

The Palm Coast Historian

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The City of Palm Coast Historical Society A Brief Glimpse into Palm Coasts' History By Debby Geyer, President

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society was formed in 2000 by Margaret Davie and Art Dycke who were appointed Co-Historians by the first Palm Coast City Council. Margaret Davie became the first President and Art Dycke the first Vice-President. Both are now Directors of the Historical Society and still serve as Palm Coast Co-Historians.

The purpose of the Historical Society is to promote and foster the study of the history of the City of Palm Coast, Florida. To accomplish this, the Historical Society serves as an educational and historical organization. Below are some of the key historical events and firsts in the building of Palm Coast.

- Property
 - ITT Rayonier already owned 70,000 acres in Flagler and St Johns' counties.
 - Lehigh Portland Cement property, on Colbert Lane, was purchased for \$4,500,000 by ITT Rayonier and announced in the *Flagler Tribune* on January 3, 1969.
 - ITT Rayonier purchased 6,000 acres from Lewis E. Wadsworth and others.
 - June 16, 1969 ITT Rayonier announced, at Princess Place, that they would turn over 20,000 acres to ITT Rayonier subsidiary Levitt and Sons for a massive land development project. The construction office would be located in the Lehigh Plant on Colbert Lane. Connie Horvath, now on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society, was the Secretary/Assistant to ITT Levitt's first Project Manager.
- A few "firsts" in Palm Coast
 - October 1970 – The Welcome Center, on Club House Drive, was the first building constructed.
 - October 29, 1970 – Palm Coast official grand opening.
 - September 4, 1971 – First golf course, Palm Coast Golf Club, now called Palm Harbor, opened.
 - January 21, 1972 – First houses, located off Club House Drive, were ready for occupants.
 - January 21, 1972 – First residents, Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Sheehan, moved into their home on Casper Drive.
 - September 1973 – First store, Handy-Way, opened on Club House Drive near Palm Coast Parkway.
 - First businesses to open in the new convenience center were:
 - Sonya's Beauty Salon, opened in 1973 on Office Park Drive. The salon was at this location for 20 years before moving to its current location on Florida Park Drive in 1993. Mary Turchette was among the first customers of Sonya's Beauty Salon and still has a standing Thursday appointment.
 - Dr. Jack Dunn who was Palm Coast's first doctor.
 - Exclusive Properties was the first non-ITT Rayonier realtor.
 - First postmaster was Lee McGowan. All residents picked up their mail from her at the Handy-Way.
 - First condominium was the Shangri-La constructed in 1974.
 - July 4, 1974 – First church was St. Mark by the Sea Lutheran Church.
 - First non-ITT Rayonier industry was The Whittemann Company who re-located to Palm Coast from Buffalo, NY in July of 1980.

Hopefully, I have whetted your appetite for a more detailed history of Palm Coast. Look for our newsletter, which contains historical articles, in the Flagler/Palm Coast Library, the Community Center, and the Chamber of Commerce; check our website, <http://community.webtv.net/pchistorical/TheCityofPalmCoast>; and check the papers for the release of Art Dycke's book *Images of America: Palm Coast*.

Note: The above article was requested by the Flagler Chamber of Commerce and will, space permitting, appear in their 2004 Flagler County Chamber Phone Book.

91 Charter Members – September 24, 2003

Atkins, John & Anne	Meyer, William
Bartholow, Milbrey	Milberg, Arthur & Eleanor
Bradley, Jim & Roseann	Millar, Meryl L.
Cafaro, Patricia	Mulligan, Richard and Phyllis
Canfield, Mary Ann & Jim	Mylis, Ed & Anita
Cannon, Jim	Neveras, Theresa
Carter, Ralph	Netts, Jon & Priscilla
Coale, Starr	Norris, Mary & David
Corbin, Evelyn	Nunziata, Orlando A.
Crocetta, Bob	Oddi, Vincent and Joanne
Crowell, Dale & Susan	O'Neill, John
Culpepper, Jane	Perry, Dexter & Kim
Davie, Margaret	Pitman, Jack & Anne-Marie
Delaney, Jim & Anna	Pugliese, Celia
DeMeglio, Donna	Rende, Stephen-Gold
DeVito, Donald & Laura	Reisman, Dave & Lee
Donnelly, William	Rivers, Joseph and Lorraine
Dycke, Art & Louise	Rochette, Cliff
Eustace, John & Lucille	Ryan, Mike & Rita
Finch, Captain Donald, USN, Ret.	Schwab, Hildegard
Flanagan, Mrs. Leonard	Schwartz, John & Therese
Friedman, Sandra Rose	Scripp, John & Mary
Full, Jerry	Sedlak, Richard & Jean
Geyer, Debby	Schaller, Harry & Iuger
Godkin, Barbara Sue	Shamas, Tom and Louise
Grech, George & Ellie	Shane, Randall & Melissa
Hanzel, Joseph	Sheekey, James and Claire
Heatherly, Katherine	Shipman, Frank & Gloria
Henderson, Kevin & Belinda-Gold	Simmons, Elizabeth B.
Hennenlotter, William & Judy	Skinger, Richard & Virginia
Herrera, Ed and Fanny	Sloan, Jeanne
Heywood, Debra	Smith, Frances
Holland, Jim	Smolen, Alan
Holt, Jack	Spitz, Joan
Horvath, Connie & Andy	Stafford, Kay
Howell, Norman & Anne	Stan, Leonard
Jones, Al	Steighner, John and Sheila
Kanbar, Blair and Brenda	Sturtz, Pat
Kent, Judith	Trayer, Tom and Oradel
Kervel, Arlene	Vazquez, Gladys
Kelton, Richard-Bronze	Walter, Beatrice
Levine, Arnold and Maxine	Walters, Marie
Lyons, Veronica (Ronnie)	Weiss, Trudi
MacLean, Mary	Werner, Ellen
McGovern, Patricia	Wolf, Edward
McLean, Martyna	

