



FREE - TAKE ONE!

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www.WaldoHistoricalSociety.YolaSite.com

W.H.S. News by Vera Mauldin

The Waldo Historical Society hosted its fifth annual quilt show on May 3, 2014 at the Waldo Community Center.



Beautiful quilts were displayed and sewing items were for sale by the participants.

The quilt show was open to the public from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. A bag lunch including a sandwich, potato chips, dessert, and drink was available for purchase.

We had representatives of quilters from various cities including Interlachen, Palatka, Hawthorne, Melrose, Middleburg, Fitzgerald, Georgia, Gainesville, Earleton, Lake Butler and Hampton.



Winning Quilters (Back): Figg, Ida, Richard, Gene. (Front: Audyn, Pauline, Shiloh.

Visitors came from the surrounding areas including Waldo, Interlachen, Palatka, Starke, Jacksonville, Alachua, Earleton, Melrose, and Gainesville.

Teddy Pruitt was the judge for quilt winners. Blue Ribbons

were awarded to the Professional Category, white ribbons for the Intermediate category, red ribbons for the Beginner category and special ribbons for teen quilters.

In the Professional category, Shiloh Thomas, from Middleburg, won first place, Richard Levin, from Interlachen, won second place and Figg Poncher of Melrose won third place.

In the Intermediate category, Mary Vezzeth, from Hawthorne, won first place, Pauline Reynolds, also from Hawthorne, won second place, and Betty Conrad, from Melrose, won third place.

In the Beginner category, Ida Bivins, from Earleton, won first place, Gene Martel, from Hawthorne, won second place, and third place.

Special ribbons were awarded to Chloe Harris of Waldo and Audyn Woodington of Lake Butler.

It was an honor to have teens interested in quilting to enter and win with their quilt entry. If you did not attend the quilt show you missed out on a great event.

Next year in 2015, we hope to have the Quilt show in a different and bigger place. Watch for that date and plan to come to the show.

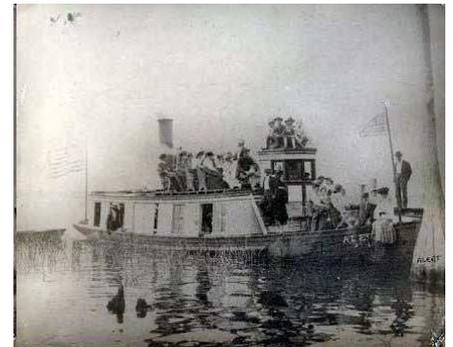
We want to say thank you to Teddy Pruitt for judging the quilts and a thank you to all members of the Waldo Historical Society for helping to make the quilt show a success.

Collecting Oral History Documenting

The Santa Fe Canal by Deborah Hendrix

The Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida, located in Pugh Hall, has been actively engaged in collecting oral histories since 1967.

The Waldo Historical Society, Inc., is partnering with the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program to preserve oral histories of Waldo residents.



These interviews will be collected by the members of the Waldo Historical Society and will be finally curated in the University of Florida's Library digital repository, where they will be available for students, researchers, and the general public.

Those interested in checking out the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program will find it on this website:

<http://oral.history.ufl.edu>

Deborah Hendrix of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program is collecting material to make a documentary history of the Santa Fe Canal that includes the Waldo Canal. Maps of the 1870s

show that the Santa Fe Canal system originally connected Lake Geneva to Lake Santa Fe, and Lake Santa Fe to Lake Alto, and Lake Alto to the transportation system of late 19th century Waldo that preceded a reliable road system. Part of the documentary will use oral histories of stories personally witnessed or heard told, of boats that came through the Santa Fe Canal, how the canal was used, commerce that used the canal, flora and fauna of the canal, businesses or individuals that depended on the canal for livelihoods, what events happened to end use of the canal, or anything else relating to its history.

To that purpose, we enthusiastically invite individuals that have stories, family photos, or other information to come forward and share these stories or items by calling the Waldo Historical Society for more information.

If you or a member of your family is interested in contributing to this documentary, please contact Judy Donaldson, 468-1726, Penny Dodd, 468-1910, or Linda Vlacos, 376-1203, or call Deborah Hendrix at the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida 352 392-7168.

