



West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

1st QUARTER 2004

A Message from the President

When you come to the museum you will see that the roof replacement has started. I want to thank all of you who were contributors to the roof fund, be it with donations or working on the fund raisers that were held. Our members and friends certainly came through. Once the work is finished we will receive the matching grant from the City of New Port Richey.

We have some exciting events coming up this season, they are listed in this newsletter. Please attend as many as you can. We need to have your support. I hope your holiday season was merry and that the New Year is happy.

Sincerely, Midge



New Member Reception on January 24th

We will be having a reception for our new members on Saturday January 24th at 1:00pm. Members should come to learn about and meet our new members. There will be a history of our Society given by Bea Baum followed by a slide show presented with commentary by Jeff Miller. Refreshments will be served after at the social hour. Hope to see you there!



Wish List

1. Money to continue laminating our collection of newspapers. We've laminated 1919 thru 1938 papers using the generous donations from members.
2. Two computer desks for our media center.

Membership Renewal Time

By now all members, with the exception of Life members, should have received their membership renewal for 2004. Please return it as soon as possible. You will see that you have the opportunity to upgrade your membership if you wish. Just indicate your choice and enclose the correct amount accordingly. Remember that your dues are a major part of our operating income, so we welcome your quick response.



The 2003 Christmas Party at the Clarion

Candy canes and their story was the theme of our Christmas dinner. Poinsettia's were the table decorations that added to the lovely scene and went home with one of the lucky table attendees. George Brandli was MC and entertained us with his usual flair. During the dinner Lori and Mike played Christmas music that added to the festivities. We had the pleasure of sharing Terry and Debbie Kline's 34th wedding anniversary with them. There was a silent auction that took place during the evening that members participated in. The 50/50 was shared by four members and with the museum. And the door prize, which was a beautiful flower arrangement in a large Christmas ornament was won by Harriet. All in all it was a lovely evening.



Help Us Serve the Public

We are opening 10:00a to 1:00p on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. We need people to volunteer on these two mornings. If you can come 3 hours once a month on one of these days; the second or third Tuesday of the month, or one of the Wednesdays of the month. Please call 847-3129.

Baskets: Baskets were invented when man first required containers to gather, store and transport goods. Today's collector, influenced by the country look, focuses on baskets made of sprint, rye straw or willow. Emphasis is placed on handmade examples. Painted or woven decorated baskets are rarely handmade unless American Indian. The American Indians were the first basket weavers on the continent and, of necessity, the early Colonial settlers and their descendants pursued this artistic handcraft to provide essential containers for berries, eggs and endless other items to be carried or stored. Materials at hand were often utilized and baskets made in one region are often distinguishable simply by analyzing the natural fibers used in their construction. Most on the market today were made between 1860 and the early 1900's. American Indian baskets can be a treasure. Collectors value them for their beauty, traditional design, craftsmanship and historical association.

Although originally utilitarian, they are considered works of art today. Fine old baskets occasionally show up unrecognized at house sales and flea markets but there are modern copies and it takes expertise to tell the fabulous find from the fake. At an auction in 1999 a Tlingit (Pacific Northwest) basket (c. 1910) rattle top, brown and orange decoration, 4"hx6"diam. brought \$2,750. Prices ranged from \$154 for a Papago 1930's lidded 9"hx14" diam. to a \$2,090 bid on a Achamawi (c.1920) Pit River Conical Burden basket (16"hx16"w). And a Tlingit (c.1920) polychrome, geometric design 9"hx14"diam. brought a whopping \$5,500. Among the most costly forms are the Nantucket Lighthouse baskets which were basically copied from those made there for centuries by the aboriginal Indians. They were designed in the style of whale oil barrels and named for the South Shoal Nantucket Lightship where many were made during the last half of the 19th century. The collector of baskets has a broad field from which to choose as there were baskets specifically made for apples, eggs, flowers, potatoes and cheese. Materials and styles are also abundant including coiling, pleating and twining; hemp, rushes, yucca, willow and hardwood splints. Take your choice.

Dues-R-Due

Christmas Wassail Bowl Party

The weather was perfect for our party before the annual Christmas Parade. It started slowly but gathered speed as people came to enjoy the wassail and the other goodies. The Candy Cane display was the highlight of the night. Our annual Christmas lighted parade was one of the longest and prettiest we've seen. Santa had an a specially beautiful float with the reindeers all prancing before him. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.



News from the Gift Shop by from Audrey O'Neil

It is a difficult task trying to compete with the Dollar stores and Thrift shops. So we need some real nice items to add to our inventory. We find jewelry, china, glassware, pottery, brass items, cards, antiques, and books sell well. If you can donate anything that's in good condition to the Gift Shop to sell we sure will appreciate it.



