



MARCH 2024

# FOUNDER'S DAY



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# Crowds See Parade, Enjoy Founders' Days Programs

MARCH 29, 1957



Left: Bank's Float Wins First Prize in Parade -- A float built and entered in the Founders' Day parade by the Bank of Zephyrhills won top honors among local contestants. Riding on the beautiful float, left to right, were Richard Nash Jr., Richard Nash, assistant cashier of the bank, Mrs. J. D. Locke, Mrs. Nash, and Vonceil Clancy.



Above: Queen Zephyrhills And Her Court -- Miss LeNore Lincoln center, above, was chosen Miss Zephyrhills of 1957, on each side of her are two princesses, Misses Virginia Edgeman and Wanda Hazelwood. the four other girls won honors as ladies in waiting. From left, they are: Elizabeth Cutshall, Mary Ann Hodges, princess Edgeman, Queen Lincoln, Princess Hazelwood, Delilah Johnson and Shirley Potter. They were chosen from among 41 candidates.



Right: Oldest Resident -- Mrs. J. P. (Lena) Elliott was acclaimed the oldest registered resident at Founders' Days. Mrs. Elliott, 88, is a longtime resident and active socially.

The 1957 Zephyrhills Founders' Days celebration commemorating the town's 47th anniversary, wound up in a blaze of glory Tuesday night after limping off to a feeble start Monday because of rainy weather.

Tuesday the big day, dawned bright and clear, however. Many of the participants in the Tourist Club's shuffleboard tournament, who had come from cities of the central and west coast districts on Sunday and Monday, stayed over purposely to see what made a Zephyrhills Founders' Day tick. Side by side with hundreds of residents and winter visitors, they found out before the sun set on a Fifth Avenue that bore marks indicating a good time had been had by all.

With a carnival going full tilt, a mammoth parade swung down Fifth Avenue at 10 o'clock, moving to spirited music by four high stepping Pasco County bands -- Zephyrhills' own pride and joy, St Leo's, Pasco High and Gulf High of New Port Richey.

Folks lining Fifth Avenue from beyond First Methodist Church on the east, right on through town and across the Seaboard tracks and U. S. 301 nearly to Zephyr Park -- attested to the ever-increasing popularity of the event sponsored annually in March by the Zephyrhills Lions Club.

Judges List Winners. A panel of out-of-state judges composed of W. A. Doyle, Highland Park, Mich., F. M. Barrus, Clinton, Wis., and L. C. Whitsit, Detroit Mich., adjudged these participants in the parade winners:

- Best out-of-town float -- City of Tampa, first, Dixie Lily, second; Hickory Hill, honorable mention.
- Best home town float -- Bank of Zephyrhills, first; Walt Strait, second; Elizabeth's Beauty Shop, honorable mention.
- Best decorated private automobile -- George Neukom's.
- Oldest vehicle in parade -- A horse-drawn surrey driven by

- Mrs. H. C. Douglas Jr.
- Best costumed women -- Mrs. Arthur (Helen) Miller.
- Best costumed pioneer couple -- Arthur Riley and Mrs. Herbert Piculell.
- Oldest registered resident -- Mrs. J. P. Elliott.
- Best cowboy -- Fred Thomas
- Best cowgirl -- Dora Thomas

The Parade  
Pasco County Sheriff Leslie Bessenger led the parade. Next came the city's fire truck driven by Volunteer Fire Chief Eddie Sellars and so spaced as to be able to leave the line of March on a moment's notice in the event a fire alarmed sounded. This marked the first participation in a Founders' Day parade by the big red fire wagon.

Marching units included the American Legion, Cub Scouts, Miss Mary Granger's "Garden of Learning" kindergarteners, the Junior Garden clubbers carrying gardening implements' and last, but in no wise least, Zephyrhills Tourist Club, whose members always carry more than their just share of the load to help make the celebration a success.

Well-Costumed Marchers  
Henry Johnson, garbed as Robin Hood, headed the Tourist Club contingent. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Evans were "Florida Sunshine;" Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schubert, "Snowmen;" Mrs. Herbert Piculell and Arthur Riley were kids "playing Hooky."

In a "famous women division" Miss Marion Butman carried the banner used in the Boston (Mass.) Suffrage Parade back in 1915 by Mrs. Mary L. Walker, oldest woman member of the Tourist Club, when she was a delegate from Savoy, Mass. Miss Butman represented Susan B. Anthony.