The Santa Fe Canal documentary will feature oral histories relating to the canal, preserving this interesting part of the history of Waldo and Florida for future generations.

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## **Waldo Commodities**

**Monday**

**June 9, 2014**

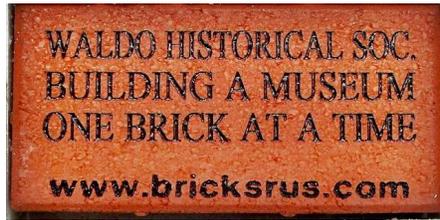
**1-2 pm**

**Waldo Community Center**

**13558 NE 148th Ave**

**Phone:(352) 468-2336**

## **Brick Project Reminder!**



Last month, we reported that there are still a few spaces available for Memorial bricks to honor those people in Waldo we want to remember. If you have been wanting to get a brick, now is the time.

If you want to know what the finished product looks like, take a stroll through City Park. There you will see bricks along the walkway to the Veteran's Memorial, and heading toward the caboose, there is a tree with Special People bricks circling it. In front of the caboose, are the railroad people who worked on the Seaboard Air Line.

Bricks are still only \$40.00. Special artwork (Purple Heart, Mason, etc.) is available for only \$5 more. We will be sending an order in soon, so don't wait too long.

In addition, if you know of anyone who would like to order a brick, but has not been able to handle the cost, please consider helping them with a small donation.

If you need an order form, or simply need more information, please call Fred Donaldson at 352-468-1726, or email: [historicwaldo@gmail.com](mailto:historicwaldo@gmail.com) and we'll get one to you.

## **Caboose Update**



Progress is definitely being made at the soon-to-be Railroad Museum in Waldo City Park.

The inside has finally been painted to perfection, and we want to thank Mr. Bob Edmondson for volunteering his time to make the display areas inside the caboose visitor-friendly, installing the hardware cloth on the cabinets, and checking to be sure everything is working as it should. We also want to thank Mr. Scott Grady of Giffords Painting for volunteering his time and expertise. He has offered to come back to paint the floor when all the construction inside is finished, so everything will be bright and new.

Your Waldo Historical Society was recently the recipient of over 100 railroad documentaries on VHS tape. We will be playing them for people outside on the caboose deck while it is open for touring. The tapes are entertaining, informative, very interesting and professionally done.



# Waldo Community School News

Holly Burton - Principal



Principal Holly Burton



May 8, 2014

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that Waldo Community School will be implementing a new program called the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for School Year 2014-2015.

Through this program the Alachua County Food and Nutrition Department will be able to provide healthy breakfasts and lunches each day at no charge for ALL students enrolled at this site without the collection of free and reduced family applications.

If you have any questions regarding this program please contact the Food and Nutrition office at (352) 955-7539 ext. 1566.

### Coming Events:

- 6/4: KG Graduation at 9
- 6/4: Retirement celebration for Mrs. Fuller at 1:30
- 6/5: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
- 6/5: Last Day of School
- 6/3 through 6/5: Early Release Days 12:30

# Waldo City News by Kim Worley City Manager

Do you live in Waldo City Limits? You may save some money???

Alachua County Fire Rescue Chief Ed Bailey reported that Waldo's ISO (Insurance Services Office) went from a 6-9 to a 3-3x.



This new grade will take place July 1, 2014. You need to contact your homeowners insurance and advise them of this change, and it may save you some money on your policy.

If you are five (5) road miles from the fire department and one thousand feet from a hydrant you will qualify. Chief Bailey stated that this is a very good report card for the City of Waldo and the Fire Department.

### Are you prepared for Hurricane Season???

Hurricane season runs June 1 – November 30, 2014. What do you need to be prepared?

- Be informed – weather alert



- radio, code red, social media
- Get a Plan – know what to do if the storm hits. Know your evacuation plan if needed.
- Get a Kit - 5 days of food, water, medications, and supplies (flashlights, candles, ice etc.) per person.
- 72 hours before Tropical Storm Winds the City of Waldo goes on standby.
- 24 hours before Tropical Storm Winds Shelters are starting to open. Due to population the City of Gainesville Shelters open first, so people from Waldo that need to evacuate need to head to shelters in Gainesville.
- Rumor Control call center is now open - for information call 3-1-1.

