

The Palm Coast Historian

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

“WHO WAS THE FIRST” continued

by Art Dycke

In the earliest days of the Palm Coast Historical Society, Margaret Davie, Mary Ann Canfield, Claire Sheekey, Debby Geyer and I began a project called “Who Was the First”. It was designed to find out the earliest facts about people and events relating to the earliest history of our community. We have presented many of the accumulated “firsts” in our newsletter over the last five years. We would now like to enlist our readers help in providing more information in an expanded search for early leaders and events in Palm Coast’s developing neighborhoods and its’ ethnic, religious, civic, business and social groups.

In the January 2006 issue of *The Palm Coast Historian*, I featured the Collier family in an article entitled “Who has Lived in Palm Coast the Longest”. In this issue I present Cynthia and Peter Abbot as our earliest residents who are of Caribbean heritage.

Peter and Cynthia met and married in Jamaica and moved to New York where he was an electrician and she a bookkeeper. They were among many who responded to media ads urging them to attend a home town presentation about a new planned development called Palm Coast in Florida. Also like many others, they signed up for a package to fly to Florida, stay at the newly constructed Sheraton Palm Coast Inn by the ocean, be taken by boat to the Welcome Center with its 64 foot high observation tower and then to buy a platted lot on a road that did not exist at the time. Cynthia and Peter moved to 28 Fairview Lane in 1974. At that time ITT’s Palm Coast consisted of the Welcome/Model Center, Palm Coast Golf Club, the original Palm Coast Yacht Club, the Sheraton-by-the-Ocean, a Handy Way Convenience Center/Post Office and approximately 150 other homes.

Peter noted that there was one stop light and one blinking light in all of Flagler County and none in Palm Coast. Yet, Cynthia said, “We had so much fun here and everything was free! (She was referring to the fact that ITT had weekly buffets and entertainment for prospective home buyers that were open to all in the existing community.) See Picture 1 – Peter and Cynthia dancing.

Cynthia and Peter became citizens of the U.S. in the 1976 bicentennial year. That same year Cynthia established her own dress shop. She is pictured in Picture 2, left center, with Ria Edelman and Dorothea Griffen on the right, at a fashion show and buffet at the Yacht Club. The Show featured dresses from Cynthia’s shop.

Peter worked for ITT at the Palm Coast Utility Corporation and continued there until his retirement in 1998. Some of his fondest memories of those early days involve the fabulous fishing in the ICW and canals of Palm Coast. See Picture 3 is of the Abbot family fishing in the Main Cannel circ 1974. Peter described catching “bushelsful” of a wide variety of fish, including “croakeys” any time he set his mind to it. He claims that two huge fish kills took place some time in the late 70’s early 80’s as a result of prolonged freezes during two years that ended the really good fishing. He wonders if anyone else remembers the events and when they happened.

Peter briefly considered leaving Palm Coast after his retirement but Cynthia would not hear of it. She says, “Then and now I love the people here and I wouldn’t leave for anything”. Picture 4 was taken in front of their home and they are holding a picture of their marriage 50 years ago in 1956.

Thank you to Peter and Cynthia for sharing their early memories and photographs with us. I encourage any one else in the community with knowledge of other “firsts” or corrections and comments regarding this article to contact me at artpchistory@bellsouth.com or call me at 446-8636.





2006 Meeting and Event Calendar

January 19 – Palm Coast Yacht Club

5:00 pm – Palm Coast's 6th Birthday Celebration - sponsored by the Palm Coast Historical Society.

January 25 – Palm Coast Community Center

7:00 pm – A History of Palm Coast for Newcomers (and Old Timers are Welcome Too). There will also be a presentation and discussion of a "Palm Coast Loop" as part of a proposal to designate selected Flagler County roads to become part of the Florida Scenic-Highway Program.

March 8 – Palm Coast City Hall

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. Membership Meeting – guests are always welcomed. **Speaker:** John Jackson, Director of Recreation & Parks

March 11 and 12 - Palm Coast Community Center

10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Art in the Park. We will display historical data.

August 9 - Flagler County Library

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm. Happy Birthday to all Members – Celebrate your birthday with us. Guests are always welcomed!

October 11 – Palm Coast City Hall

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Membership Meeting
Guests are always welcomed!

December – Holiday Luncheon

Welcome to our New Members

Bill Nelson & Christina Torrisi
Townsend & Janet Oliver
Timothy O'Rawe
Linwood H. Young

2005 Holiday Luncheon

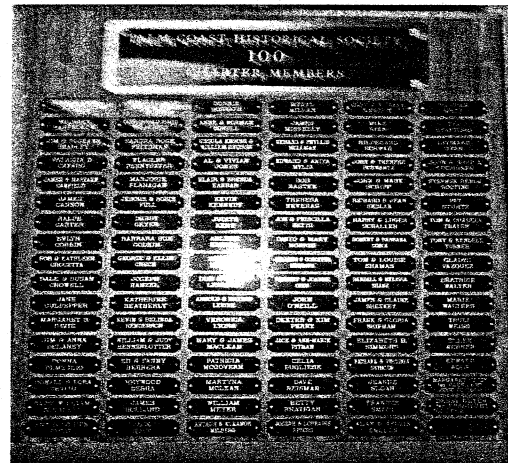
The luncheon, arranged by Jean Sedlack, was held at the Yacht Club and the food, as usual, was excellent!