Mrs. J. P. Elliott played a part as historian of the Tourist Club. Other roles were: "Winnie" Windnagle, Mrs. John Quincy Adams; Mrs. Joe Teal as Martha Washington; Mrs. D. K. Reed

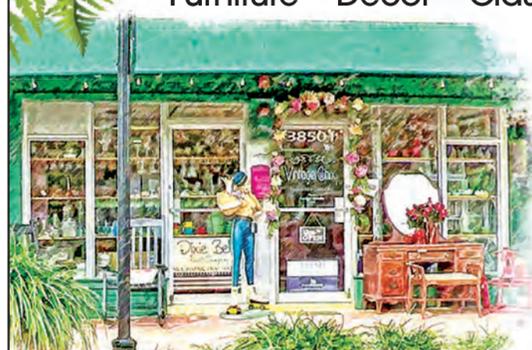


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Left: Cub Scouts On The March -- The very active Cub Scouts of Zephyrhills were eager parade participants. Marching with them were Cubmaster Jesse Kaylor and Den mothers Mrs. John E. Wilkinson and Mrs. Richard Dibble.



Above: Oldest Vehicle -- The prize for the oldest vehicle entered in the Founders' Day parade went to a horse-drawn surrey. The driver is Mrs. H. C. Douglas Jr., and passengers are Mrs. Scott Jordan and Mrs. Robert Gardner Hooks.



Right: Best Costumed Woman -- Mrs. Helen Miller of Shelburne Falls, Mass., was proclaimed the best dressed woman of Founders' Day. With her Johnny Arnold of Henniker, N. H. They marched as "the King and I." Mrs. Miller is recreational leader of the Tourist Club.

as Dr. Mary Walker, first women to wear men's trousers in public; Mrs. James Tobin as Lucy Peabody; Mrs. Scharrer as Miss Godey; Mrs. E. R. Hayden as Louisa May Alcott; Betty Miller as Alice Roosevelt Longworth; Mrs. Byron Wright as Carrie Nation; Mrs. Teot as Nelly Bly, first newspaperwoman; Mrs. Davis as Catherine Beecher; Mrs. Basil Paul as Florence Nightingale; Mrs. D. K. Smith as Huckleberry Finn; and Geneva Johnson as Minnie Mouse.

"Bathing Beauties" led by Wayne Tinkham of East Charlemont, Mass., included Herbert Piculell as Mis-Led; Gene Quick as Mis-Take; Pete Nelson as Mis-Hap; and Joe Teal as Mis-Deed.

Square dancers were led by Earl Lilly and Bert Jones. Mr. and Mrs. J. Wesley Cunningham, club president and wife led the "United Nations" delegation by representing Spain; Helga Nelson as Norway, Mrs. Clyde Arvo as Finland; O'Gradys and Connelly's as Ireland; Edna Cook, Bikini; Mrs. Nellie McCarthy as Paris; Mrs. Hardman as a Hillbilly from West Virginia; Sina Riddle and Mr. Coon, Mexico; Mae Erwin, Illinois Sucker; Mrs. Jesse Howieson, Scotland; Mr. and Mrs. Herman Chenkin, China; Mrs. King as a Belgian Congo woman; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lee, Canada; Johnny Arnold as "the king" with Helen Miller as "and I" (the king of Siam, that is, and Anna, the English school teacher); the Clark Brothers as the "Three Cards;" and James Tobin as "the end."

Acting Mayor Campbell A. MacDonald who with Mrs. MacDonald and "Captain Mac", radio-television personality of St. Petersburg, rode in a spiffy convertible up front. The mayor officially welcomed residents and visitors to the celebration and Municipal Judge Lester Bales, Jr., gave an address of welcome.

Horace Peabody's foghorn voice stood him in good stead as he emceed the day-long program, relinquishing the "mike" infrequently for special events.

J. Marion Brantley introduced each of the 41 queen contestants who had ridden in the parade.

The Rev. Charles W. Greene introduced Dr. Garfield Evans for 35 years the Methodist missionary to Cuba, who was born in Abbott -- before the name was changed to Zephyrhills -- and whose father owned the first sawmill here, located about a block from the Seaboard depot.

Brantley also presented Miss Martha Jackson, Pasco County Queen, and the Misses Pat Smith and Bettie Brice, her attendants.

