

# The Palm Coast Historian

Published by The City of Palm Coast Historical Society Editor: Mary Ann Canfield Issue 8 January 2004  
<http://community-2.webtv.net/pchistorical/TheCityofPalmCoast/>

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society is proud to announce the arrival of  
*Images of America: Palm Coast* by local author, Art Dycke.

The book is a compilation of 238 captioned photographs from the ITT (ICDC) files that are now held by the Palm Coast Historical Society. Contributions of local residents, reporters and newspapers are also included in the book. *Images* is a concise introduction to our area's history, organizations, people and their activities.

Arcadia, the publisher, describes the book on the back cover as follows:

"What is paradise? Before 1969, land that would eventually become the City of Palm Coast was considered by some as nothing more than a 'big pine-covered swamp.' But when the corporate eyes of ITT/Levitt and Sons looked upon the virtually uninhabited land, they saw 22,000 acres of golf courses, marinas, oceanfront motels, scenic drives, and house lots awaiting the arrival of sun-seeking 'pioneers.' Marketing strategies targeting urban residents in the North and Midwest offered slices of land cut out of miles of forest, and soon a 500-mile infrastructure of roads, utilities, and sewer lines bound Palm Coast to a future that included becoming the largest planned unit development in Florida history.

Perhaps some considered it paradise when life was so secluded that it took a 13-mile drive to buy a quart of milk; perhaps others found 'the perfect place to live' when errands were shortened by a new shopping center in 1979. Now comprising about two-thirds of Flagler County's population, Palm Coast continues to attract residents and visitors alike. With a fascinating collection of photographs and illustrations, Arthur E. Dycke, city co-historian, a director of the City of Palm Coast Historical Society, and an adjunct faculty member at Daytona Beach Community College, presents this whirlwind history of a wilderness turned 'paradise.'

The *Images of America* series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today. Arcadia is proud to play a part in the preservation of local heritage, making history available to all."

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society is hosting several Book and Author signing events to enable you to buy *Images of America: Palm Coast* from the Historical Society. **The purchase of this book from the Historical Society, only from the Society, will benefit the continuing objective of the Historical Society in accumulating, preserving and bringing the Palm Coast history to the public.**

You may order *Images of America: Palm Coast* for mail delivery within Flagler County.

Cost: \$19.99 plus \$3.00 for S&H = **Grand Total of \$22.99 each**

Mail delivery elsewhere in the United States is \$4.00 for S&H = **Grand Total of \$23.99 each**

**Mail the order form and check to: Palm Coast Historical Society, P.O. Box 352613, Palm Coast, FL 32135**

**Make check payable to Palm Coast Historical Society**

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**Palm Coast Historical Society Book and Author Signing Dates**  
**Every Monday 1:00pm-3:00pm, and Tuesday 10:00pm-3:00pm, 5 Hargrove Grade**  
**Questions? Call Art Dycke, 386-446-8636 or Debby Geyer, President, 386-446-9032.**  
 Visit our website for additional book and Palm Coast Historical Society information.  
<http://community.webtv.net/pchistorical/TheCityofPalmCoast/>

**99 Charter Members - January 9, 2004**

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

**Welcome to our New Members**

William Hudson & Ursula Kerins  
 Flagler Pennysaver - Bronze  
 Kevin Kennedy  
 Bob Naster  
 Betty Rhatigan  
 Robert & Barbara Sgroi  
 Tony & Kendell Turner

**Meeting and Event Schedule**

**January 31 & February 1 - Home Show at Flagler/Palm Coast High School. Volunteers needed to staff our table. Please sign up for an hour or longer if possible.**

**February 11 - Monthly Meeting at 5 Hargrove Grade. 1:30pm Installation of Officers/Directors. Guests welcomed!**

**Members in the News**

**Margaret Davie, Co Historian and a Historical Society Director**

Margaret was selected to be a Grand Marshall in the 2003 Christmas Parade and a better choice could not have been made! After the parade, she sent the following e-mail.

"It was truly a BIG experience. I never expected recognition for being involved in the fastest growing city in Florida. It was fun, riding in a brand new red convertible provided by Ford in Palm Coast, right next to where the parade began.

After we returned, at the end of our 6-mile Parade, my driver, Janice Nickol, from Chamber of Commerce, brought me home. Beautiful sunny day today - going to Boat Show at 4 PM today.

Have a great day! Love, Mom, Grandma, Friend"

*Jane Culpepper, Charter Member*

"Woman's idea for butterfly garden really blooms" is the headline that was in the Flagler/Palm Coast News-Tribune, page 9A, on Saturday, November 22, 2003. Jacque Estes wrote, "Culpepper, an avid Palm Coast organic gardener, thought a butterfly garden would be a wonderful addition to the public library. Sandra Rose Friedman... was pleased with the suggestion, but admitted it was not a new one. Long ago, Doug Cisney... said it would be nice to have a butterfly garden, but that's as far as it went until Jane Culpepper came along, she said. The new garden is being planted outside the bow window of the garden room in the library and will be called 'Jane's Butterfly Garden.'"

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## Pioneers of Palm Coast Adventures

By Art Dycke

I have experienced considerable joy in interviewing and sometimes audio taping early settlers of Palm Coast. Now, at various book signings for *Images of America: Palm Coast*, new stories are beginning to surface.

