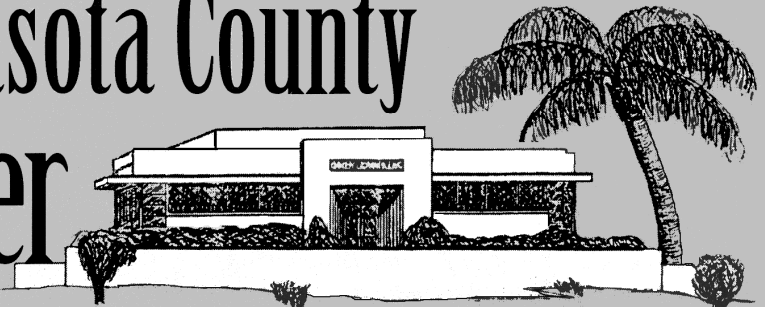


Friends of Sarasota County History Center



Vol. 3 No. 1

www.foschs.org

Jan-Feb-Mar 2009

A vintage-style poster with a yellow background. At the top, it reads "The Friends of the Sarasota County History Center invite you to" in a cursive font. Below this is "SAVE THE DATE!" in large, bold, red letters. Underneath is "SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER MUSEUM Grand Opening" in a serif font. The date "March 20, 2009" is written in a cursive font. The background features a faint map of Sarasota County and a black and white photograph of a man in a military uniform, identified as Sir John Hamilton Gillespie. There are also some decorative elements like a golf club and a calendar grid.

President's Message

All welcome to 2009! Strange, isn't it; the older you get, your body clock runs slower, but time flies faster. This past year has been one of "cuts, cuts, cuts" at the History Center. Fortunately it continues to function.

In November of 2007 a H.C. Transition Committee was formed. Now, that has morphed into the Blue Ribbon Committee. They are still trying to figure how to reduce expenses without reducing services. IT IS A DILEMMA.

As for previous activities the Friends did provide a reception for the Historic Designation Plaque Presentation in May and a reception for the Florida Association of Archivists in June.

This past year I attended three historic marker dedications. In 2001 I was on the marker

committee and learned that it usually takes up to two years from start to finish. The markers are prized by their hosts. The Friends treasury has \$3,000 in escrow for the marker program.

Next on our social schedule is the Grand Opening reception for the Sarasota County History Center Museum on March 20, 2009 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Chidsey building, 701 No. Tamiami Trail. Admission is by invitation only and since the Friends treasury is footing the bill, our members are invited. This is the only notice you will receive. Please RSVP to rsvp@foschc.org or phone 366-0787, by March 5th. Check out BLAB-TV 21 (Comcast) 2nd & 4th Friday at 8 p.m. for the Coalition report. Don't forget election of officers and board members, February 25, 5:30 p.m. at the History Center, 6062 Porter Way. Punch & cookies will be provided.

See you there, Pete

Notice of Annual Meeting

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Friends of Sarasota County History Center, Article V, Section 1, notice is hereby given for the annual meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at the Sarasota History Center located at 6062 Porter Way, Sarasota, Florida.

The following slate of officers has been proposed by the Nominating Committee:

President: G.I. "Pete" Esthus, Vice President: Arnold Berns, Secretary: Diane Esthus, Treasurer: Hope Black

Directors: June Benowitz, Marshall K. DuBois, Linda Greaves, Dick Jackson, Larry Kelleher, Nathalie McCulloch, Curran Smith, Sue Tharp and Deborah Walk.

Volunteers Make It Happen!

Did you know that the word *volunteer* comes from the Latin *voluntarius* which means "free will?" A volunteer is someone who donates his/her time because they choose to do so. We are sincerely grateful to the following volunteers who *make a difference* to the History Center. We couldn't do it without them:

Dana Chapdelain
Gustave Dubbs
Charlotte Feltyberger
Sue Holt
Pat Moberg
Betty Nugent
Florence Rye
Warren Tittle
Ed Hoyt.

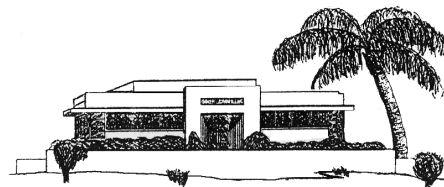
If you wish to join this distinguished group for just two hours a week and be a part of saving the past for future generations, please call Hope Black at 861-6090, 360-3045 or email her at hblack04@aol.com. We'll be delighted to meet you.

It's Renewal Time!

It's membership renewal time again and with our sliding economy, our help is more important than ever to keep the History Center alive and well. If you haven't gotten a renewal form in the mail, there is a form on the back of this newsletter and we hope you will join us in preserving Sarasota's past for the next generations. Our sincere thanks to all of you that have already renewed. Your gift helps us help the Center.

