

Feature Article By Mary Ann Canfield

On March 16, 2002, the Historical Society held its first garage-bake sale. All the members involved in the sale said it was a tremendous success. It was also a lot of fun pricing items, setting up the Community Center, watching everyone scurrying around (especially our President Debby Geyer). Sixteen license plates were sold, all the bake goodies, and very little merchandise remained at the end of the day.

Kudos to our many volunteers.

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Betty & Lee Rhatigan | Blair & Brenda Kanbar |
| Kay Stafford | Dave & Lee Reisman |
| Debra Heywood | Pat McGovern |
| Margaret Davie | Jon & Priscilla Netts |
| Art & Louise Dycke | Connie Horvath |
| Jim Canfield | Skip & Jean Sedlak |
| Jake & Barbara Jacoby | Anne & Norman Howell |
| John Schwartz | Bea Walters |
| Sheila Steighner | Pete Donlan |

Mark & Helga Ghazi

Special thanks to Barbara, from the Community Center!

We would never have had such a successful day if we didn't have all these volunteers. We especially appreciate artist Starr Coale for his pen and ink prints and note cards of Palm Coast which sold very well. The note cards feature scenes of Palm Coast and their golf courses.

We realized a profit of \$1,268.88. What a great day!

Deb Heywood, Bake Sale Chairperson



Sale in Progress



Hildegard Schwab Art Dycke

Washington Oaks By Debby Geyer

The Historical Society set up a table at Washington Oaks Gardens and State Park on April 27 and 28. The weekend event was to celebrate Earth Day and our table was one of many who shared information about their group with the people who attended the celebration.

We raffled a watercolor painting that was donated and painted by Jean Sedlak. Her generosity brought in \$58.00.

Kudos, again, to our volunteers.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Deb Heywood | Jane Culpepper |
| Pat McGovern | Margaret Davie |
| Meryl Millar | Debby Geyer |

Anne & Norman Howell

Richard and Jean Puckette of Palm Coast had the winning raffle ticket. Jean Sedlak presented her watercolor painting to Richard and Jean at our May 8 meeting.



Pine Lakes Home Owners Association

By Debby Geyer



Lorna DaCosta Jones, President of Pine Lakes Home Owners Association, presented Debby Geyer, President of The City of Palm Coast Historical Society, a check for \$1,200. The Pine Lakes Home Owners Association have disbanded and very generously voted to donate the money left in their treasury to the Historical Society.

WE THANK PINE LAKES FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

Searching for Links to the Past

By Margaret Davis, Co-Historian

The Historical Society, in its third year, welcomes information, memorabilia, photographs, articles, news releases and whatever relates to the early development of the fastest growing city in the fastest growing county in a very fast growing state. We meet the second Wednesday of the month except June and July, 1:30 pm at DBCC, across from the Amphitheater, Building 102.

Starting with the month of August, we will meet in the evening of the second month of each quarter. The FIRST EVENING MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 28, 6:30 PM AT THE PALM COAST COMMUNITY CENTER. The next evening meeting will be November 20, same time, same place.

The Historical Society is in the process of sorting and cataloguing boxes of Palm Coast historical data, from the beginning through the present. **We need volunteers** to help in this endeavor! This Work in Progress takes place the first, third, and fourth Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 pm at DBCC, across from the Amphitheater, Building 102.

Help! I Need People Pictures

By Art Dycke, Co-Historian

I am working with a publisher on a picture history of Palm Coast. I have been asked to include as many pictures as possible of named people at group events, specific club functions, church, business, government and education activities that illustrate the fullness and variety of life in Palm Coast. Pictures from the past are especially valuable. I am offering a reward for a picture at the old Handy Way.

Please send along a description of the picture, including the date, event/landmark where taken and names of all in the photo. Copied pictures will be kept in our historical file, but only original photos can be published in the book. Black and white pictures are preferred, but distinct colored pictures will be acceptable. Original pictures required for the publication will be returned to their owners within six months.

Questions may be e-mailed to: artedski@bestnetpc.com

Please send your copies or original pictures, with the photographer's written permission to publish, to: Mr. Art Dycke, 20 Marina Point Place, Palm Coast, FL 32137

*The following article, *A Personal History of Palm Coast*, by Art Dycke, is part of a Power Point presentation which starts from the beginning of Palm Coast and continues through ITT year 1979. It is the first phase of a larger history that may follow in electronic and/or printed media. **The program or any of its components may not be reproduced or copied without the expressed written permission of the author.**

*A Personal History of Palm Coast**

By Art Dycke

Part One

For all of Florida, the 'beginning' was under water. Then the oceans receded and the Florida peninsula got much "fatter" with the shoreline extending many miles into the ocean from where it is presently.

