



# West Pasco Historical Society, Inc. Museum and Library

SUMMER 2002

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

I'm honored and excited to be your President. This society has a close to 30 year history filled with dedicated members, starting with Julie Obenreder and the other Charter Members who worked long and hard to get to where we are today. Because of them we have this building, we have the books that were written by them, collections given by them and a fine history as an organization.

These are big shoes to fill. I know we, you and I, will do our part in furthering our "Mission Statement," which is to collect, record and preserve the history of West Pasco, Pasco and Florida. We are very fortunate to have many new members that are just as dedicated and talented. They are bringing new ideas and projects to our Society.

I'm looking forward to a great new season in the fall. And I invite all of you to join us and become involved.



## 2ND ANNUAL ETHNIC PASCO PROGRAM

It started out to be a great day. Warm but dry. Over 130 people attended. Part of Circle Boulevard was blocked off by New Port Richey Parks & Recreation. Chairs filling every shady spot on the Museum grounds, as well as across the street. Featured in our program were:

- Greek children dancers
- German-American Club - chorus
- Sons & Daughters of Erin - chorus and folk dancing
- Finnish-American Club - chorus
- Scottish bagpiper & Highland dancers

Thanks to BankAmerica for tent and to Habitat for Humanity for loan of additional chairs, and also a big thank you to all those who brought many of the ethnic snacks.



## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2002-2003

President	Midge London-Prace
Vice President	Clara Ann Smith
2nd Vice President	Elsie Coy
Treasurer	George Brandli
Secretary	Ginny Miller
Corres. Secretary	Laura Helm
Director	David Prace
Director	David Welling
Director	Marc Bowman
Director	Wendy Brenner
Director	Judy Parker
Librarian	Bea Baum
Curator	Mary O'Benar



## 4TH ANNUAL MOTHER/DAUGHTER TEA

Nearly a full house, every chair and table at the Museum was pressed into service. A dynamic presentation by speaker Betsy Crisp, Director of County Home Extension Service. She provided a PowerPoint presentation of the history of her family. Notably four female doctors in family. After this program other stories were shared by many of the participants. Thanks to all who brought all the goodies and snacks. They were perfect.



## HONORARY MEMBER

by David Prace

The person that we intend to honor today has been a long time member of the WPHS. It is our intent that the recipient usually does not recognize that they are being honored until we are well into the presentation, but it is very difficult to do that in this case.

Born in Lost Creek, W.VA. He ultimately ended up in New Port Richey at retirement. And we are fortunate that he made that choice. He has been a member of the Historical Society since early 1994 and has served as its

Treasurer since 1996. I can assure you that our money has not been in better hands. He is constantly dealing with the Phone Company, the Insurance company, the security systems company, and the printing company for the best deals.

By now most of you know who this year's recipient is. He is our own resident story teller. You have a topic, he has a story for it. What you may not know is that he is a whittler, a blacksmith, and a telegrapher. Most of us have seen him in his backwoods outfit and at Christmastime there is no better Father Christmas. He has also had a very interesting past. In addition to his military service, he has been a grave digger, coal miner, carnival barker, casket maker, drag line greaser, student, accountant, industrial engineer, and Vice President of customer service.

At the Society, he has participated in many of the special evening sessions with scouting groups and serves as a greeter when we are open to the public. We are so lucky to have this person as one of us. If in the unlikely event you haven't figured out who it is, I am honored and privileged to name George Brandli as our Honorary Member for the year 2002.



## ANTIQUE TIDBITS

by Eleanor Schoepflin

Candy Containers: Figural glass candy containers have been made in hundreds of designs since 1876 when Independence Hall and Liberty Bell inspired patriotic candy containers for our country's centennial year celebration. From then until as late as 1960, hundreds of designs have been made - cars, comic characters, suitcases, telephones, submarines, lanterns, bunnies, pumpkins, Santas, boats, guns, rolling pins and furniture. When full, they held tiny colored candies, - empty they became a toy or a bank. While most were made of clear glass, around 1910 a few were produced in milk glass trimmed in gilt. Many were painted and, in the late twenties some were pressed in green, amber, blue and pink. Some had metal or paper details such as turning metal wheels for cars or a paper shade for a lamp.

