

From the Archives With Johnny Woodhouse

Charlie Holbert was having dinner with his wife and two young sons on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1967, when he first heard the roar of an approaching airplane flying dangerously low over his home in the Ocean Forest section of Jacksonville Beach.

The Southern Bell traffic engineer ran outside just in time to catch a fleeting glimpse of a U.S. Navy plane struggling to stay aloft in the rapidly disappearing daylight. Holbert's three-bedroom house was within easy walking distance of the Intracoastal Waterway where the crippled plane seemed to be heading. Seconds later, he heard "the sickening sound" of the plane crashing into the nearby mud flats.



Seconds earlier, the aircraft had collided with a Navy jet that had lost radio contact with its Mayport-based aircraft carrier, the USS Shangri-La. The mid-air collision, which occurred around 6:30 p.m., took the lives of six servicemen: five in the patrol plane and one in the F-8 Crusader jet. Many believe the 30-year-old pilot, Lt. Michael P. Myers, deliberately ditched his aircraft into the river to avoid any collateral damage on the ground.

After clipping the tail section of Myers' plane, which was headed south to NAS Jacksonville, the Navy jet plunged into the Intracoastal, its lone occupant, Lt. (j.g.) Mark E. Garrett of Light Photographic Squadron 82 of NAS Cecil Field, still strapped into the cockpit. An airman permanently assigned to Myers' plane gave up his seat on the twin-engine turbo-

prop so 19-year-old Philip R. Huggins could get some flight time. Also killed were radioman Marion E. Young, 25, and Lt. Cmdr. R.H. Ford, 33, a Naval Reserve co-pilot on a two-week active-duty assignment. "It was a sad experience to see so many friends lost that day," recalled the airman whose life was spared.

Rush Abry, a well-known Beaches photographer, managed to capture the only image of the crash site after wading through chest-high water to reach a tiny island where the patrol plane crashed and burned upon impact. His stunning black-and-white photo of four first-responders straddling the plane's crumpled fuselage as a fire blazes behind them won a state press award for on-the-spot photography.

Abry's waterfront home in Jacksonville Beach overlooks the marsh and the scene of the crash. A few years ago, the widow of Charles M. McLarty, a 26-year-old crewman on the aircraft, traveled to Jacksonville Beach to pay homage to her late husband. She and Abry posed for a picture on the back patio of Abry's home with the island hauntingly looming in the background. Shortly after the tragic accident, Sheila McLarty (now Moore) and Lt. Myers' widow, Jeanne Hand, invited Lt. Garrett's widow, Linda, to dinner. Each had suffered a tremendous loss, but their friendship didn't suffer because of it. Recalled Hand 45 years later: "I wanted Linda to know that we were not upset with her, and that there were no hard feelings."

News from Archives & Collections

The historical collection of the Beaches Museum is constantly growing with new artifacts, information, and photographs to preserve our area's unique and exciting history.

The Beaches Museum would like to thank Mr. Tom Dumas and Mr. Lyman Fletcher for donating their collection of invaluable documents and photographs pertaining to the creation of the Dutton Island Preserve in Atlantic Beach. World War II ration books from Pat & Bob Neihaus and Mr. Jerry Walker are also two wonderful additions to the Beaches Museum Collections. Thank you to those who continue to contribute to our collection of the rich history of the Beaches communities.

Beaches Art Fest

The Beaches Art Fest, is a juried art and fine craft event consisting of outstanding artists and craftsmen from around the country. The jury committee carefully selects only the best work in each category assuring a well-rounded quality art and fine craft festival.

Attendees will find everything from exquisite jewelry to funky and functional pottery, abstract sculpture to glistening glass, hand-woven fashions to stunning photography, extraordinary paintings to wonderful wood carvings; this is an art fest not to be missed.

4TH ANNUAL The Beaches ART FEST



OCTOBER 14-15, 2017

SPONSORED BY BEACHES MUSEUM

Saturday, 10am-5pm
Sunday, 10am-4pm
Pablo Avenue, Jacksonville Beach
www.thebeachesartfest.com

Stretching two city blocks, Pablo Avenue will become an extraordinary outdoor art gallery highlighting the true stars of the event; the artists. Each is available to discuss their work, share their stories and answer your questions. This is the perfect opportunity to explore a wonderful palette of diverse artwork. It is going to be a great event with something for everyone!

Beach Cruisers

The Beaches Museum recently partnered with the Rhoda L. Martin Cultural Heritage Center to provide an insightful look into the life of an impactful member of the early Beaches community.

The Center showcases the rich cultural history of the African American educational experience in Jacksonville Beach. On August 31, Beaches Museum volunteers were treated to a fascinating narrative of Rhoda L. Martin's life, work in the community, and the school house built in 1939 during their afternoon field trip.



