

# Destin History & Fishing Museum

Here's What's Been  
Happening At  
**YOUR** Museum!

- **BOARD MEETINGS For 2013**: January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11

### Museum Visitors

2006: 2,095  
 2007: 3,527  
 2008: 4,561  
 2009: 5,804  
 2010: 6,368  
 2011: 7,131  
 2012: 8,300  
 2013: 8,036

Volume 8 Issue 2

October to December 2013

### From the Staff

2013 has been a wonderful year for the Museum. Each year the Museum's biggest fundraiser are the concessions held during the Destin Seafood Festival. This year the Festival was cancelled due to a tropical storm. Our money was really running short when we had the most wonderful surprise, a donation of \$20,000 given to the Museum from the Destin Fishing Rodeo, Inc. from a grant they had received from BP. The only requirement for the money is to enlarge our Rodeo exhibit. Our plans are to add interactive electronic exhibits to our existing display. This is the largest donation ever received by the Museum, and it could not have come at a better time. Our sincere thanks to the Rodeo Committee, Rodeo Membership and to Mrs. Helen Donaldson for preparing such a great grant.

Jean

### Calendar of Events

October 4, 5, & 6  
 Destin Seafood Festival  
 Museum Parking Concession & Harry T's Food Booth  
**CANCELED DUE TO TROPICAL STORM**

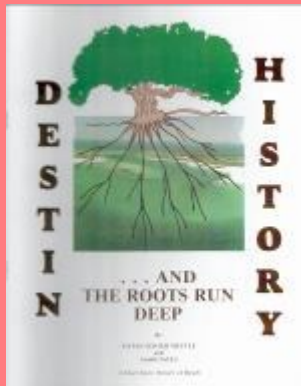
October 12  
 Amy Walter Meyers O'Flaherty  
 Memorial at Museum

October 23  
 City of Destin Open House  
 Museum Table Exhibit at Community Center

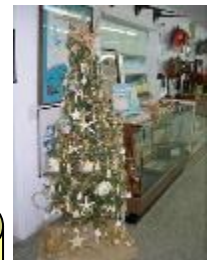
November 15  
 Bruner Middle School Career Day  
 Kathy Blue Guest Speaker

December 14  
 City Christmas Street Parade  
 Dave Steele & Mike Long escort  
 MISS DESTIN  
 In Dan Empson's vintage car in parade.

December 15  
 27th Annual  
 Holiday on the Harbor  
 Lighted Boat Parade & Fireworks Show  
 Sponsored by the Museum



**...AND THE ROOTS  
 RUN DEEP**  
 By  
 Vivian Foster Mettee  
 AVAILABLE NOW  
 \$20



*We Wish You  
 A  
 Merry Christmas  
 &  
 Happy New Year!*



## Artifact Acquisitions



In December, Betty Gibbs Woodward donated this pump head from the well at the first school located on Calhoun Avenue where Taylor Park is currently located. She salvaged the discarded pump head after the school building was moved.



## Old Destin School Water Pump

The Calhoun Avenue school building was built in 1935 with two school rooms and an auditorium. It was heated with three oil burning stoves. There were no windows on the Bay side to reduce “distractions” to the students, especially the boys. The number of school children grew and the auditorium was divided into two more classrooms. Eighteen children, first thru third grades were in one room. Thirteen children, fourth thru sixth grades were in another room. Eventually, the seventh and eighth grades were added in the auditorium. This building housed schoolchildren until 1956 when the new Destin Elementary School located on Kelly Street was completed.

Prior to the 1935 Calhoun Avenue school site, children were educated in a variety of locations. Also on Calhoun Avenue, from the parlor of the William T. Marler home to the Destin Community Church to the Episcopal Mission to the Leonard Destin homestead building, children in the village learned to read, write, and do math.



## St. John Greek Orthodox Church Artifacts



The church was demolished November 1 after being sold. Religious icons and other items were donated to family members, other local Greek churches and to the Museum. The Museum received the dedication plaque, one of the crosses from the roof, one of the red tiles, and one of the blue stained glass windows which will be incorporated into the church exhibit. Items were donated by Karl Ray Trammell and the Maltezo Family in October.

The land for the church was purchased by Captain Ben Marler and the church would eventually be built as a family prayer chapel in 1984. It served as the home of the annual Epiphany Cross Dive ceremony and the launching point for the annual Blessing of the Fleet for many years. The last “cross dive” was held in 2006. The church was given by sisters Cleopatra Marler, Stella Marler and Vera Walters in loving memory of their father, Greek born, John George Maltezo to the Archdiocese of the Greek Orthodox Church.



