



Newsletter

Coming Events

September 8 @ 1:00pm

At our season opener we will present Terry Fortner who is the granddaughter of Myrtle Scharrer Betz who grew up on what is now Caladesi Island at the turn of the 20th century. Myrtle is the author of Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise. It is the story of her years on the island. Terry will present a PowerPoint of fascinating pictures of her grandmother's life. Her book as well as a Caladesi cookbook will available for signing. Terry will also appear in early 1900s garb.

September 22

The African American Club of Pasco will be hosting their first annual fish fry at the museum. Join us for some great food and lots of fun.



October 13 @ 1:00pm

A DVD entitled, Florida: The 27th Star, will be shown. Experience the hope and despair of Florida's Territorial Period through the eyes of a contemporary boy. With him, see how the clash of wealthy planters, independent Crackers, oppressed Blacks, and proud Seminoles contributed to Florida's evolution from a territory to a state.

November 10 @ 1:00pm

Gail Diederich will talk about childhood stories. Gail was a schoolteacher in the Pasco County school system, now the Editor of the Pasco Times Hometown Section. Come for a warm and fuzzy presentation.

December 8

Join us for our annual Christmas Wassail Bowl. The museum should be decorated and will be waiting for your visit. Additional refreshments will be available as well.

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Inside this issue:

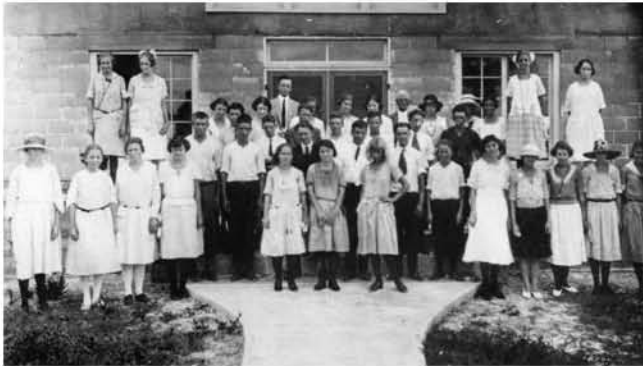
Events	1
Officers	1
Gulf High	2
Meet & Greet	2
Library News	3
Baskets	3
Then & Now	4

Gulf High School Turns 90 Years Old

On Sept. 18 Gulf High School will celebrate its 90th birthday. The school is

acknowledging the event with a collection of old photos of the school hanging in the faculty lunchroom, and teachers will be given shirts which advertise the 90th birthday. This photo was taken on Sept. 18, 1922, at Community Congregational Church in New Port Richey, where the opening ceremonies were held, as the auditorium in the new

school building was not finished. The next day, 39 students enrolled in grades 9 through 11. There was no senior class the first year. The original location of Gulf High School was the building which now houses Schwettman Education Center on Grand Boulevard. Gulf is the third oldest high school in Pasco County, after Pasco and Zephyrhills.



Old Fashioned Meet & Greet the Candidates

The weather gods looked kindly upon us on August 4 at 1:00 pm when the Society hosted a Candidates Meet & Greet in the old bandshell. A festive mood was created with decorations on the bandshell and the front of the museum. Each candidate drew a number from a hat to determine speaking order

and each was given three minutes. All-in-all twenty four candidates came to speak.

Most of the candidates brought cookies, snacks, etc. and the Society provided punch, iced tea, and water. All had a great time.



NEEDED!

The West Pasco Historical Society is organized and operated completely by volunteers. Help us to keep our history alive and available to the community by volunteering. A couple of hours a month is all it takes. If you or someone you know is interested please contact us at (727) 847-0680.

Membership Report

Number of Membership Lisitngs	269
Life Members	123
Family	46
Business	4
Individual	86
Reciprocal	10



Library News...

The Julie Obenreder Memorial Library Wing is looking better and better, with hundreds of books focused on Florida, Pasco County, and West Pasco. The shelves have been purged of those books not fitting those subjects, and we are preparing a inventory list, organizing the books by subjects: Florida Indians, Florida Travel and Entertainment, Florida History, and each shelf has been named after one of our

pioneer families. We now have a very large display case in the center of the room, and four smaller ones on the wall, enabling us to set up exhibits each month that we are open. Recently we displayed our many news articles on the Clark Family, to honor James Clark, who recently died. In recent months we have displayed books on the history of the telephone, the U.S. Civil War, the American Flag, and American Indians. All our

paper files are being placed on the computer, page by page, which will enable a quicker search for people and places. Photographs honoring our past president are now placed on the library wall, and the door to the library says in gold lettering: The Julie Obenreder Memorial Library Wing, and Julie's quotation about the historical society's mission is placed upon the hallway wall near the entrance. We welcome gifts



of old photographs of West Pasco, as well as books and papers dealing with Florida history and local history as well. Members and friends are always welcome.



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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Tidbits by Eleanor Schoepflin... Baskets

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" high by 6" diameter brought \$2,750. Prices ranged from \$154 for a Papago 1930's lidded 9" high by 14" diameter to a \$2,090 bid on a Achamawi (c. 1920) Pit River Conical Burden basket (16" high by 16" wide). And a Tlingit (c. 1920) polychrome, geometric design 9" high by 14" diameter 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.

NEW PORT RICHEY *Then and Now*



The First State Bank of New Port Richey in about 1925; the law office of Scott M. McPherson in 2004



The photo on the left appeared in the *Port Richey Press* on Feb. 16, 1920; the photo on the right was taken in 2004.



The Old Schoolhouse in Sims Park

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www.WestPascoHistoricalSociety.org