

The Palm Coast Historian

Published by The City of Palm Coast Historical Society

Editor: Mary Ann Canfield

Issue 5 January 2003

Historical Society's 2002 Year in Review

By Debby Geyer, President

My first year as President was educational, exciting, and personally rewarding! The members were enthusiastic, cooperative and always volunteered to assist at our events.

A wonderful year! 18 new members in 2002 for a grand total of 76 Charter Members. Kudos to all of the Historical Society members.

Speaking of events, here is a summary of the Historical Society's busy year.

- **January** Member Meet Member Social
Art's slide presentation at the Library
- **February** Nomination & election of 2002 Officers & Directors
Installation of Officers & Directors
Alan Smolen spoke about the development of Palm Coast.
- **March** Garage Sale fundraiser
Lehigh Trail Walking Tour
- **April** Diane Marquis, President Flagler County Historical Society, spoke at our monthly meeting.
Lorna DaCosta Jones, President of Pine Lakes Home Owners Association, presented us with a check for \$1,200.
Table at the Washington Oaks State Garden Earth Day week-end. Ruffled a painting donated by Jean Sedlak.
- **May** Presented the painting to the winner of the Raffle at our monthly meeting.
- **June** Jim & Claire Sheekey presented us with a \$500 check from ExxonMobile, his former employer.
- **August** First evening meeting. Catherine Wilson, Founder and President of the Flagler Beach Historical Museum was our speaker.
- **September** Members voted in favor of the Amended Constitution and By-Laws.
- **October** Our newsletter was officially named "The Palm Coast Historian."
Voted Starr Coale our First Honorary Member.
- **November** Evening meeting. Art Dycke presented his slide show "Beginning to 1979". Quite a crowd plus 4 new members.

- **December** First Historical Society Holiday Luncheon
Obtained office, storage space, and an area for a mini museum – all in the same location! We plan to move in January 2003.

Historical Society Goals for 2003

By Art Dycke, Co-Historian & Director

- Complete "A Personal History of Palm Coast" (being written by Art Dycke) for public viewing. Burn a CD for sale to the public.
- Prepare an abridged version of "A Personal History of Palm Coast" in a spiral book format for sale by Historical Society.
- Complete "Images of America: Palm Coast" (being compiled by Art for publication) to generate royalties and Historical Society benefits.
- Participate in Service Show on February 1 and 2.
- Establish a History/Civics/Government Day.
- Move into our first office and set-up a mini-museum.
- Letters to individuals and Palm Coast businesses to obtain profiles and pictures for Historical Society archives and public's information.
- Letter to Palm Coast clubs and organizations to obtain pictures and history for Historical Society archives and public's information.
- Establish committees/teams to accomplish the 2003 goals.

Additional Goals by Debby Geyer

- Complete itemized inventory of storage area.
- Combine multiple files of same items into one file.
- Obtain name of person who catalogued photos for the Flagler Museum to do same for COPCHS.

The goals of Art and Debby will be combined into one list. Members will be asked to suggest additional goals for the year 2003 and to prioritize the combined list.



We Need People Pictures

Art Dycke and The City of Palm Coast Historical Society (COPCHS) members are planning to do PowerPoint slide presentations, books, displays, CDs, videos, and printed histories of Palm Coast. We have an extensive file of pictures of the structures built by ITT over the years but now we need **pictures of real people, with their names, date of picture, posing in front of recognizable places in Palm Coast.** We will duplicate old photos and slides, then return the originals to you. Please identify all of the people in the picture. Pictures of all past and present events are needed.

- Group and individual pictures are needed. Especially the pioneers of Palm Coast.
- Opening of businesses such as Terry's Barber Shop, Albertson's, etc.
- Opening of new neighborhoods such as Woodhaven Condos, Cypress Knoll, etc.
- Clubs and organizations, past and present, with names of officers.
- Events in Palm Coast history such as ribbon cutting, ground breaking, etc.

Welcome to Our New Members

Milbrey Bartholow	Mike & Rita Ryan
Jim & Rose Ann Bradley	Randall & Melissa Shane
Jack & Anne-Marie Ryan	Marie Walters
John & Anne Atkins	Jim & Anna Delaney

Meeting and Event Schedule

- January 8,** Monthly meeting, 1:30 pm, DBCC, portable Bldg 102, across from the Amphitheater.
- February 1 & 2,** Service Show at Flagler Palm Coast High School, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- February 11, Evening Meeting,** 6:30 pm, Palm Coast Community Center. Speaker is Charles Warren.
- February 14,** 6:00 pm, set-up for garage sale at PCCC
- February 15,** 7:30 am, Palm Coast Community Center. Doors open at 8:00 am for Garage Sale.

Garage Sale

Bake Sale

License Plate Sale

Starr Cole Prints

The Second Annual Garage Sale will be February 15, 2003. We 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. Call Debby, 446-9031, or Mary Ann, 46-1438 for information.

There are several ways for you to contact us and to deliver your pictures to the Historical society.

