

1958

Business Meeting

Florida Historical Society
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BUSINESS MEETINGS

by RUBY J. HANCOCK*The Directors Meeting*

The board of directors met in annual session on Thursday evening April 10 at the Hillsboro Hotel in Tampa. The members present were Miss Snodgrass, Mr. Manucy, Mr. Wentworth, Mrs. Hancock, Mr. Patrick, Mrs. Sette and directors Mr. Capron, Mr. Covington, Mrs. McRae, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Ruder. Former director, J. Ryan Beiser was also present, at the invitation of the president, as chairman of the membership committee.

The president reviewed the Society's efforts toward the establishment of a state historical commission. She reported that the executive committee had decided against introduction of the bill presented at the 1957 meeting by John C. Blocker as a number of the members were opposed to the bill's provisions requiring that the Society become a state agency. The executive committee favored the alternate plan, a petition to the Governor of Florida requesting the appointment of a study committee to consult with pertinent state agencies and with historical groups and prepare a bill creating a state historical commission for presentation to the 1959 legislature. The work on this plan is progressing. Mr. Manucy suggested that the matter be left in the hands of the executive committee and that it be pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

The board expressed its appreciation to Gilbert Lycan, chairman of the annual junior historical writing contest and to John Johns and Mrs. Ella Teague DeBerard, members, who assisted him in judging the large volume of papers entered in the contest.

Mr. Beiser reported thirty new memberships but felt this return from mailings of letters of invitation was low. He expressed the need for directors to supply the secretary special listings of prospective members. Mr. Richardson told of his success with maintaining interest in history through news media, followed by personal interviews.

Mrs. Sette reported that memberships now total 982 and that there was a gratifying gain in the upper classifications of membership.

It was suggested that as soon as the budget allowed, the general expenses incurred by the president should be borne by the Society. A check for \$25 toward this expense next year was given to the treasurer by the president.

Quarterly editor Rembert Patrick reported that the funds to print the index were adequate, having been augmented generously by Lucius Ruder, the St. Augustine Historical Society and the Tallahassee Historical Society. The editor stressed the need for more material for the *Quarterly* and urged board members to report usable articles to him.

The situation relative to widening Fort Marion Circle, adjacent to Castillo de San Marcos, and the Bay Front in St. Augustine was discussed fully. The consensus was that the Society should record its opposition to opening up this area of the city to additional traffic especially in view of restoration plans now under way. The president reported good response to her message to the membership on the danger to the fort of the proposed route of the highway.

Resolutions adopted by the board, combined with those initiated in the membership meeting, appear below.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

March 15, 1957 - April 1, 1958

Balance March 15, 1957	\$ 3,270.48
Location of balance:	
Florida National Bank	
at Gainesville	\$1,030.92
First Federal Savings	
& Loan Assoc.	2,239.56
Receipts:	
Annual membership	\$3,917.12
Fellow memberships	540.00
Life memberships	300.00
Contributing-Institutional	225.00
Quarterlies	467.25
Annual dues - St. Augustine	100.00
Contributions to Index	2,022.00
Microfilms of quarterlies	148.50
Reprints	116.60
Interest	103.98
Gift (anonymous)	60.00
Refund from Postmaster-Tallahassee	10.63
Total receipts	\$8,011.08
Total receipts and balance	\$11,281.56

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FLORIDA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Disbursements:	
Printing of quarterlies	\$3,521.52
Printing, other	173.98
Copyrights	20.00
Essay contest	52.50
Microfilm	83.39
1957 meeting	73.22
Purchase of back issues of quarterlies	22.50
Columbia Gas Bonds	106.87
Miscellaneous	243.87
(membership, office and library supplies, postage, bank charges, taxes, etc.)	\$ 4,297.85
Total disbursements	\$ 6,983.71
Balance March 31, 1958	
Location of balance:	
Florida National Bank	
at Gainesville	\$2,135.17
First Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.	2,848.54
Columbia Gas Bonds	2,000.00
	\$6,983.71

