

# Estero Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 1314 \* Estero, FL 33929

[www.esterohistoricalsociety.com](http://www.esterohistoricalsociety.com)

August 2013

Editor Beverly MacNellis

For General information call Directors Marlene Fernandez at 992-3178 or Jean Pryal at 498-5296

## In this issue ....

- Society adds News Bill Board outside.
- July 4th Pictures
- Estero Pioneer Passes
- Who is who in the Historical Society
- Orange Blossom Special (Train)
- Honor your loved one & buy a memorial brick.
- Long time friend of the Historical Society passes.
- List of Society's events for the year
- Information about Membership
- July 4th Celebration
- About the Annual Tea!! information!!



Our beloved founder of the Estero Historical Society Helen May "Mimi" Straub, 100, died quietly in her sleep on August 29, 2013.

There will be a celebration of her life at the Society's headquarters at the Estero Park on Sept. 15 from 1 to 4 PM. All are welcome.

Our next newsletter will be about Mimi.

## What's coming next?

### \$ Belk's Sale-Nov 6 \$

Give us money and we will give you the same amount to spend at Belk's during their special sale for non-profits.

You can't go wrong. We get your full amount as a tax write off for you and you get the same amount to spend on clothing, kitchen, shoes, mens, child's and women's clothing to name a few of this popular department store's departments.

Chair Jean Pryal 239-498-5296

### EHS Annual Tea-Lunch

February 6th, Thursday, Noon  
Shadow Wood Country Club

Reserve your Hostess Table now  
Tickets \$35 - Limited number of tables.  
Beverly MacNellis Chair -  
beverlyann@comcast.net



## Now you will know

Want to know what is going on with the Estero Historical Society. There are plenty of ways. We have just added another one.

Located in front of the two historical buildings in the Estero Community Park, we have added an "Information Board". Thanks to Bev MacNellis' cousin Paul MacNellis in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The wood will weather to a rich brown matching the deck or we may paint it to match the new color of trim on the Hall House. The trim hasn't been painted at this time.

Events, Dates, Who to contact for what and when the Hall house is open to the public plus so much more. During the summer our hours have been cut back. Please check before making a trip.

Other ways to find out about us is our web site. It lists future events, who to call for information and a big bunch of pictures of past events. The third way is to call one of us. If we don't know the answer we will find out for you.

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## Who is Who in the Society . . .

### Officers . . . . .

President ..... Bob Morris .... 992-2855  
Vice President ..... Dave Pryal .... 498-5296  
Secretary ..... Open .....  
Treasurer ..... Bev MacNellis 498-0678  
Past President ..... John Yarbrough

### Directors. . . . .

Mini Straub . . . Founder  
MaryAnn Weenen - Past President  
Carla Morris  
Sis Newberry  
Eileen Galvin  
Ruth Mason  
Jean Pryal  
Marlene Fernandez

## Committees . . . . .

Chutney ..... Jill Keene-Lucas ..... 390-2392  
Inkind donations /Deed of Gift ..... Marlene Fernandez ..... 992-3178  
..... Sis Newberry ..... 992-4431  
Speaker Chair ..... Jean Pryal ..... 498-5296  
Interior Design-Decorate ..... Carla Morris & Diane Wisen  
Cataloging and filing ..... Marlene Fernandez & JoAnn Luce  
Membership ..... Jean Pryal ..... 498-5296  
Project Manager: School House ..... Bob Morris, Dave Pryal, John Yarbrough  
Annual Tea-Lunch ..... Beverly MacNellis Chair . 498-0678  
Brick Walk Way: ..... Beverly MacNellis Chair . 498-0678  
Pioneer Picnic: Co-Chairs Dorothy Horne Evrard & Darlene Horne Johnson  
273-7140 992-0799  
Tours ..... Carolyn Fischer

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## Now you know

Our board has information on both sides so it will catch the attention of the folks going and coming from the dog park and the children's play area. We hope this may pull over and find out about us.



## The Annual Tea

**Bling** - Get all your mother's rhinestone jewelry out and your sparkle dress!

**Buttons and Bows** - Ten hats will be selected with buttons and bows on them.

**Dress** - Ten outfits will be selected with the most *Bling*. There were so many wonderful dresses last year don't be afraid to wear them again

**Hats** - We all love looking at the made up hats. Use your buttons on the hats. Ten will be selected

**Tables** - Hostess will have between 10 and 11 AM to decorate their tables. Valet parking will help you bring in your boxes and park your car.

# Estero Historical Society Membership

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Due January 1, to get the advantage of the full year.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\* E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\* Your acceptance of e-mails allows us to keep you up-to-date on events and saves the Society a great deal in mailing costs.

