



# The Historical Quarterly

## of The St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc.

Vol. 42 No. 4

Fall 2024

### Ted Burrows: Communicator, History Supporter, Will Be Missed

With a heavy heart we share the passing of long-time communications professional, and Historical Society volunteer Ted Burrows, who passed away August 24th at his home in White City. He was 82. Ted served on the Board of Directors at the St. Lucie Historical Society, volunteered as a docent at the museum and was editor of The Historical Quarterly. Our condolences to Linda and his family.

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Born in New Jersey Ted moved with his parents and brother to Fort Pierce in 1955. While attending Dan McCarty High School he edited the school newspaper and read the morning announcements. After graduating in 1960, he attended Indian River Junior College and graduated in 1963.

He served four years in the U.S. Army as a sound technician with the White House Communications Agency providing support to the President. He traveled extensively with Presidents Johnson and Nixon throughout the United States and overseas and was awarded the Presidential Service Badge and the Joint Service

Commendation Medal.

Following his Army service, he earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications and then worked for UF's Division of Information Services. In 1975 he left to teach communications courses at Bethany College in West Virginia. He joined the Stuart News/Port St. Lucie News in 1979 and served as opinion page editor and columnist for 23 years. After retiring in 2002, he joined the staff of WQCS, where he provided voice announcements and underwriting messages. His comforting voice can still be heard on taped announcements and underwritten messages on WQCS radio.



Ted leaves behind his wife, Linda S. Burrows and his two daughters, Amy K. Beath (Michael S. Beath) and Elizabeth A. Cunningham, plus two granddaughters, Haley E. Cunningham and Addisen B. Cunningham. He is also survived by his brother, David W. Burrows.

We'll sure miss him! Δ

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The Historical Quarterly  
of The St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc.  
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**Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc., P O Box 578, Fort Pierce, Fl. 34954, Telephone (772) 461-8020, stluciehistoricalsociety.net

## The President's Message

by Nancy Bennett

Welcome everyone to the Fall edition of *The Historical Quarterly*!

We're looking forward to the Treasure Coast History Festival being held on the museum grounds on January 11, 2025. During the summer the festival committee has been busy planning event details, which can be found in this edition.

Many thanks to Mary Schrader who has graciously taken care of the preparation for and mailing of *The Historical Quarterly* over the years. We wish her the best as she relocates to the west coast of Florida.

Welcome aboard Roberta Murray who will serve as the Editor of *The Historical Quarterly* stepping in to assist after Ted Burrows' recent passing.

As always, thank you volunteers for all that you do to keep the Society running and the museum open. We always need volunteers at the museum, please reach out if you are interested!

Nancy

## Bulletin Boosters

Help support a lively and useful SLHS Historical Quarterly. A \$10 donation will add your name to the Bulletin Boosters roster for a full year of Quarterly editions. Please give your \$10 donation to Treasurer Bub Burdge. Many thanks! Names of current Bulletin Boosters are listed below:

**1 Year: Expiring 10/24**

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**3-Years: Expiring 8/27**

Beverly Craft

**4-Years: Expiring 4/28**

Bill & Letha Fowler

# Steve Lowe's Strange Sea Story

By: Terry Howard

*Steve Lowe was considered by many to be one of the very best commercial king mackerel fishermen on the east coast of Florida. He was also one of the first and best long line sword fish captains. He was born on February 8, 1936, in New Smyrna Beach, and died on October 8,*



*Steve Lowe in 2002*

*2015. His family moved to Fort Pierce when he was very young. All of the captains interviewed for my books were asked, "What was the strangest*

*experience you ever had on the ocean?" In answer to that question Steve shared the following story:*

*It was on the War Eagle, a forty-eight-foot marine management hull with a 1271 turbo in it. It was a fast boat; I'd say 27 knots. I had Gene Hayes and two more guys I don't remember on the boat, and we put the line out. This was the four-mile swordfish line.*

*I always watch my line. I never let anyone else. We had little strobe lights on the line and pole, and that's what you had to watch. They'd go to sleep, and you'd lose it, and you didn't know where it was, so I didn't let anybody watch my line. I always watched my line.*

*You'd drift off the line during the night and you'd crank up and idle back down the line. You*

*Steve Lowe gutting a catch of grouper*

*... continued on page 5*



# 8th Annual Treasure Coast History Festival is January 11th

January 11, 2025, will mark the second year of the Treasure Coast History Festival being held on the museum grounds. The festival committee has been working through the summer securing sponsorships, speakers and storytellers. Below is a brief overview of activities:

## Speakers:

Speaker's Tent with stage, podium, microphone and speakers will host four presentations:

1. Brad Phares, Florida Cowboy Artist & host of "Between the Beaches Podcast"
2. Ann Sinnott: Pioneer Food
3. Greg Enns: The Ashley Gang
4. Steve Hoskins & Terry Howard: Mrs. Hatti Chamberlin and St. Lucie Village

## Storytellers:

located in "The Barn", will feature:

1. 10:00 - 10:45 "Growing up in Saint Lucie Village" - Steve Hoskins and Terry Howard, with Julie Lounibus, and John and Ron Rohm
2. 11:00 - 11:45 "Florida Fishing" - Captain Sam Crutchfield
3. 12:00 - 12:45 "Metal Detecting & Treasure Hunting" - Terry Shannon, with Fred Banke
4. 1:00 - 1:45 "History of Local Paintings"- Billy Johnson

A new feature this year will be a food court and music area on the west side of the museum building. Tables and chairs will be provided for guests who would like to grab a bite to eat and enjoy some live music during the festival. A variety of foods will be available.

