



West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

VOL XII #11

Winter 2001

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm very excited with the planned program for this year. As you can see from the Calendar of Events there will be something of interest for everyone. I'm looking forward to seeing you here! May you all have a very Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a safe Happy New Year!

Ann

SEASON OPENER GREAT SUCCESS

Due to unforeseen circumstances the main speakers had to cancel at the last minute. And, although the weather the day before the event was terrible it was decided to open on Saturday and play it by ear. Lo and behold, the weather turned out to be beautiful and thanks to our Brenda Knowles who stepped forward to conduct the program as planned. Needless to say, Brenda wowed the audience with her knowledge and smooth presentation. She was able to answer many questions posed by the audience. Thank you Brenda!

A big round of applause has to go to our Curator Mary O'Benar and her crew for preparing the Museum for this season opener. We know that many hours were spent in cleaning up and reorganizing exhibits for this day. The Museum was beautiful!

REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL

by Frances Mallett

The West Pasco Historical Society was the scene of a lovely remembrance program on Saturday,

November 17, 2001. The theme was "A Memorial Tree." The tree that was planted was a Florida Red Cedar. The Cedar was chosen because it has been a favorite for the locals who used it for their Christmas trees. Fourteen local people were honored, many of whom were members of the Society, including Sam Allgood, Jr., James Hollingsworth, Ronald Boisselle, Hazel F. Kinnenun, Katy Casto-Hevey, Elizabeth Longiaru, James Clark, Pauline Matthews, Albert DeCubellis, Wilfred T. Neil, Johnnie DeCubellis, Margaret Weiskopf, John Durney, and Len Taylor.

The program included a welcome by Frances Mallett, an organ Prelude, and the playing of "Trees" by Mary Jane Prichard, two Gospel solos were sung by Danny Riddle, a duet of "The Way We Were" was sung by Tony Clark and Dianne Clark Alehouse. Remembrances were given by David Spriggs who invited others to add their own remembrances. The Dedication Service of the tree was held outdoors with David Spriggs officiating. The friends and families then hung cards with the names of the deceased members written on them. Refreshments and a social hour followed in the Museum where a display of art work of Calligraphic Fine Art by artist Linda Renc which was very much enjoyed.

GIFT SHOP

by Audrey O'Neil

The 2002 Calendar is ready for sale in the Gift Shop. In it are pictured some of the early pioneer families. Come and take a look, it is a keeper.

We welcome any unwanted items such as dishes, nick-nacks, pictures, and jewelry to sell. We just acquired a few Christmas cards, and also Christmas ceramics by Mary Jane Prichard.

THE WOODCUTTER

by George L. Brandli

Once upon a time many years ago in a country far away lived an old woodcutter and his wife of many many years. He earned his living by going into the forests with his trusty mule and cutting wood for the villagers in the nearby town at the foot of the mountain where they lived. Poverty was always at their doorstep.

Late one afternoon as he was completing the days work, he stopped to rest on a fallen log. Looking over the other side, he spied three large leather sacks and upon opening them, found they were filled to the top with gold coins. Now, he was aware that a band of terrible robbers had been in this area and even killed three people while taking their gold. He looked around and around and saw no one, so he removed the wood piled on the mule, tied on the sacks of gold and then covered it with wood and rapidly as he could with his bad leg and the age of the mule, headed for his home.

Panting from his exertion, he lurched into the doorway and gasped out to his wife what he had found. She said, "Oh No, surely someone saw you and will tell t-he robbers and we'll all be killed." The woodcutter replied, "No, no one saw me and I hid the gold sacks under the cut wood." His wife said, "Well, it doesn't matter you cannot keep a secret and as soon as you go to town, you'll be bragging about it and then the robbers will come to kill us for sure."

She said, "Well, if you promise me that you will not tell anyone in the village I want you to go to town and get me 100 pounds of flour and 25 pounds of powdered sugar and hurry home and be sure to tell no one."

The woodcutter left for the village and soon returned and said he had told no one of the gold. His wife said, "Well, you have had a very busy day, so why don't you just go to bed and we'll discuss this in the morning."