The Five Harmonettes -- Misses Louise Leopold, Marcia Betterman, Patty Sante, Lynn Nichols and Linda Freeburg -- won first place in the "Amateur Hour" show, with Barbara Higginson, accompanied at the piano by Laura Higginson, playing second with a vocal solo.

Beatrice Pringle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Pringle, was adjudged winner in the pie eating contest; and 10 men headed by John Schubert won out over 10 women headed by Mrs. Mae Erwin in a Strip-o-Rama contest.

Under the direction of Mrs. Helen Miller, the Tourist Club put on a super-duper 2 hour entertainment program, which was fun for participants and spectators alike with many in the latter category wishing they had the oomph and pep displayed in the square dancing and the like by the "touristers."

Concession booths did a brisk business and "Jedge" Biff Hough squeezed upwards of \$60 through his "unjust and infamous" handling of the Lions Cage, where folks from all walks of life were unceremoniously thrown into the clink and had to "fine" their way out.

Music for the "it could only happen in Zephyrhills" fiesta was provided by the Central Florida Playboys and some of the best harmonizing heard in these parts in many a moon was done by Joe Teal, Earl Finch, Harry Tribby, Bert Merritt and Harold Norton, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Raymond Boyden as pretty Harriet (Harry) Green sat by gowned in navy blue with a huge red rose decorating her (his) picture chapeau. The "boys" sang as "The Yankee Juveniles".



Above: Best Costumed Couple -- The most striking pioneer couple in the Founders' Day parade, the judges voted, were Arthur Riley of Zephyrhills and Mrs. Herbert Piculell of Stillwater, Minn. They danced and skipped merrily along the parade route.



VOTE Tuesday, April 9th

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- Pasco County Property Appraiser Mike Wells, Jr.
- State Representative Randy Maggard
- County Commissioner Jack Mariano
- Zephyrhills Mayor Melonie Monson
- City Council President Lance Smith
- City Council Vice President Ken Burgess
- City Councilwoman Jodi Wilkeson
- Former Zephyrhills Mayor Gene Whitfield

- Former Zephyrhills Mayor Cliff McDuffy
- Sam Turgeon ▪ Tim Linville ▪ Andy Miller
- Former Councilman Clyde Bracknell
- Former Councilwoman Elizabeth Geiger
- Former City Council President Alan Knight
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For Zephyrhills City Council



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- Pasco County Commission Ron Oakley
- Pasco School District Superintendent, Kurt Browning
- Mayor Melonie Bahr Monson
- Former Zephyrhills Mayor Gene Whitfield & his wife, Ernestine
- Former Zephyrhills Mayor Cliff McDuffie
- Zephyrhills City Council President Lance Smith & his wife, Tammy
- Zephyrhills City Council Member Charlie Proctor
- Zephyrhills City Council Member Dr. Steve Spina & his wife, Judy
- Bill & Joyce Hepscher, Canadian Medstore
- Theresa Sommers, T. Sommers Accounting
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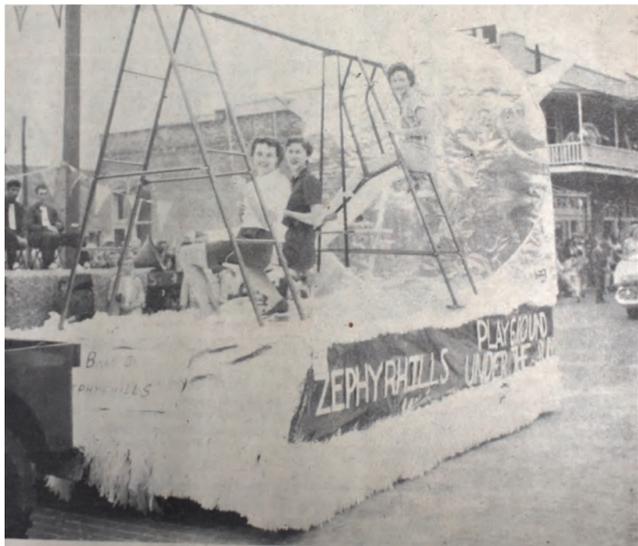
AND MANY MORE...

Political Advertisement paid for and approved by Jodi Wilkeson, Nonpartisan Candidate for City of Zephyrhills City Council, Seat 3.



