



DeSoto County Historical Society News

P.O. Box 1824, Arcadia, FL 34265, www.historicdesoto.org
863-494-6607 or bebebradbury@aol.com

February 2012

Sponsors Needed!

For a donation of \$100, you, your organization, or your business, will have a listing in this newsletter for 12 months!

Two or more people can make the donation together.



February - **Evelyn Sasser in memory of Kit and Candacy Mahon**



March - **Kay and Leonard Higley**

April - **Arlene and Warren Conley**

in memory of Leo and Hazel Williams

May - **Happy Birthday to DeSoto County!**

June - **Max Fitzpatrick in memory of Lois Rachel Fitzpatrick**

July - **Mitzie McGavic**

August - **Darlene Head**

in memory of R. A Head

September - **Donn and Bebe Jackson**

October - **Howard Melton**

in memory of his wife Velma

November - **Ronnie and Charlotte Allen, in memory of Winnie Duncan**

December - **Happy 125th Birthday to the City of Arcadia!**

January - **Jeanne Lloyd in memory of Dr. H.C. Lloyd**

Help Us Display History!

When the Howard and Velma Melton Historical Research Library opens for regular hours, your family history can be featured in a wall-mounted display case for six months for a donation of \$200 or more! An engraved plaque affixed to that display case will permanently honor you or your family, or can be in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Please send your donation to the Historical Society, P.O. Box 1824, Arcadia, FL 34265.

Our E-Newsletter

If you would like to receive your newsletter in your inbox, please send your e-mail address to clelshore@embarqmail.com.

An Excerpt from

Recollections I: A Collection of Historical Photographs, Documents, Letters, Diaries, Stories, Recipes, Sayings, and Other Memorabilia about Arcadia and DeSoto County, Florida.

Downtown Service Stations Disappeared

Over a dozen service stations were in the vicinity of downtown Arcadia during the 1920s and 1930s, and most were located on Polk Avenue. At that time, Arcadia Avenue was the main route into town from the north. At Gibson Street, the highway jogged one block to the west and then continued south on Polk Avenue into Arcadia. History "buffs" curious about these service stations are sure to have a delightful time looking for evidence of their former existence.

The following is a list of these service stations and their owners.

Lawrence Newton operated a station on the northeast corner of Arcadia Avenue and Winifred Street. The pavement in front of a small house there now is all that remains of this station.

"Fats" Ratcliff owned a Texaco station on the southeast corner of Polk Avenue and Gibson Street. Remnants of this station can be seen in the pavement in front of a duplex.

"Dutch" Nabell had a station and car dealership on the northwest corner of N. Polk Avenue and Whidden Street. At one time, the public school buses were serviced at this garage. The pavement of this station also remains.

William Mansfield ran a service station at the northeast corner of North Polk Avenue and Cypress Street. Florida Power and Light now owns this property. No trace of this station remains.

John Maassen, Sr., operated a Standard Oil station at the northeast corner of Hickory Street . . .

You can read the rest of this history by David Bedell in *Recollections I*, which will be for sale with *Recollections II* at the meeting.

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: Please send all news, corrections, and :
: suggestions to Carol Mahler at 445-0789 :
: or online at carolmahler3@gmail.com. :
:.....

**Please Volunteer for our
Eighth Annual Pioneer Day
on Sat., March 17, at DeSoto Park!**

The State of Florida has again designated our festival as an official "Florida Heritage Month" event! This festival is DeSoto County's chance to show off its history and heritage.

Vendors, demonstrators, Florida authors, and entertainers are signing up to participate in our annual festival, so please "climb on the band wagon" and volunteer! No matter your age or ability, we have a place for you. Please tell Bebe Jackson at the meeting that you will help, or call her at 494-6607.

We need more people who can demonstrate old-time skills, so if you know someone who can do leather tooling, make brooms, sew appliques, or do other old-fashioned crafts, please tell Bebe at the meeting or call her at 494-6607.

We invite businesses, churches, clubs, families, and all others to display their history. (Remember history is what happened a moment ago.)

The completion date for the new restrooms in DeSoto Park is February 23 (and we hope they will be operational and ready for Pioneer Day!). Local Agency Project (LAP) funds are paying for their construction as well as for the construction of new multi-use trails in DeSoto and Morgan parks, plus sidewalks on Whidden Street and south Turner Road.

Thank You to the Keens!

We are grateful that Linda and Vernon Keen will coordinate the "Discovery History" Children's Area of Pioneer Day! If you like to have fun with children, please volunteer to assist Linda and Vernon by telling Bebe Jackson at the meeting or call her at 494-6607.

Thank You, Mosaic!

We are grateful that Mosaic is donating funds to supply a tent, tables, and chairs to seat 100 people as well as their fossil dig and the Mosaic Express educational display bus for Pioneer Day.

February Meeting Announcement

The DeSoto County Historical Society's regular monthly meeting will be on the **SECOND Thursday** of the month,

February 9, 2012

at the **Family Service Center Annex** (old West Elementary cafeteria) at the corner of N. Orange Avenue and Effie Street. Lunch will be a "sweetheart deal" for Valentine's Day: BBQ brisket, green beans, and more--plus dessert--available at 11:30 a.m. for \$5. At noon, President Bebe Jackson will conduct a short business meeting, and then she will introduce our speakers: **Christi Pryor, a teacher of agriculture at DeSoto High School, Superintendent of Schools Adrian Cline, and three students in the Future Farmers of America program.**

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors!

Thank You, Lunch Crew!

We thank Marty Dow for preparing our luncheon, and we give our special appreciation to him and June Sowell for making desserts. We are also grateful to June for preparing beverages. Thanks, also, to Arlene and Warren Conley for helping to set up our luncheon.

March Meeting: Pioneer Day
Sneak Preview

April Meeting: Leon and Evelyn Arthur
of the Confederate Cow Cavalry,
#2181, Sons of Confederate Veterans

Thank You, Workers!

We appreciate everyone who attended the "clean-up" day at the John Morgan Ingraham Home and Seed House on Saturday, January 14. They worked to spruce up the grounds and the structures. Thank you for a job well done.

Retired Ranchers and Farmers

Meet at 1 p.m., 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
Front Clubhouse, Arcadia Village
2692 NE Highway 70
Some speakers present historical topics.
Call Max Fitzpatrick at 494-6257.