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Large Crowd Gathers Here For Founders Day Festival

March 19, 1954

Monday was a big day in Zephyrhills as hundreds of people jammed the streets to participate in the 4th big Lions Club sponsored Founders Day Festival marking the 44th anniversary of the city of Zephyrhills.

The days activities got underway early in the morning as concessions, kiddie rides, etc., opened up along 5th avenue. The big parade was led by Florida Highway Trooper W. H. Allen of Dade City, on horseback. Other entries in the parade were as follows:

The local C.A.P. cadets; Florida Highway patrol car and Pasco County sheriff's vehicle; Zephyrhills fire truck; Lion President Charles P. Campbell, Mayor I. A. Krusen, and General Chairman P. H. Murphy Jr.; Miss Ann Daniels of Dade City, recently crowned Miss Florida; the Pasco high school band; Troop 92, Boy Scouts of American; Campfire girls, BlueBird girls, their leaders and sponsors; The Zephyrhills high school band; Red Cross float; two "oldtimers"; the Tourist Club shufflers; the "symphony band"; four old-time war veterans; Zephyrhills first tourist; Clark Builders; oldest lady in Zephyrhills; dogs from Mueller's Studio; Zephyrhills Auto company; Alexander Buick company; the Bank of Zephyrhills; Dade City Motor company; Pracher's City Service; Williams Department Store; Howard's Shell Station; Elizabeth's Beauty and Dress Shop; Baggett the Cleaners; Zephyrhills Lumber Co.; Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce; Family Cleaners; Howell's Auto Painting; Bendix Laundry; Hixson's Trailer Park; Natural Foods; a group of horseback riders; Kaylor's Hardware Inc.; Joe Herrmann's Inc.

The Bank of Zephyrhills entry was judged the best float in the parade with Hixson's Trailer Park and Family Cleaners taking second and third place honors respectively.

Other winners named were best mustache, Walter Vogel; best cowboy, James White; best cowgirl, Sharon Forbes; best pioneer man, William Bucey; best pioneer woman, Mrs. Helen Miller, who played the role of Zephyrhills first tourist; and the best couple, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. McNulty.

One of the outstanding floats in the parade which was forced out because their vehicle was too slow, was a toy automobile powered by a three quarter horsepower gasoline engine and driven by Noreen Krystofiek, 6-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Krystofiek of Bendix Laundry, with her 2 1/2-year-old brother being a passenger.

Horace Peabody served as Mater of Ceremonies for the day's program, with Floyd A. Gibson, editor and publisher of the Zephyrhills News, which was founded in 1911, giving the welcoming address and telling of the city's growth and progress since his early days here.

Mrs. Sally Douglas, 84, Zephyrhills oldest resident at the festival, was introduced. She said there was only one house here when as a tiny girl she moved to Zephyrhills from Georgia with her family.

At noon the Boy Scouts, headed by Mayor I. A. Krusen, sponsored a barbeque dinner of beef, swamp cabbage, beans, and slaw. Various refreshment booths were also doing big business as were the concessions selling household article, candies, gifts, etc.

The afternoon program was filled with music by the Hillbilly Hayriders of the Eelbeck Milling company, who also played for a street dance late in the afternoon. A medicine show, gopher races, music by the Z.H.S. Little German band, songs by Edd Baggott, as well as the Lion Cage, provided added enjoyment.

The celebration shifted to the school auditorium in the evening where the Lions Club present a minstrel show under the direction of Richard Baggott. A repeat performance was given Tuesday night at which Miss Florida played her accordion.

General Cahirman P. H. Murphy Jr. has expressed his sincere thanks, in behalf of the Lions Club, for the splendid cooperation received in making this the biggest and best

celebration ever staged here.

Zephyrhills Police Chief R. W. Wells also wishes to thank the State Highway Patrol, Pasco County Sheriff's department; and citizens of Zephyrhills and visitors for their fine cooperation in helping handle the pioneer crowd without any accidents.

Proceeds from the minstrel and a percentage of the money taken in at the various booths and concessions will be used by the Lions Club in their sight conservation program.



The Bank of Zephyrhills float, first place winner.



Left: The Zephyrhills high school band.



Right: The Pasco high school band of Dade City.

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Parade Highlights Founders' Days as Everyone Has Fun

March 13, 1959

Perfect Florida weather prevailed during Zephyrhills 10th Founders' Days festival held Monday and Tuesday under auspices of the Lions Club.

Shirt sleeves were en vogue for menfolk and women dressed in spring-time frocks. Many of both sexes, some costumed and otherwise, turned "red-neck" after being exposed to ole Sol's rays during the al fresco birthday party which commemorated the 49th anniversary of the town's founding.

Monday morning was devoted largely to setting up concession booths, getting carnival rides underway and generally readying for the "big day" Tuesday. In the afternoon there was street entertainment with "Wild Bill" Lincoln adding color and humor to the scene garbed as a clown. Dixie Playboys provided hillbilly music for square dancing for which Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Winters called sets through the evening hours.

Early Tuesday Fifth Avenue was cleared for the parade, largest in the city's history, for which J. Robert Hinds served as marshal. Assisting with the three divisions at 16th, 11th, and 10th Streets were Frank H. Gunsolus, George Novotny, C. A. Hough, Robert G. Hooks and Sherman Herath.

Pasco County Sheriff F. Leslie Bessenger and Mrs. Harry L.

Rice, mayor of Zephyrhills, officially led the parade, the route of which was lined with spectators from well beyond First Methodist Church to retrace point at Zephyr Park and back down to the downtown area, heaviest point of conversation.

An estimated 6,000 people turned out for the day's events. Pasco County and Zephyrhills queens for 1958 smiled upon their subjects from positions in the line-up.

Hometown floats, decorated automobiles and the like were joined by several out-of-towners including Hickory Hill's ox-drawn covered wagon, Dixie Lily Milling Company's float, East Hillsborough County Chamber of Commerce's of Plant City whose Strawberry Festival queen also rode in the parade, and Egypt Temple Shrine Patrol. Music was by Pasco High and Zephyrhills High School bands.

Each of 30 beauty queen contestants rode on tops of automobiles provided by their sponsors. Particularly colorful in this category was the missile-topped Zephyrhills Garden Club entry driven by Mrs. John E. Wilkinson, the missile being constructed of poultry netting, stuffed with moss and sprigged with podocarpus and wild phlox.

"Aunt Dora" Marsh, Mrs. J. P. Elliott, Arthur Riley and Nassua Burns, four of the town's senior citizens, rode in a "90 to 95" automobile driven by Emil Reutimann, which carried a placard reading "Zephyrhills Youngsters." There were many other special entries.

Unusuals in the marching contingents included Mrs. Fern Schesser, a new citizen, formerly of Anchorage, Alaska, who headed the Tourist Club's square dance group wearing a Gibson girl outfit with a huge "ALASKA" sign on her bosom.

What Will They Do Next?

Helen Miller dressed as "Evening in Paris" in a watermelon pink taffeta gown with bustle, black velvet hat with a blue ostrich plume, black lace parasol, and carrying a foil-wrapped champagne bottle, marched ahead of the Clark Brothers decked out as "Evening in Zephyrhills."

"Famous Women," another Tourist Club group, were marshaled by Mrs. Lyle Brown.

Joining Freddy Peterson, Zephyrhills artist who emceed the festivals events, on the reviewing stand were the judges — Pasco County Agent J. F. Higgins, Mrs. G. H. Whitman and Joe Collura — and a group whose names were closely connected with the town's early history.

R. L. Bryan, Bartow, first secretary of Zephyrhills Colony Company, with Mrs. Bryan, Edwin Stebbins of Orlando and Frank Stebbins, former mayor of Eustis, grandsons of the company's first president, A. E. Stebbins, comprised the group.



HELEN MILLER dressed as "Evening in Paris" marched ahead of the Clark Brothers, decked out as "Evening in Zephyrhills." Wayne Tinkham was the "mother" and Johnny Arnold was the "papa."

