Tracks of Time

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

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July 2021

There will be NO scheduled business meeting in August.

Future Meetings

While we are not having a business meeting in August, but we are making plans for a meeting in September. At the present time, though, we are not sure of the meeting place. The library will no longer be open until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, so if we continue to meet there we most likely will have to meet earlier. I am hesitant to make that move because we are beginning to attract a younger group of members, many of whom still work. Another possibility would be to return to the Depot Museum for our meetings. Negotiations with the City have not started on this, so we’ll have to let you know. If we are able to work it out we may be able to go back to our original times, which were an hour later than our current ones. We shall see.

Remembering Bob Porter

Many of us bid farewell to our friend Bob Porter at his memorial and graveside services. He was our true friend and a most valued member of the Zephyrhills Historical Association. Cleereen sent along this picture of the cars used in the processional. There was also a fly-over in Bob’s own plane. This was a fitting tribute to a great man. We salute you, Bob Porter!

Photo taken by Bob’s granddaughter, Fay Geiger

We may get back to our fundraisers in September at Sergio’s.

Jeff Miller
Pasco County Historian
For a walk down memory lane visit www.fivay.org
Please consider contributing old photos for the website.
My email address is on the opening page

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.
### Executive Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Rod Rehrig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Jerry Pricher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Anna Boone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Andrew Nagy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Board Members

- Clereen Brunty
- Polly Gill
- Beverly Holmes
- Patty Thompson

### Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Clereen Brunty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshments</td>
<td>Polly Gill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Clereen Brunty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>Jerry Pricher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>Louie Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>Louie Holt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depot Museum</td>
<td>Carolyn Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraisers</td>
<td>Patty Thompson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

- Raymond Alvarez
- Darlene Bamberger
- Beverly Barnett
- Elaine Benjamin
- Anna Boone
- George Boone
- Lori Brightwell
- Clereen Brunty
- Kathy Burnsides
- Rosemary Carrigg
- Duke Chadwell
- Margaret Cherry
- Maryhelen Clague

- Jeffrey Cook
- Carolyn Dean
- Irene Dobson
- Vicki Elkins
- Greg First
- Greg First
- Polly Gill
- Louie Holt
- Louie Holt
- Erica Freeman
- Sarah Freeman
- Nathan Geiger
- Polly Gill
- Beverly Holmes
- Louie Holt
- Christopher Johnson
- Thea Johnson

- Jackie Kustes
- Jackie Lindsey
- Bill Kustes
- Jackie Lindsey
- Terry Lindsey
- Jeff Miller
- Barb Moore
- Dr. Rick Moore
- Andrew Nagy
- Hal Perdew
- Shirley Pillow
- Anna Poe
- Jerry Pricher

- Bill Kustes
- Jackie Lindsey
- Terry Lindsey
- Jeff Miller
- Barb Moore
- Dr. Rick Moore
- Andrew Nagy
- Hal Perdew
- Shirley Pillow
- Anna Poe

- Jackie Lindsey
- Terry Lindsey
- Jeff Miller
- Barb Moore
- Dr. Rick Moore
- Andrew Nagy
- Hal Perdew
- Shirley Pillow
- Anna Poe

- Roderick Rehrig
- Sharon Reisman
- Linda Sante
- Margaret Seppanen
- Steve Spina
- Patty Thompson
- Steve & Terry Turner
When I was in high school one of my most memorable experiences was watching the Golden Knights train at our own airport. I spent many nights out at the airport watching them jump. I got to know some of the men in the squad, and they were incredibly nice to those of us who came to watch them. One man I became very close with was a disc delivery man I became very close with. He was a disc delivery man in an event that I vividly remember on a particular night. He stretched all he could to set a new world record. The procedure involved the jumpers forming a linked-arm maneuver in the sky, followed by a targeted landing. There was a circular landing area with a disc in the center. The disc was maybe two feet in diameter. I remember watching every member of the jump firmly landing on that disc except for the very last jumper. He stretched all he could but only managed to reach about a foot-and-a-half from the center disc. It was something to behold!

Bob Porter was instrumental in bringing the Golden Knights to Zephyrhills. As I remember Bob telling it, the situation started with a chance meeting between Bob and one of the commanding officers. The squad was plagued by bad weather in winter training where they were located, so Bob suggested they come here to train during those months.

I vividly remember one particular night when they were attempting to set a new world record. The procedure involved the jumpers forming a linked-arm maneuver in the sky, followed by a targeted landing. There was a circular landing area with a disc in the center. The disc was maybe two feet in diameter. I remember watching every member of the jump firmly landing on that small disc except for the very last jumper. He stretched all he could but only managed to reach about a foot-and-a-half from the center disc. It was something to behold!
In the coming years Zephyrhills would become a premier jump site with a world reputation. We had many visitors from Europe and elsewhere staying in Zephyrhills and skydiving at the airport. I remember seeing them often at the grocery store or elsewhere in town, especially during the winter months. I’m not sure any of this would have happened had it not been for our friend, Bob Porter. He was truly a great citizen of Zephyrhills and a friend to almost everyone. He will be missed.

Obituary for Bob Porter

Charles Robert “Bob” Porter passed away at home surrounded by his family on June 26, 2021. Bob was born in Brighton, Iowa on July 5, 1929.

After graduating high school, Bob served his country in the National Guard. Afterwards, he owned/operated a Ford Tractor dealership and later managed the airport in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Bob moved his family to Zephyrhills, FL in 1965 where he opened the first FBO and the original parachuting center out at the Zephyrhills Airport. Bob had numerous passions that he pursued in his almost 92 years of life. They included flying his beloved planes and helicopters, being a train engineer at Midwest Old Settlers & Threshers Reunion in Iowa, touring the country in his numerous Ford Model Ts and even built/captained a dinner boat in South Florida. Bob was a member of numerous groups, including the Zephyrhills Historical Association, the Fun T Club of Central Florida and was an honorary lifetime member of the Midwest Central Railroad.

He is preceded in death by his parents Verle and Margaret Porter, wife Penny Porter, two sons-in-law Tom Watson and Ferman Geiger Sr (ZHS 1971), granddaughter Wendy Geiger Servies (ZHS 1991), and grandson Eric Chaponniere. He is survived by his three daughters Nancy Porter Wells (ZHS 1971), Sandra Porter Geiger (ZHS 1973), Carolyn Porter Morris (ZHS 1974) and son Richard Porter (ZHS 1976). Also surviving are his 8 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 9 great-great-grandchildren.

Christmas in July

We were able to finally get together at our Christmas in July Dinner. Gail Fisher once again provided an excellent menu, and folks enjoyed our time together. Our scholarship winner from this year, Robyn Thomas, was also able to be with us.