

# The Palm Coast Historian

Published by the City of Palm Coast Historical Society Editor: Debby Geyer Issue 15 October-December 2006

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

## 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.

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.
  - January 21, 1972 – First houses, located off Club House Drive were ready for occupants. Mr. and Mrs. Mathew Sheehan, our first residents, 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- First condominium was the Shangri-La constructed in 1974.

Hopefully, I have whetted your appetite for a more detailed history of Palm Coast. Look for our newsletter in the Flagler County Library Reference Section and the Palm Coast Community Center. Our website is: <http://community.webtv.net/pchistorical/TheCityofPalmCoast>

### 2006 Meeting and Event Calendar

**October 10, 2:00-4:00** at Flagler County Library, slide presentation "Palm Coast History for Newcomers" Part I. The presentation covers the 1969 founding of Palm Coast and development of the "core area" through the completion of the first shopping center in 1969.

**October 14 10:00-6:00: the 15<sup>th</sup> 10:00-4:00** Creek Side Festival, at Princess Place Preserve. We need volunteers to help at our booth. Call Art Dycke at 446-8636.

**October 30, 7:00-8:30** at Palm Coast Community Center, slide presentation "Palm Coast History for Newcomers" Part I. See October 10 for description of presentation.

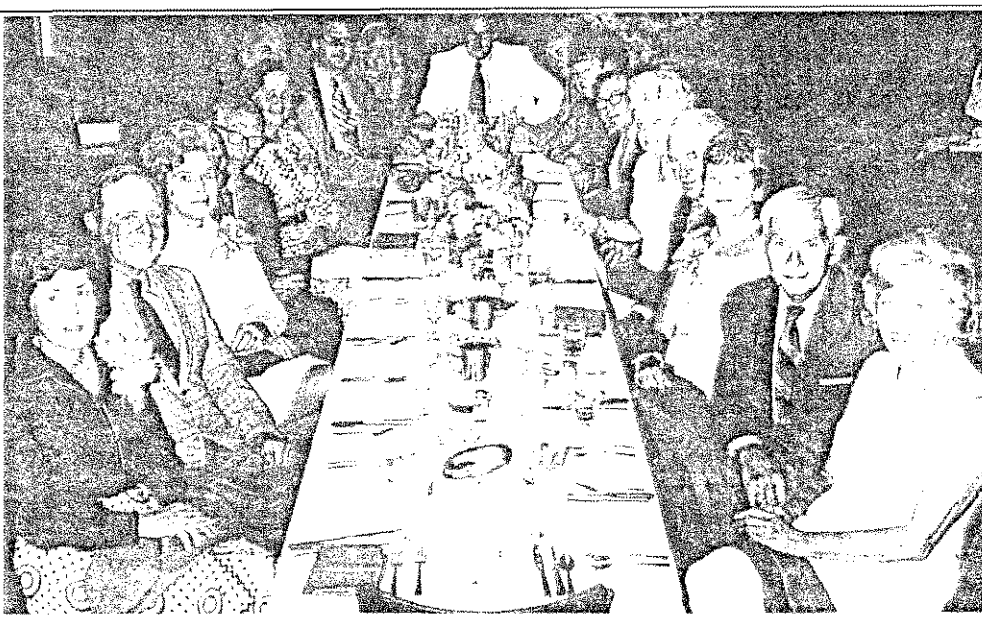
**December 13 –Holiday Buffet Luncheon - 11:30 am-2:30 pm** at Knights of Columbus. Cost is \$16.50 each.

**Reservations and checks due December 8.** Mail your check to Jon Netts, 17 Flintstone Court, Palm Coast, 32137.

### 2007 Meeting and Event Calendar

**January 10 – Meeting Place Unknown 1:30 pm-3:30 pm.** Membership Meeting. Guests are always welcomed.

**January 18 – Palm Coast Yacht Club – Palm Coast's 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration 5:00 pm, Semi Formal. Cost is \$30.00.** Please see insert for additional information.