As soon as he was in bed, the wife began to furiously mix the flour and soon had baked dozens and dozens of doughnuts and dipped them all in the powdered sugar. She toiled all through the night and then took them outside and scattered them all over the open yard, up to the edge of the trees. The woodcutter arose and sleepily rubbing his eyes looked out

through the open door and said, "Come here quick old lady, it snowed doughnuts during the night." She said, "How stupid can you be old man. Here, I've packed you a lunch and I want you to go to school to learn something." So, he took his lunch and headed for the local school. Entering the classroom he squashed himself into the tiny seat.

About half an hour after the woodcutter had left for school, three robbers came into the house and demanded the gold from the wife. She protested that she knew nothing about any gold, but the robbers had been in the village and heard the woodcutter talking about finding sacks of gold in the forest and that gold was their gold. They tied her up and said, "We'll just wait for him to return and if he doesn't tell us, we'll kill both of them."

The woodcutter became restless in the tiny seat and soon got up and headed for home. Entering the house, the robbers grabbed him and yelled, "Tell us where the gold is or we'll kill you both." He said, "I don't know, I gave it to my wife and she hid it. Wife, please tell them where the gold is." She said, "I don't know what you are talking about husband." He said, "Yes you do, don't you remember, it was the night before it snowed doughnuts and then you sent me to school for the day." The robbers looked at each other and decided that he was as crazy as the villagers had said he was. Whoever heard of it snowing doughnuts and a man as ancient as he was being sent to school, so they left them and went on the search for their missing bags of gold.

It seemed that in the forthcoming years that the woodcutter was making a great living cutting wood, which he seldom did anymore and his wife certainly had fine clothes and their parties and food was of the top class. Some wondered to themselves how this was done, but the robbers never returned and the woodcutter had learned a lesson to not tell everything he knew..

The moral of this story? I haven't the slightest idea. Perhaps it is that women are just basically smarter than men? Based upon personal experiences, I do agree with that summation.



Thanks is due to The Printing Place on US 19 for all the work they do for the Society year after year!

VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATED AT WPHS

While New Port Richey honored our Veterans during Veteran's Day in Sims Park, your Museum outdid itself in supporting the day's activities by mounting an exhibit in keeping with the day. An exhibit of military clothing and artifacts was assembled by Terry Kline. In addition to the Museum's Fiorentino and Rose collection, other items were loaned by Walter Mallett, George Brandli, Terry Kline, and David Prace. All of the branches of the Armed Forces were represented. From the remarks overheard from visitors, the exhibit was well received by all. Thanks Terry.



COMING SOON

by Norma Nelson

Be prepared to join us in our Annual Valentine's Day Fashion Show and Luncheon. It will be held at The Sparton Manor on February 8th. Tickets will be available at the Museum. The deadline for purchasing you tickets will be February 6th.

The menu will be roast chicken, oven-roasted potatoes, green beans, Greek salad, and apple pie. Coffee and tea will also be served.

Fashions will be shown by Today's Woman and Fraynes. If you have missed our show in the past, please make this one. Fun for all, door prizes, and more! For further information call:

Museum 847-0680
Mary Jane Prichard 845-4936
Audrey O'Neil 849-3451
Norma Nelson 846-0011
Midge London-Prace 847-3129



F.Y.I.

A letter from the Pasco County Public Transportation informed us that "PCPT provides hourly transportation to the museum from 7:00am to 6:30pm. A supply of PCPT bus routes is available at the museum courtesy of Audrey O'Neil. We were told that the bus stops along Main Street including Bank Street which is a block away. For info call 834-3200, 834-3322.

LIBRARY NEWS

Our Head Librarian, Susan Dillinger held a meeting on December 5th to acquaint the Library staff with how we will be cataloging our collection of books and photos. Her assistant, Euem explained each item that needed to be filled in on the standard library form. She will then enter the information into their computer. This will then let people know what resources we have and people can then visit us for that information. It will be a long term project. Anyone wanting to help the library staff in this endeavor please call someone on our library staff. There is a group forming who plan to meet during the week after the first of the year.



