

The Palm Coast Historian

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Editor: Kay Stafford

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Were You There? 2014 Annual Meeting, Briefly Stated



A home in Holland Park to settle into



It was very early when city and county officials began arriving to see the beautiful new home of Palm Coast Historical Society and President Jim Canfield welcomed them to the first breakfast in the new museum – just the start of a very busy day, January 21, 2014. People browsed,

asked questions, contributed information, and generally made themselves at home throughout the morning.

A video of the public debate between the Home Rule Coalition and Not-A-Done-Deal Association (NADDA) was played as a backdrop until the meeting officially started. The organizations had opposing views of the future of this community.

Jim welcomed those attending and described the exhibit's theme, "Incorporation of Palm Coast,"



President Jim Canfield describes events in incorporating Palm Coast

thanking Art Dycke and Norma Kendrick for setting it up.

As vice president of the Civic Association, Jim had been asked to look into the possibility of Palm Coast becoming a city, an alternative being that Flagler become a "charter county,"

meaning that the entire county would be the city. A feasibility study was made and the population density requirement tweaked so the Hammock and Mala Compra Plantation were removed, enabling incorporation to proceed; Palm Coast would continue to supply water to the removed areas. Jim further remarked that a field of 26 candidates vied for the four city council and one

mayor positions.

In his city historian comments, Art stated he arrived in Palm Coast in 1993 after a life-long career as a history teacher, subsequently spending 16 years as a history professor at DBCC. At the request of Marty McLean (Grey Hair Legislators), he helped develop the city charter. In 2000 the city named Art co-historian with the late Margaret Davie.



City Historian Art Dycke "warms up" screen preparing for presentation

Bill Venne led the Pledge of Allegiance to begin the annual meeting. Highlight of 2013 was our move to Holland Park. Because of security requirements, it had been difficult to operate at Matanzas HS, but the society so appreciated its availability as temporary headquarters. The new facility provides scheduling flexibility, more space, adequate parking, greater exposure, etc. Plans for rerouting the road into the area are underway.

Volunteers identified as the "Wednesday group" spend hours each month clipping, copying, and cataloging pertinent information about the city and its citizens as well as many other activities. In 2013, PCHS received two awards: Flagler Volunteer Services recognized these office volunteers for the

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Were You There? *(from front page)*

“Outstanding Group” award and the Bunnell Centennial organization selected the fireplug decorated by volunteers Carol Lemieux and Gladys Moore as “Best” in their contest. We have also received grants from the county and the city. Beside the fact that it’s important to have a museum to save and display the history of Palm Coast, having the museum makes us eligible for additional grants. The historical society is looking for volunteers with museum experience. In the beginning Jim and Art will serve in museum leadership roles with Gladys Moore as museum secretary. Art felt our exhibits would integrate well with all the other historic sites in Flagler County and become an added tourist attraction to the present bus tour.

Palm Coast Signs designed, created, and donated the new sign on the front of the building. •• Milissa



Vice President Bill Venne & President Jim Canfield hang sign in preparation for open house

Holland was nominated to be added to the board of directors by Peter

**This
'n'
That
about
the
Open
House**

Kroeger, Jim seconded, voted in unanimously. Milissa thanked everyone, especially for remembering her dad in a very special way. The board now consists of Robert Evans and Milissa (2014-17); Norma Kendrick & Patricia Eldridge (2013-16); Jack Pitman & Peter Kroeger (2012-15). •• Lifetime member Jane Culpepper contributed a dozen beautiful hand made floral displays (see photo on first page) and reminded us how attractive a butterfly garden could eventually be in the vicinity of the PCHS&M. •• Mary Ann Clark expressed her admiration for the new facility. •• Special thanks to Palm Coast’s Tom Hanson for giving hours of his day off to help set up our new TV display.

Steve Jones expressed concern that the rerouting of the road to the PCHS building could destroy some artifacts of historical significance in its path unless special care was taken. There had been slave quarters in the area and much had previously been lost.

