

CANAL GATOR TALES

December 2021

8-Week Challenge a Big Success!!

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the 8-Week Challenge was a terrific success. Our goal was to raise \$8,000 in eight weeks between September and November to match the \$8,768 raised by the Silent Auction held by the Friends of the PCMC this summer. We are thrilled to report that not only did we match that amount, we **more than doubled our goal for the 8-Week Challenge by raising \$19,625 before the deadline!** Thanks so much to all of our wonderful donors! We are still receiving gifts in the mail for this campaign, so we will wait until after the holidays to acknowledge all of the generous donors, including any who decide in the upcoming weeks to make holiday gifts or end-of-year donations to support our ongoing Oral History Fundraising Campaign.

These donations directly support our oral history program so that we can continue to document stories of life in the Canal Zone and Panama. All funds raised during the 8-Week campaign help us achieve our strategic goal to raise \$250,000 by the end of 2022, which is the tenth anniversary of the PCMC at UF. With these funds, we are ensuring that oral history interviews will support education and research far into the future.

If you are interested in continuing to support our oral history program, visit pcmc.uflib.ufl.edu/oralhistory for more information. We also encourage you to give a gift in honor or memory of a family member, friend, classmate, colleague, or group because all funds received for [memorial and honor gifts](#) will be used to support oral histories. For more information contact the Development Office at (352) 273-2505 or lib-development@ad.ufl.edu.

Spring Luncheon and Exhibition Opening

The annual Spring luncheon and joint meeting of the Friends of the Panama Canal Museum Collection and the Panama Canal Society will be held Saturday, March 26, 2022, in the Smathers Library Building on the University of Florida campus. If you are interested in attending the luncheon, please refer to the registration form for PCS members available in the *Canal Record*.

Luncheon attendees will be able to view the new exhibition in the Albert Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery, which examines the history of health care and medicine and the Panama Canal. Exhibits will cover everything from yellow fever and mosquitoes to hospitals and medical research. The exhibition will include excerpts from oral history interviews, personal photos, and artifacts. Visitors will be able to browse dozens of digital postcards of Gorgas Hospital, dispensaries, and other locations using the MagicBox exhibit case in the Gallery.

The current exhibition in the Gallery, *Are We Next? Fear and Social Roles in World War II*, will close in February 2022.

In addition to the exhibition opening, we are very excited that we will be displaying numerous paintings and works of art by Al Sprague. We recently acquired sixteen paintings and works on paper, which depict Canal Zone homes, street scenes, and views of the Canal including the Cut and Locks. These original works of art are now preserved along with many prints already in the PCMC, including prints documenting people and places in Panama as well as Operation Just Cause. We have invited donors Al Sprague and Leonard Kujawa to attend the luncheon as guest speakers.

As mentioned above, 2022 is the 10th anniversary of the Panama Canal Museum Collection at UF. We will also celebrate this anniversary at the luncheon with a look back at some significant achievements and a look ahead to future activities. More information about the luncheon is forthcoming. We hope to see you there!



Mule No. 21 by Al Sprague (Donated by Leonard Kujawa)

Spotlight on New Acquisitions

We have certainly been active in recent months acquiring terrific historical treasures, and we will continue to highlight some of these donations in upcoming issues.

Frequently, prospective donors ask us if we collect artifacts and 3D objects, or if we are only interested in photos, letters, scrapbooks, and similar materials. We do collect artifacts of various shapes and sizes, and we have everything from t-shirts and coffee cups to medals and models. An anonymous donor recently contributed a toy from yesteryear which is a good example of the artifacts we collect. This Panama Canal Derrick No. 277 is a tin toy that includes a hook on the crane.

Artifacts such as this are used in exhibits and when we are providing instruction to classes here at UF.



SAVE THESE DATES

February 26, 2022

Panama Canal Society Meeting and Space Coast Picnic at the Kelly Park East, Merritt Island, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Please bring to Mickey Walker Fitzgerald any items you would like to donate to the 2022 silent auction to support the PCMC.

March 26, 2022

Panama Canal Society/Friends of the PCMC Spring Luncheon and opening of the new exhibition on health care in the Nahmad Panama Canal Gallery, Smathers Library, Gainesville.

July 6-10, 2022

Exhibit, Auction and Cultural Seminar at the Panama Canal Society Reunion at the Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL. It's never too early to start identifying items that you would like to donate to the auction! Please contact Mickey Walker Fitzgerald (mickeyftz@aol.com), Carole Miller (czmiller345@gmail.com), or Kathy Egolf (Pankee@aol.com) if you have items to donate or if you want to volunteer to help out.