### A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME by Lucy Roe Cook

The ladies of the WHS have told me of birthday luncheons they have attended in the month of May. Lucy Roe Cook had a luncheon at



the Cracker Barrel. Linda Vlacos had a luncheon at Chop Stix in Gainesville.

Vera Mauldin and her friends of the WHS lunched at Ocean Buffet in Gainesville. Oh, the yummy crumbs they share.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Linda Vlacos celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary this May. Continue to be good to one another and we will see you on your 50th.

The road men are busy on Kennard St. and the Railroad men are busy on the rails. School children are busy wrapping up

another school year. This little bird thinks maybe when school begins again in the Fall, Waldo will be spruced up and feeling in it's prime.

If any of you missed the Waldo Historical Society 5th annual quilt show you missed the most beautiful quilts. A wonderful time was had by all.

Some of the members of the WHS are gearing up to do interviews for the archives. They tell this little bird that if anyone knows of someone who knows some history of old Waldo to let them know. These people are so important to the history of Waldo. Don't let our rich history be lost.

If your family has a link to the railroad we will be opening a railroad museum at the caboose soon. The ladies say take pride in your lineage.

Our girl, Sherry Schwabe, is off to another biscuit bakeoff for Hardee's in Jacksonville. We all know her biscuits are the best.

Good luck to our National winner of 2010. Her biscuits will always be number one with this little bird.

## **The Man Who Thanked The Seagulls**

**I**t happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a Giant orange and was starting to dip into the blue ocean.

Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp.

Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself.

The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now.

Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach.

Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts . . . and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone.

Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier.



Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly.

Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, 'Thank you. Thank you.'

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave.

He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away.

And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to

say. Or, to onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty.

They can seem altogether unimportant . . . maybe even a lot of nonsense.

Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Busters.

Most of them would probably write Old Ed off, down there in Florida. That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific.

They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger and thirst.

By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive.

Every day across America, millions wondered and prayed that Eddie Rickenbacker might somehow be found alive.

The men adrift needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle. They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his Military cap over his nose. Time dragged on. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft.

Suddenly, Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move.

With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck.

He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal of it - a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait . . . and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull. And he never stopped saying, 'Thank you.' That's why almost every Friday night, he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude.

Reference: (Max Lucado, "In The Eye of the Storm", pp..221, 225-226)

PS: Eddie Rickenbacker was the founder of Eastern Airlines. Before WWI he was a race car driver. In WWI he was a pilot and became America's first ace. In WWII he was an instructor and military adviser, and he flew missions with the combat pilots.

Eddie Rickenbacker is a true American hero. And now you know another story about the trials and sacrifices that brave men have endured for your freedom.

It is a great story that many don't know. You've got to be

careful with old guys. You just never know what they have done during their lifetime.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

## Hazardous Waste Collection Center

Are you familiar with this place? We recently learned that this is an amazing place to take things that you just don't know what else to do with.

Old television sets, for instance. The big, old clunky ones. Just drive it down to the collection center. They'll take them out of your vehicle for you and dispose of it. NO CHARGE. This is better than a dump. You don't have to dump it yourself.

Ladies: just get somebody to help get it into your car (or truck or whatever) (I got Oscar White to load it into my car for me), and when you get to the



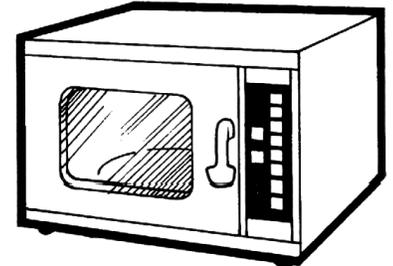
Hazardous Waste Collection Center, they'll take it out for you.

But wait! There's more! You know all that stuff you need to get rid of, but you're not allowed to put out with your weekly trash? Paint cans, used oil, batteries, microwave ovens. This is the place to take it. They take it all.