Individual \$20.00  Family \$35.00  Supporter \$50.00  Patron \$500.00

Lifetime \$1,000.00  Business \$50.00  Business Patron \$500.00

Donation to building fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your personal volunteer interests below. In order to function well, the Society NEEDS the help of its members.

Docent-Office: Hall/Collier Home  Care of Hall/Collier Home:  Inside  Yard

Activities at the Hall/Collier Home:  Exhibits

Tea/Lunches  Work Special Events  Picnic

Lectures (Getting speakers, set up, food etc.)

Fundraising Events (Special Tea, Tours, Dance, etc)  Children activities

Mailings  Take Pictures  Phone calling  Office  School Projects

Oral Histories  Product Sales  Publicity  Newsletter  Planning Committee

Sit at the houses during open hours  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**"ESTERO HISTORICAL SOCIETY"**

**PO BOX 1314, Estero, FL 33929**

A prompt reply will be greatly appreciated. Annual dues are an important revenue source to cover our operating expenses. Many thanks for your membership.

For more information please call Membership Chair Jean Pryal at 239-498-5296

Visit our web site at <http://www.esterohistoricalsociety.com>

We are a non-profit organization. Our memberships are tax deductible to the letter of the law.

PO Box 1314 • Estero • Florida • 33929



Lynn Hall - Sea Gals - Marco Island



1st Place Table Debbie Burnett done by Brendra Molly-Measures

# Orange Blossom Special (train)

The **Orange Blossom Special** was a deluxe passenger train on the Seaboard Air Line Railroad and connecting railroads between New York City and Miami in the United States. It usually (always?) ran winter only, around December to April.

It covered 1372 miles on the Pennsylvania Railroad from New York City to Washington, D.C., the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad from Washington to Richmond, and the Seaboard Air Line Railroad from Richmond via Raleigh, Columbia, and Savannah to Miami. A section went to Tampa and St. Petersburg winter season only.

The train started on November 21, 1925 and was the brainchild of SAL president S. Davies Warfield, who wanted to capitalize on booming development in Florida at the time. Warfield believed Florida was a land of opportunity, and with fast, luxurious trains he could lure influential (not to mention wealthy) business leaders to the Sunshine State. In February 1926 the train took 35 hours New York to West Palm Beach (Seaboard track didn't reach Miami until 1927).

Spurred by the success of Henry Flagler and his rival Florida East Coast Railway in attracting travelers, the **Orange Blossom Special** became famous in its own right. It was renowned for its speed and luxury. E. M. Frimbo, "The World's Greatest Railway Buff", offered this



**Postcard depiction of the train circa 1939; the card described the train as the only all electric New York-Florida train; a reference to its diesel locomotives.**

account of a dining car chef who had worked aboard the train:

*"Our chef...spent nine of his forty-three years with the Pennsylvania Railroad as chef on the celebrated all-Pullman New York-to-Florida train the Orange Blossom Special—the most luxurious winter-season train ever devised by man. Nothing even remotely resembling a can opener was allowed on the premises. All the pies, cakes, rolls, birthday cakes were baked on board under his supervision. Cut flowers and fresh fish were taken on at every revictualing stop, and the train carried thirty-five hundred dollars' worth of wine, liquor and*

*champagne—these at pre-Prohibition prices—for each run.*

The service was suspended during WWII to free the equipment for carrying troops. Its last run was in 1953. This market is now handled by Amtrak's Silver Star.

A similar locomotive painted to resemble a locomotive of the time, and lettered **Orange Blossom Special** is currently being moved from its long-time display location at the Church Street Station in Orlando, Florida to the Gulf Coast Railway Museum in nearby Tampa. Plans are for a multi-year restoration to active status for eventual excursion service.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Blossom Special train- Arriving at Plant City, Florida

It happened during the maiden run of the new streamlined train at the Jacksonville Seaboard Railroad Station that Ervin T. Rouse and Robert Russell "Chubby" Wise saw this train. Rouse and Wise wrote the "**Orange Blossom Special**" song as a fiddle tune. The tune was first recorded by Ervin and his brother Gordon one year later in New

## The train and the song

York. Bill Monroe recorded Rouse and Wise's tune in 1942 (with Art Wooten on fiddle) and popularized the tune. Johnny Cash named his 1965 album after the song. The song was also recorded by Bill Ramsey and Don Paulin.

