

Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association

Volume 5, Issue 3

PAPHA Newsletter

March 2011

Fundraiser Surpasses Last Year \$170,000 Total Raised

By Nancy Donley

The 3rd Annual Port A Museum Fundraiser held Saturday, March 5, was a rousing success.

Jane and Jerry Gnazzo, Boo and Meta Hausser trustees for the Museum started planning for the function a year ago, along with Port Aransas Museum Di-



PAPHA Founder
John Fucik



Jane Gnazzo

rector Rick Pratt and the PAPHAs board. All were pleased with the outcome.

It took a village, so to speak to pull this coup off.

Cheryl Cage of Coastal Closet and Patty Henry transformed the Community Center. All were abuzz that it had never looked so good. Centerpieces were all white with hydrangeas, gerber daisy's, roses and tulips.

Potters on Cotter made the custom napkin rings that were gifts to all that attended. The image of the Museum was stamped on fired and glazed pottery and tied around each napkin.

The Community Center Porch was enclosed and LED lights were hung by

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Clockwise in back from left, Nancy Donley, Sharon Stricker, Norris Stricker, Nancy Phillips

Pepper Pendzinski

One of the most popular extras the Museum offers is a Little Chapel on the Hill tour. Pepper's interesting guided tours are probably one of the major reasons for the popularity.

When Betty Bundy moved to San Antonio we were looking for a new Chapel Tour Person.

Luckily Pepper volunteered to take over the project. Since then no one else has had to worry about it. Pepper has handled the whole project and handled it with style.

For that reason Pepper was given for service, a special thank you gift, a painting of the chapel, painted by a fellow docent making it especially meaningful.

Thank you, thank you, for all you do for PAPHAs!

Museum Docents Appreciated

By Mary Hammond McKnight

Port Aransas Museum Docents were honored at an annual Docent Appreciation Dinner on Monday, Feb. 28. The volunteers were treated to a scrumptious private dinner at La Playa, where they socialized with

other docents and PAPHAs board members.

More than 3,500 guests visited the museum in 2010, with 28 docents putting in more than 1,238 hours, averaging 123 hours a month.

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Ode to Gary Ramsey

Some volunteers might be wary
Doing jobs that seem rather scary

But for a census of old
Or with bricks we are told
Neither job was too much for
our Gary.

Features of Karankawa Life[©]

John Guthrie Ford

The nomadic hunter/gatherers inhabiting the coast and fringe mainland from Galveston to Mustang Island were the Karankawa people. In this article, I give a glimpse of the culture and language of these original Mustang Islanders.

The Karankawa, the word means dog lover, lived in small bands of 40 or so, to include many coyote-like dogs. The band *Hálba* (chief) provided leadership, while the *Cona* (priest) sought favor of several deities, *Klos* (the sun) being one of them. Death brought various rituals, one being parents crying three times a day for an entire year at the passing of a male child.

Brides came from outside the groom's band. After matrimony, the woman lived in the man's band, and he was prohibited from communicating with his in-laws—probably to control interband

conflict (as in “Your daughter’s cooking tastes like rabbit scat”). The band’s most expert bowmen hunted *Gwylayra* (redfish) in the shallows—also where *Haitnloken* (turtles) were captured and butchered for their excellent meat.

The Karankawa wigwam was the *Ba-ak*, a domed structure of arching willow poles covered with animal hides. (As per a nomadic people, the *ba-ak* could be easily disassembled for transport.) The most prized Karankawa possession was the *Waheem*, the dugout canoe. Other than a means for migration, the *waheem* allowed food taking in the lagoons and sloughs behind the barrier islands—and the *waheem* made for a quick getaway from a boat-less enemy. Other important Karankawa chattel were the clay *Ca-an* (pots and bowls), the interiors of which were sealed with asphaltum, a tar-like

substance deposited on the beach.

Rigidly defined roles separated the genders. Women gathered grains and berries, prepared food, crafted *ca-an*, and physically moved the band. The men, quite attuned to fitness, ran and wrestled, and were the band hunters and warriors. The Karankawa “men’s club” was the *Mitote*, a ceremonial gathering focused on the drinking of an intoxicating substance brewed from the leaves of the yaupon tree. After a battle, a *mitote* might include ceremonial cannibalism, the eating of captives’ flesh as the ultimate revenge, or to incorporate the enemy’s strongest characteristic.