Jim thanked everyone for coming, then adjourned the meeting at 3:50.



Palm Coast technician Tom Hanson donates his expertise to set up for open house



The Larry Pennas reminisce about their early days in Palm Coast

We are searching for very special volunteers who are “out there” and willing to spend a few hours a week in interesting, informative, and intelligent work.

With a new museum taking shape, this is a real opportunity to make a difference.

If you’ve ever admired those individuals who serve as docents in museums, historical homes, etc. and thought you’d like to try your hand at that, we’d love to hear from you.

You will be trained, and help with those answers you might not have will be readily available.

Contact 386/446-1438 if you would like to volunteer.

An optimistic historian's thoughts while serving as grand marshal of Palm Coast 2013 Starlight Parade

by Art Dycke, City Historian

Part 1 - Saturday morning, December 14 (BEFORE Starlight Event and Parade)

The evening of December 14 my wife Louise and I entered the parking lot at Flagler Palm Coast High School to find the vehicle and driver with whom we would lead the City of Palm Coast Starlight Parade. As first city co-historian and co-founder of the Palm Coast Historical Society, I was honored to be designated as the parade's grand marshal this year. Dressed in holiday attire with Santa caps on our heads, we were getting ready to smile and wave to the thousands of Flagler/Palm Coast-ers on the parade route in Town Center's "Central Park." There follows a pre-written summary of my thoughts about the site of the Starlight event.

In 1969 the land where the Starlight Event and Parade was being held was still "a big pine-covered swamp." A railroad spur line ran from the main track by State Route 1 through this area to the only large non-timber-related industry in the county, a massive Lehigh Cement factory that had been in operation there from 1954 to 1965. Only one lonely smokestack remains east of here on Colbert Lane to remind us of this former thriving industry.



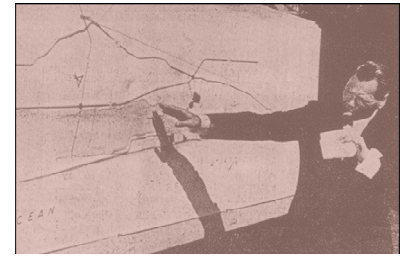
A big pine-covered swamp

Also in 1969, an American astronaut landed on



Lehigh Cement plant

the moon and took a "giant leap for mankind." That same year the ITT (International Telephone and Telegraph) conglomerate, with its post war building giant Levitt and Sons subsidiary, bought the abandoned cement factory and an approximately 10-square mile area of that "pine-covered swamp." Project director Dr. Norman Young dared to predict the development would someday be home to 700,000 residents!



Dr. Norman Young at map

ITT/Levitt immediately began digging drainage canals to tame the swamp (like the Lehigh Canal just to our north) and clearing the pines to construct 500 miles of road, sewerage, and communications infrastructure. A 64-foot high towered sales center was ready in October 1970, a golf course completed in 1971 and the pioneer residents started moving into their new homes in January 1972.



Welcome center and sales office

This environmentally unique largest planned community in Florida history grew, neighborhood by neighborhood, with rapid orderly growth over the next 25 years. A Publix-anchored shopping center was completed in 1979 and an interchange connection with I-95 and a second golf course followed in 1981.



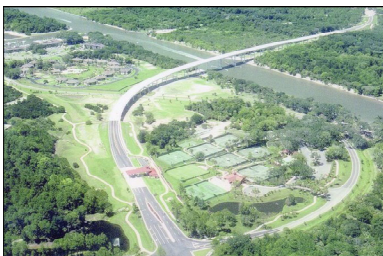
Publix grand opening

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Optimistic historian's thoughts *(from pg 3)*



I-95 Interchange at Palm Coast Parkway



Hammock Dunes bridge

Swim and tennis clubs, a new corporate headquarters, new neighborhoods and shopping areas, and a beautiful new bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway connecting mainland Palm Coast with the ocean beaches was completed by 1988. New residents continued to pour into the area, lured by signs along the interstate highway suggesting that we “might just be the perfect place to live.”