Later that evening, the Beaches Museum Young Professional Group, the Beach Cruisers, gathered for History Happy Hour at the Center where they too learned about Rhoda L. Martin's history in addition to collecting school supplies to benefit elementary school students in the community.

This was a full day of education for Beaches Museum groups and another step in a partnership between the Museum and the Center which will serve to strengthen our understanding of those who helped found this wonderful area.

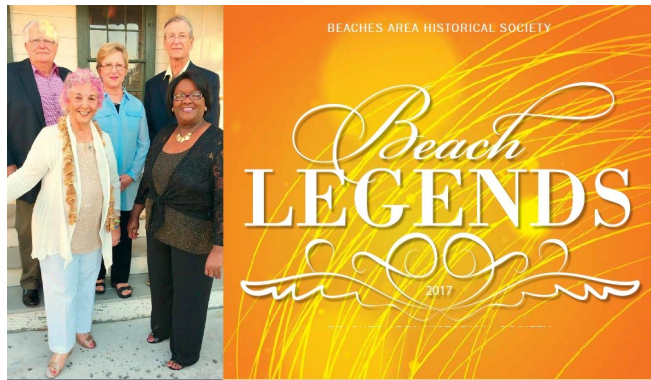
Dedication in Honor of Don Mabry

The Beaches Museum & History Park will dedicate our Reading Room in memory of Dr. Don Mabry Saturday, October 7 at 10 a.m. with a reception to follow.

In addition to being an invaluable source of local history, Don was a dear friend to the Museum who made immeasurable contributions to our story.

If you would like to donate to the Museum in Don's memory you may do so at www.beachesmuseum.org/donate/. Donated funds will be used to support the archives and collections of the Beaches Museum and the researchers, authors and historians who will use them as he did—to document and share the interesting and important stories of our past.

Please RSVP to director@beachesmuseum.org or call 904-241-5657 x 113.



2017 BEACHES LEGENDS

POLLY BOENEKE

Beginning in 1971 with 25 students at the Mayport Naval Station, Polly B has taught thousands of Beaches children, teens and adults the art of dance. She and husband Bob have grown their family run business into a thriving enterprise in Jacksonville Beach. Her students have won countless awards, performed at international venues, pursued professional careers and most of all, developed poise, character, and determination to be the best.

NANCY AND TOM BRONER

The Broner's have deep roots in the community. In fact, Nancy's parents started our local newspaper, the Beaches Leader. Dr. Tom Broner provided podiatry care in his private practice since 1977, was a leader in the medical community and recently went to work caring for veteran patients at the VA as his way of "giving back." As the manager of his medical practice, Nancy also found time to serve two terms on the Duval County School Board and currently leads OneJax. Together, they are volunteers, community leaders and trusted friends to many.

LILLIE SULLIVAN

As President of the Rhoda Martin Cultural Heritage Center, Lillie has been working for sixteen years to preserve a four room brick building in Jacksonville Beach — the home of a school founded in 1928 for African American children during Jacksonville's segregated past. Lillie has grown the Center and its services by working with churches, businesses, charitable organizations and private donors. Most recently, the Center has opened an early learning program for 33 neighborhood children, continuing the promise of knowledge as the road to success.

REV. JIM COOPER

Rev. Cooper and his wife Tay have returned to Ponte Vedra to retire in the community they love. As the former rector of Christ Episcopal Church, his leadership engaged his congregation in international service, local charitable initiatives and the growth of their church ministry. Rev. Cooper and members of his congregation laid the foundation for Vicar's Landing and other service organizations in the Beaches community.

2017 Beach Legends

The Beach Legends event features both live and silent auctions; the premier item in the live auction is a Pioneer Dinner for 12 at the Oesterreicher-McCormick Cabin on the grounds of the History Park. Guests will dine on recipes handed down through the family from the days of Thomas & Dorothea Oesterreicher and enjoy beer, wine, and if you're lucky, moonshine. Your chefs and hosts are the Oesterreicher and McCormick family members; music, fun, and an amazing party are ensured!

Other auction items include an incredible Dayto-

na 500 package, golf at renowned local courses such as Dye's Valley at TPC Sawgrass, and stays at phenomenal local hotels such as One Ocean. The auction will also feature artwork by extraordinary artists including Heather & Holly Blanton, Willie Meyers, Thomas Hager, Linda Olsen and Gary Mack. Beaches-area restaurants and shops including Ruth's Chris, Scout & Molly, Really Good Beer Stop, Orange Theory Fitness, Safe Harbor Seafood and many others have generously donated gift baskets, gift cards, and more!