For reasons addressed in previous history columns, by 1860 these native coastal Texans had become extinct as a people.

[J. Guthrie Ford, Ph.D., is a recognized local history scholar and award winning writer of heritage literature. His book, A Texas Island, is offered at the Port Aransas Museum.]

A note from your board president, Nancy Phillips

Everyone is excited about the large amount of money raised at our annual fundraising dinner and auction held on March 5, as I am. But even more impressive was the amount of enthusiasm

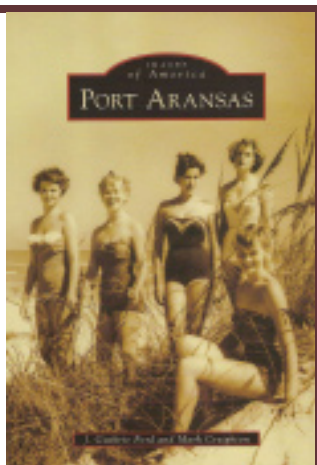
for our organization and the projects we are currently doing and also planning for the future.

The Farley Boat Works building acquisition and plans for future use sparked an intense interest from many attending the dinner. Board members at the March 7 board meeting acknowledged that we have a huge task in front of us, even though it will be exciting and fun.

Volunteers are needed for all phases of our new project and for other projects already in the works. Even if you are one of those who are not in town all the time but want to do your part, please call the museum or one of our board members to visit about the possibilities.

Current board members are: Bruce Reynolds, Mary Hammond-McK-night, Pat Farley, Rick Pratt, John Fucik, John Guthrie Ford, Nancy Donley, Kristi Goldston, Mark Creighton, Herb Lancaster, Christina Milligan, Chris Shanklin and Nancy Phillips.

“Images of America:
Port Aransas Texas”



Loaded with wonderful photos of our town and island from the past 120 years, all captioned and put into context. Purchase at the Port Aransas Museum or online at www.amazon.com.

Ever wonder what has happened in the short history of the Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association? Peruse back issues of the newsletter and see. Go to our website, www.portaransasmuseum.org, click on Newsletter for back issues. [Count the mistakes for the coveted prize of being the most observant (yeah, that's it) ... Editor, Pam Greene]

Out with the Old, In with the New...

A new Docent Coordinator has been named for the Port Aransas Museum. Karen Larsen has taken over from Mary Hammond-McKnight, who has become a board member and treasurer.

Here's a little bit about Karen. In her own words, she's been married to the same man, Ken, for a long, long time. They have three grown children and four grandchildren. They have lived permanently in Port A for five years and she has been involved with the docent program almost from the beginning.

Karen has been named the "Docent with the most questions" by Museum Director Rick Pratt.

Karen will have an open door policy with the docents and has contacted them to make this known, making sure they know her email and phone numbers.

We welcome Karen to the new position and look forward to a smooth transition and more dedicated work from the docents and the new coordinator.

You may contact Karen at docentspapha@yahoo.com for docent related questions.

Karen also had a few

2011 Old Town Festival
Plan now to attend this event set for **Oct. 15**
Plan for an all day long fun time!
Same day as the **Port A ArtAbout**

thoughts to add on the Docent Appreciation Dinner.

"I'm so pleased the PAPHA board does this each year. These volunteers give up their time and life to help make sure the Museum succeeds and need to be acknowledged. I am honored to take over the reins from Mary, who has done such a good job. I will work hard to live up to her standard.

I also want to commend the other docents we honored.

Pepper's guidance and organization as she took over when Betty Bundy moved away has made the Little Chapel on the Hill tours even more popular than before. We often have to turn people away.

Pepper Pendzinski also made all the skirts for docents who "dressed for the period" during our Centennial Celebration. The woman is multi-talented.

Gary Ramsey has been placing the bricks in the walkway for a while now and has even put together a booklet on where each brick is.

Bill Behrens was also thanked for all his computer help and being there at the opening of the museum when we were so busy in the winter.

[EDITOR'S Note: I'd like to give props to Pepper Pendzinski and Karen Larsen for running the Museum Docents Dinner Raffle for two years - not an easy task keeping all us docents out there selling. Thanks for the hard work!]

Bill Behrens

Which docent and super maintainer
Also serves as our video trainer
Who shoots the breeze
With professional ease
To guess Bill B. is an easy no brainer.

