



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
 January to June 2013
 4,049 visitors



June 6th the Museum was recognized at the DMS 5th Grade Awards ceremony as a partner in their Fishing Club. The Museum helped set up guest speakers for the group's monthly meetings.

Volume 7 Issue 4

April to June 2013 Newsletter

Director News

Since the beginning of the DHFM in 2003, this is the most exciting and important time we have shared. Since its inception, the museum has received wonderful support from the entire City. Due to this, we have grown into a wonderful destination attraction. This growth has created a need for expansion. At the June 17th Council meeting, the Destin City Council voted to extend the Museum's lease to a period of 25 years for \$1 a year. This provides many new directions for the Museum expansion. If you have visited us recently, you see how limited we are for adding new educational programs and also for creating new exhibits. Our future plan for the Museum includes expansion of the building that will house the seine boat "Primrose" and a fishing exhibit that will cover Destin fishing from 1835 to present time. Our new lease will also provide space for artifact restoration and climatized archives, as well as an area for lectures and other learning opportunities in the space previously used for the Senior Center. Our new lease is scheduled to be in effect Oct. 1, 2013. Please follow our progress on these exciting events. Your help is always appreciated and will be needed more that ever as we undertake these new projects. Thank you to our members and everyone who have helped the Museum reach this point in our growth.

My sincere thanks,
 Jean

Calendar of Events

April 3
 Miss Destin Contestant's
 "Soda Party"

April 12
 TDC VIVA 500 Florida
 Museum Tour

May 4
 Founder's Day

June 15
 Fish Fry Fundraiser
 Harry T's Restaurant

October 4, 5, & 6
 Destin Seafood Festival
 Museum Fundraising Concessions
 Harry T's Dave's Dogs Booth &
 Parking Concession

December 15
 27th Annual Holiday on the Harbor
 Boat Parade


January 25, 2014
 Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction

Destin Charter Boat Association Presents Check to Museum

The DCBA presented a check to the Museum for \$3,000. With this donation the DCBA becomes a "Benefactor" Life Member of the Museum. They have long been a supporter helping to fund new exhibits such as the Captain's Wall of Fame, lend volunteer help and promote the museum's mission.




DCBA representative Kathy Eller presents a check to Museum Vice President Dan Martin and Associate Director Kathy Marler Blue



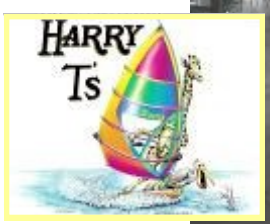
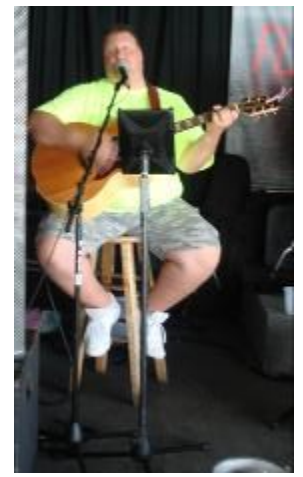
Old Fashioned FISH FRY BENEFIT
Saturday, June 15 • 10am - 3pm

Get your appetite ready! Fried fish, fluffy hushpuppies, creamy coleslaw, hot french fries, and iced tea are on the menu. Proceeds benefiting the restoration of the historic Primrose vessel residing at the Destin History & Fishing Museum. The Primrose was constructed in 1924 and is the last seine boat of its kind.



Advance Tickets: \$13, Adults: \$15, Kids 12 & Under: \$5
For more information, visit: destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.com

With the spectacular Destin Harbor and Pass as a backdrop, the Fish Fry Benefit netted \$ 2, 235 to support the Museum mission! Many thanks to Dan Empson, Harry T's Staff , Museum Board & Volunteers for a great event!



Pioneers of Paradise

The Wells Family

Written by Jean Melvin



Lonnie & Savannah Wells



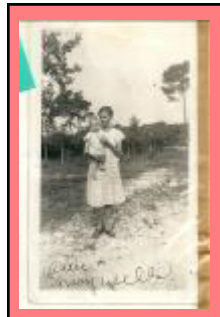
Lonnie Wells

The first history of the Wells family in Destin is in 1924. This is the year the family moved to Destin from Point Washington, Florida. The head of the family, Alonzo Willis "Lonnie" Wells, was born in Florida in 1875 and died in Destin in 1949. His parents were David J. and Matilda. The 1910 Census shows them living in Point Washington. In 1909, Alonzo married Savannah Davis, who was born in Georgia in 1881 and died in 1946. Their children were : Riley Hillard who was born in 1904 at Point Washington, Florida and died in 1973 in Destin. Lois Euzeland Frances was born in 1899 and died in 1946. Gordon Thomas was born in 1902 and died in 1993. Jeanette Estelle "Nettie" was born in 1905 and died in 1968. She was married to Paul R. Smith. Lizzie was born in 1907 and died in 1909. Willis Lonnie was born in 1908 and died in 1990. Dallas Lenzy was born in 1910 and died in 1928. Katie Mae was born in 1912 and died in 1998. She was married to Grady Early. Ellen Agnes "Ella" was born in 1913 and died in 1994. She was married to William Collie Kittrell. Robert Lesley "Bill" was born in 1915 and died in 1998. Josephine Irene was born in 1924 and died in 2000. She was married to J. Holland.

