

RECREATION AND SPORTS IN TAMPA BAY

4TH GRADE LESSON PLAN

*A Publication of
The St. Petersburg Museum of History*

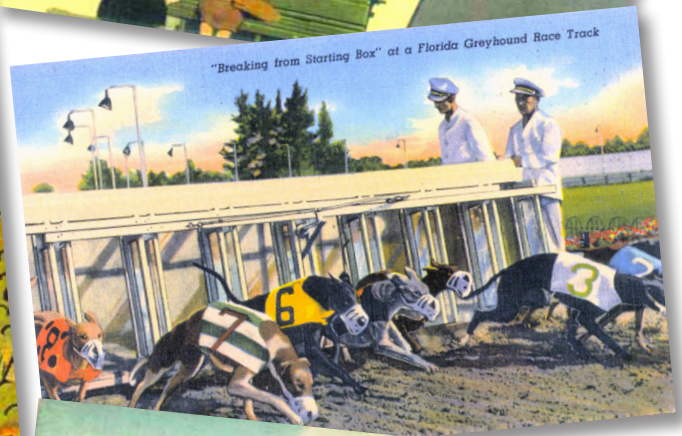
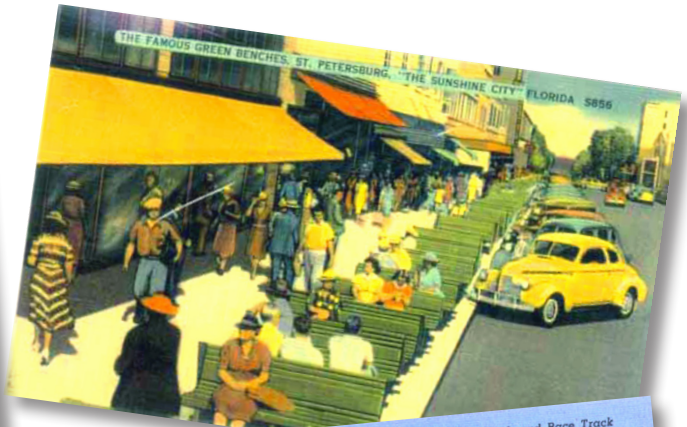


TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
TEACHING ABOUT RECREATION AND SPORTS	3
RECREATION AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES	4
THE LITTLE BROTHER OF WAR	6
OLD DANDY, THE HORSE	7
PIERS AND POOLS OF ST. PETERSBURG	8
PLAY BALL!	10
GOLF	14
ST. PETERSBURG YACHT CLUB	15
LAWN BOWLING	17
SHUFFLEBOARD CLUB	18
THE COLISEUM AND THE MANHATTEN CASINO	19
COURT OF DREAMS	20
DERBY LANE	21
TIN CAN TOURISTS	22
THE CLUBS	23
LESSON 1: BOOSTING THE SUNSHINE CITY	25
LESSON 2: HAVING FUN, THEN AND NOW	26
LESSON 3: FAMOUS PEOPLE AND PLACES	27
LESSON 4: WHAT IS THERE TO DO?	29
LESSON 5: WHO'S WHO AND WHY	30
VOCABULARY	31
PLACES TO VISIT	31

RECREATION AND SPORTS IN TAMPA BAY ©2011

A publication of the St. Petersburg Museum of History

Text and Photos by Elizabeth Neily

Conceptual drawings, ship model and sails by Hermann Trappman

All illustrations and photographs © Neily Trappman Studio. All Rights Reserved.

*This project has been paid for in part by a grant from the
Community Foundation of Tampa Bay
and the Florida Humanities Council*

TEACHING ABOUT SPORTS AND RECREATION

COURSE OF STUDY

Grade 4 — U.S. Florida History and Geography

OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce students to the history of sports and recreation in St. Petersburg and some of its neighboring cities.
2. To introduce students to parks, sports and recreation complexes in St. Petersburg.
3. To introduce students to the economic importance sports and recreation has been to the city's development.
3. To offer students insights into what kinds of recreational activities are available to them.

SUGGESTED READINGS

Build It and They Will Come by Paul Pederson

Baseball, St. Petersburg Times, March 6, 1977

The Everything Kids' Baseball Book: From baseball history to player stats - with lots of homerun fun in between! by Greg Jacobs

TIMEPOSTS

2006—Ted Williams Museum and Hitters Hall-of-Fame moves to Tropicana Field .

1998— Devil Rays play first game against the Detroit Tigers at Tropicana Field

1953—Jennie Hall Pool opens for African Americans.

1937—St. Petersburg Yacht Club begins first hydroplane races.

1935—The St. Petersburg Tennis Center opens.

1926—"Million Dollar Pier" opens.

1920s—Golf Courses are built to attract tourists and real estate sales.

1914—Spring Training comes to St. Petersburg.

1909—First movies are being shown in theaters. St. Petersburg Yacht Club is organized. St. Petersburg Audubon is formed.

1908—St. Petersburg organizes its first baseball team and first powerboat races.

1896—D.F.S. Brantley builds a pier at the foot of 2nd Avenue S. with a bathing pavilion.

1880—First baseball games are played in the city.

pre-1500s—Native Americans play ball on courts at the center of their towns.

THE LITTLE BROTHER OF WAR: AN ANCIENT AMERICAN BALL GAME

From the very beginning St. Petersburg was promoted as a place for tourists to visit, enjoy health and its natural attractions.

But for centuries before Europeans came flooding into America upon the heels of Christopher Columbus, ball games were as American as corn, beans, pumpkins and turkeys. The Tocobaga Indians, as well as all other Native American tribes, were just as obsessed with playing ball as many Americans are today.