# Pioneers of Paradise

## Paschall Family

*Written by Jean Melvin*

Our research on the Paschall family goes back as far as John Paschall, Sr. who was the son of Richard Thomas Paschall (1453-1511). John was born in Auveme, France and died in 1501 in Canfield, Essex England. John married Margery Wiseman. They had two children, John Jr. born in 1495 and William who was born in 1497.

In 1888, research shows the Paschall's living in the U.S.A. in Georgia and Alabama. Ewell Grady Paschall was born in 1888 and died in 1942. He was married to Minnie Mae Davis (1888-1955). Minnie Mae gave birth to Rhea Clayton Paschall in Geneva County, Alabama. Rhea's wife was Idonia Adams who was born November 8, 1910 in Geneva County, Alabama. They had five children. Two were born in Geneva, Alabama and three in Florida.

Rhea and Idonia moved their family to Destin in April of 1934. They came to help their friend Coleman Kelly open and operate a turpentine and logging business. Their two daughters, Ardilla and Frances and son Robert Clayton came with them. In the following years, two more daughters and a son Billy Frank were born. The family lived in the turpentine camp. The camp was located close to the Choctawhatchee Bay, near "the lakes". Coleman Kelly made sure that the children living in the camp received an education. He built a school for the white children and one for the black children. Mattie Kelly, Coleman's wife taught at the white school. Coleman also built a church for the white workers and one for the black workers.

In 1938, the family moved to Mims, Florida and lived in Mims until 1940 when they moved back to Destin. Again, they came to Destin to assist Coleman Kelly with his latest business venture. In the early 1940s, Coleman purchased land on Hwy.98, near the Destin Bridge. Rhea helped to build six rental cabins there and "the little store", which was the first General Store in Destin. After he built the cabins, his family moved into Cabin #5. At that time, the children were enrolled into Destin Elementary School. The school was located in Calhoun Park, on Calhoun Avenue. Also in the 1940s, Coleman Kelly had the first "Head" boats built in Destin. They were the "Martha Gene" and the "Passway". This was the beginning of the "Headboat" business (selling fishing trip tickets by the Head). With the advent of World War II, the boats were sold, to be purchased again after the war.

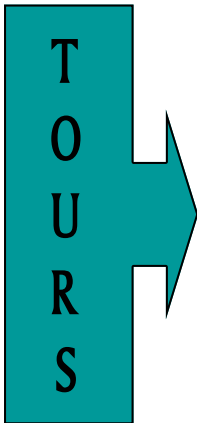
Years passed when Rhea held many different jobs. He worked many years at the Wainwright Shipyard in Panama City, Florida. He also went on to build the first Holiday Inn on the west side of Brooks Bridge.



## Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction



*The Annual Gumbo Contest and Silent Auction Fundraiser will take place Saturday, January 25, 2014 at the Destin Community Center from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.* Area restaurants and individuals compete for the title of the best gumbo on the panhandle. The event will include live music by local band, “Flash Flood” and a silent auction of sixty plus packages including artwork, vacation stays, jewelry, and restaurant gift certificates, boating and fishing trips, services, golf, recreational activities and much more. Come sample all the areas’ finest gumbo and cast your vote for the People’s Choice Award. Advanced tickets are available now at the Museum for \$10 per adult. Admission will be \$12 at the door the day of the event. For more information concerning entering your gumbo in the contest, donating an item for the silent auction or coming to enjoy the event contact the Museum at 850-837-6611 or email [kathydestinhistory@gmail.com](mailto:kathydestinhistory@gmail.com).



- ◆ October 9:  
Destin Chamber of Commerce “Destin Forward”  
2013 Leadership Class
- ◆ October 18 & 26, November 1, 8, 15, & 22  
“DeNure Tours”

### *Celebration Paver Garden*



The Museum’s brick paver fundraiser, “Footprints in the Sand” continues to grow. Many thanks to the families and businesses that have participated.

Personalized bricks are purchased to honor family, friends, and businesses. Cost for engraved pavers is a tax deductible donation of \$75 for a 4X8 and \$150 for an 8X8 paver. There are three color choices.

Bricks may be ordered online at

[www.bricksrus.com/order/destinhistoryandfishing](http://www.bricksrus.com/order/destinhistoryandfishing)

Forms may be picked up at the Museum.