Funds raised at this event will support the operation and programming of the Beaches Museum.

Thank you to this year's sponsors:

Presenting Sponsors

Walter Dickinson & Helen Coppedge

Landmark Sponsors

Maxwell & Edna Dickinson

Vicar's Landing

Preservation Sponsors

E.J. & Rob Taylor

Jack and Lori Schmidt

Jerry & Susan Miller

Baptist Medical Center-Beaches

Bill & Holly Hillegass

Christ Episcopal Church

Monument Sponsors

Ullman-Brown Wealth Advisors

Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute-Beaches Div

Icon Sponsors

Intrepid Capital • Bob & Suzanne Taylor

Fletcher Stein • Jean H. McCormick Family

Brower Financial Group • Frank & Mary Watson

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Z. Duke • JB Foundation

Fleet Landing • Richard & Hope Hana

Hastings & Jacqueline Williams

Rev. Jim & Tay Cooper • Dr. & Mrs. Kevin L. Neal

Clare Berry, Berry & Co. Real Estate

Swindell, Bohn, Durden & Phillips, PL

Supporting Sponsors

Frances King, King & Associates Insurance

Sawgrass Asset Management

Wedge Capital Management

Media Sponsor

The Beaches Leader and Ponte Vedra Leader

In-Kind Sponsors

MorganMackenzie (design)

Sight & Sound • Chao Framing

Deanne Dunlop Photography

Volunteer News

Beaches Museum volunteers have been taking full advantage of the Volunteer Field Trip Program! "Coordinating our volunteer staff is truly one of the best parts of my job," says Operations Manager Brittany Cohill. It is not hard to see why.

Over the summer, Brittany had the pleasure of accompanying volunteers to the Kingsley Plantation, on a walking tour of downtown Jacksonville, and to the Rhoda L. Martin Cultural Heritage Center. An enrichment experience for everyone involved, volunteers are not only expanding their knowledge of local history but also forging lasting friendships within the community. The Beaches Museum can't wait to see where they will go next! If you would like more information on how to become a Beaches Museum volunteer, please contact Brittany Cohill at info@beachmuseum.org.



The Beaches Museum is constantly improving the ways in which we present the area's distinct history. As part of this mission, Keith Baker and Brant Lambert worked hard to ensure the safety of guests as they enter the cab of our 1911 Steam Locomotive. After many hours of measuring, constructing, painting, and installing, the locomotive now boasts a more level flooring system. Keith's and Brant's attention to detail is to be commended as the system is fully removable and does not compromise the integrity of the original floor. Stop by the Museum to check out their handiwork!

Pictured at right: Keith Baker and Brant Lambert

Education



The Education Committee welcomes long-time Museum volunteer, Tim Keeley, to the team.

Tim brings over thirty years' experience teaching high school Social Studies with an emphasis on United States history and government. In addition, he designed

and taught coursework that challenged students to create their own museum-style exhibits on various topics such as the decades of the 20th century and U.S. presidents. His input will be invaluable as the committee tackles its latest project.

The Education Committee has begun work on the Museum's Traveling Trunk outreach program. Recognizing that field trips are few and far between for high school students, the committee endeavors to bring the Beaches Museum to the classroom. The Traveling Trunk will contain reproductions of photographs, artifacts, and documents that, along with supplemental materials, will tell the story of how our Beaches communities came to be. The Trunk will engage students through a number of critical thinking and creative exercises in order to spotlight local history as it reflects national trends.



Mineral City Exhibit

In 2017, Ponte Vedra Beach is a thriving, rich community internationally famous for its contributions to the world of golf.

However, only 100 years ago it was still a largely uninhabited swamp-filled area! This fall the Beaches Museum & History Park will recognize Ponte Vedra Beach's predecessor: Mineral City.



Filled with photographs that illustrate a virtually unrecognizable area, the exhibit will explore the life of this relatively short-lived community and its transition from mining minerals in the sand to playing host to world-class golf resorts and their celebrated visitors.

The exhibit will open on October 20, 2017 and run until February 4, 2018.

Special Thanks

A very special thank you to Barbara Womack for the beautiful panel she created which completes her mural in our Waiting for the Train exhibit. The mural can be found in the Upper Depot; it depicts the Beaches area as it would have been in the early 1900's and is an incredibly detailed backdrop to the working model train.

Thank you also to Bob Burch and Brant Lambert for their help in installing this final stage of the mural. Stop in to the Museum to see it for yourself!

Fall Concert Series Announced

The Beaches Museum and Lazzara Family Foundation announce the line-up for the 2017 Fall Chapel Concert Series which includes returning artists as well as acts new to the Chapel stage.