More Unusuals and Outstanding

Horseback riders in the parade included Mrs. Fred Thomas, Egypt Temple Shrine Patrol, and Mrs. P. Williams of New Port Richey, mounting the famed white horse used in advertisement in Life and other magazines.

Walt Vogel and his son made a good father-son team in miniature vehicles, and trailer parks turned out full force with entries from many states.

Folk from many walks of life saw Ray Villmer out-wrestle Bob Hess in a match in front of the grandstand.

Constantly patronizing the Lion's Den were the city's most prominent citizens and visitors who had enough coin of the realm left after paying their fines to buy food and drink from concessions operated by local organizations.

The Zephyrhills Golf Association and Putters Club did a land-office business with their fried chicken dinners at Hotel Zephyr, where Girl Scouts served pancake breakfasts each morning of the two-day fiesta.

Uniformed Girl Scouts and Brownies marched with precision.

Zephyr Troop 72, Boy Scouts of American, had a creditable display of their handwork and craft and also entertained with a ladder routine.

Late Tuesday afternoon was given over to hula hoop and pie eating contest, and a bang-up entertainment program by the Tourist Club with Earl Finch in charge of music and singing and Helen Miller directing the square and folk dancing. The Dixie Playboys, with Allene Miller as vocalist, also entertained.

Many celebrities, in addition to Mayor Rice who gave the official welcome, were present from the platform by Peterson during the big celebration, proceeds of which swelled the Lion's Club eyesight conservation fund.



BEST DECORATED AUTOMOBILE was that entered by Marion Smith, Florist, who captured first place. The entire car was covered with green material and was "sprigged" with flowers.

In Loving Memory Of

Ron Delgado

August 18, 1946 - February 9, 2022



In 2004, from left to right: Ron and Janet Delgado enjoying dinner at Piero's Italian Cuisine in Las Vegas, Nevada with good friends, Roxann Owens and Wayne Tanner.

As a child, Ron and his family lived in Guatemala where his father Julio Delgado was an executive for Nestle Foods. In 1954 the government was overthrown to brutal military dictatorship. At age eight, Ron and his family relocated to the United States to live in Connecticut.

After receiving his Business degree at Arizona State, Ron relocated to Florida and worked as the manager of Omaha Steakhouse in Zephyrhills. There he met his lovely wife Janet of 37 years. They had two children, Lori and Tim. As a restaurateur, Ron and his wife took over Omaha Steakhouse and began their family business adventure renaming the restaurant, "Del's Steak and Seafood". In 1995 Ron and Janet downsized and opened a smaller restaurant, Del's Café & Grill on 6th Street in Zephyrhills.

In 2004, Ron and Janet decided it was time to sell the restaurant, semi-retire and relocate to Mesquite, Nevada where Ron worked as a casino host part-time and Janet was the manager of The Virgin River Hotel & Casino gift shop. In 2009, they relocated to Humble, Texas to spend quality time with their children and five grandchildren.

Ron recently lost his short battle to cancer but will forever be in our hearts.

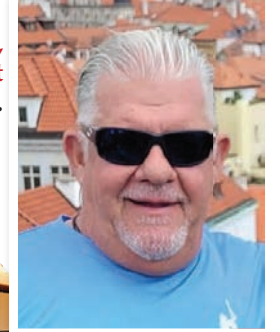
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- Wayne Tanner

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Kevin Ryman, President Est. in 1980.



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Thousands Enjoy 53rd Founders' Days



FIRST PLACE WINNER in the hometown category was Zephyr Egg Company's float pulled by Gary Overstreet and Mrs. Joseph Neal as "chickens". Robert Ely as Humpty Dumpty occupied a Vantage point at the rear of the ornate contraption while Amelia Neal and tophatted Jay Linville flanked a nest of gaily colored eggs and tossed out candy kisses.



BEST COSTUMED MOUNTED GIRL was Carolyn "Cissy" Strickland, whose black fringe-trimmed white shirt and western hat glistened in the sunshine as she put "Ditto," her buckskin and quarterhorse pony, through its paces in the big Founders' Days Parade.

March 14, 1963

Typical Florida weather contributed to the success of the city's 53rd birthday anniversary celebration staged under auspices of Lions Club of Zephyrhills.

The fun and frolic Founders' Days event got underway Monday, shifted into high gear Tuesday and was concluded in a "blaze of glory" at jampacked Municipal Auditorium that evening with the second performance of "Western Follies '63" and the crowning of this year's Miss Zephyrhills.

Literally thousands of hometowners, winter visitors and pleasure seekers lined Fifth avenue to watch a grand parade swing through town to kick off the big day's activities Tuesday. They reveled in the brilliant sunshine which occasioned coat shedding as the thermometer climbed into the 80's, took picture galore and threw themselves into the spirit of the day with gusto.

Freddy Peterson, again emceeing the spectacle, emphasized proper respect for the American Flag as color guards passed, leading the mile-long parade in which more than 100-units—floats, decorated automobiles, bicycles, marching groups and horseback riders—participated.

Judging the parade entries from the reviewing stand were Joe Collura, Mrs. Gibson H. Whitman and former Pasco County state representative J. R. A. "Bob" Williams, all of Dade City.

Cash prizes were awarded these winners:
Best decorated floats: out-of-town—Hillsborough County Fair and Strawberry Festival, first; and Joe Herrmann's Saf-T Gas, second. Hometown—Zephyr Egg Co., first; Family Cleaners, second; and Zephyr Oaks Academy, third.

Best decorated automobile — Scotty's City Drug Store, first; Kut and Kurl Beauty Shop, second. Oldest vehicle in the parade listed for judging, a 1919 Ford entered by Burchwood Mattress Co. of Plant City, first; a 1925 Ford in which "Keystone Cops" rode, second.

Best decorated bicycle, Rexall Drug Stores of Dade City. Best

pioneer-costumed man, Roy Lee; best pioneer-costumed woman, Mrs. John S. Lanham; most typical mounted cowboy, Fred Thomas; most typical mounted cowgirl, Carolyn "Cissy" Strickland.

Reese F. Knapp won the prize as the man living longest time in Zephyrhills and Mrs. Minnie Geiger won as the woman, same category.

Justin H. Tucker was marshal for the big parade led by Florida Highway Patrol, Pasco County Sheriff's Department, Zephyrhills Police and Fire Department vehicles. Color guards of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, World War I Veterans, and Disabled American Veterans lent a patriotic touch, as did auxiliary units carrying flags and banners.

Up front also was lovely Judy Goulding, Miss Zephyrhills of 1962, riding in a 1901 Oldsmobile from Pasco Motors in Dade City and driven by Bill Kauffman.

Other "royalty" gracing the parade included: Miss Evie Green of Dade City, reigning Miss Pasco County; Zephyrhills' Prince Larry John Kirkpatrick and Princess Kathy Sue Newsome with their predecessors Stephen Dean Wells and Jane Ann Rickard; and Pasco County Prince Larry Barthle and Princess Teresa Rowell.

The beauty contingent also included 23 contestants for the Miss Zephyrhills title and New Port Richey candidates for Chasco royalty titles.

Music for the parade was by Zephyrhills' high-stepping school bands under the direction of Bandmaster John T. V. Clark Jr., Pasco High and Junior High Bands of Dade City and the Gulf High Band of New Port Richey. Adding "umph" to the spectacle also were Brandon and Dade City baton twirlers, the Carrollettes, B Riders and Becky Lamb's High Steppers, all of Dade City.

Other entries included: the barbershop chorus entry sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce; students of Child's Garden of Learning decked out in patriotic finery; Mrs. L. M. Neukom, riding as Zephyrhills' pioneer merchant, and Mrs. R. I. "Aunt Dora" Marsh, 101, the city's senior citizen; and beautifully-decorated cars for Julia's Food Haven, Lamb's Toy Shop, the Red

Cross and Enyart Bakery.

After the Parade

After the parade—in which many other businesses, civic organizations, groups and individuals participated—Mrs. Robert Ahrens presented the beauty queen contestants from the viewing stand.

