

Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association

Volume 4, Issue 8

PAPHA Newsletter

August 2010

Descendants Making History From 'Uncle Teddy' down

The latest generation of descendants of Teddy Mathews came to the Port Aransas Museum recently to make a little history of their own.

The Farley boat, 'Manny' was built by the Farley and Sons Boat Building in 1940. It was created for fishing guide Capt. Teddy Mathews, one of the Port Aransas guides who took President Franklin D. Roosevelt fishing here in 1937 aboard another Farley boat owned

by Teddy, the 'Marcy', named after his daughter..

Capt. Mathews, also known as 'Uncle Teddy', fished in the 'Manny' for more than 30 years.

When Hurricane Celia threatened the island, Capt. Mathews pulled out the boat and lashed it to a trailer to ride out the storm. The force of the hurricane broke the lashings and rolled the boat several times, damaging it

heavily. It never saw the water again.

The wrecked boat then stood behind Capt. Ted's house for 40 years, waiting to be rescued.

The Port Aransas Museum salvaged and converted the stern section of the wrecked hull into an exhibit to teach visitors how these boats were built and used. The bow section is being preserved for future use.

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www.portaransasmuseum.org





Family Circle

Above from left are Clare Adams, Olivia Adams, Manny Mathews, Eric Mathews, Cassie Mathews, Bethany Mathews, Cas and Jenna Ward, Gus Adams, Katy and Janell Mathews. Below, Manny Mathews poses with his grandchildren and great-niece and great-nephew.



Family ————— Cont. from Page 1

Thanks to the creativity and skill of Herb Lancaster and his crew of wood workers, George Smith, Winston Powell and Joe Robles at Lancaster Industries, the 'Manny' has begun a new career.

Teddy and Verda had a daughter, Marcy Mathews Ward Thomas and a son, Fred 'Manny' Mathews, for whom the boat was named.

Marcy had two sons, Mathew Ward and Malcolm 'Macky' Ward. Macky is married to Nana, and they have two children, Jenna Ward (14) and Theodore 'Cas' Ward (10).

Manny and Rexana had two daughters and two sons, **Abigail Mathews**, Clare Adams and Hans and Lyle Mathews. Clare married to Rick, and they have two children, Gus (9) and Olivia (6). Hans married to Janell and have two daughters, Katy (9) and Cassie (3). Lyle married Carolyn and have a son, Eric (15) and a daughter, Bethany (9).

The great grandchildren made time to visit the Museum on Wednesday, Aug. 11. Manny came along with daughter, Clare and daughter-in-law, Janell.

All posed in the 'Manny' to record another 'historic' chapter of the Mathews family.

**Come See
our NEW
Sport
Fishing
Exhibit!**

**Port Aransas
Museum hours:
Thurs-Sat,
1-5pm**

**www.
portaransasmuseum
.org**

Braving the Storm: Two Hurricane Stories

(from the files of John Guthrie Ford)

Eva Rae Westmoreland (nee Mercer) and Marcy Mathews Ward Thomas (nee Mathews) wrote stirring papers about their hurricane experiences. Even in the reduced forms presented here, these women's accounts will sweep you into the fury of the storm.

EVA RAE: The 1945 Hurricane is not one to be easily forgotten. My Mother, Aunt Kate, and sister Tiny and I were staying at our old house on the Island.... We got Mama and went outside to board up the back kitchen window.... Mama and I were holding the kitchen window board while Tiny nailed away. Suddenly the wind caught this board and Mama and I went sailing across the backyard—stopped only by the garden fence.

When we went inside, Tiny and I... discovered that the east dormer window was about to blow in.... Tiny ran [for help]...so Fred Farley and Ben started coming with Tiny to our house. As they were running down the boardwalk, Tiny started to sail off to the north. The men each grabbed an arm and literally dragged her the rest of the way. [Fred and Ben boarded up all the dormers.] After they left, Tiny and I looked up at the attic ceiling and noticed the hatch leading out to the roof's old lookout platform was beginning to lift up about 3/4 inch.... That hatch kept lifting up ever so much more, and I knew if it went, hatch and I would still be orbiting the earth. I finally got a piece of rope through the hasp and tied it down.

We then went downstairs, and while Mama and Aunt Kate looked out at the storm, Tiny and I—and probably at least one cat—got on Kate's bed in the front bedroom. I'll never forget Tiny was reading "Lusty Winds for Caroline."

