

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 17 – Number 7

July 2015

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4th in the meeting room of the *Zephyrhills Public Library*, 5347 8th Street. The business meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. and the program is at 7 p.m. Refreshments include drinks, which are provided, and food brought in to share by members.

Speakers



Keymo Pearson, Personal Training Supervisor at the Wellness Center of Florida Hospital here in Zephyrhills, was our speaker for the July meeting. He spoke about his upbringing in Dade City and about his time as a high school and college athlete, but most of his time was spent talking about the importance of some sort of fitness program for people of all ages. He brought with him some cards inviting our members to enjoy two weeks free at the Wellness Center, with an option to take up a membership without an installation fee. He was warmly received by those in attendance, who enjoyed his presentation immensely.

Our very own Bill Kustes will be our presenter at the August meeting. He's going to be talking about the railroads. The histories of many Florida communties are very much connected to the history of railroads, and Zephyrhills is no exception. It's one of the reasons the Depot Museum is so appropriate and meaningful to this community. Bill is going to be calling in some help from others who have a special interest in this part of our history, and he hopes the discussion that develops will be



interesting and informational to all of us. If you are a person with something to add on this topic We hope you will join us that night. We're pretty sure it's going to be a good time.

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Please consider contributing old photos for the website.

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ZHA Mission Statement

The mission of the Zephyrhills Historical Association is to research, gather, and share local historical information with all generations, through our literature, programs, and scholarships, and to volunteer assistance to the Zephyrhills Depot Museum and WWII Barracks Museum.

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ZHS Reunion Draws Hundreds of Bulldogs

by Dave Walters

When Vance Forbes graduated from Zephyrhills High School in 1933, the basketball team he played for was just Zephyrhills. The mascot came years later. Forbes remembers the days where he roamed the halls of ZHS, which is now Stewart Middle School. He and his 14 fellow classmates went through their years at ZHS at the same time the Great Depression took hold of our nation and most of the world.

Forbes, now 100 years old, was the center of attention Sunday at the 45th Annual Zephyrhills High School Alumni, Teachers and Friends Reunion at the Zephyrhills Lions Club.

A World War II veteran, Forbes was the oldest alumnus at the event and shared stories with many ZHS graduates, but Class of 2015 members Dylan Kinsman and Shelbie Pollock hung on his every word.

"He is so interesting," Pollock said, who pointed out that her grandmother was born in 1932, a year before Forbes graduated. "He talked about his work in business and I'm going to study business. It was great." Forbes can't remember how many of the alumni reunions he has attended, but he made nearly all of the 45 events since 1970.

"There were a lot of friendships made throughout the years and you stay in contact with many of them," Forbes said of his popularity. "I've been in Zephyrhills all my life but four years, so this is definitely home for me."

The reunion welcomed more than 300 former ZHS graduates from throughout the decades.



Zephyrhills Alumni Association president Jerry Pricher credits his interest and his long-time devotion to the event to for Zephyrhills Police Chief Bill Eiland, who recruited Pricher to the association in 1981. "It looks like a lifetime position like the Supreme Court," Pricher joked about his decades as an officer of the Alumni Association.

As Pricher looked across the hall at the Lions Club, he sees the hugs and hears the laughter of

friends reuniting. "I look out there and I see friends across the years," Pricher said. "You don't have another opportunity to see people from all of the years. At your reunion you see your classmates. Here, you see them from all of the years. "The people are obviously happy with it. You don't want to mess with it. We try to make the program as short as possible because people want to talk to each other."

Secretary-Treasurer Clereen Brunty was all smiles as the proud grads kept coming through the doors and getting their name tags. "I think this is a time they want to get together," Brunty said. "It feels good to know I got the word out and see them get together."



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45th Annual ZHS Alumni, Teacher, and Friends Luncheon



Oldest and Youngest Graduates Dylan Kinsman, Vance Forbes, Shelbie Pollock



Most Family Members Present The Stephenson/Massey Family



50/50 Winner - Sandy Franklin Hilton



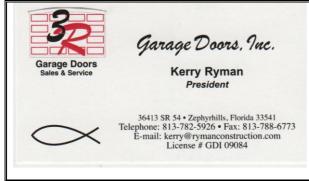
50th Reunion - Class of 1965

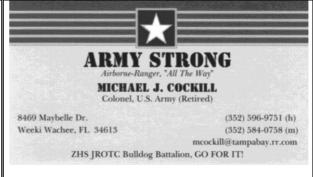


Traveled Farthest - Linden Laviano '57 (CA)



Zephyrhills Teachers Past and Present





45th ZHS Alumni, Teacher, & Friends Luncheon

by Clereen Brunty

As we celebrate this year's 45th anniversary reunion of ZHS alumni and friends getting together, we are reminded of the wonderful childhood memories of what we did in our school years and the friendships that developed over time. Many still stay in touch throughout the year and enjoy reacquainting with their classmates at their special reunions. It is like reconnecting where they left off from five years prior. The annual reunion is a great way to see teachers – past and present – as well as families & friends of our classmates. As the older generations leave us, the younger generation is keeping this alive. That is what history is all about!