Among the better known manufacturers were West Bros, Cambridge, L.E. Smith, Victory, Jeanette Glass and T.H. Stough. Flossie Fisher furniture containers are among the rarest and most desirable. Flossie Fisher was a fictional little girl who appeared in "Flossie Fisher Funnies" in the Ladies Home Journal. The funnies were drawn in silhouette and in 1916 George Borgfeldt Co. introduced tin and glass Flossie Fisher furniture decorated with silhouetted scenes of Flossie and her animal friends.

In a 1989 price guide very few containers were

listed at under \$100. Average prices ranged from \$200 to \$500. At a 1999 auction A Flossie Fisher bed of tin and glass brought an astounding \$4,125, the dresser to the set sold for \$2,475, china closet went for \$935 and the final bid on a table was \$2640. Huge prices for such tiny collectibles.



## SEMINOLE ORIGINS

by Terry Kline

The Seminole name came from a muskoguee term (Simano-li) meaning "wild" or "runaway" as applied to plants or animals. The Creeks had appropriated the term from the Spanish word "cimarron" which has the same meaning.

After disease and attacks by the English and their Creek allies all but wiped out the Indians of Florida, the Spanish enticed the Hitchiti speaking Miccosukee and other Creek tribes which spoke Muskogee to replace them as a buffer between the English. By the time the United States of America was created these people had already formed a new nation.

Three times the United States tried to force these people from their land and failed. These were known as the Seminole Wars. The Seminole Indians were the only tribe that never signed a peace treaty with the United States. In 1962 the United States government declared the Seminole and Miccosukee a nation within a nation.



## LIBRARY NEWS

by Bea Baum

A great many things have changed in the Library. For months Ruth Jay and I have painstakingly unglued and peeled pictures from cardboard frames. The photos have been encased in Mylar and filed in acid free cases to complete the Photo Archives. Jeff Miller a museum member and teacher at Gulf High School has worked closely with us. He scanned all the pictures and added them to his Gulf High website.

We have been gifted with a lovely desk. The pride and joy comes to us from the kindness of the Questers chapters here in West Pasco.

Ruth Jay and I have spent countless hours completing the cataloging of the books and eliminating the mold. The ladies will be dismantling the file cabinets and rearranging the system. Useless paper will be eliminated. Besides Edie Hemple, Julie Hall, Sally Johnson, Virginia Tinsley and Margaret Albrecht we can use several more volunteers. If you want to volunteer please call 847-0680 or 841-6933.

## THANK YOU!!

by Ginny Miller

We sincerely thank a wonderful group of men who volunteered a recent Saturday morning to do some heavy landscaping cleanup on the grounds of the Museum.

They are: Mike Copeland (Southern Pride Pest Control), Pat Kerrigan (P&T Lawn Service), Jim Budday (Mr. Handy), Don Lichterman (PyroEngineer Security), Christian Isaly (Westcoast Financial) and his dad Bill Isaly. It was a steamy morning and the work was back-breaking, but these guys saw a need and came out to help. Thank you, Gentlemen!

Have you seen it? "It" is the two-story Baker house at Centennial Park on Moog Road in Holiday. Owned by Pasco County, this two-room house with dog trot and second story was built by Samuel Baker for his wife and five children in 1882 and has been restored to its original style, with appropriate furnishings. The Committee responsible for its upkeep is chaired by Samuel Baker's great-grandson, Gordon Baker, who can be reached at 849-2131. The house is open for visitation on Saturday, from 1 to 4 P.M., from September to June. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

## CURATOR'S REPORT

by Mary O'Benar

Donations received as of August 1, 2002

#1053: Beverly Dunn, Bayonet Pt.: paper goods, 128 party napkins and matching plates. Thank you for a 'practical' gift!

#1054: Sons & Daughters of Erin, NPR: 1922 postcard of downtown Hardware Store, NPR, one we hadn't seen before.

