

The Palm Coast Historian

Published by The City of Palm Coast Historical Society

Editor: Mary Ann Canfield

Issue 4 Fall 2002



Palm Coast July 26, 2002: James Sheekey presents a \$500 check from the ExxonMobil Foundation Volunteer Program to Debby Geyer, President of The City of Palm Coast Historical Society. Jim retired from the Exxon Research & Development Co. after 36 years of service. Jim and his wife Claire bought property in 1972 in Palm Coast and built their home in 1977. After spending their vacations over the years in Palm Coast, they both retired here in 1985.



Palm Coast, August 26, 2002: The City of Palm Coast Historical Society held its first evening meeting, at 6:30 pm in the Palm Coast Community Center. Catherine Wilson, President of the Flagler Beach Museum and a member of the Board of Directors of the Flagler County Historical Society was our guest speaker. Catherine related many historical and humorous stories about our county.

Kay Stafford, Jack Holt, Catherine Wilson, Connie Horvath

Contest to Name our Newsletter

The Executive Board of the Historical Society voted to name our newsletter "The Palm Coast Historian." The winning name was submitted by Mary Ann and Jim Canfield. None of the officers who submitted a name voted and only the suggested name appeared on the ballot. Thank you to all of you who took the time to submit a name for our newsletter.

Welcome to Our New Members

Starr Cole
George and Ellie Grech
Richard Kelton
Mary and David Norris
Stephen Rende Roofing
Edward Wolf

Have Palm Coast Historical Questions? We Have Answers

E-Mail your questions to: geyerda@bestnetpc.com and I will forward them to our members for answers. If you don't have e-mail, you may send your question to: PCHS, P.O. Box 352613, Palm Coast, FL 32135.

Meeting and Event Schedule

October 19 & 20 – Table at Flagler County Cultural Arts Show at DBCC, Palm Coast

November 19 – Palm Coast Community Center
6:30 PM, Art Dycke, Historical Society's Slide Show
"Palm Coast from its Early Beginning to 1979."

December 11 – Meeting at DBCC, Palm Coast, Room 102, across from the amphitheater.

January 8 – Meeting at DBCC, Palm Coast, Room 102, across from the amphitheater.

A Personal History of Palm Coast

By Art Dycke, Co-Historian

Part Two

You will perhaps remember that part one outlined Palm Coast's underwater beginnings with the arrival of mastodons, giant sloths, ancient camels and Paleo-Indian hunters migrating into Florida over the Siberia/Alaska "land bridge" between approximately 50 and 15 thousand years ago. Please see my note at the end of this writing regarding the changes in climate and cultural evolution of Paleo Indians into the Timucuan tribes that inhabited our area until the early 1800's.

In part two, I will share with you two excerpts from a very colorful unpublished "The History of Flagler County" by Robert Moody, Jr. This very short "history" is really a collection of personal recollections. Mr. Moody addressed two of his memories directly to the people of Palm Coast. I have not edited or changed his writings in any way. In a section entitled, "Camels in Palm Coast", Moody writes: "This is for Palm Coast people who are interested in the background of their community."

"In 1930 my brother, who was a registered surveyor and Tax Assessor for 30 years, ordered field notes for a large part of what is now Palm Coast to make a survey for a man who was buying it.

As he was going over the notes he found one by George Clements, the first surveyor, saying that there were strange bones lying on the ground, on what was the south end of the old Johnson farm. There is a long strip of land that is low ground now, but in 1836 when the notes were made it was a willow swamp, with fresh water.

My brother went and looked at the ground, and after digging around, he soon found the main location of the bones. He covered them and left them undisturbed until 1862, when he decided to dig them up.

The Johnson's had already found a few bones on top of the ground. The Smithsonian Institute in Washington said the reason there were so many in one pile was that the animals had come to get water, bogged down and couldn't get out.

The Smithsonian sent a team down here to study the bones. They said that it was the largest collection ever found. They stayed for a few days, studied the age of the bones and typed them for us.

There were camel bones, mastodon, mammoth and others, such as birds and wild horses. It was also proved that man was there then, as we found human bones under the animal bones. We also found sharp tools made by men.