The ball game was known as “little brother of war ” because sometimes Indian nations would settle territorial disputes by playing a ball game instead of going to war with each other. Entire villages turned out for the game and they made bets that their team would win. Sometimes they won their rival’s town.

Just like modern communities, a Tocobaga town’s pride was dependant on winning ball games. Great players were sought after in much the same manner as players are today and given preferential treatment as stars. To keep them on the team, they were given a house and other gifts, their fields were planted for them, and their misdeeds were winked at by the town’s authorities.

The ball was about the size of a golf ball, made of rawhide around a hard clay ball. The goal post was a tall pole with an eagle’s nest or a basket fixed to the top set in the town’s central plaza. The plaza was a large level court made of hardened clay.

The night before the big game, villages celebrated with a ceremony and dancing. Medicine men applied “medicine” and prayed to improve the player’s skills and improve their

confidence. Spells were cast upon the opposing players to make them weak.

When morning came, each team would proceed to the playing field followed by their adoring fans. Sometimes prospective players were not eager to participate. Often they were coaxed and flattered into playing and given more gifts.

The number of players on each team varied according to the size of the towns. Each side typically had 40 to 50 players but larger towns could have up to 100 players. The ball was thrown or kicked toward the goal with a foot. One point was awarded each time the ball struck the post. If a player kicked the ball into the nest, his team gained two points. The first team to earn eleven points won!

At Mission San Luis, at present day Tallahassee, Fray Paiva described the ball game as a “battle.” All the players bunched together waiting for the town’s honored man to toss the ball into the air to start the game. As soon as someone caught the ball, everyone fought to gain or keep possession of it. This is how the friar described it.

And they fall upon one another at full tilt. And the last to arrive climb up over their bodies, using them as stairs. And, to enter, others [step on] their faces, heads, or bellies as they encounter them, taking no notice [of them] and aiming kicks without any concern whether it is to the face or to the body, while in other places still others pull at arms or legs with no concern as to whether they may be dislocated or not while still others have their mouths filled with dirt. When this pileup begins to become untangled, they are accustomed

to find four or five stretched out like tuna; over there are others gasping for breath because, inasmuch as some are wont to swallow the ball, they are made to vomit it up by squeezing their windpipe or by kicks to the stomach. Over there lie others with an arm or leg broken.

After the initial scuffle, the play apparently settled down into something resembling an organized game. The players ran back and forth in the searing heat of summer. Sometimes they would pass out and have to be revived by having a bucket of water thrown over them.

The earliest Spanish report of a ball game played in Florida was in 1614 when a Spanish friar asked questions such as these of players in his confessional:

Did you cheat or lie to win the game? Have you lost everything you own or have you taken an herb and rubbed your hands with it with the desire of winning because of it?

Some priests even tried to have the game banned without success.



Tocobaga Ball Court by Hermann Trappman. Courtesy of Neily Trappman Studio ©.

OLD DANDY, THE HORSE

When the Boswells lost their citrus groves in floral city to the Great Freeze of 1899, the three year old Mattie Lou and her family moved to St. Petersburg. Mattie Lou was a tomboy who thrived in the wilds of Pinellas County. Below is an excerpt from *Mamaw's Memoirs* by Mattie Lou [Boswell] Cherbonneau, with stories of Mattie Lou and her sister, Bama.

Bama and I loved to ride our old Dandy around in the woods between our house and Coffee Pot Bayou. We went past the Bayhead to a spring where Dandy would drink and we would stand on his back and reach the sweet wild persimmons. Jake [the dog] would be thirsty also, and lap water out of the spring. This spring and the wild persimmon trees was located where Dr. Charlie and Eloise Martin's house and backyard are now, in the northeast section of town.

Jake would get tired and we would take him up with us on Dandy's back. He had the true balance of horseback rider. Town kids loved to ride Dandy, and he loved kids. He could hold five of us easily on his bare back.

One day we rode past Mrs. Harp's place. She had five kids, three of them old enough to ride a horse. The three begged their mother so hard to let them go riding with us that she he hopped on it and I lifted him up to his place in front of me. We were having a lot of fun until a rabbit jumped across the

road. Jake spied him, and lept off Dandy's back in full chase. In order to leap quickly, he dug his claws deep into Dandy's back, which so startled Dandy that he bounced forward into a full gallop. He lost a "young un" with each bounce. I was lucky, for I hung onto his mane until I could reach the reins. Fortunately there were no broken bones, just a bunch of scared, dirty and bellowing kids. We took the kids home to Mrs. Harp. she got as mad as a wet setting hen, and immediately went to Mama and told her I had tried to kill her kids! Of course I got a good spanking, but I felt sorry for those kids being denied the pleasure of exploring the beautiful woods between home and the bay.

Bama and I would ride Dandy out into the bay and use him as a platform for diving. He was very patient. Old Dandy served the Boswells faithfully at the plow, pulling the farm wagon, and helping to raise us kids. When he got too old for this he was put out to pasture. I can see him now, peacefully grazing and switching his tail at the flies.

In 1908, St. Petersburg celebrated the 4th of July with a sack race, a potato race, an obstacle race, a foot race, and a greased pole contest in the morning, and in the afternoon, they had a pie eating contest, a pony race, a Baseball game, a boat regetta, then wound up the day with fireworks in the evening.

The Evening Independent reported that,

"Mrs. Miller and Mrs. and Mrs. Whettemore

made a wager on the 4th as to their love for ice cream, and as it was handmade and from pure cream, they had no misgivings as to the results of an ice cream contest. At five o'clock the mighty affair began as per schedule, surrounded by friends, phisians, and other mourners. Each lady had a two gallon freezer of the delectable mixture before them. And here our informant draws a veil. he would much neither tell who won, or how much cream they consumed."

WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO
DO IT.

Go fishing—off the docks, or hire a launch and get out into deep water. A launch will cost from \$5 to \$12 a day, with guide, tackle, bait, etc., and the party accommodated will be from two to thirty people.

Salt water bathing, rowing, sailing, shell gathering, charming beach strolls, excursions to Tampa, Green Springs, Manatee river points, Cuba, the government reservations at Forts Dade and DeSoto, the quarantine station and lighthouse at Egmont Key, etc.

The country club offers the use of its club-house and golf links, tennis courts, etc. There are good roads for automobiling. One, especially, lies through a charming orange belt, and by traveling a couple of miles further through the pine woods it brings you to Veteran City on Boca Ceiga Bay, where the Gulf Casino, a large pleasure resort on the trolley company's pier, has a fine dancing floor and other aids of amusements.

For those who seek the delights of surf bathing, there can be found Page's bath-house.

The Woman's Relief Corps, following their annual custom, will meet with Mrs. Scott, of the south side, and celebrate her birthday this afternoon.

PIERS AND POOLS OF ST. PETERSBURG

PIER PRESSURE

The Orange Belt Railroad Pier with Bathing Pavilion and toboggan slide was built in 1889 with loading docks and warehouses for shipping and trains. It was a favorite popular fishing and swimming spot in early St. Petersburg.

In 1896, D.F.S. Brantley built a pier at the foot of 2nd Avenue S. which stretched fifteen hundred feet into the bay. He also built a 34-room bathing pavilion on it, 1,000 feet from the shore. Local residents were encouraged to go to any lengths to keep tourists happy.

Edwin Tomilson constructed the Fountain of Youth Pier in 1901 which featured a cottage at its end. It was located at Fourth Avenue South.

In 1905 Frank A. Davis bought the Brantley Pier located 3 blocks north of the ACL Pier and replaced it with the Electric Pier. It was 3,000 feet long, 16 feet wide, and was lit up by hundreds of incandescent lights. Davis extended his trolley line onto the Pier to shuttle passengers and freight from the pier to downtown. Davis bought a steamboat called the *Favorite* to take visitors on excursions to Tampa and to Piney Point in Manatee County. The Electric Pier too would become a major tourist attraction in the years to come.

William Straub of the St. Petersburg Times and and Lew Brown of the Evening Independent filled their pages with tourist news and upbeat stories promoting the Sunshine City as America's foremost vacationland. The white sands and crystal clear water at Spa Beach on the north side of the Pier had been popular bathing spot since the early 1900s, and more so after the "Million Dollar Pier" was opened in 1926.

City Parks

City council and the editor of the St. Petersburg Times, William Straub, were embroiled in a controversy over what was to happen with St. Petersburg's waterfront. It was turning into an eyesore with stinking fish houses, ram-shackled warehouses, the railroad terminus, not to mention the smoke belching from Frank A. Davis's electric power plant. Straub, was the most vocal opponent to turning over our waterfront to shipping and railroad interests. He considered public parks essential for community order and well-being. Like Frederic Law Olmstead, who designed central park in New York City, Straub was a visionary who saw that the inner-city needs beautiful green spaces where citizens can find solace from the bustle of urban life. The Board of Trade believed that protecting the environment was critical to sustaining the tourist trade.

Today St. Petersburg has more than 2,300 acres of public land dedicated to parks and recreation in 159 parks. The largest is Boyd Hill Nature Park at 137 acres. Sunken Gardens is a 100 year old garden and home to some of the oldest tropical plants in the region featuring 50,000 tropical plants and flowers.

Development of the Kopsick Palm Arboretum began in 1976. The two-acre park was once a city miniature golf course which was closed due to escalating maintenance costs. A concerned resident and park volunteer, Mrs. Elva Rouse, proposed the area as ideal for a palm arboretum. The proposal was adopted by City Council and subsequently the palm arboretum was created through a generous gift of stock from Miss Gizella Kopsick. Initially, 60 palms representing 10 species were planted in the park. Drinking foun-

tains, a gazebo, conversation corners with wooden benches and red brick paving were installed in a graceful circle winding through the palms. All facilities were designed to meet the needs of the handicapped, which included Miss Kopsick, who was confined to a wheelchair. The arboretum was dedicated on May 16, 1977, Miss Kopsick's 100th birthday. Currently the park has more than 500 palms and cycads representing some 150 species from around the world.

SEGREGATED BEACHES

Because "The Sunshine City" was racially segregated before 1960s, African Americans in St. Petersburg were not allowed to use public swimming pools and had extremely limited access to the waters of Tampa Bay and no access to the Gulf of Mexico for places to swim. Sometimes secret beaches were opened without municipal approval, such as the beach operated by Lester Harvey south of Bayboro harbor, for which he was arrested and the beach shut down after a judges ruling in 1929.

South Mole Beach, on the south side of the Pier, was set aside for African Americans to use, but the Million Dollar Pier was off limits. The white establishment tolerated the use of the South Mole by African Americans, at best. They could swim at South Mole, but not in large numbers and African American use of the South Mole for swimming was outright challenged. In 1933, the City Council voted to suspend the privilege of Negroes to bathe in bay.

Swimming continued at the South Mole beach but complaints from residents and business owners grew. The numerous objections forced the city to reconsider its use as a bathing area for the African American population. Residents and council members suggested several new locations as potential bathing sites, including an area near

Salt Creek, south of the waterfront park, and even proposed damming Booker Creek to create a "waterhole," but neighbors and property owner rejected every proposal, always concerned about "large numbers of Negroes passing and re-passing along that thoroughfare,"

AUNT JENNIE'S POOL

Located at 2650 10th Avenue South, the Jennie Hall Pool Complex, which could accommodate 250 bathers at a time, was constructed in 1954 as a segregated swimming pool serving the African American community in St. Petersburg.