Mayor C. N. Chamberlain gave the address of welcome and Lester Bales Jr. expressed the Lions Club's appreciation for all-out cooperation received in staging the celebration, proceeds of which go to the club's eyesight conservation fund.

The Lions Den abounded with "patrons" arrested by Jaycees uniformed as Mack Sennett cops and from whom "Judge" C. A. Hough extracted fines. The youngsters and young-at-heart oldsters enjoyed carnival rides and patronized food and drink concessions operated by local civic groups including Rainbow Girls, Crescent Circle, OES, World War I Barracks and Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary, Girl scouts, Civitans and Jaycees.

A full afternoon program of entertainment held a large throng of spectators and participates in the downtown area until supertime. The Zephyr Plow Boys F.F.A. String Band, the Price Brothers, members of the Zephyrhills High School Band with Bandmaster Clark playing piano accompaniment and the Rambling Serenaders of Plant City provided music.

Pie Eating Contest

Sharon Sabo was winner in the girls' division of the pie eating contest, her time for consuming half a pie being one minute, 15 seconds.

First place honors in the boys' division went to John Simons, whose half-pie eating time was 50 seconds. Runnerup were Buddy Prowant, 55 seconds, and Dewitt Beston, 60 seconds.

Wilson's Famous Cowboy Dog Circus got a big hand as did BoJo the clown.



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Thousands Enjoy City's 59th Birthday

Cold Weather cuts Crowd But 8000 Still See Parade

March 13, 1969

A mammoth Founders' Days parade with 123 listed and many additional unlisted entries proceeded as scheduled down 5th Ave. promptly at 10 a.m. Tuesday and sidewalks were lined with spectators as usual, despite prevailing cold weather.

Without exception spectators, although warmly dressed, vied for places in the bright Florida sunshine with buildings on the north side of the Avenue facing the sun getting the biggest "standing room" play.

A conservatively estimated 8,000 people lined both residential and business areas along 5th Ave. between 16th and 2nd Streets to watch the showy spectacle, again emceed by Artist Freddy Peterson.

With Peterson on the reviewing stand in front of the Chamber of Commerce were a group of out-of-town judges, who evaluated the entries, plus Zephyrhills' new "Citizen of the Year" Ben Hamilton, and Pat Richardson, president of Lions Club of Zephyrhills, sponsors of Founders' Days.

The judging panel was composed of: Mrs. Gibson H. Whitman, social director of St. Leo College; Paul Hogan, state news editor of The Tampa Tribune; Joe Collura, president of Dade City Kiwanis Club and treasurer of Pasco County Fair Association; Pasco County Agent Luther Rozar; and former State Senator George Dayton, president of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Pasco County and head of the law firm Dayton, Peel and Gibbs.

Parade winners were:

Best homemade float — Winters' Trailer Park, first; Jack and

Jill Kindergarten, second; and Tourist Club of Zephyrhills, third. Best commercial local float — Bank of Zephyrhills, first; Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce, second; and 3-D Electric, third.

Best out-of-town float — Hillsborough County, first; Plant City Chamber of Commerce, second; and Pasco County Fair Association, third.

Best decorated auto — Town and Country Circle of Zephyrhills Garden Club's "Flower Power."

Best decorated truck — Yello-Rockers Square Dance Club (driven by Ted Borck).

Finest antique vehicle — a 1914 Model T Ford owned and driven by Arthur Finch.

Most unique entry — Cindy Lee Griffin leading a burro.

Oldest parading vehicle — Arthur Finch's 1914 Model T Ford.

Best twirling group — Brandon Baton Club

Best mounted group — E-BarW 4-H Club

Best marching group — Tourist Club of Zephyrhills, honorable mention to the Tops Club.

Best pioneer-costumed man — Hod Clark

Best pioneer-costumed woman — Mrs. Melville Hall

Most typical costumed cowboy — Paul Woodruff

Most typical costumed cowgirl — Bonita Brocies

Most unique costumes — Merriel Miller Dancers

Best decorated bicycle — Mr. and Mrs. John Way

Person living longest in Zephyrhills and registering at the Chamber of Commerce office — Mrs. Alice Davis Howell, 810 19th St., who was born here nearly 91 years ago (Sept. 5, 1878) Pretty Pond.

The judges' choice for the best performing group in the parade was Pasco High School Band.

Cash prizes were given the winners.

Winters' Trailer Park also was recipient of the Helen Merriell Miller trophy for the best homemade float.

Out front in the parade were Zephyrhills Chief of Police

William R. Eiland, Mayor E. D. Arnot Jr., Pasco County Sheriff Basil Gaines, State Highway Patrolmen and Zephyrhills Fire Department pumpers, the lead unit being driven by Fire Chief Roger K. Moores.

Pasco County, Dade City and New Port Richey officials joined those of Zephyrhills in the parade line-up.

Lending a patriotic note were the MacDill Field color guard, Old Glory being carried by a marching contingent of the Zephyrhills United Veterans Council composed of World War I, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans members and their ladies' auxiliaries, Boy and Girl Scouts.

Also automobiles in which members of various patriotic service organizations rode as well as two cars in which Gold Star Mothers including Mrs. Louis Kanaar, Mrs. Warren Trotman, Mrs. Ruby Strable, Mrs. Elmer Lewis, Mrs. Olivia Watson, Mrs. Carl Dodge, Mrs. Clyde Burger and Mrs. Grace Johnson were transported. With the VFW Auxiliary contingent were Mrs. Lila R. McLaughlin of Dade City, president of District 12; and Miss Dorothy Seeley of Dunedin, department membership chairman.

Plant City High School Band, Pasco High and Junior High Bands, and Gulf High Band of New Port Richey joined the home town bands to provide music for the parade.

Members of the Gulf High Band were transported here and back in Zephyrhills school buses. Next week the "favor will be returned" and Gulf High buses will provide transportation for Zephyrhills band members to play in the Chasco Fiesta parade.

Lions District Governor and Mrs. Joe Castellana of Tampa rode in one of the many automobiles in the line-up.

C. C. Daniels was observed riding in an automobile bearing an "Elder Statesmen" placard while pioneer businesswoman Mrs. L. M. Neukom received a big hand as she passed the reviewing stand in an automobile driven by her son, George Neukom. Wives of deceased Lions members rode in two special automobiles.



MOST TYPICAL COWBOY AND COWGIRL -- Judges selected a matched pair in making these awards. Paul Woodruff and Bonita Brocies wore their regular dress-up riding habits and won applause of the crowd on their almost perfectly-matched horses.



BEAUTIFUL DADE CITY FLOAT -- Although it earned only honorable mention in the out-of-town floats category Tuesday the City of Dade City float was complete with a replica of the courthouse dome beneath which "Miss Dade city was seated. Members of the county seat town's queen's court also added beauty to an already-pretty entry.

Invites you to join in the fun!

Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #3752

MAY 2022 CALENDAR

<p>THURSDAY Every Thurs. Eagles Nest Card Game 7-9pm</p> <p>FRIDAY RED SHIRT FRIDAY LIVE MUSIC... 20th Reel Playerz 8pm-11pm 27th Double Density 8pm-11pm</p> <p>SATURDAY Every Sat. Aerie Bingo 12:30pm-3:30pm</p> <p>21st AUXILIARY- FOUNDER'S DAY PARADE PARTY 4PM-11PM <i>Happy Birthday Zephyrhills</i></p>	<p>SATURDAY Kami Kazi Karaoke 7pm-10pm</p> <p>SUNDAY Every Sun. Pool Tournament 1:30-3:30pm and... Karaoke - Christine & Willie 3pm-7pm</p> <p>29th MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE 10am-12pm ★★★★★</p> <p>MONDAY Every Mon. Aerie Bingo 12:30pm-3:30pm and... Queen of Hearts 7pm-7:15pm</p> <p>TUESDAY Every Tues. Trustee Meeting 6pm-6:30pm</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Every Wed. Auxiliary Bar Bingo 12:30pm-3:30pm 25th Rider Members Meeting 7pm-8pm</p>
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Prize Winners Listed As Thousands View Founders' Days Parade, Events

March 17, 1977

Although the morning began with gloomy skies Saturday, sunshine broke through by parade time and added to the sparkle of the 27th annual Zephyrhills Founders' Days parade sponsored by the Lion's Club.