## Sponsorships:

are a huge part of the Society

being able to host the Treasure Coast History Festival. Many, many thanks to the below supporters:

## Presenting Sponsors:

Gregg Enns, Indian River Magazine  
St. Lucie Historical Society

## Platinum:

Ari L & Molly Straus

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Rick & Lisa Kate Modine:  
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Roberta Murray, Realtor at  
Water Pointe Realty Group

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Patricia Modine, Modine's Trail's End Ranch

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## In-kind Donations:

Causeway Cove Marina

St. Lucie County Fair

WQCS-FM

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT SPONSORS!

If you would like to donate to the festival fund and be acknowledged on Facebook, the Society's website and newsletter as a sponsor, please contact Roberta Murray for more details at 772-530-8018. Δ



Lisa & Rick Modine

***Be sure to mark your calendars now for January 11th to volunteer or attend the annual Treasure Coast History Festival at the museum!***

STEVE LOWE ... continued from page 3



Steve Lowe (L) and brother Ray stand by a large goliath grouper caught in 1942 in the Ft. Pierce turning basin.

don't tie off to the line because if you got a big fish, he'd break the line off. It was a free-floating line.

One night, I cranked up the boat, and I drifted off the line about a mile and I could see the strobe light, the end light, and the wind was out of the southeast, probably, maybe ten miles an hour. There were two to three-foot waves, and I started idlin' down the line, probably goin' three or four knots.

I'm just goin' down the line to go to the other end and drift back, going off into the southeast, and all of a sudden, the boat fell. The boat didn't go on. The boat fell. The whole, complete boat

was out of the water, and it was just dropped like off of a building in a hole (laughs). When it hit the bottom, it broke all the windows out of the cabin. It broke all the dishes in the cabinet, threw everything out on the deck.

These guys were down in the cabin in the bunks sleepin'. The boat dropped so fast they went off the bunks and hit the roof. They came climbin' out of the cabin on their hands and knees wantin' to know what happened.

I said, "I don't know what happened."

They said, "Well what did you hit?"

Laughing, I said, "I didn't hit anything!"

There was no wave. Never was a wave! When the boat dropped, I was still idlin' along. There was no up and down, any motion whatsoever, just the little waves. It hit just like you fell on the floor. It was in the black dark. You couldn't see anything.

It's a Bermuda Triangle story, it really is. There's a lot of different stories that a lot of the guys have passed on, and most of em' have been really, really different. That was enough for me. I didn't like that one.

(From pages 43-44 of *Great Kingfish Captains of Fort Pierce, Florida*) Δ

## Welcome - New or Returning Members

Sue Favorite, Membership Chairman

Mary Dubrowski • Cheryl Highstreet & Russ Moyses

Karen & Nicole Stevens Family • Karen Lee Scott • Blades Robinson

Anthony Kuchta • Gerald & Cheryl Graziose • Herbert Lush

Robert P. Morris • Donna & Chris Mitts • Dennis L. Sumner

Tom Bockenstette • Tammy Thomas • Jimmy Clark

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Web Site: www.StLucieHistoricalSociety.net

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**Membership Application**

**St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc.**

Please join us in preserving our local heritage for future generations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages of minor children:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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I/We wish to join the Society at the level indicated below.  
Membership is from September through August.

New  Renewal  Individual (\$20.00)

Family (\$25.00)  Business (\$50.00)

Please make checks payable to:

St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc  
P O Box 578

Fort Pierce, Florida 34954-0578

For Information telephone: (772) 461-8020

**General Meetings are held at:**

**The Elks Lodge**

**635 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Fort Pierce, Florida 34950**

Society General Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, from September through May. A meal is provided before the meeting at the price of \$15.00 per person. Reservations must be made for these meals no later than two days in advance of the meeting. To make reservations telephone (772) 461-8020 and leave a message. Reservations and your RSVP information by e-mail to: dinner@stluciehistoricalsociety.net. Dinner begins at 5:30 P.M. and the General Meeting Starts at 6:00 P.M.

**Volunteers are Needed**

If you have 3 1/2 hours that you can give once a week either in the morning or afternoon, please consider volunteering at the Museum.

Admission, to the museum, for St. Lucie Historical Society members is FREE. So come and take a tour.

The latest exhibit is St Lucie Families-Crafters of Local History.

The Pineapple Patch Gift Shop has a large selection of books of Florida historical value, cards, handmade Seminole Indian dolls, and baubles made by volunteers.

**Museum Hours:**

Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.