Library News by Bea Baum

Please buy a book or donate money to buy a book to keep our "Adopt a Book" program going. Your name will be in the book as the contributor. This will help add to our reference library. This past month Terry Kline donated two books, one is on order.

Have a favorite recipe? Write it up to be published in the cook book we're putting together. Be sure to put your name with it.

The "Hysterical Historians" Red Hatters will be meeting at the Historical Society on January 22nd at 10:30 am. This will be an 2nd annual meeting and birthday party. Please bring a covered dish to share. A birthday cake will be desert. See you there.



Newsletter Editor Needed

We would like to find someone to take over the publishing of our newsletter. There are four issues during the year. Input is gathered from the committee chairpersons and regular column contributors. If you're interested please call 847-3129.

Report on the Obituary Committee

Joe Bie and Danny Brooks have been working very hard doing research and data input of the obituaries from our newspapers. The Obit project has now been put on one of the media center computers that was recently donated to the Society by the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce. So far there are over 1200 entries. We also have the information on the internet at our new site. www.rootsweb.com/~flwphs



Curator Committee Report

The following donations were received as of 1/15/04:

- #1125- a book called "Florida Fruits and Vegetables" donated by Joan Rees
- #1126 - Oki Fax machine donated by Joan Rees
- #1127- antique vanity mirror donated by Ann J. Meyers
- #1128- cake decorating set donated by Terry Kline
- #1129- Folding chair caddy donated by Foss Storage
- #1130- 3 computer monitors donated by Harold C. Wisenburn
- #1131- 3 computers donated by West Pasco Chamber of Commerce
- #1132- 1 Cannon Scanner donated by Wendy Brenner
- #1133- 2 books The History of America, and History of the United States donated by Terry Kline
- #1134- 1 each, shoe repair hammer, knife, buffer, and awl.
- #1135- 1 Cannon Copier donated by Able Business Systems



Reasons We Say Thank You.

1. We've received a "new to us" copier thanks to Able Business Systems and Peoples bank.
2. Our media center has grown to 3computers given by the Chamber of Commerce, a scanner given by Wendy Brenner and a fax machine, given by Joan Rees.
3. Dannee Brooks has researched and made indexes for five of the local history books we sell.

Anyone wishing to be on the Nominating Committee please notify us before the March 3rd meeting.

Fashion Show

Sponsored by West Pasco Historical Society

February 13, 2004

Donation \$15.00

Luncheon 12:00 - Show 1:00 pm

Spartan Manor

6121 Massachusetts Ave.

New Port Richey

Fashions by Bealls Department Store

Tickets are on sale at the Museum

Call 847-0680 or 847-3129

Deadline for tickets February 9

Door prizes, 50/50, raffle



Calendar of Events—January thru March

January 2004 Programs

Saturday January 24th at 1:00pm

New Member Reception. A brief history will be given by Bea Baum and Jeff Miller will present a slide show of local interest with commentary. Come meet our new members to learn about them and bring a potential new member with you.

February 2004 Program

Saturday, February 7th an "Antique Appraisal" sponsored by Greater New Port Richey Main Street will be held at the WPHS. An Art Show will be around Orange Lake.

Friday, February 13th

Fashion show, held at Spartan Manor, 12:00pm
Chairperson: Jeanne Kisby is presenting both men's and women's clothing fashions from Bealls Department Stores. The theme will be "Great Lovers" from the past.

March 2004 Program

Chasco memorabilia from the first one in 1922 until the present, with slide shows of past Chasco parades.

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

Visit our new website location at:
www.rootsworld.com/~flwphs

ADDENDUM TO DIRECTORY

2004 #2

NEW MEMBERS

Lisa Bradberry
2364H Lynn Lake Ct. S.
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
1-727-866-0825 (I)

Caryl Melancon
8807 Shoemaker Lane
Hudson, FL 34667
863-8342 (I)

James A. O'Connor
13228 Neptune Drive
Hudson, FL 34667
869-1987 (I)

E. Nelson Rees
9125 Lakeview Drive
New Port Richey, FL 34654
868-1194 (L)

Debra Roberts
7530 Little Road
New Port Richey, FL 34655
815-7025 (I)

CHANGE ADDRESS

Samuel A. Eaton
2655 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd
Clearwater, FL 33759

CHANGE INFO

Lillian Kreps
Change status to Life member

Ginny Miller
Change status to Life member

Margaret Toscano
Change status to Life member

DECEASED

Eileen Cooper
W.E. Vinson