Debby Geyer presented Two Certificates of Appreciation recognizing both Art Dycke and Celia Pugliese.

"Art graciously invited the Historical Society to join him in the purchase and sale of his book *Images of America: Palm Coast*. We split the cost and profits which has resulted, to date, in a \$971 profit for the Historical Society."

"Celia Pugliese, owner of Palm Coast Printing, requested copies of Art Dycke's book, *Images of America: Palm Coast* to be displayed and sold at her business. Celia is the Historical Society's top individual saleslady. Thank you Celia!"

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society 100 Charter Member plaque was proudly unveiled at the luncheon. The luncheon guests checked for names and were proud to finally see the plaque with their names.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS A HOME

New office space is being constructed in the warehouse of Palm Coast City Hall and, if all goes as planned, we will move in this summer! This will be a perfect size office for all of our historical data, computer set-up, for the public to visit and locate historical data they are interested in seeing and for us to work in to catalogue data and do research.

The membership owes the City Council a very large thank you for obtaining this space as well as a thank you to City Manager Dick Kelton and to Bill Gilley, Public Works Director, who mapped out the space and is directing its' completion!

Pictured below are members, with Bill, who received a tour of our space from Bill.



Left to right:
Claire Sheekey,
Corresponding
Secretary, Connie
Horvath, Director,
Jim Sheekey, Bill
Gilley, Debby Geyer,
President

Celebration of Palm Coast's 6th Birthday

January 19, 2006

The city of Palm Coast Historical Society hosted a celebration of the city's sixth birthday at the Palm Coast Yacht Club on January 19th. The event, the first major event the Historical Society hosted, was a sell-out and a huge success.

The success of this event was due to all Committee Chairmen and their Committee Members whom, I, Debby Geyer as President and Chairman of the Event, am grateful for their time, attention to detail and cannot thank enough!

Committees

History Exhibit Chairman: Art Dycke

Co-Historian, Director, Charter Member

Louise Dycke, Don DeVito and Bob Nastek. Special thanks to John Jackson who helped Art transport the exhibit from the Community Center to the Yacht Club. The exhibit was at the PCCC for the Mayor's Walk in the morning and then set up at the Yacht Club for the evening event.

**Chairman Jean Sedlak, Yacht Club Contact,
Hosts, Raffle Prizes and Auctioneer Extraordinaire
Charter Member**

Jean also guided us through all of the little details that require attention to making a large event successful.

Hosts and Hostesses: Lynn Breitenberg, Debby Geyer, Stephanie Massaro, Bill Nelson, Jack & Anne-Marie Pitman, Betty Rhantigan and Jean Sedlack.

Auction Prize donated by Ocean Hammock-Round of Golf for Four.

Event Program Chairman: Kay Stafford

Recording Secretary

Kay designed and typed the program.

Celia Pugliese, owner of Palm Coast Printing and a Charter Member, **donated the cost of printing the program!**

Financial Chairman: Bob Crocetta

Treasurer, Charter Member

Responsible for collecting/depositing checks and paying the Yacht Club.

Reservations Chairman: Debby Geyer

Assigned tables and prepared chart of names with dinner selections for the Yacht Club.

The following generous donations kept the cost of the event down therefore we were able to set the low price of \$25.00 per ticket.

Members who Donated Hors D'Oeuvres

Jim Canfield, Bob & Kathleen Crocetta, Jane Culpepper, Debby Geyer, Bill Nelson, Jon & Priscilla Nets, Skip & Jean Sedlak.

Raffle Prize Donors

Jim Canfield, Mary & Sam DiStefano, Jon & Priscilla Nets, Skip & Jean Sedlak, Bill & Jean Venne, Palm Coast Historical Society, City of Palm Coast

Master of Ceremonies: Mayor James Canfield

Charter Member

Mayor Canfield participated in the planning of the event and was Master of Ceremony. We wanted the event to be a social gathering without speeches but entertaining. With Mayor Canfield as the Master of Ceremonies this was accomplished.

Mayor Canfield announced Bob Crocetta was the 2005 Citizen of the Year and Lt. Thomas Ascone was the 2005 Palm Coast Employee of the Year. Their write-ups will appear in our October-December 2006 issue.

Donation to the Palm Coast Historical Society

Carol Hertle donated photographs of the **Trees of the Harborside** before they were all destroyed to make room for the new complex being built where the Sheraton then Harborside was torn down. Picture in next issue.

Donation to the City of Palm Coast

The Historical Society donated a large picture of the original railroad through a small section of Flagler County to the City of Palm Coast. Picture in next issue.