#1055: Irene Patterson, NPR: a long, very light weight dress with pink edged lace, and a petticoat. They are very delicate and ladylike, and they took laundering very well, thank you, Bea, for doing that task.

#1056: Estate of Angelo A. DeCiucies, Shirley DeCiucies, Executor, NPR: a large number of professional photo negatives, please see clippings from all 3 newspapers for details. Images from The DeCiucies Collection can be seen on [www.fivay.org](http://www.fivay.org).

#1057: Ann Buchanan, NPR: very nice arrowhead found some years ago near Green Key, an S&H Green stamp (cool!), wooden nickel and token. It's the little things that count!

#1058: Shari Duvall, NPR: a classic soda fountain green-enameled malted milk shake blender (nifty!), copper tea

pot, silent butler, kitchen items, a very stylish iron percolator, etc.

#1059: Terry Kline: excellent condition stone tool, white with tan.

#1060: Ann Durney: Tall Grass by John Durney. Book of Poetry inscribed to WPHS by Ann Durney after Mayor Durney's untimely demise.



## TO DOCENTS AND GREETERS by Mary O'Benar

I've waded through a year of our guest book signatures in depth trying to decipher attendance 'statistics'. (For those who are interested please refer to a bar chart in our museum files.) Now, we know our guests are mostly human beings and as such liable to very odd behavior, even when signing their names. For example, when someone signs the wrong date, thereafter everyone signs the wrong date, just like little ducks following mama. Or, for fun, they'll skip a few pages. Or, thriftily fill in one or two blank spaces some pages back. Not to mention one person can sign for everybody without giving a clue as to how many people in the bunch.

Virginia Pratt, a brave, brave woman with some background in statistics (thank heaven!) has VOLUNTEERED! to unravel and reknit another guest book. How can we make the raw data a bit less mysterious?

☛ ENTER THE CORRECT DATE IN THE GUEST BOOK WHEN YOU COME IN.

☛ ALSO WRITE IN THE DAY OF THE WEEK.

☛ IF THIS IS A SPECIAL EVENT DAY, PLEASE SAY SO (Ex: Seafood Fest).

☛ PLEASE NOTE HOW MANY HOURS THE MUSEUM WILL BE OPEN AND CHANGE IT IF YOU CLOSE EARLY OR LATE (TO THE NEAREST HALF-HOUR WILL DO).

Please do make your best effort to see that all guests sign in. But if someone doesn't sign, you make a note like 'family of 4', okay? If one signs for a group, note how many people came with him.

Totaling our guest book is very informative, and interesting; it is also seriously necessary when we apply for grants. It is seldom a mistake to have accurate facts. For example, in the Fla. Museum Assoc. listings, we're showing an impressive 9000 attendance a year. Turns out that's over 7000 off. If we used that inflated number, anyone checking on our grant application would toss us out on our artifacts.

So please let's think of Virginia Pratt and her noble cause every time we open up, and write those basic facts down at the beginning of the day.

## LITTLE MOUSE HEARD THE ROARING (Part Two)

by George L. Brandli

Little Mouse entered the thick forest and for days he struggled over downed trees, underbrush, over rocks and his strength was rapidly weakening him as he had no food other than occasional drops of dew to drink and sometimes a single grain. He thought of his bandanna filled with cheese and grain, but it was gone.

Each day as he struggled through the forest toward the base of the mountain, the roaring was louder in his heart and the black speck in the sky was lower and larger and closer each day and fear was his companion.

After five days, Little Mouse was totally exhausted and he pulled himself atop a large rock and quietly decided that death was near. He thought of his brothers and sisters, his Father and Mother and the life he had and about those that had helped him in his quest for the roaring and of his times in school and the games he had played and just as his eyes closed for the final time, the image of the black speck became larger in his vision and then he closed his eyes, the roaring sound vanishing in his heart.