Palm Coast – perfect place to live

ITT began active withdrawal from its development 25 years after their original purchase. They had planned for a future government center in the ‘town center’ site where we are having our parade tonight, but the land sold to private developers was still very much in its original watery and wooded state.

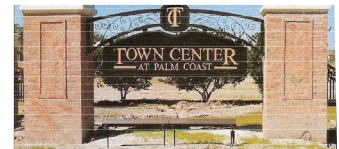
The departure of ITT left a vacuum in governance that resulted in the movement for incorporation that eventually resulted in the establishment of the City of Palm Coast on December 31, 1999. We were blessed at the outset with proud, dedicated and visionary leadership that continued environmental stewardship during a time of rapid growth.

I believe we were again fortunate in choosing new leadership upon the retirement or passing of our original city founding fathers who continued with a dedication to progressive managed growth toward the ideal of “the perfect place to live.”

The concept for a town center was first brought to the city council in 2002. The following year more specific plans for developing the 470-acre plot detailed square footages of 1 million for office space, 2 million of retail/commercial, 750,000 of institutional buildings,

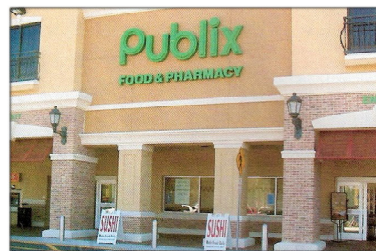


Town Center construction sign



Town Center's new look

a 2400-seat movie theater, and 240 nursing home beds. The city worked with state agencies on a mandatory DRI (Development of Regional Impact) plan and in 2005 Publix again led the way in filing



the first site plan for the center and they and Walgreen opened on Belle Terre Parkway in 2006. Land clearing and road construction took place where we are standing today,

and while we were becoming the fastest growing micro city in the United States and were acquiring additional land with existing infrastructure in the northwest section of the city, a Super Target and surrounding stores opened on Route 100 and Epic Theater was built just down the road from here. A large office building had been built by the



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Optimistic historian's thoughts *(from pg 4)*

lake in Central Park and a city hall proposed for the area at the end of the lake was rejected by the voters.



Proposed and rejected city hall

So here we are celebrating a festive holiday parade with thousands of people watching approximately 100 marching units and lighted floats in a publicly owned “Central Park” (just like New York City) in what was nothing but “a big pine-covered swamp” 44 years ago.

What can we expect in the future? I am an optimist and “I love a parade” (especially when I’m leading it). I don’t think we’ll see (nor do I think we want to see) the 700,000 people originally predicted by ITT, but I don’t think that almost 200,000 is out of the question in the foreseeable future. It is the season to be optimistic and it seems as if we’ll finally have a proper city hall on this site as it was originally planned. Personally, I am also happy to know that the Palm Coast Historical Society will have an adequate new home in Holland Park. I hope you will attend our grand opening on January 21 of the new year. Not even I am optimistic enough to call Palm Coast “perfect,” but for me “a great place to live” is good enough. A happy, healthy 2014 to you all.

Part 2 – Monday, December 16 (after the parade and tornado)

Louise, her sister Charlotte Charest, and I had arrived at Flagler Palm Coast High School parking lot just after 4 PM on Saturday, December 14. We were greeted by the effervescent Starlight event coordinator, Casey Ryan. She had been the person

who informed me of my selection as grand marshal of the parade, had warmly urged my acceptance, and thereafter she and executive assistant to the city manager, Kendra Iannotti walked me through the entire procedure of where to be and what to expect as my duties. Casey was there now, helping me put on my sash. She had admitted this was her first major event for the city, but it was obvious she was in full competent and congenial control of the order of dignitaries and format for the approximately 100 groups participating in the parade. She told us our cars were coming soon.

