

# The Palm Coast Historian

Published by the City of Palm Coast Historical Society Editor: Debby Geyer Issue 16 January-March 2007

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

A Tribute to

Bob Crocetta: 2005 Citizen of the Year

By Art Dycke

Bob Crocetta received the "2005 Citizen of the Year Award" at the City of Palm Coast 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration in January 2006. Bob has consistently been Palm Coast's model citizen in all the years since his active participation in the incorporation of our city. *He attend the first City Council meeting and Workshop in 2000 and never missed either meeting until late 2006 when illness prevented him from continuing his unbroken record.*

Bob described his first encounter with Palm Coast during my visit with him at the Flagler Hospital in November 2006. In 1986, when he and his wife Kathleen were having a home built near the ocean in Ormond Beach, they rented a house in a new section of Palm Coast during the construction. Bob described coming into Palm Coast at 10:00 pm, after a long drive from New York, as looking for the house where there were "No lights, no cars, no one around and nothing there!"

Bob served with the Municipal Services Board during his 6 years in Volusia County where he talked to some of the early leaders investigating incorporation plans for Palm Coast. Bob and Kathleen decided to move to our community permanently in 1993.

ITT had mostly departed Palm Coast in 1995 and thereafter the Civic Association helped combine a number of incorporation groups into one with a committee chaired by Jim Canfield and Marty McLean. Bob was soon completely immersed in the activities of the Palm Coast Home Rule Coalition. Bob participated in planning sessions and a long series of public meetings in preparation for the vote on incorporation but what really excited him were the long hours and strenuous activity of the final campaign. He described getting a bargain by buying 4,000 plastic bags at a time and stuffing them with campaign literature. Kathleen would then drive the car while he walked the material up each driveway. This got so tiring that he devised a system of putting small stones in the bags so he could throw the bag to the middle of the driveway.

Bob organized car trains, tooting horns and playing band music plus delivered scores of "Vote Yes" signs all over Palm Coast. He admitted he enjoyed the personal contacts in front of Wal-Mart and Publixs and at the Home Show the most. "The stores made me go away but I came right back until they kicked me out again" he said. "I would

pull people aside at the Home Show and give them my 20 second spiel. I am a very forward person."

After a one week delay of the election date, due to a hurricane, the incorporation of Palm Coast won the vote easily on September 21, 1999. After a campaign that included 28 candidates, Mayor James Canfield and Councilmen James Holland, Jerome Full, Ralph Carter and William Venne were sworn in at the Community Center on December 16, 1999. Bob described his hasty effort to put together a proper party following the ceremony with no available funds. "Publix and McDonalds gave me all kinds of stuff and individuals contributed money for food and even a piano player volunteered. It was a great party that made us all proud as peacocks."

Bob was named by Flagler County to the 5 member transition team that guided the city before its formal incorporation date of December 31, 1999. Bob attended the first City Council meeting and *NEVER* missed a meeting or workshop thereafter until his illness in 2006. He described many meetings when he was the only citizen there. "Now we have pretty good crowds. I still watch the meetings on TV but its not the same," he said sadly.

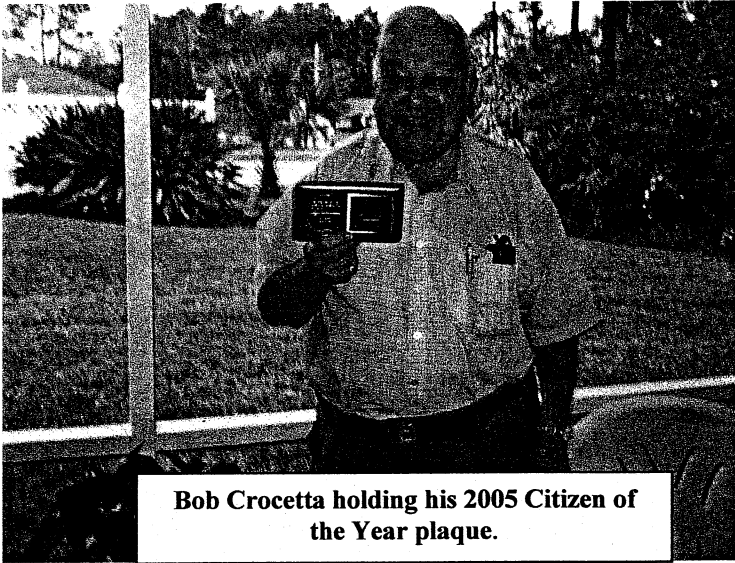
Bob has also been a mainstay of the City of Palm Coast Historical Society having served as Treasurer (with liberal assistance from Kathleen) from the time of the groups inception.

*Note from Debby:* I attended the meeting that Bob became Treasurer. Margaret Davie was President then and asked Bob "Will you be Treasurer?" Bob's response was "I will do whatever you want me to do Margaret." This statement from Bob speaks volumes about him—he was always ready to volunteer and help where he was needed!