In June 1953, at the age of 85, a petite white retired school teacher, Jennie Hall, approached the City Council with the intention of donating \$25,000 for a swimming pool to serve the African American community. To prove the seriousness of her intentions, she wrote a check for \$10,000 at the meeting, and promised another \$15,000 as soon as she divested from the stock market. The City Council, agreed to match her gift with \$35,000 of City funds.

Miss Hall was deeply committed to the cause of a swimming pool for African American children. She said, "I got to thinking it just wasn't right for little Negro children not to have a place to swim. I made up my mind these children would have the advantage of something I never enjoyed."

Leaders in the African American community, although pleased to have the Jennie Hall Pool, found it "far too small to adequately serve the growing community."

By 1957 the legal challenges to St. Petersburg's segregation of swimming pools and beaches was found to be illegal, but future attempts in the summer of 1958 to integrate the Spa Beach and Pool were met with re-

sistance from the city in the form of closures of all pools and beaches. The summer of 1958, Spa Beach and Pool remained closed and were not opened as a fully intergraded

pool until January 6, 1959. The Jennie Hall Pool continues to operate to this day and in December 2011, it was designated a historic landmark by the city of St. Petersburg.

PLAY BALL!

Baseball began to find its way into Florida in the 1880's. An early St. Petersburg historian, John Blocker, wrote, "On or about the year 1897, they had a good baseball team here. The ball grounds were just south of the depot where the fire station is now, They had an umpire . . . an old union soldier who had lost a leg in the War between the States."

Local teams from St. Petersburg, Tampa, Bartow, and Tarpon Springs competed with each other. When the U.S. Army arrived in Tampa Bay in 1898 to launch the Spanish American War with Cuba, the first thing they did, after setting up their camps, was to form a baseball team to challenge the locals. Sometimes the entire city would shut down in order for everyone to enjoy the game.

Winning the ball game on the 4th of July, 1908, 6-1 against the Bradenton team a must have been a real boost of confidence to the home team. *The Evening Independent* printed an announcement that team ordered uniforms and equipment.

Base Ball Club on Their Mettle.

The St. Petersburg Ball Club to-day placed an order with Dent & English to-day for uniforms and entire equipment of Spalding's clubs, balls, mitts. The Club will send out challenges to meet all Florida teams and are determined to win every pennant, trophy, prize, or anything else that is hung up.

THE BOARD

As the game caught on, newspapers in various cities installed a board the shape of a baseball diamond outside their offices to keep track of the scores. During the World Series, sports fans gathered around the Board to get news of their favorite teams. Sometimes thousands of fans gathered and an announcer with a megaphone would call out a play-by-play of the game while someone else moved pieces representing the ball and the players around the board. But when people began to get radios, the boards eventually disappeared.

THE FATHER OF SPRING TRAINING —AL LANG

Al Lang came to St. Petersburg in 1910 for his health—his doctor told him he had six months to live. Perhaps he chose the city because he read Dr. Van Bibber's article in a medical journal which proclaimed St. Pete the "healthiest place in America. We don't really know, but in any event, it worked. Al lived another 50 years until he died of pneumonia at 89.

Lang, who was from Pennsylvania, tried to get the Pittsburgh Pirates to train here in 1912, but was rebuffed by owner Barney Dreyfuss, who reportedly said "You must think I am a damn fool to train in a whistle stop little one tank town."

Undaunted, Lang was successful in bringing the St. Louis Browns here in 1914 with

an offer of free lodging and free rent. The first game against the Cubs, who travelled from Tampa by boat, was played in Coffee Pot Park. One hundred advertising signs lined the field and over 4,000 fans witnessed the beginning of spring training in St. Petersburg. Chicago won the game 3-2. Alas, after one year the Browns departed.

Lang was able to persuade the Philadelphia Phillies to train here in 1915 and they returned for three more years. After this major coup, Al was named "Ambassador to Baseball" and elected Mayor.

In 1922, the Boston Braves were lured to the city by the construction of Waterfront Field, just north of present day Al Lang Stadium. The Braves stayed until 1937 when the St. Louis Cardinals came to town.

Perhaps Lang's greatest triumph was convincing Colonel Jacob Ruppert, owner of the Yankees, to move here in 1924. This made St. Petersburg famous as the only city in America with two spring training teams and the area received lots of publicity from the New York media.

Our "Ambassador to Baseball" attended every World Series until 1957. Lang was truly the "Father of Spring Training".

THE FIELDS OF SPRING DREAMS

Coffee Pot Park

Developer Perry Snell agreed to lease the land near Granada Terrace for 6 years at no cost with the purpose of building a baseball facility. Officially named Sunshine Park, the field was referred to as Coffee Pot Park by most people in town. The first spring game in 1914 was truly the beginning of an era.

Waterfront Park

In 1922, this ballpark opened in the approximate location of today's parking lot at

Al Lang Field at Progress Energy Park. The president of the Boston Braves had promised Al Lang that he would train in St. Pete if a new facility was built. At the urging of city officials, local boosters paid for the stadium.

Al Lang Field

By the late 1930's, Waterfront Park was aging. Seating was inadequate and the wooden grandstands were considered a fire hazard.

In 1940, a referendum to rebuild the stadium on the waterfront was approved by a wide margin. Because of the war, construction was delayed until it finally opened in 1947, 300 ft from Waterfront Park. Fittingly, it was named in honor of Al Lang.

Al Lang Stadium

In 1977, the first field was demolished and replaced with a new one built with federal and city funding. This is the stadium that exists today.