Thousands of parade watchers lined both sides of the parade route, which included a trip east on the north side of the 5th Ave. and then back again on the south side.

Parade entries were judged by representatives from Lions Dist. 35-R, and top choices were awarded trophies in a number of categories, including: The Miss Pasco County float, sponsored by Florida Federal Savings Bank, as Judges' Choice; the R & R Sheet Metals' float as Judges' Choice overall; the Flagship Bank of Zephyrhills float as the best in the commercially made class; and the Yell-O-Rockers Square Dance Group float as the best in the homemade float class.

Helen's Starrettes Baton Club won the award for the best baton group; Tanya Harper won as the youngest individual marching in the parade; and George Foreman and Joe Teal, both 93-years-old, tied as the oldest marchers.

Alice Hall won the best costume; Ralph's Trailer Park won the best mobile home entry; and the United Veteran's Council won the award for the best veteran's group.

The Color Guard and Firing Squad also won a marching award, as did the Pioneer Florida Museum float.

Chosen as best costumed cowboy and cowgirl were Bo and Evelyn Hilton, each on a beautifully-groomed horse.

The bands from Zephyrhills High School and Zephyrhills Middle School provided marching music for the parade. Four other bands—from Moore Mickens Middle School at Dade City and from Gulf Sr., Gulf Jr. and Bayonet Point on the west coast—

failed to show up for the parade. Lion's Club officials expressed disappointment and parade officials said they were mystified by the failure to appear.

Miss Zephyrhills Chosen

Saturday evening Susanne Walker was crowned "Miss Zephyrhills" in the annual beauty pageant.

The candidates were guests of the Lions Club Auxiliary for a luncheon Saturday about 4 p.m. when the judges obtained individual interviews with each girl.

Held in the Friendship Room of Florida Federal, the luncheon was presented by Lion and Mrs. Rudy Redderoth, Lion and Mrs. Al Durant, Lion and Mrs. Robert Stickney, Mrs. Harold Mains and Mrs. Tom Cudhea, both of the Auxiliary.

Judges for the pageant were:



MARCHING UNITS POPULAR — While this year's parade was short on bands, it was long on marching units, including the United Veterans Council and Girls Scout troop No. 657.



Two other marching groups were members of the Pennsylvania Club, and carrying their state flag, and of the Tourist Club.

Maryann B. Hodges of Beaumont, Texas, a director of numerous beauty pageants in that state;

Eva Gonzales of Tampa, fashion coordinator and charm school director for Sears, Roebuck and Co. University Square Mall, and former fashion model;

Martha E. Lastinger of Plant City, a ballet, tap and jazz dancing instructor in Brandon and last year's Strawberry Festival Queen;

Beth H. Morrow of Holiday, a judge in Ideal Miss and Little Miss pageants, a baton twirling judge, and director of the "Miss Hudson" pageant for five years; and,

John E. Larson of New Port Richey, chairman of the Chasco Festival there two years and a member of numerous other pageant committees, and who will be remembered here as the contractor whose firm built Zephyr Haven Nursing Home.

Tabulator for the judges' votes was Mrs. Reba J. Stumphf, a former computer and finance research official for a television station and currently a tax expert for H&R Block Co., Zephyrhills office.

Music for the pageant was provided

by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Mead of Zephyrhills, who play for area dances as "The Two Steps."

Prizes awarded to the new "Miss Zephyrhills" included: Neukom's Drugstore, a butterfly necklace; Hayford Electric, Lady Sunbeam twin-head electric shaver; Wig Nook, free shampoo and set; Zephyr Beauty Salon; can of hair spray; Kentucky Fried Chicken, two free dinners; Pizza House, 15-in. pizza; Peoples Clothing and Shoe Store, \$15 gift certificate; Badcock's, serving tray and relish dishes; Jeri's Beauty Salon, free shampoo and set.

Also, Citizens Bank of Pasco and Flagship, each a \$25 saving bond; Otto's, \$10 gift certificate; Candy Striper, \$10 gift certificate; Edlee's Steak House, two steak dinners; Elsie's 5 and 10 Store, slippers; Ala Marie's, two spaghetti dinners; Daniel's Food Haven, two free dinners; New Image, free shampoo and set; McDonalds, 12 1/4-pounders, 12 cokes, and 12 French fries; Eckerd's watch; and Zephyrhills News, \$10 worth of personalized stationery.

Just prior to the start of the parade, Acting Mayor Jim Bailey drew out the winning name in a no-obligation, free-registration drawing for a Caribbean cruise conducted by Zephyr Travel Agency, and announced it to the crowd. The winner is Elizabeth M. McLoud, 1702 Hwy. 39 South. Her cruise will be to Nassau, Bahamas, aboard the SS Flavia.

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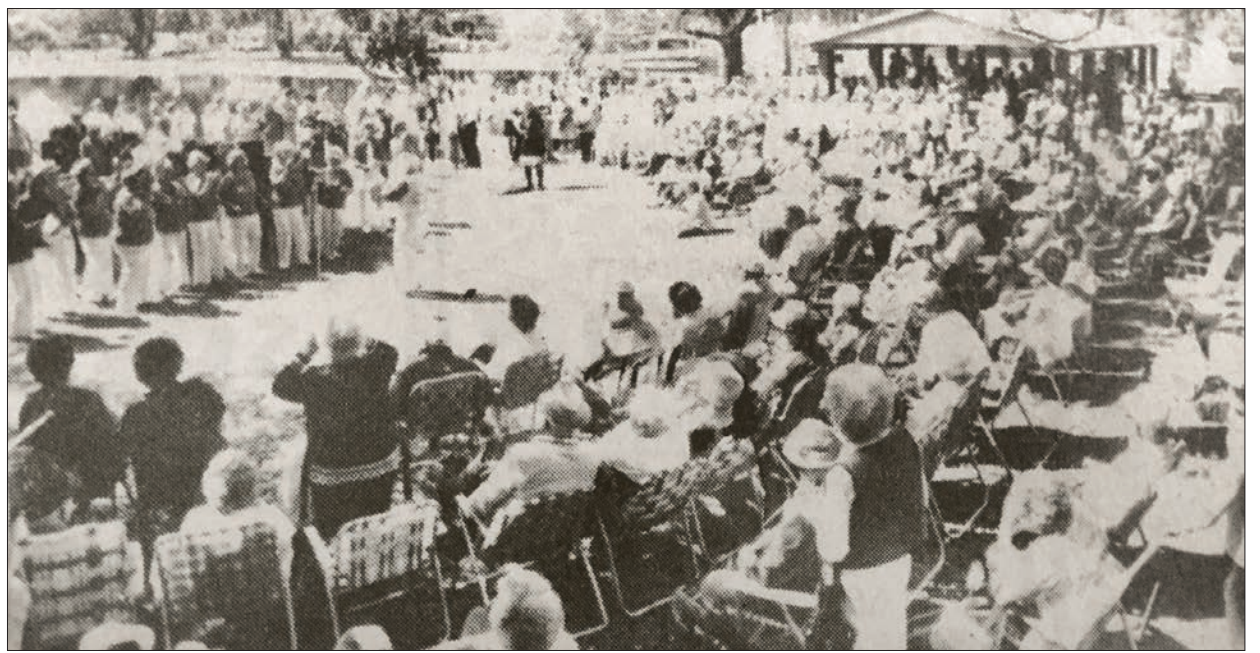
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Founders' Day Parade, Party in Park proves Fun For Giant Crowd



The News entered its own colorful little float saluting our ripe old age of 73.



PARTY IN THE PARK — This wideangle lens view of Saturday's Party in the Park provides a picture of the crowd on hand to hear entertainment lakeside. Above the Country Aire Kitchen Band is performing.