'Docents'

Cont. from page 1

The docents performed many duties, including:

- hosting two receptions
- hosting the lecture series wine and

cheese (Arlene Hughes, Barbara Behrens & Cecilya Ramsey)

- organizing and platting the brick pavers
- researching 1910 census
- producing a childrens coloring book (again Arlene Hughes, "What would we do without you!")
- balancing the daily sales reports every week (Linda Zahn - "Thanks for keeping us straight!")

Other top docents were recognized:

Pepper Pendzinski was the docent with the most volunteer hours, 238. She also was recognized for her work with the Little Chapel on the Hill tours.

Gary Ramsey put in more than 128 hours as a docent, working on the bricks and the census.

Bill Behrens put in more than 129 hours; he keeps the TV monitors running, and trains the docents on use of the computers and monitors.

Leila Northrup put in 126 hours; Karen Larsen put in 124 hours; Ann Tosato put in 78 hours and Joyce Williams put in 78 hours of service.



PAPHA files

Henry Studeman's Delmar Yacht Basin, Shorty Smith

'FUNDRAISER'

Cont. from page 1

Mark Creighton and his crew. Cameron Pratt from Port A Gallery took on the challenge of organizing silent auction which was held on the porch prior to dinner. Value Bank helped at the pay table.



Clockwise from left, Georgie Creighton, Nancy Phillips, John Fucik, Bruce and Cathy Reynolds, Betty Bundy



Clockwise from left, Matt Landry, Kim Zahn, Mark Winton, Margaret and John Price, Marvin Murray, Jane Krone



Clockwise from left, Dick and Gail Ocker, Shirlee and Paul Page, Judy and Tim Bolner.



Silent Auction on the porch

David Gillette and Mark Creighton helped with acoustics inside the center and the ladies at Joanna Fabrics were amazed at the yards of polyfill two men purchased to use behind the fabric draped walls to help absorb the sound. It worked too!

Wonderful surf and turf by Miss K Catering and Gourmet Food.

Kelly Bloomfield provided great bar service



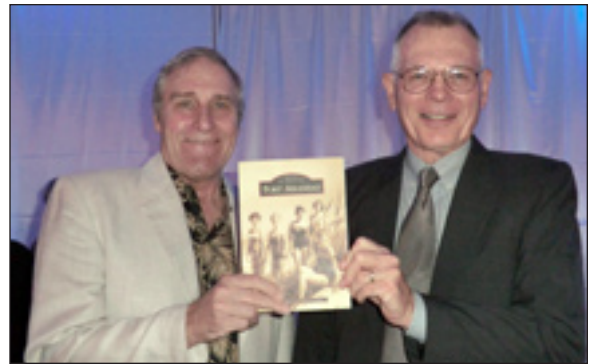
Carol Woodfin, Mary Cay and Tom Woodfin



Tony Amos, Kristi Goldston



Susan Fenner and Luke Dailey



Dr. Guthrie Ford and Mark Creighton, Coauthors of "Images of America: Port Aransas"

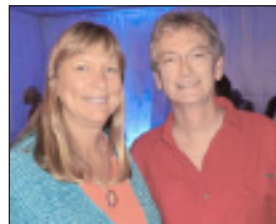
Pete Hartje provided audio services.

Silent, Live and Speed auctions plus table sales all brought in more than \$120,000.

Live auction items included everything from a 10-day stay at a gorgeous beach resort in Croatia, an incredible beach painting from Flint Reed to a Chuck Wagon dinner for 20 couples at The Tarpon Inn and much, much more.



Georgie Creighton, Dr. Guthrie Ford



Lu Ann Ferguson, Randy Johns



Carolyn Grosse, Marlene Urban

Joe Adams was our auctioneer from Cuero, and his wit kept the evening lively and all attendees laughing.

The speed auction focused on raising funds for the new Farley Boat Building PAPHA purchased in January. We also raised money for the purchase of the last remodeled Farley boat that will reside in the Farley Boat Works building.

Right before the auction began two private individuals challenged PAPHA with a \$50,000 matching donation for the Farley Boat Works building if we were able to raise \$50,000 during the auction.

Mission accomplished!! Total amount raised was more than \$170,000!!

Just wait for next year!!