THE TEAMS

St. Louis Browns

After a year of free rent and lodging in 1914, the Browns left us in the lurch. Later they became the Kansas City Royals.

Philadelphia Phillies

The Phillies played in St. Pete from 1915 to 1918. After their first spring training here, they were victorious in 14 of their 15 games and won the pennant.

Boston Braves

Attracted by the new Waterfront Park, the team was a longtime spring attraction from 1922 to 1937. Later, they would become the Atlanta Braves.

New York Yankees

1925-1942, 1946-1950, 1952-1962 Arguably the best team to train here. The 1927 Yanks are in the eyes of experts the finest ballclub

ever, winning at a .714 pace and featuring 5 future Hall of Famers. Very close to this team were the 1939 Yankees who outscored their opponents by a record 441 runs.

St. Louis Cardinals

A fixture in St. Petersburg from 1938 to 1997, the '42 Cards had 108 wins and beat the Yankees in the Series. The team included a young Stan Musial, Marty Marion and Enos Slaughter.

New York Giants

In 1951 the Giants swapped places with the Yankees for one year. Obviously the change was good for them as they beat the Dodgers in a one game playoff thanks to Bobby Thompson's "shot heard round the world," a game winning homer.

New York Mets

The Mets played in St. Pete from 1962 to 1987. As an expansion team in '62 they went 40-120 and finished 60 ½ games out of first place under manager Casey Stengle. By 1969, they were World Champions, known as the "Miracle Mets".

Baltimore Orioles

The Orioles had a brief stop in town from 1992 to 1995 before departing for Fort Lauderdale. Among the stars to train here—Raphael Palmeiro, Cal Ripkin, Jr. and Mike Mussina.

Tampa Bay Devil Rays

Civic leader and St. Petersburg Times publisher, Jack Lake, first suggested St. Petersburg pursue a Major League baseball team in the 1960s. The notable influences Lake held in the sport are what led to the serious discussions that changed St. Petersburg from a spring training location to a major league city. From 1998 to 2008, the Rays were the only team who held spring training in the same city as they played the regular season.

The Devil Rays played their first game on March 31, 1998 against the Detroit Tigers at Tropicana Field before a crowd of 45,369. One of the first memorable moments in franchise history occurred on August 7, 1999 when Wade Boggs tallied his 3000th career hit on a home run, the first player to ever do so. Boggs retired after the season and is the only Ray with his number retired. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2005.

In November 2007, the team's name was changed from the "Tampa Bay Devil Rays" to the "Tampa Bay Rays". The change in name also came with a change in logo and uniforms, with new team colors of Columbia blue, Navy blue and gold. The Rays left St. Petersburg, after the 2008 season to train in their new spring home in Port Charlotte.

SPRINGTIME HEROES

Some of the greatest baseball players of all time trained in St. Petersburg. Here are just a few of the legends who were here over the years:

Babe Ruth

Perhaps the best player of all time, the Babe had 714 home runs in addition to 99 wins as a pitcher. In fact, he held the World Series consecutive scoreless inning record until it was bested by Whitey Ford. Ruth spent spring training at the Princess Martha, the Vinoy, the Rolyat, the Sunset and the Jungle Club. In addition he and Lou Gehrig leased separate penthouses at the Flor-de-Leon on 4th Ave. NE.

BABE RUTH'S BOYS

Perhaps because he grew up in a boys school in Baltimore, the Babe was also known for his generosity to boys. In 1934, he started a project that brought 50 boys on a free trip to St. Petersburg. At a time when he was

featured on cereal boxes and a weekly radio program, he announced that the 50 winners of a contest sponsored by Standard Oil as a promotion for its new Esso brand would be his guests at the Yankee's spring training camp. The boys enjoyed an experience of a lifetime as they travelled by train on the Orange Blossom Special and stayed at the Huntington Hotel. For three days the boys listed as Ruth talked to them about baseball and had them compete in games, swim in the Gulf, and enjoy the sunshine. Later he shipped each of them a crate of grapefruit and oranges.

Stan Musial

"Stan the Man" was the greatest player in St. Louis history. He was a 24 time All Star and won the Most Valuable Player award 3 times. In his career with the Cardinals, Musial had 3630 hits—4th most in baseball history.

Joe DiMaggio

The "Yankee Clipper" still holds the record of hitting in 56 straight games. A 13 time All Star, DiMaggio was the American League MVP 3 times. Joe was married to Marilyn Monroe for just 9 months, but the celebrity couple were often sighted in the area.

Bob Gibson

One of the best Cardinal's pitchers of all time, Gibson had a record of 22-9 in 1968 along with a 1.12 ERA and 268 strikeouts.

Lou Gehrig

The Yankee first baseman played in a record 2130 consecutive games. (This amazing feat was recently eclipsed by Cal Ripkin, Jr. who also trained here.) The Iron Horse won the Triple Crown and two Most Valuable Player Awards.

Grover Cleveland Alexander

This member of the Phillies back when they trained in St. Pete had the third most pitching wins ever. Today, a complete game is a rarity, Alexander had 437 of them in his career.

Yogi Berra

The Yankees star catcher murdered the English language—along with American League pitching. Yogi was an 18 time All-Star and won the MVP Award 3 times.