March 15, 1984

A more beautiful day could hardly be imagined than the glorious Saturday of Founders' Day 1984, when City of Zephyrhills celebrated its 74th birthday anniversary with an "It's 1910 Again" parade and a Party in the Park.

The parade with more than 35 units in it, was cheered by an estimated 3,000 spectators, many of whom followed the marchers right on down to Zephyr Park for four hours of entertainment and fun.

Passing beneath the American flags in tandem from utility poles on the west side of 5th Ave. (placed there by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in honor of the city's birthday party), the parade featured a variety of generally homemade floats, almost all on the 1910 theme.

Many of the entries are pictured elsewhere in this issue. The parade list included, among others, Ralph's Trailer Park float and truck, Helen's Starettes marchers, the Tourist Club Fun Band, the Chamber of Commerce "Miss Zephyrhills" float, the Eagles Lodge float and marchers, a Rattlesnake Festival truck, a Goodwill store float, Girl Scouts, the Zephyr Zippers Kitchen Band, Kappa Beta sorority, an old time bike entered by Carl Casten, a Tops Chapter float, the Pioneer Museum covered wagon, Baker Acres RV Park barn float, the News float, a Board of Realtors float, a Sr. Citizen's Center royalty car, a 1901 car from Pasco Motors, and a Fire Dept. truck.

A color guard provided by Zephyrhills United Veterans Council with Jack Bridge as president, followed by the Rev. W.S. "Bill" Hancock and Willard Laube in their best 1910 vintage finery, riding in a buggy drawn by Hancock's mare "Cindy."

Hancock wore a Wolfe Bros. custom-made Prince Albert, striped trousers, top hat and "the works." Laube sported a plaid vest with slacks, cream colored shirt and a straw skimmer hat.

Pioneer Florida Museum's entry featured Trustee Jim Flessas, cast in the role of Pete the Peddler. "Passengers" were

President Mabel Jordan, Doris Flessas and Alice Hall. The float was pulled by a Heritage Ford pick-up in which Bill and Beth Hammond rode.

A list of winners of the children's games was not kept, but winners of the Kids Fishing Contest were: Largest fish — John Riskus, first, 16 1/4-inch mudfish; David Bailey, second; Bobby Theel, third; Phillip Brown, fourth; and Bryan Burnette, fifth; Most fish — Tony Bolton; Smallest fish — Tony Bolton; Youngest fisherman — Jennifer Brewer, 3. Prizes were donated by K-Mart, Reeves Carpet, Moody Hardware and the Chamber of Commerce.

The Kitchen Band Contest was won by the Zephyr Zippers Band of Zephyr Mobile Park, in very close competition with bands from Country Aire Mobile Home Village, and the Tourist Club Fun Band. A large trophy was awarded the winner.

Prizes in the 1910 costume contest will be announced at the Chamber of Commerce meeting Tuesday evening.

Among the outstanding entertainers on stage during the day was the Tops Hats Jazz Band, with Pete Bailey in charge. Other musicians in the band are Lou Loysch, Holly Fales, Leo Wilson, Stan Izdepski and Tom Field. Also very popular with the crowd was accordionist Nick Lichatz, the Barbershop Chrous, and dance exhibitions by students of Helen's Baton and Dance Studio and Lois Ann's Studio of the Dance.

A total of \$81.96 was collected from area residents and visitors who were incarcerated in the "Olde Hoosgow" in Zephyr Park Saturday on trumped up charges for which they were "arrested" by Keystone Kops including Lions Jim Coleman, Vallie Montgomery, Ed Joseph, John Stephenson and Stan Simpson.

Doug McBride, also a Lion, served as jailer. The Rev. John E. Mackley was cast in the role of judge, Alice Hall was prosecuting attorney and Bryan Moltass was pressed into service as junior bailiff.

Proceeds from the "hoosgow" operation, namely \$81.96 have been sent to "Heartbeat 84" in an effort to help reach the \$750,000 goal set in 1983 when the campaign was launched to raise the amount for state of the art heart treatment equipment in

Zephyrhills' first-ever hospital scheduled to be opened in June.

Again, as has the case in many instances in years past, inmates of the Zephyrhills Correctional Institute have "come to the rescue."

As the time for Founders' Day festivities, celebrating the 74th anniversary of the City of Zephyrhills' birthday, recognition was taken of the fact Zephyr Park needed "spring cleaning" of tons of leaves which had fallen from centuries old oaks.

Late Thursday afternoon a telephone call was placed to Supt. Ray Henderson at Zephyrhills Correctional Institute.

Bright and early Friday morning Sgt. J.O. Strickland and Officer H.L. Davis arrived in the park with 14 willing workers who wielded rakes manfully to help solve the problem.

City workmen brought two dumpsters, and as the mounds grew Alex Laginess and Dale Stover of the city yard force brought in garbage packers to help take care of the leaves.

Saturday arrived and bright sunlight shone on the immaculately clean park grounds, adding to enjoyment of all Founders' Day-goers.

The City of Zephyrhills and the Zephyrhills Garden Club join with the Chamber of Commerce in expressing appreciation to Supt. Henderson, Sgt. Strickland, Officer Davis and to the 14 men who not only did the leaf raking and loading but also jockeyed the "Olde Hoosgow" with inmates had voluntarily made last year, into position.

Included on the roster of men are Donald Henderson, Sylvester Forbes, Alphonso Smith, Thomas Dycus, Robin Joiner, Billy Hopkins, Harold Bumgarner, James Keebler, Frank Rogers, Samuel Russell, John Benjamin, Charlie Lyons, Samuel Jones and Theo Bostic.

"Our third revival of the old Founders' Day was the biggest success yet, thanks in large to the parade, which brought people out and then down to the park," Chm. Bernie Wickstrom said. "Already there is talk about how to make next year's Founders' Day even bigger and better. Any Ideas you wish to share with the Chamber, sponsors of the annual event, please do so," he added.

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Sun Shone On Founders Day Fest

March 16, 1989

The weather gods smiled on the "Friendly City" Saturday, March 11, during the closing day of the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Founders' Days Festival, which celebrated the 79th anniversary of the A-Z (Abott Station to Zephyrhills) name change on March 10, 1910.

Mike Prilliman, the Chamber's vice president, chaired the festival.

Winners in the more-than-60 unit Founders' Day parade, co-chaired by Steve Spina and Debby Bacon Chauncey, were selected by a judging panel comprised of Margaret Cherry, Robert Grimes and the Rev. John R. Huff as the line-up moved down a flag-decked Fifth Avenue — thanks to the George R. Baxmann post 8154's "See the Glory in Old Glory" project.

The winners were Rainbow village, best overall float; Paultronics Phone Shop, best business entry; Southern Charm RV Resort; best Mobile Home Park/RV entry; Baker Acres, entry best depicting the festival theme "Unity in the Community;" Zephyrhills Lions Club, best club or organization entry; Helen's Starettes, best walking or marching unit; and the U.S. Postal Service, best out-of-town entry.

State Rep. John Long, D-Land O' Lakes, was grand marshal of the colorful parade, which was emceed by Ray J. Dean. The home town's pride and joy — the high stepping



The Backwood Blackwood Cloggers

Zephyrhills High School Band, with C. Paul Stuart as bandmaster, and the Raymond B. Stewart Middle School Band provided marching music.

Terry Stratton of Lake City, second; and Melody Marvin of Altamonte Springs, third.

The best of show and best booth awards were won by Tim Swift and Claude Haycraft, respectively. Both reside in Zephyrhills. An honorable mention award was won by Ron and Ginger Brown of Largo in best booth division.

Meantime, Chamber President, Greg first and Judy Hill of the Zephyrhills Juniors Woman's Club took turns emceeing a continuous entertainment program from a lakeside flatbed stage provided by East Pasco Medical Center, decorated by Mary Jones, Kathy Hughes and Marie Shay of Founder Garden Circle with assistances from the Woman's Club of Zephyrhills and Bushel Stop Nursery.

Proceeds from Ye Olde Hoosgow operation will help provide the scholarship given to Scarlett Leigh Rogers, the recently crowned Miss Zephyrhills, by the Chamber of Commerce.

