

# The Palm Coast Historian

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



## A Tribute to Mary Ann Canfield, by Art Dycke

In a recent nomination of Jim Canfield as "Mayor of the Year", on behalf of the Historical Society, I made the statement, "There would not have been a City of Palm Coast Historical Society without him." Those words are equally true about his wife, Mary Ann Canfield.

Mary Ann was a guiding force of the Historical Society even before it was officially organized. Upon the appointment of myself and Margaret Davie as City Co-Historians in April, 2000, she provided us with the names of long time residents to contact for our audio taped interviews and she participated in some of the tapings. Mary Ann typed the forms and popularized our "Who Was the First in Palm Coast" history project. When the City of Palm Coast Historical Society was formed, she became a Director.

ITT left us two file cabinets and 24 boxes of material in the summer of 2000 which we stored in City Manager Dick Kelton's office closet in the first location of City Hall in Palm Harbor Shopping Center. I sifted through all the material but it was Mary Ann that did the box by box listing, with the help of Claire Sheekey and Debby Geyer. Later, Mary Ann and our current President, Debby Geyer, transferred and recorded the COPCHS complete holdings in three moves to different storage areas and were the key individuals at the Society's fundraisers and community presentation activities. Mary Ann gave unstintingly of her time and effort to the COPCHS.

I know that Mary Ann kept a meticulous record, via scrapbooks, of all the events involved in the formation of the city and that she had newspaper clippings of almost all newsworthy events regarding the city of Palm Coast. She was the source of much information and many pictures in *Images of America: Palm Coast*. I called her many, many times while writing the book. Mary Ann Canfield's untimely death was a tragic loss to her husband, children, friends, the Historical Society, and the entire community.

## My Friend and Co-Officer of the Historical Society, by Debby Geyer

I met Mary Ann when I became a member of the Historical Society and was instantly drawn to her outgoing personality, wonderful humor, and infectious laugh. Because of Mary Ann, I agreed to accept the nomination for President only if she would agree to be nominated for Vice President. She would call me and say "Hello Madam President" until I finally agreed and then she agreed to be nominated for Vice President! In the short time I knew her, we became friends and I think of Mary Ann frequently and miss her.

What I will always remember is a conversation we had when Jim Canfield was in the hospital and I called to see how he was doing. She said to me "I told the doctor he better cure him because I waited so long to find this wonderful man and I'm not going to lose him." Instead, Jim lost a beautiful, inside and out, wife and the community lost one of its most dedicated supporters. The Historical Society thanks you for all of your contributions and hard work in compiling the history of Palm Coast.



## Gary Walters, 11/7/45-3/30/04, Lead Planner for ITT, by Jerry Full

Gary Walters was my friend, a colleague at ITT Community Development Corporation, and the man whose fingerprints are all over the community of Palm Coast.

He was the lead planner for ITT CDC from his employment in 1977 until his retirement when CDC began closing its doors in 1994. His office was the primary force that established the dozens of public parks, beach accesses and school sites, and it located and helped shape commercial, industrial and church structures throughout Palm Coast. He was closely involved in the decision, and its implementation, to transform Palm Coast Parkway from a single road into separate east and west-bound parkways, a process then known as bifurcation, causing much confusion then, gratitude now.

One of the things he held on to against all foes, domestic and foreign, is the site now known as Town Center. This large tract was the envy of home builders, developers, government agencies. He wanted it saved and kept it saved against all comers as the eventual center of business in Palm Coast, now in process.

His untimely death in March of this year at the age of 58 was a shock to the hundreds of friends who worked with him over the formative years of this community's development and, indeed, a great loss to his charming wife, Barbara, and their children. I'm grateful to have known him, sad that he left us so young. So many of the things that we like about Palm Coast are things that are due, in large part, to Gary Walters.

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## Welcome to our New Members

Ginny & Gunter Arndt

Ronald Pokigo

Albert & Audrey Umbach

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### Meeting and Event Schedule

#### September 22 – Flagler County Library

1:15 pm – 3:15 pm.

Slide Show by Art Dycke titled “Palm Coast History”.

#### October 12 – Palm Coast Community Center

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

Robert and Erma Brooks will talk about Early African American Palm Coast Residents and Organizations.

#### November 10 – Flagler County Library

12:30 pm – 2:45 pm.

Membership Meeting. Evelyn Corbin and Brian Rothwell will speak about Grant Writing and grants that are available for Historical Societies.

#### December – Holiday Luncheon

Date, place, and time to be announced.

Plaque with our 100 Charter Member names will be presented at the luncheon.