Archaeologists from everywhere came to study them, and they all agreed that the bones were between 50,000 and 60,000 old.

Being a taxidermist, I soon found a method of putting the bones together, and also found how they had to be treated so they would not crumble.

We were building a museum to house the find, and we had enough bones to make a mastodon when my brother died suddenly of a heart attack. The bones were sold and stored in a warehouse which caught on fire, destroying most of them. That broke my heart, as we had great plans for them. But that's life."

In a section entitled "Some History for Palm Coast People," subtitled "Prehistoric Indian Mounds in Flagler County-Eatman Mound in Palm Coast", Moody wrote: "My two brothers, Earl and D. D. Moody, and I were all deeply interested in the Indian mounds, and we dug into them whenever we had time."

"These mounds dated back 800 or more before our day. As we studied them, we found that the Indians all buried the same way. They put the bodies in trees until the buzzards had cleaned the bones of all meat. Then they put a layer of dirt on the mound, then a layer of bodies, and another layer of dirt, which they covered with wood and burned. You could trace this all the way to the bottom of the mound.

Ed Eatman wouldn't let anybody dig in the mound on his place, but after my brother did some survey work for him, he let us dig in it one day.

The Eatman mound was big, about 30 foot high, and we found some valuable relics in it. An archaeologist from the University of Illinois was with us. He had studied these Indians for 15 years, and he could tell you anything you wanted to know.

We found tomahawks and arrows, bones and two skulls. But the main find was a piece of copper about an inch long, and the coach, as we called the archaeologist, said it was the only piece of metal ever found in a mound of this period. He told us to send it the Smithsonian and they would give us its history. We sent it, and they said it's a bead, and had been traded all the way from the Great Lakes region around Salt Lake City. They asked to keep it for awhile for study. Six months later we asked them to return it, and they did, giving us the history of the tribes.

There were two tribes here, the Timaquans and the Ochbees. They never had a lot of digging time. We dug all the mounds in the county.

I remember one time Earl and I were digging in the Marineland mound. He was so deep down that he had me hold his feet to pull him out if the sides caved in on him. He scratched a coral snake down on him, and he ran over me in getting out of the hole."

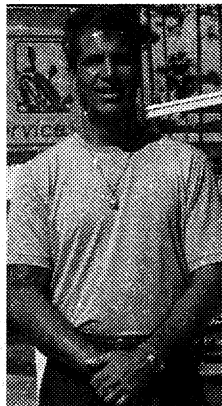
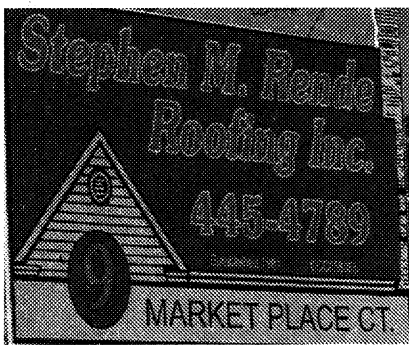
Palm Coast historians are presently locating and mapping area archeological and historical sites. Anyone with any pertinent information about them is asked to contact Art Dycke at 446-8636.

NOTES: I suggest the following excellent sources of more detailed information about this period.

1. Visit the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach. The giant sloth skeleton, many unique dioramas attractively presented text provide you with a complete and enjoyable pre-history of our area.
2. While at the museum pick up a copy of Dana Ste. Clair's "True Natives", a short comprehensive view of the origins and cultural evolution of our local Native Americans.
3. Obtain a copy of the fall, 2002 supplement to Double Bridges entitled, "A History of Flagler County" edited by Kathleen Bishop. You will be treated to an interesting and diversified introduction to our areas pre and later history.

I have made a copy of "The History of Flagler County" by Robert Moody, Jr. available to the Flagler County Historical Society and will be supplying one to the Flagler Library.