Little Mouse opened his eyes, looked around and thought, so this is what death is like. He was in a warm bed of soft grass, a small hollowed out Hickory Nut half shell filled with water was beside his bed and some berries were along the far wall and sunlight filtered in through an opening in a maze of roots. He sat up in bed and as he did, a grizzled, white haired very old mouse came inside. "Well, well, look what we have here" he said. "I found you on a large rock and brought you here. A thought you were gone for sure, but you kept muttering something about a roaring sound. Well, I'll tell you that in my youth, I also heard it and I got this far, but I didn't have the strength or courage to go any more so I just stay here, but I can still hear it at times." A few more days of rest and Little Mouse resolved to continue his search.

Little Mouse hugged the old gray whiskered mouse, but looked up at the sky and there was the black speck much larger and much closer. Little Mouse started up the steep mountain side, but each day sapped his strength even more and he was about to again give up when he came upon a grizzled, mangy Wolf who was near death stretched out on a rock. The Wolf half opened one eye and said, "Are you the roaring, are you here to save me? I have been seeking the sound since my childhood and now I am near death. If I could have the eye of a mouse, I could recover." Well, Little Mouse had a rather full life, he knew he was near death and he could save this Wolf. He removed his other remaining eye and gave it to the Wolf. The Wolf staggered to his feet and said, "I am afraid to go to the top of the mountain as I am afraid of what the answer to my hearing the roaring will be, but if you will jump up and hold onto my fur under my chest, I will take you up as far as the tree line, but I cannot go closer to the top than that." Little Mouse leaped up and clutched his tiny paws into the fur on the chest of the Wolf and they began their journey to the edge of the tree line.

Little Mouse dropped off the Wolf and the Wolf turned to leave, but said, "Little Mouse do you know what that black object is that has followed me through life and now is following

you?" Fear was in the heart of Little Mouse, but feeling the slope of the mountain, he struggled onward, scratching and clawing his way until finally, he was on top and he stretched out to die, blind and near the end.

As he prepared to die, his life passed by and the fear overcame him as he was sightless and he knew that the speck that had followed him throughout his life was nearby and he trembled in his fear.

Suddenly, with a rush of wind a large object landed beside him and what felt like the feathers of a very large wing covered his trembling body. A rich, resonant voice said, "Little Mouse, you have reached the top of the mountain. Now, with all your strength, leap into the air as high as you can." Little mouse in a tiny shaking voice, weakened by age and travails of life said, "I can do no more."

Again the voice commanded him to leap and finally with his last ounce of strength, Little Mouse leaped into the air.

The voice said, "Open your eyes." Little Mouse opened his eyes and he was soaring through the skies, over verdant fields of flowers and beautiful streams and he was glowing a brilliant white surrounded by a golden aura and the creature beside him that he had feared all his life was a huge angelic snow white bird with wings touched by flecks of gold.

Little Mouse had found the roaring that God gives to us all. Is this the story about a Little Mouse or the story of your life? You decide.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2002

### Summer Workshops

The making of Christmas Tree decorations to sell in December, will be held at the museum September 11, October 9<sup>th</sup>, and November 10, at 10am til 1pm each day. (bring a bag lunch) Need more info call Elsie Coy at 815-0046

### September Program - Season opening Program

Reception for Jim Cable, EMT. A volunteer who spent 3 months at "ground zero."

Saturday, September 14 at 4-6:00pm Come and see his pictures and speak with him.

### October Program

Roof Raising Fish Fry - w/ Hap Clark and Avery Short, Saturday, Oct 26<sup>th</sup>

Quilter's Demonstration, with exhibit of old time hand arts & Quilt Raffle Fri. Sat. Sun. 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, & 27<sup>th</sup>

### November Program

The History of our Flags, a slide show by Mr. Mario Battista Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 1-4:00pm

### December Programs

A Christmas Gathering at the Little Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park, Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm with refreshments and entertainment

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Docent Meeting*

There will be a meeting of the docents in September. We will announce the date later in August.

### *Antique Desk in Library*

The Cypress Hammock Questers #1350 have made a donation of \$25.00 towards the purchase of a desk to be used in the Library. We are very grateful for this generous gift. Please stop by the library and see this unusual desk. Our West Pasco Quester groups have always been very supportive to the Society. If you look throughout the museum rooms you will find many plaques denoting their generous gifts from many chapters.