# Founders' Days – Fun for Everyone

MARCH 14, 1958



Left: Bank of Zephyrhills won second place in the hometown float division. Pulled by a Jeep driven by Cashier Richard Nash, the float depicted Miss June Epley, Miss Neva Jean Sellars and Mrs. J. D. Locke at play in the Florida sunshine.



Right: Cecil Webb's Dixie Lily Float, regularly entered Zephyrhills Founders' Day parades, won top honors in the "from outside Zephyrhills" division. Beverly Lazenby, Joyce Creighton and Sylvia Johns adorned the ornate float, which featured a bridge over millstream with a turning waterwheel.

A bang-up 2-day Founders' Days festival, sponsored by Zephyrhills Lions Club, held the community spotlight Monday and Tuesday, with the largest crowd on record at any of the town's birthday parties turning out on the final day.

With the kick-off parade scheduled at 10 a.m. Tuesday, parking space was at a premium at 8 o'clock as residents and winter visitors started lining 5th Avenue for the spectacle. At the peak of the city's festivities a crowd estimated at between three and four thousand persons packed the downtown area.

Lending atmosphere galore to the annual event was Doyle's Carnival of Land O'Lakes, which opened for two days and nights Monday with ferris wheel, merry-go-round, pony rides, and the like.

Concessions operated by local organizations did a brisk business, especially those with hamburgers, hotdogs, cake, pie, sandwiches, cookies, and drinks for sale.

### The Big Parade

Moving to the inspired marching music of bands from St. Leo Preparatory College, Pasco High School and Zephyrhills High School, the Founders' Days parade swung down 5th Avenue, lined with spectators from beyond First Methodist Church almost to Zephyr Park. The several units had assembled on off streets and merged with the parade line on the avenue.

Out front was Mrs. Judson Thomas, Jr., riding horseback, then came uniformed Florida Highway Patrolmen, and the Zephyrhills fire truck carrying a full complement of volunteer firemen.

Officially leading the parade were Pasco County Sheriff F. Leslie Bessenger and Mrs. Harry L. Rice, mayor of Zephyrhills, who later gave the address of welcome.

Decorated floats and automobiles, with Dovie's Dress Shop and The Pythian Sisters, both of Dade City, among those included along with homeowners, color guards from both the George R. Baxmann Post 8154, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American

Legion Post, marching units and costumed participants formed the parade. Identification was provided by Freddy Peterson, artist and lecturer, who served as master of ceremonies.

**Robert Hinds was parade marshal. Assisting were Division Captains George Novotny, Luke Hayden, William Ryan and Burt Wood.**

### Judge List Winners

Mrs. Gibson H. Whitman, County Agent J. F. Higgins and Joe Collura, all of Dade City, were judges of entrants in the various categories for prizes. These winners were listed:

Best home-town float – Zephyrhills Garden Club, first, \$10; and the Bank of Zephyrhills, second, \$5.

Best decorated automobile – Lamb's Toy Shop, \$5.

Oldest vehicle in the parade was a 1920 Model T Ford driven by Harry Briggs, which won the \$5 prize.

Best pioneer costumed couple were Mrs. J. P. Elliott and Fordyce Thayer, who will split a \$5 prize; best pioneer costumed woman was Mrs. Helen Miller, \$2.50 prize; best costumed cowboy was Smokey Longacre, \$2.50; best costumed cowgirl was Mrs. Judson Thomas, Jr., \$2.50.

Mrs. Annie Silsby, 96, won the \$5 prize for being the oldest person to register at the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce by noon Monday.

Dixie Lily Milling Company of Tampa won the first prize of \$10 for the best float from outside Zephyrhills, with Joe Hermann's, Inc., San Antonio, coming in for the second prize of \$5; Hickory Hill received honorable mention.

### Other Winners

Ervin Pickett, Ernest Oliver and Leon Picket, Negro lads under 8 years of age, won their way into the hearts of the spectator group with a dancing exhibition on the grandstand, where they were showered with coins.



Above: First Place Float -- Junior gardeners Jeddy Wilkinson, Nancy Bentley, Peggy Bracknell, Suzanne and Jenifer Douglas, Eddie Grosso and Kay Henry graced the Garden Club's float, which won first prize in the hometown division on Founders' Days.

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Left: Zephyrhills High School Band under the baton of John T. V. Clark, Jr., high-stepped down 5th Avenue in the big Founders' Days parade Tuesday. Pasco High and St. Leo Academy bands also contributed to the parade.