ST. PETERSBURG SAINTS AND CARDINALS

The St. Petersburg Saints were a minor league baseball team which began as a semi-pro team. As early as October 1908, the semi-pro Saints played the Cincinnati Reds in a post-season exhibition game. By 1914, the Saints were receiving regular coverage in the local press. They played in the Florida State League from 1920-1928 and then folded operations. A second team, also called the St. Petersburg Saints played in the Florida International League from 1947-1954 and the Florida State League from 1955-

1965. The team won four championships and were owned by R. Vernon and Irene C. Eckert from 1951-1954.

They were affiliated with Cleveland in 1949, the New York Yankees from 1956-1961, and Los Angeles Dodgers from 1962-1965. The team name was changed to the St. Petersburg Cardinals upon their signing an affiliation deal with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1966. They continued as the Cards through 1996, winning four more championships.

GOLF

Lakewood Estates and Golf Course

Charles R. Hall developed Lakewood Estates and Golf Course in the early 1920s during the land boom. An Invitational Golf Tournament originated on the Lakewood golf course in 1927. This same Amateur Invitational Tournament continues, unbroken, each year. It became the Lakewood New Year's Invitational, the oldest sustained Amateur Golf Tournament in the country.

In the fall of 1935, a number of interested citizens purchased the Lakewood Golf Course including the original clubhouse and two mules for mowing and maintenance. The Spanish Revival Clubhouse had a large dining room with an exterior wall of stone, a massive raised fireplace in the center and two large birdcages built into the wall. The roof was designed to roll back and display the shining stars at dinner and dances. In 1938, two tennis courts were built on the site of the present courts. However, they deteriorated and the area was used during the war as a parking lot. Eleven tennis courts and a Pro Shop were constructed in 1966. In October 1970, the old clubhouse was destroyed by fire. In 2000-01, the club's name was changed to St. Petersburg Country Club.

The Professional Golf Tour held nine open events on the Lakewood course and members played in the Pro-am by Sam Snead, Jack Nicklaus, Ray Floyd and other top name players.

Snell Isle Golf Club

Now part of the Renaissance Vinoy Gulf Club in St. Petersburg, this building used to be the Snell Isle Golf Club or the Sunset Country Club. It was built in the 1920s by C. Perry Snell. Snell started out as a pharmacist from Kentucky, then married well and came to St.

Petersburg for a honeymoon. He ended up as one of the city's most prominent Boom Time developers. Snell Isle was built in the mid 1920s as an upscale development. Like so many other Florida developers, the end of the Boom hit Snell hard, but he persevered to finish Snell Isle.

The Sunset Golf and Country Club

Another Mediterranean Revival building at the eastern end of Snell Isle Boulevard, was the focal point of C. Perry Snell's signature development, Snell Isle. At the time of its construction in 1926, there were few homes actually built on the island. However, the area was planned as an upper class residential neighborhood and more than \$7 million in lots were sold in 1925 to people wanting to live on the island. The Clubhouse represents the Boom-time architecture that was experienced in Florida during the 1920's. Its onion dome, tile detailing and minaret reflect the desires of the wealthy tourists to experience an exotic escape while vacationing in the Florida sunshine. The architectural style represents Snell's love for romantic Eastern architecture, a fact shown by the Mediterranean Revival style exemplified in many of his neighborhood developments and buildings. The tower and Minaret, as well as the main structure, contain balconies which offer impressive views of the St. Petersburg skyline and views out to Tampa Bay.

Babe Zaharias

Golf had its famous Babe too. Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias was an Olympic athlete who achieved outstanding success in golf, basketball and track and field. She was named the 10th Greatest North American Athlete of the 20th Century by ESPN, and the 9th Greatest Athlete of the 20th Century by the Associated Press. She won two gold medals and one silver medal for track and

field in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. After a hugely successful career in golf, in 1949, Babe bought a golf course in the Forest Hills area of Tampa and lived nearby. At the time of her death she was still a top-ranked female golfer. After her death the golf course was sold. It lay unused for several years and

developers tried to acquire the land for residential housing. In 1974, the City of Tampa took over the golf course, renovated it, and reopened it, naming it the Babe Zaharias Golf Course. At some point afterward, it was accorded historical-landmark status.

ST. PETERSBURG YACHT CLUB

The St Petersburg Yacht Club was founded in 1909. Following the reclamation and completion of the waterfront, the clubhouse was opened on its current site in 1917. Two years later, 6 Fish Class sailboats were acquired and one design racing began.

Offshore racing started with the Havana Race in 1930. While sailors from all over the world came to Tampa Bay for the races, sailors have represented the club all over the world. The yacht club is famous for its standard of race management and events are run almost all year round. It also teaches kids to sail.

St. Petersburg had been hosting regattas almost from the time of its founding in 1888. As the waters of St. Petersburg became more important commercially and militarily, so did they recreationally. On July 4, 1909, *The Evening Independent* reported, hundreds of people crowded along the piers and beaches to watch the very first motor boat races. "Most of the boats had been measured and rated under the rules of the Motor Boat Association of England, so that the advantages over one another were balanced down to where the finishes over one another would be but a difference of a few seconds. —and so it proved."

Later that year, on Oct. 29, a "handful of sailors" formed the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. In the club's first outing two months later, 20 boats carried about 100 members and

guests to Blind Pass. St. Petersburg had a population then of about 1,600 people.

In 1930, the St. Petersburg Yacht Club sponsored a race from St. Petersburg to Havana, Cuba in which eleven boats participated. The 284-mile course is divided into two classes: boats under 50 feet in length and those between 50 and 85 feet. This Havana Race made front-page news. The race began off the St. Petersburg Municipal Pier which was jammed with spectators. The finish line was under the ramparts of Morro Castle — a mind-bending sight on a moonlit night after a violent Gulf Stream crossing. After Fidel Castro took power in Cuba in 1959, the race to Havana ended.

Thunderboats

The St. Petersburg Yacht Club is one of the few "yacht" clubs to support powerboat racing. In 1938, Al Strum, then best known for his sailing ability, won the 91-cubic-inch speedboat national championship in Red Bank, N.J. He was given a well-attended parade down Central Avenue on his return.

