

# Destin History & Fishing Museum

Here's What's Been

Happening At

YOUR Museum!

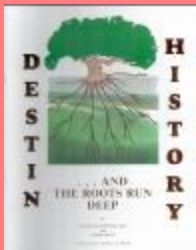
- **BOARD MEETINGS For 2013**: January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11

## 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 September 2013

6,585 visitors



## AND THE ROOTS RUN DEEP

By Vivian F. Mettee & Associates  
A Short Story History of Destin  
 5th Printing  
 Now Available  
 \$20 at the Museum

Volume 8 Issue 1

July to September 2013

## Director News

## Calendar of Events

As most of you know, I have been out of the office a lot this last month. Some of the time was spent in the hospital. The hospital was necessary due to a Sepsis infection. The infection took me totally by surprise with no warning. I took lots of strong antibiotics to get it under control. Fortunately, they all worked and I am back at work and on the road to a complete recovery.

Kathy, with everyone's help, kept the museum running smoothly. I am thankful for all of you who helped out.

The plans for the Christmas "Holiday on the Harbor Boat Parade" are in the final stages. Everyone with a boat should plan on entering and everyone else should plan on attending. It is beautiful and lots of fun.

Jean

### September 29

AJ's Tin Cup Golf Classic  
Benefiting the Museum

### October 1st to 5th

8th Anniversary for Museum  
Free Museum Admission

### October 4, 5, & 6

Destin Seafood Festival  
 Museum Fundraising Concessions  
 Harry T's Dave's Dogs Booth &  
 Parking Concession

**CANCELLED DUE TO TROPICAL STORM**

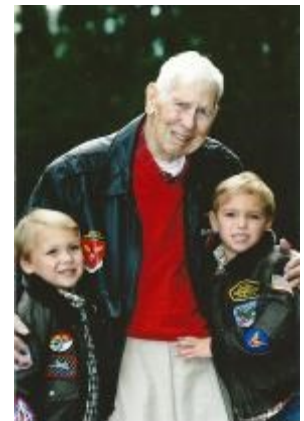
### December 15

27th Annual Holiday on the Harbor  
 Boat Parade  
 Begins 6 PM  
 Judging Upstairs at Harry T's Restaurant

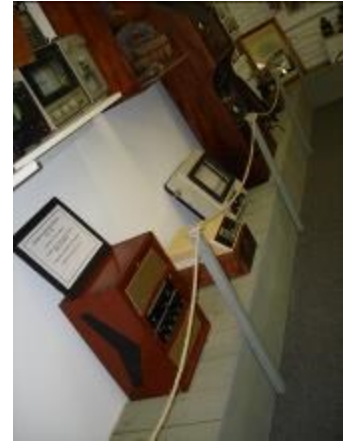
### January 25, 2014

Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction  
 Destin Community Center  
 11 AM to 2 PM

Capt. Joy Dunlap, one of the Emerald Coast's pioneering saltwater flyfishing fishermen, passed away September 24 at age 90 in Alabaster, AL. He moved to Destin in 1970 becoming a renowned rod builder in Florida. His rods reached the hands of locals to actors to United States Presidents. While in Destin he was a fishing guide, owned a charter boat, helped establish the first local flyfishing club, became the International Game Fish Association official area representative, and built rods of all sorts. His community efforts included the Museum, Rally for Recreation and the YMCA and local civic organizations. He had recently written a book of his military and civilian career, "Lt. Colonel Joy Dunlap: Patriarch, Aviator, Fisherman."



Known to Everyone as  
**"PAPA JOY"**



**DAVE'S DOCK**

**NEW EXHIBIT SPACE**

Dave Steele designed & built the new exhibit space.



Museum President Dave Steele, makes finishing touches on the new "dock" platform exhibit area.



**COME SEE**



**CHECK IT OUT**



**VISIT SOON**

# Pioneers of Paradise

## The O'Neal Family

*Written by Jean Melvin*

June 19, 1926, Joseph Wesley O'Neal married Cleopatra Maltezo in Destin, Florida. Joseph Wesley was born August 14, 1905 in Carrier, Mississippi. Cleo was born November 3, 1908 in Destin, Florida. Cleopatra Maltezo was staying in Shreveport, Louisiana with her sister Vera Maltezo Walter who was awaiting the birth of her child. While in Shreveport, Cleo was introduced to her sister's neighbor, Joseph Wesley O'Neal and they soon married and had two children. The 1930 US Census shows Joseph Wesley O'Neal living in Destin with wife Cleo and children Johnnie and Constance. Although he had only gone to school thru 8th grade, Joe O'Neal could read and write and was working as a commercial fisherman and owned his home. The 1935 Florida Census also shows the family in Destin and commercial fishing. According to the 1927 map of early settlement sites that were identified by Captain O.T. Melvin, Sr., Joseph Wesley O'Neal's home site was on the Harbor between property owned by John Maltezo and Homes Jones.