Right: First prize Winner in the best decorated automobile category was that of Lamb's Toy Shop, driven by Mrs. Waldo Lamb. Teddy bears and other toys, not too well shown in the picture, covered much of the car.

The Ramblers – a hillbilly band composed of Merdick Hemp-hill, Roy Etheridge, Julian Weaver, Byron Scroggins and Paul Roberts – provided music for the dance and for the day-long program.

Wayne Young was winner of a pie eating contest, while Bill Hippensteel won hands down in a Strip-o-Rama contest.

**A big hand went to the Zephyrhills Tourist Club for its all-participation in both the parade and the program of entertainment.**

Included in the parade unit was a group of "famous women," with Mrs. Fred Scharer, as convener, holding the standard, followed by Mrs. Roy Cook, Mrs. R. S. Shields of Brockville, Ontario, Canada, Mrs. Henry Hudson of Albion, N.Y., and others.

Miss Marion Butman was a flower girl, Mrs. B. L. Wright a craft lady, Mrs. Grace Paul an "evening in Paris," Mrs. Authur Teot was the Nassau girl, Mrs. Anna Smith was Huckleberry Finn, Mrs. Margaret Foutch was Nelly Bly – newspaper woman; Anna Basom was Catherine Beecher, the teacher.

The shuffleboard contingent was led by Henry Hudson and W. J. Blankenhorn, while Bert Jones led the "Square Dancers" group.

Another division featured Johnny Arnold and Wayne Tinkham in "Mary and Her Little Lamb" while behind Helen Miller with her "Just Not Married" placard were the three Clark Brothers – Hod, Jeff and Fran. With the brothers, who are builders, were their dream houses and their dream girls.

Gaily garbed as Florida Sunshine, which was missing due to a heavy overcast that prevailed throughout the day, were Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Evans.

Hill Lumber Company entered two units in the parade – a truck loaded with huge cypress logs, and a Clark lift with W. B. Hill, owner, holding his granddaughter, Melanie, seated on lumber which the lift held.

Under the direction of Mrs. Arthur Miller, better know as Helen Miller, a bang-up program of singing, dancing and "Ain't We Got Fun?" entertainment was presented. There also was singing of old-time favorites, including hymns, from the bandstand by a group of Tourist Club members, men and women.

Earl Finch directed the singing. Music for the square and folk dancing by Tourist Clubbers, with the versatile Mrs. Miller calling the turns, was a charge of Johnny Arnold, who is the club's music chairman.

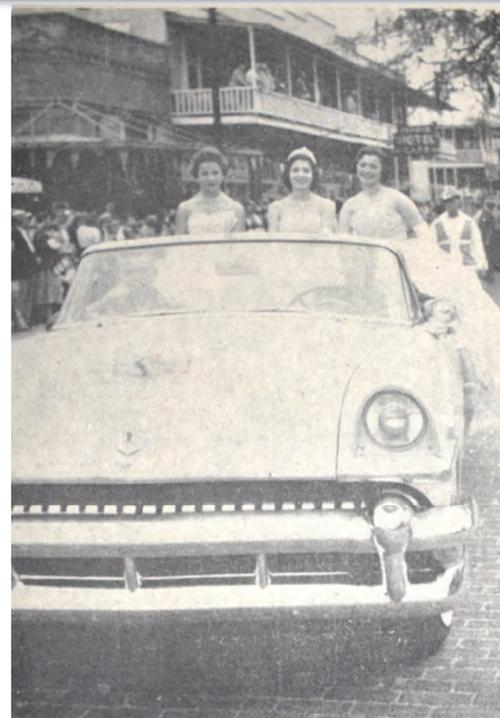
A novelty dance entitled "Kissing in the Corn" was gracefully executed by Mrs. Earl Finch and Francis Clark.

**Double Wrestling**

In a ring set up on 5th Avenue in front of the grandstand, Happy Humphrey, a 750-pound wrestler from Macon, Ga., gave spectators a real treat when he won over Swede Karlsson, champion wrestler of Sweden, in a match refereed by Doran O'Hara, a local wrestler. Many wondered how the big hulk of a man even climbed into the ring, much less wrestled.

To settle a dispute, which arose with Karlsson while refereeing the scheduled match, O'Hara donned trunks, and climbed back into the ring to best the Swedish champion in a knock-down, drag-out bout. The unscheduled match was refereed by Saul Weingeroff, former wrestler of Daytona Beach.

