



DeSoto County Historical Society News

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August 2009

Sponsors Needed for This Newsletter!

We're looking for individuals, organizations, and businesses to become sponsors of this newsletter. For a donation of \$100, you, your organization, or business will have a listing in this newsletter for 12 months! Two, three, or four people can join together to make the donation.

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January - **Jack Shore**

February - **Joshua Creek Realty Group**

March - **Arlene and Warren Conley in memory of Leo and Hazel Williams**

May - **Historic Parker House B & B Kay and Leonard Higley, Proprietors**

June - **Max and Lois Fitzpatrick**

July - **Mitzie McGavic**

August



We Need Your Junk!

It's time to clean out your closets, cupboards, carport, attic, barn, garage, and shed, and donate your clutter to the Society for our Fifth Annual Yard Sale at 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, November 9, at the Historic Parker Bed and Breakfast, 427 W. Hickory (Highway 70 West). As in years past, we'll also be selling the best baked goods in the county, hotdogs and cold drinks, plus we'll have live entertainment.

For the first time this year, we're also renting a limited number of tables for \$10 each to those who want to sell their own items. To reserve a table, please call Kay or Leonard Higley at 494-1060.

Please leave your donations under the tarp in the trailer behind the Parker House. Or, for someone to pick up your stuff, call Clel Shore at 494-2701 and 558-3002 or Kay and Leonard Higley at 494-1060.

Our Sixth Annual Pioneer Day is March 20, 2010!

As chairperson of this event, Bebe Jackson has called the first planning meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 10, at the Historic Parker House. The committee is already planning for a bigger and better event--even adding a Barbecue Rib Cook-off. If you'd know of people who can demonstrate old-fashioned skills--such as candle-dipping or basket-weaving--please tell Bebe. If you can help with the planning, please contact Bebe at 494-6607 or online at bebebradbury@aol.com.

Historical Society Holiday Open House at the Historic Parker House

The Board of Directors voted to partner with Kay and Leonard Higley, proprietors of the Historic Parker House for a Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 6. We need people to dress in their historic costumes to greet visitors and share some of our history with them. If you can help, please contact Kay and Leonard at 494-1060.

J. Morgan Ingraham House

Architect John Parks is preparing plans for construction and specifications for the contractors for Phase 4. Both the contractors who have worked on the house previously--Durable Restoration and Image Construction will be asked to submit bids to do the work. The Society has already received the first installment of our \$50,000 Small Matching Historic Grant from the State of Florida Division of Historic Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation.

Please send all news, corrections, and suggestions to Carol Mahler online at carolm@strato.net or call 491-0286.

Thanks to Evelyn Sasser and Wilda Meier for serving on the Welcome Committee!

We want everyone who attends our meetings to feel welcome, so members of this committee will be at the door to greet those attending, and to welcome our guests and new members, making sure that they are introduced to and join a table of members. If you can help, please contact Mitzie McGavic.

Scholarship Committee

Charlotte and Fred Carter, Arlene Conley, Kay Higley and Mitzie McGavic have been working on a proposal to award a scholarship to a DeSoto High School graduate in 2010. If you have suggestions, please contact Mitzie at 494-5917.

**Our Fourth of July Parade
"Float" Won a Prize!**

Congratulations to Harold McLeod who built the "float" and to all those who decorated it, or dressed in their historic costumes to walk beside or ride in our covered oxcart, which won a prize in the Fourth of July Parade.

Nominating Committee

Bruce Neveau, Clel Shore, and Dennis Tyson volunteered at our July meeting to serve with Mitzie McGavic on the nominating committee. They will present their slate of officers and directors at the September meeting, and they welcome any nominations from the membership.

Archaeology Day at Pine Level

Thanks to Jeff Moates and Jana Futch of the West Central Region of the Florida Public Archaeology Network for the excellent presentation they gave about Pine Level. The Board of Directors is working with them to plan an "archaeology day"--perhaps in September-- that will include a "surface survey," creation of a detailed map, and recording oral histories.

**August Meeting
Announcement**

The DeSoto County Historical Society's regular monthly meeting will be held at the **Family Service Center Annex** (old West Elementary School cafeteria) on N. Orange Avenue on the **THIRD** Thursday of the month, **August 20, 2009.**

Lunch is \$5, beginning at 11:30 a.m., and the meeting starts at noon.

Come early and bring a friend--or two!

Bruce Neveau and Dennis Tyson

have beautifully restored the Ralls House at 640 W. Whidden Street. They will speak about the Ralls family, who moved to Arcadia in 1905, the same year that fire destroyed downtown. They will display artifacts owned by the Ralls family, some of which they reconstructed from a "trash pit" in the backyard. These items reveal many details about early twentieth century life in Arcadia. After the meeting, the Ralls House will be open for tours all afternoon.

For Sale at our August Meeting

T-shirts for \$10 and tote bags for \$7, both featuring Acrefoot Johnson, will be on sale plus copies of *Recollections I* for \$7 and the *Walking Tour of Historic Arcadia* booklet for \$5.

September's Meeting

is the second Thursday, September 10, at the Family Service Center Annex. Forrest and Chester Johnson will share some reminiscences about their father and their grandfather, two legendary characters. From 1877 until 1884, Acrefoot Johnson walked a 65-mile route to deliver the mail, and his son Rattlesnake Johnson earned his nickname by catching rattlesnakes.

Welcome New Members!

The Society welcomes new members who joined our Society in July: Juanita Accardi, Ronnie and Charlotte Allen, David Bishop, Kay Harvin, and Candy Weir.