

ARCHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Whistle Stop News

Museum News

Several years ago Ann Green, Mary Bennet and I attended a meeting held by 'Central Florida Museum Group.' The speaker stressed '*All museums large or small have the same challenges.*' One of the most difficult one is to keep the museum moving forward. Small increments or large doesn't matter forward is the key. AHS should be proud of its many accomplishments, recently and in the recent past.

Repairs: We are always in the process of repairing and preserving the Museum for the future. There have been many upgrades including electrical, lighting inside and out. Window repair with UV protection for the ticket office exhibits. Most recently the side porch to the ticket office has been removed for safety and easier access to the Museum.



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ARCHER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 21 7PM

United Methodist Church 17121 SW 137th Lane

We are pleased to announce that Henry Sheldon, past president of the Archer Historical Society will present the program at our Regular Monthly Meeting. His talk will be a "Look Back" on the Vietnam War including "how and why" we (the US) got there.

He will include his experiences as a 1LT. Combat Engineer and a brief look back on his families' military history that influenced him to become a soldier.

The presentation highlights our "Better Angles" that have inspired our former enemies to become our friends and allies. His program is at 7pm and will be followed with the monthly business meeting. All are welcome. If you know someone that served in the VW, please invite them to come with you.

SEED LIBRARY

We are happy to have an addition to the Depot grounds. 'Seed Library' Constructed and placed by Girl Scout Troop 1147. A very big thank you goes out to them.



Whistle Stop News Content

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- T. Gilbert Pearson, Birdman of Archer by Bill Zettler PhD (pg 3)
- Newsletter Linda McMahon
- Editor Ann Green

A not for profit 501 (c) (3) Florida Tax Exempt Organization

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Museum News continued from page 1**Floor Replacement:**

Over 3 years ago a large portion of the Ticket Office floor was replaced with funds from Sponsors/local businesses of our Art at the Depot events along with contributions from members and friends. We are again thrilled having received a grant of \$2500, from CSX to be used for replacing floor on the west end of the warehouse. Thanks goes to our hard working Grant Team, Shellie Banfield, Tillie Davis, Ann Green and Linda McMahon procuring this gift.

The west end flooring is over 150 years old. It is testament to the original builders in their skills. A saw-mill will be cutting down the trees (Loblolly a species of pine tree) donated by Cale and Tom Batey, necessary for this project in the nearby woods of Archer.

A unique and rare happening. Not many museums can have this bragging right.

The wood will be cured for several months and during that time the floor will be made level to receive the new flooring. Our Project Manager for this endeavor is AHS member Jim Voss who has extensive knowledge and experience in doing woodwork. Until this area is repaired we cannot have exhibits nor visitors in this large portion of space.

We then can start moving on too many new projects to help educate the visitors of the fascinating history of Archer and its people and the surrounding areas.

Donations:

Dr. and Mrs. Zettler have recently donated several dozen historical books from their private library to AHS.

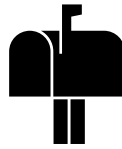
Brenna Lee our museum curator will be adding these books to our library which will be available to the public.

One amazing book donated was authored by T. Gilbert Pearson a founder of the Florida Audubon Society. He lived in Archer where his house is still standing and the street named after him 'Pearson.' Carol and Bill Zettler are a joy to be around and has helped AHS grow and keep growing. We thank them for this and many other donations they have so generously given in the past.

Dr. Bill Zettler has contributed numerous articles to this newsletter along with many lectures for our monthly meetings.

He also authored "Archer, Florida the Ghost Town That Didn't Die". To our delight he has recently turned his copy rights of this fascinating book of Archer. We can't thank him enough.

They are available at the ticket office for purchase. (And several copy's are now being enjoyed in England.) *see letter below*



Dear Mr. White,
What a wonderful letter. We thank you and your family for contributing to our museum and so happy you had such a good time. We look forward to your next visit.

On behalf of AHS
Linda McMahon: President

Dear AHS

A big thank you to those who so warmly welcomed us to the Depot and Farmers' Market on Tuesday 14th March. It was so good, along with reading "The Ghost Town That Didn't Die" on the main flight back home, that I'm already planning a walk around Archer next time we're over. I have signed our Gainesville family up for AHS membership.

Among the poems I wrote during "Spring Break in Florida" was the one about Archer, below. I also made it central to an article (attached) for our church newsletter, which is now in circulation.

**Thanks again,
Bob White
Isle of Wight
UK**

ARCHER

If the train rolled in after 80 years since abandonment,
It couldn't have felt more welcome than our family group.

Far beyond Bo Diddley, with respect for his residency,

We came to see this testament to railroad history,

With a way to go but still right on track and confident.

Step down and don't let immediate appearances deceive;

A rich seam of fascination will reward the earnest seeker of past glory. Listen to the story, see how present tense displays community, Imagine what might be if fortune favours tenacity,

And welcoming the stranger because the townsfolk dare to believe.

by Bob White

T. Gilbert Pearson The Birdman of Archer

by Bill Zettler PhD

One of the National Audubon Society's founders, Thomas Gilbert Pearson, a native of Indiana, resided in Archer nine years before enrolling in Guilford College in North Carolina. It was in Archer that Pearson began his life-long interest in Birds. Skilled as a taxidermist and plume hunter as a youth, he subsidized his college education at Gilbert by selling his extensive collection.



Much of his work was undertaken during the Victorian Era, note worthy of ostentatious plume worth their weight in gold. The resale was carnage by rapacious hunters, who brought many once common species such as the Snowy Egret to the the

brink of extinction.

After graduation from college, Pearson became an ardent conservationist, instrumental in forming the Audubon Society. Spear headed by this organization, public opinion slowly began to change about plume hunting.

A tipping point for many came when some plume hunters in Florida murdered two Audubon game wardens.

Despite the best efforts of ornithologists, some species such as the Carolina Parakeet and the Passenger Pigeon vanished; but many other species endured, however, and are now on the mend thanks in large part to the prescient efforts of Archer's own Thomas Gilbert Pearson and his colleagues.



This is just one of the many articles written by Bill Zettler that can be found in his booklet 'Archer, Florida The Ghost Town that Didn't Die'.

Farmer's Market



The Farmers Market is going very well. Thanks to the help of Ann Green, Diane Bjornseth, Jonny Nelson, Hannah Peterson, Anastasia Overton, Pam

Schofield and many more for all their work.

Awareness of our market has increased over the past year. Soon winter crops will be available.

We also welcome hand made arts and crafts. Our vendor costs are minimal so that these artists are able to sell their wares over several weeks rather than a day or two.

Several vendors surprised us with pets for sale including geese, rabbits and even a miniature pig.

We will be having live music at our special events.

You never know so come by and enjoy it all.

Every Tuesday 3-7pm. rain or shine.





Porta Potties
Call Darla 352.317.2527
darla@belzseptic.com

THANK YOU

We would like to recognize **Darla Eberst** who has helped us since the conception of the Farmer's Market. The Market could not have been possible without her help. She has supplied without cost a Porta Pottie for guest and vendors for past year.. AHS cannot thank her enough.



Rafael Vallanueva
rgraphics@live.com



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We thank Shaun Willis owner of the Mustang Grill for the continued supply of water during our Fourth of July Event. Also Anastasia Overton for help in setting this up.

If you would like to share a picture please contact us. We would love to a make a duplicate for our files and share them with the people of Archer and surrounding communities.

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Call Linda 352.374.8240



Archer Historical Society
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