

# The Palm Coast Historian

Published by the City of Palm Coast Historical Society

Editor: Kay Stafford

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## Who has lived in Palm Coast the longest?

by Art Dycke and Norma Kendrick

*The Palm Coast Historical Society's search for residents who have lived in Palm Coast the longest has resulted in finding Ron and Bea Schmucker. They have lived in the original Palm Coast ITT/Levitt development since December 1, 1972. This was just 10 months after the first of the three pioneer settlers moved into their homes on January 21, 1972.*

### HAS ANYONE LIVED HERE LONGER?



*Ron and Bea Schmucker at Palm Coast Historical Society Founder's Day celebration, October 29, 2010*

The society has been searching for “*The First*” in just about everything in Palm Coast history since the organization’s creation in 2000. In this issue we undertake the monumental task of documenting and chronicling the names and some memories of as many of our earliest residents as we can find. We hope you will not be bored by the many names we’re presenting here. It is our hope that remaining pioneer settlers of Palm Coast and their families and friends will continue to share their knowledge of their early days in a new community and that residents in the future will appreciate our efforts.

First, let me explain that Palm Coast did not exist prior to 1969. It was named and planned by ITT (International Telephone and Telegraph) and its Levitt and Sons subsidiary at the end of 1968. The following year, ITT/Rayonier accu-

mulated 68,000 acres of mostly uninhabited land and an abandoned cement plant to construct a major development in rural Flagler County, FL. Land sales began in 1970 and an elaborate grand opening of Palm Coast took place on October 29 at the ITT Welcome Center, the community’s first building.

ITT published the following partial list of land purchasers and their home towns in 1970: Eva Acker, Charlotte, NC; Arthur Baker, New Haven, CT; Donald Bendickson, Vienna, VA; Dorothy Cahill, Stony Brook, NY; Harold Catron, Stone Mountain, GA; Halina Ellis, Greenfield, MA; One Ennis, Joliet, IL; Dobbye T. Farrar, Goodlettsville, TN; Alan Gilbert, Garden City, NY; John Heiss, Bowie, MO; Lloyd Isaacson, Kennewick, WA; Henry Joyner, Atlanta, GA; P. Patel, Silver Springs, MD; Katherine Stroupe, Decatur, AL; H. Susmuth, Tappan, NJ; Van Sternberg, Washington DC; Richard Wilson, Bucyrus, OH and Winifred Wilson, Gainesville, FL.

Construction of roads, canals, a golf course, and the first houses continued in 1971, making it possible for the first residents to move into their homes in January 1972.

In IMAGES OF AMERICA: PALM COAST (Arcadia Publishers) by Arthur E. Dycke under the caption, “The Pioneers Arrive, 1972,” the story continues. “One of the most exciting days in Palm



*Mr. & Mrs. Sheehan*

Coast’s short history took place on January 21, 1972, when Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Sheehan (left) proceeded to move into their new home as Palm Coast’s first residents.” They were followed by Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Moore and Mr. & Mrs. Charles Konopasek.

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## Who has lived in Palm Coast the longest?

(continued from front page)



Mr. & Mrs.  
C. Konopasek

The front cover of IMAGES (below) showed many of the first residents to



Mr. & Mrs  
V. Moore

move into Palm Coast as they were being wined, dined, and honored by ITT/Levitt developers of Palm Coast in a Daytona Beach restaurant (below).



*PIONEERS OF PALM COAST, 1972. On April 18, ICDC hosted a gala dinner party for the first families to move into Palm Coast. Pictured here are the guests of honor and the Palm Coast staff at the start of the festive event. From front to back are (left side) Mr. and Mrs. William H. Loeb, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Konopasek, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Simmons (Mr. Simmons was a Palm Coast salesman), Byron Maharrey, Jean Roy, and Ken Hath (at the head of the table); (right side) Mrs. Douglas Guiler, Mr. and Mrs. Winnie (Vincent) Moore, Mr. Guiler, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Sheehan, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward White.*

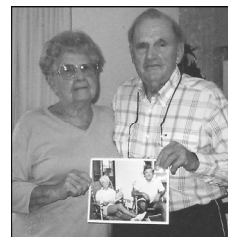
The following title and paragraphs are taken from a front page article I wrote in our January 2006 issue of THE PALM COAST HISTORIAN entitled, "Who has lived in Palm Coast the longest?"

"With apologies to the very few persons who lived in 'the big pine covered swamp'

that was to become Palm Coast, I began my search for our community's most long-term residents by researching the first land and home purchases recorded by the ITT Corporation starting in January 1972. Flagler County records showed that the first 25 lots sold were deeded to Alex Korn, Matthew Sheehan, Atlantis Development Corporation, Ed White, Ed DiLeone, Vincent Moore, Charles Konopasek, Harry Fischer, David Barber, Sand and Tile, Inc., Henry Paolini, Herbert Heckman, William Struby, Leroy Laig, Walter Kopecky, Ed Goodwin, William Loeb, Lynn Wicklan, Caleb Swink, Bernadette and William Collier (May 19, 1972, Lot 4, Block 7, Palm Coast CCC [Country Club Cove], S-8), Nunzio Palladino, Joseph Malatino, Donald Miller, and Alexander Korn."

In 2006 many of our earliest residents told me that all but one of the first 25 property owners listed above moved or passed away and a check of the Flagler telephone book confirmed that the above mentioned Colliers had lived in Palm Coast the longest."

*Bernadette and William Collier at home in 2006 showing a picture of their earlier days.*



The article continued with pictures and information derived from a personal interview and researched written sources about the Colliers and their family. (NOTE: I recently ascertained that William and Bernadette Collier are now deceased.)

It became time to search for the present earliest Palm Coast residents.

In preparation for our Founders Day celebration on October 29, 2010 (see article and pictures elsewhere in this issue), Norma Kendrick and I partnered in the Historical Society's continuing

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## Who has lived in Palm Coast the longest?

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“Who was the First?” search. Norma is in fact one of our earliest residents, settling here with her husband Hal before Christmas 1974.

We tried very hard to get the chronological order and facts as accurate as possible, considering this required that many senior citizens recall exact dates of events that occurred up to 40 years ago. The memory problem was compounded by the fact that many of our pioneers visited Palm Coast as early as 1970 to buy lots but then did not actually build their houses and occupy them until years later. Another difficulty in obtaining an exact chronology involved ITT employees who had worked daily within the early community since 1970 but were actually housed outside of Palm Coast while the developer gave top priority to building homes for the eager pioneer residents beginning in 1972. Norma was persistent and didn't mind spending many hours on the telephone, plus I received many e-mails.

With gratitude to the many early Palm Coast residents who responded to our appeal for information, with sincere regrets to those we inadvertently missed, with full hope that those missed and many new pioneers and/or their families will contact us, we now begin to identify early Palm Coast residents chronologically. Please contact us to add new information and tell others that we would like to add them to our list. In this issue we will print just a part of the earliest information about our pioneer residents; more will follow in subsequent issues of **THE HISTORIAN**.

### 1972

As indicated on page 1, we believe Ron and Bea Schmucker are presently (2011) the residents who have lived the longest in Palm Coast. They moved into 1 Carr Ct. on December 1, 1972. Following are excerpts from a letter Ron wrote on February 26, 2009:

“Dear Art,

“Here is some information from an early resident of Palm Coast that may be of interest

to you:

“We are Ron and Bea Schmucker and we moved to Palm Coast at 1 Carr Court on December 1, 1972 with our three children, Jon, Kurt, and Beth. The home we ordered in 1971 was a four-bedroom house and with the cost of the lot included was priced at \$29,400. It was the 92nd house built in Palm Coast.

“We were immediately questioned by neighbors who had moved here thinking that Palm Coast was an all adult community.

“ITT used a Volkswagen van to transport kindergarten through 12th grade students to the school in Bunnell. A grand total of 10 children, three of them ours, from all of Palm Coast made that trip.

“In 1972, Bunnell High School was not accredited for college entry.

“Home owners and children played golf free at the only course we had, Palm Harbor, for about three years. The 19th hole was a paddle wheel boat on dry land. Soda, sandwiches, and snacks were for sale. As you know, beer is a necessity at a golf course, but ITT had no real license for the 19th hole, so draft beer was free for all! You didn't even have to play golf to drink. Bea ran the 19th hole from 8 AM till closing at 4 PM and had a regular crew of older guys show up at 8 AM and start for home at 4 PM each day, leaving very generous tips behind.