# 27th Annual Holiday on the Harbor Boat Parade



*Lynne Marie*



*Buccaneer*



*Swoop II*

The Destin History and Fishing Museum hosted the 27<sup>th</sup> **Holiday on the Harbor** Destin Boat Parade and fireworks by Pyro Shows, Inc. Sunday, December 15, 2013. Trophy sponsors for the event were: AJ's Seafood, Harry T's, Inn on Destin Harbor, HD Action Photography, Kelly Plantation Fishing Club, Pelican Beach Resorts, and The City of Destin. Gift Certificate award sponsors were: AJ's Seafood, The Boathouse, Boschamps, Crab Island Cantina, Dewey Destin's Seafood, Fisherman's Wharf, Harbor Docks, Harry T's, and Pepito's. Special award sponsors were Bay Limousine, Fudpucker's and Harry T's.

Mayor Sam Seever was the Master of Ceremonies for the event with judging from Harry T's Restaurant. Judges for the event were Matt Gaetz, Lance Johnson, and Nancy Weidenheimer. Twenty-five Christmas Spirited boaters registered for the lighted boat parade which was viewed all along Destin Harbor.

The Museum Staff, Jean Melvin & Kathy Blue and Parade Committee Chairman John Lefler thanks everyone that participated in helping to light up the harbor with holiday spirit and everyone that came out to join in the beautiful display. Special thanks to the Destin Coast Guard Station, City of Destin, Destin Fire Control District, HarborWalk Village Staff and Greg Featherston and Jaxon Mitchell, the Holiday on the Harbor Boat Parade Committee and Judges for helping to make the parade a wonderful Destin Holiday Tradition. The fabulous fireworks show was sponsored by the Destin History and Fishing Museum.

## WINNERS

*Dookie Fly*  
Captained by David Wilcox  
Private 30 Ft. & Under



*Lynne Marie*  
Captained by Tommy Graves  
Private 31 Ft. & Over



*The Sky Rider*  
Captained by Ben Merrell  
Charter/Ciommercial  
30 Ft. & Under



*Swoop II*  
Captained by Chad Mott  
Charter/Ciommercial  
31 Ft. & Over



*Sea Quest*  
Captained by Jeremy Cheatham  
Tour Boat / Motorized



*Miami Merger*  
Captained by Greg Buchanan  
Sailboat 30 Ft. & Under



*Topp Yott*  
Captained by John Gardner  
Sailboat 31 Ft. & over



*Buccaneer*  
Captained by Cliff Atwell  
AKA Capt. Cannonball  
Best Overall Award  
&  
City of Destin Heritage Award

destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

### Destin History & Fishing Museum

#### Museum Board of Directors

**Executive Board** President: Dave Steele Vice President: Dan Martin

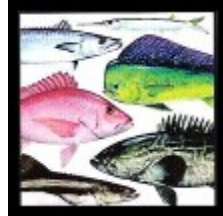
Secretary: Kathy Marler Blue Treasurer: John Lefler

**General Board:** Richard Derek, Dan Empson, Jim Green, Norm Hall, Tina Harbuck, Mike Long, Don Rogers, Lloyd Taylor, Russell Wamble

**Executive Director** Jean Melvin **Associate Director** Kathy Marler Blue

**Museum Docent:** Dave Fraser **Museum Volunteer:** Carole Marler

**Newsletter Writer and Editor** Museum Staff



DHFM  
P.O. Box 548  
Destin, FL 32540-0548

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR DONATION TO:  
DESTIN HISTORY & FISHING MUSEUM  
108 STAHLMAN AVE.  
DESTIN, FL 32541**

Phone: 850-837-6611

Staff E-mails:

Jean Melvin  
destinhistory@gmail.com

Kathy Marler Blue  
kathydestinhistory@gmail.com

Website:  
destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

**TAX TIME IS COMING !!!  
LOOKING FOR A 2013 TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

*Donation Tax Receipts are available for your donations to the Destin History & Fishing Mu-*

Tuesday - Saturday  
10am to 4pm

Admission: Adults: \$5  
Seniors & Military: \$4  
Students: \$3  
Kids 6 & Under and Members : Free



### Join or Renew Your Membership Today

Destin History and Fishing Museum is a non profit organization whose members are dedicated to preserving, documenting, and sharing the complete history of Destin. There are limitless ways you, your friends, and associates can be part of realizing these efforts. Now more than ever we can use your support. **Your donation or membership is tax deductible.** Please fill out the form below and mail it to the museum.

### Yes, I Give My Support!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership/Amount \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ If you would like to pay by credit card please call the Museum and have your credit card ready.

Mail to: **Destin History and Fishing Museum P.O. Box 548 Destin, Florida 32540-0548**

Thank you. Without your faithful and generous donations and efforts, the museum would not exist today.