



**THE NORTH BREVARD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

301 South Washington Avenue

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Titusville, FL 32783

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OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

President’s Message

By Bill Baldwin

Please don’t forget that our annual fall dinner meeting for all Members will be held at 5:30 pm on October 26th at Dixie Crossroads. However, the room reservation at Dixie Crossroads is totally dependent on the number of members attending the dinner. Therefore, we would ask you to call the Museum (269-3658) to get your name(s) on the attendance sheet, which will be kept at the Museum main desk. Please do this when you are about 90% certain you will attend so the numbers will be fairly accurate.



Mural Update

By Bill Baldwin

On September 27th, I met with the North Brevard Mural Society and the artist that will create “our” mural, if we elect to participate in the project. Both agree that our wall could make a major impact on the entire project. This was a very quick meeting so the artist could review the wall to see if it could accept a mural. Basically, he came away happy with what he saw. The next issues we will face should cover costs and historical scenes.



Insurance

By Herman E. Wattwood, Jr.

The insurance coverage for the Museum for the period of 07/27/2015 through 07/27/2016 is as follows: commercial general liability is covered by Covington Specialty Insurance Co. of Atlanta, GA and our commercial property insurance is covered by Aspen Specialty Insurance Co. of Rocky Hill, CT. They were

obtained through J.W. Edens and Co, Inc. of Titusville, FL, after quotes were received from three sources. Both the liability and property companies carry an "A"(Excellent) and an "A Plus"(Superior) rating from the Ratings and Criteria Center. The combined cost of these policies is \$1,868.75 for the coverage period. This is \$104.20 less than the same coverage last year.



Pictures from the Past

By Paul Marion

Does anyone recognize this lovely young lady whose picture was taken in 1958 in the Titusville High School yearbook? (Answer on page 4)



To the Volunteers

By June Hodson

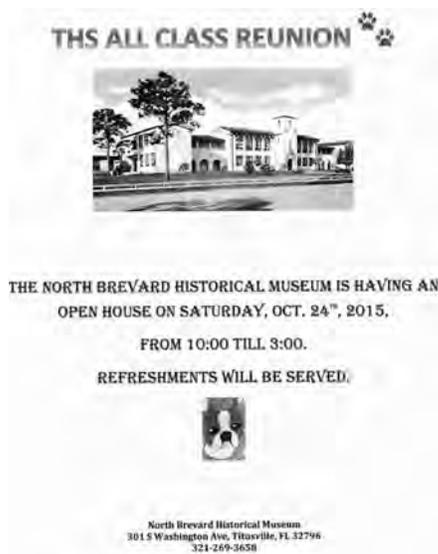
I have had the pleasure of working with you for three years. It is now time to let someone else take this position. Most of you already know that Debi Hartling has been making calls and doing most of the rescheduling for some time. We have decided that Debi now is ready to do the whole job. Anyone

wishing to begin volunteering or to change your schedule should contact Debi at 514-1523. All contacts concerning scheduling will be handled in this way. Thank you for all the support you have given me.



THS all class reunion and open house

By Joan Harper



Items of Interest

By Paul Marion



Laurilee Thompson and Paul Marion

At our monthly membership meeting at Dixie Crossroads we were presented with *“the original ledger book from The Canaveral Club Or the Harvard Club on Merritt Island”*. Laurilee Thompson (representing the Thompson-Wattwood families) donated this rare book for all to enjoy. Plans are to display it in a case in the Museum for everyone to see. It is a record book of the daily events of the Club and how many ducks were killed by the members. The book is 117 years old. A big thanks to the Thompson and Wattwood families family for the gift of this

unique record of a historical part of North Brevard History. This all came to light as a result of the project of Mrs. Katie McQuade ~ a new member of the Society. She has researched and compiled a new booklet “The Canaveral Club” or “Harvard Club”. The membership fee was \$5,000 (*\$131,000 in 2015 dollars*), and the number of members was limited to 20 men (all graduates of Harvard University) during the late 1800s. The new booklet contains pictures and documents pertaining to the Club. Many thanks to Katie for such a great addition to the library at the Museum.

Mr. Michael Knight (grandson of “Sam” Knight) has given us another booklet named “*Mullet Row*” and it is a booklet about early fishing industry in North Brevard. It covers early commercial fishing from 1885 until the mid 1950’s. Check out this new booklet on the large table at the Museum. Thanks, Mr. Knight.