Household cleaners, brake fluid, pesticides, pool chemicals,

syringes, needles. Where is this wonderful place, you ask? Well, lucky for us Waldonians, it's right down the road at 5125 NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, on the left side, of the Waldo Road.

After you turn, pass the transfer station, and take the next right at Hazardous Waste



Collection Center.

They're open Monday through Friday from 7 am until 5 pm, and Saturday from 8 am until noon. You can call them at (352) 334-0440. Cut this out and hang it where you'll be able to find it the next time you have something to get rid of.

*In Loving Memory*



**Martha Sue de Bodisco  
Jesse Thomas Wheeler**

*If you know Waldo citizens who have passed, please call Millie Keirnan 352-468-1378.*

# Florida Railroad History

## Growth of Florida's Railroads

Although the period of Reconstruction (1865-1877) had resulted in Florida rejoining the United States, many Floridians found themselves cut off from the rest of the country. Florida had few roads and needed to build more railroads. Unfortunately, the state was in debt from the Civil War and had no finances with which to expand.



The Tampa Hotel was the most modern hotel in the state of Florida when it was built.

Northern businessmen, however, did have money and saw investment opportunities in Florida. In 1881, a man by the name of Hamilton Disston bought 4 million acres of land from Orlando to Lake Okeechobee for 25 cents an acre. This single investment helped get Florida out of debt and back on the road to building!

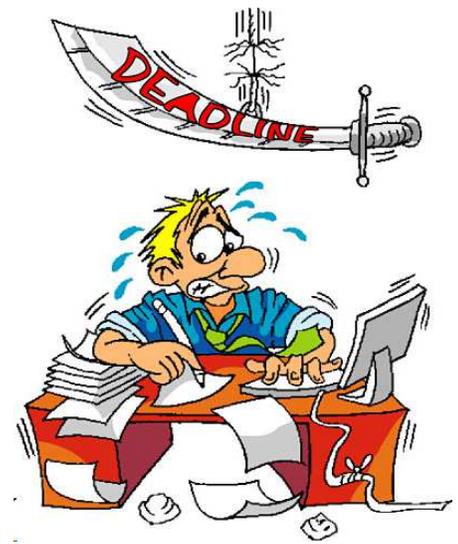
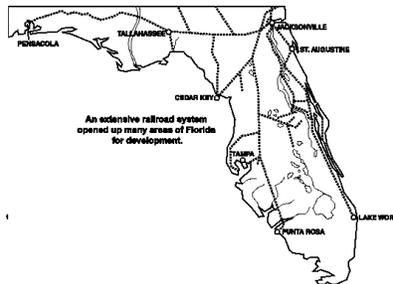
A year later, Henry B. Plant began building railroads throughout the state of Florida. He also connected Florida's railways to Georgia, opening the way for interstate trading and travel. He constructed many hotels along the railways. His most famous hotel

was the Tampa Bay Hotel, which was built at a cost of nearly 3 million dollars. It was the most modern hotel in Florida at the time with 500 rooms and electric lights. Plant also owned and operated many steamboats and he continued building in Florida throughout the late 1800s.

An entrepreneur by the name of William Chibley built railroads that linked the Panhandle region with the rest of Florida. This enabled the goods being shipped to the Pensacola ports to be sent to the rest of the state by rail.

Henry M. Flagler settled in the east coast town of St. Augustine. He built its first big hotel, the Ponce de León, which was the most luxurious of its time. To encourage people to visit, he built railroads to help connect St. Augustine and Daytona Beach to railways that could bring guests all the way from New York. Flagler also developed the resort town of Palm Beach and connected it, of course, by railroads.

By 1900, Florida had more than 3,000 miles of railroad and its transportation problems had been solved. Its economy thriving, Florida's growth had only just begun



**DON'T FORGET!** The deadline for articles in the Waldo Phoenix is the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding the next issue. If you want your advertisement placed in time, be sure to get it to us before the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month.

We are always looking for new writers (to give our current wonderful writers a much needed break every once in a while). If you like writing, and have a Waldo-related story you'd like to share, please join us.

There are thousands of stories to be told about Waldo, and if you start now, we might get them all published during this century.