This popular tale explains the fascination which led Ervin Rouse and Robert "Chubby" Wise to write the now famous fiddle tune. However, historically the Blossom was never "streamlined" and used Pullman heavyweight sleepers, diners, and some coaches of the winter Tampa run. The Blossom may have used some lightweight cars sporadically in mixed consist with the Pennsylvania Railroad which hauled the Blossom in the Northeast Corridor. If Rouse and Wise did see a streamlined Seaboard train in 1938, it was most likely the "Silver Meteor" which was

streamlined with its stainless steel coaches. The name of this train was chosen by a public contest. The Seaboard's lightweight trains later became known as the Silver Fleet. This included the Silver Meteor, the Silver Star and the Silver Comet. The train did receive modern EMC E4 diesel locomotives in 1938, but continued using heavyweight Pullmans and American Flyer coaches until its demise in 1953. It is also possible the songwriters saw one of the Twin Cities Zephyrs at the Jacksonville railroad station in 1935. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad brought the train to Florida at the invitation of the Seaboard Railroad. It toured the state, making stops in both east and west coast Florida cities, where the public was able to both view and tour the Zephyr; Jacksonville was one of the stops on its Florida tour.

# 4th of July

The annual reading of the Declaration of Independence was read by all 55 people who wanted to remember this special day in our history of the United States of America.

Our great Estero Fire Rescue team was there to fly our flag high in the sky. How very special it makes the day.

The chorus from the Cascades lead us in patriot songs.

It was a very special day at the Estero Historical Society's Event.



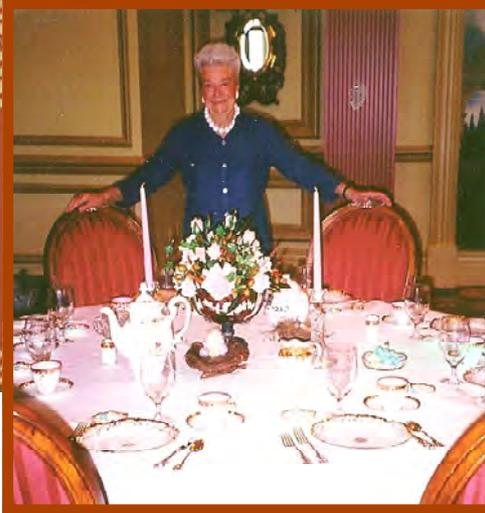
Dave Pryal our VP lead the event and Joann Luce talked about what was going on at that time in our very young country.



# Dot Shelly

## "No Ordinary Mom"

By her daughter Ky



**Dot Lawler Shelly was born with a sense of urgency.** She was the opposite of a procrastinator and I'm not sure if there is a word for that... "a-go-getter", a "do gooder", an instigator, a pathfinder... none of them seems to be just right in describing her... Well maybe one – a Natural Born Leader.

**My Mom was by nature, both invigorating and exhausting to be around.** She was good at everything she did. Her main sports were Tennis and Basketball . . . and they served her well by channeling that competitive energy into something that not only opened the door to college when women were not necessarily going to college, but also gave her a set of guidelines for the toughest game of all...living one's life. In Sports, you are not a winner unless you play by the rules, are courteous to your opponents, "keep your head" in both victory and defeat and when, at the end of the game, you can look yourself in the eye and know you gave it everything you had. It was a pretty good game plan for 95 years!

### **My Mom was an optimist.**

The glass was always half full. She needed to make sure that everyone around her felt the same way. It's important to associate with other optimists . . . they feed on each other's spirit of good will and sense of well being. The good news is most people gravitate to optimists . . . and because of that, Dot never met a stranger and she "collected" a lot of friends!

**My Mom was stubborn.** We all knew it . . . but we let it slide. Her stubbornness allowed my sister Pam to exceed her life expectancy by 22 years, earn her Masters, and become a teacher of mentally handicapped children in Connecticut. Pammy was born with a congenital heart condition and my parents were told she would likely never walk. Her growth would be stunted and she would likely not live past the age of twenty. My sister not only walked before she was one...she was talking in three word sentences at one and she was fully potty trained by 18 months. When my parents thought they were home . . . Pammy developed a brain tumor at age three and underwent very risky surgery at age four, while my Mom was pregnant with me. Once again, being stubborn, being optimistic and the desire to "beat the odds" paid off . . . and my parents ended up with two daughters who continued to test their patience for many years to come.