#### January 26, 2005 – Palm Coast Community Center

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

Jack Kelly presents “ITT Builds Palm Coast” and Jerry Full speaks about Gary Water’s contributions to Palm Coast.

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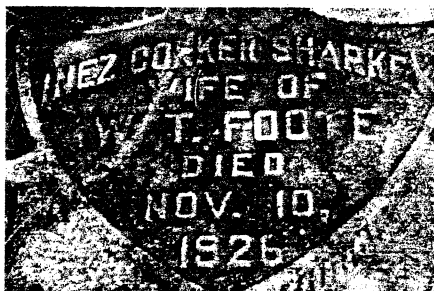
### License Plates are for Sale Once Again!

#### Display the City Logo

Make a \$10.00 contribution to the Historical Society and receive a license plate displaying the city’s logo for the front of your car. Plates are available at all of our events and may be purchased at the Palm Coast Community Center on Club House Drive.

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### Tomb Stone found in Pine Lakes Section



Contact Art Dycke, 446-8636, if you have information regarding the names on the tomb stone.

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## Historical Society’s website keeps former residences in touch with Palm Coast.

by Debby Geyer

When I log on to our website and see an e-mail from a former resident, I e-mail them requesting they send information about their time in Palm Coast. Below is an e-mail I received from Marlene & Henry Baer.

“We have many fond memories of Palm Coast!

We moved in 1984 from upstate New York to an area my sister still calls ‘paradise’. Our two youngest had the good fortune to enjoy Flagler Beach with all its beautiful weather. Our first house was built by ITT. It is being enjoyed by our oldest daughter, who still lives there. Our second house we built in the northern part of Indian Trails by a fresh water canal and it was our dream home.

We had many visitors from all over the world; my sister and her family, who reside in Spain and my brother and family from Switzerland. They all have many fond memories of the time spent with us in this magnificent part of Florida.

Last year though (2002), after one daughter and son moved to Las Vegas, we decided that at this time of our lives, it would be more practical for us to live near our youngest children.

We now make our home in Surprise, Arizona, which in many ways reminds us of our first years in Palm Coast. It is a growing community with a lot of newcomers from California and the Midwestern states. The ever present ‘snowbirds’ also migrate here for the winter.

Hopefully, we will have a chance to visit Palm Coast many more times and visit with all of our friends, especially those in the Italian American Club.”

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### Next Newsletter, January 2005

What do Palm Coast and Tapiola, Finland have in common? Read Mayor James V. Canfield’s article in the January – March 2005 issue.

*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 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.”

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**

**Please cut along this line.**

Ship to:
Please <u>PRINT</u> Full Name and Address
Street
City, State, & Zip Code:
<b>THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER!</b> Number of Books: _____

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.



**Northern Lights, a musical quartet group,  
Played the Popular Music of World War II**

There was a display of World War II memories and memorabilia in June at the Flagler County Library. To compliment the display, Northern Lights played the popular music of World War II.

Ed Wolf, a member of the Historical Society, was active in creating the display and is a member of Northern Lights. Ed sent me the following e-mail. “The concert was absolutely an unqualified success yesterday – thank you so much! One person who told me about it said you surpassed yourself and everyone has been highly complimentary.”

Bill Ryan took the montage photo of the performance and the display that accompanied it.

Thank you Ed for sharing your success with us.

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**Officers - January 2004 - December 2006**

Debby Geyer, President (446-9031); Bob Crocetta, Treasurer; Kay Stafford, Recording Secretary; Debra Heywood, Corresponding Secretary.

**Directors - January 2004 - December 2006**

Ralph Carter, Don DeVito Webmaster, Art Dycke and Margaret Davie Co-Historians, Jack Holt, Connie Horvath Publicity Chairman

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**Visit our website for additional book and Palm Coast Historical Society information.**

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

**Key in the website exactly as shown.**

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**Palm Coast Historical Society**

**Looses Their Office**

August 17, 2004 was the unexpected moving day for the Historical Society's office from Hargrove Grade to USA Storage behind Wal Marts.

I was notified, by the owner of the building, in the early afternoon that we needed to move immediately because the building would be padlocked later in the day. I called storage places and settled on USA Storage and then contacted Bob Crocetta for help. We meet at USA, paid for the unit then contacted a mover who could move us within the hour. The move went smoothly and we avoided being padlocked inside the Hargrove Grade building.

**We now need everyone's help in locating a new office.** Please call Debby, 446-9031, if you have information on a possible location for an office.

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**The City of Palm Coast Historical Society**

**P. O. Box 352613**

**Palm Coast, FL 32135**