



THE LOOKOUT

Summer 2020



From the Director, Tom Neal



Coast and Pompeian Villa facilities closed in response to the nation's new Coronavirus, we closed to visitors, our staff has continued at home and following social distancing efforts resumed. We were able to continue projects that we had on hand and to customers shopping on our online Gift Shop.

The Museum had just experienced two all-time record-breaking visitor attendance years in 2018 and 2019. Already in January and February 2020, we were tracking 6.6% ahead of 2019. **We reopened operations Monday, May 3, 2020, under new social distancing guidelines.** Visitors have expressed their excitement that we are open again. Numbers are growing every day with continued caution for our visitor's health considerations. In a facility that is 39,000 square feet with 12 to 28-foot ceilings, it is easy to offer safe social distancing in our entertaining environment. For years prior to the current pandemic, the museum provided hand sanitizers throughout the museum and extra care went into wiping handrails, exhibits and other public areas, keeping our visitors' health foremost in our business plan. This practice will continue. Visitors now are coming from Houston, Sugarland, Galveston, southwest/southcentral Louisiana, and across the county. We are honored that almost every person has remarked that they chose our museum as their 1st outing and are 1st time guests. How amazing that it is to see them caught up the experiences we offer and then to hear them react to the improvements we have made during the "stay-at-home-orders."

Like other businesses, but as a 501.c.3 non-profit organization, our operating cost have been hit hard by the shut-down and we appreciate the ongoing support of **new and renewed memberships and memorials** provided to honor your friends and family members during this time. Reunions and events are now being booked and rescheduled for the days and months ahead. Other museum events and **NEW inductions** are being finalized as we move on through 2020. We need and appreciate your support and look forward to seeing many of you as you return to see the new sights and exhibit improvements while imagining our next big moves and changes.

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Items from Our Collections

This exclusive photo is from the Evelyn Keyes collection now housed at the Museum of the Gulf Coast. The back of the photo states that Keyes was “the first player in ten years to be signed by Cecil B. DeMille under personal contract . . . and came to Hollywood without any professional experience of any kind and landed a job with the noted producer-director.”



On the

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Bring Lunch to the Museum

Through September, small groups of 8 or less paying the price of admission will be allowed to bring restaurant take-out or food from their home and dine with us, before they tour the museum. This area of the museum is affectionately called the tea room. A canard ultra-light aircraft occupies its 30 foot ceiling. It is of course fully air-conditioned, and is a nice alternative to dining in restaurants right now. Available on a first come basis.



Evelyn Keyes Terrorizes New York City



once starred in a film entitled *The Killer That Stalked* once is excellent as a diamond smuggler who box throughout the city of New York. The film is a break there in 1947. Although largely forgotten now, ed movie may see a resurgence in interest due to aining how outbreaks start, how they are spread, the them, and it what it looks like when public officials treat, and do something about it. What we call large part of the script. Keyes is given the difficult ng even more so in each scene. It is also interesting n New York, and not on an L.A. back lot. The hot-on-the spot," is remarkable, and the print I rtly restored. By the time the story ends, it was tor were almost as concerned with educating the d story. It is currently available on youtube at no t *Stalked New York* (1950)."

(Left) Keyes likely giving this officer smallpox, and the end credit of *The Killer that Stalked N. Y.*



Hall of Fame Spotlight

★ Larry Graham

Woodstock, August 15 1969

Larry Graham was born August 14, 1946 in Beaumont, Texas. At age 15, he began performing with the Dell Graham Trio, his mother's lounge act. While attending college, he played as a supporting musician for John Lee Hooker. In 1968, he joined Sly & the Family Stone, the first rock band to be racially integrated and include women. On August 15, 1969 Sly & the Family Stone played at the iconic Woodstock festival. Sly had the most quintessential performance at Woodstock and Larry was the genius bassist behind it all. He would soon be known for hits like "I Want to Take You Higher" and "Hot Fun in the Summertime." He is credited for being the creator of the "Slap Bass" technique, a way of "thumpin and pluckin" that was distinctive to Larry's funky sound. Larry's new style influenced the Funk genre, and shaped bass players across the world.



Larry invented the iconic "Slap Bass" technique

Woodstock +1 will be opening soon! Larry will be one of the artists featured along with Janis Joplin, Johnny and Edgar Winter. Don't miss this blast to the past! For more information follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



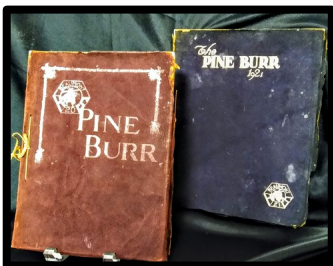
Larry played for Sly and the Family Stone at Woodstock

THE PAST COMES ALIVE HERE

Donations Welcome!