“Fishing in the canals was great in those days. Using any frozen shrimp for bait, our family of five would fish for about an hour and bring 40 to 50 fish home to be cleaned.

“There were no stores of any kind in Palm Coast. We had to travel to Bunnell or Flagler Beach for a loaf of bread. Mail was delivered to our door by ITT employees.

“I knocked on many doors to help recruit 54 members (50 were required) to get a Veterans of Foreign Wars post charter. Post 8696 was

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## Who has lived in Palm Coast the longest?

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established in May 1977 and is the only VFW post in Florida that is open to the public. It also has the largest dance floor in the county. Of the original 54 members, only four survive today. These are John Rivera, Wally Murray, Carmine Izzillo and myself.

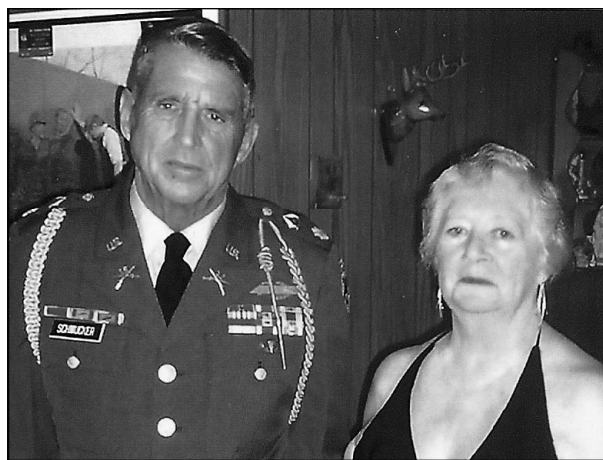
“Hope this proves helpful.

“Ron and Bea Schmucker”

According to our information, Maravene Clay has been living in Palm Coast the second longest. She and her husband “Spud” moved into Palm Coast just a few weeks after the Schmuckers and lived on a nearby street. Ron remembers that he brought some lighting to the Clays as they were



Ron and Bea at the original Palm Coast Yacht Club, 1975



Ron and Bea at VFW Ball 2008

moving in because there was none available in their house. Spud (now deceased), a former Coast Guard officer and federal government oceanogra-

pher, was a volunteer leader in developing utilities, police protection, and other community services in the fledgling community as were many of the other pioneer settlers. Originally from Belair, MD, he had answered an ITT ad while in Colorado and had convinced Maravene to give the area a six-month trial period. At the end of the trial, Maravene announced that she loved Palm Coast and would never ever move from here. Today, at 95, she repeats the statement.

At this point I shall recognize some people who were very active in the Palm Coast community in 1972 but who were not actually living within the ITT boundaries at that time:

Connie Horvath was secretary to ITT/Levitt’s first project manager, Dan Cooper, in 1970. The construction office was established in the old cement factory purchased in 1969. Years later Connie moved into the community she had been involved in building.

Harvey Baron worked for ITT from 1970 to 1980. Harvey traveled to 28 countries for the company. He remembers ICDC (ITT Community Development Corporation) president, Dr. Norman Young, and working on his planning committee with Vince Viscomi. Harvey was an early Welcome Center manager.

We end our look at our pioneers of 1972 by showing a picture on page 5 of Ann Tillard holding a photo and chronicling the names of people who built their homes during 1972 as they were honored by ITT with another visit to a Daytona Beach restaurant.

### 1973

Shirley Zell arrived in Palm Coast. She attended one of the free dinners up north, flew here to check it out, was wined and dined and bought a lot. She remembers the trip as the “fly and buy.”

Rita and Howard Gottlieb built their house in 1973 but used it only as a vacation home until 1978 when they moved here permanently. They had learned about Palm Coast at a promotional

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## Who has lived in Palm Coast the longest?

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### PIONEERS MEET AND CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY.

Ann Tillard (right) lived in one of the first homes built around the Palm Harbor golf course. She is shown here holding a



photo of another ITT dinner to honor newcomers to the community. Identified in the picture are Gordon Kipp, Ann & Bill Tillard, and Liz & Ron Deak. Ann and other pioneers described the early settlers and their contributions to the community. Some of the people described were Wilma Weed, who formed the Palm Coast Chapter of the American Heart Association; Dr. Jack Dunn and his wife Augusta, a registered nurse who, after they came here to retire, opened a medical office because they felt it was needed; Bill Loeb, who was a prime mover and first president of the Civic Association; Helen Rhutan, who started as a correspondent for the local paper and helped bring everyone together with her Chit Chat columns; "Spud" Clay who specialized in neighborhood protection; and Charles Konopasek, who was the community's first fire chief and who got the first hole-in-one on the first golf course.

dinner in Levittown, NY, where they lived. A salesman spread out a huge map showing them what was planned for the future in Palm Coast, FL. They then were flown to Daytona on a chartered plane, took a bus to the no-longer-existing Welcome Center tower where lots were shown on a plat map and pointed out far off in the distance. They were also royally wined and dined and, of course, they picked out their area and bought two lots. They were somewhat familiar with the area as they had spent their honeymoon at nearby Marineland some years earlier.

Sonya Toscano Sapp became our community's

first business owner when she opened her beauty shop in what would become the Palm Coast Convenience Center in September 1973. Several weeks later George Miller opened a Handy-Way store which soon included a post office in a corner. Then Exclusive Properties came in with real estate salesmen Bob Berg and Bob McCheseny. The last to move into The center was Dr. Jack Dunn along with his wife as nurse and receptionist. The convenience center became a hub of social interaction for the entire pioneer community. Sonya's Beauty Salon has been in continuous operation in Palm Coast since 1973 and is presently located on Florida Park Drive. Sonya moved to Palm Coast in April 1974.

### 1974

George Horton and his wife Eula, along with their four children, moved into their home on January 20, 1974. They had talked to people from ITT and purchased a lot. Making contact with Herb Bratloff to build them a house, they made the trip from Upper Horsehead, NY to Palm Coast. George organized the first-ever St. Patrick's Day Parade here. (\*author's note: This was also the first St. Patrick's Day Parade held in all of Florida!)

Peter and Cynthia Abbot 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 hometown presentation about a new planned development called Palm Coast. 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-tall observation tower, and then 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

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## Who has lived in Palm Coast the longest?

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by the ocean, a Handy Way Convenience Center and approximately 150 homes. Peter noted that there was one stoplight and one blinking light in all of Flagler County and none at all in Palm Coast. "Yet," Cynthia said, "we had so much fun here and everything was free!" (referring to the fact that ITT had weekly buffets and entertainment for prospective homebuyers which were open to all in the existing community.)

Sam and Raffie Jenco had an apartment in Palm Beach and saw many signs advertising Palm Coast as they drove south for the winter. Returning north, Sam asked Raffie if she would like to see "the world's most famous beach." "Okay," she answered. He then asked whether she would like to see a golf course he'd heard about inasmuch as it was becoming very difficult to get starting times in Palm Beach. "Okay." They met Gordy Rosenborg at the Palm Coast Golf Club and struck up a friendship, only to discover that Raffie and Gordy's wife had belonged

to the same club up north. The end of the story is, yes, they bought a lot and house and Sam gave Raffie the deed as her Christmas present.

We've received many other memorable stories from early residents of our community but we now pause in this chronicle. The stories will be continued in the next **PALM COAST HISTORIAN**. Meanwhile, please add to our collection by sending names, dates, memories of incidents and events as well as photos which we can scan and return to you. Contact:

Norma Kendrick or Art Dycke.

Email: [artpchistory@bellsouth.net](mailto:artpchistory@bellsouth.net)

The City of Palm Coast Historical Society  
PO Box 352613, Palm Coast, FL 32135

Tel: 386-447-1575 ext. 7216 (leave message or call Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 PM)

We would also appreciate your spreading the word about our Palm Coast Historical Society and what we are accomplishing. A membership form for you to share is on the back page.

### *In Memory – Jim Miskelly*

The Palm Coast Historical Society mourns the death of its interim treasurer and director, Jim Miskelly. Jim was named "Mr. Palm Coast" by the Society in 2002 honoring his pioneer residency, his ITT Santa Claus role, early sports reporting and golf column in the local paper, Civic Association presidency, Lions Club community service, and the ma-



for contributions that his writing, photos, and memories made to the history of Palm Coast. Recently, Jim Miskelly was presented the ribbon after it was cut at the re-opening of his beloved Palm Harbor Golf Club and he received the "Citizen of Yesteryear" award at the Society's birthday dinner for the City of Palm Coast in January 2010.