MARCY: (Marcy and her two sons went to the home of her father, Ted Mathews, to sit out 1970 Celia.) As the hurricane began to come in, Dad and I watched his big workshop leaning more and more as the minutes passed.... The

frame began to buckle and let the roof down in one gentle motion.... Mom kept busy wiping the mist off her furniture. I can't really remember the rain, only the air and mist swirling through the house.

Dad and Johnny [Ted's brother] were going room to room, one side of the house to the other, opening and closing windows to keep the air pressure equalized so the windows wouldn't explode or implode.... Uncle Johnny was having a beer for every window lowered or shut. He kept us all feeling better by saying, over and over, "By God, the wind is

beginning to lay; yes sir, it's beginning to lay." We put faith in those words! We suddenly heard a loud explosion through the roar of the wind; it was Dad's house trailer yielding to the fury of the wind.

As all good things come to an end, so do all bad things. The wind stopped and we stuck our heads out to see what was left. The damage to the Island had been horrendous.... I took out a SBA loan to pay for having my house repaired.... My carpenter was a fine ole boy, but had to stop often for a cool one during those hot months after Hurricane Celia.

Woodfin Donation Matched for Endowment

When PAPHA received the \$25,000 donation from Dr. Carol Woodfin in March, there was much discussion on how best to use it.

The PAPHA board decided match the donation and to keep the \$50,000 in a simple interest bearing account until such time as the financial situation improves.

At present if we make it a managed fund, the fees will outstrip the income. Thus it is a self managed endowment.

This endowment is wholly dedicated to the welfare of the Port Aransas Museum, managed by the PAPHA board of directors who are charged with preserving and growing the capitol and limiting expenditures to interest income only.



Mark it ... for you or someone else

Put your mark on Port Aransas with a paver or block on the Port Aransas Museum and Community Center walkways.

Those already installed are now easier to find thanks to the hard work of Museum Docent Gary Ramsey.

He developed a guide to assist in locating individual name bricks. Each of the three walkways containing the bricks, North, East and West, have been divided into sections which are marked. Names appearing on the bricks are indexed by surname followed by given

name and key to location indicates walkway-section-left, center, or right area of walkway.

For example, N-1-R indicates brick is located in the North walkway, section 1, on the right side. This will make finding your brick easier.

Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association PAPHA 4x8 Brick Paver Order Form

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association

PAVER INFORMATION

Enter up to three lines of inscription, with a maximum of 14 characters in each line.

PAVER #1

PAVER #2

No. of Pavers ordered at \$50 each: _____

Total amount sent: \$ _____ **Ck #** _____

Mail form & check to PAPHA, PO Box 677, Port Aransas, TX 78373

PAPHA Block Order Form

Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Line 4

Line 5

Line 6

Line 7

Line 8

Line 9

Line 10

Line 11

Line 12

No. of Blocks ordered at \$300 each: _____ Total order: \$ _____ Ck # _____

Mail form & check to PAPHA, PO Box 677, Port Aransas, TX 78373

Old Town Festival and Port A Centennial Celebration

Saturday, Oct. 16

Mark your Calendar NOW!

Old Town Festival will include a All-Day Museum Tours, Old Catholic Church Tours, Little Chapel on the Hill Tours, Parade, Historical Marker Dedication, Time Capsule Burial, Storytelling, Book Signings and shopping in the Community Center.

The morning Centennial Celebration will include a Boatmen's Centennial Fishing Tournament, Junior Boatmen Piggy Perch Contest, Bring your own Picnic, Westmuttster Dog Show and more. The Picnic will have old fashioned lemonade, popcorn, plant swap and old fashioned games to play. PACT will do something entertaining. After the Old Town Festival, the Galleries in Town will have their annual Port A Art About, where you can go from Gallery to Gallery enjoying local art.

*So come join us as we celebrate our birthday
... We'll have something for everyone!*

Have you lived through Port A times and have the stories you can tell or have ones passed down to you? If so, contact Old Town Festival Chairman Pam Greene, so we can include you in our storytelling during Old Town Festival. [361-443-4683 or [pamg@cityof portaras.org](mailto:pamg@cityofportaras.org)]

Also contact Pam for shopping in the Community Center info.