Frances Edmonson, *Palm Coast News*, October 25, 1978 wrote: "Can you imagine seeing mastodons, giant sloths, ancient camels, mammoths and big ole animals like that which once lived here? I know because I once dug up (in 1963) some parts of them from an ancient watering hole here in Flagler County." The mastodons and giant sloths that once inhabited the area are now under water because ancient coastline was miles beyond where they are today due to lower sea levels of this earlier time. If they survived the destructive nature of rising sea levels, archeological sites will be found far off shore.

There is a leg bone on display at the Flagler Beach Museum. It and other bones dating back to 50,000 years ago were found along the Intercostals Waterway in Flagler County so we can safely assume they visited the City of Palm Coast in their travels.

Archeologists believe that our first Floridians, called Paleo-Indians, arrived here approximately 15,000 years ago, having spread throughout the county after their arrival from Asia 50,000 years ago via a "land bridge" existing between Siberia and Alaska. They relied, in part, on the coastal regions for food and other resources.

The Paleo-Indians coexisted with and hunted an unusual variety of Pleistocene mammals such as giant ground sloths, horse, bison, llamas, giant armadillos, huge tortoises, peccaries and several species of elephants.

After 7,000 BC, near the end of The Great Ice Age, Florida water levels rose to approximately their present levels. The climate was cooler and drier with oak and hickory forests growing alongside open prairies. Life was abundant by the coast and its river estuaries.

The Paleo-Indians were ancestors to the Timucuan who occupied the area from present day Jacksonville to Cape Canaveral. Our local tribe was named the Surruque. Estimated at numbering more than 14,000 at one time, few remained in 1821.

Part Two will be in our Summer 2002 Issue

The City of Palm Coast Historians are presently working on mapping and gathering information regarding archeological and historical sites within the city boundaries. Please share any knowledge you have by contacting Art Dycke, 20 Marina Point Place, Palm Coast, FL 32137 or e-mail Art at: artedski@bestnetpc.com

A Rail, En Route to Being a Trail

By Jerry Full

In 1952, rail cars began to rumble through the center of what was to become the city of Palm Coast, on a rail spur which will, once again, be a center of activity.

Then, it was a rail linking the Lehigh Portland Cement Company, whose buildings are seen along Colbert Lane, to Florida East Coast Railway's main line.

That spur and its surrounding 200 acres are now owned by the state, leased to Flagler County to be developed as a public trail over the rock bed on which the rusted rails rest.

Economic conditions changed rapidly for the Lehigh Company. The extensive plant and the seven-mile long spur were busy for just 13 years, closing in 1965. The next owner was ITT Community Development Corporation followed by Palm Coast, Holdings and now, the Office of Greenways and Trails within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, acting as lessor to Flagler County.

It's mostly a solitary two rail track, but there is a switching yard where gondolas and engines could be reversed and switches that would, at the eastern end, multiply that single line into no less than 5 separate tracks. A massive piece of industrial engineering whose latent public values will be understood soon.

An advisory committee, named by the Board of County Commissioners, is examining a number of items before submitting its plan to the county, which, in turn, will need an okay from the state.

There are a host of questions: Pave the surface with cement or asphalt, where to place toilets, drinking water, and benches. How much of the old line should be kept for historic preservation. With access at the Colbert and U.S. 1 terminal areas and crossings at Old Kings Road and Belle Terre, where should there be parking and how much. And, if a separate dirt path is set aside for equestrian use, how to plan for parking of horse trailers and, perhaps, a corral.

There's an existing path high on a Graham Swamp ridge paralleling Colbert and how might that be linked to the Lehigh Rail/Trail. How to prevent motor vehicle access, except for emergency and maintenance vehicles. How to work for mutual maximum benefit with the trail's neighbors. Some of the adjacent and interested parties include: the city of Palm Coast directly, and indirectly, Bunnell and Flagler Beach; the St. Johns River Water Management District, whose wetlands surround the eastern end of the trail; Florida Power and Light with facilities to the south of the trail and the Palm Coast Community Service Corporation, whose responsibilities immediately north include the Lehigh Canal.

The canal itself, is a very attractive feature that may be suitable access from the trail for light boats. FP&L along its lines that might be useful extensions of the rail bed.

The Palm Coast Town Center, under intense planning now, abuts a large section of the trail and its future occupants and the adjoining high school students are likely future heavy users of the trail.

