



Volume 4, Issue 9

PAPHA Newsletter

September 2010

# Old Town Festival Centennial Celebration All Day/Night Oct. 16

Everyone with any connection to Port A is invited to join in a century of celebration.

What does Port A do best? Party!! Saturday, Oct. 16, will be a birthday party Island-Style. And it's going to be fun!!

Please help us celebrate Port Aransas' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

***The Centennial Celebration will include:***

A Centennial Fishing Tournament by the Boatmen; A Piggy Perch Contest by the Jr. Boatmen; A Centennial Picnic with Fun Family Activities hosted by island civic groups including; a Island Westmuttster Dog Contest and Port Aransas Community Theatre performances; Little Chapel on the Hill tours, Old Catholic Church tours; Port Aransas Museum tours; Wetlands

## New State Historical Marker

**Reported by Guthrie Ford**

A new state historical marker, "Mustang Island," will be dedicated on Saturday, October the 16<sup>th</sup>. The marker tells the multifaceted story of Mustang Island as a submerged shoal, a Karankawa haunt, a settlers' frontier, hunting and fishing paradise, and eventually a nationally recognized tourist destination.

The dedication will be at 2 p.m. in front of the Community Center as part of the Centennial Celebration and Old Town Festival, so there is quite a bit going on at that locale on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there.

Education Center tours; THEN the Old Town Festival Parade and Activities; THEN the Port A Art About, THEN the PAPHA Fundraiser by Julian Gold.

Go to page 5 for a complete time line of the festivities.

## Museum Fundraiser added to Centennial



*"The one store with the best of everything,"* will be in Port A on the evening of Saturday, October 16 to present the latest in fall fashions at The Moorings. The stage is set, tents will be raised, valet parking

will be available and The Moorings is proud to have Julian Gold sponsor a fundraiser for the Port Aransas Museum. The event begins at 6:00pm. Food, drinks, shopping, fashion show, door prizes and more highlight evening. A Julian Gold store will be set up under the big top for shopping and proceeds from the sales of Julian Gold merchandise will go to the Port Aransas Museum.

Kari Morrison, VP of the Corpus Christi Julian Gold, will host the activities. Kari and **See 'FUNDRAISER' on Page 5**

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# VIPs and Other Notables on Mustang Island

By John Guthrie Ford

The Island has been visited by VIPs and one VVIP: Franklin Delano Roosevelt. (While never literally on Mustang during his 1937 fishing trip, FDR did visit with Islanders while aboard Teddy Mathews boat, moored briefly at the Farley waterfront store. The President stayed aboard his yacht, USS *Potomac*.) We should not, however, let Mr. Roosevelt eclipse the other notables who have spent time on Mustang.

During the Second World War, school girls were beside themselves when Marine aviator—and heart throb—Tyron Power R&Red in Port Aransas. As “visitor central,” the Tarpon Inn has seen its share of VIPs. Duncan Hines, the famous travel writer whose “Recommended by Duncan Hines” sign was a coveted distinction, was married in Port A and honeymooned at the inn. Mr. Hines featured various inn recipes in his widely acclaimed cookbook and recommended the inn for 25 consecutive years.

For decades, tarpon—aka silver king—fishermen stayed at the inn. (In the very early days, each town guide had a distinct pennant that was run up the

flagpole if his services were required.) Literally thousands of fishermen signed the amazing 7,500 tarpon scales preserved at the inn (collection described in the “Strange But True” newspaper syndication). One fisherman, Dr. R.L. Sutton, authored the internationally popular, *The Silver Kings of Aransas Pass and Other Stories* (1937).

Now, envision the lion and tiger tamer—at least when we were kids—in all the grandeur of safari jacket, pith helmet, chair and snapping bullwhip. The person who gave the world that icon was Clyde Beatty, an overnight guest at the inn. (I doubt Clyde was disturbed: word is that his roommate was his pet lion.)

Somehow, Douglas “Wrong-Way” Corrigan kept his bearing long enough to find the Tarpon Inn. Pilot Corrigan’s notoriety began with a publicized non-stop 1938 flight from New York to California; instead, the aviator flew the north Atlantic, landing in Ireland! An experienced pilot, many believe this gross navigational error was a headline grabbing protest against the Government’s growing body of avia-

tion bureaucracy (eventually becoming the FAA); but Wrong-Way never admitted that, claiming an endless swath of heavy clouds caused him to make the most famous wrong-way flight in aviation history. Another notable airman, Colonel Billy Mitchell, stayed at the inn. Col. Mitchell is regarded by some as Father of the Air Force, by way of his controversial endorsements of aerial strategies and tactics during the 1920s, to include demonstrating that bombers could, much to the chagrin of the Navy, sink battleships, the “unsinkable” behemoths of the sea.