### *Our Old Newspapers need Laminating*

Last season Ginny Miller made it possible to laminate all of our 1930 papers. Elsie Coy made a donation that allowed us to laminate the January newspapers from the year 1934. Our Curator staff will be creating a reading center in the back of the Meeting room. People will be able to look through papers that go back to 1916. Anyone wanting to donate towards laminating our older newspaper please call Midge at 847-3129. Thanks again Ginny and Elsie.

### *News about our emerging "Youth Group Class"*

Mary O'Benar has been conducting classes with a newly formed Youth group, including Brienna Lyerly and Meghan Leigh Schmidt twice a week this Summer. The course is "How a Museum Works." She has been holding classes on researching and presenting their findings. In the future we hope to have the Gulf High School Achievers Club also attend classes offered by the museum. The Pasco Hernando Community College may start a program this semester with interaction between history students and our docent program.



## GIFT SHOP NEWS

We are at last back together. You may not have known this but last February a tree fell on the museum's roof during a violent wind storm. The contents of the room were quickly boxed and removed until the damage was assessed and repaired. A patch was put on the corner of the roof. In July the Gift shop was painted and reassembled, thanks to David Prace, Terry Kline, Ginny Miller, Kathy Martin, and Mary Jane Prichard. Way to go gang! Now we need new merchandise for the new season. Please look through your belongings and perhaps there is something you can live without. We need your help. Thanks.

## The Officers and Directors of The West Pasco Historical Society Museum and Library



Cordially invites you to the  
2002-2003 Season Opener



At a reception for  
Jim Cable, ETM  
Volunteer for 3 months  
at Ground Zero



"The Old Schoolhouse in Sim's Park"  
6431 Circle Blvd, New Port Richey, FL  
Saturday, September 14, 2002  
4:00 to 6:00 pm



Come and meet our 9/11 Hero  
See his pictures and talk with him



Tour the Museum & Library  
Join us for Refreshments

**ADDENDUM TO DIRECTORY**

**NEW MEMBERS**

CARES, att Bill Aycrigg  
77505 Rottingham Road  
Port Richey, FL 34668  
862-9291 (B)

Irene Castro  
9006 Bear Cat Road  
New Port Richey, FL 34655  
----- (I)

McMillan Davis  
P.O. Box 534  
Aripeka, FL 34679  
863-5091 (I)

Jean Duvall & Craig  
Carmichael  
5507 Richey Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
845-5855 (F)

Ruth Jay  
1500 Sunset Road #B5

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689  
----- (I)

Don Kirby  
6556 River Road  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
846-7559 (F)

Jeanne & Elwood Kisby  
3700 Oxford Drive  
Holiday, FL 34691  
938-9881 (F)

Kathy Martin  
5400 Marine Parkway  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
842-2005 (I)

David & Beatrice Meyers  
3634 Nettle Creek Court  
Holiday, FL 34691  
942-3916 (F)

Jackie Owen  
6822 Grand Boulevard

New Port Richey, FL 34652  
842-9000 (I)

Judy & Frank Parker  
5511 Drinkard Drive  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
842-4863 (F)

Meghan Leigh Schmidt  
7851 Orchid Lake Road  
New Port Richey, FL 34653  
842-4705 (Y)

Tall Tree Ranch, att: Frank  
Doza  
5128 Beau Lane  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
849-7007 (B)

**CHANGE ADDRESS**

Phyllis R. Brown  
c/o La Casa Grand  
6400 Trouble Creek Road  
#21

New Port Richey, FL 34653

Curt H. Helbig  
P.O. Box 5162  
Hudson, FL 34674

Silvia Searight  
3610 South Burlington Pike  
Muncie, IN 47302

**DECEASED**

Ruth Helbig  
Sharon Kirby

**CHANGES**

Lisbeth Jacobs  
Change 6225 to 6525

Dolores Whiting  
Change 5021 to 5029

Jean A. Stein  
to Richard & Jean Tipton (F)