



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

DIRECTORS

Gini Campbell
Michael Knight
Katie McQuade
Susan Nelson
Esther Vulpius
Herman Wattwood, Jr

NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

(Newsletter Editor – Judy Davis)

- **November 12th** Docent training and luncheon at 11 am (at Museum).
- **November 19th** Board meeting at 10 am (Museum).
- **November 21st, 22nd, 23rd** closed for Thanksgiving
- **December 1st** Museum closed on Thursdays from now on ...

Additionally, visitor attendance on Thursdays was very low compared to other days and therefore became the most vulnerable. Those docents who normally work on that day will be asked to choose a shift on a different day (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday). We understand this will not set well with some but we hope that each docent affected can appreciate our decision to change.

President’s Message

by Bill Baldwin

Just think – we only have about fifty shopping days left before Christmas. The year seems to be passing extremely fast. Just note that this will be the last newsletter in 2018. Generally, I would give out the Membership meeting dates at this time but I just plain forgot to address it at the last Board meeting. Normally, our first meeting would be held on the 4th Monday of January but I still need to confirm the time and place. At any rate, I’ll let you know in the January newsletter.

Speaking of Membership meetings, we had a good meeting on Oct. 22nd at Dixie Crossroads. Good food and better fellowship. There I highlighted a few items of change and they all are explained in paragraphs below.



Museum Closed on Thursdays

by Bill Baldwin

After much debating, the Board decided that the Museum will be closed on Thursdays for a lot of reasons. Seems that through natural attrition, docent availability is not what it used to be.

NOTE: Change takes effect Dec. 1st



Docent Appreciation Luncheon

by Amy Spillers



If you are one of our Docents, please join us on Monday November 12th at 11:00 am at the Museum for a luncheon in your honor. Without your help we wouldn’t be able to staff our Museum and keep our doors open. We hope you will plan on joining us in celebrating all you do for our Museum! If you haven’t already confirmed your attendance, please call the Museum (269-3658) to have your name added to the attendance roster. See you there!



New Docent Coordinator

by Bill Baldwin

Due to personal issues, Gini Campbell will relinquish her role as Docent Coordinator at the end of November. Gini, we really appreciate the

job you have done coordinating those activities in a position that is extremely demanding. Starting the first of December, *Judy Davis* will assume the position of Docent Coordinator. She will also be implementing the new **“Museum Four-Day schedule”** at the same time. Judy is one person that can make it happen with the connectivity needed to succeed. So, remember that starting December you will need to contact Judy at 321-383-9106 for scheduling issues.



Titusville Fishing Pier

By Michael Knight

The first Titusville Bridge across the Indian River to Merritt Island was opened on December 15, 1922. This two lane wooden structure served North Brevard as a connector to Merritt Island and the beaches until World War II. Because of the death of six soldiers when they drove through the wooden guard railing on August 11, 1942, the Federal and State Government took steps to construct a new concrete bridge with a steel swing span and it was opened on February 21, 1949.



The City of Titusville obtained rights to the western portion of the old wooden bridge to use as a Fishing Pier and it was advertised as the "Longest FREE Fishing Pier in the World" up until the early 1970's. By the 70's time and hurricanes had taken their toll and a new Fishing Pier was dedicated as the "Titusville Veterans Memorial Fishing Pier" on February 27, 1977.

By the mid 1990's weather and time once again placed the pier in jeopardy and in 1994 the City of Titusville authorized a citizen's volunteer committee to solicit funds to replace the wooden decking on the pier. While local funds were being raised, the city was able to obtain a grant to replace the boards. In the late 90s it was discovered the steel

reinforcement rods inside the concrete beams supporting the concession stand were rusting from the salt air which caused structural concerns and the concession stand portion of the pier was closed.

While efforts were underway to construct a new concession and restaurant in 2005, two boats broke loose during Hurricane Wilma and destroyed the 1970s Fishing Pier. The new restaurant was opened in 2008 and a complete new pier opened in the Spring of 2010.



Board Elections Results

by Bill Baldwin

SURPRISE! Lynda and Steve Siems tallied the 2019-2020 Directors/Officers election ballots at the October Membership meeting and all the incumbents were reaffirmed. The oath was then administered by Sarah Etheredge to make sure everything was legal. In case you've forgotten who's who, the newsletter heading contains all the names.



Titusville's First Beach House

By Amy Spillers

Many years ago, Titusville had its very own beach. That is until NASA took it for their Space program. The Museum has a large aerial picture of Titusville Beach dotted with houses, along the dunes. The very first house built on the beach was built and owned by Frank and Leila (Tuddie) Clark, the parents of Dr. James (Jim) Clark of Titusville. The Clark beach house was the only house on the beach for eleven years before others built there.



In the early 1930's, Frank Clark hauled his building supplies across the river by way of Titusville's original wooden bridge. The Clark's house (cottage) consisted of a great room with a bathroom in one corner, a kitchen, and one bedroom built off to the side. It originally had no electricity, and the only water was pumped from a well. Dr. Clark remembers his father hauling a block of ice for their "ice box" and using lanterns for light. The Clark's never lived in the house fulltime. It was considered their "summer cottage" for one month a year.



In 1966, NASA bought the land from Frank and Tuddie Clark for \$26,000. After having the bedroom torn off to make the journey across the bridge, Frank had Roy Roberts move their cottage to the corner of Bayview Street and Rodger Drive.

The Clark summer cottage still remains today long after Tuddie who passed away in 1965 and Frank who passed years later in 1997. Without even noticing the cottage, some of you may have driven past it on your way to Dr. Clark's Dental Office located on the corner of Hopkins Avenue and Bayview Street. Above is the picture of Dr. Clark's family beach house located fourth from the bottom on the aerial picture of Titusville Beach, and as it stands today with Dr. Clark and Mrs. Clark standing in front of it. Dr. and Mrs. Clark will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on November 24th. Dr. Clark practiced Dentistry in Titusville from 1969 to 1996, and Patsy Clark was a home Economics teacher at THS.



In retrospect, so many of Titusville's original structures were either destroyed by the great conflagration of 1895 or torn down to make way for something else. We have lost cherished pieces of history and preserving the remaining historical buildings is what gives Titusville its charm.



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



North Brevard Historical Museum
 301 South Washington Avenue
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OR PRESENT OCCUPANT

2019 Membership Dues

January 1 is the Membership renewal date for the 2019 year. A renewal form is included in this newsletter to keep your membership active. Please fill out the form, then cut it out and mail it along with your check to the Museum (or just bring it in).

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 301 S. WASHINGTON AVE
 TITUSVILLE, FL 32796
 321/269-3658

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE: _____ are you a new member? _____ are you renewing your membership? _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP DESIRED

_____ Individual - \$20/year _____ Family - \$30/year (list all names below)
 _____ Lifetime -\$500 _____ Associate (businesses and organizations) - \$50/year

Amount paid: Membership \$ _____ Additional Gift \$ _____ Total amount paid \$ _____ Check # _____
 Do you want a receipt? No ___ Yes ___ (if yes, a copy of this form will be returned to you as a receipt)

NAME(S) (list all if desiring Family Membership): _____

BUSINESS NAME (list if desiring Associate membership): _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE(S): home _____ cell _____ email address: _____

Are you interested in being a volunteer docent? _____ Days available to volunteer (circle): T W Th F S

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