**Historical Society's First Gold Member
Steve Rende**



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**First 100 members will be Charter Members
67 Charter Members October 9, 2002**

Canfield, Jim and Mary Ann	MacLean, Mary
Carter, Ralph	McGovern, Patricia
Cole, Starr (Honorary Mbr.)	McLean, Martyna (Marty)
Corbin, Evelyn	Meyer, William
Crocetta, Bob	Millar, Meryl L.
Crowell, Dale & Susan	Mulligan, Richard and Phyllis
Culpepper, Jane	Neveras, Theresa
Davie, Margaret	Netts, Jon & Priscilla
DeMeglio, Donna	Norris, Mary and David
Donnelly, William	Nunziata, Orlando A.
Dycke, Art & Louise	Oddi, Vincent and Joanne
Friedman, Sandra Rose	O'Neill, John
Full, Jerry	Rende, Stephen (Gold Mbr.)
Geyer, Debby	Reisman, Dave and Lee
Godkin, Barbara Sue	Rivers, Joseph and Lorraine
Grech, George and Ellie	Rochette, Cliff
Hanzel, Joseph (Skip)	Schwab, Hildegard
Heatherly, Katherine	Schwartz, John & Therese
Hennenlotter, William & Judy	Sedlak, Richard and Jean
Herrera, Ed and Fanny	Shamas, Tom and Louise
Heywood, Debra	Sheekey, James and Claire
Holland, Jim	Simmons, Elizabeth B.
Holt, Jack	Sloan, Jeanne
Horvath, Connie and Andy	Smith, Frances
Howell, Norman and Anne	Smolen, Alan
Jones, Al	Spitz, Joan
Kanbar, Blair and Brenda	Stafford, Kay
Kent, Judith	Stan, Leonard
Kervel, Arlene	Steighner, John and Sheila
Kelton, Richard (Bronze Mbr.)	Trayer, Tom and Oradel (Del)
Levine, Arnold and Maxine	Vazquez, Gladys
Lyons, Veronica (Ronnie)	Walter, Beatrice (Bea)
	Weiss, Trudi
	Werner, Ellen
	Wolf, Edward A.

Garage Sale

Bake Sale

License Plate Sale

Starr Cole Prints

The Second Annual Garage Sale is tentatively scheduled for February, 2003. We will need donated items for a successful fund raiser. Please start saving your "unwanted", "unneeded" goodies for our sale. Clothing will NOT be accepted. We will place notices in the local papers in January 2003 advising the date of sale, where to deliver donated items or whom to contact for pickup.

Thank you in advance for helping make the 2003 fund raiser a success.

Who Was the First???

By Art Dycke

The Questions reprinted below were asked in our first The City of Palm Coast Historical Society appeal to the community for the collection of historical information and materials. We initiated a two month effort then, and now, two years later, we are sharing our findings with you. The questions were:

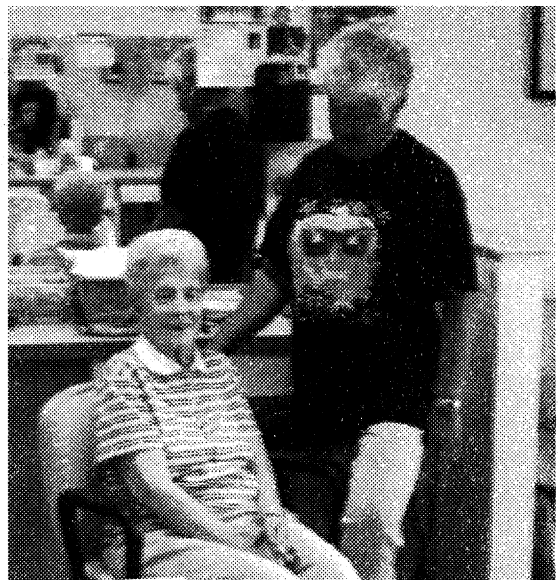
1. Who was the first to think up the name Palm Coast?
 2. Who was the first to publicly advocate the incorporation of our city?
 3. Who was the first church, first building, and first business?
 4. Who was our first home owner, doctor, lawyer, postmaster, etc?
 5. Who was the first baby born in Palm Coast?
 6. Who has a picture of the Christmas tree on top of the Palm Coast water tower?
1. **Name.** We still do not have an exact answer to who first thought up the name Palm Coast. I asked the question of Jim Gardner during an interview at ITT, One Corporate Drive, just before its closing. He picked up the telephone to call someone in the NY office who would probably know. The closest we can come to the answer so far is that Palm Coast was named by an advertising agency that was working working for ITT's partner, The Levitt Co. We do not know the agency's name.
2. **Incorporation.** The belief that Palm Coast would, one day, become a city was first prophesied by Norman Young, PhD, a former president of ITT Community Development Corporation, in the booklet "Environmental Affairs", Volume 2, Number 1, published during the Spring of 1972. Entitled "An Approach to a New City: Palm Coast", Dr. Young outlined "the needs for environmental protection while meeting the demands of a growing population in a finite Earth. Palm Coast was to become the community which married human needs with ecological concerns." Dr. Young actually believed that Palm Coast would grow to a population of 700,000 people, then the size of Detroit, MI. The first organized citizen involvement I have found is described in this 1977 report of the Palm Coast Civic Association. "The Committee on Governmental Planning for Palm Coast was constituted by Bil Cochrane, President of the Civic Association in July 1977. The purpose of the committee was to recommend a direction for the Palm Coast community to follow in planning for a