I spoke briefly with Mayor Jon Netts and City Councilmen Jason DeLorenzo and David Ferguson who Casey was taking out to the pre-parade assembly site by golf cart to serve as judges of five categories of floats and parade participation. Board of Elections Supervisor Kimberle Weeks was already there, and I had brief conversations with her and Flagler County Commissioners Frank Meeker and Nate McLaughlin.

Then a fleet of 14 cars, trucks, and drivers, graciously provided by Palm Coast Ford’s Paul Summa “as a way of giving to a community that he sincerely loves,” pulled into the parking lot in a pre-selected order. Each had signs on their sides for the dignitaries they were carrying. Louise and I were delighted to see that the black 2014 Ford Mustang convertible



Grand Marshal Art & Louise Dycke

was first in line for us. Flagler County Commission Chair George Hanns jovially and professionally took our picture standing by the car. Louise and I practiced sitting atop the Mustang’s headrests as Kerry Hope, our driver, led the line of cars past the assembling parade marchers and vehicles in the staging area to the front of the

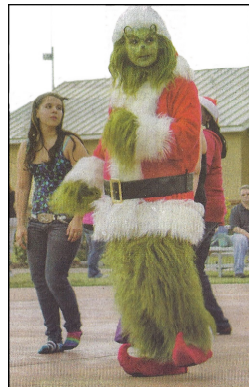
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Optimistic historian's thoughts *(from pg 5)*

parade route. I was surprised to see the familiar face of Steve Ripley there as parade starter. (We had met many years ago when he and Betty Buchanan had pioneered a volunteer program to stock city-owned lakes and ponds with fish. Betty now volunteers at the historical society. I will return to Steve later in this article.)

Now in place at the front of the parade, we were met by Cindi Lane, communications and marketing manager for Palm Coast. Cindi had interviewed historical society volunteers in a lengthy visit to our new site in Holland Park recently. She was responsible for flattering stories about me in all the media while advertising the parade. (I owe her big time.) A reporter from THE OBSERVER took pictures and assured proper spelling of our names before continuing down the remainder of the parade line. Sheriff Jim Manfre and his wife Cornelia chatted with us. City Manager Jim Landon waved as he passed by to rejoin his family after parking the car. And then it was time to be off.

The city's free Starlight Event had begun at 2 PM with a variety of activities and live entertainment featuring Santa, a 70-foot long ice slide, a dancing Grinch, sand art, face painting, and a "merry train ride" which made its way around the beautifully lighted pond at Central Park in Town Center. Recreation and Parks Department head Luanne Santangelo's staff, with Lauren Bennett, recreation supervisor, in charge of the afternoon, Roxanne Gonzales, and others ended the event at 5:30 PM, at which time a half marathon with 35 runners was getting ready to start.



There had been consistent predictions of rain for the evening, and a boat parade on the Intracoastal Waterway that had been scheduled for the same evening had been canceled by its organizers, but there was no precipitation at the starting point as the parade began soon after 6 PM.



"We'd know you anyplace" – Chief Mike and DeDe Beadle

It looked like a pretty good crowd when we got to the official starting point where Fire Chief Mike Beadle and wife DeDe were doing the broadcast announcements and commentary for the parade. They told the parade viewers about the arrival of the parade grand marshal in the lead car. I had decided to do a gesture and/or eye contact with all the kids and people in wheelchairs, but I was outdone, as always, by Louise



The Dyckes "working the crowd"

who I believe managed to wish everyone a "Merry Christmas" on the left side of the parade route. We were happy and hoarse when we left our car at the reviewing stand where we were joined by Mayor Jon and Priscilla Netts and Councilman Jason and Rebecca deLorenzo and family. THE NEWS-JOURNAL quoted Mayor Netts as saying, "Santa's coming! What a great parade! Even with the weather, look at the great turnout. It's a wonderful thing for our city."