Nancy Donley



Joe Adams, Herb Lancaster

as the fry always come in my rush season, I have no time to attend to them, much to my regret. One angler reported eight fish in two days, none over ten inches long and none under seven and a half inches long. The longest I have seen from the Platte was just under fourteen inches; the largest I ever caught was just over eighteen inches and weighed one pound and fourteen ounces several hours after it was caught.

Florissant, Colo.

S. Fitzarth.

TARPON CLUB NEWS

THE Aransas Pass Tarpon Club, of Tarpon, Texas, founded in 1907, is still in existence and very prosperous. It held its annual meeting at Tarpon, Texas, on June 7, 1909, and the following officers were elected: President, A. W. Hooper; first vice-president, L. G. Murphy; second vice-president, H. Wilcox; third vice-president, W. E. Jones; secretary and treasurer, J. E. Cotter; corresponding secretary, J. E. Pflueger; directors, Messrs. Hooper, Murphy, Wilcox, Jones, Cotter, Pflueger, Leach and Streeter. The directors decided to modify the conditions under which prizes are given, and the following rule was adopted: Mutilation of a fish by a shark, which, in the judgment of the measuring committee, does not interfere with its accurate measurement will not be held against the angler. The other change was extending the tournament season for the awarding of prizes, after this year, to December 1st. The interest shown by anglers of this and other countries is manifested by the effort made to secure the prizes awarded by the club under the light tackle rules. Up to June 9th, 280 tarpon had been taken, of which number 121 were landed on light tackle, and the number of rods taking these fish was twenty.

Mr. Hooper has been at Aransas Pass for the last three weeks, during which time he landed forty-seven tarpon on the regulation light tackle, which, for number, places him as the world's champion in this class. L. G. Murphy was successful in landing on light tackle a tarpon measuring six feet six inches, and accomplished the same in two hours, during which time the fish was followed three miles. Mr. Murphy has the honor of breaking all records for size of fish taken on light tackle up to this time, and the achievement is certainly wonderful. Mr. Streeter likewise was successful in getting a liberal share of tarpon on light tackle. Among his catch were fish measuring five feet nine and one-half inches, five feet, four feet eleven inches, four feet six inches.

The present season at Aransas Pass excels

all other seasons, the accommodations are excellent and prices reasonable. It might be of interest to anglers generally to know how to get to Aransas Pass and how to make arrangements before going, and for their benefit I will say that if they will address J. E. Cotter, Tarpon, Texas, he will give them all information necessary and provide every arrangement which will insure a successful fishing trip. The tarpon are so plentiful that it will be practically impossible for any one, no matter how inexperienced, to fail landing this most gamy fish. A. L. Beebec, president of the Catalina Light Tackle Club, secured a silver button membership by landing a tarpon five feet and one-half inch long on light tackle. Noted anglers from all over the world have come, and are arranging to come, to Aransas Pass, and none have regretted the time and expense. The satisfaction in landing a tarpon is well worth the price. The sensation is simply indescribable.

Akron, Ohio. J. E. Pflueger, Cor. Sec.

NEW BOOKS

(The books noticed in this department will be supplied by "Field and Stream" upon receipt of publisher's advertised price.)

THE STORY OF THE GREAT LAKES. By Edward Channing and Marion Florence Lansing. The Macmillan Company, New York. The five great lakes and their outlet to the ocean, the St. Lawrence River, formed an open thoroughfare to that vast scope of the Western Continent which first offered wealth to the individual adventurer. A Pizarro or a Cortez with an armed troop at his heels might loot the treasure houses of Inca or Aztec, but the riches of the Northland were to be had through barter with its redskin hunters and trappers—a commerce enormously profitable to the hardy and tactful trader, and safe enough until rival nations commenced battling for its control. Jesuit missionaries found their way westward, from tribe to tribe, to the far shores of Lake Superior, but preceding them was the renown of the white man who had wonderful things to exchange for the furs of beaver and otter. The first war between white opponents in America was for control of these St. Lawrence waters, and it required a century of bloodletting to settle the dispute. From that summer day in 1615 when Champlain paddled out of the mouth of French River into Lake Huron, until "Mad Anthony" Wayne's successful campaign against England's red allies in 1794, the Indian tribes of the great lake region were an almost constant menace to white explorers, traders and settlers, and with ample excuse, for they