



# West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

VOL XII, #7

FALL 2000

## *The President's Message*

Our fall menu started with a festival event and a flurry of activity. In September we had Dr. Susan McManus and her mother Elizabeth McManus, come and speak to us about their book, "Citrus, Sawmills, Critters, & Crackers." This book, about the early history of Land O' Lakes and Lutz, has been a huge success. They regaled us with colorful stories of this era and the local flavor of the community.

Over the summer the Board of Directors have been meeting to shore up the feasibility of moving West Pasco's first Catholic Church to be located in Sims Park near the Museum. We have been fortunate to have joint assistance from the City of New Port Richey and Pasco County. The task we have ahead will be to raise funds to accomplish venture.

*Happy History Preservation....*  
*Ann*

## **... Antique Tidbits by Eleanor Schoepflin NODDERS**

So called because of the nodding action of their heads and hands, noddors originated in China where they were used in temple rituals to represent deity. Early in the 18th century the idea was adapted by Meissen and by French manufacturers who produced not only china noddors but bisque as well. These early pieces sell for between \$100 and \$1,500 depending on age, condition, rarity and desirability.

Later, celluloid, paper mache and wood were used. The idea was used during the Victorian era by toy manufacturers. In Germany, in the 1930's, noddors were produced to tie in with American comic strips and movies. At a Maine auction in 1997 Farina from Our Gang brought \$231, Chubby Chaney \$210, and Jackie Cooper \$137, Moon Mullins and The Gumps characters ranged from \$68 to \$79.

Noddors show up from time to time in the #smalls case at antique shops and shows.

## **91 Calendars are Coming**

This coming year the theme will be Historical Markers in West Pasco. This Calendar will be another keepsake and will be available in early November. Please remember that this is one of the Society's fund-raisers so please, support us and get you calendar. They also make great gifts.

## **A Pirate of the Cootee by Terry Kline**

The other day as I was jacking my jaw, a typical Yebel (that's a Yankee transplant who thinks he's from the South-you know, one that says "yall" after being here three years!) stopped me in the middle of a half-truth or a half-lie (I can't remember which one), to tell me I was pronouncing it all wrong.

"It's Pithlachascotee-not cootie! That's a bug kids get! she said.

Little did she know that she had hit a soft spot-that those waters run deep through my life as sure as the blood in my veins. Being the smart ass that I am, I informed her the actual name is Askachascotee. The Pithla probably came along to try to legitimize the story the postman stole from Pocahontas and the reason there is a Chasco is it rhymes with Pasco. (That got her!)

My first Cootee encounter was as a small boy during the occasional boat ride up river. It was Jungle Jim, Tarzan, and the African Queen all rolled into one. It was jungles, turtles, spiders, and snakes. It was love at first sight!

I remember my father telling us to keep our hands out of the water because of the large gar that swam in the river. The gators on the bank already had us convinced.

Sometimes we would picnic or go to the mouth of the river to watch the sunset. The part that I liked best was that I got to sit in the front of the boat.

Living in downtown New Port Richey, as soon as I was mobile the river became my South and West boundaries. My friends and I spent most of our time playing and building forts in her hammocks, swimming and fishing in her waters. Sometimes we built a raft to float like Huck Finn.

The Chasco Fiesta was no doubt the biggest event in our lives. There was a circus and rides, hot dogs and cotton candy, and we got to dress like Indians.. what more could a boy ask for? When the boat parade came, we were ready, having built a palm frond Teepee on the old raft. Our mother's best lipstick was war paint. We paddled the river, sure we would win the grand prize!

There were two bridges we called the day bridge and the night bridge. The day bridge on the Boulevard was where we went to smoke, cuss, and do the things our parents told us not to. We always went under the south side, never the north as it just wasn't cool. That meant most of the time I had to pass by the Troll, a local bully who was always ready with a wedgie or a toss off the bridge. Sometimes I think he started the north side taboo.

**Continued in Next Issue**



# West Pasco Historical Society, Inc.

## Officers and Directors 2000-2001

President .....	Ann Hildebrand	848-1523
Vice President .....	David 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 .....	Julia Hall	376-4171
(2 year term, ending 2001)		
Director .....	Edith Hempel	848-4229
(2 year term, ending 2001)		
Director .....	Abby Misemer	849-5239
(2 year term, ending 2002)		
Director .....	Sandra Werner	842-7354
(2 year term, ending 2002)		
Director .....	Marc Bowman	842-7353
(2 year term, ending 2002)		
Librarian .....	Kristi Theurer	841-7536
Curator .....	Midge London-Prace	847-3129

## Committee Chairpersons

Docents/Publicity .....	Midge London-Prace	847-3129
Buildings & Grounds .....	Bette Farmerie	849-0242
Government Relations .....	David Spriggs	848-2809
Native American .....	Norma Nelson	846-0011
By-Laws .....	Open	
Membership: .....	Julia Hall	376-4171
.....	Edith Hempel	848-4229
Publications/Production .....	David Prace	847-3129
Gift Shop .....	Audrey O'Neil	845-4936

## Gift Shop by Audrey O'Neil

Have you seen the new Richey Suncoast Theatre plaquettes made by Mary Jane Prichard? It's a miniature replica of the theater when it was the Meighan Theatre. They are now available in the Gift Shop. Stop by and pick one up to match the one she made last year of the Museum. Next year she might make another landmark. (The Museum does depend on sales from the Gift Shop.)