Mr. LaChapelle is a proud French-Cajun



What was fascinating about his collection is that he brought not one, but two Pine Burr annuals.

Mr. Michael LaChapelle was an absolute delight to meet. He is an antique collector and enjoys history with a passion. He had heard about our "little museum" for years and had never visited. He had recently acquired some annuals from Beaumont and Port Arthur, and wondered if he might donate them to our Collection.

When Mr. LaChapelle finally did make it through our doors he said he was blown away by how much culture and history he was surrounded by. The annuals he brought are a fascinating window into the daily lives of high-schoolers in the 1920's. We are grateful to Mr. LaChapelle for his generous donation!

The Museum is only possible thanks to our wonderful members and donors. We are always looking to add new pieces to our Collections and Exhibits. If you have anything gathering dust on a shelf, or if you're an antique hunter we welcome donations for items relevant to telling the vibrant and rich story of Southeast Texas. Interested donors may call the Museum or Email our Curator at mogc.curator@gmail.com.

MUSIC KIOSKS READY FOR

The content for two new Music Kiosks are near completion and will be unveiled when the Music Hall of Fame has its grand re-opening in August. Our kiosks are very large touchscreens that allow users to sample content by tapping and swiping images on the screen. Think of them as the largest ipad you will ever see. Wall and case space are here are finite, and kiosks allow us to display nearly an unlimited amount of content for each of our hall-of-fame musicians. This is particularly important for musicians whose work may not be familiar to many of our museum attendees. The music kiosk is like a virtual jukebox and will allow attendees the opportunity to rapidly sample and experience the music of all of our hall-off-fame inductees. Kiosks in the Notable People section, and in the Maritime section already exist and are very popular. Not only will museum goers be able to listen to their favorite selections, they will also be able to watch videos featuring the vast majority of the inductees.

CLARENCE "Gatemouth" BROWN

April 18, 1924 – September 10, 2005 Orange, Texas

Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown was raised in Orange, Texas and began his career played clubs in east Texas cities such as Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Houston. Later he performed in many blues and jazz festivals and concerts throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, and Japan and was voted W. C. Handy Award for Instrumentalist of the Year in 1982 and 1986 as well as Entertainer of the Year in 1983.

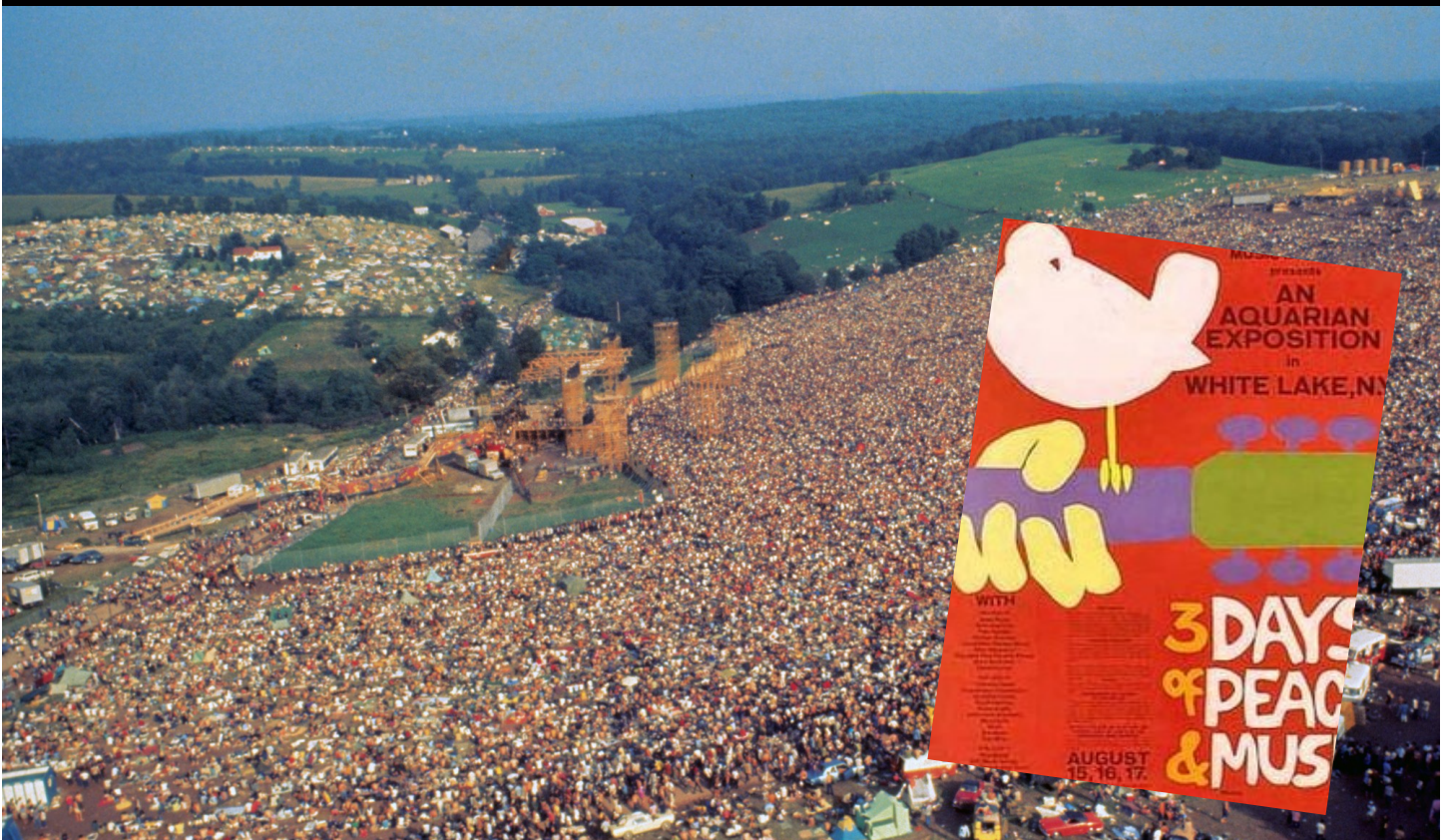
He played numerous instruments including bass, drums, electric fiddle, guitar, harmonica, mandolin, viola, and violin. Recordings include "Alright Again" (Grammy award, 1982), "Pressure Cooker" (1986), and "Real Life" (1986). Brown lived in New Orleans, but was displaced due to Hurricane Katrina and passed away in the place of his birth. Orange Texas, where he is interred.