## 40 Years of Palm Coast History – 1970 Grand Opening

by Art Dycke

On October 29, 1970, ITT and its Levitt and Sons subsidiary held an official grand opening of their massive new Palm Coast development.



Previous issues of THE PALM COAST HISTORIAN have chronicled the ITT/Levitt initial planning of their project in 1968 and their purchase of the property, clearing land, digging canals and commencing the construction of over 500 road miles of infrastructure in 1969. We now continue with a description of ITT’s on-site marketing and sales system that was centered on a unique 64-foot-high towered Welcome Center that was Palm Coast’s first building in 1970.



*Governor Claude Kirk and Dr. Norman Young, President and Chief Executive Officer, ITT Levitt Development Corporation, in a lighter moment at the official opening day ceremony*

After the ribbon cutting, “The balance of the day was a whirlwind of activity for the governor and more than 350 other guests attending the ceremonies.

“At nearby Bunnell Airport a special ‘air view armada’ of private planes was standing at the ready for those who wanted a birds-eye view of the 100,000 acres which make up Palm Coast. The airborne visitors had an opportunity to become thoroughly familiar with the more-than-20,000 acres then under development, including six miles of oceanfront and 20 miles of Intracoastal Waterway property. They saw forests of pine, oak, and cypress trees; natural and man-made waterways as well as the full scope of the Palm Coast land development project which promised to become an integral part of its surroundings rather than a development which would dwarf its surroundings.

“The airborne visitors also had an excellent view of the three arterial highways traversing the Palm Coast property: State Road A1A, U.S. Highway 1 and Interstate Highway 95. They also saw the proposed sites for the 18-hole golf course, the tennis courts, and the yacht club marina as well as the nearly-completed fill operation for the proposed 150-unit hotel on the oceanfront.

“Less adventurous visitors confined their viewing to a marine excursion on one of the fleet of five boats Palm Coast had provided for the convenience of its visitors. The fleet included three small 15-passenger cruisers and 2 custom-built replicas of the Mississippi paddle-wheelers, Laura II and Little Belle. The Intracoastal Waterway, the finger lakes surrounding the exhibit center, the manmade canals, and the natural waterways were all traversed by the Palm Coast fleet.

“On land, opening day visitors were treated to a guided tour by staff hostesses attired in navy blue and white ensembles. After signing the guest register, visitors were taken through the information center where graphically illustrated visuals of the future planning of homes, recreational facilities and other plans for Palm Coast residents were on display.

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### 40 Years of Palm Coast History – 1970 Grand Opening *(continued from page 7)*

“The visitors were then escorted over the bridge leading to the main exhibit area where guided tours of the distinctively decorated homes were provided by Palm Coast tour guides.

“At the ‘Country Fair’ barbecue lunch under a specially constructed tent, the 350 guests were treated to a short speech. Dr. Young, president, expressed pride in the progress made at Palm Coast and stated that the exhibit center, being viewed for the first time by most of the group, was ‘merely a small indication of things to come.’

“‘Palm Coast,’ he declared, ‘will be a demonstration of the achievements possible in the forefront of technology. We shall apply here all the knowledge we have gained as a result of our extensive ecological studies and research.

“‘Just a little over a year and a half ago, Palm Coast was merely an idea. Today, in marking the dedication of its exhibit center, we realize that

ITT Levitt Development Corporation has made rapid strides toward its objective of creating one of the most outstanding communities in the country.’

“In another part of Palm Coast, at the site of the 4th tee of the projected 18-hole golf course, Dan Sikes, one of the leading money winners of that year’s PGA Tournament Trail, was on hand to provide Palm Coast visitors with a few pointers on the game of golf.

“When completed, the Palm Coast Country Club, including the golf course designed by one of the nation’s leading golf course architects, William Amick, would offer residents exclusive use of a challenging 18 holes as well as a luxurious clubhouse with pro shop and locker room facilities. The country club with its clubhouse and course was within a few minutes of any point in the Palm Coast community.”

#### **IMAGES OF AMERICA: PALM COAST**

*by Arthur E. Dycke*

Arcadia Publishers – \$21.95

This book is a compilation of 238 captioned photographs from ITT files which 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. This is a corrected but not updated third printing of the original first sold in 2003.

#### **ALAN SMOLEN: FATHER OF PALM COAST,**

**1975-1985**

*by Arthur E. Dycke*

LuLu – \$15.00

In 138 pages of text and photos, this book tells the story of the man who shaped the destiny of Palm Coast in his 10 years as president of ITT Community Development Corporation. It also presents a fairly complete history of the Palm Coast community up to 1985. Older residents can re-live the “good old days” and newcomers can learn how Publix and the I-95 interchange became fixtures in the community.

Both books – \$35.00, including shipping • One book – donation plus \$3 shipping



Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

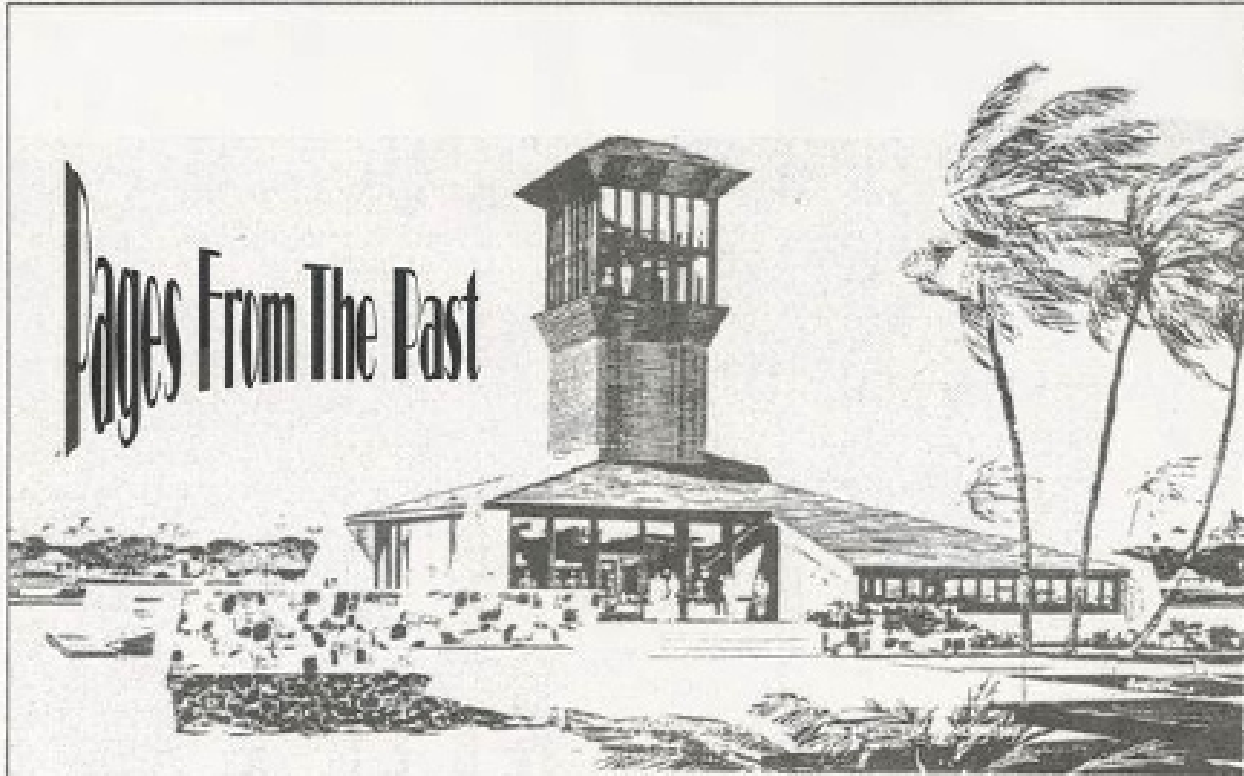
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**Palm Coast Information Tower Completed**

The observation tower of the Palm Coast Information Center, located in the geographical and functional center core of the first Model Home area of Palm Coast, was completed the second week of September.

