

PSL Historical Pioneer News

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Summer 2021



Hello Port St. Lucie Historical Society Members,

Time is passing quickly, as we are half way through 2021, however, things are moving very slowly for the remediation and renovations of our future historic museum and education center. As of now, we are still awaiting the contract to be awarded by the city to the contractor to begin the work. It is a long process and we are hopeful that work will begin during the summer. Unfortunately that puts the Society way behind in our goals of having a facility to operate out of, as well as begin our efforts to share our history with guests and visitors. I will keep you updated as progress is made on the project.



Recently, the Society was fortunate to have the Miller Family of St. Lucie County, generously donate some furnishings to one day furnish the Peacock House. Read the story by Mary Dodge, below.

At our May Board meeting the members decided not to hold Board meetings during June and July. That doesn't mean that we aren't working. Soon, we will begin our biggest fundraiser to raise funds for the Society and operation of our future museum. We will hold our next Board meeting on August 31st. Watch your email for future notices!

In the meantime, enjoy you summer, stay cool and healthy.

Patricia Christensen,
Chair

Donation by Miller-Rudd Family to benefit Peacock House Restoration



Harold and Josephine Miller moved their family to Port St. Lucie in 1979, when the city was just starting to grow. The Miller's had five children, Janet, Mike, Connie, Todd and the youngest, Scott who was born here. At a recent Society Gathering Janet and Scott spoke about their early years in Port St. Lucie.



Janet, the eldest daughter, was a senior in high school at the time and told how Hurricane David came shortly after the Millers moved into their new Sandpiper Bay home. The home survived the storm with only a few leaks. The family lived in the home until 2013.

Both Janet and Scott recalled how much their mother loved the collection of antique furniture she displayed in a special room in their home on Sunshine Avenue. The room was used for special occasions and is part of many childhood memories. "We could look but not touch," Janet shared, while speaking with Mary Dodge, archivist for the Society.

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Thanks to those members who continually support the Port St. Lucie Historical Society in so many ways!!!

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The collection meant a lot to Josephine, so her children wanted to honor her love for it. Although the family shared pieces that had a family history among themselves, many other antique items that their mother had



The Miller-Rudd family, (l to r) Jim and Janet Rudd, Scott and Dana Miller

collected needed a home. The decision was made by the family to donate the items, where they could be used and enjoyed by others. That is when Scott contacted the Society. Within a week the furnishings and décor were picked up from Society members and put into storage for that special day when the Peacock House and Lodge will open as the Port St. Lucie Historical Society Museum and Education Center.

Some of the lovely pieces that were donated included a living room set, along with accent tables, desk and chair, bedroom suite and baby cradle. There were also lace curtains, wall hangings and lamps among the other items.

“The PSL Historical Society couldn’t have been more fortunate to have the Miller-Rudd family make such a generous donation of beautiful furnishings and artifacts”, remarked Barbara Ann Smith, Society secretary and antique dealer. “They will make beautiful displays in the home, she continued.

A big thank you goes out to the Miller-Rudd Family, who most still reside in St. Lucie County. Janet and her husband Jim retired from the St. Lucie County Fire District in 2017 after life long careers. Scott, is a 20 year veteran and still works for the Fire District.

Membership Dues

If you paid your dues we thank you. If you haven’t renewed yet, it’s never too late. If you aren’t sure, please contact Linda at dolcebagley@att.net

We want to ensure you are receiving all of our communications.

It is easy to renew your membership. All you have to do is visit our website at www.pslhistory.org.

SOCIETY BOARD MEETINGS

Beginning in May, the Society Board has changed its meeting schedule. We still meet on the last Tuesday at the PSL Botanical Gardens, however, meetings not begin at noon.

All members are invited to attend. We bring our lunch at 11:30 am and start the meetings at noon. To accommodate a few members we will still be meeting via zoom, if we can make the technology work properly. The sign-on information for Zoom is sent with the Meeting notice and agenda.

Other furnishings donated

We have had several other fine donations over the past few months. We will tell you about them in our next newsletter!!!!

If you have items, antiques, (circa 1920-70 and early Port St. Lucie memorabilia), that you would like to donate, please contact us at chair@pslhistory.org or secretary@pslhistory.org. If it is large items, also include photos. If it’s small items, you can drop them off to Christine Williams at the Shell Bazaar.

August — NEW TIME: PSL Historical Society Board Meeting. Our Board meetings are held on the last, (not the fourth), Tuesday of the month at Noon. At 11:30, members can arrive with a brown bag lunch but our meeting starts at Noon. We meet at the PSL Botanical Gardens located at 2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd . All members in good standing are invited to attend in person or virtually. Meeting notices, agendas and sign in credentials are sent out prior to the meeting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PORT ST. LUCIE HISTORICAL SOCIETY YOU CAN GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT www.pslhistory.org