First 100 Members Will Be Official Charter Members
With Their Name On A Permanent Plaque.

The last license plate was sold to Patrick Ryan. Patrick came to Palm Coast after visiting his son in Ormond Beach and has been here 2 ½ months. Presently he is renting in the "B" section while looking for a home to buy or build.

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society is now a
member of the Flagler County Chamber of Commerce.

Welcome to our New Members

Patricia Cafaro
John & Lucille Eustace
Kevin & Belinda Henderson, Gold Member
Arthur & Eleanor Milberg
Celia Pugliese
John & Mary Scripp

Meeting and Event Schedule

October 8 – 5 Hargrove Grade

1:30 PM Historical Society Monthly Meeting.

Guests are always welcomed!

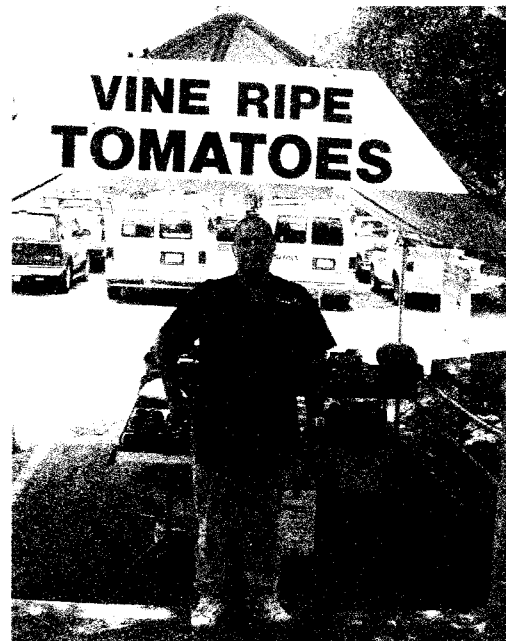
November 13 - 5 Hargrove Grade

1:30 PM Historical Society Monthly Meeting.

Guests are always welcomed!

November 20 – Lion's Club Dinner Meeting

6:30 PM Art Dycke Presents his Slide Presentation



John Johnson, affectionately known as The Tomato Man, set up a card table and tent in front of the original location of K-Mart in 1993 and started selling tomatoes. The tent had to be dismantled at the end of each day. Today he has two locations, one at St. Joe's and one at Palm Harbor Shopping Center, and at each location the now permanent tent is a familiar sight. When Palm Coast became a city and "tent" sales were no longer permitted, John's business was grand fathered in to allow his established and popular business to continue. He has been in the produce business for over fifty years.

John has been Commander of Italian-American War Veteran's Post 7 of Palm Coast for five years. He was

Senior Vice-Commander for the State of Florida for three years.

The members of Post 7 go to the Veterans Administration Outpatient clinic twice a month to conduct a Casino Morning with cash prizes and they prepare and serve a hot lunch.

John and his wife Rhonda moved to Palm Coast 13 years ago from Larchmont, NY. Rhonda is President of the Flagler Chapter of The Children's Home Society.

The Flagler Times

July 23, 2003

Palm Coast Historical Society accepts donation



The Exxon/Mobil Foundation Volunteer Involvement Program donated \$500 to the Historical Society. This is the fourth grant the foundation has sent to the society for a **grand total of \$2,000**. Charter members Jim and Claire Sheekey presented the check to Bob Crocetta, Treasurer of the Historical Society, in July 2003.