The observation tower, over 64 feet high, will be equipped with an elevator and provide visitors with an unobstructed view of the work now in progress; the nine model homes, each one linked by waterway with the Information Center, the golf course under construction, the nearby lakes, the inland waterway and the dredging operation currently in progress creating a new canal.

Construction is also continuing on the model homes. In one future model the plans call for three bedrooms and two



and one half baths with all the rooms built around a swimming pool area. The exterior is of stone with wood-grilled windows and a wood gate. The entrance will be from the front gate under a vine-covered loggia through the pool area to a beamed foyer. The master bedroom area has a plush bathroom and makeup area somewhat secluded from the activity area.



In another home a private interior garden terrace serves as entrance. The interior patio, serving all the living

rooms, is designed for outdoor dining with complete privacy. A raised foyer separates the living room from the dining room. The house has three bedrooms and two baths.

The dredging of the canal has proceeded for a distance of 3,000 feet and completion of the main canal is anticipated by the end of 1971.

Additional construction news and notes will be forthcoming in future issues of the Palm Coaster.

**the Palm Coaster**

ITT LEVITT  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 459  
BURNELL, FLORIDA 32619

EDITOR:  
ANNE WALTHALL



PROPOSED INFORMATION CENTER. In February 1970, Dr. Norman Young, president of ITT Levitt Development Corporation, made a progress report to the Flagler Chamber of Commerce. He envisioned an observation tower overlooking the planned residential area, a tri-winged motel to be constructed on the oceanfront, lighted highways including Kings Road and St. Joe Grade, a high span bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway, and a central interchange at Interstate 95. The tower, golf course, and model homes were to be completed by the end of the year. Levitt marketers in New York had given the project the name of Palm Coast in Fall 1968.



FIRST BUILDING CONSTRUCTED IN PALM COAST, OCTOBER 1970. The words on the back of this ITT Postcard proclaim, "The Welcome Center at Palm Coast, Florida. The 64-foot tower provides a panoramic view of surrounding woods, lakes and streams." The building was at the center of the first model area and was to serve as the hub of all sales activities. It was a dramatic building with a variety of graphics and audio visual sales materials inside. The main feature was an elevator-accessed, 64-foot-high observation tower affording visitors unobstructed views of their surroundings including the golf course, the model houses, and the inland waterway.

From **IMAGES OF AMERICA: PALM COAST** Arcadia Publishing




With the foregoing history as background, the Palm Coast Historical Society thought it timely to chronicle events and recognize the residents who have built and shaped our community. To get the ball rolling, Art Dycke contacted the city communications director Marcia Lidskin, and Norma Kendrick started contacting pioneer residents with results as exemplified by our lead story. Now the story continues.

### Palm Coast City Council Proclaims Founder's Day and Palm Coast Historical Society Celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the ITT Grand Opening of Their Palm Coast Development

*by Historical Society Staff*

At its October 19, 2010 meeting, the Palm Coast City Council passed "Proclamations and Presentations" item number 10-460 entitled, "Proclamation Recognizing Founder's Day in Palm Coast" (below).



**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, before 1968, there was no place in Flagler County, Florida called Palm Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, in the fall of 1968, the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT) and its subsidiary, Levitt and Sons, planned a massive residential development in Flagler County and named it Palm Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, ITT/Levitt announced the start of the development of 20,000 acres in June, 1969 and began to drain swamps, bulldoze trees, build roads and construct infrastructure and amenities to include model homes, canal-front lots, golf and tennis; and

**WHEREAS**, the official Grand Opening of Palm Coast was held in this City on October 29, 1970 at a spectacular event for the 'Who's Who' of the State of Florida; and

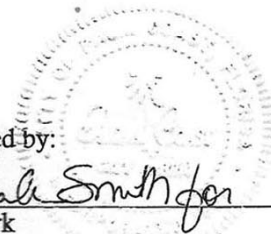
**WHEREAS**, the Palm Coast Historical Society has organized a local celebratory, historical event to commemorate this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Palm Coast on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at the Palm Coast Community Center.

**NOW**, therefore be it resolved that the Palm Coast Mayor and City Council proclaim Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 as

**FOUNDER'S DAY IN PALM COAST**

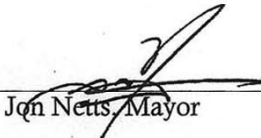
And urge all citizens to pay tribute to the discovery of our fine city by attending the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative event at the Palm Coast Community Center

**ADOPTED** this 19th day of October, 2010.



Witnessed by:  
*Virginia Smith*  
City Clerk

City of Palm Coast, Florida

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jon Nettis, Mayor

Council Member Mary G. DiStefano read the proclamation and gave a leather bound copy to City Historian Art Dycke and Historical Society representative Norma Kendrick.

**ROOTS** by Brian McMillan | Managing Editor

**PALM COAST OBSERVER** Oct 21, 2010

## Palm Coast to celebrate 40 years

Founders Day will be celebrated Oct. 29. Longtime residents are asked to contact the Historical Society.

After the City Council recognized seven groups and other worthy causes, Mayor Jon Netts concluded the regular meeting Tuesday, Oct. 19, by joking that the day should be proclaimed the official proclamation day in Palm Coast.

Among the proclamations was one to recognize Oct. 29 as Founders Day, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the founding of Palm Coast. It was on that day that the official grand opening of Palm Coast was held in 1970.

City Historian Art Dycke, who is also president of the Palm Coast Historical Society, was joined by Norma Kendrick, who has lived in Palm Coast for 35 years, to accept the certificate.

Dycke said the celebration of the 40th anniversary was unique.

"Historians don't usually get any respect until you get to the 50th anniversary," he said. "But



City Historian Art Dycke is the author of "Images of America: Palm Coast." Norma Kendrick has lived in Palm Coast for 35 years.

Norma and I are not sure we're going to be around for the 50th, so we figure we're going to get going on it as soon as possible, and make sure our history is properly done."

Dycke said the society plans to identify and contact as many of the early residents as possible, using old telephone books. Residents who have been in the

area since the 1970s are asked to call Kendrick at 445-3647 or e-mail [artpchistory@bellsouth.net](mailto:artpchistory@bellsouth.net).

The celebration will take place 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, at the Palm Coast Community Center. There will be exhibits and displays of the city's history, as well as a narrated slide show at 2 p.m.

The other proclamations were as follows:

Florida Blood Centers was recognized for helping the community donate blood.

The city staff accepted a proclamation naming October as National Community Planning Month.

Florida Hospital Flagler was recognized for its new campaign, Saving Lives in Flagler County (see Page 20 for more).

Chief Rick Look, of the Flagler County Sheriff's Office, thanked Netts and the city staff for helping to make possible the Purple Heart memorial at Heroes Park.

Heritage Crossroads revealed its plans for a 4,000-square-foot, \$1.6 million welcome center to Flagler County to be built with state funds near the Florida Agricultural Museum.

And finally, the Palm Coast Citizens Academy Fall 2010 graduating class members were given their certificates.

**THE FLAGLER/PALM COAST NEWS-TRIBUNE** October 27, 2010

## City ready to celebrate Founder's Day

By AARON LONDON  
STAFF WRITER

**PALM COAST** — They didn't travel in Conestoga wagons, but they were pioneers nonetheless. And while the terrain was easier to cross and there were few restless natives to encounter along the way, those hardy souls that were the first to move to what would become the city of Palm Coast were heading off into the great unknown.

On Friday those pioneers and the company whose vision made Palm Coast possible will be honored at the inaugural Founder's Day celebration.

The event is the brainchild of the Palm Coast Historical Society and is fitting, given the organization's central importance to the city's history. And it is something near and dear to the hearts of city history buffs like Art Dycke.

"I've been historian since the inception of the city and myself and Margaret Davies, we received what was left of the ITT materials after they left," Dycke said.

Dycke said the Oct. 29 date coincides to the Oct. 29, 1970 announcement by ITT Community Development Corp. that Palm Coast was "open."

SEE **FOUNDER'S**, PAGE 2A

## FOUNDER'S

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

The materials Dycke and Davies received from ITT formed the basis of a book Dycke wrote from the Arcadia Publishing Images of America series.

"We had the materials, pictures given to us by residents and interviews and I was able to put together the book," Dycke said. "As part of the historical society over the years we have written loads and loads of articles about early residents."