P. H. Murphy, Jr., president of the Lions Club and general chairman of the Founders' Days festival was much in evidence for the 1958 event as was Lion F. Earl Hart, who served as unofficial major-domo and had more fun getting in and out of the Lions Den than most anyone else. Many other Lions members helped plan and carry out arrangements for the 2-day frolic.



Above: Pasco County Queen Margaret Lawrence and her maids, Miss Patricia Smith and Miss Rosalie Byrd, all of Dade City, honored Zephyrhills by riding in the 1958 Founders' Days parade.

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# Estimated 12,000 Watch Giant Festival Parade

MARCH 16, 1962



Above: Taking First Place Honors in the out-of-town float was the Plant City Strawberry Festival entry which featured luscious strawberries and pretty girls. The beauties from the neighboring city were acclaimed as the big float glided down Fifth Avenue.

Below: The Mule Drawn Wagon driven by W.D. "Bill" Skinner won the prize for being the oldest vehicle in the parade. Jouncing down the parade route with Bill in the wagon were Mrs. Robert Ahrens, up front, president of the Junior Woman's Club, and Mrs. Lloyd Cunningham and Mrs. Jerry Miller, in the back seat.



Above: Winner of Second Place Honors among hometown floats was the Zephyrhills Garden Club entry on which Mrs. Raymond Hodges and Suzanne Hodges, Mrs. Owen E. Gall and Lisa Gall, and Mrs. Lyle Brown rode amidst greenery and flowering plants. Mrs. James Hilton "piloted" the float.

## City Celebrates 52nd Birthday

Zephyrhills' Founders' Day festival shifted into high gear Tuesday after getting off to a slow start Monday when rain threatened during the setting up for the "big day."

And a big day it was! The biggest parade ever staged here was witnessed by an estimate 12,000 persons, making the turnout the biggest on record. Thousands of people lined Fifth Ave. on both sides the length of the parade route while untold hundreds jammed the downtown business area, center of activities for the day.

Balmy weather brought senior citizens and youngsters alike out to the festival. Carnival rides and concessions by Southland Amusements got a big play, as did home town concessions.

Mack Sennett cops, recruited from the rank and file of Junior Chamber of Commerce members, saw to it that the Lions Den did a lucrative business with proceeds going into the Lions Club's eyesight conservation fund.

The parade in which more than 100 decorated floats and automobiles, bicycles, marching and horseback units were entered, passed in front of a reviewing stand set up at the Chamber of Commerce building where John E. Lanham officiated as master of ceremonies.

Seated on the reviewing stand were Pasco County Agent J.F. "Jimmy" Higgins, Mrs. Gibson H. Whitman and Joe Collura, the out-of-town panel of judges, and Artist Freddy Peterson, who was introduced as guest of honor for the day. Peterson, who formerly was active in the Founders' Day program including serving as master of ceremonies for the past several, was "sitting this

one out" due to recent hospitalization.

A wave of applause swept the audience when Zephyrhills' Champion basketball team mounted the platform for introductions.

### Prize Awarded

Lions Club of Zephyrhills, sponsors of Founders' Days, awarded cash prizes to parade winners in the following categories:

Best decorated floats, out-of-town -- Plant City Strawberry Festival, first; Dixie Lily Milling Co., second; East Hillsborough Chamber of Commerce, third.

Home town floats -- Family Cleaners, first; Zephyrhills Garden Club, second; and West Elementary 4-H Club, third.

The prize for best decorated automobile went to The VFW Gold Star Mothers, driven by Fred Jendral; oldest vehicle in the parade was a wagon driven by W.D. "Bill" Skinner with members of the "Get Me To Church On Time" follies' skit aboard; most typical mounted cowboy was Fred Thomas; best pioneer - costumed man in the parade was Therman Al Shanklin, and best pioneer - costumed woman in the parade was Mrs. Martha Windnagle; best matched horses and riders in the parade were the Egypt Temple Shrine Patrol of Tampa.

The VFW and American Legion provided color guards, other veterans organizations participating included WWI Barracks with a number of decorated cars and the DAV in decorated cars, the follies show had a chorus girl entry, and each queen candidate rode a separate car.