And, finally, there are safety issues, not so much for the trails isolation but because of the two roads running across it. Greenways limited to walkers, bikers, skaters and horseback riders are typically very safe. The stream of passers by assuring visibility and the lack of motor vehicles on the trail deny quick, unobserved getaways.

There's talk, only that so far, about later extending the trail to the Princess Estate and the Agricultural Museum, out to Dead Lake, thereby linking the county to some of Florida's most gorgeous lands through trails that respect our history and our environments.

Meetings of the Flagler County Rails-to-Trails Advisory Committee are open to the public. Call the County Planning Department at 437-7488 for information on the next meeting. The committee welcomes public comments.

Contest to Name our Newsletter

The Historical Society's newsletter needs a name. The name should be catchy and appropriate. For example: The Friends of the Library's newsletter is titled *From the Stacks*.

The officers and directors of the society will select the winner. Should an officer or director submit a name, the person will not be on the selection committee. The winner will receive a year's membership in The City of Palm Coast Historical Society.

You may e-mail your entry to: geyerda@bestnetpc.com or mail it to: PCHS, PO Box 352613, Palm Coast, FL 32135.

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 Schedule

August 26 – Palm Coast Community Center
6:30 PM, Historical Society Monthly Meeting
FIRST EVENING MEETING
We will have a speaker.

September 11 & October 9 - DBCC, Palm Coast,
Next to Amphitheater, Room 102
1:30 PM, Historical Society Monthly Meeting
November 18 – Palm Coast Community Center
6:30 PM, Historical Society Monthly Meeting
Art Dycke, "Historical Society's Slide Presentation"

Officers

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

Directors

Margaret Davie Co-Historian
Art Dycke Co-Historian
Jack Holt
Connie Horvath
Arnold Levine

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

Getting to Know You

Debby Geyer, President of the Historical Society, moved to Palm Coast July 3, 1998 - the day everyone evacuated. Not quite the welcome Debby expected! She resided in New Jersey, Bergen County, for 49 years and her last employer was UPS. Debby and her father moved here because her brother and family relocated to Palm Coast 22 years ago. She is a member of Friends of the Library, RSVP, and GFWC Palm Coast Woman's Club where she just served for two years as Home Life Chairman and will continue as editor of their newsletter. Debby is also a member of Palm Coast's Community Advisory Committee and attends many City Council Meetings.

Margaret Davie, Co-Historian of the Historical Society. Margaret has 30 years of experience as a Real Estate Broker, currently works as an independent broker, and began selling in Palm Coast shortly after IIT began developing Palm Coast. Margaret is a member of 28 organizations and is an active member of the Republican Club where she has served as Committeewoman of Flagler County. Her hobbies include music (she played the harp in the Fling Symphony Orchestra), photography, gardening, square dancing, and filling scrapbooks with photos. No one, absolutely no one puts together a better scrapbook than Margaret! Her books are treasured by the Historic Society.

Ralph Carter is a Charter Member of the Historical Society. Ralph is a distinguish member of Palm Coasts' City Council and served one year as Vice-Mayor. He was educated in the New York school system, completed two years at Malcomb-King College, is a Certified Property Manager and an Accredited Resident Manager. Some of Ralph's affiliations are the African American Caribbean Heritage Society, Juvenile Justice of Flagler/Volusia County, Sheriff Jim Manfre Advisory Board, Liaison to Economic Development Committee, and African American Cultural Society. He has been married to Ann for 40 years, has two children and one grand daughter.

Art Dycke, Co-Historian of the Historical Society, retired to Palm Coast in 1993 after teaching for 38 years in Ardsley Schools in New York. He also taught evenings at Westchester Community College, NY for 28 years. Art, since 1994, is a member of Adjunct Faculty in History, Economics and Government at Daytona Beach Community College, Flagler/Palm Coast. He loves his wife, visiting a widely scattered family, tennis, skiing, golf, boating, bicycling, computers and writing.

Evelyn Corbin, Charter Member of the Historical Society, moved to Palm Coast permanently in August 1991 from Rockville Centre, NY after retiring from the Lakeview Public Library and Elmont Public Library on Long Island. She has lived the adult education and volunteer life since then. Evelyn has taken many adult education courses, is currently a volunteer at the Flagler County Library and is on the Board of African American Cultural Society, Inc. She has attended 12 Elderhostels.

New Members

Jane Culpepper
Judith Kent
Theresa Neveras
Trudi Weiss

Dale & Susan Crowell
Mary MacLean
Francis Smith
Bea Walter