As part of the Founder's Day event, the City Council proclaimed Oct. 29, 1970, as Founder's Day in the city, and the first of what Dycke hopes will be annual celebrations will be held at the Palm Coast Community Center beginning at 1 p.m.

Dycke said the Historical Society is also looking to hear from Pioneer residents — identified as those who moved to Palm Coast between 1972 and 1979 — to add to the organization's historical database. Those interested can contact Norma Kendrick at 386-445-3647 or e-mail to [artpchistory@bellsouth.net](mailto:artpchistory@bellsouth.net).

Dycke said one of the highlights of Friday's celebration will be displays of photos and other artifacts from the city's

early days.

"We've got loads of displays that we're going to put out," he said.

Dycke said the compilation of the city's history is possible because the Historical Society has always kept a tight focus on preserving the past.

"From the get go we had a slogan, 'We don't throw anything away,'" he said.

Dycke said it's important to remember the past and for communities to honor those who came before.

That was a sentiment echoed by Palm Coast Mayor Jon Netts.

"So many people lose sight of that," Netts said. "This was a dream ITT had."

Netts said people need to remember that what ITT did "was pretty unheard of" at the time.

"Overall, what they did was way, way beyond what others had done or thought about doing," he said. "Some of our newer residents think Palm Coast has always been a city."

Netts said people should remember not only the founding of the development that would become Palm Coast, but the efforts made by many to incorporate it as a city.

"There was a whole group of concerned citizens who worked for incorporation," he said. "We need to remember what they did. It's always nice to remember your history."



DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL November 6, 2010

# Palm Coast celebrates founding

By AARON LONDON  
STAFF WRITER

**PALM COAST** — Poring over a display of old photos Friday, Larry and Bea Penna soaked up a bit of the city's past.

Residents since 1993, the Pennas joined several others in observing the city's first Founder's Day. "We're history people," Bea Penna said

Bea Penna said after she and her husband retired, they traveled the country before making their way to the Sunshine State from Connecticut.

"We went all around Florida and didn't like anything," she said. "Then we came to Palm Coast and fell in love with it."

That affinity for the city was also on display Friday at the Palm Coast Community Center and was noticed by Mayor Jon Netts.

"We're so blessed that we've got such a dedicated group of volunteers," he said, referring to members of the Palm Coast Historical Society, organizers of the Founder's Day event.

Netts said celebrating the city's past is important because many of the residents arrived in the 1980s and 1990s.

The development that became Palm Coast was a project of ITT Community Development Corp. Work on the residential development began in the 1960s and the company held a "grand opening" Oct. 29, 1970.

Art Dycke, president of the Historical Society and city historian, said the significance of that



News-Journal/AARON LONDON

Larry and Bea Penna look at old photos documenting Palm Coast's history Friday at the city's first Founder's Day.

date led the society to come up with a Founder's Day.

For Dycke, the city's history began almost as soon as he arrived in Palm Coast in 1993. He said he worked with other residents, including Jim Canfield, the city's first mayor, to incorporate Palm Coast.

"When the city was incorporated (in 1999), there were boxes and boxes of materials from the incorporation group," Dycke said.

Those boxes were taking up too much space in City Hall, which at the time was located in the same community center where Friday's event took place.

"I took the boxes out and that's the way it worked," Dycke said.

Then, in 2000, when ITT-CDC left Palm Coast, the Historical Society received another influx of material. Dycke said he and others sifted through the records and he began interviewing early residents, known as "pioneers," for the Historical Society.

"Then we put out to the residents that we were looking for stories and pictures," he said.

That generated a new cache of materials — including documents, historical photographs and company promotional materials — that Dycke also used for his book on the city, "Images of America: Palm Coast."

[aaron.london@news-jrnl.com](mailto:aaron.london@news-jrnl.com)

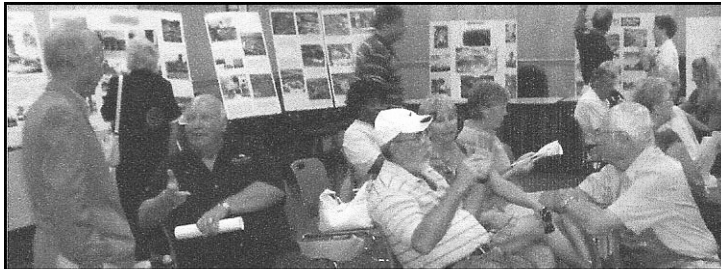
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# Glimpses of 1st Founder's Day Celebration

*photos submitted by Patricia Eldridge, Palm Coast Historical Society  
cataloger and volunteer coordinator*



*Aaron London discusses events with Mayor Jon Netts while George Libonati and Jack Pitman talk about their favorite sport, tennis*



*Norma Kendrick, board member and PCHS volunteer, shares stories of Palm Coast pioneers*



*< (at left) Art Dycke, center rear, shows slides to an attentive audience*



*Society members and friends interested in Palm Coast history*

*Board members and officers of historical society (from left) Norma Kendrick, Eileen Carter, Art Dycke, Jack Pitman, Patricia Eldridge, Carol Lemieux (at right) >*



## A President's Message *by Art Dycke*

I accepted the nomination to the presidency of the City of Palm Coast Historical Society for the year 2010 when Debbie Geyer retired after nine years in that office. As the continuing city council-appointed volunteer city historian, it was my announced intention to serve as president for just one year.

A steadily increasing number of officers, board members, and volunteers have stepped forward to expand the scope and productivity of our rapidly growing organization. Our membership numbers have reached an all-time high and participation in our meetings has been enthusiastic.

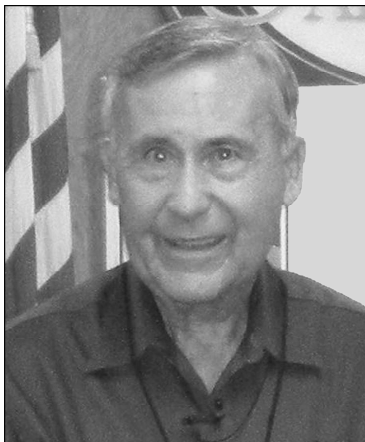
In stepping down on schedule, I am proud to express my belief that the City of Palm Coast Historical Society has developed into a talented and dedicated team that will effectively serve the community's historical needs as well as they can be served without an office/museum that is openly accessible to the public for exhibits and research. Finding a "home" remains a prime goal for us.

I look forward to devoting more time to the academics of being city historian and less in society administration while continuing to search for an optimum home site for the community's future historical needs.

In my "President's Message" I wanted to review the year 2010, introduce our newly elected executive board, especially Jim Canfield, and convey some of our plans and themes for 2011. Kay Stafford, our recording secretary and editor of **THE PALM COAST HISTORIAN**, recorded these minutes of the Palm Coast Historical Society's Annual Meeting which include much of this information:

"...Reporting on PCHS activities in 2010, president Art Dycke stated that the dinner a year ago drew 140 people and the silent auction net-

ted \$1500 which was used to computerize the office; four issues of the **PALM COAST HISTORIAN** were published; and he praised George Libonate for his 'brilliant tennis story.' • • He added that the historical society is educating city newcomers of early ITT history, also allowing oldtimers to



*Art Dycke*

relive the past. • • We requested that Founders Day (October 29 [1970]) become an official celebration each year, and in 2010 we contacted surviving original settlers. The next **HISTORIAN** will include their names.

This year's theme will be 'Incorporation.' • • Citing Patricia Eldridge, Art stated she has turned PCHS around with her skill in cataloging and organizing files, clippings, etc. with the help of a dedicated committee of volunteers. • • Norma Kendrick and

Art met February 10 with members

of the Flagler Area Ministerial Association to discuss the history of houses of worship in Palm Coast. • • Art commended Jim Canfield on saving boxes of information and records, the base for our organization back in 2000. • • He added 2010 was a very good year and that PCHS has a very good slate of officers for 2011.

