

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Here's What's Been

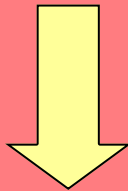
Happening At

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

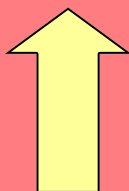
Museum Visitors

2006: 2,095
 2007: 3,527
 2008: 4,561
 2009: 5,804
 2010: 6,368
 2011: 7,131
 2012: 8,300
 January to March 2014
 2,071 visitors



**EXTENDED
SUMMER
HOURS**

**June & July
Open Sundays
1 P.M. to 5 P.M.**



Volume 8 Issue 3

January to March 2014

From the Staff

Robin Williams said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party!" After an unusually cold winter and the rare "ice storm", Destin is ready to party! Our winter quests' horror stories of their extended winter weather in their hometowns reminds us of how fortunate we are to be in beautiful Destin! Our first quarter attendance for 2014 exceeded that of 2013 so we look forward to summer! We will be extending our days of operation in June and July to Sundays from 1 to 5 P.M. With our 25 year lease we look forward to expanding into the "Senior Center" area of our building to offer lecture and educational programming, more exhibit space and an artifact processing area. Renewal of spring is a reminder of museum membership renewal time. We welcome your support! If you have not been in lately, please visit and see what's new. Thank you for your continued support,
 Kathy

Calendar of Events

January 25

Annual Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction
Destin Community Center

February 12

Museum Annual General Membership Meeting
Museum

February 13

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
AJ's Seafood

March 11

Miss Destin Contestant's
"Soda Party"

Relic From A Well Smack



Lifelong resident William Ross "Bill" Marler shared his memories of a "well smack" in an interview September 8, 2013 at the age of 82. A "Well Smack" was a modified form of fishing smack. The vessel was built with a "well" midship that was filled with external circulated water that kept fish alive until they were delivered to land and sold. The "well" made an excellent location to hide illegal whiskey that was smuggled into this country from Cuba during prohibition (1919-1933). This little lamp was made from a Cuban Rum bottle retrieved from East Pass after being thrown from a Cuban "Well Smack" during prohibition. This lamp belonged to Howard Marler. "I do remember that all the Cuban boats were well smacks. They would fish the Gulf of Mexico and come into port here. My grandfather, Charles Absolom Marler told me that during the time of Prohibition, the Cuban boats would run whiskey from Cuba to the Gulf Coast. They would enter the "old" East Pass. The containers of whiskey were in straw/mat coverings to keep them from breaking. They would pitch these up in the sand dunes where they would be picked up later. The bottles were often intercepted by some of the locals." "I do not remember any of the captains of the local seine boats or early boats owning well smacks. I do remember seeing them come into Destin. One fisherman known as "Sturgeon John" was a Norwegian who had a well smack and would come into port at Destin. I did go on his boat. My grandmother, Kate Nicholson Marler liked to listen to his stories with his Norwegian accent as her father, Charles Nicholson, was born in Christiania (Oslo), Norway."



Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction



**Event net
nearly \$ 15,000 !**

The Destin History and Fishing Museum held their annual Gumbo Contest and Silent Auction Saturday, January 25 at the Destin Community Center. This event marked the most gumbo contestants, the most attendance with an estimated near 700, and the most donated items for the auction. Ticket holders enjoyed a Silent Auction of 85 packages, live music by FLASHFLOOD, and gumbo from local contestants as well as individual contestants from as far away as Louisiana. There were 18 restaurants and 22 individuals registered in the event. The competition was very close and the winners were: Individual Category First Place: Tom Ogle and Individual 2nd Place: Charlie Noonan. Honorable Mention 3rd Place was Anna Boudreau. Judging was equally close in the restaurant division. Restaurant Category First Place: Boathouse and Restaurant Category Second Place: Crab Island Cantina. Honorable Mention 3rd Place was Harry T's Restaurant. The People's Choice Restaurant Award voted on by the day's gumbo samplers was Crab Island Cantina. The People's Choice Individual Award voted on by the day's gumbo samplers was Alvin F. Claybrone. The Museum is very thankful to our business partners: The City of Destin, AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar, Harry T's Restaurant, and Copy Systems, and most appreciative to all that supported this fundraising event by their donations or participation. Special thanks go to the celebrity judges. Judges for the Restaurant Division were: Aimee Shaffer/ Non-Profit M.C., Ed Schroeder/TDC Director, Russ Johnson/Ruth's Chris Chef, and WOOFY/ 99 Rock Radio. Judges for the Individual Division were: ANDI/ WFTW 1260 Radio, April Gaffka/Log Ad Director, Mel Ponder/incoming City of Destin Mayor, and Rick Seever/ Life's A Beach Publisher. Proceeds from this event will help pay for the upkeep and expansion of museum programs and exhibits. With the help of nearly 50 museum volunteers the event was a wonderful success.



