



THE CORTEZIAN



Volume 27, Issue 2

March 2009

What's happening:

*****Due to scheduling conflicts, the date for the Natives Picnic has been changed from March to April 25, 2009*****

Cortez Natives Picnic – April 25, 2009

We will get together at 1 pm and eat at 1:30 or when the Mullet are done. Strawberry Shortcake, Fried Mullet and beverages will be provided by CVHS.

This year it will be held at the new Picnic Pavilion on the east grounds of the Maritime Museum. We are thankful for Cousin Larry Fulford who will catch some frying size Mullet for the picnic.

Bring lots of food to share and invite friends and neighbors. This tradition was started in 1991. One year it was canceled due to a sudden storm. Let's get together and renew friendships.

New T-shirts are available at the Museum. They commemorate the 25th anniversary of the CVHS.

Report on the 27th Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival

The villagers have almost recovered from this great event. Cousin Calvin Bell is moving his boats back to the waterfront today.

The Festival follow-up meeting was held last week. The initial report is that FISH netted over \$80,000. That is \$20,000 more than last year. CVHS banked over \$4500 including \$1800 from Strawberry Shortcake sales. Special thanks for the Berry Cutters, all the volunteers and especially Araina Vance, our MCC student, who peddled the drinks for us. She did good.

The Artists featured a great variety this year. Several new artists from the area participated. There were 22 Food vendors serving everything from Alligator to Greek and every kind of seafood, as well as all the favorite sweets. We were glad to see Cortez Hotdog back on the menu. (That is fried Mullet on a bun with Tartar Sauce)

VILLAGE NEWS

Dr. Mary Fulford Green, Editor
maryfulfordgreen@hotmail.com

Small Craft Festival – April 17-19, 2009

Plan to attend the 4th Florida Gulf Coast Small Craft Festival in April. See boats that have been built and restored by the museum volunteers with many others from all over the region. Sail one yourself or take a free ride on Saturday. Details & schedule are on the CVHS web page.

1890 Waterfront Store Restoration: The work is progressing. The Water Tank is in place and porches are complete. There will be celebration when we can move into the Family life Museum on the second floor.

A Century of Christianity in Cortez

The story began in 1904 when the Collins brothers of Oneco invited evangelist, W.A. Cameron, to hold a three week meeting in Oneco. As a result a Church of Christ was planted there. Someone from that group invited a preacher to visit Cortez. It is believed that it was Bernard and Belinda Mitchell who were on the church roll in Oneco in 1906. Shortly after they moved to Cortez and opened a store in their little house on 123 Street Ct. Cameron's brother in law came to Cortez and held a three week revival. Many families converted and a local Church of Christ began meeting in the 1895 schoolhouse. The Church of God was organized in Cortez around the same time.

In 1910 Mrs. L.J.C. Bratton using the back of a flyer advertising her hotel, The Albion Inn, wrote a deed to a lot for the Union Church of Cortez. Funds were raised and the men of the community built a wooden building which stood for decades. The Church of Christ and Church of God shared the building for over ten years! In 1922 Church of God built a building on 124th Street.

Both groups now over 100 years old still meet each week with descendents of the original members in faithful attendance.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Florida Gulf Coast Small Craft Festival
April 17 – 19, 2009

Cortez Natives Picnic
April 25, 2009

Cortez Maritime Museum hours:
Tues. – Sat. 8:30 – 4:30

Cortez Village web page: www.cortezvillage.org

You can join and/or pay your membership dues to CVHS online.

Fishing Festival Continued:

The music organized and performed by our own Richard Culbreath was enjoyed by all.

Two main attractions were the Sea Aquariums set up by Carolyn Doig and the Crab Industry display down on Fulford's Dock. The children had fun on the Climbing Wall and the Pony Ride. The Museum welcomed over 600 visitors! **Thanks to docents Sam and Kaye Bell, John McDonald, and others under the leadership of Ted Adams.**

The 2009 Festival shirts were sold out early Saturday. More have been purchased and are available at the Museum.

If you have news of Cortez natives or things to share about Cortez history, send it to us and we will try to include it in the next issue.
Send email to cvhs@cortezvillage.org

People in the News

Ralph Fulford is recuperating from a broken hip at the Bradenton Health Care Center on Cortez Road. He is doing great and does enjoy company.

Vernon Mora is at Freedom Village.

“Snooks” Adams is at the Rest Home in Palmetto on 5th Avenue

In Loving Memory

Grace Marietta Evans Richardson, 83, of St. Petersburg died January 21, 2009.

Mary was born in Cortez and is the granddaughter of the Capt. Billy and Sallie Fulford. The Evans family moved to Pinellas County when she was an infant. Mary and sister Margie spent many summers visiting their grandparents and many cousins in Cortez. She is predeceased by her parents John and Bessie Evans and two brothers Cecil and Bob Evans. She is survived by one sister, Margie Evans Rhyner (John) and family of Atlanta; three nephews and a niece; and many Fulford cousins.

Claude "Moldy" Fulford, 73, a lifelong resident of Cortez, died January 26, 2009. He was a commercial fisherman most of his life. In his retirement years, he loved working with wood. He was a loving father, papa, and Brother.

He was the son of Willie and Julia Fulford and the grandson of Capt. Billy and Sallie Fulford. Survivors include companion Mary Crowley; sons David and Donald; daughters Betty Noble, Peggy Monteith, and Brenda Ramsey, all of Bradenton; sisters Betty McEntire of Largo, and Phyllis Russell of Joplin, Mo.; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Cortez Village Historical Society
PO BOX 663
Cortez, FL 34215

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED