



THE NORTH BREVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

(Located at 301 South Washington Avenue)

PO Box 5265

Titusville, FL 32783

(321) 269-3658

OFFICERS

President – Bill Baldwin
Vice President – Amy Spillers
Secretary – Judy Davis
Treasurer – Linda Siano
Past President– Betty Mattingly

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Michael Knight
Paul Marion
Katie McQuade
Susan Nelson
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MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER

(Newsletter Editor – Judy Davis)

President’s Message

by Bill Baldwin

Just a note that the monthly Newsletter will take a sabbatical for the summer, meaning you will not get one in June, July and August. This gives all the writers and editor a little rest. During this time, the Board, under the direction of VP Amy Spillers, will start the planning for reconfiguration of the Museum’s Room 2. Hopefully, the completion will be within the next few months and give us a brand new look. In all probably, the Museum may be shut down for a week or two. More to come!



Pictures from the Past

Does anyone recognize this cute little lady (pictured in 1959) who now is a vital member of our Museum? Answer on page 3.



Meet your “Board”

by Bill Baldwin

In March 2013, then president Betty Mattingly needed to fill the slot of Secretary for the Museum. The name of **Judy Davis** surfaced as she had all the attributes the Museum had to have for that position. Judy accepted and we have never looked back. Her role has drastically expanded to encompass tasks including: Newsletter editor/creator, social media and internet coordinator, publicity lead, Museum photographer, sympathy card creator and temporary Treasurer. All of these tasks are integral to the Museum’s daily operation. We can’t THANK her enough.



Judy Davis



The Rice Family

by Mike Knight

In the very early days **Captain Clark Rice** came to Titusville from Texas by way of Alabama. He was a powerful man weighing 336 pounds and over 7 feet tall. He first came on horseback to Sanford, then called Enterprise Junction. He later drifted on eastward to the place that is now Titusville. It seemed a likely spot so he decided if he could only get a sawmill he could accomplish something here. He finally succeeded in getting a little one and sawed enough timber to build himself a small house and a barn which he used for a livery stable, and he contracted to drive the mail from Enterprise Junction to the new settlement. Captain Rice built a boarding house / hotel at the northwest corner of Hopkins Street and Main Street and successfully operated it for a number of years. He and Mr. Henry Titus that came to this area about the same time, wanted to give the place a name so in 1873 they agreed that the winner at a game of dominoes should have the choice of name. Riceville, if Rice won, and Titusville if Titus won. The result we know, for Titusville it is. It was to become the key town of the Indian River area, for all supplies had to pass through it and be transported south by sailboat. As a reversal of fortunes, Ollie T. Rice, son of Captain Clark Rice, the man who lost the dominos game to Colonel Titus, was elected town marshall and tax collector in the November 1886 town election and defeated Howell Titus, son of Colonel Titus. Captain Rice was married twice. His children, all boys were named Ollie T., Lee and Stephen Elisha. By the second marriage, three girls, and one boy, Lucille, Marie, Jaqueline and Ewing. Stephen Elisha, "S. E." as he was to be known later, grew up in Titusville and became the first engineer on the Celestial Railway between Jupiter and Juno, FL. "S. E." could tell many interesting stories of the times when as an engineer on this road he would take hunters and let them off, one here, another there, and they would get their game and he would pick them up again. Often when they would see a bear or deer they would stop and kill the animal, then proceed on their way. He would tell how he hauled every piece of lumber over this railroad to build the Royal Poinciana Hotel in Palm Beach. An item of interest that the Rice's recall was that Eli Walker, a well-known Vero Beach resident, came first to Sharpes. He rented a

wagon and mule to drive down, cut cordwood and hauled to the river for steamboats, later migrated on down to Vero, driving through the woods.



Northwest corner of Hopkins Street and Main Street



From the Back-Room Files

by Amy Spillers

We received an album from a *Beneke* family member that had many photos and documents inside. One document in particular was this poem written by *Charley Alton*. The date at the top of the page was 1992, but we are not certain that is when he wrote it. When I was a kid, before 1992, all the kids we hung out with fished or shrimped from the old wooden pier for something to do. I can remember one time, how we brought home two 5-gallon buckets of shrimp. That weekend we had a neighborhood fish and shrimp fry. Good times! Well except for our poor dear mother, God Bless her, who stood up all night deveining that shrimp and making hush puppies, coleslaw and baked beans to feed those neighborhood kids. *Enjoy!*

Titusville by Charley Alton

Titusville was a sleepy town, before the big birds flew.
Her fame had spread as a fishing town, most everybody knew.

