

“Sharing the Rich History of Ormond Beach through Education and Preservation”

This is the **Fall Newsletter**  
but we still have some **Summer Activities** for you!



**Our Jimmy Buffett fans are  
ready to party,  
so we're throwing one -**

### **A real Key West Party!!!**

*Jimmy Buffett songs you know by heart  
with Karaoke by Mondo Music  
Lots to eat, lots to drink!  
Friday, August 8, 6 - 10 p.m.  
Anderson-Price Memorial Building  
More info, page 3.*

## **Our Member Appreciation**

# **Summer Sizzler**

**August 22, 4:30 - 7 p.m.**

**Drinks and hors d'oeuvres - And It's Free!  
Anderson-Price Memorial Building**

**More info, page 3.**

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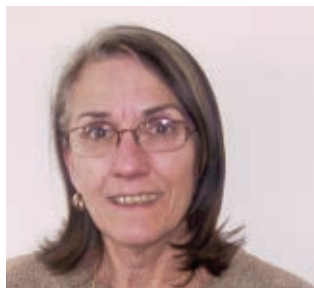
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[www.OrmondHistory.org](http://www.OrmondHistory.org)

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## President's Letter

### Sharing the Past with the Future

During the summer months OBHS has had the opportunity to share the rich history of Ormond Beach with children and youth in the area.

A van from Halifax Behavior Center picked me up at the Casements for three days, and I customized an hour tour for each group, children and youth struggling with whatever problems they face today but eager to hear stories of a past that took them to different times and places. The “boys” and I visited the Indian Mound, the replica of the Ormond Garage, and the replica of the Watch Tower. In each case they loved being near the water and imagining what it would be like to canoe and catch fish with the Timucua Indians, or race down the beach in a speeding car, or dutifully scan the ocean waters for German submarines off the shore during WWII. I emphasized courage, hard work, and dreams dreamed and being fulfilled. In a thank you note, one really smart young man said, “I never knew about how the militia got into the watch towers just to monitor the beach for German submarines.” The “girls” and I explored the fantasy world of staying at the Hotel Ormond for three months by visiting the Cupola and then walking down Orchard Lane. Tom Massfeller, proud new owner of the Nathan Cobb Cottage, opened his doors and welcomed us in. One young lady in the small confines commented, “Well I guess a flat screen TV might fit on top of the fireplace! But where would we

sleep?” It was an absolute joy to see smiles on the faces of these kids. Planting seeds from stories of the past to keep dreams alive for the future – that’s important and fun too.

Next week I’ll do three walking tours with children from the Casements’ Enviro Camp. We’ll tour Anderson-Price Memorial Building, we’ll take the stroll down Orchard Lane (Tom opening his doors again), and Dan Smith will meet us at the beach to talk about beach racing. These children will often pipe right in with comments because most are from Ormond and have already had seeds planted about the city they live in.

And it doesn’t end when school starts. Christine Dann leads our participation in the Volusia County ECHO program for grade school students and their parents. She has provided education for many people from the western side of the county. And springtime will bring another Teddy Bear Picnic, started two years ago by Betty Stern.

OBHS is reaching out during the hot summer months.

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Diana Simmons

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Friday, August 8, 6-10 p.m.

## Key West Party



*Put your fins up and wear your finest  
parrothead gear.*

*Party, dance and sing  
your favorite Jimmy Buffett songs.  
See changes in your attitude at our one  
particular harbor at the  
Anderson-Price Memorial Building!*

*Jimmy Buffett Karaoke by Mondo Music*

*Two Free Drinks - Island Fare  
Tickets \$35 each - \$60 for 2*

**Friday, August 22, 4:30 - 7 p.m.**

## **Member Appreciation**

## **Summer Sizzler**

**It's FREE! Stop by, bring a friend or two.**

**Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres.**

**Visit with other members and friends, and  
learn what's happening with OBHS!**

**Anderson-Price Memorial Building**

**42 N. Beach St. • Ormond Beach**

**~ Reservations for each event Limited to 100 people ~**

**Call 386-677-7005**

## The Three Chimneys Boiling House Canopy project is complete!



This project – replacing the pole and tarp cover over the boiling house with a more permanent structure – has been in the works for over a year. Thanks to donations last year from Lowell Lohman honoring his wife, Nancy, and Tom Massfeller in memory of his parents, Kurt and Margaret Massfeller, we had the funding,

Design By Daniel Johns, PE, was completed by spring, and after city reviews and approvals, construction by Greig Rabitaille's Rabbit and Sons Construction Co. was completed in early July, 2014.