"VP and nominations chair (Jack) Pitman nominated Jim Canfield as president and Carol Lemieux, treasurer, with the following returning: Jack, VP; Kay Stafford, recording secretary; Eileen Carter, corresponding secretary. Board of director members elected are Bill Venne (January 2012, completing Jim Miskelley's unexpired term), Bob Evans (2014), Art Dycke (2014). (Patricia Eldridge, Norma Kendrick, and Ed Moore are the other members of the board.) Art moved nominations be closed; seconded, carried. • • 59 ballots were received; the slate was unanimously elected. • • In his remarks prefacing the swearing in, Mayor Jon Netts stated that Palm Coast history is unique; it was created through the efforts

*(continue on page 16)*

## A President's Message *(continued from page 15)*

of ITT, but when they left in 1996, everything was left in disarray. Regardless, Palm Coast not only survived, it continued growing until the nation's economy affected everyone.

### **Former Mayor Canfield Recalls Incorporation of Palm Coast**

"Newly-elected president Jim Canfield thanked Art and Debby Geyer, who kept PCHS going all these years, as well as those who work in the history center. He related the contribution that the Civic Association made to the community's early history and cited their printing of the telephone book, which is now a Chamber of Commerce publication. •• Different governmental structures were reviewed by the Civic Association, beginning with a study in 1987, aided by Dick Kelton, former Volusia County treasurer who became PC city manager from a field of 20 candidates. •• In 1990 Catherine Larson was able to get a request from the state asking Palm Coast to submit a request to become a city. •• It was 1997 when (John) Eustace asked Jim to form a group to look into becoming a city. With the departure of ITT, Jim felt it was necessary. The county wasn't paying attention to its constituents here, Flagler Beach and Bunnell began annexing Palm Coast land, there was no zoning board, so it was important to move quickly. •• Meetings were held in the kitchen of the Community Center (which rented for \$5, \$10 later for a larger room which came out of their own pockets). •• The Flagler County Commissioners authorized a feasibility study by Lois Wescott of DBCC in 1998 and produced a charter effort from the study. •• Density requirements for a city were 1.5 persons/acre; PC had .95 but were given a waiver and had to give up some land, including the airport. •• "Not A Done Deal" (NADDA) opposed our becoming a city.

"Election day was set for September 14, but Hurricane Floyd intervened, so it was moved to the 21st, and more than 60% of Palm Coast residents voted 'yes.' •• From a field of 26 candidates

on primary day November 9, Jim Holland and Bill Venne were elected to city council; Ralph Carter, Jerry Full, and Mayor Jim joined them in the general election a month later. •• Targeting January 1, 2000 to become a 'millennium city,' Palm Coast prudently changed its incorporation date to December 31, 1999 rather than lose \$5 million from the state's taxation department.

"Jim gave a brief history of a few early 'movers,' including Jim Holland and Al Jones.

"Art thanked Jim and added, 'Jim Canfield was the glue that held everything in the community together.'

"Art commended Eileen Carter on bringing membership lists up-to-date. Eileen indicated we have 83 paid memberships for 2011. •• According to Jack, the Civic Association is back in business with new people. PCHS has been custodian of their sign, which will be returned to them upon their request.

"George Libonate asked about the status of a permanent home for PCHS, and Art responded that we are in ongoing discussions with the city, to which George asked whether any consideration was given to the former Players Club, whose preservation would be a definite asset. Jean Sedlak asked whether having the property declared a 'nuisance' would be of any value. It could not be considered an 'historical site' because 50 years is the criteria. Bill Venne suggested the possibility of having it designated a 'park site.'"

### **Looking ahead, the historical society and the city historian will pursue the following goals and interests in 2011:**

We will continue our search for a permanent home for the society. A committee consisting of Jim Canfield, Art Dycke, George Libonate (chairman), Jack Pitman, and Jean Sedlak, will meet with city officials to explore sites that might accommodate a publicly accessible office/museum. We believe that our optimal location lies within an "historic district" roughly bounded

*(continue on page 17)*



## A President's Message *(continued from page 15)*

by Club House Dr. and Palm Coast Pkwy. SE that includes the original welcome center and yacht club sites, Players Club, Palm Harbor Golf Club, our first fire house, and the Community Center.

**“Everything you ever wanted to know about the history of Palm Coast in a little over an hour”** will be the title of a narrated slide show and exhibits presented by the city historian and the historical society on Monday, April 25 (save the date) at the Community Center. There will be an opportunity for questions and light refreshments will be served. We are especially encouraging newcomers and others who have not yet been exposed to the unique history of our community to attend. The program will begin at 1 PM. Please spread the word of this event among your historically minded friends.

The next edition of **THE PALM COAST HISTORIAN** will feature a history of the houses of worship in Palm Coast. We hope to establish a chronology of when religious organizations were established and to publish early memories, events, and photos of their histories. If you have any information that could enhance this project, please contact Norma Kendrick.

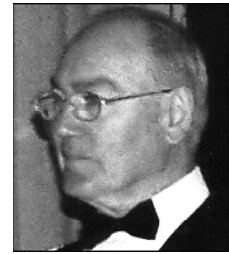
We will continue the chronology of pioneer settlers begun in this issue. There is still time to submit information. Again, please contact Norma or Art. A continuation of the “40 Years of Palm Coast History” series will feature 1970 and 1971.

Summer projects include the mapping and pinpointing of locations of historic sites in our “historic district.” We’re developing a community growth map which will chronicle its section-by-section expansion, and we hope to work with the city to establish uniform signage for historic sites.

Newly elected board member Robert Evans tenaciously continues the monumental

task of bringing order to the vast amount of documents, pictures, and other memorabilia related to the incorporation of Palm Coast, which will be available for viewing at a major event on October 29 (save the date). Please contact us with your memories and stories about incorporation.

William Venne was also elected to our board this year. Bill, a member of our first city council, brings a special expertise to our study of the incorporation.



Bill Venne

Volunteers Betty Buchanan and Yerdis Trexler round out the efficient team of historical society volunteers you have met throughout this issue.

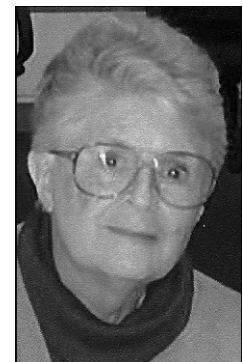
Later this year we expect to have a presentation regarding tennis in Palm Coast and a **PC HISTORIAN** devoted to African American pioneers in our community.

Thank you to Carol Lemieux for putting us on Facebook. Look us up under “City of Palm Coast Historical Society.” We still plan to develop a representative website. Please contact us with any suggestions.

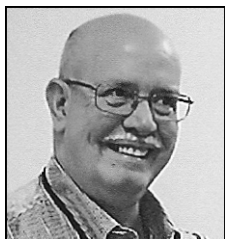
Our gratitude to Don Lemieux for many hours spent in organizing and computerizing our accounts.

Congratulations to Norma Kendrick for being named executive secretary for our organization at a recent meeting of the board.

A very happy 85th birthday to **HISTORIAN** editor Kay Stafford. She always creates a professionally perfect issue, never ever leaving anything out (even her real age). Thanks to Kay for the many hours spent producing this



Kay Stafford, recording secretary since 2000



Bob Evans

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## A President's Message

(continued from page 16)

longest ever double issue of our publication.

The CVS business at the corner of Old Kings Rd. and Palm Coast Pkwy. SE replaced the welcome center and sales office built and occupied by ITT Corporation, creator and developer of Palm Coast. The old "blue roof," as it was called, was a significant building in what will someday be the "historic district" of our relatively young community.

Historical society vice president Jack Pitman noticed that two of the original ITT signs were still on concrete bases along the former entry and exit drives at the construction site. We thank

CVS and the following individuals who aided us in securing one of the signs for future historical recognition: Bob DeVore, Jon Netts, Todd Zehner, Andrew Cronin, Richard Katz and others in the CVS organization who approved and expedited the procurement.

Thank you to Diane Minotti (Estate Sales, 237-3233) for contributing a number of ITT maps from former ITT vice president Jerry Full to the society and to Larry at NetFx for tending to our computers.

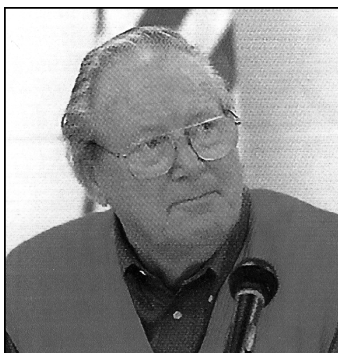
Please fill out the membership form on the back page and join our society if you are not already a member or pass it on to a friend if you are. We especially hope to involve newer residents in the unique history of their community. Thank you.