- **Attend** Historical Society meeting – refer to the above meeting schedule. We usually meet the second Wednesday of each month.
- **Attend** Service Show on February 1 or 2 and visit our table.
- **Meet** us at DBCC, portable Bldg 102, which is across from the Amphitheater, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- **Write/mail** photos or slides to:
COPCHS, PO Box 352613, Palm Coast 32135; OR
- **Palm Coast City Hall,** Attn: Palm Coast Historical Society (Art), 264 Palm Coast Pkwy, Palm Coast, 32137.
- **Contact:** Arthur Dycke, 386-446-8636;
Fax 386-447-8219; artedski@bestmetpc.com.

The Pioneers of Palm Coast

By Art Dycke



Bob & Martha Orf in costume for the Palm Coaster

Left from the front: Merle and Bill Loeb, Dot and Charlie Konapasek, Betty and Tom Simmons, and two Palm Coast employees, names unknown. On the right from the front: Edie Guiler, Vinne and Muriel Moore, Doug Guiler, Mrs. and Mr. Sheehan, and Fran and Ed White. Ken Hath is the host at the head of the table.

The large picture shows 15 pioneers, the first pioneers, of Palm Coast attending the first of a number of special dinners given by ITT for new home owners. At first, it may seem hard to imagine how these middle class, mostly northern urban/suburban retirees sitting comfortably at a dinner table at the Beef and Bottle Restaurant in Daytona Beach in 1972 could be classified as pioneers.

Consider that ITT was clearing a 20,000 acre frontier in an area very different from the one the newcomers came from and that some people already living in the neighborhood were not necessarily welcoming the intrusion. Imagine a salesperson taking them up a 67 foot high tower on top of the only building for miles around, then pointing in some direction saying, "Your lot is over there somewhere." Understand that when their houses were completed, they had to drive 13 miles, some of it over dirt roads to get milk. When, a year later, a small convenience store was built to sell some basic items, they still had to go 13 miles with ice in their coolers to get meat and more sophisticated provisions.

A recent interview with Elizabeth (Betty) Simmons underscored why the early settlers of Palm Coast truly deserved to be considered pioneers. Betty and Tom Simmons (pictured at left) are the only surviving people in the "Pioneers of Palm Coast" picture that are still residents of Palm Coast.



Getting to Know our Charter Members

Connie Horvath, Director and Publicity Chairman. Connie was born in Catasauqua, PA and met her husband, Andy, in PA. They have one child, Susan.

In 1969 they moved to Daytona Beach and Andy went to work for the Daytona Marina and Boat Works, retiring in 1980. Connie worked for Dan Cooper, Project Director of the Palm Coast Community Project as his personal Secretary. She worked for ITT-Levitt, whose offices were located in the old Lehigh Portland Cement Co., until 1973. The Horvaths bought their property in Palm Coast through the payroll deduction plan

at a discount ITT-Levitt offered their employees. They built their house in 1980. Connie retired in 1982 from the Daytona Beach Resort Area Advertising and Publicity Authority.

Connie's family has participated in the International Festival Club's parade and events from the very first one held in October 1979 and for all the 17 years of its existence. Connie founded the Pennsylvania Club in 1984 and does publicity for it as well as for the German Club (her heritage), which she is a member of.

John and Therese Schwartz. In 1971 John was working in Washington, DC and his family of six was living in Silver Spring, MD. It was at this time that they discovered Palm Coast. The local paper ran an ad for ITT-Levitt and one evening they attended a presentation on the development. Coincidentally, he got a raise in salary and he and Therese decided to invest in property in Palm Coast. Sight unseen, they bought a lot in the "F" section off Farmsworth for \$4,500. In 1984 they finally moved down to Florida. Their original lot was exchanged for a canal lot in the "C" section and they built a new model, El Corondo.

John and Therese became members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and many organizations and clubs. Therese attended DBCC and was awarded a BS degree in 1981. She plays bridge with several groups. John plays tennis at the Palm Coast Players Club and belongs to The Military Officers Organization and Military Order of World Wars.

Jim and Claire Sheekey. Claire and Jim were both born in Bayonne, NJ. They met in high school and married in 1946. Jim served in the Naval Air Corp as an aviation cadet for two

years during World War II. After returning to civilian life he resumed his career as a pitcher with the Boston Red Sox for five years. He was a teammate of Dale Long who eventually lived in Palm Coast until his death in 1993.

After leaving professional baseball he worked for Exxon Research & Engineering Co, for 36 years, retiring in 1984. Claire worked for Standard Oil as a secretary until her first child, Brian, was born. They also have a daughter Karen.

Claire joined the Roselle School system and was secretary to the principal of Abraham Clark High School. They bought property in Palm Coast in 1972 and built their home in 1977. They visited Palm Coast on their vacations and stayed at the Sheraton on the ocean off A1A. After 20 years working, she retired in 1985. Many friends visited them and then settled in Palm Coast. Bob and Wilma Scott, Bea and Ed Beckenbach, Angie and Gerry Ippolito, JoAnn and Tony Farina, and Evelyn and George Fowler. They were always so enthusiastic when they spoke about Palm Coast so it was easy to introduce this new community to their friends.

Officers

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

Directors

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

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society
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