THANK YOU Exxon/Mobil!

Getting to Know our Charter Members

Jack Holt, Director and Charter Member was born in Chicago, IL and is the oldest of seven children. He graduated in 1953 from George Washington University with a B.S. degree from the School of Engineering, Machine Computer Option.

Jack left high school in 1949 to become sole supporter of the family. He went to work at Western Union and in 1949 went to Arlington, VA where he was hired by the Office of Chief of Naval Operations. He became an expert in the use of Punch Card Machines and was asked to assist the US Army and other military organizations in the Pentagon. When the first computer arrived, an IBM 604, Jack became the operator and later the programmer.

In 1968 he joined the faculty of Georgetown University researching machine translation of chemical literature in the Russian language.

*****Note to All Historical Society Members*****

Jack completed 38 years of service with the Federal Government in 1989 and then worked for 2 years for General Electric Company. At G.E. he played a key role in installing the Medlars System at the National Library of Medicine. At the time, it was the world's largest information storage and retrieval system for medical literature.

Jack and his wife Rosa retired to Palm Coast in 1992. Between the two of them they have 5 children and Jack has 7 grandchildren. Jack is active in the Hispanic Club and the Garden Club of Palm Coast, **plus, he is the Historical Society's resident computer guru.**

Don and Lora DiVito, Charter Members, were both born in Newark, NJ and attended the same high school.

Don served overseas in the Air Force for four years as a Communications Center Specialist, Cryptographer. After the Air Force, Don became a Foreign Service Employee and was a staff member of US Embassies in Manila, Philippines, Rangoon Burma, and Seoul, South Korea where he was a Communication Assistant. After spending 10 years with the US Government, he went to work for Pan American World Airways as a Sr. Staff Associate, Switching Systems, Rockleigh, NY. He retired from Pan Am after 25 years of service.

Lora worked for Nopo Chemical Company in Newark, NJ and she and Don married in 1966. Their first son, Anthony, was born in 1968 and their second son, Donald, was born in 1970. The family moved to Palm Coast in 1981 and in 1989 Lora became an employee of Adult Education. Both sons graduated from Palm Coast High School.

Anthony graduated from UCF and now resides in Mt Juliet, TN and is married with three daughters. Donald Jr. attends UF where he is completing the dissertation phase of his PhD in Music Education.

Don is the Historical Society's Web Master. He is single handily developing our website and is doing a fabulous job!! **You can access our website at:**

<http://community-2.webtv.net/pchistorical/TheCityofPalmCoast/>

Thank You Chuck Warren

Chuck was the guest speaker at our evening meeting on September 22. He combined humorous experiences in Palm Coast as a realtor with historical facts about its' history. The audience enjoyed his stories and asked many questions relating to the history of Palm Coast. Chuck e-mailed, "Thank you again for asking me to speak last night. I think I enjoyed it more than the audience!"

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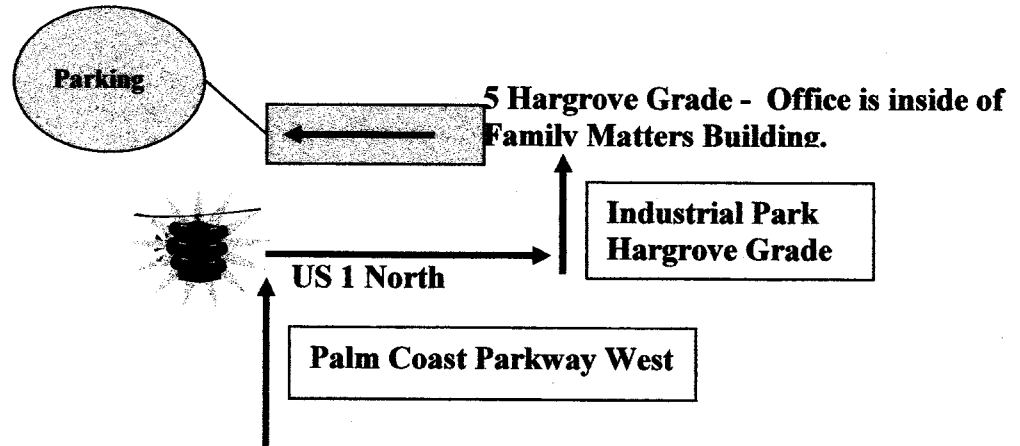
Officers

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

Directors

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

Palm Coast Historical Society Office is Located in the Industrial Park at 5 Hargrove Grade



HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS: A revision to the By-Laws will be voted on at the October 8 meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, mail the enclosed proxy BEFORE OCTOBER 5. Proxies must be RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 7 to be counted as a vote.

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