The Tarpon Inn registry has a definite international flair, with guests hailing from London, Bremen, Shanghai, LeHarve, Brisbane, and Palembang, Sumatra.

**[J. Guthrie Ford, Ph.D., is a recognized local history scholar and an award winning writer of heritage literature. His book on Mustang history, *A Texas Island*, is offered at the Port Aransas Museum.]**

## Old Clipping

### Port Aransas class of '45 has no reunion problems

The Port Aransas graduating class of 1945 held its 42nd year reunion in October and it was 100 percent attendance.

Attending were Edna (Tiny Mercer) Timidaiski and Catherine (Teller) Aldridge. They were the class of 1945. Having just two persons in the class has made it easy to have reunions.

The two held their first reunion at the Studeman 50th wedding anniversary on October 11 in Port Aransas. Mrs. Studeman is the sister of Mrs. Aldridge. They met again for coffee at the home of Eva (Winkie Mercer) Westmoreland in Aransas Pass on October 13th with Mrs. Leon

L. Mercer joining them.

Since Mrs. Timidaiski lives in Issaquah, Washington (near Seattle) and Mrs. Aldridge lives in Ingleside, they have not been together too often.

Their brothers, Leon Mercer of Victoria and Clarence (Mulligan) Teller, now deceased, were in the very first graduating class of Port Aransas High School. H.W. Herndon was school superintendent then.

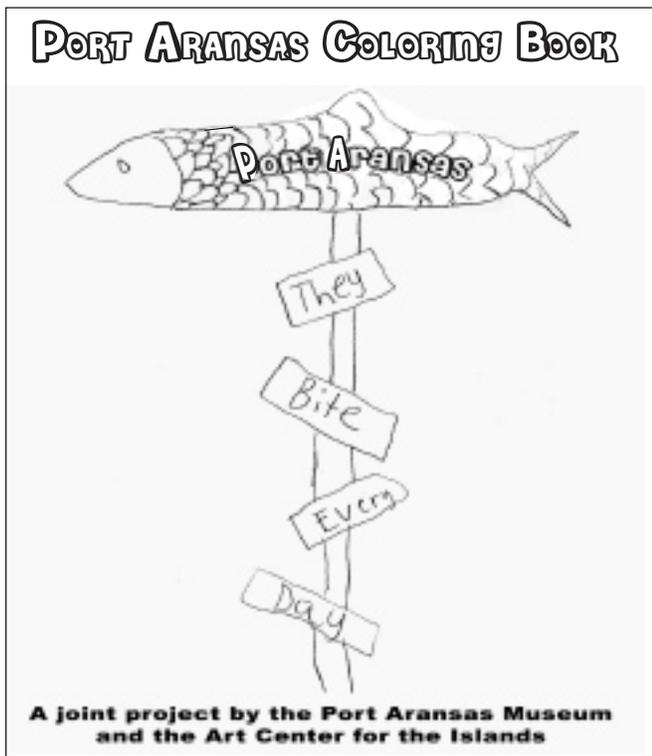
When Mrs. Timidaiski and Mrs. Aldridge graduated the superintendent was L.W. Owen. The two women recall that at the time the athletic teams were the Mustangs and the school paper was the Mustang News.

**Come See  
our NEW  
Sport  
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Exhibit!**

**Port Aransas  
Museum hours:  
Thurs-Sat,  
1-5pm**

**www.  
portaransasmuseum  
.org**

# Port Aransas Coloring Book For Sale by Next Month



Work on the coloring book collaboration between Port Aransas Museum Docents and the Art Center for the Islands is almost complete. The books will be available for sale by the Centennial Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 16.

The books will be sold with profits split between the Art Center and the Port Aransas Museum to help in operation of both non-profit entities. Included are ferries, beach, gulf creatures and more.

The book will be available for purchase at both places.



## KPAB Afghans Portray Port A Memorabilia

Keep Port Aransas Beautiful has 48" x 68" afghans with scenes from local site on sale to raise money for their projects. The afghans are 100% woven cotton in slate blue and cream and are made in America. Cost is \$50 with delivery in Port Aransas free. Contact KPAB Co-chair Darlene Secich at 361-749-7144 or fbcdarlene@aol.com.

KPAB is an all volunteer community 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that focuses on litter reduction, beautification and community improvement, "reduce-reuse-recycle-rebuy-repurpose", and environmental education.

