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MINUTES

The semi-annual meeting of the officers and directors of the Florida Historical Society was called to order by James C. Craig, president, in the library of Jacksonville University, at 10:30 a.m., December 10, 1970. In addition to Mr. Craig, the following attended: John E. Johns, Mrs. Milton D. Jones, Samuel Proctor, Luis R. Arana, Donald W. Curl, Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., William M. Goza, Byron S. Hollinshead, N. E. Bill Miller, Mrs. O. C. Peterson, Robert H. Spiro, Charlton W. Tebeau, and John D. Ware.

Samuel Proctor, editor, *Florida Historical Quarterly*, reported on the activities of the journal. Response from book reviewers and contributors has been good. The editor noted that more information is needed for the "history news" section, featuring accomplishments of local historical groups. Dr. Proctor emphasized the need for a Society newsletter, pointing out that the Quarterly costs \$12 per page; this is an expensive way to publicize the news and activities of local and regional historical groups. He said that indexing of the Quarterly has begun with graduate student help, and that within two-three years an index to Volumes 36-49 would be ready for publication.

Dr. John E. Johns suggested that Stetson University might be able to publish the Society's newsletter on its offset press. Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau suggested having at least one newsletter a year, preferably to be distributed at the time of the annual meeting. Dr. Proctor emphasized the importance of recognizing the activities of the local societies. An editor of the newsletter would be needed as well as some source to finance its publication and distribution. Dr. Proctor suggested one of the state or private universities or colleges. Mr. Craig appointed Dr. Proctor, Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., and Dr. Johns to a committee to examine the possibility of securing a newsletter.

Dr. Proctor reported on the status of the Rembert W. Patrick Award which will be given annually for the best book on Florida history. Dr. Proctor noted that there are a limited number of Florida books being published each year, and he wondered if it might not be better to give the prize every other year and double the award money. This is a matter, however, for future consideration.

DIRECTORS' MEETING

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Mr. Craig announced Vernon Peeples of Punta Gorda is chairman of the local arrangements committee for the 1971 annual meeting. It will be held on May 6-9, 1971, at the Holiday Inn, in Punta Gorda. Colonel Reed Harding and William Bevis are also members of this committee. In addition, Professors William Warren Rogers and Jerrell H. Shofner of Florida State University are chairmen of the program committee. Mr. Craig read a letter from Dr. Rogers, outlining the tentative program.

In the absence of Mrs. Mary Jane Kuhl, executive secretary, William M. Goza gave her reports through November 30, 1970.

Bank Balances on Hand

University State Bank (Checking Account)	\$4,769.37
First Federal Savings and Loan (Main)	9,323.92
Guaranty Federal Savings and Loan (Thompson)	2,731.39
Tampa Federal Savings and Loan (Father Jerome)	1,839.35
Guaranty Federal Savings and Loan (Yonge)	11,682.25
	- - - -
	<u>\$28,506.93</u>

Properties and Stocks

Volusia County Property	\$120.00
Pennzoil United	200.00
Middle South Utilities	126.00
Florida Growth Fund	110.40
	- - -
	<u>\$556.40</u>
	- - -

As of November 30, 1970, the Society had 1,509 members, which represents a decrease of thirteen members since April 1970. Captain John D. Ware, membership chairman, noted that the Society membership had apparently reached a plateau of 1,500. He has written letters to the regional vice-presidents, emphasizing the importance of recruiting new members whenever and wherever possible. He expressed a desire to see a membership goal of 2,000 set. Dr. Robert H. Spiro noted that

Florida, in comparison with other states, had a very low percentage of the population as members of its historical society. Captain Ware distributed application blanks to those present, and asked all of the directors to consider themselves members of this committee. It was noted that displaying the *Quarterly* during talks to public groups was a useful tool in interesting prospective members. It was mentioned that perhaps public libraries, the *Castillo de San Marcos*, and state museums could be used for exhibition purposes, also. Mickler's Floridiana includes information on joining the Society in all their catalogues. It was pointed out that all institutions are anxious to have complete files of their publications, and that the Society might garner some memberships by having full volumes of the *Quarterly* available for sale. History department faculties also should be contacted regarding memberships. Dr. Johns said that television stations could be contacted to have public service announcements pushing membership. Mr. Craig said that each of the regional vice-presidents could handle this for his own area. Captain Ware said that he will place applications in the Hillsborough County Museum, and Dr. Spiro promised to push membership in the Jacksonville area. Dr. Proctor pointed out that public officials on all levels have not supported the F.H.S. with membership. Mr. Goza noted that Judge James R. Knott when he was president had used his allowable travel allowance to purchase memberships for public officials, but most had not renewed on their own. Mr. Miller requested a list of current members in the Tallahassee area. Mr. Goza said that he had a list broken down by cities that he could furnish to any director. Dr. Doherty suggested that perhaps Senator Robert Williams could also help in making membership lists available. It was pointed out that *the Quarterly* is broken down on a regional basis for mailing purposes.