local government. The members of the committee, appointed by the president, were to be Ted Air, Jim Miskelly, Merle Shoemaker, Bill Donnelly, Paul Leifer, Allen Salowe, ex-officio, Bil Cochrane and David Siegel as chairman. The first meeting of the committee was held on July 26, 1977 at which meeting it was determined that, in addition to our present form of government, there were three other possibilities – at a subsequent meeting this was expanded to four- which merited a study for the 42,000 acres which we considered to constitute Palm Coast. Accordingly, the committee was broken up into sub-committees. Each sub-committee was to study and report on one possible form of government. The sub- committees and its members were as follows.

- Municipality (city) – Bob Orff and Jim Miskelly
- Service District created by an ordinance of the County Commissioners – Merle Shoemaker and Bill Donnelly.
- Service District created by a special act of the legislature – Wilma Weed and Paul Leifer.
- New Communities Act – Ted Ain, Dennis Gettman, Allen Salowe.

The following firsts are offered without comment even though there are stories behind them all.

3. **Church.** St. Mark by the Sea. The first service was July 1976 by the late Reverend Marcus Otterbein.
- Building.** The Welcome Center (with tower) in the model center.
- Business.** Sonja's Beauty Salon, owned by Sonja Toscano-Sapp.



Sonya Sapp, right, and Mrs. Mary Turchette

Sonya's Beauty Salon, the first business and beauty Parlor in Palm Coast, opened in 1973 on Office Park Drive. The salon was at this location for 20 years before moving to Florida Park Drive in 1993.

Sonya and her first husband bought the 34th parcel of land in 1972 for \$7,000 to build their home in Palm Coast. Sonya and her present husband Guy now live in Matanzas Woods. Guy was the head property appraiser for Flagler County before he retired.

Mary Turchette was among the first customers of Sonya's Beauty Salon and still has a standing Thursday appointment. Ernest and Mary Turchette bought the 75th parcel of land in 1972 and built their home for vacations. Later, they became snow birds before settling permanently in Palm Coast.

4. **Home Owner. First lot owner** – Mr. Lewis Wadsworth. **First home owners**, in numerical sequence: Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Sheehan, Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Moore, and Mr. Mrs. Charles Konopasek.
Doctor. Dr. Jack Dunne
Lawyer. Mr. Mike Chiumento
Postmaster. ?? Here we still need some help. Early residents remember Lee and Bud Gill giving them mail at the Handy Way. Does anyone have more specific names or information? The Palm Coast Post Office, which was originally housed in the building which is now City Hall, names Linna Wilkerson as our first postmaster.

5. **First Baby.** Our information comes from Barbara Sue Godkin. She knows that her son Mason was the first Jewish baby in Palm Coast (conceived in the old Sheraton by the ocean) and believes the first baby was born to the Ward family who moved from Palm Coast after their baby drowned.