Photos Courtesy of:
For Reel Photos
Jake Brashears





Snapshots from the Past

Major General Franklin Sibert

Major General Franklin Sibert retired from the U.S. Army June 30, 1946 after a distinguished career. He was appointed at large to West Point by President Theodore Roosevelt and was graduated with the class of 1912. While at the Academy he played on both the football and hockey teams. His first assignment was to Camp Catun in the Panama Canal Zone, where his father, Major William Sibert was in charge of building the Atlantic division of the canal comprising the construction of Catun locks and dam, Colon Harbor and the excavation of Catun to the Atlantic.

In 1917, Captain Sibert was enroute to France as aide to the commanding general, 1st Division A. He formed and commanded the 1st machine gun battalion. In 1918 he was division machine gun officer on the march into Germany and with the army of occupation to April 1919. On his return to the United States he became senior instructor of the machine gun department, stationed at Fort Benning.

In 1930, Lt. Col. Sibert was assigned to the War Department general staff in Washington D.C. He was there until 1938, when he was sent to Fort Wayne, in Detroit, Michigan, as Commanding Officer 2nd Infantry. In 1940, he organized the 32nd Infantry as Regimental Commander and was then promoted to Brigadier General in September 1941 assigned to the 44th Division at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

In February, 1942, he accompanied General Stilwell as second-in-command, to the China-Burma-India Theater, and accompanied General Stilwell on the famous retreat from Burma. He was promoted to Major General in March 1942. He returned to the United States and was assigned to the command of the 6th Division going to Hawaii in July 1943, then to New Guinea in January 1944. He was in command of the division at the Maffin Bay and Sansapor operations. In August 1944, he was assigned to command the 10th Army Corps and was in command there during the Leyte and Mindanao campaigns, and in the occupation of the Kure, Hiroshima area in Japan.

General Sibert received the Distinguished Service medal, the Legion of Merit, Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star, Silver Star and Air Medal along with ten campaign ribbons and eight battle stars.

The community of Destin was justly proud of its association with the distinguished Sibert military family. Residents of the area remember General William Sibert especially for his building of the \$10,000,000 dock project at Mobile. Camp Sibert at Gadsden, Alabama is named for him and his portrait is familiar to visitors in the Alabama State House at Montgomery. General Sibert's brother was Brig. General Edwin L. Sibert, Chief of Intelligence, of the American forces in Germany.

General Sibert was married in 1913, in Panama, to Miss Helen Rogers, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Thomas Rogers. They had two children, Lt. Col. Franklin Rogers Sibert, who was graduated from West Point in 1936 and had duty with General Douglas MacArthur's staff in Tokyo. His daughter, Kathryn, married Colonel Bruce Palmer, Jr. Commanding Officer of the 63rd Infantry in Korea.

General Sibert purchased his Destin property in 1939 through a sealed bid. He and his wife made their first trip to their new home via the "mail boat" from Fort Walton. Because of the low tide, the boat could not land and they waded to shore carrying their luggage. Not daunted by this rugged reception, General Sibert imparted his enthusiasm to Mrs. Sibert's father, Colonel Rogers, who purchased the adjoining property and spent his remaining years in Destin. With his family, he vacationed here until his retirement and then lived in Destin for many years.