A total of \$200.30 was collected by Keystone Cops Sandra Pritcher, Billy J. Brooks and John M. Jones who arrested festival-goers on trumped up charges. 11 — the latter a prominent Davenport publisher who was "pressed into service," thrown into "the clink" after hearing before Judges Lester Engles Jr. and Sam W. Surratt and had to "fine" their way out. Marge Finch Geiger was jail matron for the operation co-chaired by Gloria Brown and Alice Hall.

Curtain ringer-down was the enjoyable finale dance at which three generations displayed unity while tripping the light fantastic to music by Jimmie Hamblin, a resident of Baker Acres, Saturday night in Municipal Auditorium.

Susan Burgess, the chamber's executive director, chaired the committee on arrangements for the dance at which the reigning Miss Zephyrhills and her escort were observed cutting a rug with new steps under the tutelage of Mary and Anthony Caprio — much to the enjoyment of other party-goers; and Andrew Prilliman, young son of festival chairman Mike and Lani Prilliman, having help form friendly senior citizens getting into the swing of things.

The chamber's board of directors is appreciative of the many evidences of cooperation noted in staging the festival. These included entertainment by a galaxy of entertainers on stage in the park, assistances from the City of Zephyrhills Police, Public Works and Utility Departments, Paultronics Sound System, Griswold Auto Sales, Radio Station WDCF for broadcasting the parade, Radio Station WPAS for postponing a scheduled local broadcast "in honor of the Chamber of commerce-sponsored Founders' Days Festival" both stations along with the Zephyrhills News, the Tampa Tribune and the Pasco News for publicizing the event; and all who, in any way, supported the effort to stage a "homey" celebration.



The Chamber of Commerce sponsored the 1989 Miss Zephyrhills and her court float.

After the parade downtown, the scene shifted to Zephyr Park for the traditional "Party in the Park." Sounds of accordion music by Nick Lichatz with his one-man-band technique welcomed festival goers to the park, again made spic and span by work details from the Zephyrhills Correctional Institution and the city force.

By noontime the park was jam-packed with hometowners and visitors browsing around arts and crafts booths, concessions and the like.

The hotdog/hamburger operation chaired by John P. Knowles Jr. and with a corps of assistants, did "land office" business as did cold drinks, cotton candy and other concessions.

Larry Winslow followed suit with tickets on a crib quilt, handcrafted by Raybelle Surratt, to be awarded to the winning ticket holder at the upcoming Spring Flower Show "Piece Work" to be held April 8 in the Alice Hall Community Center under auspices of Morning Glory and Zephyrhills Garden Clubs.

Earlier in the day Knowles had directed a 5-K Fun Run, co-sponsored by the Zephyrhills News and First Union National Bank of Florida, starting at 8 a.m. in the park.

Winners in the arts and crafts show, chaired by Lenora Stokes and judged by Dennis Phillips of San Antonin, were:

Oil Acrylics: Mona Turney of Palmetto, first; Dolores Dove of Euleess, Texas, second; and Mary McComas of Dover, third. Graphic: Kitty Lownie of Brandenton, first; Louise Anderson, second; and Hollace McPhillips of Tampa, third. Crafts: Nancy Rolls of Lutz, first;

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Spirits not dampened on Founders' Day

March 21, 1991

Dreary skies, splashes of much needed rain and a complete absence of the famed Florida sunshine dampened not the spirit of Friendly city folk determined to help put over the closing day of the 1991 Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Founders' Days Festival in fine style Saturday.

Some oldtimers recalled organizers of the very first such celebration - called Pioneer Day then - faced just such weather, only moreso what with a hurricane blowing in, back in September 1950.

Promptly at 8 a. m. the Seventh Annual Founders' Days 5K Run got under way. Following closely on its heels was a colorful parade which moved down 5th Avenue to march music by hometown's pride and joy - the high stepping Zephyrhills High School Band with Bandmaster Paul Steuart in charge - and under the watchful eye of festival Chairman Debby Bacon Chauncey, John R. Huff, Zephyrhills' reigning Citizen of the Year, was grand marshal of the parade which was viewed by several hundred enthusiasts despite the cold, damp weather.

Jerry Burgess emceed the parade from the viewing on which the Rev. Ralph Argentino, pastor of St. Joseph Church, stood to give the invocation and Mayor Robert H. Johnson the official welcome. A judging panel, which included former Zephyrhills City Council President JoEllen Farnham, Frank Kratoski, Dick Moffatt and Pat Patterson, selected winners from among the 70 parade entries.

Winners were: Salute to Desert Storm, best overall entry; SunBank of Pasco County, best business entry; Baker Acres RV Ranch, best mobile home/RV Park entry; Southern Charm RV Resort, best entry depicting the festival theme "A to Z, 81 years of Prosperity"; Cairo Court 97 Ladies of the Oriental Shrine of North America and its clown unit, best club or organization

entry; and the Zephyrhills High School Band, best walking or marching unit.

The scene shifted to Zephyr Park immediately following the parade. "Party in the Park" activities include a big Kiwanis Club/Chamber of Commerce Fish Fry, with Roy Hardy and his team heading up the cooking detail, for which 556 dinners were served; an Arts and Crafts Show, chaired by Vicki Elkins, with the following winners: Oils and Acrylics, Jim Patterson, Sebring, first; Dorothy Staubit, Dade City, second; Marjorie Hutto, Bartow, third. Crafts (pottery wood work, glass, ceramics and macramé): Patricia McQuatters, High Springs, first; Kris Hardee, Silver Springs, second; Jean Ridgeway, Trenton, third. Cash prizes for the categories were: \$100, first; \$75, second; \$50, third.

The \$150 Best of Show prize went to David Neener of St. Petersburg, and the \$100 Best Booth prize went to Marlene Wacloski of Indialantic. Three Honorable Mentions, each valued at \$25, went to exhibits by Charles Sharp, Fruitland Park; Dorene McKraig, Dade City; and David Weage, Polk City.

YeOlde Hoosgow operation, run by Gloria Brown and Alice Hall, with Lester Bales and Logan Peoples as judges, "cleared" \$216.60 for the Chamber of Commerce's Miss Zephyrhills Scholarship Fund. Uniformed Keystone Cops, in the order of their arrival for work, were Ray J. Dean, John Jones, who again drove over from Davenport to "give a hand", Henry Thomas and Police Chief Sandra Pricher.

Giving the Hoosgow group appreciated assistance - especially when rain began falling in earnest at one point - were Pasco County Sheriff's Deputy Randy Packard, Sgt. Ray Stanley and volunteer Norm Leisk, stationed with the department's Crime Prevention exhibit next to the "air conditioned" jail.

A "something new" for the festival was the Abbott Station Black Kettle Cook-off chaired by Joe Maniscalco and Boy Scout Troop 427, Scoutmaster Robert Helferd and with SunBank of Pasco, Del's Steak and Seafood, and Shirt's & Caps as sponsors.

Special guest for the to-do, after a "for fun" stay in the Hoosgow "klink" on a loitering, gawking charge, was Dick Michaud of Logan, Utah, executive director of the International Dutch Oven Society, who drove over from Orlando, where he was vacationing, for the cook-off.

Winners in the Junior Division were Gabriel Frank, Plant City, cooking Mexican corn stew, first; Parker Lee, Plant City, Hawaiian chicken, second. Frank received a 10-inch Dutch Oven, a



Southern Charm Resort won best entry depicting theme of parade.

\$50 Savings Bond and a trophy. Lee won a \$20 Savings Bond and a trophy for second place.

