but not least we thank our chairman Norma Nelson. Once again she did a magnificent job. Here's to you Norma, for all the years of fund raising, THANK YOU.

Announcements

Norma Nelson received recognition at a March 18th Luncheon held at the Spartan Manor. The RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) honored her with the Outstanding Volunteer for Dedication and service Award. She has been volunteering over 100 hours a month at the Marchman Technical Education Center. Congratulations Norma!

The Pithlachascotte #742 Quester group has been awarded a Grant for \$500 by the Florida State Questers. This is for the Society's library to purchase archival materials for our extensive photo collection.

Membership by Julie Hall and Edie Hempel

Just a reminder to pay your membership dues for the year 2003! Please send your dues as soon as possible. A new Membership directory is in the making and we would like to include your name in the roster. We need your support!

Slate of Officers

Your Nominating Committee comprised of David Prace, Frances Mallett, and Ginny Miller is pleased to submit the following slate of officers for the year 2003-2004.

President Midge London-Prace
Vice President Elsie Coy
2nd Vice President Jeanne Kisby
Treasurer George Brandli
Secretary Ginny Miller

Corres. Secretary Laura Helm
 Director (2 year term, ending 2005) David Prace
 Director (2 year term, ending 2005) David Welling
 Director (2 year term, ending 2005) Marc Bowman

A FOG FIGURE OR DEATH by G.L. Brandli

My family and the Altarr family who lived down the mountainside near the village of Lost Creek, West Virginia, had to secure water from a spring about a tenth of a mile around the side of the hill. The water jetted from a crevice in the rock face of a small cliff and flowed into a rocky pool at the base.

It was an early Fall evening and as usual, Mr. Altarr and his two sons, Leslie about age eleven and Carl age seven, were going to the spring to bring in water for the night. The sun was still shining low on the horizon and the three of them were enjoying the warmth of the day and the crunch of fallen leaves beneath their feet. When they had gone about half way, when Carl looked up to his right and said, "Oh, there's my friend, I have to go play with him." The Father looked up also and there in a clearing about 75 yards higher on the mountain was a wisp of what looked like fog, about 2 feet in diameter and about 4 feet tall. It was moving around in the clearing and at times touched the ground and then rose slightly as if flying. Carl started to run toward the dancing fog, but his Father called out to stop and Carl came back. When he did, the fog was gone. Mr. Altarr stood there shaking. Why was he so afraid? He could not explain it, but a prickly sensation ran up his neck as he thought of what he had just seen. They continued their journey and secured the water, but he rushed the boys past that spot on the way back home.

The next day was uneventful and as usual and at about the same time, the Father and the two boys headed out for the spring and water. As they approached the spot where the bank of fog had been seen the evening before, Carl again said, "Oh, look, there is my friend again, I have to go play with him." With that, Carl started running up the mountainside. Mr. Altarr saw the fog dancing, just as before and he began to scream at his son to come back. Carl continued his sprint toward the clearing and the Father then began to run after him, screaming for him to come back. His fear of the unknown permeated his heart. Running as hard as he could, the Father was about 20 yards behind his son, when the boy reached the dancing fog bank. Carl called out, "I'm here," and threw his arms around the fog which was the same size as he was.

The son spun around twice with his arms around the fog and then fell to the ground. By the time Mr. Altarr reached him, his son was on his back, a smile on his face, but he was dead. The fog had gone.

It was the subject of discussion for months, but none of the experts called in could explain the event that took the life of one so young.

At one time, I was inclined to scoff in disbelief at the stories told around the coal fire by my older relatives and neighbors. They spoke of Hoop Snakes grasping their tails in their mouth and rolling down the mountainside. Of Balls of Fire rolling through the night and my uncle worth swore he had seen this. When a Ball of Fire would hit a mountain cabin, someone inside would die at that instant. Then Carl died and my life perspective changed. Let us all listen intently to what others are saying and not be judges of what they believe.

My brother's neighbor near Broad Run, West Virginia, a spinster lady by the name of Guerny Funk who keeps a Holstein cow on a rope and takes her for evening strolls along the river has a solution for all her problems. When problems do occur in her life, she just places her broom on the floor across the threshold. She believes that problems and bad spirits cannot cross a broom handle and so she remains safe in her home. Who know? My brother says it seems to work for her.

Antique Tidbits by Eleanor Schoepflin

Coffee Grinders: Wake up and smell the coffee! Collectors are paying big prices for coffee grinders! Coffee beans have been roasted, ground and brewed for centuries but coffee mills or grinders are utilitarian objects designed to grind fresh coffee beans. Most grinders are from the late 19th century (the "golden age") The large cast-iron countertop models were used in country stores. They were decorated with red paint and colorful stencils, some with eagle finials. Early models were also made of copper and brass. By the late 1880's, a new process made aluminum inexpensive and it was widely used in grinders. Names to look for are: Adams, Arcade, Baldwin Bros., Daisy, Elgin, National Enterprise, Lane Bros., Parker, Regal and Sun Mfg. Co. All were in business before or around the turn of the century. In the 1870's, pre-roasted and packaged beans became widely available. The store clerk did the grinding (not the consumer). Hand operated mills continued to be made into the 1930's. They were useful in rural areas that had no electricity. Coffee mills used in the home were described as "Lap", "Table" or "Wall". Decals were often used on the front of lap and table styles, though sometimes they can be found inside the drawer. Because decals are prone to flaking off and fading or often destroyed when the mill was refinished, lap and table mills are the most difficult type to attribute to a specific manufacturer. Prices range from \$100 to \$1,000 according to condition, rarity and, of course, what the collector is willing to pay.