6. **Christmas Tree.** Our search for a picture of the Christmas atop the Palm Coast water tower on I-95 has been unsuccessful. Information provided by local realtor Chuck Warren may help to explain why pictures are so scarce. It seems the tree was really a central pipe that had strings of lights going out to the end of a platform. It looked like a tree when lit at night, however, the tree would be very hard to see and photograph by day.

We are still interested in other firsts so, please, keep them coming. What we really need are **people pictures**. We need people as individual or groups in front of well known places in Palm Coast. I would do almost anything for neighbors gathered by the old Handy Way or central mail boxes. We would love photos of early residents by their houses in the various Palm Coast sections. We need pictures of religious openings or groups with identifying names on them. Also, organizations, past and present, with identifying names on them. Please help us find pictures of the varied activities in Palm Coast for publication.

Display the City Logo

Make a \$10.00 contribution to the Palm Coast Historical Society and receive a metal licence plate for the front of your car.

If interested, Call 446-1438 Or 446-9031



Officers

President: Debby Geyer (446-9031)
Vice President: Mary Ann Canfield
Treasurer: Bob Crocetta
Secretary: Kay Stafford
Corresponding Secretary: Debbie Heywood

Directors

Art Dycke Co-Historian
Margaret Davie Co-Historian
Jack Holt
Connie Horvath, also, Chairperson Publicity
Arthur Levine

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society
P. O. Box 352613
Palm Coast, FL 32135

Starr Coale

Historical Society's First Honorary Member

The Executive Board nominated Starr Coale and the members present at the October 9 meeting voted unanimously for Starr Coale to be the Historical Society's first honorary member. The By-Laws state, "Honorary membership shall be conferred upon any person whose activities have contributed to the objectives of the Historical Society" and Starr Cole met the By-Laws requirements.

Mr. Coale donated packages of note cards and 11x9 reprints of scenes he painted of Palm Coast. He also gave the Historical Society permission to reproduce the paintings in our 2004 Calendar. Starr's generous donations have contributed to our fund raising efforts.

Getting to Know our Charter Members

James and Mary Ann Canfield. Mary Ann is Vice President of the Historical Society. Mary Ann was a single Mom who worked at St. Vincent's Medical Center on Staten Island. At a hospital Christmas party, a high school class mate introduced himself and said "Do you remember me?" Mary Ann said "Yes, you are Jim Cantwell" – that was close enough – and the two were married a few years later. Jim has four children and Mary Ann has five. All of the children, from five different states, visit Palm Coast often.

Jim and Mary Ann retired to Palm Coast in 1989, but travel back to Staten Island for all the major holidays and important family events. Jim, who is a retired Superintendent of Manhattan's 26 High Schools, commuted back to New York frequently where he supervised a Masters Degree Program at Fordham University. He attained his PhD at Ohio University.

Mary Ann became involved in Palm Coast life. She is a Charter Member and a past Secretary of the Palm Coast Rose Society. She won Garden of the Month honors from the Garden Club. Mary Ann is presently Secretary of the Woman's Tennis Association. Jim also became active in

community affairs by serving on the School Board and as Chairman of the Flagler County Taxpayers Association, the Palm Coast Advisory Council and is our current Palm Coast Mayor.

Arnold Levine, Board of Directors of the Historical Society, was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. Arnold retired in 1993, moved to Palm Coast and worked for a short time as a Mental Health Therapist in Palatka. His studies and experience were in the thanatology (bereavement) field so he applied for and became the Bereavement Coordinator and Counselor for Memorial Hospitals' Hospice Care.

In 1998, Arnold decided to go into politics. Although he lost the election to a Flagler County Commissioner, he gained a wealth of knowledge about the county and its people. More importantly, Arnold began to love the environment that makes up Flagler County and chose to become a major player in civic affairs. Today, as President of the Civic Association and Vice-President of the Flagler County Audubon Society, he has the better of two worlds which involves his neighbors and the wonders of Gods' creation.