September Memorial

By Betty Mattingly

In Memory of:

Mary Schuster

Given by:

Heritage Foundation, Inc.
Pritchard House



Growing up in Titusville

By Betty Mattingly

We never know what kind of information we’ll find in our files at the Museum. A recent find was a report from the March 1992 Historical Society Membership meeting. The guest speaker, Theo Metzger, who was born and raised in Titusville gave a talk about growing up here.

The speaker was born in a house where Burger King is now. The family owned a lot of land in the Garden St. area. They also sold some land, a mud hole with alligators in it to the Coca-Cola Co. which later became the location of the McCotter Ford Co. The family also had a truck farm and sold lettuce, watermelons and potatoes.

It is interesting to learn things, even by some of us who have been here for a long time. Some of the things he told the audience: Duren’s corner on Garden St and US 1 is where CVS is now. The Bert Johnson family was the only family that lived at South Lake. He had a theater and a pool hall on Julia St. Rodney Thompson’s uncle had a sawmill. An Italian by the name of Santos grew grapes and made wine.

A dry goods store was where Banana Alley was on Main St. The Brown Steamship Co. brought supplies to the railroad on Broad St. The kids played in the coffins that were shipped in. The Scobies had a fish house, fishery and a barrel factory. Kids went there to get staves or strips of wood and had sword fights all the way home. Mullet and Trout were the main fish shipped in ice in the barrels.



Titusville was the strawberry capitol before Plant City. There were celery farms where Royal Oak Subdivision is located. Potatoes and pineapples were also grown here. A big money crop was gladiolas – grown on Merritt Island. George Brockett had a large building to process the bulbs and flowers for shipping mainly to the Northeast.

One of the first juicing plants was on Merritt Island. There were only two ice plants in Florida, one in Titusville and the other in Pensacola. Hunters would use the ice lockers to freeze their game, hogs, etc.

Sisson's Corner and Clark's Corner were in Indian River City at U.S. 1 and Rte 50. A restaurant and bus station were located there.



Sisson's Corner. Clark's Corner in the background. 1940's.

According to the speaker, there were two dairy farms in Titusville, one located in Colonial Heights and owned by a man named Wise who said, "You can whip our cream but you can't beat our milk." (Austin's Dairy was located in that area where Riverview School is now when I arrived in Titusville).

We've Only Just Begun ...

By Betty Mattingly

Even though our 23rd annual fund raiser ~ the Afternoon in the Park and BBQ ~ is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2016, planning has already started. Chairmen for most of the areas of responsibilities have been selected with others to be assigned soon. As usual, you can expect good food, entertainment, tables of wonderful desserts and time to visit with old friends. Hopefully there will be antique cars and a couple of other things for you to see. Most of the crew are very experienced and with very little direction, will be able to provide everyone attending, an enjoyable afternoon. Because the event is still six months away, more details will be given in future newsletters. We do have many new members who are not familiar with this annual event so a history of it will likely show up in next month's issue of the newsletter.



Guest Comments

By Leigh Lorence

Visitors from all over!! Wichita KS, Los Angeles CA, Malta OH, Cerritos CA, Swanson IL, Utah; and five pages of guests from Titusville, one who writes "First time!! Loved it!!". Other comments include "Wonderful glimpse into our past." "Glad you are still here." "Love this place." Great to find this treasure." "Thank you for preserving our past." I believe that people find a great deal of pleasure at our Museum because the items there spark fond memories. Whether it be of Grandma's kitchen or old Army buddies, it brings a smile to their faces and a tender tightening in their chest. As always, this is because of you. Many thanks.



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.





North Brevard Historical Museum
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Titusville, FL 32783
(321) 269-3658

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Birthday blessings to a remarkable lady, Mrs. Frances (Hyatt) Reinsch, on her 100th birthday!

Dates to Remember

- **October 12th**: Afternoon in the Park workshop meeting (at the Museum) at 10:00 am.
- **October 19th Board Meeting**: 10:00 am at the Museum (and members are welcome to attend).
- **October 24th**: "Titusville High School all-class reunion"; open house and refreshments at the Museum from 10-3. THS Class of 1965 will be included in this upcoming reunion. (For more information on the 50th reunion for the THS Class of 1965, please contact Margaret Miller Vessels at blazer4fla@aol.com or 269-5857.)
- **October 26th Membership Meeting**: 5:30 pm at Dixie Crossroads.
- **November 16th Board Meeting**: 10:00 am at the Museum (and members are welcome to attend).
- **November 23rd Membership Meeting**: 2:00 pm at Dixie Crossroads.
- **December 21st Board Meeting**: 10:00 am at the Museum (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 pm.

Pictures from the Past answer: **Patricia Arlene (Scobie) Cutter**