Dignitaries in the Fords, the "best of parade" float, the massive and talented Flagler Palm Coast High School band, an ROTC unit, and the Florida Agricultural Museum were among the 41 of almost 100 contingents scheduled to pass the reviewing stand that night that did so.

Sprinkles of rain commenced soon after the parade started; within a half hour rainfall increased and numerous lightning flashes were seen in the distance. Chief Beadle had received a storm alert

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Optimistic historian's thoughts *(from pg 6)*

at 6:40 PM and he canceled the parade at its starting point immediately, directing everyone to head for their vehicles. By that time, rain was pouring down heavily and most of the people had already begun rushing toward their cars.

We had no idea of the impending tornado touch downs about to occur about five miles away. All we knew was that we were getting very wet and we had no way of getting to our own car which was at FPCHS. The aforementioned Lauren Bennett drove City Councilman Bill Lewis and us in her car that had been parked near the reviewing stand.

The rains came and we all sympathized with paraders who had put so much effort into their preparations and now, with the majority of them still unseen, were just trying to safely leave the parade grounds in the torrential rain. We were amazed how orderly the departure was with city staff, firemen, police, and volunteers guiding an estimated seven thousand disappointed but reasonable people leaving the scene without incident or injury.

At that point, all I knew was that it had "rained on my parade." A very happy event day had a soggy and somewhat disappointing finish. I learned later that Lauren, Roxanne, Casey, Cindi, public works and other staff, and volunteers were still working on cleanup at 2 AM Sunday. Safely in bed later there were two automated phone call warnings from Flagler County Emergency Services; I went right back to sleep. Louise and I had no idea how many other people were very much awake that night.

Early Sunday morning a WNZF email reported the previous night's disaster. A tornado had touched down in Palm Coast's B, C, and F sections just before 7 PM Saturday.

Later that evening I learned that Fire Chief Beadle received news of the tornado touch down while

still at the parade ground, and he took DeDe directly to the scene where fire, police,

public works, and utility company emergency workers and volunteers were already assisting residents, securing the area, assessing the damage, and cleaning up. Jim Landon and other officials surveyed the damage early the next morning, city offices were opened, and by 9 AM there were TV press conferences with descriptions of the tornado, preliminary damage assessments by Chief Beadle, a detailed list of emergency instructions and available information by Mayor Jon Netts, warnings to stay out of the affected area for safety and cleanup purposes by Sheriff Jim Manfre, and frequent updates from City Communications Director Cindi Lane. There were many offers of emergency aid from Flagler County services and a host of volunteers. The news of the Palm Coast tornados reached a national audience. I received email and phone inquiries from D.C., South Carolina, and Colorado.

On Monday, Flagler Live reported the following from the National Weather Service: "Between 6:55 and 7:10 PM that evening (December



14) the Service reported a tornado with maximum strength of EF1 touched down and crossed the northern sections of Palm Coast. The tornado initially touched down north of Espanola on an intermittent track. The tornado

then intensified to its maximum strength, 95 to 105 mph, traveling across the B section of Palm Coast on a continuous path ranging in width from approximately 75 yards to a maximum of around

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Optimistic historian's thoughts *(from pg 7)*

150 yards on Bannbury Lane. The tornado then weakened as it moved northeast toward the coast, with a path width of 25 to 50 yards across the F section and the Hammock." Live continued, "At least 171 houses were affected with seven houses destroyed, 22 houses with moderate damage and 142 houses partially damaged." That afternoon Palm Coast Mayor Jon Netts declared a state of local emergency, which would give "the city more freedom and authority to address the storm's aftermath. The city could then apply for state and federal assistance, expedite permitting for construction and debris removal, implement a system of trash and debris removal beyond the normal collection schedule, access state assistance for regulation and enforcement of licensing and workers compensation insurance, and access additional services and resources from Flagler County and the state."