KPAB is a Keep America Beautiful and Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate.

## Fundraiser

Cont. from Page 1

Robert Morrison's family donated the kit house that became the Port Aransas Museum. Please join us at The Moorings for on the night of October 16<sup>th</sup> and enjoy a fun filled evening while helping out the Port Aransas Museum.

## Centennial Members to Pose for Centennial Photo

PAPHA is grateful to all those who renewed their membership, especially at the Centennial Level.

So far this year, PAPHA has collected more than \$8700 in dues, far exceeding last year's total. We hope many more people will enjoy the museum and join our organization.

Those who joined at the special Centennial membership are invited to be in a joint photo during the Old Town Festival/Centennial Celebration. Meet on the steps to the Community Center at 2:30pm, on Oct. 16, for a photo to commemorate Port Aransas' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Grant writer needed

Anyone with grant writing skills and willing to donate some time is begged to help out PAPHA.

We know you're out there, we just need you to join us.

If you can help at all, please contact the Port Aransas Museum at 361-749-3800 or by email at portaransasmuseum@centurytel.net.

## The year was 1910

### Statistics for One hundred years ago:

\*\*\*\*\*

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.

Fuel for a 1910 Ford car was sold in drug stores only.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

There were only 8,000 cars & only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!

The average US wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour.

The average US worker made between \$200 & \$400 per year.

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at HOME.

Ninety percent of all doctors had **NO COLLEGE EDUCATION!**

Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as 'substandard.'

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

#### The Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was only 30!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6 percent of all Americans graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores.

Back then pharmacists said, 'Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health.'

( **Shocking? DUH!** )

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 **reported** murders in the **ENTIRE U.S.A.!**

## What a difference a century makes!

# Join a Group: It May Save Your Life!

**By Wanda Urbanska**

*Experience Life,*

a website dedicated as a guide to a healthy way of life

"Too busy to get involved with the PTA, the Rotary Club or your local gardeners' group? Consider this: If you're not a member of a single social, civic, religious or fraternal organization, and you join one, your chance of dying in the next 12 months drops by half, according to Lewis M. Feldstein, MA, co-author of *Better Together: Restoring the American Community* (Simon & Schuster, 2003).

"If you join another organization that year," Feldstein says, "your chances of dying drop another 25 percent." In other words, engaging with others is as vital to your health as eating well, exercising regularly and quitting smoking.

### Protective Effects

Experts have dubbed the health benefits of close [community ties](#) "The Roseto Effect," based on a landmark study that tracked a group of Italian immigrants who settled in Roseto, Penn. People who lived in Roseto were noticeably healthier and lived longer than their peers in neighboring Bangor, despite sharing such risk factors as fatty diets, an addiction to cigarettes and minimal exercise routines. What was their secret?

Residents of Roseto lived in a tight-knit, noncompetitive community consisting of three-generation households in which everyone attended the same church services and social clubs (and even followed the same weekly dinner plans).

The health benefits weren't genetic. As subsequent generations left Roseto and assimilated into mainstream culture, their health advantages vanished."

## Centennial Celebration

• [Safe light - noon] **Fishing Tournament** by Port Aransas Boatmen. Weigh-in at Woody's Sports Center, winners announced after parade

### **9am-12:30pm - Picnic & Fun Family Activities in Roberts Point Park including:**

- [9-10am] **Piggy Perch Contest** by Port Aransas Junior Boatmen, Roberts Point Park Pavilion
- [9:30am] **Booths open** under the big top tents with various activities for kids and adults
- [10:45am]: **Island Westmutter Dog Contest** at Patsy Jones Amphitheater, 5 categories: Hollywood Here I Come, Best Kisser, Best Trick, Look-a-Like, Best Tailwagger
- [12 noon]: **Port Aransas Community Theatre** performs music an skits to 12:30pm

## Port A Art About

The 4th Annual Port Aransas Art Walk (aka-PA ARTABOUT) on Oct. 16 4-7pm, is sponsored by the Art Center for the Islands & the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce.

Stop by these locations for refreshments and meet and greet with artists and their art. Enhance your life with ART! This art walk is held to encourage and promote art and culture and let everyone know Port A is Port Arty!

Starting in Old Town and winding out Hwy. 361, this is a self guided tour of these arty locations and you can start your tour at any point and follow the map, which will be available at all locations. This is a great opportunity to get out and walk, bike, or take a cart, and learn more about the art culture in this community.

The 12 different venues are all free and open to the public. Meet a variety of folks, mingle, have refreshments at each location and meet others who share a passion for art, or encourage a friend or neighbor to come along.

