

# OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

www.passhistory.org • Post Office Box 58, Pass Christian MS 39571 • Society Building 201 East Scenic Drive  
228 452-7254 • info@passhistory.org • Building open: Thursday-Friday-Saturday, 10-2 p.m.  
Evening meetings at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday • Monthly luncheons are on the last Monday of the month.

## October 4, 2011

Dear Friends and Members,

September has been an excellent month for the Historical Society, and we want to especially thank Clark Brennan for his talk about his family's restaurant businesses in New Orleans at our September luncheon. And also thank Virgil Harris for all his hard work in arranging speakers, and Bruce Stinson for his postcard talk last month. Our next meeting is this coming Monday October 10 at 7 p.m.

Our monthly luncheon is set for Monday October 31st. The date and location of a December Christmas Party has yet to be decided.

—Tom Shellnut, President, & the Board of Trustees

**Next Monday Oct. 10, 7 p.m** We are pleased to have **Jennifer Burke of the Pass Christian Isles Golf Club** speak on golfing in the Pass at our meeting next Monday. In honor of her talk our archivist has delved into our vault for some some items related to the origins of golf at the Pass over a century ago. (See reverse.)

At Monday's meeting Noel Williams will report on recommendations for three new board members for the Society. The actual election of board members will occur at the November meeting, with the transfer of office taking place January 1st.

**Monthly Luncheon** Our monthly luncheon is set for Monday October 31 at noon. There is very limited seating for this



*"Mexican Gulf Country Club, Pass Christian, Miss. Reached via the 'Panama Limited,' Illinois Central System" reads caption (not shown) of this early postcard. Two golf courses apparently associated with competing hotels existed at the Pass in the first decade of the twentieth century.*

luncheon. The cost is ten dollars which includes lunch. We regret that due to space limitations, we cannot accommodate members who would like to attend the talk without ordering lunch. So please contact us (452-7254 or info@passhistory.org) if you would like to attend this \$10 event.

**Building Hours** The building is open Thursday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. subject to the availability of volunteers.

**Membership renewals** The early December Holiday party has been the traditional time for renewing Society memberships. But we encourage you to renew early. A membership information sheet for 2012 is included with this newsletter on the reverse side of the brick order form.

**Bricks** The **early-November cut off date for ordering a brick to be installed by Christmas is fast approaching**, so if you would like to be in the first wave of brick orders,

please order now. Included with this newsletter is a standard order form for a simple 4x8 brick with several lines of text. Bricks in other variations are also available and can be ordered at the Historical Society or by using one of the applications available at passhistory.org. **Our Finances** It has been 10 months since our new building opened, and we now have a good handle on our expected revenues and the cost of operating the building on an annual basis. The good news is that 2011 has been a banner year for support for the Society. Our principal sources of income (excluding building grants and prepaid dues) in 2011 are projected to be: Dues and contributions: \$12,100. Tour of Homes (net of expenses): \$8,700. Brick sales: \$7,400. Or about \$28,200 for 2011. Recurring expenses for the year unfortunately are expected to be about \$38,000 (including nearly \$22,000 in windstorm and other insurance), leav-

ing us with an expected 2011 operating deficit of about \$9,800. So your support through renewed memberships, brick purchases and support for the Tour of Homes is more important than ever. But the Society also needs to look for other significant sources of annual income.

**Town Library Property** One potential source of revenue that the Society is exploring is the construction of a series of shops on the old Town Library property. Anita Giani and Pattie Ryan are heading a committee to explore the feasibility of such a project, and they have set up a website (passharborshops.com) where they will be posting their research for all to see. Much work remains to be done and the board has a number of things to consider (our finances, impact on community, impact on Scenic, etc.) before it proceeds with a decision. In the meantime, if you have an opinion about the project please let us know. The board has also received an unsolicited offer to purchase the property, but at a price seemingly below normal market value.

**New Society Logo?** The Society is considering an updated logo for the Society based on the old logo, but with a drawing of the new building replacing that of the old building. The proposed logo would look like this:



Special thanks to Jayme of Southern Printing, for the computer generated drawing of the new building used above.

### FROM THE VAULT...

In honor of this month's speaker, we reprint a portion of the October 2004 newsletter concerning golf.

#### Earliest Golf Course on Coast?

The Historical Society recently acquired a sterling silver golf trophy (we apologize for the poor quality of the reproduction) which is inscribed as follows:

Presented by the Ladies  
of  
The New Magnolia Hotel  
to  
Margaret Pinckney Gummy  
Winner in the  
Ladies Driving Class  
August 6, 1907



The New Magnolia Hotel once stood on the site of the present day Miramar Nursing Home, but the trophy puzzled us. We asked fellow trustee Billy Bourdin if he had heard anything. Billy recalled some mention of golfing behind the old hotel, and a few day's later provided us with this extract from the New Orleans Daily Picayune, of August 7, 1901:

"PASS CHRISTIAN GOLF LINKS SELECTED

Pass Christian, Miss., August 6, 1901:—

Mr. Robert McAndrews, of Scotland, who was sent here by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company to inspect the grounds selected for a golf link course at Pass Christian, left last night for Nashville, Tenn.

He has drawn a diagram of the grounds.

Starting on the beach at the Montgomery Place, [perhaps an allusion to the antebellum Montgomery Hotel that previously occupied the New Magnolia site] and extending north of the Railroad three links, with a return course to the Clubhouse on the beach near the point of beginning, Mr. McAndrews says that for a very small sum this course of nine links can be made one of the finest in the country, as the land will necessitate very little working or changing to put it in first-class condition, and make the Pass even more attractive for Northern visitors."

We notice that the date on the 1907 trophy is exactly six years to the day after the 1901 announcement, suggesting it was won at a sixth-anniversary tournament. Interestingly the Great Southern Golf Course in Gulfport was not established until 1908 some months after our trophy. Further, we understand that golf as a national craze did not occur until after the 1913 U.S. Open when a young unknown American amateur beat out two British favorites. Should any member know any more about the golf course we would be glad to hear it.

**Lost & Found** We are glad to report that the home on the cover of our September newsletter has been identified by Jack Lang as having stood on West Scenic near Highway 90 until Camille.

Separately at the postcard exhibit at our September meeting Ainsle Tatum (seconded by Alicia Ellis) identified a postcard mailed in 1928 and entitled "Live Oaks with Spanish Moss" as being of Trinity Church's Rectory which was also lost in Camille.