The first involves an early resident's report of a burglar in his house that he heard and immediately called the sheriff about. Although it took some time for the police to travel to Palm Coast, they finally apprehended the robber who had gotten completely lost in the labyrinth of roads laid out by YTT! In confirming this story, Zane Kelley, now a security officer at Flagler/Palm Coast High School admitted, "I was almost as confused as the burglar".

For the second story, I am reprinting the letter I received from Belle Surdin exactly the way she wrote it to me.

Mr. Art Dycke

11/29/03

"At the request of Mrs. Sandra Rose Friedman, I am sending you the story of my adventure in Palm Coast in December 1973—never to be forgotten.

Good luck with your ongoing book."

"Sincerely,  
Belle Surdin"

### The Legend of Palm Coast 1973

"It was December 1973 that we moved to Palm Coast, located 30 minutes north of Daytona Beach and 30 minutes south of St. Augustine, from Merrick, L.I. Palm Coast was a very rural and new area with very few homes, unpaved roads, and no street signs posted. We enjoyed being away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

One day, after dinner, I decided to take a bicycle ride to explore the territory. It was getting very dark and suddenly (I had lost my sense of direction) I could not find my way back as I was surrounded by thick bushes and tall trees. I called for help at the top of my voice, but the area was deserted. The only landmark I recognized was the lit tower of the Welcome Center on the other side of many small canals that separated me. So I took off my shoes, left them on the bank of the canal, parked my bicycle on the shore, and jumped into one of the canals with all my clothes on.

The canals were sometimes inhabited by alligators. To my dismay, when I reached the other side of the canal, I found there were many more canals to overcome.

There was no turning back so I continued to swim four more canals crosswise to reach my destination.

Finally, exhausted, I reached the Welcome Center but had to climb up the oyster-shelled bank that was very sharp. It was very dark and I lay on the shore, breathless, hoping someone would come along, but the street was deserted. It was 9 PM. In desperation, I went to the nearest house and rang the bell. The surprised woman who answered the door was most sympathetic (I was a sorry sight.) and, notwithstanding my dripping wet all over her carpet, invited me in, and offered me tea. Her husband said 'Don't you know there are alligators in those canals?'

"I asked to use the phone to call my husband to come and get me and no questions were asked. He assumed I had stopped off at a friend's house. I soaked in a hot tub for an hour to get clean. Next day I retrieved the bicycle and it was just where I left it, but left my old shoes behind."

Belle Surdin

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### 2004 Dues are Due

Without reason or rhyme  
It is now the right time  
To pay your dues dear friends.  
If you procrastinate  
It will be unfortunate  
But your membership could end.

So please send a check  
Or bring it by heck  
And you'll be found on our roster with friends  
That take part in the Historical Society that is setting  
new trends.

Dues are \$10 single membership:  
\$15 family membership. Please send your check to:  
Mr. Bob Crocetta, Treasurer  
City of Palm Coast Historical Society  
1 Banton Place  
Palm Coast, FL 32137

### Dear Members:

Please renew your membership in the Palm Coast Historical Society. Membership is for one year, January through December 2004 and payment is due by **January 31 2004**.

**\*Renewal for a single membership is: \$10.00**  
**\*Renewal for a family membership is: \$15.00**

\*If you joined the Historical Society the last quarter (Oct-Dec) of 2003 your dues are paid for the year of 2004.

Debby Geyer, President

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**Officers**

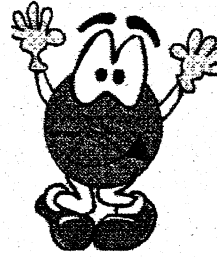
Debby Geyer, President (446-9031): Mary Ann Canfield,  
Vice President: Bob Crocetta, Treasurer: Kay Stafford,  
Recording Secretary: Debbie Heywood,  
Corresponding Secretary

**Directors**

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

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**"Every Penny You Spend With Us  
Brings You Dollars In Return!"**

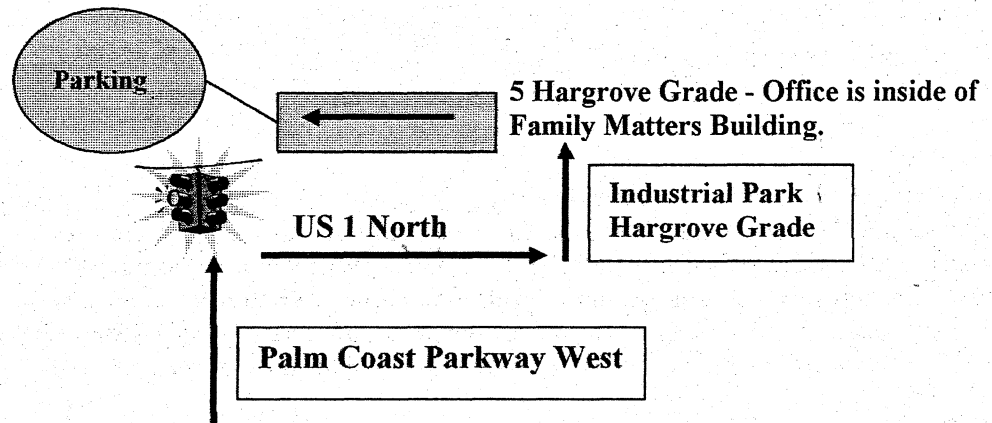


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Palm Coast Historical Society Office is Located in the Industrial Park at 5 Hargrove Grade



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