We have other items to pick from, nick-nacks, crafts, toys, and paintings. If you spend \$20.00 in the Gift Shop you will receive a free red white and blue craft for your car antenna.

\* \* \*

Did you know that the West Pasco Historical Society has a website of its own. <http://www.geocities.com/wphs.inc/>

It was developed by a young man by the name of Rob Bains who is a student at U of F. This was a summer school project for him and we were the beneficiaries of it. And, while were at it, the Museum has a new answering machine thanks to Ginny Miller. No more lost calls.

## Committee Chairpersons Continued

Trips & Tours .....	Joan Rees	845-8747
Chasco Fiesta .....	Frances Mallett	849-5165
Historian .....	Lillian Kreps	842-8711
Newsletter .....	Tom Burke	842-2254
Fund Raising .....	Open	
Special Projects .....	Clara Ann Smith	847-0404

## Library Committee

Julie Hall .....	376-4171
Mary Leitch .....	842-4767
Edith Hempel .....	848-4229
Alice Mueller .....	376-0703
Lillian Kreps .....	842-8714
Frances Dee .....	934-5402
Sally Johnson .....	849-4877
Advisor - Susan Dillinger .....	841-4547

## Curator Committee

Midge London-Prace .....	847-3129
Laura Helm .....	848-3899
Frances Mallett .....	849-5165
Norma Nelson .....	846-0011
Mary Jane Prichard .....	845-4936
Audrey O'Neil .....	849-3451
Bea Baum .....	841-4936

## Pasco County

### Preservation Board Representatives

Joy Lane .....	846-8499
Norma Nelson .....	846-0011

## WPHS season opens with a blast.

*(More like a hurricane, as in Gordon.)*

Although the day started out wet and windy it cleared up enough for many hardy souls to come out for the season opener. The Society hosted authors Susan A. McManus and Elizabeth Reigler McManus as speakers. They rewarded us with many tales of early Pasco County, and answered many questions regarding its history. Featured on display were artifacts and pictures that supported the title of the McManus book entitled, "Citrus, Sawmills, Critters, & Crackers."

Oranges clipped from Midge London-Prace's tree, a bucksaw loaned by George Brandli, critters by Carol Spigulia, and a bull whip on loan from the Starkey ranch. In addition, a beautiful model train layout was put on display by George Robinson, depicting a train siding in a sawmill.

The McManus's were presented a WPHS Certificate of Appreciation and a selection of books from our Gift Shop. In turn, Susan McManus gave the Library a copy of their new book entitled, "The Lutz Depot." Refreshments were served after the presentations.



About two years ago, I was in West Virginia and this story appeared in the Clarksburg Telegram newspaper.

It seems that this doctor had his office near the top of a mountain in a small strip mall gouged out of the mountain side. A man came into the doctor's office for an examination and collapsed with a heart attack in the examination room. The doctor gave emergency treatment and placed a call for the paramedics to transport to the hospital. The paramedics arrived, strapped the man to a gurney and wheeled him out to the waiting ambulance. Before loading him, they remembered they needed the doctor's signature on a document and they both returned to the office, leaving the man strapped to the gurney alongside the ambulance. Witnesses observed the gurney slowly start to move down the grade in the parking lot. It drifted down along the row of cars, made a right turn at the end of the row, just as if the man was guiding it. It continued along the access row to the exit, where it turned left down onto the highway and then made a right turn out onto route 50. Now, the mountain is about a five percent road grade here with many curves, but the gurney sped off, gaining speed. It made the first five turns without any problem, veering in and out of traffic heading up the mountain.

Now, it was really moving, estimated speed of forty-five miles an hour. At the sixth turn, control was lost and the gurney arced off the road, no guard rails, and catapulted through the air about twenty feet and slammed head first into a huge cypress tree. The wreckage fell down into the underbrush. The man was dead. How did he die? From a heart attack due to fear on his wild ride? Or, did he die from concussion from ramming the tree? Was it due to his losing control of the gurney?

Do we have firm control of our society or are we starting to rocket down the mountain strapped to a gurney? Perhaps we must analyze our direction, or then again, perhaps it is not deemed necessary to do more than just hold on for the ride and wait for the autopsy.