With Mullet in the river, and big oysters as well;
The Speckled Trout were beautiful, and Redfish you could sell.

Shrimp ran by the thousands, out past the pier;
And there were lots of times when you could only get them here.

And out on Merritt Island, in borrow pits we found,
Were big Bass by the hundreds, the hungriest around.

The Bream were fat and sassy, and fun to catch and eat;
And there just wasn't any way our fishing could be beat.

But now all things are changing, I'm sorry to relate;
The fishing and the shrimping are in a sorry state.

Your catches all are smaller, if anything at all;
Where you can't catch a blessed thing, we used to have a ball.

Our town is getting crowded, and all our highways too-
Sometimes we hardly recognize the Titusville we knew.

I guess we have to face the fact, no matter what we do;
Things never will be as they were, before the big birds flew.

April's Member Meeting

by Bill Baldwin

On April 23rd, the quarterly Member dinner meeting was held at Dixie Crossroads (good food and good fellowship). At the meeting, the announcement was made that the Museum would be receiving a substantial donation from the *Estate of Linda Hinkson*. Let's just say that this created a little excitement at the monthly Board meeting. We appreciate it that Linda Hinkson planned ahead to provide such a wonderful gift to the Museum.

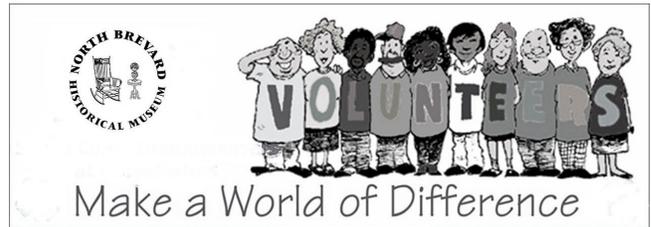
The second announcement at the meeting was the Volunteer of the Year award. The award was presented to **Lynda Siems** for all her continued support of the Museum. Maybe not always visible since she is a full time teacher, Lynda has been a behind-the-scene contributor producing newsletters, letterheads, membership lists and mailing labels. She created playbills for the Museum's Titusville Playhouse productions as well as Museum support paraphernalia. For years, she has been the first person you check in with at our annual BBQ as she sells or validates tickets. Lynda, we are proud to name you as this year's most valuable "Volunteer".



Lynda Siems

Dates to Remember

- **May 21st** Board meeting 10 am (Museum)
- **June 18th** Board meeting 10 am (Museum)
- **July 16th** Board meeting 10 am (Museum)



Member Margaret (Miller) Vessels wrote: "I am honored ~ My picture that I posted on Facebook of our old Green Edsel parked in front of Uncle Ed Kittles Real Estate Office in the 1960's, made Titusville Talking Points. See page 7!"



1960 ~ Edsel on Main St, Titusville, FL

**Note: Titusville Talking Points <http://online.pubhtml5.com/wfho/mihx/>

Social Media

by Judy Davis

Check us out on **Facebook** and on our **website** below. If you wish to be added to any of our occasional e-mails, please contact us. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments at all.

- Email: titusvillemuseum@aol.com
- Website: www.nbbd.com/godo/history/
- Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/NorthBrevardHistoricalMuseum

Pictures from the Past answer: Susan Widick Nelson





North Brevard Historical Museum
301 South Washington Avenue
Titusville, FL 32796
(321) 269-3658



OR PRESENT OCCUPANT

Welcome Titusville

Greater Titusville Renaissance

The Florida Mural Trail is proud to announce another city to the statewide mural connection!



"The greatest art in the world is the art of storytelling" Cecil B. DeMille

Have you checked out all the stories on the Florida Mural Trail?

www.floridmuraltrail.com

On April 23rd, **Greater Titusville Renaissance** announced: "North Brevard is proud to be a part of the *Florida Murals Trail*. We have several outdoor murals throughout our historic downtown Titusville. And look for more art in public places coming soon!"

Editor's Note: pictured is the North Brevard Historical Society's mural