### Printer Ink Cartridges

**T**hank you to all who continue to donate their empty printer ink cartridges to our collection boxes at the Waldo Library and Waldo City Hall. Your



cartridges help us cover the cost of our office supplies (ink, paper, etc.)

# Information Please!

## Waldo Phone Numbers You Might Need (Cut out and place by your phone)

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| City Hall                   | 468-1001       |
| After Hours Water Emergency | 258-3110       |
| Fire Emergencies            | 911            |
| Police Department           | 468-1515       |
| Police Non-Emergencies      | 955-1818       |
| Power Outages               | 1-800-468-8243 |
| Waldo Library               | 468-3298       |
| Waldo Community Center      | 468-2336       |
| Waldo Post Office           | 468-1970       |
| Waldo Community School      | 468-1451       |
| Waldo Phoenix               | 468-1910       |

## June Birthdays

|                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>1 Diana Davis</b>             | <b>2 Johnny Hill</b>         |
| <b>4 Earl Green</b>              | <b>5 Josie M. Rich</b>       |
| <b>5 Aaron Martin</b>            | <b>5 Ruth Dees</b>           |
| <b>6 Ray Charles Jackson III</b> | <b>7 Kristen Jacobs</b>      |
| <b>9 Debbie Boal</b>             | <b>12 Louise P. Wilson</b>   |
| <b>12 Roger O'Neal</b>           | <b>13 Missy Vanderheyden</b> |
| <b>13 Pamy Burnsed</b>           | <b>16 Dylan Ankney</b>       |
| <b>17 Andy Burkhalter</b>        | <b>20 Lorraine Munk</b>      |
| <b>21 Mark Nugent</b>            | <b>21 Josie Hill</b>         |
| <b>21 Jace Howard</b>            | <b>24 Garrett Van Allen</b>  |
| <b>25 Richard Armitage</b>       | <b>25 Bobby D. Hill</b>      |
| <b>26 Emma Green</b>             | <b>26 Clarence Bostick</b>   |
| <b>26 Delores K. Wilson</b>      | <b>26 Crystal Gilliam</b>    |
| <b>27 Jesslyn Lewis</b>          | <b>28 Jason Dowling</b>      |



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## Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church Services

Rev. James W. Ramsey - Pastor  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 11:00 am  
Mid-week service  
every Wednesday 6:00 pm  
taught by Minister Bernard Carter  
Awesome Sunday School  
every Sunday 9:45 am  
taught by Bro. Bobby Hill  
or Minister Bernard Carter for adults  
and Sis. Josie "Jackson"  
& Sis. Monique Taylor for the children.  
Men's Day service will be held  
on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in July at 11:00 am

Always remember that  
Man is Mighty but God is Almighty

## First Baptist Church, Waldo Hwy 24

**352-468-1721**

Sunday Schedule



9:15 - 9:45 Refreshments  
9:45 Bible Study (all ages)

11:00 am & 6 pm Worship  
11:00 am & 6 pm Children's Worship  
6 pm Youth Praise and Worship

Wednesday Schedule

5:45 - 6:15 pm Dinner  
6:30 pm Children's, Youth, Adult  
Programs

## Waldo Self Storage

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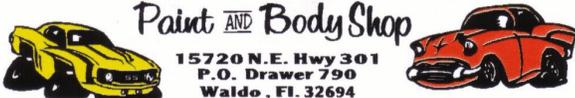


**Waldo Phoenix  
Advertising Rate Sheet**  
(effective date: March 1, 2010)

| Size          | 3 Months | 6 Months | 12 Months |
|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Business Card | \$60.00  | \$90.00  | \$120.00  |
| Quarter Page  | \$120.00 | \$180.00 | \$240.00  |
| Half Page     | \$240.00 | \$360.00 | \$480.00  |
| Full Page     | \$480.00 | \$720.00 | \$960.00  |

Your 8-1/2" x 11" or smaller flyers will be inserted @ \$25.00/250 per month.  
We will work with you to create your ad.  
We can add clip art, photos or your logo.  
Call 352-468-1910 - Advertising Editor  
**email: [HistoricWaldo@gmail.com](mailto:HistoricWaldo@gmail.com)**

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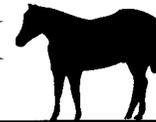
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