\* \* \*

### ***Library News***

We are proud to announce that our new Head Librarian is Kristi Theurer. Kristi is a full time school teacher, Teacher-of-the-Year in Pasco in 1995, and is presently Media Director at the Deer Park Elementary School. Kristi will bring fresh new experience to this position.

During the summer hiatus there has been many new acquisitions of Florida books. Many from Joan Rees. Thank you Joan. Also J. B. Starkey's "Things I Remember" has been donated by Midge London-Prace. Come in and see for yourself.

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Alpine  
43 Main Street  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
842-7651 (I)

Jeanne Breland  
6800 Massachusetts Avenue  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
849-3275 (I)(C)

Linda Kann & John Hill  
6203 Kentucky Avenue  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
849-9360 (F)

Victoria & Thomas J. McDonald  
7942 Causeway Boulevard N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33707  
347-4395 (F)

Mary O'Benar  
6434 River Ridge Road  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
848-4995 (I)

#### **CHANGE ADDRESS**

Roxann Mayros  
7614 Radcliffe Circle #102B  
Port Richey, FL 34668

As of October we have 187 paid members for the year 2000. We were saddened to have to delete four family and 12 individual members from our roster due to various reasons - moved, non-payment of dues, or lack of interest. Please be reminded that our dues are now payable in January for the year 2001. We hope to have a successful year in 2001 in collecting dues.

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### ***Curator Committee News by Midge London-Prace***

The Curator's Committee recently met and put together a Schedule of Events for the 2001 Calendar. Some of the events will be refined, and many of the programs for the next season will be updated as time goes by. 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. Phyllis R. Brown donated a lovely small tray for pins made by Wedgewood and it is on display in the museum with our collection of Wedgewood.
2. Arlene Voit donated 90 "Wilderness Florida" books written by Robert Anderson and published by her late husband. They have been selling briskly at \$5.00 in the Gift Shop.
3. Kitty Vaden donated a, colored, Embroidery Lesson study book published in 1899 by Brainerd & Armstrong of New London, Conn. It can be found in the Museum's Pioneer Parlor.
4. Jack Drummond donated 6 "Good Old Days" magazines and they are in the Library.
5. Marie Kopfer donated articles from the Tribune "A Cartoon History of the United States" collected by her late husband.
6. Joan Rees donated two books "Tales of Old Florida" by Frank Oppel and Tony Meisel and "Florida's Promoters (Men who made it big)" by Charles E. Harner.
7. Danna Klemer donated a photo of the Rollo Draft Realty on Main Street.
8. Carol Spicuglia donated \$25.00 to defer the cost of one of the Indian picture frames and a scrapbook dated 1933 showing vintage pictures of fashions of that day.
9. Harry Leach donated two books "The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln" and "The Soldiers, The Old West" Time/Life Books.
10. Mary Jo O'Sullivan donated a horse-shaped metal doorstop from England, a metal exit sign, and a book entitled, "Mysteries of the Ancient Americas."

#### **CORRECTION**

Kristi Theurer - Change 5103 Mecalins Drive to 5114 Mecalins Drive  
Nina Pappas Qualtriss to  
Nina Pappas Qualters  
Mary Snell  
Change Berwill Road to Berwick Road  
**DECEASED**  
Kay Wedder



## Schedule of Events

October 27	Founders Day - Reception for Pioneer families
November 1	General/ Board Meeting at 1:00pm at museum
November 18	Program of Sunsets from Aripeka presented by Mr and Mrs Nortleet
November 25	The 3rd annual Exhibit of Christmas Trees decorated by local organizations, running through the end of December
December 3	Christmas tour of Festal Trees by
December 6	General and Board Meeting at 1:00pm at museum.
December 13	Christmas Party at Lola's Restaurant 6:00pm
January 20	Exhibit and Program on 'Florida before Disney' by Clara Ann Smith
February 7	General/ Board Meeting at 1:00pm at museum,
February 9	Annual Fashion Show 12:00 noon at Spartan Manor
March 7	General and Board Meeting at 1:00pm at museum
March 3	Chasco Fiesta - exhibit of Chasco Memorabilia, Terry Kline will speak
till Apr 1	on local Ancient Indians' Mounds on Friday, March 30 at 7:00pm
April 4	General and Board Meeting at 1:00pm at museum
April 21	Ethnic Pasco Program, with Greek Dancers - Rosalie Hollingsworth
May 2	General Board Meeting a 1:00pm at museum
May 12	Mothers and Daughters 3rd Annual Tea - Speaker TBA
June 6	General/Board Meeting a 1:00pm at museum
June 13	Installation of Officers and reception, location TBA

### West Pasco Historical Society

6431 Circle Boulevard  
New Port Richey, FL 34652