



Celebrate at the 2nd Annual Old Town Festival Saturday, Nov. 24

Continue the holiday experience by bringing family and friends to the 2nd Annual Old Town Festival on Saturday, Nov. 24.

A storytelling session, a parade, wine and cheese with music and a street dance will be included in the event.

“Old town” awareness, and fun with family and friends for residents and visitors is the goal of the festival hosted by the Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association (PAPHA).

“Old town is just a symbol of the ‘soul of Port A’. It’s what drew us here in the first place. A good turnout will show we still believe in the sleepy fishing village that still exists under all the new growth. Growth is good, but so is keeping the ‘heart and soul’ of the friendly people that made Port Aransas the place it is today,” said parade chairman and board member Rick Pratt.

Island natives and long-time residents will spend a few hours telling tales about people and places in Port Aransas of yesteryear, beginning at 2pm, at the Pollock Center behind Community Presbyterian Church, 113 S. Alister St.

The parade will start at 4:15pm -- with line up at 4 -- in the parking lot of the

church. It will progress with a myriad of travelers in vintage cars, motorcycles, old boats, carts, bicycles, floats, feet and more led past buildings with a long Port

Calendar of Events

Nov. 24

..... 2nd Old Town Festival

Storytelling - 2pm

Parade line up starts - 4pm

Parade begins - 4:15pm

Wine, Cheese & Music - 5-7pm

Street Dance 8pm

PAPHA Financials

As of Oct. 31

\$3,752.03 in operating account

\$46,931.48 in Building account

Membership 395

Membership dues are paid Jan. - Dec. All memberships dues paid NOW through the end of 2007 will be valid through 12-31-08.

Inside this Issue:

Brick pavers Page 3

Festival parade map Page 3

Floor plan for museum..... Page 2

History of local names Page 4

Nancy's Notes..... Page 3

Old Town Festival (cont.) Page 4

Oval Office Page 2

Aransas history to be seen by parades include the church, Bilmore and Sons Hardware, Spanish Village, Gibbs Cottages, the Community Center, the Alister home, the old Catholic church, the Mercer Cemetery, the Studeman home, the Lister home, the Farley home, Gaudings Grocery, the old Post Office and the Tarpon Inn.

“We invite everyone in town or who can come to town to join us in celebrating our heritage. Decorate yourself, floats

See ‘Old Town Festival set’ on Page 4

Think PAPHA for holiday shopping

When doing your holiday shopping, don’t forget to see if PAPHA has any items that would be perfect for the loved ones on your list. Buying the merchandise will please the ones who get the gifts and help Port A get closer to its historical museum. A membership or brick paver in

their name would also be a way to honor those living or who have passed on.

Visit the PAPHA web site today and check out all that is available. Photos are available in all sizes as



well as on mugs, mouse pads, key chains, t-shirts and more by clicking on the **Big Blue Button**.

Order forms are available for membership applications, fund donations, 2005 Storytelling CDs, t-shirts, tote bags, brick pavers and more.

PAPHA would love to copy your photos of Port Aransas -- places, people, events, etc.

If you would allow PAPHA this consideration, please contact Pam Greene - 361-443-4683 or by e-mail at rattraxx@centurytel.net

Pennings by Pam

Talking with people in this community, I have heard certain thoughts about PAPHa that may be a little off the mark, so I would like to make a few things clear.

When we formed the organization, many people said we don't have anything worth preserving. Every community has something worth saving.

While it is true, between hurricanes, and sand and salt taking it's toll, the town does not have centuries-old buildings. This makes what we do have more worthy of preservation.

More important than that is the events, the happenings and the day-to-day life circumstances of the people who have lived here and visited here. All this history has made Port A what it is today.

Each of us have our own set of memories; the things that made us move here and the things that keep us here.

All of us are blessed with the natural beauty of the environment and the way this town and our part of the island is different than any other place on earth.

We are also blessed with the people and the friendliness felt by those who live here and visitors alike.

When I moved here in 1978, I was told it was where the fish bite every day and where the misfits fit. At first I didn't understand the last part. But as I met more residents, I understood. While the dynamics have certainly changed since then, this town still has a wealth of varied citizens with many talents in many fields. And for the most part, they still are respected and loved for their uniqueness.