These acts boast an award winning musician and producer in the world's blues and roots music scene; a Nashville favorite and winner of the Charlie Daniels' Talent Roundup; and winners of top honors at Music Video Asheville.



- **Antsy McClain, September 25**
- **Victor Wainwright, October 30**
- **Jon Stickley Trio, November 20**
- **Celtic Christmas, December 18 (5 & 7 p.m.)**

Series tickets are available through September 25 at a cost of \$80 for all 4 concerts. Individual tickets are also available for each concert at a cost of \$25 in advance or \$30 day of the show. The Concert Series, held in the historic and intimate Beaches Museum Chapel, has boasted sold-out shows in the recent past.

To purchase tickets or for more information please visit www.BeachesMuseum.org or call 904-241-5657.

San Pablo Society

Thank you to all of our members, donors, and supporters. We would like to recognize those who have gone above and beyond by joining our San Pablo Society. This list represents a very dedicated group of supporters who not only give financially, but are also very involved in the events and activities of the Museum. THANK YOU for your generous donations of time, talent and treasure!

Historian

Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell Dickinson
Ms. Helen D. Coppedge
Mr. Walter D. Dickinson
Dr. & Mrs. Gasper Lazzara
Vicar's Landing

Mapmaker

Baptist Medical Center Beaches
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Hillegass
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Schmidt
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Taylor
Jean H. McCormick
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taylor
Mr. Robert Kastner
Mrs. Millie Mickler
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Miller
Christ Episcopal Church

Explorer

Dr. John G. Bordelon & Mr. Gerry Williamson
Mr. & Mrs. William Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Wainer
Mr. Philip N. Becton
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hana
Dr. & Mrs. Randy Hayes
Ms. Margie Horvath
Mr. & Mrs. Darby Brower
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Lanier
RADM & Mrs. Tim Jenkins

Board of Directors 2016-2017

Jack Schmidt	President
Michael Wainer	Vice President
Sam Hall	Treasurer
Brigetta Lamsback	Secretary

Bruce Barber	Neil McGuinness
Bill Carter	Susan Miller
Randy Hayes	Chris Shea
Brant Lambert	Noriko Stern
Linda Lanier	Dana Voiselle
Jacqueline Williams	

Emeritus Board Members

William G. Hillegass	Dr. Don Mabry
Jean H. McCormick	Dwight Wilson
Maxwell & Edna Dickinson	Rob & EJ Taylor



As the weather heads toward fall, it is a perfect time for a bike ride at the beach; and the Beaches Museum has a new bike rack!! Thank you **Rotary Club of Jacksonville-Oceanside** for the donation and installation of this beauty.

Staff

Christine Hoffman – Executive Director
Brittany Cohill - Museum Operations Manager
Sarah Jackson – Archives & Collections Manager
Barbara Neiser – Office Manager
Jennifer Krechowski - Membership & Marketing Manager



Museum Hours of Operation

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sunday

BEACHES MUSEUM & HISTORY PARK

BEACHES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
381 BEACH BOULEVARD, JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLORIDA 32250

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1515
Jacksonville, FL

Volume 39, Issue 2, Fall 2017

BEACHES TIDINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BEACHES MUSEUM & HISTORY PARK



**Mineral City
Page 2**



**Volunteer News
Page 3**



**Archives & Collections
Page 4**



**Beach Legends
Page 6**

Calendar

- September 9** Riding the Rails: Pablo Beach Train Day
- September 9** Boardwalk Talk: Jacksonville: Rail Gateway to Florida
- September 14** The Continental Hotel Historic Marker Unveiling
- September 22** 2017 Beach Legends
- September 25** Chapel Concert: Antsy McClain
- October 5** Cummer Beaches Lecture Series: Renaissance and Baroque Women Artists
- October 7** Reading Room Dedication for Don Mabry
- October 14 +15** Beaches Art Fest
- October 20** Exhibit Opening: Mineral City
- October 30** Chapel Concert: Victor Wainwright
- November 2** Cummer Beaches Lecture Series: 18th Century Women Artists
- November 12** Cemetery Tour with Johnny Woodhouse
- November 16** Boardwalk Talk: Mineral City
- November 20** Chapel Concert: Jon Stickley Trio

For more information, please visit www.BeachesMuseum.org or phone
904-241-5657

4TH ANNUAL The Beaches ART FEST



OCTOBER 14-15, 2017

SPONSORED BY

Saturday, 10am-5pm
Sunday, 10am-4pm
Pavia Avenue, Jacksonville Beach
www.thebeachesartfest.com

**Beaches Art Fest
Page 5**