General Sibert, under the direction of Mr. Pierce, planted citrus and fruit trees and had a huge garden. He supplied fresh fruits and vegetables to many residents of the bay area.

He purchased a party fishing boat, "The Four Sisters" from Jewel Melvin and combined business with his favorite sport fishing. His partner and skipper in the enterprise was Captain Bill Brown.

"*And the Roots Run Deep*" by Vivian Foster Mettee in the story about the Calhoun Family and how many of the streets in Destin were named, there is a statement about Sibert. "Sibert conceived the idea of the establishment of a rest camp for personnel stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia. He followed the right routes to get this done and so became, as it were, the father of the Benning Rest Camp."

So, this is the path of how the first named street in Destin came to be. Additional information from, "*And the Roots Run Deep*": "As soon as the bridge was built (1936), the building of the camp was undertaken. In the good old Army way, since Major Sibert had had the idea, he was put in charge of carrying it out. From time to time he would send down a truck loaded with building materials and a few men to do the work—with a little fishing on the side. He had trouble explaining to them how to reach the campsite, so he had the quartermaster construct and paint a large sign saying, "Calhoun Avenue". He came along on the next trip and had the sign set up beside the sand road that had been cut through the woods along the backs of the bay-front homesites. I asked him why Calhoun Avenue. He said it accomplished two things. First, he could tell the driver to turn there and follow the road to the camp and, second, he could tell them if they had any trouble to go to Mr. Calhoun. This kept it very simple."

When Tyler Calhoun purchased property and set about creating streets, he named a street for Major Sibert, "to pay him back" for his street naming.



William Luther Sibert Family Portrait

William Olin, Franklin Cummings, Harold W.

Edwin Luther, William Luther (father), Martin David, Mary Margaret (mother) & Mary T.



Trailways

78th Annual Stockholders Meeting & Conference

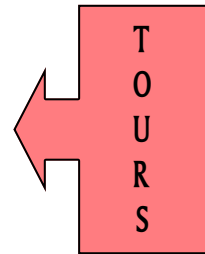


The Trailways Conference held at SanDestin March 7th thru March 12th made an impact on the Museum. A private Sunday tour was set up for the group on March 9th. The Museum was one of five locally selected non-profits chosen by Trailways to receive a \$500 donation. “This is the first year of our donation program,” said Chairman of Trailways Board of Directors, Tony Fiorini. “We want to give to various local organizations that help the community in different ways.” Museum Board President, Dave Steele, met Chairman Fiorini at the Convention's Awards Reception & Gala on March 11.

Off-Site Speaking

- ◆ January 7—Kathy Blue gave a Power-Point presentation of Destin’s history and information about the Museum and upcoming events to the Destin Rotary Club meeting at Regatta Bay.

- ◆ Jan.17 - Boy Scouts/Liza Jackson Preparatory School
- ◆ Feb. 20 - C2 Transportation/ Convention Tours from SanDestin
- ◆ March 6- City of Destin “Kid’s Club”
- ◆ March 9-Trailways Corporate Stockholders Convention/



Bravo to Our Business Partners



MadiGras Parking Concession

Alan Laird donated the use of his parking lot to the Museum for a parking concession for the March 1st MadiGras Parade and event along the Harbor. Board Member Don Rogers was chairman for the fundraiser. Museum Board and members of the membership manned the parking concession. Patrons made a \$ 5 donation and received coupons for both the Museum and AJ’s Seafood & Oyster Bar. This event brought in \$ 710 to benefit the Museum.

Seafood Festival T-Shirts



When the Destin Seafood Festival was cancelled due to the tropical storm, the Festival Committee had their inventory of t-shirts to dispose of. Dan Empson purchased the short-sleeve inventory and sold them at Harry T’s. After receiving his cost out of sales, the remainder of the inventory was donated to the Museum. Selling at \$5 per shirt the Museum has made \$895 to benefit the Museum to date.

Thank You For Your Support!