The oldest son of Alonzo and Savannah, Riley Hillard, married Alice B. Drake in 1925. Their children were: Lonnie Edward who was born in 1926 in Destin and married June Kimbrell in 1946. Alfred Riley was born in 1928 in Destin and died in 1991. He married Frances Paschal. William Earl was born in 1929 and died in 1999. He married JoAnn DeJaernett. Opal V. was born in 1933. Robert Floyd was born in 1936 and died in 2012. He married Joanne E. Strahl in March 1959 in Okaloosa County. Lonnie lived in Destin and worked as a mechanic. When they became of age, Alfred joined the Army, William E. joined the Navy and Floyd joined the Air Force. Their only daughter, Opal, was employed at Elgin Field and retired from there.



Irene Wells



Alice & Mary Wells

Alice, Lonnie, Alfred, Curly, Opal,
Floyd, Drayton & Nancy May
1936
Gulfport, MS



Riley Hillard Wells



Museum Honored by Sam Lombardo

Destin resident, WW II Veteran and author of *O'er the Land of the Free*, Sam Lombardo donated a case of his books to the Museum to sell. It depicts some of his experiences from his first ten years in Italy, through his developing years in Pennsylvania, and finally, to his combat experiences during WW II including the Battle of the Bulge. Some of his stories are humorous and some are tragic, but all lead up to the challenging task of making an American flag, using whatever materials could be secured. This flag, pieced together, under combat conditions, by the author and many of his soldiers, took 2 1/2 months to complete. The 99th Division's "Old Glory" was the 1st American flag to cross Remagen Bridge during the war and today is on display at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia. Lombardo also served in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam in Intelligence Operations and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.



TOURS

- ◆ April 9 - Pensacola Olive Baptist Church Seniors Tour
- ◆ April 12 - TDC VIVA 500 Florida Get HisTOURical Tour
- ◆ May 14 - Leadership Okaloosa County Tour



Celebrating our "Grand Slam" Life Members
Generously Donating \$2,501 to \$5,000 to the Museum Mission.

- * Jean L. & Monique DeChazal
- * Emerald Coast Centre—Park Grimmer
- * Bernarr & Candance Kelly
- * Imogene Kelly
- * Tractor & Equipment—The Waitzmans
- * WalMart Foundation



Flipper Renovation Complete

April 3rd the DHFM hosted the Destin Fishing Rodeo’s Miss Destin Contestant’s “Soda Party”. Six girls seeking to be Miss Destin 2013 met and received a tour of the Museum to become familiar with Destin’s history and heritage. The pageant was scheduled for April 20th at the Destin Community Center. Contestants were: Hannah Gord, Erin Groth, Natalie Lawson, Caroline Oswald, Bailey Rathmann, and Cassie Roby. Caroline Oswald was crowned the 2013 Miss Destin.

Paver Garden Grows !



The Flipper Wheelhouse, originally installed as a Museum outside exhibit by the Destin Chamber of Commerce “Destin Forward” Leadership Team, has a refurbished look. Officer Brian Bolton and a team of Okaloosa County inmates volunteered their community service hours to repair and refurbish the exhibit. New wood, fresh paint, and polished brass bring a restored look to this wonderful exhibit. Alan Laird of AJ’s Restaurant has given the museum the use of his replica shark jaws for a new “photo opportunity” spot in front of the museum.



**Museum Hosts
Miss Destin Contestants**



Photo taken by John Brashears

With our sincere thanks to Andy Turner, our 6th order of pavers has been installed in the “Footprints in the Sand” garden at the Museum. This outside focal point is a celebration of life in Destin’s past, present, and future.

*Support the Museum!
Have a brick paver engraved
with your business name, charter boat or family.*

destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

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

Phone: 850-837-6611

Staff E-mails

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Kathy Marler Blue
kathydestinhistory@gmail.com

Website:
destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org



RECYCLE INK CARTRIDGES AND CELL PHONES AT THE MUSEUM

Your recycled cell phones earn \$5-10 each for the museum. Keep them coming!!!

Tuesday - Saturday
10am to 4pm

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



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, Hollis Lathem, 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

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.