Their son John William O'Neal who was born May 19, 1927 in Shreveport, Louisiana and died March 11, 1957 in Destin, Florida. Their daughter Constance Joy O'Neal was born in Florida March 18, 1929 and died May 18, 1997 in Destin, Florida.

John William O'Neal married Sarah Elizabeth Hudley who was born November 5, 1927 in Montgomery, Alabama and died March 9, 2009 in Tucson, Arizona. They had two children: Martha Gail O'Neal and Phillip Franklin O'Neal.

Constance Joy O'Neal married Hank Handshaw. They had two children: Alana Joy Handshaw and Alan Neil Handshaw.

Joseph Wesley O'Neal and Cleopatra Maltezo divorced sometime between 1936 and 1937 and he moved back to Louisiana. Cleo married Benjamin Franklin Marler and remained in Destin. Joseph died February 1978 in Pineville, Louisiana.

**Johnny O'Neal on left  
Circa 1948**



**Grandma Maltezo  
with John O'Neal,  
Alana Hanshaw and  
Phillip O'Neal**



**Johnny  
O'Neal  
&  
Sarah  
Hadley  
O'Neal**

# T O U R S

- ◆ July 15-- Melvin Family Reunion
- ◆ July 17-- LaPetite Academy Tour
- ◆ July 24-- YMCA Tour
- ◆ Sept. 23 - Eglin EOD International Students' Tour
- ◆ Sept. 27-- Fall TDC Get HisTOURical Tour



*Celebrating our "Benefactor" Life Members  
Generously Donating \$5,001+ to the Museum Mission.*

- ◆ AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar
- ◆ Mayor Craig & Callie Barker
- ◆ Tom & Damon Becnell
- ◆ City of Destin
- ◆ Destin Charter Boat Association
- ◆ Harry T's Lighthouse Restaurant
- ◆ T. Henry & Associates
- ◆ Legendary:HarborWalk Village
- ◆ Mike & Terry Long
- ◆ Okaloosa County TDC
- ◆ Ray Shoults & Family
- ◆ Dave Steele

## New Exhibit Artifacts



### Off Shore Billfish

Blue Marlin were not known to be in the Gulf of Mexico until 1962 when the first Blue Marlin was caught.

Until that time, the Destin Charter boats did not go “*Off Shore*” billfishing. As the fishery gained in popularity, the Destin Captains had to improvise their tackle. Always looking for “a better mousetrap”, the fishermen came up with their own designs, thinking they knew best what would attract the biggest fish. This new exhibit at the museum has some very successful lures which were made by local fishermen Wayne Russell and Dale Owens. They used molds filled with resin for the head and anything that moved for the skirts.

The beautiful exhibit case was built by Captain Tommy Norred.

Captain Bruce Marler stands alongside the first Blue Marlin ever caught off of Destin, Florida. Charles L. Widener of White Pine, Tennessee, fishing aboard the Marler’s charter boat *Wahoo* hooked the fish three miles off Destin East Pass and landed it in less than three hours. This catch in 1962 stimulated interest in big game fishing that led to further discoveries of new billfishing grounds in the Gulf of Mexico out of Destin’s East Pass.



Photo by Parker Studios  
Caption by Leonard Hutchinson  
50 Years of Fishing-Destin Fishing Rodeo  
A Pictorial History 1948-1998

destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

### 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

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

Phone: 850-837-6611

**Staff E-mails**

Jean Melvin:  
destinhistory@gmail.com  
Kathy Marler Blue  
kathydestinhistory@gmail.com

Website:  
destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

**TAX TIME IS COMING !!!  
LOOKING FOR A 2013 TAX DEDUCTIBLE SOURCE**

*Donation Tax Receipts are available for your donations to the Destin History & Fishing Museum.*

Tuesday - Saturday  
10am to 4pm

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



### 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.