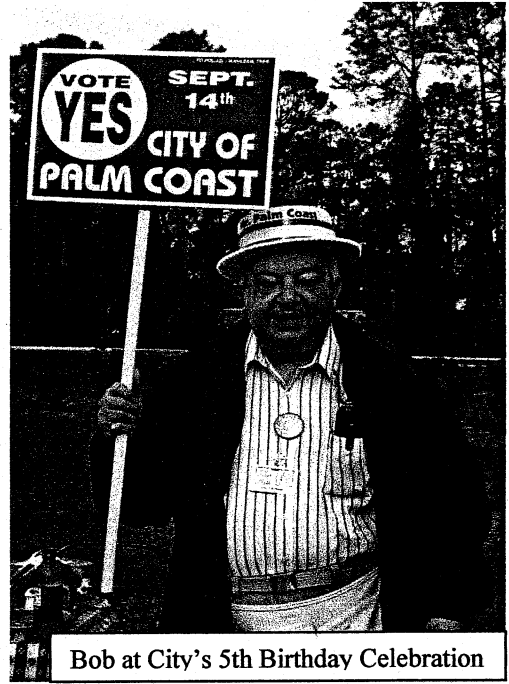
"Citizen of the Years"

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society and all good citizens of Palm Coast honor you for your service to our community.

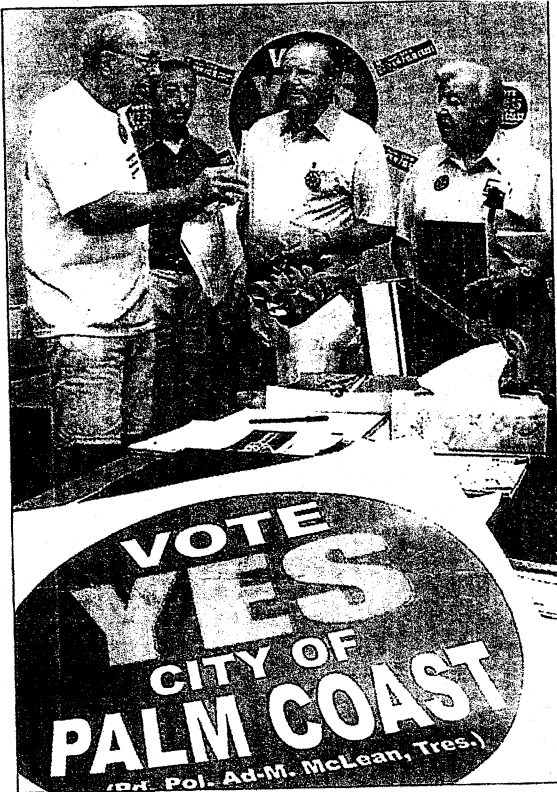
*Bob passed away at his home on Saturday, December 9, 2006. We will all miss him! We extend our sympathy to Kathleen, his wife of 60 years, and to his four children and grandchildren.*



Bob Crocetta holding his 2005 Citizen of the Year plaque.



Bob at City's 5th Birthday Celebration



Bob Crocetta with Officers and Directors of the Historical Society. Jim Miskelly, far right, is the 100<sup>th</sup> Charter Member.

PALM COAST HOME RULE COALITION (PCHRC), 1999. PCHRC was the organization that lead the campaign to incorporate Palm Coast. Pictured at headquarters in September 1999 are John Scripp III, Manny Ri Jim Canfield, and Bob Crocetta

---

## 2007 Meeting and Event Calendar

**January 10 – Marina Cove Club House, Palm Harbor Pkwy, Membership Meeting, 1:30–3:30, 2007 Elections.** Mary Ann Clark will administer the oath of office for the officers and directors. Jerry Full is our speaker. Guests are always welcomed. **Parking:** After entering the Marina Cove property through the gate, bear left past the tennis courts. **The clubhouse is the first building on the left.** There is limited guest parking on either side of the clubhouse. **Overflow parking:** Just past the clubhouse at the stop sign, take a left turn towards the Intracoastal Waterway to the overflow parking lot.

**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.

**April 11 – Palm Coast City Hall, First floor conference room, 1:30pm--3:30pm, Membership Meeting.** Speaker will be Mr. James Landon, Palm Coast's new City Manager. Guests are always welcomed.

---

### 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 of which they are a member. 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 another \$500.00 grant!!!

---

### Historical Society's New Office

Our new office at Palm Coast City hall has been completed! The only item remaining to be done is the lettering of our name on the entrance door. When you face the front of City Hall, the entrance is on the left side of the building. **Kudos** to the City Hall staff for a job well done!

Once we move in we will have a grand opening event preceded by a ribbon cutting. Jon Netts and Art Dycke are in charge of the ribbon cutting event. Date to be announced.

**Need volunteers to plan the food and cookers and bakers for that good old home cooking for the grand opening. Please e-mail me, [geyerda@bellsouth.net](mailto:geyerda@bellsouth.net), or call me at 446-9031.**

---

### To Yard Sale or not to Yard Sale is the Question.

We have not had a sale in several years and, hopefully, you all have accumulated many items you no longer want or need. The sale would be at our new office which would give us additional exposure to the public who would be shopping. Plus, the event would add dollars to our treasury. This will be discussed at our meeting in January.

**2007 Membership Dues are Due**

**Membership Form**

**Is Included With Newsletter**

**New Members Are Always Welcomed!**

The Palm Coast Historical Society is a non-profit 501C organization—your donations are tax deductible. A Reserve Fund for future use in obtaining matching grants has been established. 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.