With the addition of teachers and faculty from all Zephyrhills schools, Elementary through High School, along with community notables such as Mayors, City Council members, and other town

officials, shows the bond between school and community like not many other towns have. When you are in school, all you can think about is getting out of Zephyrhills and spreading your wings elsewhere. Many have returned after finding that Zephyrhills is really a great little town to raise your family in. Some have formed their businesses here and generations of family have walked the halls of Zephyrhills High School. Even though the buildings have changed, the feel of visiting your alma mater will always bring back the special times in your life.



Class of 1973 - Judi Dunnigan, Phyllis Jarrett Denney, Clereen Morrill Brunty, Melanie Sanders Myers & Robert Hughes

Alumni Reunions have been held on the last Sunday in June in many locations as the group would increase. Some of the places where these reunions were held were Crystal Springs Recreation Park, Zephyr Lake, Alice Hall Community Center at Zephyr Park, Municipal Auditorium, Zephyrhills High School (old and new campus) and the Zephyrhills Lions Club. Many classes hold their class reunions on the Saturday night before so many can attend the alumni reunion and potluck luncheon the next day. Attendance ranges from 250 to almost 500, which was during our centennial year of 2010.

The **2015-2017** Alumni Association officers and assistants are: **Jerry Pricher** – President, Class of 1969; **Lenora Pollock Stokes** – Vice President, Class of 1964; **Clereen Morrill Brunty** – Secretary, Treasurer & Alumni Contact, Class of 1973 and **Lisa Bruce Cooksey** – Historian, Class of 1986; **Nancy Lail** – ZHS CAPS Scholarship Chairman, Class of 1974; **Cyndi Craig** – 50/50 Coordinator, Class of 1976.

The next ZHS Alumni, Teachers and Friends Reunion will be on **Sunday**, **June 26**, **2016**. Mark your calendar now so not to miss a special time in your life...





James Clifford Fuller Family Data

by Jon R. Ferguson

Occasions happen that make one recall people of the past, particularly those that made an impression on you. Back in the 1940s while I was still living in my hometown, Zephyrhills, Florida, a couple moved into the area with their son from Alabama. The family members were known as Verbie and Bailey Fuller and James, their son. We attended worship services together and the two families became close friends. I was in high school. James was a few years younger.

Bailey was a grove caretaker. My interest in horticulture was piqued by his expertise. He was so generous sharing his knowledge. It was from him that I learned how to graft trees, the differences that rootstock makes in citrus particularly, and why seedlings are inferior to grafted or budded trees.

The Fullers lived in several locations in Zephyrhills before finally moving to the greater Lakeland area where Bailey managed a large grove and lived in a house among the citrus trees. James finished school while there in the class of 1957.

Our contacts were few and far between for a few years before I moved to Jacksonville. James and I have recently have been back in touch via email. We finally met for a short while and renewed friendships. I met his wife and shared the following Fuller genealogy that I had done for him to peruse and make any corrections.

The oldest Fuller I was able to find was Warren Fuller, farmer, born 1801 in South Carolina. He married Elisabeth R Whitmore. She was born in 1819 in Virginia. They were parents of: Anne S.; J. N.; Clarissa J.; William D.; Warren A.; Allen F.; and John M. Warren died in October 1869 per the U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules.



Warren Alphius (Alfus) Fuller was born October 28, 1849 in Alabama. He was a farmer. He married Martha Elizabeth Casterlow in 1872. Her parents were John Casterlow and Martha Elizabeth ___. Their children were: Ida M.; Felix A.; Warren R.; Cota; James Cullis; Hullie R. and William R. Warren died May 10, 1913; Martha died November 30, 1920. They are buried in Live Oak Cemetery, Crenshaw County, AL.

James Cullis Fuller was born on June 27, 1888 in Potsburg, Crenshaw, Alabama. He married Lollie Audrey Pruitt on September 5, 1909 there. Her parents were J. S. Pruitt and Ann Fuller. Their children were: P. Wilford Bailey; Leo; Warren Aaron and Cumi. James Cullis Fuller died April 21, 1948. Lollie Fuller died February 26, 1949. They are buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Crenshaw County, Alabama.

Wilford Bailey Fuller was born July 17, 1910 in Crenshaw County, Alabama. His wife was Verbie M. Cornett. She was born September 3, 1912 in Luverne, Crenshaw County, Alabama. Her parents were Albert I. Cornett and Sallie Ann Griffin. Bailey and Verbie Fuller had only one child: James Clifford Fuller. Bailey died in February 1976. Verbie died October 4, 2002. They are buried in Socrum Cemetery, Polk County, Florida.