SPYC, led by Harry Shaw, initiated the Southland Sweepstakes powerboat races that year with the first race in early January 1939. The starting committee was on the Pier, the pits were at the Junior Yacht Club on the South Mole, and spectators lined the seawalls at Albert Whitted Airport.

Top speeds were 50 mph, which was plenty exciting on the often choppy waters of Tampa Bay. In 1951, adverse weather dictated a move inland to the sheltered waters of Lake Maggiore. Contestants considered it to be one of the finest courses for powerboat racing in the nation. Lake Maggiore was the site of more world speed records than any other lake in the world.

During the 1940s and '50s the junior club boat hoist was occasionally used by hydroplane racers. They would appear late in the day in an elegant car pulling a trailer carrying a hydroplane. After the launch, the driver would ease onto the boat and attempt to start its hot-rod engine. Often there was smoke, flame and curses. Sometimes just grinding noises. If the boats did not start, they tended to sink. When they did start, it was pure excitement as the hydroplane roared through and out of the South Yacht Basin. The boat races came to an end in the first part of the 1980s, when the State passed environmental laws to protect eagles during nesting season. Because the noise from the thunderboats on Lake Maggiore would disturb the eagles, the City suggested that the races be moved to a different time of year after the baby eagles had fledged and left the nest.

Race organizers decided to shut down the races rather than comply with the new rules.

A hydroplane or thunderboat is a fast motorboat, where the hull shape is such that at speed, the weight of the boat is supported by planing forces, rather than simple buoyancy. A hydrofoil is a boat with wing-like foils mounted on struts below the hull. As the boat increases its speed the hydrofoils develop enough lift for the boat to become foil-born — to raise the hull up and out of the water. This results in a great reduction in drag and a corresponding increase in speed.

Hydroplanes were designed and built for speed. Their lightweight hulls were designed to fly on a cushion of air and plane the hydro above the water with only the propeller, rudder, and the runners of their two rear sponsons making contact with the water. This is why they were called 3-point hydroplanes. There is also a skid fin that is placed on the port side sponsons to “skid” the hydroplanes into the turns. The raceboats always competed on a circular shaped race course and always go counterclockwise. Hydroplane designers learned the less resistance to water, the faster they would go.



SAIL VS. SPEED

LAWN BOWLING

The St. Petersburg Lawn Bowling Club is the oldest formally organized lawn bowling organization in Florida and the tenth oldest club in the United States. Located next to the Mirror Lake Shuffleboard Court, it is also the only location officially recognized by the American Lawn Bowls Association for the testing of bowls.

The first Lawn Bowling "Clubhouse" in St Petersburg Fl. was a tent that A. J Mercer brought from Toronto Canada, along with two pairs of bowls late in 1916. In 1917, the City built the Club, and it was Mercer who suggested the use of Marl-surfaced roque courts because the grasses used for lawn bowling did not thrive in Florida.

The first National Open Lawn Bowling Winter Tournament was hosted by the St. Petersburg Lawn Bowling Club in 1926. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The history of bowls has been traced back to the ancient Egyptians. It is believed they played with small round stones. The English, of course, wanted to machine perfectly round bowls from fine lumber they obtained from remote parts of their empire. Then one day someone's bowl split in two and he used a simple knob to replace the broken half, which lead him to discover he could bowl curved shots and sneak around other bowls near the jack. Today all bowls have a certain built in bias.

In Italy the game became known as Bocce Balls. In France it became Boile. In England it became Lawn Bowls or simply Bowling. Sir Francis Drake played bowls - and in one fa-

mous game - told his men not to worry - he would finish the game before taking up arms against the Spanish Armada.

Lawn bowling can trace its North American beginnings to the 17th Century when English colonists brought the game here. A bowling green was built at Williamsburg, VA in 1632, and the game is still played there today on a beautiful green behind the Williamsburg Inn. Colonel John Hoomes built a green on his estate at what is now Bowling Green, VA in 1670. Many other of the new states named a town after this ancient sport played in England since the 12th Century. The bowling green in New York City was built by the British in 1664 when they took over the city and named it New York. That first green was erected on the parade ground of Fort Amsterdam, where today the U.S. Custom House sits.

In 1732, George Washington's father put in a green at Mount Vernon, and in that same year a bowling green was established in Battery Park in New York City. But lawn bowling faded in the early United States of America after the American Revolution (1775-1782) when newly-independent citizens began to take an increasingly dim view of the customs and games of their former governors. The sport disappeared in this country for almost a century until Scottish immigrants revived it in the late 19th Century. They started lawn bowls clubs in New York State, New Jersey and Connecticut, beginning in 1879, and other new clubs soon followed. By World War I, the spread of lawn bowling and clubs from coast to coast led to the founding of the American Lawn Bowls Association in 1915.

SHUFFLEBOARD CLUB

The Shuffleboard Club was created in the 1920s. It had thousands of members and served the recreational needs of St. Petersburg's wintering tourists. Several tournaments were held on the grounds, including the first state tournament in 1928. In addition, the members organized a Festival of States Tournament and participated in the Festival of States Parade.

The club is located in the Mirror Lake area which at the turn of the century was known as Reservoir Lake and served as the source of the town's drinking water. In 1910, the city dedicated much of the area around the lake dedicated to "the public forever for the purposes of parks and roadways." The Shuffleboard Club has sixty-five masonry courts, four masonry buildings, a steel and concrete grandstand, freestanding frame and metal porches and hexagon block patios and walkways. Over the years the building complex was enlarged to include the bridge club/dance hall in 1937 and the grandstands in 1939 as well as major additions to the 1927 and 1929 buildings.