So how does an "optimistic historian" summarize this story of joy for some and tragedy for others that was the Palm Coast Starlight Parade? Even though it rained on our parade, cutting in half the pleasure of parade onlookers and participants alike, the performances of government leaders, staffs, and volunteers with the orderly and safe evacuations of thousands of parade watchers and presenters was commendable. Flagler/Palm Coast has had its natural disasters in the past. There were small tornadoes here in 1982 and 1986, major damage to homes during forest fires in 1985 and 1998, and minimum hurricane damages in 1994. Chief Beadle reminds us that our emergency service teams have recently handled train wrecks, airplane crashes, wildfires, highway oil spills and accidents as well as the more normal fires and personal emergencies. The indomitable spirit of those who lost their homes or sustained tornado damages to get to cleaning up and rebuilding their lives and property demonstrates a spirited and resilient community.

I mentioned parade starter Steve Ripley earlier, returning to him now as an example of the enormous role that civic minded volunteers play in our community. Quoting from his holiday letter to friends, he writes, "While I was assembling this

note, I was assigned a staging detail and was the starter for the Palm Coast Starlight Holiday Parade. However, close to the end of the parade, Sky Warn weather net started chirping about bad weather, then a reported tornado sighting. Parade stopped, area evacuated, called home to have Betty go to our safe room, and emergency equipment started rushing to the area. Tornado touch down confirmed! Well, it was an EF1 tornado (120-mile-an-hour wind), half mile down the street near home, \$6 million in damage, none to us!" Steve did not mention that in the days immediately after the tornado he was in the thick of the volunteer effort to aid in the cleanup. In his own words, "I still can't say no to being very active within my community through citizen preparedness." How's this for a record? Since 2006, 1300 training certificates for volunteer work with government and community groups in the event of an emergency. In 2013, he was honored for the sixth year in a row with the President's Volunteer Service Gold Level Award with gold pin and certificates signed by President Obama and also honored with the President's Volunteer Lifetime "Call to Service" Award, recognizing over 4000 hours of volunteer service. Thank you, Steve, and the many volunteers who contribute so much to making this community a great place to live.

The weekly edition of THE OBSERVER contained the following "letter to the editor" under the caption TORNADO VOLUNTEERS SHOW THE BEST IN PALM COAST. "Dear Editor: Words cannot express my gratitude to the volunteers who came out in support of the many homeowners on Banberry Lane, who suffered damage as a result of Saturday's tornado. Most of the volunteers were young, college-aged students who donated their time to the huge cleanup effort. Neighbors helping neighbors! My 84-year-old father was affected and could not have taken on the task alone. We must acknowledge and applaud these caring citizens for their community-conscious actions in the wake of a disaster. Thank you to the Red Cross for providing support to anyone in need. The Flagler County Sheriff's of-

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Optimistic historian's thoughts *(from pg 8)*

office was also on the scene to assist if necessary. The spirit of the Palm Coast community was never more evident than it was that day. Heartfelt thanks, and happy holidays! Linda Sharpe Haywood.

I saw my community's government and civil service personnel, smiling good-naturedly, organizing a complicated parade procedure to entertain thousands of residents and their children by creating a festive event during the holiday season turn into a team of dedicated professionals, willing and able to efficiently do whatever was needed to handle a life-threatening natural emergency right before my eyes. It gave me cause for confidence and optimism for the future of my municipality.

Fate and Nature assure that no place can be the "perfect" place to live, but I'm still sticking to "a really great place to live."

EPILOGUE – Saturday, February 15, 2014

As of January 9 in the new year, Cindi Lane estimated the December 14 tornado damage to be about \$7.2 million. 208 homes were partially damaged, 25 homes suffered serious damage, and seven were destroyed. Federal government investigations by the Small Business Administration and FEMA acknowledged those figures but found them insufficient to meet aid criteria due to the fact that a relatively small amount of the loss was uninsured. City Landscape Architect Bill Butler, who had provided tree replacement permits on-site to affected homeowners to expedite the process, later assured them there would be a reasonable time allowed to replace the trees. On the evening of January 21, a group of runners whose Starlight Event half

marathon race had been interrupted on December 14 re-ran the course to its finish. On January 23, a front page news story announced, "the city will not receive federal relief assistance for the December 14 tornado that ripped through the area because the total damage amount didn't meet the required minimum for aid."