This accepting of our past and present also needs to be preserved. Recording our history as we make it each day is one way of keeping the "best" of Port A and that is another part of PAPHa.

So don't just think of old buildings, think of the wonderful and often wacky memories you have of this town and know that this too is a part of the history of Port A that PAPHa is determined to preserve.

**Send Letters To The Editor
to rattraxx@centurytel.net**



Floor plan is suggested for historical museum

PAPHa has contracted with Southwest Museum Services (SMS) to rehabilitate the Mercer house and set up the museum. While the house has not been moved, PAPHa created the Restoration Planning Committee to handle the business of making the Mercer house into a museum after the move next to the Community Center.

SMS offers comprehensive services including museum exhibit design and fabrication, master planning and audio-visual services.

David Murrah of SMS has been working with the committee and submitted the floor plan shown above as a starting point, although it is far from

being set in stone. Community input is welcome.

Nancy Phillips, PAPHa vice president and interim museum director, and PAPHa grant chairman and board member Betty Bundy co-chair this committee.

Members of the committee are city councilman and PAPHa board member Rick Pratt, Bruce Reynolds, PAPHa board member Steve Roberts, Norris Stricker and PAPHa treasurer Sharon Stricker.

Reynolds and Tom Dasch, who will head the Community Center volunteer work, were given the go-ahead to pursue prices and obstacles for the plan.

The Oval (or awful) Office By President John Fucik

Most always when PAPHa undertakes some project, sponsors an activity or just engages Port A folks in conversation related to our history, it's a wonderment how helpful, supporting and interested everyone is.

The support the community gives to its schools, various clubs, churches and most all organizations is always gratifying but not at all commonplace. The instance of PAPHa's recent History's Mysteries Ghost Tours is a case in point. Wouldn't have been possible without BIG help from Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department, PAISD, Ellis Memorial Library, Family Center IGA, a bunch of local story tellers, volunteer ticket sellers and refreshment servers.

Of course, we CAN'T leave out the 78 adults and children who took and, I hope, enjoyed the tours.

In applauding all these supporters of

our history, I also want to recognize the flip side of this story. These folks and groups aren't just supporting but also making history. Oh, yes, lot's of history! That's a point I feel we can't emphasize enough.

In the normal course of its activities, functions, business, instruction, playing, fishing, maybe just gabbing, history is being made. And as PAPHa grows and our dreams of a museum and preservation of our history are realized, we hope to be the collection point of ALL your histories.

It's never to soon to start locating records, assembling archives, recording stories and events of YOUR organization, group or institution.

And I can almost promise, once you start the process, you'll make discoveries and unearth facts and stories that will make all your efforts truly worthwhile and exciting. Try it!!

Nancy's Notes

--a message from the museum interim director
Nancy Phillips

You've come up with two great suggestions for naming the Historical House that we are moving in order to have the beginnings of our museum. One of the suggestions has been very popular by those board members who've been a part of that process. However, you may have thought of the perfect name, so send it to us.

In all the preparations for moving the structure--placing the pilings and all those necessary things--I have been thinking about one of the first things to do to get the museum open and used by the public. We will need volunteers to hostess at the home during our open hours. It could be such an interesting and fun activity, so start thinking of how you can work it into your life.

Any suggestions for someone to be a volunteer director and others to help host in the museum could be sent to me at Nancy@seminoleoklahoma.com. Thanks so much.



PORT ARANSAS PRESERVATION & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
www.portansas.com

Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Membership Category _____

(Family membership only) - # in Family _____

(Club/Organization only) - # of members _____

(Student with class only) - # of students _____

Memberships

Category	Contribution
Individual	\$15 per year
Family	\$20 per year
Business	\$25 per year
Student (individual)	\$2 per year
Student (with class or group)	\$1 per year
Club/Organizations	\$1 per member a year-\$25 max.
Lifetime	\$1000

Supporting Memberships:

Decade	\$25 - \$50 per year
Century	\$51 - \$100 per year
Epoch	\$101 - \$500 per year
Millennium	\$501 - \$1000 per year

Send to: PAPHHA
PO Box 577, Port Aransas, TX 78373

Annual membership dues paid now through Dec. 31, 2007, will be valid through Dec. 31, 2008.