## Take one of our scenic bus tours to see it – it's awesome!

These two-hour tours include the Ormond Scenic Loop, Fairchild Oak, Three Chimneys Sugar Mill Ruins, Ormond Indian Burial Mound and historic homes along the way. A knowledgeable tour guide will interpret the 30 sites on the route. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$7 for ages 7 - 12, and can be purchased at the OBHS Welcome Center, 38 East Granada Blvd. or by phone using Visa or Master Card. Reservations are required as space is limited. Call 386-677-7005 for tickets or more information. Our Historical Bus Tours leave from The Casements parking lot, 25 Riverside Drive, at 9:45 a.m.

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## Ormond Garage State Historical Marker



In the summer newsletter issue we reported that the old Ormond Garage marker at 133 East Granada Boulevard, placed there in 1966 by the Birthplace of Speed Committee, was to be refurbished by the state.

The state came through and the sign is done – This project was made possible through Michael Zimney, historic site specialist, Bureau of Historic Preservation with the Division of Historical Resources, Florida Department of State.

The sign is beautiful, as you can see in this picture. Stop by to see it – it's worth the trip!

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*This poem was written by Alice Howell, a past board member of OBHS, to honor the memory of our grand old Hotel Ormond. We like to run articles on the hotel occasionally to remind our members of her glory and grandeur during the hotel's heydays. Please remember that the cupola from the Hotel Ormond still exists in Fortunato Park, northeast corner of the Granada Bridge. It contains relics and pictures from the hotel and early Ormond. Stop by to visit, open Saturdays and Sundays, 2 – 4 p.m., but closed in July and August, Call our office, 677-7005, for special group tours.*

### The Grand Hotel Ormond

In the Lord's year of 1887,  
Two men, together, built a piece of heaven.  
Their vision of grandeur at last came true,  
Built on the banks of the Halifax so blue.

Anderson and Price, Anderson and Price,  
Two very smart men, both handsome and nice.

Their building rose out of scrub and palmetto,  
From land these men worked so very hard to settle.  
Proud and high for all to admire,  
With cupola rising tall as a lovely church spire.

The veranda so bright, sunny and wide,  
And John's bugle call to dinner a thing of much pride.  
Orange blossoms' fragrance filled the sweet air,  
An aroma to remember beyond all compare.

From far and wide people all came to see,  
Some were famous, some were not to be.  
Till one man, named Flagler, above the rest,  
Saw the vision, too, and made it his quest.

Soon the train could be heard at Hotel Ormond's door,  
Bringing those who would stay and those that would go.  
And we recall, year after year ... the grand hotel's legend endures evermore.

Anderson and Price, Anderson and Price,  
Two very smart men, both handsome and nice.

## Dance of the Diamonds

*John Anderson, one of Ormond's founders and a builder of the Hotel Ormond, wrote a number of articles under the name **John Halifax**, about the Ormond area that appeared in newspapers in Northeastern cities. This one, written about 1890, appeared in the Journal section of the Boston Globe. They called it "The Dance of the Diamonds."*

It was on the Ormond Halifax Bridge, that late one dark evening I witnessed a wonderfully beautiful phenomenon.

I was adjourning to the Hotel Ormond, the little hotel on the bar between the Halifax and the ocean and had been over the river to the village. As I was walking back across the bridge a heavy shower arose, and in a few moments the rain was descending in torrents.

Immediately, as far as the eye could reach on either side, the river burst into myriads of fiery diamonds. It was startling and bewildering. It was merely the phosphorescence of the water, but the effect was magnificent.

Every drop that struck was like a burning meteor, and there was a drop for every square inch on either side of the bridge. As the raindrops struck the surface, the phosphorescent waters bounded back in glowing crystals.

It was truly a dance of the diamonds!

Then, as the freshening breeze fanned the river's face, the merry waters laughed in brilliant, sparkling ripples and, as the music of the winds grew louder, faster, the waves with their flaming crests joined the mad dance.

I leaned on the rail of the dark bridge and thought myself Tom O'Shanter at the dance of the witches: The piper loud and louder blew, The dancers quick and quicker flew.

Suddenly there was a great commotion in the waters beneath me, a submarine volcano seemed boiling up liquid fire; blazing arrows and serpents shot out and around, and noiseless bombs were bursting under the surface everywhere. What was it?

It was a school of fish in the phosphorescent waters. The next moment they were gone, and the shower stopped.

