



DeSoto County Historical Society News

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February 2009

Sponsors Needed for This Newsletter!

The Board of Directors voted to revise sponsorships for this newsletter: any sponsor who donates \$100 will have his or her name included in the newsletter for twelve months!

We're looking for individuals, organizations and businesses to become sponsors. If you, your organization, or business wants to sponsor this newsletter, or if you know someone else who may want to, contact Carol Mahler.

XXXX

January - **Jack Shore**

February - **Joshua Creek Realty Group**

Joshua Creek Realty Group

863-990-7112 or

www.joshuacreekrealty.com

Historical Publications Committee

Thanks to Steven Ames with help from Harold McLeod, Ruth Dunn, Carol Mahler, and Luke Wilson for writing excellent articles for "The DeSoto County Historical Society Recollections." Subjects include "How to Teach a Fish to Jump," "Delia Twiss, Queen of the Rodeo," "End of the Open Range," and "Church Histories." If you'd like to write an article or submit an historic photograph for the first issue which will be published in March, please contact Carol Mahler.

Chairperson Needed for the Annual Tribute Dinner Fundraiser to honor Margaret Way!

We're planning this event for April, and we need to start planning now. If you want to chair this committee, please contact Mitzie McGavic.

Mark Your Calendars: March 19

Our regular monthly meeting for March will be the THIRD rather than the second Thursday--March 19.

WELCOME to new members who joined our Society in January 2009: Sherry Penfield, Al and Karen Smoke, Hal and Jacqueline Thompson.

Membership Dues are due on January 1. To remain a member in good standing, please pay your dues!

The J. Morgan Ingraham House

Thanks to Image Construction Company work is progressing on the Third Phase of Restoration for the J. Morgan Ingraham House. Thanks to Harold McLeod for photographing the progress of the work each day.

Back Issues of the DeSoto County Historical Society News

are now available on our web site! Check it out at www.historicdesoto.org.

Library Association To Revise Walking Tour of Historical Arcadia

The Library Association's revised "Walking Tour of Historical Arcadia" booklet--funded, in part, with a grant from the Florida Humanities Council--will include more buildings and more local history than did the one published in 2001. During Pioneer Day, the booklet will be given out for free, and the Association will also offer some "mini historic walking tours" To help, contact Project Director Carol Mahler.

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

We Need You!

Our Fifth Annual Pioneer Day is 9 to 2 on Saturday, March 21!

Under the capable leadership of Bebe Jackson with Kay and Leonard Higley, the Pioneer Day Planning Committee has organized a day of heritage fun for everyone. Now we need your help--no matter your age or ability, there's a job at this festival that you can do! Even working for one hour can give someone else a break--please volunteer by calling Bebe Jackson at 494-6607.

Thanks to Lois and Max Fitzpatrick who are preparing a color-coded map of the festival. Their excellent map and their early-morning efforts helped everyone working at Pioneer Day last year.

We have some demonstrators of old-time skills--such as blacksmithing, candle-dipping, wood carving, and butter churning, but we'd love to have more. If you have a talent--or know someone who does--please call Bebe Jackson.

As we did last year, we'll have drawings for gifts plus a special new drawing just for children. The money raised by these drawings helps to pay for festival expenses. If you would like to donate a gift, please call Arlene Conley at 993-3861.

Invite all the children you know because we're adding new activities for them, including a coloring contest judged by Superintendent of DeSoto County Schools Adrian Cline, cane pole fishin', a Cracker Cowboy Poet-Storyteller, a fossil dig, a "Pioneer Kitchen," old-fashioned games (like shooting marbles), homemade toys, and more. To volunteer to work with children, please call Carol Mahler at 491-0286.

We Need Your Help to Handout Pioneer Day Flyers!

We can plan the best festival in the world, but our best efforts are wasted if no one attends. Please post flyers in your business, at your church, in your clubhouse, and give them to everyone! You can pick up flyers at the Parker House or download them at our web site.

February Meeting Announcement

The DeSoto County Historical Society's regular monthly meeting will be at the

Family Service Center

at the corner of Orange Avenue
and Effie Street in Arcadia

on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

Lunch will be available for \$5 at 11:30,
and the meeting starts at 12 noon.

Come early and bring a friend--or two!

Miss Frances Pooser and Mr. Carl Bradshaw will be our speakers.

Miss Pooser, who grew up in DeSoto County, will talk about her experiences as a student, and she and Mr. Bradshaw will also share their memories of teaching.

Arcadia State Livestock Market

According to Howard Melton in *More Footprints and Landmarks: A Pictorial History of Arcadia and DeSoto County, Florida*, published in 2004, the Arcadia State Livestock Market was built in 1939 at a cost of \$25,000. It was jointly financed by the State and DeSoto County. John D. Kelly managed and/or directed the Market for 25 years, and he was joined in this business by two sons, Dick and Pat.

The Arcadia Stockyard provides some additional history on its web site www.arcadiastockyard.com/history.htm. In all, the Kelly family managed the Market from 1939 to 1993. In 1994, Philip Turner was manager, and in 2001, Roger Lowe. When the Market first opened, cattle were shipped by train, although the railroad spur behind the Market has been removed.

Hurricane Charley added to the damage already caused over the years by termites. Two barns were condemned, and the State completed only minimal repairs. Sales were hampered by the loss of almost all of the buyers pens. The final sale was held on August 31, 2005.

The Society is considering recognition for this historic site on Highway 17 North.