FLORIDA AFTER DISNEY by Clara Ann Smith

On January 19th, 2002, there will be a panel of community leaders and local folks discussing "Realty vs. Disney Fantasy," since Disney World opened in 1972. Disney was born in Chicago 100 years ago in December 1901. Join us to discuss whether he was a great visionary and multimedia artist of our time here in Florida. The panel members will share their views on "What's to love and not to love about Walt Disney in Florida's Disney World." All over the world you see various attitudes toward Disney. Our panel may help you go on believing that a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down.

The panel, moderated by Ann Hildebrand, will consist of:
Sonny Vergara, Southwest Florida Water Management District
Dr. Marc Yacht, Pasco Health Department
Jed Pittman, Clerk of Circuit Court
Phil Chesnut, Gulfstream Bank
JoAnn Hurley, Suncoast Parkway



THANKS TO ALL

Midge and David Prace would like to thank our members for the overwhelming number of cards sent and donations given to Hospice in the memory of Elizabeth Winter, Midge's mother. Your love was such a healing force.

FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER / DANCE

On the evening of October 17th, the West Pasco Historical Society and Greater NPR Main Street put together a magical event. The evening was warm but not too warm and the moon was out. Circle Boulevard was cordoned off in front of the museum. In the street there was a tent with decorated tables for the diners. In the gazebo the caterer had a wonderful meal waiting for the guests. The Curator and her staff was in the Museum waiting to give tours for the guests. Then they came dressed in sparkling clothes like the twenties. The D.J. was playing danceable music. A singer entertained the guests and he had a beautiful voice. There was excitement during the "silent auction." Don't you wish you were there? You can next year. Maybe you can get into the chorus line and dance to "New York, New York" as we did. See what you missed? But best of all the event made \$1,600 with half going to the Museum.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2002

Please mark your calendar. We hope you will support your Museum in the coming months.

January 2 nd	BD/General Meeting 10:00am
January 19 th	Florida After Disney Program
February 6 th	BD/General Meeting 10:00am
February 8 th	Annual Show Fashion Luncheon
March 6 th	BD/General Meeting 10:00am
March 9 th -10 th	Chasco Fiesta Memorabilia board exhibit - Flint napping demonstration by John A. Chambers Cherokee Longhair band
March 15th-17th	New York 79th Cameron Highlanders encampment
April 3 rd	BD/General Meeting 10:00am
April 20 th	2nd Annual Ethnic Pasco Celebration
May 1 st	BD/General Meeting 10:00am
May 11 th	4 th Annual Mother/Daughter Tea
June 5 th	BD/General Meeting 10:00am
June 12 th	Installation of Officers at Museum 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The halls were decked with poinsettias and greenery at the First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday evening, December 12. The fellowship followed with turkey and a grand array of pot luck dishes, desserts of all sorts, all delicious. The mulled cider was consumed with the back ground of Christmas music. The mistress of ceremonies introduced Dave Prace who read from a book entitled, "A Cup of Christmas Tea," and there was hardly a dry eye when he finished. (especially his). Before we could settle down Father Christmas arrived in all his splendor and gave us his life story! Would you believe he gave Frances Mallett a switch, the southern version of a lump of coal, after her committee of Audrey and George Brandli had done such a nice job. The evening was filled with members making new friends and catching up on old friends not seen in a long time. God bless all our volunteers and best wishes for a Happy New Year.



NOTES FROM THE CURATOR by Mary O'Benar

Special gratitude to Shirley Hudson for working so hard to sort out our Christmas decorations from the closet, including sorting out a total of SIX artificial trees. And another hard work session from Shirley decorated our museum for the holidays, thank you so much, Shirley, indeed.

The museum has recently hosted special CHILDRENS' EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS for three Tiger Cub Scout groups and for 90 home-schooled children. Recognition goes to Sam Eaton, Terry Kline, Norma Nelson, Susan Eckstein and Tom and Marion Brown for supporting our educational events.

If you have not yet seen it, the museum has acquired another glass display case. This case makes it possible to house much of our collection of toys, games, and related items under glass for better preservation.

