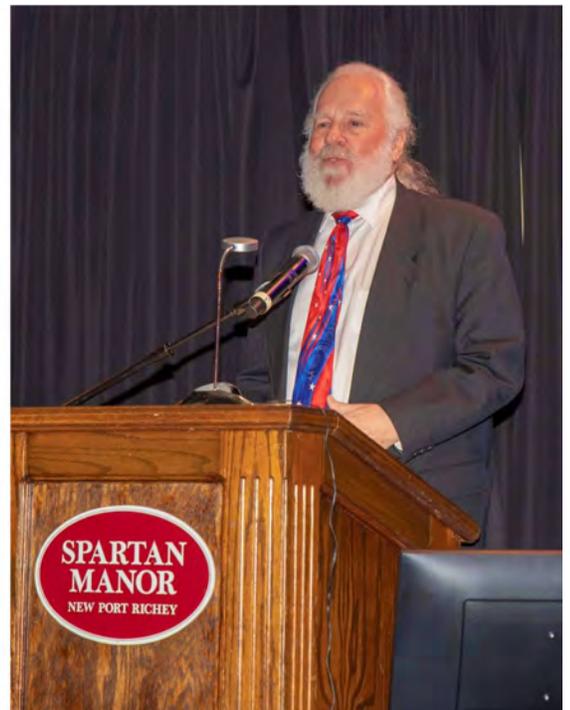


West Pasco Historical Society / Mar 2019



WPHS Thanks Dr. Musunuru at CARES Dinner



The CARES 2019 benefit at the Spartan Manor honored Rao Musunuru, M. D., the all-time top donor to CARES. Dr. Musunuru is also the major benefactor to the West Pasco Historical Society. A contribution by him financed a complete interior renovation of our museum in Sims Park in 2010-11, after which the West Pasco Historical Society board of directors decided to rename the museum in his honor.

At the CARES benefit, WPHS President Bob Langford thanked Dr. Musunuru for his generosity and also showed our popular video about the history of the railroad in New Port Richey. If you were there and saw the video and would like a copy, it is a DVD for sale in our gift shop.

Pictured on the left are Dr. Musunuru with WPHS board members Bob Langford, Judith Koutsos, and Ann Rusaw James. On the right is Bob Langford. Photos by J. David Wright.

West Pasco Historical Society / March 2019

News From the WPHS President



By **BOB LANGFORD**

As spring approaches there are a lot of things going on at the Historical Society. We are partnering with the City on the Traveling Smithsonian Exhibit starting March 9. It runs through April 27. This exhibit will be going on Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. The Historical Society will have a display set up there and will be open most of the time that the exhibit is open. Volunteers are requested at both locations. If you can find the time, this will be a nice opportunity to serve your community and be in on a real historical occasion. Just contact me or one of our other board members.

The next big event is the annual Chasco Fiesta March 29 – April 6. We always have a tent set up in the yard or use our beautiful historical bandstand for sales and promotion of our museum. We can always use extra volunteers for this event too as we have lots of folks interested in our products, gifts and indoor visits. We also plan on participating in “Locals Night,” where various places in town have live music and other entertainment. We may start as early as March 26 with our participation. This event is monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We are planning on music and artists in the yard for our part of the entertainment. In late April there will be the Seafood Fest in the park, and we will be set up for that as well.

We have some great programs set up monthly. The March speaker is Mr. Doug Sanders, former news director of WDCF radio station and City Planner for Dade City. He is now the history writer for the *Laker-Lutz News* and will be speaking on Pasco County History. There is never a charge for these monthly speaking engagements and refreshments are served. So, come and enjoy these once a month Saturdays with us for free, informative and fun entertainment. Of course, donations are always welcome.

Our Next Speaker is Doug Sanders



Our next speaker at the museum is Doug Sanders, the history writer for *The Laker-Lutz News*, a former city planner for Dade City, and a former news director of WDCF radio station in Dade City. He will ask and answer some questions about Pasco County history that you may not know about. At what venue in Pasco County did B. B. King, Ray Charles, and James Brown perform? Did Calvin Coolidge have lunch in Dade City? What man from Atlanta brought the first railroad to Pasco County? What actor who appeared on the Andy Griffith Show, Bewitched, and the Dick Van Dyke Show was born in Dade City? Where was the last Indian attack on a settler's homestead east of the Mississippi River? Does a Dade City woman have a document signed by Abraham Lincoln? To learn about these topics and more, join us on Saturday, March 9, at 1 p.m. at the museum in Sims Park. There is no charge for admission.

West Pasco Historical Society / March 2019

News From the WPHS Curator

By **BRIAN SCHMIT**

The Historical Society will have two banners on display at the “Hometown Teams” Smithsonian Exhibit in the old post office building at 6345 Grand Blvd. The first banner features golfer Gene Sarazen who was an early resident of New Port Richey. He built a home on River Road across the street from silent motion picture star Thomas Meighan. For five years he represented New Port Richey at golf tournaments around the world.

The second banner includes pictures and facts about baseball in New Port Richey. One famous player, Babe Ruth, would take his Yankee teammates fishing in Aripeka while they were down for spring training. Legend has it that he actually lost one of his World Series rings in the pit of an outhouse at the fish camp, and never recovered it.

The Historical Society display and all the displays of Hometown Teams can be enjoyed for free from 10:30 - 5:30, Wednesdays through Saturdays. Stop on by and say hello. To hear more about sports in early New Port Richey, Jeff Miller and myself will be making a brief presentation on Saturday, March 16, at 1:00.

Our President, Bob Langford, who also heads the Friends of the Hacienda Hotel and Historic New Port Richey, will speak about the history of the Hacienda at 1 p.m. on March 13.

Thanks, Tom Weightman!



Our guest speaker on Feb. 16 was former Pasco County Superintendent of Schools Thomas E. Weightman. A large crowd enjoyed the stories from his career as an educator in Pasco County schools.

New at the Museum

New members of the WPHS:

Donna A. and John W. Korman, 5934 Wyoming Ave, New Port Richey, Fla. 34652

Angela and De Paris, 6733 River Road, New Port Richey, Fla. 34652

Kim Rymanowski, 5049 South Shore Drive, New Port Richey, Fla. 34652

New books in our library:

Tatham Mound, by Piers Anthony; *Travels of William Bartram*, edited by Mark Van Doren;

Tourbook Florida, 2002 edition, AAA; *Tropic of Cracker*, Al Burt

Future Speakers



Our guest speaker on Saturday, May 11, at 1 p.m. will be Yolanda Mercado, President of the Gulf Coast chapter of American Gold Star Mothers. Her son was killed in Afghanistan in 2011.

Fans have been used by both men and women from the beginning of recorded history. The ancient Asians used fans to not only keep cool, but also to show their wealth and importance. Years ago young women were not free to speak to young men. The “language of the fan” was used to help them express themselves. Join us to learn more about fans and their history as Antonia Riggs Miernik shares her collection and gives information during June 2019 (exact date to be announced).

Antonia Miernik is pictured at left.

Web site: westpascohistoricalsociety.org / Email: westpascohistoricalsociety@gmail.com / Phone 727-847-0680

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