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.

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 Nehaus and Mr. Jerry Walker are also two wonderful additions to our collection of invaluable documents and photographs to preserve our area’s unique and exciting history.

The 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.

Dedication in Honor of Don Mabry

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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.

Please RSVP to director@beachesmuseum.org or call 904-241-5657 x 113.
Other auction items include an incredible Daytona 500 package, golf of 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, Will Swindell, Bohn, Durden & Phillips, PL Morgan Mackenzie (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@beachesmuseum.org.

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 lineup 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
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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

Emeritus Board Members

William G. Hillegass
Jean H. McCormick
Maxwell & Edna Dickinson
Dr. Don Mabry
Dwight Mabry
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 Cohnell - Museum Operations Manager
Sarah Jackson – Archives & Collections Manager
Barbara Neiser – Office Manager
Jennifer Krechowski - Membership & Marketing Manager
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: Jan Sticklemy Trio

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