Many thanks to Sally Smith and Audrey O'Neil for their initiative on the Yard Sale. Excess items from storage that were earmarked for a yard sale gained us a bit of closet space.

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

#1025: From Terry Kline Family: Winchester ammunition tin, possibly very old (in Civil war display.) Wood magic puzzle boxes, brown whiskey bottle fused in two parts.

#1026: Loan from Terry Kline Family: tiny cast-iron anvil, an advertising miniature (on display with toys. Large anvil, arrow & weighted measuring stick with handgrip (not yet identified, possibly tailors rule or lumber yard cutting computation rule, on display.

#1027: From Laura & Anna Burrell, from Collins, GA, quilt mixed hand and machine stitching. Expert opinions indicate Civil War era.

#1028: From Pasco Coin Shop, US 19, Hudson : Two Pinellas County tokens in conjunction with small cash gift from West Pasco Coin Club. This is a start of a token display exhibit.

#1029: From Virginia Tinsley: Linens for Mothers Day Tea including 4 tablecloths & 14 napkins (in small tablecloth storage.)

#1030: From Bea Baum, a wooden potato masher

1031: On behalf of the late Mildred Mason: 19th century school slate (On display in School niche.) Embroidery pattern device and instruction booklet, (on display)

#1032: From Terry Kline: 2 sets collar insignia, Spanish American War & WW1

#1033: From the people who run the Fundamental Preschool: A Royal Typewriter, possibly Italian with 4 beveled glass inserts (on display.)

#1034: From Sam Eaton: His original portrait from Spanish era, etching showing the size difference between Native Floridians and Conquistadors. (in Indian Room.)

#1035: From Bea Baum: Antique desk excised 30 years ago, at the Hammond Indiana Court House, here it was long labeled a Civil War recruitment desk. (temporarily in Library.)

MEMBERSHIP

Your Membership Committee is very busy these days updating lists and sending out membership renewal forms. Please help and support your Society by responding promptly. Remember, this Society does not operate on government grants and, therefore, depends on your dues for its revenues. Thank you so much for your consideration.



CALENDARS ARE HERE

The new West Pasco Historical Society calendar for 2002 is available for sale. It features photographs of many of the old founding families in West Pasco. This calendar is a keepsake item and joins our past years calendars as a collector's item. Price is \$4.00. They do make fine giveaways and Christmas gifts as well. The public and members may purchase the 2002 calendar at the following places.

Our gift shop in the Museum

Pasco Fine Arts Center
5744 Moog Road, Holiday

Chamber of Commerce of West Pasco
5443 Main Street, New Port Richey

Community Hospital of New Port Richey
Gift Shop, 5637 Marine Parkway

Gone Again Travel
5140 Main Street, New Port Richey

New Port Richey Library
5939 Main Street, New Port Richey

If anyone can suggest other outlets for this calendar, please let us know.



ADDENDUM TO DIRECTORY

2002 #1

NEW MEMBERS

Wayne Adler & Family
P. O. Box 5963
Hudson, FL 34674
848-9156

Jane Baillie
5821 Central Avenue
New Port Richey, FL 34652
848-5777 (I)

Richard B. Duane
5241 Wellfield Road
New Port Richey, FL 34655
376-1928 (L)

Pam Kemmis & Family
(Sweet Ice)
10151 Burton Street
New Port Richey, FL 34654
856-9282 (F)(B)

Elsie M. Coy
4522 Seagull Drive #216
New Port Richey, FL 34652
815-0046 (I)

Anne Morello
5852 Sea Forest Drive #227
New Port Richey, FL 34652
846-9313 (I)

Judy C. Patton
5241 Wellfield Road
New Port Richey, FL 34655
376-1928 (L)

CHANGE ADDRESS

Eleanor Schoepflin
7512 Clanton Trail
Hudson, FL 34667

Agnes Morrison
3140 Forest Road #164
Spring Hill, FL 34606
352-683-8631

Don & Dorothy Vinson
P.O. Box 1139
Crystal Beach, FL 34681
727-786-7560

DECEASED

Ronald Boisselle