A video titled, "The Starlight Tornado, After the Storm Palm Coast, December 2013" by Palm Coast government TV, hosted by Mayor Netts should be on the Palm Coast website. I will request a copy at the newly opened Palm Coast Historical Society office in Holland Park and recommend you watch your city in action.

2014 begins with a portion of the city rebuilding and erasing a scar dealt to it by nature. Meanwhile, there are a number of projects being undertaken in the city to fulfill the destiny of a sustainable planned growth. Among them are additional lanes for Palm Coast Parkway and the bridge over I-95, a new city hall, improvement and road building in Holland Park, an expansion of the community center, new facilities in Long's Landing Park, paths and road improvement on State Route 100, and a private sector re-development of the Palm Harbor Shopping Center. Palm Coast Historical Society is also moving toward creating a publicly accessible history center and museum to fulfill its mission, "The collection, preservation, and dissemination of material related to the history of the City of Palm Coast and its people" at its new headquarters in Holland Park. This "optimistic historian" thinks we can all keep striving for "perfection" and still find contentment in being "really great."

Welcome to our New 2014 Members

Grant Atkinson
Milissa Holland
Irish Social Club

Robert & Susan Killebrew
Bert Kramer
David & Ilayna Klayman
Kee & Sooki Rhee

Heinz & Virginia Ritzau
Daniel Tearpock
Richard & Shari Thompson

Thanks to Frank Fernandez and Levitt Residential Communities, Inc. for information in this article

How Did Your Street Get its Name? *by Carol Lemieux*

If you live on or near Zonal Geranium Trail, you might have wondered how that street came by its somewhat peculiar name.

In the early 1970's ITT/Levitt Community Development Corporation hired engineer Eric Felter to name the newly laid out streets of Palm Coast. He had been naming streets since 1954 and by 1973 had named 4,500 streets and 84 neighborhoods. He wrote in a 1974 report that all the streets within a neighborhood should begin with the same letter, hence Geranium could not be a street in the Z section.

There is actually a great deal of order in his method. Streets that are long received long names and short streets received short names. One way Felter prevented repetition was to divide an area into sections. Each area had a guide letter such as "B," and each section would then use the letter "B" combined with another letter of the alphabet for the names of streets. In many cases, he added a second word to the initial choice to group streets into a neighborhood, such as Bunker Hill, Bunker Knoll and Bunker View. He did this to help visitors find their way around. However, there were some unintended consequences affecting even residents.

In an article printed in THE DAYTONA NEWS-JOURNAL in 2011, Frank Fernandez wrote of a resident in the B section who left her new home on a hot August day to take a walk and nearly perished, finding a "Burning" Street everywhere she

turned. She was disoriented, without water or a cell phone. A neighbor gave her water and drove her around the B section until they finally found her house.

Considering our history of fires, Burning Bush, Burning Ember, Burning Sands, Burning Wick, and Burning View may bring to mind those sad events, but on the lighter side, how about the Flintstones? Our own Mayor Jon Netts lives on Flintstone Court.

As Frank Fernandez further wrote, the names have generally stood the test of time, with the exception of Squaw Court, Squaw Place, and Squawbush Place. Some considered the names to be sexist and racist and offensive to Native Americans. Governor Jeb Bush signed a law requiring cities to change offensive names and these streets became Squash Court, Squash Blossom Place, and Squanto Place.

In the case of Grand Haven, Felter believed that since Graham Swamp was an important name in the area, Haven was more pleasant sounding than marsh or swamp, hence the evolution of that name.