## Meet PCHS's New President: Jim Canfield

by Art Dycke

*Following is a reprint of a nomination for League of Cities Award with Dick Kelton as finalists for mayor and city manager of the year 2004*

There would not presently be a City of Palm Coast Historical Society if former mayor James Canfield had not initiated and supported the organization. I first met Jim at a meeting of the Palm Coast Home Rule Coalition. He was chairman of the group working on a plan to incorporate Palm Coast as a city. As an adjunct professor in history, economics, and government at the



Jim Canfield

Palm Coast branch of Daytona Beach Community College (now Daytona State College), I joined the group as a non-partisan advisor involved in the writing of a city charter.

I watched Jim methodically and efficiently bring diverse and often squabbling group members together on innumerable issues

at countless meetings that ultimately led to a successful community vote to incorporate. I watched him campaign tirelessly in a field of 28 candidates running for city council and mayor and easily win the title, Mayor James Canfield. I know his years working for the benefit of his fellow citizens was done out of affection for them because the remuneration he was to receive as mayor was a "whopping \$1,500 per year."

Palm Coast was fortunate in also electing diverse and dedicated city councilmen who together chose a talented city manager who shared their affection and knowledge of the Palm Coast community. In my opinion, this administrative team continues to be a resounding success in its leadership of the City of Palm Coast, founded December 31, 1999.

Our first city hall consisted of two small rooms with a large closet in the existing Community Center building. In the closet were two large boxes of papers, letters, projected budgets, of-

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## Meet PCHS's New President: Jim Canfield *(continued from page 18)*

ficial incorporation commission reports, etc. that were indeed the existing archives for the new city. Mayor Canfield asked me to move the boxes from the closet and store them, which I did in my garage. In April of 2000 Mayor Canfield asked me to become the volunteer city historian, which I accepted along with long-time resident Margaret Davie. We were appointed co-historians by the city council in October.

Mayor Canfield provided us with space in a small conference room in our first real city hall (the original Flagler County library). It was there that we began conducting audiotape interviews with residents describing the early days of Palm Coast. Mayor Canfield's late wife, Mary Ann, the historical society's original vice president, suggested names of people to interview and participated in the process of documenting Palm Coast history.

"Mayor Jim" and city manager Richard (Dick) Kelton requested that we form an "official" historical society. ITT had left many files containing documents, letters, photos, etc., all of which were completely disorganized.

An early historical society fundraising event was a large garage sale held at the Community Center, and Mayor Canfield personally constructed the stanchion and wood framework that supported the sign advertising the sale.

Mayor Jim initiated a cultural arts funding for non-profit organizations under which the historical society received a grant and which we continue to receive from the city.

I repeat my opening sentence, "There would not presently be a City of Palm Coast Historical

Society if former mayor James Canfield had not initiated and supported the organization."

We welcome Dr. James Canfield to the presidency of the City of Palm Coast Historical Society.

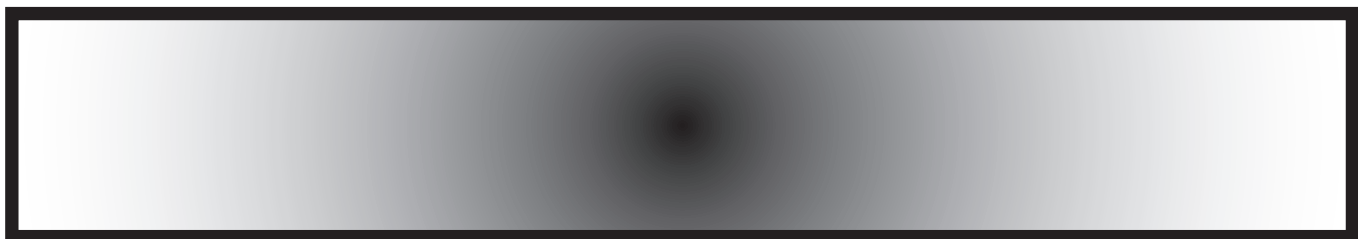
Enclosed is the latest edition of the **PALM COAST HISTORIAN**. I thought you would be interested in reading the articles about our community.

I would like you to consider joining the City of Palm Coast Historical Society. When ITT decided to leave Florida, it donated all its files relative to the development of Palm Coast to our group. One of the first acts in 2000 of the newly incorporated City of Palm Coast was to designate an official City Historian (Art Dycke) and to establish our Historical Society as the keeper of the artifacts and record of Palm Coast and its people.

"We currently operate out of space at Matanzas High School, courtesy of the Flagler County School Board. We publish the **HISTORIAN** four times a year, produce historical exhibits for the community, collect and preserve artifacts and material relative to our community.

"I hope you will consider joining our Society.

Sincerely,  
*James V. Canfield*  
 "PCHS President"





## Palm Coast Goes International

by Art Dycke, Dr. Don DeVito, and Don DeVito, Sr.

The Palm Coast Historical Society continues to search for stories from early residents and their families. Don DeVito, Sr. took the photo (below) of his two sons at the original Palm Coast Yacht Club, later the Sheraton Hotel, in 1982.



Anthony (left) and Don DeVito

Now meet Dr. Don:

“Most of the time Gabriela Barber, who has autism, does not speak. But she does sing – clearly and enthusiastically.” It’s one of her primary modes of communication which has been nurtured and developed by 2011 National CEC Teach-

er of the Year and Flagler Public Schools alumnus, Dr. Donald DeVito (CEC is the Council for Exceptional Children, the international professional organization for special education). “Music breaks that barrier of what students may not be able to say through speech. It allows them to transcend their challenges through creative self expression,” according to DeVito. Gabriela is just one of many students who participate in music at the Sidney Lanier Center in Gainesville, FL, where DeVito has students with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and other moderate-to-profound disabilities.

Dr. DeVito attended Bunnell Elementary, Belle Terre (now Buddy Taylor) Middle School, and was a drum major in the Flagler Palm Coast High School band. Longtime FPCHS band director James Grad was his instructor at all three schools. One of the benefits that most excites DeVito about being the recipient of the Clarissa Hug Teacher of the Year award is the opportunity to speak to Congress about his students and the power of music education.

Traveling is nothing new to his music students

as they frequently perform at state and national music and special education events, including a recent performance in Nashville, TN for policy makers in special education. For ten years at the Sidney Lanier Center, DeVito has been using music to not only educate his



Dr. Don DeVito

students but to engage them with opportunities around the world. He developed a virtual classroom project that uses Skype and a \$30 internet camera to link his students with universities and music programs for children with disabilities in Australia, Brazil, China, England, Guinea, Ireland, Pakistan, and South Africa. These programs and universities share their techniques and write grants together for the mutual benefit of all. One in particular is a choir for children with visual and physical impairments under the direction of Arthur Gill in Gujrat, Pakistan. DeVito’s students arrive at school early so the two ensembles can share music experiences in time for Gill’s students to be home before dark when it’s unsafe for them to be on the street.

Last year Dr. DeVito organized a performance in Carnegie Hall entitled DIScovering ABILITIES that incorporated the Sidney Lanier students with programs he networked on Skype. Thanks to community support and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, his students performed live with the same ensembles and university programs with which they learned online. Included from the U.S. were the Santa Fe (FL) College Jazz Band, the Bergen (NJ) Community College Popular Music Ensemble, and Syracuse University. New York University provided all the musicians with rehearsal space before their

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## Palm Coast Goes International *(continued from page 20)*



*Dr. DeVito with some of his Sidney Lanier Center music students and chaperones at Carnegie Hall*

Carnegie Hall performance.

DeVito has published his research and projects in international books, journals, and other publications which he has presented at International Society for Music Education (ISME) conferences around the world since he has been at the Sidney Lanier Center. He is the 2010-12 chair of the ISME's commission for Community Music Activity (CMA) and will plan and chair the 2012 CMA symposium in Corfu, Greece.

DeVito's recent published research includes "The Communicative Function of Behavioral Responses to Music: A Precursor to Assessments for Students with Autism" and "Leading Beyond the Walls: CMA Interdisciplinary Cooperation Through the Virtual Classroom for Students with Disabilities Project." He also served on Next Generation Sunshine State Standards Access Points Writing Team for special education and

the arts, which will help bring inclusive opportunities for students with special needs throughout Florida.