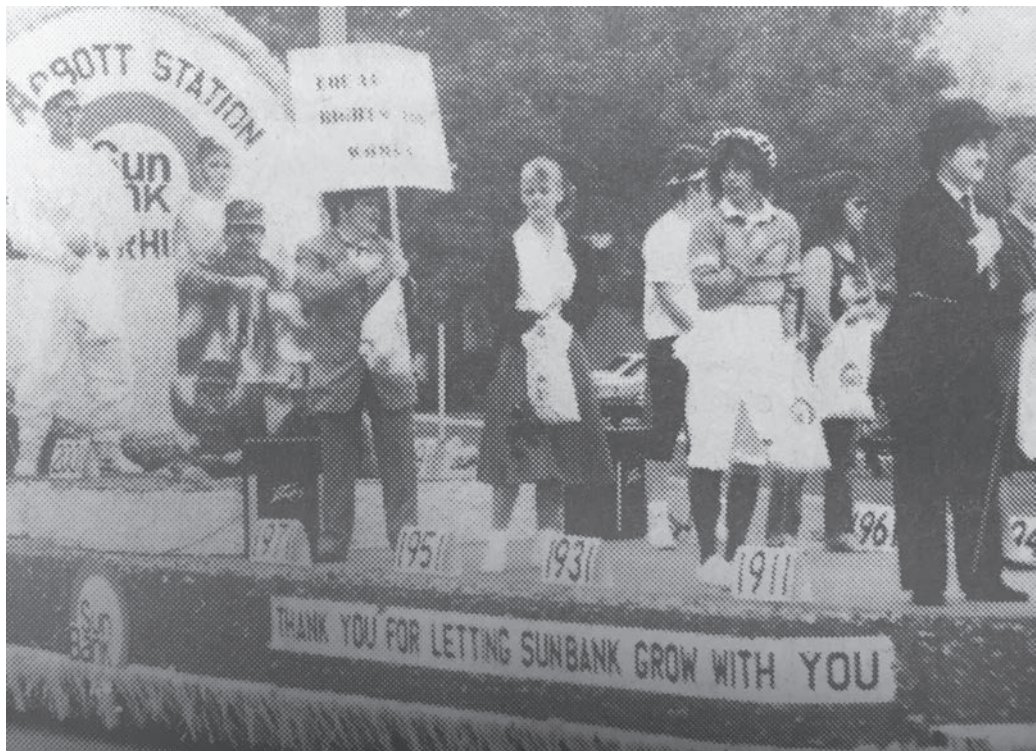
Senior Division winners were: Larry Hooper, Winter Haven, cooking "Miss Alma's Stuffed Cornish Hens", first; Donna Laginess, Zephyrhills, cooking Cow Garden Stew, second; and Laura Meckling, Zephyrhills, cooking Chili con Carne, third. Hooper, first place winner, received a 12-inch Dutch Oven, a \$50 Savings Bond and a trophy; Laginess, second place, received a \$20 Savings Bond and a trophy; Meckling, third place, received a trophy.

Kicking off an enjoyable entertainment program from the Bernie Wickstrom Stage, emceed by Greg First and Debby Bacon Chauncey introduced by Chamber Pres. Mike Prilliman, was the Zephyrhills High School Color Guard and Drill Team performance and Jennifer Anne Roys, Miss Zephyrhills of 1991, singing "The Star Spangled Banner."

The program included Darby Kirby, Darlene Johnson, Lori Lawson, Patti Reiley, Tracy Thurmond and Shane Forester singing vocal solos; Dean Johnson playing guitar accompaniment for his sister as she sang, the Barber Shop Quartet Group singing favorite songs, Staci Reeves clogging, Michelle Nikolai, Miss Pasco County of 1991, twirling; and Helen's Baton & Dance group clogging, practicing karate and the like. Mary Harman coordinated the entertainment program.

Chauncey announced winners in the parade and Steve Spina announced essay winners.

Using the festival theme "A to Z, 81 years of Prosperity" as topic, the following Zephyrhills High School students won prizes in the Essay Contest, which became a part of the Founders' Days program in 1990; David Holly, a \$100 savings bond donated by Community National Bank of Pasco, first; Kimberly Paugh and Teresa Lynn Trebour, tied for second each receiving tote bags from NCNB; and Jennifer Hillis, a Tampa Tribune comic umbrella, third.



Sun Bank of Pasco County won Best Business entry.

Happy Birthday Zephyrhills!

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Founders' Day was truly special

March 9, 1995

The community turned out en masse to celebrate Zephyrhills' 85th birthday during the annual Chamber of Commerce Founders' Day celebration downtown and in Zephyr Park Saturday.

Perfect weather contributed to one of the best Founders' Day events ever.

"It was an excellent Chamber of Commerce day. It was ordered and it came through" said Chamber Executive Director Susan Burgess. "I don't think we could have asked for a better day. Everything turned out good."

There was almost too much to see and do. "I thought it was fabulous. There was a lot more diverse activity downtown and in the park. I think everyone had a really good time," said Main Street Program Director Vicki Elkins.

Main Street raised \$160 by offering tours of the Capt. H.B. Jeffries home, now owned by Steve and Eileen Herman. Elkins said "80-85 people" toured the Jeffries home, which is one of East Pasco's true historical treasures.

Downtown business owners were kept hopping. Local quilt makers displayed their masterpieces in storefront windows.

One of the most popular events was a sidewalk chalk art contest in front of Shirts &

Caps. "We were real busy," said Terri Hilfering of Shirts & Caps. "We had a lot of people come through asking about quilts. We also had a great response on the chalk art contest. A lot of people want to come back and do it again next year."

Local athletes showed their stuff in a volleyball tournament in the parking lot of Don Olson Firestone. When the smoke cleared, East Pasco Medical Center had won the tourney and the Zephyrhills Fire and Rescue team was second.

Downtown activities kicked off with the Zephyrhills News 5K Founders' Day Race, which attracted 39 competitors. Blair Hopkins, a 33-year-old Zephyrhills man, won the race in 17:30 by overcoming a strong start by Barry Hartstock, who took second in 18:06. The top female finisher was Diana Grief, who clocked in a 23:00 - good for 17th place overall.

The Zephyrhills Art Club presented an art show in Times Square. Kiwanis fed the masses with a fish fry in the Shirts & Caps parking lot at 11 a.m.

This year's parade was one of the biggest and best ever, as 90 units entertained more than a thousand spectators who lined the downtown streets. The parade was ably led by Grand Marshall Bill Eiland, Zephyrhills Police Chief for more than 30 years.

There were so many outstanding entries



Ashley Braumuller rides her rocking horse in the parade.



The Barnett bank float was named Best Overall float in the Founders' Day Parade.

that judges Andrea Dimitri (Miss Zephyrhills 1994), Betty Jo Hyder (Marion Smith Florist), Alice Jones (Lara Lynn Apartments) and Ed Ortiz (Heritage Ford) had a difficult task of selecting the best.

The judges' choices for best parade entry were awarded to: Southern Charm RV Resort (Best Entry Depicting Theme), Florida Comanchero's Horse Club (Best Club/Organization Entry), Zephyrhills High School (Best Marching Entry), Helen's Baton & Dance Studio (Best Walking Entry), Baker Acres RV Ranch (Best Mobile Home/RV Park), and Barnett Bank (Best Overall Entry).

Zephyr Park featured non-stop activity, with entertainment, dozens of craft booths, a boat show by the East Pasco Bass Masters, Gold Wing motorcycles, a 1966 Piper Cherokee 140 airplane owned by the Experimental Aviation Association, a fish-a-thon for kids (1-2 p.m. at Zephyr Lake, the Citrus Regional Bloodmobile, free popcorn for kids, face painting, food and children's games.

The competition for Arts/Craft awards was fierce. So many outstanding booths made the judges' chore a difficult one. Best of Show award was presented to David Crowfeather for his beautiful Native American crafts. Carol Gann won the honor of Best Booth for her dried

flowers display.

Other Arts/Crafts awards went to the following Fine Arts displays: Jozef Misiuk (carving/turning), 1st place; Bill Fox (bricks), 2nd place and The Glass Menagerie (hand blown glass), 3rd place. True Crafts awards went to: Eiliam Shay (birdhouses), 1st place; Doris Munn (mixed crafts), 2nd place and Kala Johnson (dried flowers), 3rd place. Hobby Crafts prizes were awarded to: Bobbi Blackburn (crafty jeans), 1st place and Patricia Odgen (dolls, etc.), 2nd place.