And in an instant all was dark. A lurid light still played about the base of the bridge pilings like the dying flame in the candle socket, and here and there over the lagoon a breaking wave cast a lonely flash like the shadowy lantern of the night-watch moving through the deserted halls after the gay company has departed.

How lonely and dark it was on the long bridge after all. I hastened to the Ormond, but I will never forget the "Dance of the Diamonds".



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## Open the Doors to Ormond Beach's Historic Treasures!

The Ormond Beach Historical Society invites you to take a tour, hear a lecture, see the sights of the "Birthplace of Speed," where early 20th century race cars competed on the beach, 18th and 19th century sugar mills turned sugar cane into molasses and rum, and 17th century Native Americans lived amid the natural splendor of east central Florida.

### Visit Us!

#### At the MacDonald House, Ormond Beach's Welcome Center and Museum

*Gateway to the Ormond Scenic Loop*

38 East Granada Boulevard

Ormond Beach, FL 32176

386-677-7005

www.OrmondHistory.org • email: office@ormondhistory.org

#### Open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

See historical photographs and literature, visit our Merchandise Shoppe offering a selection of DVDs and books on local and Florida history, postcards, Birthplace of Speed T-shirts, caps, and more for purchase.

**Don't miss our 20-minute local history video, Ormond Discovery**

### Scenic Bus Tours

Ride in an air-conditioned bus to discover the hidden historical gems of Ormond Beach. Our tour includes 30 sites on the route – the Ormond Scenic Loop, Fairchild Oak, Three Chimneys Sugar Mill Ruins, Ormond Indian Burial Mound and historic homes along the way, and lasts about two hours, guided by a friendly, knowledgeable Historical Society volunteer tour guide.

**Tours are offered 2-3 times per month.**

**Adults \$20; OBHS members \$18; Children (5-12) \$7**

**Reservations required, space is limited;**

**Call the MacDonald House, 386-677-7005, for dates and times.**

### Hotel Ormond Cupola

Visit the remaining portion of the Hotel Ormond in Fortunato Park (northeast corner of the Granada Bridge) to see pictures and memorabilia about the hotel. No charge. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 2-4 pm, September through May.

### Anderson-Price Memorial Building

This historic building at 42 N. Beach Street is owned by OBHS and can be rented for weddings, receptions, luncheons, business meetings, etc.

*Call the MacDonald House, 386-677-7005, for reservations or questions.*



The MacDonald House  
38 East Granada Blvd.  
Ormond Beach, FL 32176



## ***500 Years of Florida History!***



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### **Mark your Calendars – EVENTS TO ATTEND**

**The Anderson- Price Memorial Building is located at 42 N. Beach Street in Ormond Beach.  
Call the MacDonald House, 677-7005, for reservations or questions.**

**Friday, August 8, 6-10 p.m. – Key West Party** – Jimmy Buffet Karaoke by Mondo Music; Key West party favors; 2 free drinks; island fare. Tickets: \$35 each; \$60 for two.

**Friday, August 22, 4:30 to 7 p.m. – Membership Summer Sizzler** Annual member appreciation event. Stop by for an evening with members and friends and bring a friend (or two)! Enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres and find out what's happening at the Society. Please call to let us know you are coming. And it's **FREE!**

**Saturdays, August 16, September 13, October 11, November 8, 9:45 a.m. – Scenic Historical Bus Tours**, leave from The Casements parking lot, 25 Riverside Drive. Reservations required, OBHS members \$18, non-members \$20, children (5 – 12) \$7.

**Discover Our History Lecture Series** – Refreshments at 9:30 a.m., program 10 -11. Admission and parking are **free**.

**September 27-** Nick Wynne: *Florida in the Great Depression*;

**October 25-** Marsha Shapiro: *Florida Musical History*;

**November 22** – Roger Smith: *The American Revolution's Best Kept Secret: Why East and West Florida Mattered*.

**Saturday, September 27, 1:45 p.m. – ECHO Rangers Children's Program** – For children 5 – 12, Anderson-Price Memorial Building; more details TBA

**Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4, 7 p.m. Cemetery Tour** – *Tales from Pilgrims' Rest Cemetery*, West Granada Boulevard east of Nova Road. Hear the story of early settlers resting there from your tour guides and re-enactors. Tickets: \$12; \$10 for OBHS members. Limited to 100 people. Free parking.

**8th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes** – **Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Mark your calendars for our annual Tour of Homes this year on **Saturday**. More details and tickets available early October.