Art Center for the Islands, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corp, Promoting Art & Culture Island Style since 1996. Inquiries, 361-749-7334 [artcenter@centurytel.net](mailto:artcenter@centurytel.net).

- Potters on Cotter - 413 E. Cotter
- Debra Wilbanks Williams Studio - 118 W. White
- Bam Bam Artwares - 403 N. Alister
- Lazy Boy Lounge - 343 Oleander
- Port A Gallery - 345 N. Alister
- Art Center for the Islands - 323 N. Alister
- Susan Castor Collection - 106 E. Roberts
- Cita Resort Interiors - 129 N. Alister
- Donna Van Baalen Studio - 303 S. Station
- Felder Gallery - 1726 St. Hwy 361 Tower Center
- A Mano - 1726 St. Hwy 361 Tower Center
- Mustang Island Art Gallery - 2222 Hwy 361
- Ida Ayala Pauken Studio - 660 Sand Key Dr.

<http://www.portaransasartcenter.org/2010-pa-art-about.pdf>

## Old Town Festival Activities

**9am:** Little Chapel on the Hill tour [meet at Museum]

**11am:** Little Chapel on the Hill tour [meet at Museum]

**12 noon:** Port Aransas Museum opens - open to 5 p.m.

**12:45pm:** Line up for parade at the Community Presbyterian Church, 113 N. Alister

**1pm:** **Parade through Old Town** starts. Parade route. From church, right on Alister Street, right on Roberts, left on Church - passing Gibbs Cottages, Community Center, old city hall & jail; right on Oakes - passing the old Catholic Church, the Mercer Cemetery; left on Mercer - passing the old Studeman house, the old Mercer house, the old Farley house; left on White; right on Station; left on Cotter - passing the Tarpon Inn; left on Alister ending at the Museum.

**1-4pm:** **Community Center open** with non-profit and civic groups, along with merchants, selling items and informing public of missions and accomplishments

**2pm:**

\* **Welcome** by State Representative Todd Hunter and Chuck Cazalas;

\* **Winners of Piggy Perch Contest** by Jr. Boatmen;

\* **Winners of Boatmen Centennial Fishing Tournament**

\* **Dedication of State Historical Marker** by Guthrie Ford [A new state historical marker, "Mustang Island," will be dedicated on Saturday, October the 16<sup>th</sup>. The marker tells the multifaceted story of Mustang Island as a submerged shoal, a Karankawa haunt, a settlers' frontier, hunting and fishing paradise, and eventually a nationally recognized tourist destination.]

\* **Time Capsule burial**

**2:30pm:** **Storytelling** under tent in the Old Catholic Church compound on Church Street behind the Community Center at 408 N. Alister St.

**2:30 - 4pm:** **Old Catholic Church** tours

**3pm:** **Little Chapel on the Hill** tour [meet at Museum]

**6pm:** **Museum Fundraiser** sponsored by Julian Gold at The Moorings, 3700 Island Moorings Pkwy.

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[www.portaransasmuseum.org](http://www.portaransasmuseum.org)

**361-749-3800**

PORT ARANSAS PRESERVATION & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
[www.portaransasmuseum.org](http://www.portaransasmuseum.org)

**Membership Application**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category \_\_\_\_\_

(Family membership **only**) - # in Family \_\_\_\_\_

(Club/Organization **only**) - # of members \_\_\_\_\_

(Student with class **only**) - # of students \_\_\_\_\_

**Memberships**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
<b>Individual</b> .....	\$25 per year
<b>Family</b> .....	\$30 per year
<b>Business</b> .....	\$50 - \$1,000 per year
<b>Student</b> (individual) .....	\$2 per year
<b>Student</b> (with class or group) .....	\$1 per year
<b>Clubs/Organizations</b> .....	\$1 per member a year-\$25 max.
<b>Lifetime</b> (individual) .....	\$1000

**Supporting Memberships:**

<b>Decade</b> .....	\$26 - \$50 per year
<b>Century</b> .....	\$51 - \$100 per year
<b>Epoch</b> .....	\$101 - \$500 per year
<b>Millennium</b> .....	\$501 - \$1000 per year

**Merchant Memberships:**

<b>Lifetime</b> .....	\$10,000
<b>Gold</b> .....	\$1,000 per year
<b>Silver</b> .....	\$500 per year
<b>Bronze</b> .....	\$100 per year
<b>Supporter</b> .....	\$50 per year

**Send to: PAPHA**  
PO Box 677, Port Aransas, TX 78373