Street naming meant a lot of extra work for Eric Felter, but it had one compensation. There is a street somewhere in the Levitt communities named after each of his five daughters. And of course, somewhere in Palm Coast, there's a Felter Lane.

<http://www.palmcoasthistory.org> Up & Running

Thanks to Peter Kroeger's expertise and creativity, the Palm Coast Historical Society has a complete, complex, and totally professional website. Enter <http://www.palmcoasthistory.org>, into your browser to access: A listing of current officers; a short history of Palm Coast with the opportunity to read past issues of THE PALM COAST HISTORIAN in the "Download" section; an interesting presentation of society events; quick and easy links to the Society Facebook pages, the City of Palm Coast, Flagler County, and the Flagler County Historical Society. You can also click on info@palmcoasthistory.org for a pre-addressed email to send us a message.

PLEASE VISIT THIS SENSATIONAL PALM COAST HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE!

Getting to Know You ... Peter Kroeger



The Palm Coast Historical Society is so fortunate to have such accomplished and talented volunteers. Historians often leave much to be desired in their modern technical skills but they recognize when they have been blessed with an expert who can lead them into the future. As we moved into

our new headquarters in Holland Park, Peter has set up and updated all the equipment we use in our trade and spends hours teaching us how to use it. He has shown us how to catalog the myriad of photographs in our files. He has established our telephone and internet services and has provided a professional website which is growing. Peter, you are a valuable volunteer. We're thankful you're one of us.

Born in eastern Germany in 1930 Peter spent his early childhood in Riga, Latvia and in eastern Germany. After World War II he lived in western Germany, receiving his initial education as a mechanical engineer in Aachen, graduating in 1956 from the Technische Hochschule Aachen with a Dipl. Ing. (equivalent of an MS ME).

He was married in 1958 shortly before immigrating to the USA. He has a son and a daughter, both now at the prime of their professional careers, in California and Iowa respectively. The marriage ended in a mutually agreed on divorce in 1985.

On arrival in the USA, he worked in New York City for a small engineering company, designing machinery for the chemical industry. In 1962 he joined General Electric's Research & Development Center in Schenectady, NY.

He obtained a PhD in Engineering Sciences from

Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 1971.

In 1974 he joined Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, with his primary responsibility being the development and application of nuclear reactor safety codes. These codes are used for modelling of nuclear reactor transients, assuring the safe performance of the reactor system. He was extensively involved in the evaluation of the Three Mile Island accident and even more so in the Chernobyl accident.

On Long Island he was an avid boater, gradually advancing from a 20 ft. bow rider to a 40 ft. trawler, cruising in Long Island Sound and on the New England coast with frequent trips to places like Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. During this time he was an active member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, being a coxswain in search and rescue missions, doing vessel inspections, and teaching various courses.

After retiring the end of 1995, he moved to Palm Coast in 1996.

Between 1996 and 2010 he travelled extensively, primarily touring with Elderhostel (now Road Scholar) or the Smithsonian and also cruising with Royal Caribbean. Most of these travels, extending over five continents, are documented in www.pgkroeger.us.

In his work he used computers for modeling of engineering processes since 1959, beginning on an IBM 650 (now featured in the Smithsonian). After retiring he greatly expanded his experience with personal computers, strictly as a hobby, building numerous computers, using a great variety of software, and being active in the local computer club until its dissolution late in 2012.

It's easy to understand why Peter has become our resident expert on computers and websites. He's been an active volunteer at the historical society for about two years and was recently elected to the board of directors.



LIFETIME MEMBERS

GUNTER & GINNY ARNDT
JAMES CANFIELD
MIKE & KRISTI CHIUMENTO
JANE CULPEPPER
ART & LOUISE DYCKE
PATRICIA ELDRIDGE
ROBERT EVANS
DEBBY GEYER
ANNE HOWELL
TERI PRUDEN
CHARLOTTE SIEGMUND
IN MEMORY OF
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mail us at P.O. Box 352613, Palm Coast, FL 32135,
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