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.

*Reprint of Article by Art Dycke, City of Palm Coast Historian.*

### Exxon Grant Check

Jim and Claire submitted another quarterly grant request form to Exxon, Jim is a former employee of Exxon, and they sent the Historical Society a \$500.00 grant! Exxon's Grant Program awards grants to non-profit organizations whose retired employees spend 20 or more hours per month working in a non-profit organization which they are a member of. The Palm Coast Historical Society thanks Jim and Claire for volunteering and taking the time to submit the forms. Thank you Exxon for awarding us the \$500.00 grant!!!



The Palm Coast Historical Society is a non-profit 501C organization and we recently created a "Reserve Fund" for future use in obtaining matching grants. Donations, book sales, and license plate sales will be placed in this fund.

**Donations may be mailed to: Palm Coast Historical Society, P.O. Box 352613, Palm Coast, FL 32135.  
Donations are Tax Deductible**

Palm Coast Citizen of the Year of 2005 award was presented by Mayor James Canfield to Robert Crocetta in January 2006 at Palm Coast's 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration held at the Yacht Club.



“Bob and Kathleen Crocetta moved to Palm Coast in 1997. He immediately joined the Home Rule Coalition and has been active in local civic organizations ever since. After citizens voted overwhelmingly for incorporation in September 1999. Bob was one of those selected by Flagler County officials to guide the city through the three-month transition period before the first mayor and city council members were elected. He was in charge of the swearing-in ceremony of the new council and has attended every city council meeting and workshop for the last six years. Bob also co-chaired the city’s first and second annual holiday parades.

Bob was elected Treasurer of the Palm Coast Historical Society in 2000 and has been re-elected treasurer each year since. He was a member of the Sheriff’s Review Board under former Sheriff James Manfre and he belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Descendants of the Mayflower Society (Past Governor in New York State); and Sons of the American Revolution (Past President in Volusia County)



The pictures of the trees at Harborside Inn were taken by Mrs. Carol Hertle prior to their demise when the Harborside Inn and trees were demolished. The pictures were presented to the Palm Coast Historical Society at the city’s 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration . Thank you Carol!!

---

## Welcome New Members

Jim and Gail Irvine  
James and Ada Sheridan  
Theresa Wiss & George Libonate

---

Welcome to our interim treasurer Jon Netts who will serve as treasurer September 11, 2006 thru December 31, 2006. Jon and Priscilla are Charter Members and Jon is on our Board of Directors. Bob Crocetta, our treasure since 2000, resigned as treasurer due to poor health.

---

---

## History Coalition

<http://www.flaglerlibrary.org/history/coalition/happenings.htm>

The History Coalition was formed to provide a one-stop guide, “History Happenings” newsletter, issued every-other-month, to advise readers of up and coming events and provide brief history tidbits of each organization Each issue will feature an article of historical nature supplied by a member of the History Coalition. Members of the History Coalition are: Mary Ann Clark, Chairman, Holly Albanese,

Elsie Chappell, Sisco & Gloria Deen, Art Dycke, Debby Geyer, Al Hadeed, Judy Kent, Diane Marquis, Bruce Piatek, Teri Pruden, Pat & Bill Ryan, and Catherine Wilson. Organizations are: Flagler Beach Museum, Flagler County Historical Society, Flagler County Public Library, Florida Agricultural Museum, Old Espanola School House, and Palm Coast Historical Society.

**Officers - January 2006– December 2006**

Debby Geyer, President (446-9031); Jon Netts, Interim Treasurer; Kay Stafford, Recording Secretary; Claire Sheekey, Corresponding Secretary.

**Directors - January 2006 – December 2006**

Don DeVito, Webmaster; Margaret Davie, Art Dycke Palm Coast Historian; Connie Horvath Publicity Chairman; Jon Netts

---

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

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

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

---

**The City of Palm Coast Historical Society**

**P. O. Box 352613**

**Palm Coast, FL 32135**