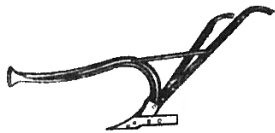


# Pompano Beach Historical Society

Spring—Summer 2020

## *Mission Statement*

The Pompano Beach Historical Society's mission is to collect, preserve and publicize the history of the greater Pompano Beach area.



## **OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**

Pete Williams  
*President*  
Rob Whitsett  
*Vice President*  
Jim Post  
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Charles Lewis  
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Irene Reidich

## ***SPRING – SUMMER 2020***

### **In The News**

Well, it's been a challenging few months! We hope you and your families are all well and have been safe. Pompano has been very lucky compared to some other cities and hope we stay that way. A big thank you to all the first responders.

The city has started opening restaurants, retail and the beach just this past week. Of course it had to rain! Although it's a start, we will all be relieved when this is behind us and we can go back to our lives. Though it may be to, as everyone seems to call it, "a new normal".

There is a lot of information on the city website to keep you up to date:

<https://pompanobeachfl.gov/pages/covid19>

### **Annual Meeting**

The Annual Members Meeting is scheduled for September 16th at 6:00 pm, just prior to our program.

As part of the Annual Meeting, the membership in attendance will elect the Board of Directors who will serve during the upcoming year. The nominating committee recommends that the current board be re-elected.

Following the meeting and election we will have our regular program. We are planning a welcome back round table so have your stories ready!

### **The Office is Open!**

The office is open regular hours, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Please call ahead before coming to be sure we are here.

The Kester Cottages are open for tours and can be accommodated on most days by request. Due the small size of the rooms in the cottages we are only allowing two people at a time.

Please call Pat at 954-782-3015 to reserve a tour.

We are practicing social distancing and wearing face masks for your protection. We ask that you also wear a mask.



The Kester Cottages Museums were built by William Kester in 1937. The museums are furnished and decorated with period items and artifacts depicting the life in Pompano at that time.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for stories and comments on what it was like for you during self-quarantine and answers to the five question survey. Here is one very interesting perspective of the 1918 Epidemic followed by your answers to the survey!

## MEMORIES OF 1918 EPIDEMIC

No, I'm not old enough to be a survivor of the 1918 Influenza Epidemic! But my mother's two-year-old sister, Hazel Lillian Griffiths, died in it along with thousands of other Americans.

The family lived in Vandergrift, PA, near Pittsburgh. My grandparents had two other little girls: Ethel Maud (nicknamed "Ted"), age three, and my mother, Evelyn Marie (Evie) age five months, who was also ill but survived.

What was commonly called the Spanish Flu had taken many people in their town. According to an article in *The New York Times*, "The United States was crippled by the brutal flu that swept through the country in the midst of the First World War, but nowhere was hit more forcefully than the power-house industrial cities of Pennsylvania, the nation's primary manufacturing hub for ships and steel needed in the war effort."

Grandpa was a steelworker, and Gram was a housewife. Hazel was buried in an unmarked grave in the paupers' section of the city cemetery because her parents couldn't afford a burial plot.

Her sister's death left a lasting impression on three-year-old Ted, and she told her younger sister Evelyn, my mother, that Hazel died of a broken heart when Evie had displaced her as the baby of the family. My mother endured this guilt throughout her early childhood. But, Ted was a three-year-old whose two-year-old constant playmate was suddenly gone forever. She must have been devastated and struggling to understand! Since the new infant was the recent change in the family structure, perhaps it was logical for the bereaved young child to blame the newcomer.

Many, many years later, after my own mother's death at age 81, I traveled back to Vandergrift with my Aunt Ted and her daughter Sherrill. We visited the graves of my grandparents and left flowers on their tombstone. Then Aunt Ted showed us the cemetery section where she believed her sister Hazel was buried.

Cont'd on page 3. Memories of 1918 Epidemic

## QUARANTINE SURVEY

### Question #1 : What was the best thing you got out of being quarantined?

- Cleaning out storage units, closets & cupboards. - Jenny F.
- My daughter now works for me. - John B.
- Finding out how many people cared how we were doing by either calling or emailing us. - Kathleen D.
- My family and drive-by parades. Tom M.
- Time to do things I never seemed to be able to get to. Time without pressure to go or do anything. Time to just BE. Also it's fun to have my husband home and working from home. - Daryl M.

### Question: What was the worst thing you got out of being quarantined?

- Emotional strain in marriage. - Jenny F.
- My daughter lost her job. - John B.
- I'm sure I gained at least 10 pounds. I haven't had the nerve yet to check on the scale! - Kathleen D.
- Not seeing friends, having my identity stolen! - Rob B.
- Loneliness, feeling isolated. Not able to go out and eat at restaurants. - Tom M.
- Not getting together with friends and family. Had to cancel extensive travel plans. -Daryl M.