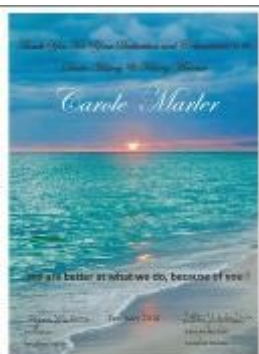
2014 Miss Destin “Soda Party” March 11



Photos Courtesy of:

For Reel Photos
Jake Brashears

Annually, the Museum hosts the Destin Fishing Rodeo, Inc. Miss Destin “Soda Party”. This event marks the first event in which the contestants meet and are introduced to the event committee. The committee provides soft drinks and light finger foods. Museum Board President, Dave Steele gave the contestants a tour of the Museum highlighting Destin and fishing history. The twelve contestants include: Adelle Adamson, Madeline Corley, Lakin McKenzie DeVavy, Abbie Maclin, Kitra Moraca, Catalina “Callie” Peterman, Ella Rutledge, Hannah Shoults, Bianca Smith, Nicole Starr, Rebekah Stepp, and Jessica Vermillion. The primary function of Miss Destin is to represent the Rodeo at the weigh-ins everyday during October. The winner will be crowned April 5 at the Destin Community Center.



A troop of wonderful volunteers enable the Museum to follow-through with the special events and annual fundraisers. Volunteers are the “Heart of the Museum” and without these very important people the Museum Staff and Board realize it would be a very difficult task to meet the goals that have been set. Their free time, talents and special interests are welcome and very much appreciated! The United States Presidential Volunteer Service Awards are presented to volunteers across America for their hours of volunteer service. The Bronze Award is given to those volunteering over 100 hours. The Silver Award for over 250 hours and the Gold Award for over 500 hours. This year’s Bronze Award volunteers are: Rick Derek, Dan Martin, Don Rogers, Lloyd Taylor, and Russell Wamble. Receiving the Gold Award was Carole Marler. Framed museum certificates of appreciation were given to Beth Webb Cairo, Pam Creel, Darlene Fraser, Veritha Gatlin, Jim Green, Laura Hall, Tina Harbuck, Jami Jones, Nan Killebrew, Avon Longo, Sherri McDonald, Claude Newland, Nancy Robertson, Sam Seevers, Trevor Sullivan, Kelly and Mary Ann Windes. Previous Bronze Award volunteers also received museum certificates for their continued volunteer service and included: Dan Empson, Scottie Griffith, Norm Hall, Patricia Hardiman, Denise Ingram, Alan Laird, Judy Lefler, Terry Long, Kelly Marcus, Tona Newland and Connie Walter. Continuing to volunteer beyond the service of the Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards are John Lefler, Dave Fraser, Mike Long, and Dave Steele. The words “thanks” and “you are appreciated” just don’t seem enough, but the Museum wants each to know their support for the Museum is very much appreciated!

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon - February 13

destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Museum Board of Directors

Executive Board President: Dave Steele Vice President: Dan Martin

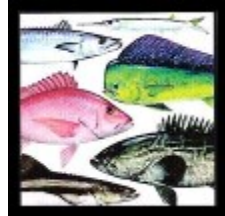
Secretary: Kathy Marler Blue Treasurer: John Lefler

General Board: Richard Derek, Dan Empson, Jim Green, Norm Hall, Tina Harbuck, Don Rogers, Lloyd Taylor, Russell Wamble

Executive Director Jean Melvin **Associate Director** Kathy Marler Blue

Museum Docent: Dave Fraser **Museum Volunteers:** Carole Marler, Nancy Johnson

Newsletter Writer and Editor Kathy Marler Blue



**PLEASE MAIL YOUR DONATION TO:
DESTIN HISTORY & FISHING MUSEUM
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DESTIN, FL 32541**

Phone: 850-837-6611

E-mail: destinhistory@gmail.com
kathydestinhistory@gmail.com

Website:
destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org



DHFM
P.O. Box 548
Destin, FL 32540-0548

MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO THE MUSEUM

Donation Tax Receipts are available for your donations to the Destin History and 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.