Indian Corner by Terry Kline

Recently the Historical Society was given the honor by Commissioner Peter Altman to host **Francisco Painequeo**, the head of Indigenous Affairs in Lapintana, Chile. He was visiting sites in the United States as a guest of the State Department. I found him a warm and friendly man and had the pleasure of giving him a small talk on the Tocobaga Indians. He was quite impressed with the display and respect of the indigenous people of Florida by the museum. I'd like to thank each and everyone of you for the support that makes these events possible.

Library News by Bea Baum

Adopt -a-book -

Books on Florida history are purchased and donated to the reference library. The donors name will be prominently displayed on the book. Local history preferred.

A "memorial" cookbook is being planned with recipes from those who have been involved with our library and also the New Port Richey library on Main Street. With their help we may be able to cover the cost of binding and printing. Each recipe must have the name of the donor. Recipe collection begins now. Leave them on the Library desk. We will have more information on this later.

Wish List

We would like donations to pay for our newspapers to be laminated before they fall apart. We have one box that badly needs to be done as they are from the twenties and can hardly be handled.

PHCC Intern Program

Our new intern **Joseph Bie** has been busy every Tuesday morning entering obits into our database. He has gone through newspapers of the early years and is now into the 40's. We already have had a happy ending for a visitor from New Jersey who came to look for some record of her aunt who lived here in the 40's. The aunt was the house keeper for Father Leap of the Our lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church for many years. Her niece wanted a death certificate but couldn't obtain any information at the government complex. She was told to try the museum. We found her aunt's obituary on the front page of a March 1950 paper and made her a copy. She found that her aunt was buried in the Pine Hill Cemetery and we told her how to get there. Hopefully she located her grave. A happy ending!

January 25th Program by Clara Ann Smith

The New Year started well with our January program moderated by Past President **Ann Hildebrand**. Two very knowledgeable people, Mr **Mark Hildebrand**, President of Safety Harbor Museum and Mr **Ernest Dibble**, Board Member of the Florida Historical Society who spoke on the subject of membership, goals, finance opportunities and how to attain excellent programs. They emphasized the need to plan and nurture future potential leadership. Grant sources were suggested. We hope to aggressively add new members who will work with us to build our Society. Recruiting families with children and bringing in early retirees is important mission. Expanding the Intern program with local colleges will bring in youth. Another important resource that are helpful are field trips to other museums like Heritage Park in Pinellas to learn from them and build board member leadership. We have a lot of work ahead. Please take an active part to help our society.

Thanks should go to these folks:

Sally Smith and a friend held a yard sale to benefit the museum a couple of weekends ago. Despite a heavy down pour cutting the sale short, they turned in \$200 to our treasurer. Way to go ladies! We are grateful for your efforts. With a few more like you and we'd have the new roof in no time. Please be sure and let Sally know how much we appreciate her work for our Society.

Don Kirby for fixing a number of electrical problems we had at the museum.

Terry Kline for replacing the fencing which made our Chasco parking manageable.

Georgia Robinson for labeling our photo collection and donating easels.

In Passing

Elizabeth Jones passed away on January 18th.

Her kindness and love has no ends
Known as Betty by a host of friends
Our devoted librarian is missed, have no fear
She gave of herself for many of year
A retired school teacher and loving mother
A special person, like no other.

By Adele Gregos
International Society of Poets
Florida State Poets Association

Jack Drummond was a long time member. We were all saddened to hear of Jack Drummond's death on March 24. He was a loyal and active member of the society for many years. We will miss his calling cards with wise and comical sayings. His son will advise us of a memorial that will be held soon.

West Pasco Historical Society
6431 Circle Boulevard
New Port Richey

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April Program

Thursday, April 24th at 7:00pm. A general meeting will be held to elect the slate of officers. **Mike Olson**, our Tax Collector, will speak about West Pasco history and the history of some of the early families. He will be answering your questions, so jot them down.

May Program

May 10th at 1:00pm. The 5th annual Mothers/Daughters Tea will be held at the society. The speaker will be Mrs **Regina Van Petegherm**, who will speak about her families adoption of two young Russia girls. This year we will be charging \$5.00 to raise funds for the Society. We asking for donations of tea pots that can be used next year, when we hope the tea will be held in the newly renovated church. Reservations will be needed, Please call 847-3129 for information.

June Program

On June 11th at 11:30am. The Installation of Officers and the Society's 30th Anniversary luncheon will be held at the Clarion Restaurant this year. We have invited **Dr Lewis Wynne**, executive Director of the Florida Historical Society to be our featured Speaker. For reservations and information please call Elsie Coy at 815-0046.

ADDENDUM TO DIRECTORY

2003 #7

NEW MEMBERS

Norma Cecil
9101 Suffolk Lane
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----- (I)

Vea C. Flood
8336 Tannamera Place
New Port Richey, FL 34655
376-6657 (I)

Erald Jarvis
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New Port Richey, FL 34653
842-8742 (I)

Ed & Marge Kloess
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New Port Richey, FL 34652
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Louise Meichner
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Bayonet Point, FL 34667
869-1662 (I)

CHANGE ADDRESS

Janice Zabel
3178 Azalea Drive
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