As for Gabriela, her story has been selected for a chapter in a book entitled *Songs of Resilience* distributed internationally through Queensland University in Australia and Cambridge Scholars Publishing. "The book includes stories of people with disabilities around the world who transcend their challenges through the arts."

Dr. DeVito will receive the Clarissa Hug Award (National Teacher of the Year for Special Education) presented by the National Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Washington, DC on April 28.

The Palm Coast Historical Society is honored to present this home town success story on behalf of Dr. DeVito and his proud long-time resident father, Donald DeVito.)

Articles printed in the **PALM COAST HISTORIAN** are for the interest and education of the community and its friends.

Please consider passing your **HISTORIAN** on to someone else after you have read it.

## A HISTORY OF PALM COAST CITY HALLS *by Art Dycke*

When on December 31, 1999 the newly incorporated, self-proclaimed “millennium city” of Palm Coast prepared to enter the 21st century, few residents could have predicted that our fledgling government would be housed in **FIVE** different city halls within the first ten years. For those who were not here then, here’s the story.

### THE FACTS

A mayor and city council for the new city had been elected by December 16, 1999. An interim city manager named the following day went to the post office to establish a mailing address for the city to conduct its business. Flagler County had provided the city-to-be with 2.5 rooms in the Palm Coast Community Center, which was to be Palm Coast’s first city hall. With open boxes of official papers scattered over the limited space, our first mayor, Jim Canfield, remarked, “We don’t have desks, phones, or office space. Right now, my office is the Kmart coffee shop.”



*City Hall #1 – ITT had built and donated the community center which had housed a YMCA in 1978.*

In March 2000, the Flagler County Commission turned over its library building in Palm Harbor shopping center to be converted into a city hall. Dick Kelton, Palm Coast’s first city manager, procured temporary office space for city government operation from the owners of the former ITT administration building while the old library was being renovated.



*City Hall #2 – ITT Palm Coast Community Development President Alan Smolen and VP Gordon Murtough stand in front of their headquarters building at One Corporate Drive at its opening in 1979. The last ITT employees left the building in 2000.*

With renovations to the former library completed, our first city-owned building to become a city hall received an elaborate public opening on October 26, 2000.



*City Hall #3 – The building in the northwest corner of ITT’s Palm Harbor shopping center had been added to the original center completed in 1979. It had previously housed a Daytona Beach Community College (now Daytona State College) branch and Flagler County Library.*

By 2003, with city population and services rapidly expanding, there was no longer sufficient room to work in the Palm Harbor location. City government leaders approved the purchase of the

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## A HISTORY OF PALM COAST CITY HALLS *(continued from page 22)*

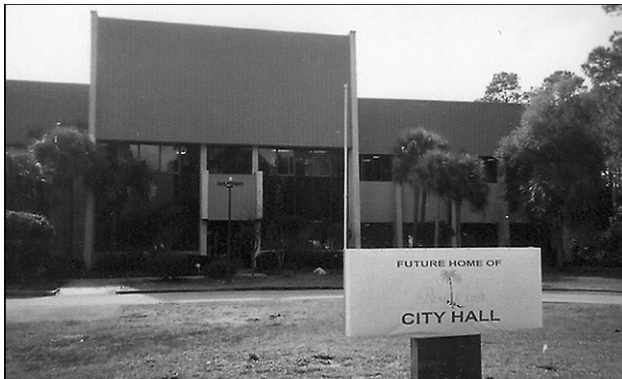
By 2003, with city population and services rapidly expanding, there was no longer sufficient room to work in the Palm Harbor location. City government leaders approved the purchase of the Wittmann office/brewery building in the Palm Coast Industrial Park at a cost of \$2.5 million as a temporary city hall while they prepared for their expected eventual home in Town Center. It was hoped that the cost would be recouped by a later sale of the property to a commercial buyer. (Vot-

ers approved the sale of our previous city hall for \$960,000 in 2004.)

When ITT ended further development of Palm Coast after 1994, it continued selling its remaining assets to a variety of individual and corporate investors. ITT's Palm Coast had been a master planned development wherein lands had been routinely designated for political, educational, religious, recreational, and business uses to be utilized as the community expanded. ITT had designated land on the east side of Belle Terre Pkwy. in the Cyprus Knolls section to be used as a local government complex.

The developers of the future Town Center acquired 450 acres in that area which was to become the political, economic, and social center of our community. A designated parcel was to be available at no cost for local government use. Planning for the 450-acre Town Center DRI (Development of Regional Impact) began in 2003. The city started planning to build a city hall on the land provided. The city council never approved any final interior or exterior specifica-

### AWAITING RENOVATION



*City Hall #4 (above and below)— Lots of work needed to be done in order to convert brewery equipment floor space into cubical office space with a large garage.*



*Later, a public-accessible history center with a separate entrance was provided by the city council to the historical society.*



*Preliminary artist's concept of what our central park area could look like after build out with a proposed city hall on the far side of the lake. Presently, the building (middle right) is the only one standing and in operation.*

tions for the building. In 2005 a referendum authorizing the expenditure of \$22 million (mostly for a city hall) was defeated by the voters.

*(continue on page 24)*

## A HISTORY OF PALM COAST CITY HALLS *(continued from page 23)*

In the face of a local and national economy in recession in 2008, the city utilized some innovative economics in seeking a brighter future. It negotiated with the parent corporation of a local data processing company that was looking for a headquarters to expand and centralize their business. The expansion promised to bring in 1,000 new jobs and eliminated the danger of losing the original company’s jobs to another community. Creatively, the city offered the parent firm savings on the cost of a new building by offering them a “rent with possibility to buy” for the building that the city was using as their city hall.

This flexibility brought the firm into our community while our government offices moved into a rental space in a newly constructed office/commercial complex called City Walk.

City Walk was designed to house a wide variety of businesses in relatively small individual units. Our present city hall consists of a number of these units on the first and second floor of the same building with only an exterior elevator connecting them. The city paid \$240,000 for rent in 2010 and the Marketplace owner is reported to have filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in early 2011.

In 2011, city manager Jim Landon held a series of meetings in various community locations to explain the city government’s intention to build a new expandable city hall for a cost of approximately \$10 million. The proposal would not require voter approval because construction funds are already within the city’s capital expenditure and other budgets and no further borrowing is necessary.

### One man’s opinion ...

We’ve had five makeshift city halls in our short history since December 31, 1999 when we exuberantly named ourself a millennium city.

In 2011 David Letterman asked “Where is Palm Coast?” on his TV show, and national headlines have told us that we are the fastest growing city in the United States. Almost all the people I talk to declare they would not think of living anywhere else. What are we waiting for?

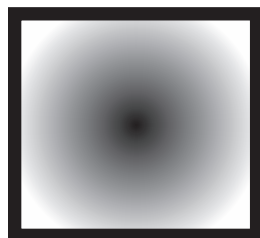
Consider the following: The cost of building is less expensive in poor economic times and taxpayers get the most for their money. Building now would create local income that directly benefits the entire community. We have the necessary land available to us. Our city government has wisely accumulated funds during better times to do the job without needing to raise taxes. We are paying almost a quarter million dollars annually to rent an inadequate facility with a questionable future.

### In my opinion ...

Our residents and city employees deserve an efficient, modern city hall that our city can be proud of – and now is the time to build it.



City Hall #5 – the original City Walk is now named City Marketplace



Join us at 1 PM Monday, April 25, and discover Everything you ever wanted to know about the history of Palm Coast in a little over an hour at the Palm Coast Community Center (details can be found on page 17).

*PALM COAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. Box 352613, PALM COAST, FL 32135*  
*TELEPHONE: 386/446-8636, 446-4438*

*Art Dycke, City Historian & Society Director*

**Society Officers:** *Jim Canfield, President; Jack Pitman, Vice President; Carol Lemieux, Treasurer; Kay Stafford, Rec. Secretary; Eileen Carter, Membership & Corr. Secretary*

**Society Directors:** *Patricia Eldridge, Bob Evans, Debby Geyer, Connie Horvath (Hon.), Norma Kendrick, Ed Moore, Bill Venne*

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Become a member of Palm Coast Historical Society today.  
Complete the form and mail it to us at P.O. Box 352613.



The City of  Historical Society

### Membership Form – 2011 (please print)

First Name/s \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

(you will be notified of meetings/Historical Society information via e-mail)

Single membership – \$10  Family – \$15  Renewal  New Member

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