Captain Ware talked about reprinting the numbers of the *Quarterly* that are out-of-print and not otherwise available. He suggested that possibly the first fifteen volumes might be reprinted, with more being done later if the situation warrants. Captain Ware suggested a number of ways that might be utilized to determine the demand for out-of-print issues of the *Quarterly*, including using a tear-mail back page that could be inserted in the *Quarterly*. Dr. Proctor noted that several national reprint

publishers have expressed interest in re-doing the Quarterly.

Mr. Goza said that perhaps individuals could underwrite the cost of such a venture, with reimbursement being returned from sales. Dr. Tebeau suggested that local printing houses are sometimes cheaper on reprint work. Mr. Goza moved that the chairman appoint a committee to consider the matter of reprinting the *Quarterly*, and the motion passed. Mr. Craig appointed Captain Ware, chairman, and Dr. Proctor and Mr. Goza to the committee.

Luis R. Arana informed the directors that the tricentennial of the beginning of construction of the *Castillo de San Marcos* in St. Augustine would occur in 1972. The Society had passed a resolution in 1966 to the National Park Service calling for a suitable celebration of the event. Mr. Arana called for another resolution reminding the National Park Service of this earlier action. Dr. Tebeau moved that the directors take the action requested by Mr. Arana and that a copy of the original resolution be transmitted with an inquiry as to what was being planned. The motion passed.

Mr. Craig read a letter that he had received asking the Society to buy a piece of a windmill in England in connection with a historic preservation project. No action was taken.

Dr. Spiro noted that the Society will hold its 1972 meeting in Jacksonville at the time of the city's sesquicentennial. A number of events and activities commemorating this event were described by Dr. Spiro. He hopes to have the exhibit of Florida-Jacksonville material. Dr. Doherty said that Jones Brothers Furniture Company had a number of old Jacksonville photographs that might be used.

It was noted by Dr. Proctor that the American Association for State and Local History at its annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, in September 1970 had voted the following awards:

An Award of Merit to Mrs. Mary Macrae, Homosassa, Florida, for more than fifty years of exemplary action in the cause of Homosassa, Citrus County, and Florida history.

Certificates of Commendation to the Saint Petersburg Times, St. Petersburg, Florida, for the carefully re-

searched historical articles appearing in *The Floridian*, the weekly news magazine, and

Trade and Privateering in Spanish Florida, 1732-1763, by Joyce E. Harmon, published by the St. Augustine Historical Society, St. Augustine, Florida. The St. Augustine Historical Society was also recognized for its efforts in publishing Miss Harmon's work.

Dr. Procter also informed the group that Mr. Goza had received the "Historian of the Year Award" from the Safety Harbor Area Historical Society. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Goza had recently been appointed to the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board.

Mr. Arana suggested two films from the National Park Service for use at the 1971 convention. Mr. Craig asked Mr. Arana to send this information directly to Dr. Rogers.

Mrs. O. C. Peterson asked what action was being taken to get more Florida history taught in the public schools. Mr. Goza stated that William Bevis of Fort Meade had introduced legislation aimed at Florida history in grades kindergarten through twelve, and his bill had carried the approval of the State Department of Education. The bill did not get out of committee, but Mr. Goza thought that the legislation might be reintroduced.

Mr. Craig then expressed the appreciation of the directors to Dr. Spiro and Jacksonville University for serving as hosts for this meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alva L. Jones (Mrs. Milton D.)
Recording Secretary

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

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|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| May 6-8 | FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY-69TH ANNUAL MEETING | Holiday Inn,
Punta Gorda |
| September 15-18 | American Association for State and Local History | Portland, Oregon |
| October 8-11 | National Oral History Colloquium | Bloomington,
Indiana |
| November 17-20 | Southern Historical Association | Houston, Texas |
| December | Board of Directors
Florida Historical Society | |
| December | Third Annual Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference | Pensacola |