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God Bless America

James Clifford Fuller was born October 29, 1939. He married Julia Ann Kelley on January 6, 1962 in Lakeland, Polk County, Florida. She was born December 16, 1941 in Dover, Hillsborough County, Florida. Her parents were Richard Sidney Kelley and Anna Mary Fuman. Anna Mary's father was Hungarian who immigrated to the U.S. about 1900 and changed his name from Joseph Furmenkwick or something similar. He shortened his name to Furman. His wife was Mary Kish. Richard and Anna Mary Kelley are buried in the First Baptist Dover Cemetery, Hillsborough County, FL. James and Julia had one child, Darryl Wayne Fuller who was born January 12, 1963 in Lakeland, Polk County, FL. He married Elizabeth Ann Reeves. She was born October 11, 1964 in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama.

One incident I vividly recall is that once I rode with my Uncle Bill (William H.) Barber to the Fuller home in the grove. They had a cow and my mother had loaned Verbie a Daisy churn. Uncle Bill and I were just before ending our visit when he said: "You don't have any buttermilk that I could buy from you do you?" She had a 2-quart jarful in the refrigerator. He paid her some little stipend and we loaded into his car. We had hardly gotten away from their house when Uncle Bill said: "I'm in the mood turn this jar up and take a good long swig of this buttermilk. If I don, will you?" We did. Would you believe that before got onto the paved road that the jar was almost empty. We both really loved good home-churned buttermilk.

June 30, 2015

East Pasco Meals on Wheels 41st Anniversary

Marguerite Pattie is a special, longtime resident in the Zephyrhills area with all the community service projects she has been instrumental in. This is such a nice story that I had to share. Kudos to Marguerite and the staff at East Pasco Meals on Wheels for all the years of loving and dedicated service. I know from personal experience how important this service is to the home bound. My mother-in-law was found on the floor and on the ground outside a couple of times and they contacted us right away and stayed with her until we arrived or if rescue was needed. They are all very caring and it's true, a lot of senior citizens may not have any visitors and it does get very lonely so the visit by the volunteers is very special. Thank you to all of those who

have volunteered countless hours to any worthwhile organization such as this. It is good for the heart and soul and is much appreciated but not always recognized. Keep up the great work...Clereen

Story and photo by Dave Walters

Marguerite Pattie, 97, right, was joined by 99-yearold Leona Hall at Zephyr Park for last week's Meals on Wheels anniversary gathering at Zephyr Park with dozens of the organizations' volunteers.

The celebration was coordinated by executive director Beth Aker, left.





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On a sunny June 3, 1974, East Pasco Meals on Wheels delivered its first meal and to this day, more than 120 meals are delivered every day.

After 41 years, the organization that provides meals for clients who may be invalid, homebound, or recovering from surgery, or from the loss of a spouse, is still going strong.

Marguerite Pattie, 97, is one of the founders of East Pasco Meals on Wheels. She recalls that first day and the first meal.

On that delivery was Leona Hall, who is 99.

East Pasco Meals on Wheels celebrated 41st Anniversary ~ June 3, 2015

"It has meant a lot to me and a lot of people," said Pattie. "For some of these people, the person who delivers their meals may be the only person they see all week. They would wait for us all dressed up and with the table set. It was more than just a meal. It was like company coming to visit."

There were also times where the arrival of the meal may have saved a life. "There were many times where we found people down on the floor," Pattie said. "

Hall has such a love of the East Pasco Meals on Wheels mission that even at the age of 99 she still travels with the delivery drivers.



"I tell them where to go, but not how to get there," Hall joked.

According to East Pasco Meals on Wheels Exectutiver Director Beth Aker, meals are delivered to clients in Zephyrhills and Dade City. When Pattie and Hall were delivering, they started with 34 meals that went as far as Trilby, Lacoochee, Ridge Manor and even out to Land O' Lakes.

"Without Marguerite Pattie and the great people who founded this organization, we wouldn't be here," Aker said. "And I wouldn't have a job."

Marguerite Pattie takes a nostalgic look through a scrapbook with Rodney Rehrig Sr. of the Marine Corps League

Pattie commended all the volunteers through the years who used their own cars and fuel to make sure the clients received their meals. "They helped us like it was their mission work," Pattie explained. "All of the meals were good meals, too, and were \$1.25."

East Pasco Meals on Wheels earns part of its income from recycling newspapers and aluminum cans. The rest comes from donations and meal payments; clients are asked to donate about \$4 a meal to help cover costs, though needy ones receive reduced rates.

Happy 35th Birthday to the Zephyrhills Historical Association!!!