### Pick Oldest Residents

Mr. and Mrs. Reese F. Knapp won the prize as the man and woman living the longest time in Zephyrhills. Mr. Knapp came

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Left: Graceful Artists -- Pupils of Zephyrhills Art and Dance Academy dolled up in dancing costumes and carried their paint palettes and brushes to ride this float, entered by Vera Chenkin's school. The float was one of many featuring children in varied phases of cultural activity in and around Zephyrhills.



Above: The Pirate Ship -- Laden with hard-looking pirates all about six years old, this ship made its annual appearance in the parade Tuesday. Buccaneers are also pupils of Mrs. George Simons' Bar-S-Bar Nursery School Ranch, and Mrs. Simons may be seen in the middle as the Pirate Queen.



Left: Standout Athletes -- The winningest ZHS Bulldogs in history, this year's Tampa Bay Conference, Group 7 and State B Champions, were saluted from the reviewing stand Tuesday following the big parade. Emcee John E. Lanham introduced the boys, winners of 30 straight games after an opening-game defeat. Applause and cheers were loud and seemingly everlasting for the Florida title holders.

to the community from his native West Virginia in 1889, making his period of residence 73 years. Mrs. Knapp, 75 years young last Jan. 2, was born in the Prospect community west of Zephyrhills and lives within four miles of her birthsite at the couple's home on Fort King Road.

Neighbors Came Too

In addition to out-of-town prize-winning entries from Plant City and Tampa, other visiting floats contributed much to the success of the showy parade. Floats such as the one entered by Birchwood Mattress Co. of Plant City were typical of those from neighboring cities represented in Zephyrhills' Festival.

Parade music was by Gulf High Band of New Port Richey, Pasco High and Junior High Bands of Dade City, and the home town's Zephyrhills High and Junior High Bands. Dade City's Chamber of Commerce was represented, Miss Pasco County and her court graced the parade as did a baton group, the Pasco Pioneer Museum's serry, Joe Hermann's and others.

New Port Richey sent the Chasco Fiesta royalty King Cary Crutchfield and Queen Polly Enell, and there were many other out-of-town participates.

Afternoon Program

Following the parade, Mayor C. N. Chamberlain gave an address of welcome and Carl Lippincott expressed the Lions Club's appreciation for assistances with staging the annual fun and frolic event.

The 27 contestants for the title of "Miss Zephyrhills" were presented from the reviewing stand, where there was music by Rambling Serenaders, singing by the original Founders' Day trio -- Mrs. P. H. Murphy Jr., Mrs. Leroy Beddingfield and Mrs.

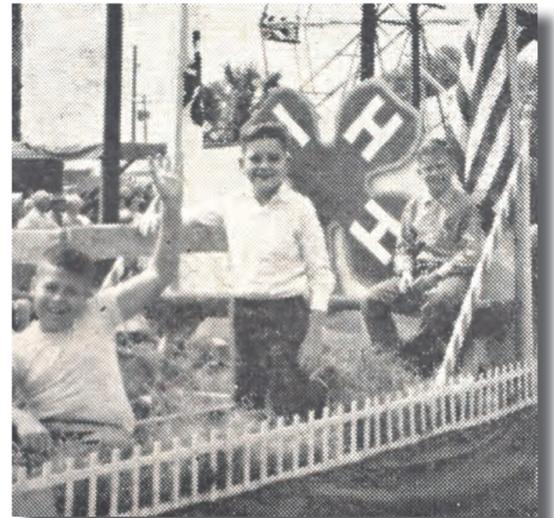
Charles A. Campbell -- and vocal selections by a brother-sister team, Bill Baker and Mrs. David Tyre Jr., and accordion selections by Miss Terry Meyer.

Dime and Dottie Wilson clowned, and a pie eating contest was a highlight for boys of the community, one of whom, David Guthrie, still had his "war paint" on after marching in the parade garbed as an Indian.

A musical program, "Character In Song," was presented by Zephyrhills Tourist Club under the direction of Earl Finch, assisted by Roswell Miller and Marge Finch.

The male chorus--which included Finch, Miller, Cliff Malcolm, George Miller, Joe Teal, Henry Hudson, Ned Hall, William Cook, Jack Stoutenburg, Phil Reutinger, Art Ball and Russell Luney--was accompanied by Joyce Stoutenburg. Individual acts were by the Stroutenburgs, Peg Malcolm, Florence Hudson, Pearl Eckhardt, Martha Windnagle and Owen LeFevre, Nellie McCarthy and Clayton Eckhardt, Maywood Miller, Sarah Lee, Gwendolyn Cook, Earl and Myrtle Lilly, Marge Finch, Eurith Ball, Lotie Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. William Greig, Thelma Clark, Lovina Radley, Marie Bauman, Phil and Edith Reutinger, Francis Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bailey.