THE BUDGET

April 1, 1958 - March 31, 1959

Estimated income:	
Membership dues:	
Annual	\$4,000.00
Libraries	500.00
Student	12.00
Fellow	540.00
Contributing-Institutional	225.00
Index orders	700.00
Interest	150.00
Total estimated income	\$6,127.00
Estimated expenses:	
Florida Historical Quarterly	\$4,200.00
Printing, other	250.00
Binding of Quarterlies	225.00
Printing of Index	3,000.00
Essay contest	60.00
General expenses-postage, suppl. etc.	400.00
Copyright	16.00
Total estimated expenditures	\$8,151.00

The Annual Membership Meeting

The annual business meeting of the Society followed the program session on April 12. A report of the actions taken by the board was approved by the membership. Although word was received that a compromise route for the highway near Castillo de San Marcos had been approved, the membership felt that several features of the situation were not yet clarified and that the Society should express its opposition. The following resolution was prepared by the executive committee and received unanimous approval. Copies were sent to Governor LeRoy Collins, the State Road Department members, the City of St. Augustine, National Park Service executives and the Florida Congressional delegation.

"The Florida Historical Society in annual meeting assembled on April 12, 1958, respectfully requests the State Road Department of Florida and the City of St. Augustine, Florida, to refrain from widening Fort Marion Circle and the Bay Front until such time as an over-all plan of the city can be made effective as such widening is incompatible with the development of St. Augustine's principal resource -its historical uniqueness."

The resolutions committee, Louis Capron, chairman, Lucius Ruder, Mrs. Mary McRae and Albert C. Manucy, submitted the following resolutions which were adopted as read.

1. Be it resolved that the Florida Historical Society in annual meeting convened, expresses its heartfelt sorrow and grievous loss occasioned by the death of past president John C. Blocker of St. Petersburg.

2. Be it resolved that the Florida Historical Society extends its felicitations to Honorable D. B. McKay on his approaching 90th birthday, commending him for his tireless efforts in collecting and disseminating Florida pioneer history.

3. Be it resolved that the Florida Historical Society expresses its unanimous appreciation to the University of Tampa and the Hillsborough County Historical Commission for their efforts in their role of co-hosts of this successful meeting and more particularly to Dr. James W. Covington and his program committee and to Dr. J. Ryan Beiser and his arrangements committee.

4. Be it resolved that the Florida Historical Society expresses its appreciation to the management of the Hillsboro Hotel for the provision of meeting rooms and for courtesies extended to the Society.

5. Be it resolved that the Florida Historical Society expresses its appreciation to Harry Simonhoff of Miami Beach for his thoughtful donation of a savings bond as the prize in the junior historical writing contest of 1958.

6. Be it resolved that the Florida Historical Society commends Harry Simms of the *Lakeland Ledger* and A. H. Tebault of the *St. Augustine Record* for their contributions to public interest in Florida history by the consistent publication of articles in this field.

7. Be it resolved that the Florida Historical Society commends the quadricentennial committees of Pensacola, Jacksonville and St. Augustine for their work in planning in anticipation of these anniversaries extending from 1959 to 1965.

8. Be it resolved that the Florida Historical Society expresses its sincere thanks to Miss Dena Snodgrass for two years of tireless, dedicated and efficient service as president.

Winners of the annual junior historical writing contest were announced by chairman Lycan. Lists of winners and of all papers submitted appear below. Miss Snodgrass has offered to donate the prizes for the 1959 contest.

The following slate was presented by George Bentley, chairman of the nominations committee, and elected unanimously: president, Albert C. Manucy; first vice president, Gilbert L. Lycan; second vice president, T. T. Wentworth, Jr.; recording secretary, Mrs. Ruby Hancock; executive secretary, treasurer, Mrs. Lois J. Sette; directors, Ben F. Rogers, R. V. Rickcord, Albert L. Rogero, W. C. Pedersen and Mrs. M. H. Latour; nominations committee for 1959, Miss Dena Snodgrass, chairman, Mrs. Mary McRae, Mrs. Ruby Hancock and Harley Freeman.