### Question: What was the most drastic change you experienced?

- Nothing much (yet!). - Jenny F.
- My partner abruptly retired. - John B.
- I'm a go-go-go person so staying home took some patience at first. - Kathleen D.
- How I lost track of time. - Rob B.
- Not being able to hold fundraising parties for local charities. Looking forward to starting up again when safe. - Tom M.
- I like to stay home! Also, realizing that we won't be doing our exotic travel trips for quite awhile and perhaps never again. - Daryl M.

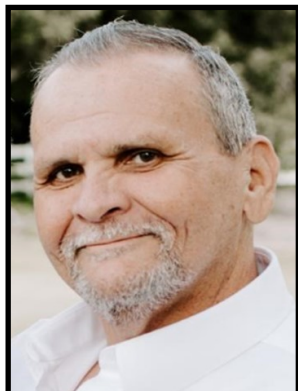
### Question: What is the first thing you plan to do or go to once restrictions are lifted?

- I can't wait to go to Pomperdale Deli for a New York Bagel and coffee. I also can't wait to get back to the library. - Jenny F.
- Open NAS Ft. Lauderdale Museum back to the public. - John B.

Cont'd on page 3. Quarantine Survey

## IN MEMORIAM

There are no words for the loss Pompano Beach experienced over the last couple of months. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families, friends and community.



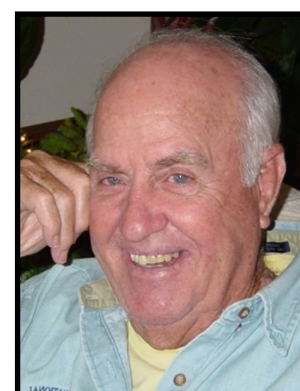
Frederick Wilkison Applegate



Frank Hayes Furman, Jr.



Henrietta Delius McClellan



Allen Lester Merritt

Cont'd from page 2. Memories of 1918 Epidemic

That area was all overgrown and had no gravestones or monuments of any kind. It was obviously untended for many years.

My aunt said that as young children their mother had taken them to the cemetery to visit where she (Gram) believed Hazel to be buried. However they never knew the exact spot.

It seemed so heartbreaking for my grandmother to not be certain where her dead child had been placed. But she had been home caring for baby Evie who was close to death, and Grandpop had continued working to fill the gaps of the sick at the steel mill.

Happily, Mom and Aunt Ted became extremely close and loving sisters throughout their lives.

- Kathleen Dempsey

A note from Kathy:

My aunt Ted lived to age 99, a state champion high school band director. But she always spoke of her dead sister Hazel. It shows how the current epidemic could deeply affect survivors!



Cont'd from page 2. Quarantine Survey

· Once it is really safe, and that will not be soon, I would like to fly to see my granddaughter. But first, I guess I would like to dine inside a white tablecloth restaurant. - Kathleen D.

· Go to Wings n' Things. - Tom M.

· I'm high risk so I won't be going out for a while. - Daryl M.

**Question: Are there any changes you have made in your life you feel will be permanent going forward?**

· We started shopping for everything, even groceries, online. I expect we'll keep that up. - Jenny F.

· Extreme housekeeping and organizing. - John B.

· I believe I now appreciate being at home with uninterrupted time to write. I may also travel less (but no promises!). - Kathleen D.

· More aware of germs. Will continue to wash my hands more often. - Tom M.

· I'll cook more. My food is better than eating meals out! - Daryl M.

Thank you everyone who replied. We have more stories but couldn't fit them in this time. We will save all stories and thoughts. Please keep sending them. We need to keep our stories for Pompano's future generations.

**Pompano Beach  
Historical Society  
PO Box 154  
Pompano Beach, FL 33061**

Phone: (954) 782-3015  
info.pompanohistory@gmail.com  
Web: www.pompanohistory.com

Programs are on the third Wednesday  
of the month at 6:30 pm unless  
otherwise noted.

### **PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2020**

September 16 Annual Meeting @ 6:00 pm  
September 16 Round Table @ 6:30 pm  
October 14 TBD  
November 11 Highwaymen  
December 16 Holiday Party

## **SHOP LOCAL!**

### **SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY!**

The Pompano Beach Green Market will be re-opening in November for the new season. There are lots of new plans in the works that we'll share with you as they are finalized. We hope you'll come and join us for the fun!



If you shop at amazon, please sign on through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Pompano Beach Historical Society from their list of charities.

## **HISTORICAL TOUR**

### **SEE THE 'OLD' POMPANO!**

We are cancelling our July Tour to give us all more time to feel comfortable with distancing. However, we are planning to resume the tours in September.

The two-hour narrated tour includes familiar landmarks such as the Historic downtown, the Ali Building, Old Mt. Calvary Church, Sample-McDougald House and the Hillsboro Lighthouse Museum to name just a few. The tour begins at Founders Park, 217 NE 4th Ave. Pompano Beach. You will have time from 9:00 - 10:00 to tour the Kester Cottages before the bus departs at 10:00 am sharp.

Tickets for the tour are limited and are \$15 per person. And will be available soon online at: [pompanohistory.com](http://pompanohistory.com).