Founders' Day organizers won't rest long on the laurels from this year's outstanding event. Planning for the 1996 celebration will begin soon.

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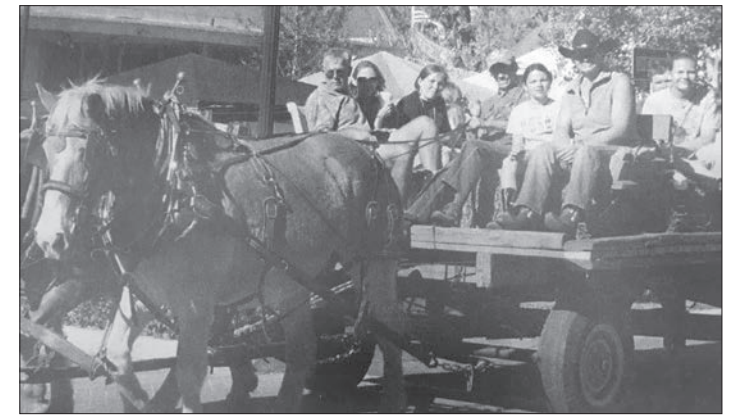
Founder's Day a good day



The Zephyrhills High School Marching Bulldogs show off their new uniforms.



Peace Ranch of Wesley Chapel was riding in only their second parade.



The hayride was not in the parade, but it still traveled Main Street over the course of the day.



The Sons of the Confederacy decorated their float in Southern Style.

March 17, 2005

The weather was nice and, the parade went well and the events ran smoothly for Saturday's Founder's day celebrations according to Main Street Inc. President Trina Chauncey.

"The feedback that I've gotten from participants and folks at the event has been very positive," Chauncey said. "The weather was great and there were things for all ages to do."

Have we mentioned the weather?

No rain and a moderate temperature with a slight breeze made the day comfortable for the crowd that lined the street for the parade of about 80 participants and the activities that followed.

Florida Medical Clinic employees judged the parade entries while Chauncey and Mike Prilliman announced the entries as they passed by. This year's judges were: Chairperson Tiffany Chauncey, Brenda Corrigan, Lisa Adams, Beverly Thibodeau, Carrie Rosier and Tammy Blevins.

Winners of the parade division were as follows:

Best Depicting Theme: first place, Bakers Acres; second place, Winters Mobile Home Park; third place, Water's Edge Red Hat Tinkle Bells.

Best Club/Organization: first place, General Jubal A. Early Camp #556 - Sons of the Confederates; second place, Girl Scouts of Suncoast; third place, Zephyrhills Little League.

Best Business: first place, Heartland of Zephyrhills; second place, Pregnancy Care Center of Zephyrhills; third place, Hernando-Pasco Hospice.

Best Mobile Home/RV: first place, Rainbow Village RV Resort; second place, Happy Days RV Park; third place, Southern Charm RV Resort.

Best Marching/Walking Unit: first place, Woodland Elementary Quest Program; second place, Chester W. Taylor Elementary School; third place, Peace Ranch Inc.

Founder's Day this year was a bit unusual since most of it had to be planned without a Main Street director. Sue Harvey was just recently hired to direct the hometown organization. Even so everything ran smoothly with jobs parceled out among the Main Street board.

"All of my board members took on different areas of responsibility," Chauncey said. "That's a great feeling to me because all of my board members are involved."

Chauncey wants to thank all the sponsors volunteers and organizations that helped in the Founder's Day effort.

"There were so many people volunteering that day it awesome," Chauncey said.

She especially wants to thank Jomax for loaning four golf carts for use throughout the day, Gordon Hood for picking the carts up, the Zephyrhills Amateur Radio Club, the Zephyrhills High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, the city crew and ZHS student who were doing community service work for college.

The challenge now is to pick a theme for next year. It can be difficult to find something creatively different so Main Street, Inc. is asking for help.

"We want the community to get involved," Chauncey said. "If they could think of a theme for next year's parade involving the history of Zephyrhills, have them please call the office by April 30."

To volunteer to help with other Main Street events or to suggest a theme for next year's parade call the Main Street Inc. office at (813) 780-1414.

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... Lifelong animal lover puts off retirement for low-cost clinic



Cindy Evers once considered retirement. Instead, being a lifelong animal lover led her to start a business catered to her passion. Seeing the large population of stray dogs and cats always bothered her, and Cindy would take them in. As a big supporter of spay and neuter, she decided to open a family-owned, nonprofit clinic for dogs and cats.

PLANNED PETHOOD began as a low-cost clinic offering vaccinations and spay/neuter services. After seeing the demand was so great, Cindy decided she wanted to do more.

Today, Planned Pethood is a full-service veterinary clinic with 2 locations offering low-cost dental, x-ray, surgical and grooming.

There are three generations of family members involved in the clinics including Cindy's husband, Joe; daughter Amber Burgess who is the Director of the Wesley Chapel location, and granddaughters, Lauren and Lilly Burgess.

As animal lovers, the family is also involved with a network of rescue groups to help find homes for unwanted pets and alter feral cats as part of Pasco County's trap-neuter program.

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Thousands celebrate city's 99th birthday

March 19, 2009

The crowds were packed along Fifth Avenue and Seventh Street Saturday morning for the annual Founder's Day parade and festivities.

Leading the parade was Grand Marshal Madonna Jervis Wise, who recently published *Zephyrhills-Tapestry*, a compilation of the history of education in Zephyrhills.

"It was a 'thrill of a lifetime' to be the Grand Marshal. I saw students from 35 years ago and so many wonderful friends," Wise said. "Everyone seemed to be savoring the parade atmosphere."

The day's theme was Dig It: The 60s in Zephyrhills, inspired in part by the archaeological dig conducted downtown. The site where a house, built in the early 1920's and deconstructed 10 years ago, was excavated as archaeologist Jeff Moates looked for clues as to who the original owner of the home might have been.

The artifacts discovered Saturday will be part of historical display about the property and home. Eventually, the display will become a part of the Zephyrhills Historical Association's collection. First however, after the artifacts are carefully cleaned and preserved, they will be offered as a traveling presentation available to teachers and schools, said Main Street Director Brenda Welcher.

A sea of tie-died t-shirts and peace sign necklaces also filled the downtown district as residents showed up in force to celebrate the occasion.

"This was such a fun, fun theme," said Welcher. "It was just so energetic and fun."

The judges who decided which floats would receive top prizes, noticed that the audience members were just as involved as the parade participants.

"There was all kinds of singing and dancing going on," she said. "That made it stand out even more this year."

The community is an integral part of making Founder's Day a special event, Welcher said.

"We would never be able to do a parade like this without everyone working so hard to come up with the floats," she said, adding a word of thanks to all that participated.

Next year, Main Street Zephyrhills, the organizer of the annual event, will celebrate the city's centennial. The dig at the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Eighth Street will be expanded to celebrate Zephyrhills' 100th Birthday, Welcher said.

Founder's Day winners 2009 include:

- Business:**
Winner: Technicolor Horse Farm
Runner Up: Hernando Pasco Hospice
- Mobile Home/RV Park:**
Winner Baker Acres
Runner Up: Happy Days
- Misc. Car/Truck:**
Winner: Uncle Sam
Runner Up: Emerald Pointe Cruisers
- Club Entry:**
Winner: Sons of Confederate Veterans, General Jubal A. Early Camp No. 566 & Augusta Jane Evans Wilson Cpt. No. 2640 United Daughters of the Confederacy
Runner Up: Tin Can Gypzees
- Marching/Walking:**
Winner: Stewart Middle School Band
Runner Up: Zephyrhills High School Band
- Display of Theme:**
Winner: Rainbow Village
Runner Up: Tin Can Gypzees
- Overall:**
Winner: Baker Acres
Runner Up: Happy Days



Tin Can Gypsies.



Baker's Acres float, with its launching space shuttle and mock VW van, took the Overall Winner prize this year at the annual Founder's Day parade. The theme was Dig It: The 60s in Zephyrhills.



The Rainbow Village float won the award for best displaying of theme.



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