**Dot Shelly**  
 "Will always  
 remember all the  
 wonderful Historical  
 Tea Parties"



Dot's brick in our walk

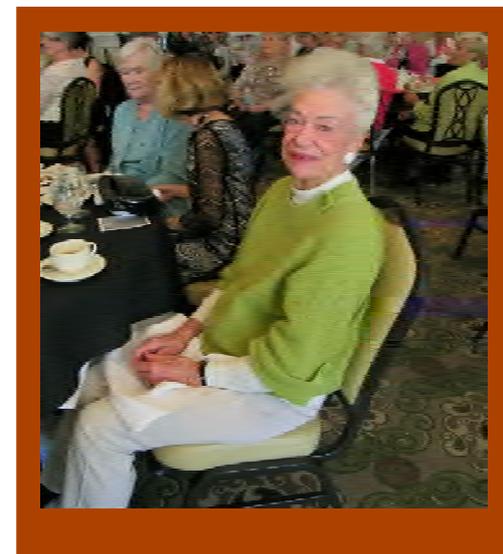
**My Mom was spiritual.** The greatest of all the gifts that my Mom has given me is the belief that everyone gets a chance at heaven no matter what their religion, their station in life, their ethnic background . . . and yes, regardless of their political views! Even though she gave up going to her Episcopal Church when she married my Catholic father, she said her prayers on her knees every night for as long as I've known her . . . and I was able to check it out for myself, these last 16 years while she "kept house" for Craig and me. We both were introduced to the "mystery of

butterflies" after my sister and father passed away. It's a story for believers only . . . but suffices it to say . . . there is no such thing as a "coincidence" in this life. If you are willing to look closely, you will find we are always connected to those we love. My Mom also had three Guardian Angels that were assigned to her since my Dad passed away. They were sent to help my Mom get through the loneliness of losing a spouse. I got the impression that my Mom didn't think she needed to be in a church to have a conversation with God... but she didn't quite feel comfortable enough speaking to Him directly. That was the role filled by the Guardian Angel Team. I remember her saying the first one looked just like Oliver North, the Iraq War Commander. I have forgotten the second one now... but most recently she told me a new, young angel had been assigned. His name was Josh, he looked very much like a young Coach Riley with the slicked back black hair... but he was still in training, and had been assigned to my Mom because she was so well versed in dealing with angels. I love the detailed description but most of all... I love that she taught me to believe.

**My Mom was an Open Book.** In her mind there was no time for pretense... even if you happened to live for 95 years. It's one of the reasons I felt she wouldn't mind my writing about her struggles with my sister or her time spent with butterflies and Angels. If it will help someone else to learn from her triumphs or her mistakes... why not risk it? My mother's favorite quote which was listed in her 1935 High School Year Book was: "Tis just to give applause where Tis deserved"

I'm thinking she deserves a Standing Ovation today! Well done Mom!

Ky



# Planned Events For the 2013-2014 Season

- \* Sept. 9, 2013 Membership meeting 2:00 PM Speaker **Gloria Sajgo**, from Lee County: **Topic: "Where is our school house now?"**
- \* Oct. 14, 2013 Membership meeting 2:00 PM "**All About Evelyn Horne**" Speaker Lillian Leuttich, friend of Evelyn.
- \*\* **Nov. 6 - Belk's Sale - Stop by the cottage to buy some discount tickets- For every dollar you give us you get the same amount to spend on a special sale at Belk's - Jean Pryal 498-5296**
- \* Nov. 11, 2013 General Membership meeting. Speaker Bill Grace at 2PM.
- \* Dec. 9, 2013 General Membership meeting. Speaker at 2PM.
- \*\* **Dec. 13, 2013 "Holiday Lunch at the Park" - Full holiday meal with turkey, ham and with ALL the stuff that comes with it! Only \$20 Beverly MacNellis 498-0678 Limit 100**
- \* Jan. 13, 2014 General Membership meeting 2 PM Speaker Marlene Frenandez
- \* Feb. 10, 2014 Membership meeting 2PM Speaker Arthur Steir
- \*\* ~~TBA Feb. 22, 2014 -Antique Appraisal Faire - 11- 3 PM call Carolyn Fischer at 949-1518~~
- \*\*\***Feb. 6, 2014, Thursday - Annual Spring Tea/Lunch- Theme is: "Bling, Buttons and Bows", Ten hats with the theme of buttons on them will be picked. Beverly MacNellis, Chair, 498-0678 - Reserve your table.**
- \* March 10, 2014 General Membership meeting - 2PM Speaker Ruth Mason, Estero Pioneer
- ~~TBA April, 2013 Private Tour to Mound Key. SOLD OUT~~ **Still planning a tour**
- \* April 14, 2014 - Last General Membership meeting of the year.
- \*\* **April xx, 2014- Pioneer Picnic on our deck. Co-Chairs: Dorothy Horne Evrard 273-7140 & Darlene Horne Johnson 992-0799**
- \*\* **July 4th - Reading of the Declaration of Independence- 10 AM -Very popular event.**
- \* June - Making Chutney and Jam - volunteers welcome. Jill Keene-Lucas, Chair. 390-2392
- Other Tours - TBA Carolyn Fischer Chairperson

**Please call any chairperson if you would like to help with any event.**

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