Rounding out the day-long festival program were two performances of "Through The Years," a follies production under auspices of Zephyrhills Junior Woman's Club, presented in Municipal Auditorium. The show included judging of candidates for "Miss Zephyrhills" and the selection of seven finalists during intermission time of the first and crowning of the new royalty at the second show.



Above: West 4-H -- David Brown, Billy Dean, Gary Dunford, Jan Kersey and Bill Brown rode the fine 4-H Club float representing West Elementary School in the Founders' Days' parade Tuesday. Featured on the float was a caged calf who seemed to enjoy the ride as much as the boys. The float won third prize for hometown entries.

# Easter Sunrise Service

You are invited to the AdventHealth Zephyrhills annual Easter Sunrise Service.

**Sunday, March 31 | 6:30 am**

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# Thousands Enjoy 54th Founders' Days

MARCH 12, 1964



Left: The Zephyrhills high school Senior Band was led by only one majorette in Tuesday's parade. Nancy Overhuls did the honors while her six cohorts in the twirling game graced parade floats.

Below: Circle Presidents rode the second unit of Garden Club's float. Left to right are Mrs. Fred W. Gill, Mrs. Roberts Aherns (partly hidden), Mrs. B. Lee Gore, and Mrs. E. D. VanFossan. Mrs. Gill rode in place of Emily Kelly.



Left: Best Costumed of pioneer man and woman were worn by Fordyce Thayer and Mrs. Martha Windnagle, judges of Tuesday's parade ruled.

Despite an early morning drizzle of rain and overcast skies, thousands of people packed both sides of a mile-long stretch of 5th Avenue Tuesday to watch the largest most colorful of all Founder's Days parade.

All municipal parking lots were jammed, automobiles lined side streets and avenues, and the parking area in Zephyr Park could not have accommodated another car.

A lifting of the clouds and a break-through of Florida's famed sun brought out a record number in the afternoon to be spectators and participants in a planned program of entertainment.

Upward of 100 units moved past the reviewing stand in front of the Chamber of Commerce building where artist Freddy Peterson again did the emcee honors. A big Pasco Packing Co. flatbed was used for the platform.

A panel of out-of-town judges, including Pasco County Agent Al Cribbett, Mrs. Gibson H. Whitman and Joe Collura, all of Dade City, judged the entries.

Lions Club of Zephyrhills, sponsor of the 2-day Founders' Days festival, awarded cash prizes to winners based on the judges' decisions. They were as follows:

Best decorated out-of-town float -- Plant City Strawberry Festival.

Best decorated home town floats --Bank of Zephyrhills; first; Family Cleaners, second; Rainbow Girls, third.

Best decorated automobile -- Lamb's Toy Shop.

Oldest vehicle in parade -- A 1901 Oldsmobile owned by Pasco Motors, Dade City, in which Zephyrhills junior royalty rode.

Most typical mounted cowgirl -- Carolyn "Sissy" Strickland.

Most typical mounted cowboy -- David Dungan.

Best decorated bicycle -- The Three Stooges (John Root, Kenneth Dickson and Allan Geer).

Best pioneer-costumed man -- Fordyce Thayer, 90.

Best pioneer-costumed woman -- Mrs. Martha Windnagle, 87.

#### Oldest Residents

The man living longest in Zephyrhills and registering at the Chamber of Commerce was Reese F. Knapp, who came to this area from West Virginia when he was 10 and who has lived on Fort King Road for 77 years since then.

The woman living longest time in Zephyrhills and registering at the Chamber of Commerce was Mrs. Reese F. Knapp, who has lived here all of her 78 years.

Runner-up to Mrs. Knapp was Mrs. L. D. Geiger, who was born March 10, 1888, between Richland and Abbott Station (which in 1910 was superseded by Zephyrhills).

#### Patriotic Notes

Hats were doffed and right hands placed over hearts in salute as American flags carried by color guards of World War I Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion swept by. Miniature American flags fluttered from a decorated car in which Gold Star Mothers rode and a station wagon with American Association of Retired Person as passengers employed a red, white and blue decorative motif. Marching units of

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