



THE NORTH BREVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

By Bill Baldwin

We're Baaaaak! The fall Member meetings are ready to resume, even though the summer heat remains. Actually, the next Member Meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. on September 28th at Dixie Crossroads. Also, don't forget about our fall dinner meeting to be held at 5:30 p.m. on October 26th at Dixie Crossroads.

To bring you up to date on some of the bigger items: Joan Harper made historical presentations at Titusville High School; Betty Mattingly assumed the chair role for the 2016 "Afternoon In The Park" project; the Building 303 restroom renovation was completed; new phones purchased for museum; and the Mural project is being planned.



A Picture is Not "Just a Picture"

By Bill Baldwin

The Museum Board was approached with a unique opportunity to be part of the citywide project (by the Mural Town Paint Heritage group). Seems the group in searching for several strategic sites that could handle murals depicting the Titusville story and/or history. Lo and behold, they fell in love with the north, outside wall of the Museum. That wall has no windows or breaks and could handle a mural of about 15 feet by 65 feet. Because of that, the group would like that wall to be the cornerstone of the Titusville project.

A mural presentation was made to the Board by a Titusville representative. To be honest, most of the board members were not aware of city wide mural projects and how much they could enhance the beauty of the town. We reviewed several similar projects in Florida towns and saw the impact made on those towns.

It is a compelling project and at seems to deserve a second look. The only downside appears to be the cost to cover wall prep, artists, etc. Since we have the largest area wall in town, our cost would be a little more than most of the others. In the near future, several things must be validated such as: concerns of the Museum to be addressed/accepted, financing option projects to be doable, and historic scenes must be developed. So you can see, there's work to be done here.



Number Please ...

By Betty Mattingly

Mrs. Jettie Cottrell would ask those words whenever someone picked up a phone to make a call. The telephone company was in her house just north of the Pritchard house facing Hopkins Ave. She was one of the operators for many years. I know that's where the phone company was located in 1950 when I arrived in Titusville.

A recent cursory look at the collection of old phone books at the Museum peaked my interest to look further. The oldest Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co. telephone book at the Museum is the Winter-Spring Issue for 1931-32. It is a 6"x 9" book probably a half inch thick and covered Melbourne, Eau Gallie, Cocoa, Titusville and Vero Beach. Titusville's 161 listings covered two pages. Some listings included were: FPL, number 7, James Pritchard, Res. 18-J and the Hardware Store at 37. O'Flanagan Electric Co. 331-W. (Helen Durian's father). Six listings had: Call LD (obviously, long distance.). The pages had ads but there were no "yellow pages" but had "Where to Buy It".

By 1941, the telephone directory was still 6"x 9" and included only Titusville and Cocoa. Titusville, still 2 pages but dropped to 142 listings. Numbers were 1, 2, 3 or 4 digits. The 3 digit numbers either had no letter following it or had a W, R, J. or M. Government offices, the Canaveral

Lighthouse, the telephone co. and a few other places of importance had 4 digits. The Western Union Telegraph Office was 303 and was located in #303 S. Washington Ave., now part of our Museum.

There are several telephone books for the years of the 1950's at the Museum. Although it is interesting to see the listings, it would be too much for this article. (You could have called me at 88-W in 1953 and later in 1958 at 124-W). However, in 1959, all phone numbers started with AM7 followed by 4 digits. (AM was Amhearst). By 1965-66 the AM 7 numbers were changed to 267. The last city directory we have is from 1995 and by then our phone numbers started with 264, 267, 268, 269, 383 and 385.

On November 1, 1999, because of being so close to the Space Center, the Area Code became 321 in honor of the missile countdown 3-2-1.



Pictures from the Past

By Paul Marion

Does anyone recognize this young man with a wonderful smile whose High School graduation picture was taken in 1966? (Answer on page 4)



Titusville Collector's Club

By Barbara Batchelder

In May, the Collector's Club case was filled with a variety of vintage flower vases, Ca 1950's ~ some with animal decorations, some with children's faces and lovely ladies' faces. Hope you all had a chance to see this unusual collection belonging to Alice Finger. The current



display is a treasure trove of antique toys and a little toy dish set, little

coffee set and a large handmade stuffed doll. There is also a Hop-along-Cassidy dish, cup, bowl and book. Do you remember "Hoppy"? This great display is courtesy of Georgia Jennings.



Items of Interest

By Paul Marion

A new booklet can now be found on the large table in the main room at the Museum. It is "THE ORSINO SCHOOL STORY" by Edwina Christie Carter. It is the story of the Public School located in Orsino, Florida in the 1930's. It was written by a former student who lived in the rural area surrounding the town of Orsino. It also includes newspaper articles, pictures and other document from research found at the museum. We would like to thank Vickie Miller for putting the booklet together for us.

Margaret Vessels just completed a memorial book for the 2014 "A Walk along the River" historic home tour. She has included pages from the pamphlet, names and pictures of the docents, items of interest from the home owners, and newspaper articles featuring the houses. Thank you so much for a job well done to Margaret. The book will be on the large table in the Museum.

Another new booklet donated to the museum is the "1923 Whitaker/Correll House". It is a journal by Cathy Miller (granddaughter of Calvin Henry Whitaker). It is the story of Calvin Whitaker and the Whitaker family. It includes pictures of family members and their house located just south of Temple Baptist church (the parsonage) on the west side of U. S. Hwy 1. Thanks to Cathy Miller for sharing this booklet with us.