For added convenience you can renew and/or donate online at our website: www.foschc.org

Your membership and donations go a long way in augmenting the activities of the History Center. You're also invited to attend our Board Meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 4:30 pm at the History Center on Porter Way.



FRIENDS OF THE SARASOTA COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

6062 Porter Way
Sarasota, FL 34232

Diane Esthus, Editor
Marshall K DuBois, Publisher

Board of Directors

President: George I. "Pete" Esthus
Vice President: Deborah Walk
Secretary: Diane Esthus
Treasurer: Hope Black

Directors:

June Benowitz	Dick Jackson
Elmer Berkel	Larry Kelleher
Arnie Berns	Nathalie McCulloch
Marshall K. DuBois	Curran Smith
Linda Greaves	Sue Tharp

I Remember... The Best Burgers In Sarasota

by Marshall K. DuBois

Although my grandparents bought property in mid-Sarasota in 1927, my family didn't become full-time residents until 1949. Both my grandfather and my father were butchers by trade which made them "unofficial" critics of beef. Back then, it wasn't unusual for butcher shops to prepare an entrée ready for the busy housewife to take home and pop in the oven. And, of course butchers made hamburger patties seasoned and sized to any family's budget and appetite.

In mid-50's Sarasota there were, in my humble opinion, four places to find succulent, juicy, cooked to your desired taste hamburgers. Perhaps you'll remember them.

Beachcomber Restaurant (1953)

7452 North Trail at the airport. A side-of-the-road place where you could sit on tall bar stools in the open air and enjoy one of the largest hamburgers you've ever seen. They were served on what we called a "bread" plate... larger than a saucer, smaller than a dinner plate which seemed to enhance the massive size of the burger which hung out over the bun at least one full inch all the way around. I can't recall what sides came with it but I do remember I could never finish the meal and always brought some home for tomorrow's lunch.

SMACK (Late 40's)

Main & Osprey Ave, current location of SunTrust
One of the most popular locations during the 40's and 50's, their hamburgers were equally as popular. Smack burgers came with fries which were also the best in the area. Better than McDonalds... honest!

Big Mug (1955)

4440 South Trail near the present day 'The Landings'. In addition to their great hamburgers, the "Mug" was known for the best root beer south of Bee Ridge Road. Back then, despite the fact that its location was "halfway to Venice", the Big Mug maintained its popularity throughout the 50's and 60's. Driving "down" to the Big Mug was a literal term as the restaurant was built about 3 feet lower than the crown of US 41.

Hob Nob Restaurant (1956)

1701 North Washington Blvd.

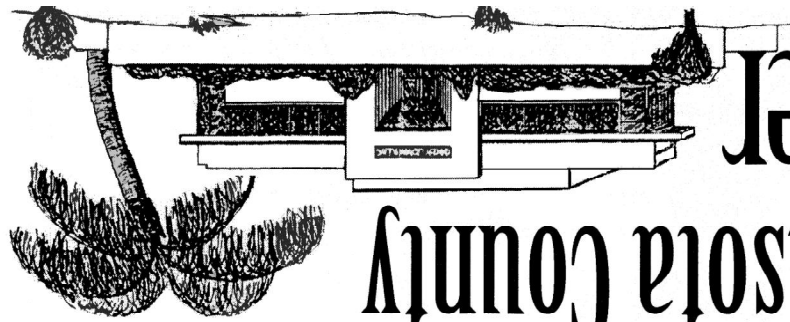
The Hob Nob is the only restaurant, of the four mentioned here, which remains in business today.

When built, the structure looked very, very similar to the Big Mug. You could almost tell by the building that was their principal function back then... serve 'burgers and suds', slang for hamburgers and root beer. If you were to visit the restaurant today, you'd find the original building, pretty much as it was on Opening Day. An awning has been added to the front and side to provide clientele protection from the heat and cold but it remains principally an 'open air' business. They do have clear, roll down vinyl curtains for the really inclement days.

Although there isn't curbside service any longer, their business plan seems to be simple: "Good food, good service, good price". Local's have embraced that plan for 53 years. Not a bad track record. You can read more about burgers at Pete Esthus' blog at www.sarasotahistoryalive.com

On any typical afternoon you'll find the Hob Nob busy feeding Sarasota's just as they've been doing for 53 years!





Friends of Sarasota County History Center

Friends of Sarasota County History Center
6062 Porter Way
Sarasota, Fl. 34232



Annual Membership Categories

Individual	Family	Organization	Corporation
\$20	\$30	\$100	\$250
Patron	Benefactor	Individual Lifetime	Student
\$50-99	\$100-500	\$250	\$10

Please detach and return to:
The Friends of the Sarasota County History Center
6062 Porter Way - Sarasota, FL 34232

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-Mail _____

Membership Category: _____

I am interested in volunteering _____

Renew (painlessly) online with your credit card! www.foschc.org