Chance for eternal posterity still available by purchasing brick pavers

Brick pavers will line the path to the new historical museum soon to be in place next to the Community Center in Port Aransas.

Memorialize a loved one or recognize a business, an organization or your family in stone for posterity by ordering a brick paver from the Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association (PAPHHA).

The 4-inch by 8-inch brick pavers include three lines of laser engraving. Each line is limited to 14 characters.

The brick pavers cost \$45 each.

"They also make a great gift that will be here for everyone to see year after year," said Betty Bundy, PAPHHA brick chairman.

The profits will be used to help get the museum started and is an on-going project for PAPHHA.

The brick pavers may be ordered through an order form in this issue, through the PAPHHA website, www.portansas.com, or by contacting Bundy at 361-749-3406.

The History of Four Local Names

BY
JOHN G. FORD

What is in a name? Mr. Shakespeare suggested not much: would not a rose by any other name smell as sweet? To a historian, however, names can give intriguing, and sometimes revealing, information. I believe such is the case for the appellations of four close-by places.

“Aransas” is the Anglicization of the Basque word Aránzazu, first used in Texas by a Spaniard to designate a small river. Aránzazu connotes a trying and dangerous undertaking. The first coastal usage of Aransas was to name the waterway between St. Joseph and Mustang Islands, and the **Aransas Pass** could not have been more aptly named. From the start of its commercial maritime usage (c. 1830) until the jetties were completed in 1919, the pass was a dangerous environment, as documented by scores of shipwrecks. Indeed, it was the wreck of the *Mary* that led to the Aransas Pass Life Saving Station, the 1878 precursor of the current Coast Guard Station.

In 1909, a deep water port was planned for Harbor Island, just north of the town of Tarpon on Mustang Island. The Harbor Island complex was referred to as **Port Aransas**, and so enthusiastic about this economic upturn were the Tarpon citizens, that in 1911 the town was renamed Port Aransas. The Harbor Island Port “A” eventually failed, but the Mustang Island Port “A” is alive and well!

Mustang Island is from *Isla Mesteño*. Mesteños are feral, unbranded animals, as was the “mustang” fate of horses and cattle that swam onto the island from foundered ships.

Laguna Madre is a large lagoon to which are attached numerous small inlets. Metaphorically, that geography struck a Spanish map maker as piglets suckling a sow, hence the madre-mother-name.

www.portausa.com



Photo from the PAPHA archives

Flags waving

This is the Life Saving Station, what was the precursor to the United States Coast Guard. This station was obliterated in the 1919 storm. After that, the Mercer house was used for a station for a while.

Old Town Festival set

Continued from Page 1

or vehicles, and follow the bagpipers through old town.

Make it a family affair; round up the kids, fellow club members, scouts, church members and business associates and enter. Register for the parade with Pratt by e-mail at camric@the-i.net or by phone at 361-749-3193.

Everyone is welcome, whether registered or not, if they make it to the lineup. All modes of transportation are encouraged to enter.

The parade will end at the Tarpon Inn courtyard where PAPHA volunteers will serve wine and cheese for a donation as music from bagpipers and other musicians fills the air. Drawings for prizes will be made for those making a donation at the wine and cheese event.

Luis Villarreal of Triggerfish and Jared Clark will play in the courtyard at 6pm.

PAPHA merchandise will be for sale with proceeds going to the fund drive for the museum. Information about PAPHA will be available as well, and people may register to be members.

The festival will conclude with an old-fashioned street dance on Trout Street, on the backside of Shorty’s

Place, the oldest building in the flats, at 821 Tarpon St. Caliche Road will play at 8pm.

For more information, contact festival chairman Pam Greene by e-mail rattraxx@centurytel.net or at (361) 443-4683, visit the PAPHA website, www.portausa.com or call the PAPHA phone at 361-749-3800.



Name the museum!

Send suggestions to
**PAPHA Vice-President/
Interim Museum
Director Nancy Phillips**
at nancy@seminoleoklahoma.com