The 1959 Annual Meeting

President Albert C. Manucy called a brief meeting of the board of directors to consider invitations for next year's annual

meeting. The invitation of the City of Pensacola to meet in that city during the year of its quadricentennial celebration was accepted. Other invitations were acknowledged with thanks and referred to a committee for consideration at another date.

The Julien C. Yonge Graduate Research Professorship

The establishment of the Julien Chandler Yonge Chair of Florida History at the University of Florida honors a man who has devoted a lifetime to the study of his state and to sharing with others his knowledge and love of Florida. With his father, Philip Keyes Yonge, Julien C. Yonge began, about 1900, to assemble a collection of Floridiana which today is worth more than a quarter of a million dollars. He gave this collection to the people of Florida in 1944 by placing it in the University of Florida Library as a memorial to his father. Here it has been the inspiration for students to study and write of their state, to authors whose books are read in many lands, to writers of texts, to many who ask for information.

In the June 29, 1958, issue of *The Florida Times-Union*, Robert H. Akerman paid editorial tribute to Mr. Yonge, writing, in part: "Even in academic circles the richness and importance of state history have not always been properly understood. Julien Chandler Yonge has done much to remedy this neglect. . . . He has been the Ponce de Leon of the rediscovery of Florida. May many more explorers make the journey along the way he has marked out for us. There is a 'fountain of youth', in the sense of perpetual sources of renewal, for any state that possesses itself adequately of its heritage."

Mr. Yonge retired from the active directorship of the P. K. Yonge Memorial Library of Florida History on July 1, but will remain at the library as a consultant. Marking his retirement was the establishment of the professorship in his name and the presentation of a resolution of appreciation by the Board of Control.

The Florida Historical Society, deeply indebted to its editor emeritus, rejoices in the recognition of Julien C. Yonge's many years of faithful service, adding its voice, to many others, to: "Congratulations, Mr. Yonge."

Centennials

This year Suwannee County is observing the anniversary of its creation in 1858.

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The St. Johns Railroad, founded in 1858, transported its passengers by wooden mule-car from St. Augustine to Toco Landing on the St. Johns river, a distance of 15 rough miles, much of it through swamplands. The cost of the journey was \$2.00, one way, a charge so high as to elicit many complaints.

The road was built by Dr. John Westcott, surgeon, surveyor and Confederate army major. To those who objected to the price of the tickets or complained about the four to five hour length of the trip, he said: "It may be quite true, sir, that you have never heard of a charge of \$2.00 to travel a distance of 15 miles. Though I don't want to tell you this, you will travel longer over this line than over any other in the U. S. for the same sum."

Mr. Graville Bathe of St. Augustine has made a model of the train and has presented documents depicting the road's history to the St. Augustine Historical Society.

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The Kanahapa Presbyterian Church, a few miles east of Gainesville, marked its centennial in June of this year with a "home coming." In November, a pageant depicting the history of the church and of others founded by its congregation will be presented.

An Historic Motorcade

"The most extensive and important public event ever sponsored" by the Historical Association of Southern Florida was the June 7 dedication of three markers along the Tamiami Trail in observance of its 30th anniversary.

The ceremony began with a breakfast in Miami at which Senator Spessard L. Holland, a charter member of the Association, spoke and the first marker was unveiled. Members and guests then formed a motorcade to Everglades, the location of the second marker, and then to Fort Myers, the site of the final marker.

The Society for the History of Technology

In an effort to assess the impact of technology on society, a group of interested scholars have joined to form the Society for the History of Technology. The Society will sponsor meetings at which various aspects of technological history will be investigated and will publish a quarterly journal, *Technology and Culture*, devoted to the study of the development of technology and its relations with society and culture. Publication is planned to begin late in 1959. Applications for charter memberships (\$10) in the Society should be sent to Professor Melvin Kranzberg, Room 315, Main Building, Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland 6, Ohio.