≡ GATEMOUTH VIDEOS

MAIN MENU

PHOTOS and VIDEOS CAN BE MOVED, SPREAD, AND PINCHED.

COMING SOON...A WOODSTOCK CELEBRATION



Woodstock +1 is Coming SOON!

Fifty-one years after Woodstock, we celebrate our music icons who made it all possible! ***(coming to the Dunn Gallery—featuring four from our Music H.O.F. that actually performed at Woodstock)***

Janis Joplin Johnny Winter Edgar Winter Larry Graham



MUSEUMS RATED VERY SAFE BY DOCTORS

Out of a list of 36 activities, you can do outside the home during the Corona pandemic group of infectious disease doctors have ranked museums at 32nd for the level of risk. The only activities considered safer were outdoor exercise, getting fuel, playing tennis, and picking up takeout.



Even beaches were rated riskier—probably due to the associated behavior. The doctors listed five factors they used to assess how risky a given activity might be: whether it's inside or outside; proximity to others; exposure time; likelihood of compliance; and personal risk level. Mentioned in the report was the tendency of museums to have high ceilings, and larger spaces. Our building of course would fair better than many others in those categories. They also advised that bars, concerts, and large sports stadiums had the highest degree of risk.

Woodstock Swag for Sale in the Gift Shop



Bring your groovin' consciousness to a higher plane when you purchase any of our Woodstock T-shirts! Play your favorite Johnny or Garth Winter album as you settle in for another relaxing summer. Playing cards, glasses, and mugs are also available.

monOfTheGulfCoast@gmail.com

And get yours while supplies last!

Staff Updates

The Museum of the Gulf Coast is pleased to announce the hiring of Robert Fong. Robert grew up in Groves, and after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin, he and his wife Donna, both worked in the film industry for 9 years. Robert worked in editorial. His credits include *Red Headed Boy*, *Space*, and *Twin Peaks, Season One*. After becoming a father, Robert and Donna moved back to Southeast Texas. Since then, Robert has worked in advertising, digital production, and marketing. He is a member of the Southeast Texas Advertising Federation, and three-time winner of the Southeast Texas Advertising Festival, (which featured MOGC inductees J.D. Fong and Robert Fong). Robert served on the board of the Southeast Texas Arts Council and has produced productions as both an actor and director for the Board of Directors. Robert is hiring on as our curator Robert designed and programmed the new Kiosk/Touchscreen. He currently resides in Port Arthur, Texas. Welcome to the team, Robert! Jamaal Charles.



Memorial

The Museum of the Gulf Coast wishes to thank our steadfast members and the members of the Port Arthur Historical Society, whose generous contributions are such a vital part of our ability to preserve the storied history of this region. Those members and nonmembers who wish to contribute a Memorial in the name of a loved one, or to make a donation, contact Becky Guidry at (409) 999-6282 or email us at MuseumoftheGulfCoast@gmail.com.

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Administered by the Port Arthur Historical Society
In Partnership with the City of Port Arthur.

MUSEUM OF THE GULF COAST
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HOURS OF OPERATION
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