To the Volunteers

By June Hodson

We would like to express our thanks to all the volunteers who worked to keep our doors open all summer. This has been a very busy summer, and everyone who has been called upon has done all that has been needed. There have been very few closures and even our Friday night activities have been well covered.

Our next street party is September 11th. The theme is "American Bandstand" and we expect to have music from the 40's and 50's. Art & Algorithms will return in October, and this year, it will be \$free. On August 5th, we were visited by 70 teachers from Astronaut High School. They came in groups of 7, so we were not inundated; but this created a very busy morning. This is just one of the many surprises we have as volunteers. It is very interesting to talk to (and listen to) the wide variety of guests. We are always in need of more volunteers. If you are available to help in any capacity, please call me at 431-8695 or Debi at 514-1523.

I wish to especially thank Marian Blackwell for all the time she has spent making calls to remind some of our volunteers of their shifts. It is easy for any of us to forget a

once a month commitment. Also Debi Hartling has taken responsibility for a lot of our scheduling and for finding substitutes when one or more of us is unable to be here.



June and July Memorials

By Betty Mattingly

In Memory of:	Given by:
Mary Schuster	Mrs. Martha Long Mrs. Wanda Clark Judy Winger Due (Texas) Herman E. Wattwood, Jr. Mrs. Jean Sanders Mrs. Betty Mattingly Gary and Karen Marshall, (Mt. Dora, FL)
Alan Taylor	Mrs. Jean Sanders
Henry Morgan	Rodger and Pat Cutter



Afternoon in the Park and BBQ

By Betty Mattingly

There will be a **Committee Meeting on Monday, Oct. 12th 10 am at the Museum.** You are a committee member if you are involved in any way, or want to be involved.



Membership

By Barbara Batchelder

Make welcome the following new members:

APRIL:	Richard and Susanne Janosky (Edgewater FL) Barbara Ogle (Merritt Island FL) Siglinde St. Germain (Mims FL)
MAY:	Lanny Schot (Titusville FL) Anne Swails (Titusville FL) Simonne Feaster Armour (New Orleans LA) Barbara Hensley (Titusville FL) Steve Thompson (Titusville FL) Reva Harris (Titusville FL)
JUNE:	Kathie Benson (Titusville)
JULY:	Lynn & Kimmy Trivett (Titusville FL)
AUGUST:	Regina Burdo (Cocoa FL)

Window Displays

by Amy Spillers

The older I get, the more obvious it is to me that I have inherited a few of my parents' and grandparents' frugal ways. I guess old habits die hard. I just can't bring myself to throw away a gift bow, a gift bag, or the tissue paper if it has only been used once. Grandma did it, mom did it, and now I do it too! One year my dear husband didn't know that all my collected wrapping supplies were stored away in one of those "under-the-bed" boxes, and that was the year my Christmas presents from him were wrapped in newspaper and duct tape! He was making do, as they would say. During the Great Depression, frugality was considered a virtue and the phrase "*Use it up, Wear it out, Make it do, or Do without*" was the guiding principal in most households. You were raised up to: Waste nothing, make your own, repair everything to maintain what you have, repurpose and reuse items, in addition to growing your own food and making a compost to fertilize your garden. Back then, people toiled with their hands for everything they could. Today we pay others to do it for us.

If you haven't already noticed, the August window displays were geared towards the theme of "*Use it up, Wear it out, Make it do, or Do without*". We used to sew our own clothes, mended them to make them last longer, and we cleaned clothes the old fashioned way. Although, if it were allowed in my neighborhood, I would still use a clothes line today. To me it was relaxing to hang clothes. I was also getting fresh air and sunshine (Vitamin D) and there was just something about towels and linens dried in the sunshine. Next month we will continue the "*Use it up, Wear it out, Make it do or Do without*" theme by displaying a wonderful collection of old tools used to build and repair everyday items. Some were used for specialized tasks.

So don't forget to stop in and check out the windows. And while you are there, come in and share your favorite frugal tip or story from your parents' or grandparents' era.



Social Media

By Judy Davis

Check us out on Facebook by going to this website: www.facebook.com/NorthBrevardHistoricalMuseum; and visit our website at: www.nbbd.com/godo/history/. If you wish to be added to any of our email postings, please contact us at titusvillemuseum@aol.com. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments at all.



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Pictures from the Past answer: Joe Lee Merkson



Dates to Remember

- **September 21st Board Meeting:** 10:00 am (and members are welcome to attend).
- **September 28th Membership Meeting:** 2:00 pm at Dixie Crossroads. The speaker will be **Laurilee Thompson** and she will speak on Titusville Tourism and the Birding Festival.
- **October 19th Board Meeting:** 10:00 am (and members are welcome to attend).
- **October 26th Membership Meeting:** 5:30 pm at Dixie Crossroads.
- **November 16th Board Meeting:** 10:00 am (and members are welcome to attend).
- **November 23rd Membership Meeting:** 2:00 pm at Dixie Crossroads.
- **December 21st Board Meeting:** 10:00 am (and members are welcome to attend). There will be no membership meeting in December.
- **March 19, 2016** "Afternoon in the Park" (Fox Lake Park) 11-4