The game of shuffleboard, originally known as "shovel board," can trace its origins from the fourteenth or fifteenth centuries. The modern day game of shuffleboard became popular as a deck game on shipboard.

In 1922, W.N. Britton of Rochester, NY, recommended city officials build courts to attract and entertain tourist. He originally offered to finance and build a court in Williams Park which was the sports center for St. Petersburg because lawn bowling, cards, horseshoes and dominos were played there. However, the heirs of J.C. Williams, believing that no one should be excluded from enjoying the park, obtained a court injunction restraining the City from allowing any club to have exclusive rights over the park. Plans for shuffleboard courts were revisited when, P.T. Ives of Meriden, CT, came to St. Petersburg in the winter of 1923. He urged the City of St. Petersburg to build two courts in Mirror Lake Park which it did in mid-1923 making it, along with Daytona, the only other city in the United States to play shuffleboard on land.



The St. Petersburg Shuffleboard courts are still in use today.

THE COLISEUM

In 1922, C.F. Cullen believed what St. Petersburg needed was a dance hall. He opened the Coliseum two years later with Mayor R. S. Pierce and 3000 guests dancing to the Florida Four, a quartet from Jacksonville. Later all the great dance bands of the time would play the for the crowds at the Coliseum. Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey and Cab Gallaway and Louis Armstrong are just a few of the jazz orchestras had dancers hoofing it on the wooden floor.

With a ceiling that peaked at 34 feet, 4 inches, owner Max MacDonald booked tennis pros Pancho Segura, Jack Kramer and Bobby Riggs to face off against each other

in the 1950s.

The Impacts were the first rock n' roll group to play the Coliseum and in 1985 Twentieth Century Fox filmed the dance scenes for the movie Cocoon there. After Max died, his wife Boo tried to keep the Coliseum running but would eventually sell it to the City in 1989. It became a historical landmark in 1994.

The Coliseum is still an active place today, hosting dances, balls, antique shows, fund raisers, banquets, concerts, trade shows, arts and crafts fairs, corporate functions, homecoming balls and graduation proms, and weddings, and yes, even sporting events

THE MANHATTEN CASINO

Built in 1925, the Manhattan Casino is significant for its contribution to entertainment and the culture in the African American community for more than forty years. African-Americans were confined as part of the City's "Jim Crow" laws which required segregated recreational facilities. The property is also significant for its association with Elder Jordan, a local African-American entrepreneur whose business interests were broadly varied. Elder Jordan and his five sons settled in St. Petersburg in 1904 and were prominent African American builders and developers. They owned acres of real estate, Jordan Beach, the Jordan Bus line and several nightclubs. The Manhattan Casino is located along 22nd Street South in what was once a thriving "main street" of the City's African American community.

The Manhattan Casino was a showcase for local African American artists as well as a ha-

ven for traveling African American entertainers who would stop in St. Petersburg during their tours. Some of American music's most legendary performers played at the Manhattan including James Brown, Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Cab Calloway, Ray Charles, Nat King Cole, Sarah Vaughn, Fats Domino and the Ink Spots.

After the era of the big bands, the Manhattan Casino hosted dances featuring local artists; rock and roll and blues singers popular in the 1960's also performed at the Casino. Goldie Thompson, local minister and radio personality, booked religious programs at the Casino, as did Father Divine, a spiritualist.

In October 2011, after being closed for many years, the Manhattan Casino reopened in grand style with a three-day celebration.

COURT OF DREAMS

The St. Petersburg Tennis Center, located at 650 18th Avenue South, was founded in 1929 and has operated at its present location in the Bartlett Park neighborhood since 1935. The center features St. Petersburg's only public clay courts and is the headquarters for all tennis programs for the city.

The tennis center is a tremendous community asset with a rich history. The center has hosted some of the world's best professional players including: Martina Navratilova, Billy Jean King, Chris Evert, Rod Laver, Jennifer Capriati and Jack Kramer.

However it was the famous female tennis player, Shirley Fry, who is thought by some local tennis enthusiasts to have put St. Petersburg on the world tennis map.

Shirley Fry (later Shirley Fry Irvin) was a major tennis star from St. Petersburg in the 1950s. In 1942, at the age of 15, she reached the singles quarterfinals at the U. S. Championships. She was a two-time national junior champion in 1944 and 1945. She is one of fifteen persons who have won each Grand Slam singles tournament at least once (Career Grand Slam), and one of only five persons who have won each Grand Slam tournament in same sex doubles. She graduated from Rollins College in Orlando.

Originally from Akron, Ohio, Shirley did not move to St. Petersburg until 1954, only two years before winning Wimbledon. She had resolved to give up tennis because of a bum elbow — "tennis elbow" — and formally announced her retirement from tennis. At the time she was one of the U. S. top ten women players for twelve years but had won only a single Major, the French Open in 1951. In St. Petersburg Shirley took a job as a copy girl

with the St. Petersburg Times. Why? Shirley explained at the time, "When you've devoted your life to tennis, there isn't much else you can do. You have to start from scratch." One of her first jobs as a copy girl was to send the story of her own retirement to the composing room. She also said at the time, "[Tennis star] Maureen Connolly was a copy girl at one time in San Diego before she became a national champion. Maybe this job will be a good luck charm for me." Little did she know.

She would play an occasional game at the St. Petersburg Tennis Center located in South St. Petersburg in the Bartlett Park Neighborhood. After a while her elbow quit hurting. World renowned tennis coach Dan Sullivan was the pro at Bartlett Park at the time. He began coaching Shirley. Then she began playing local tournaments and soon found herself with an enthusiastic fan club of local residents. As Shirley said, "To know that all these people in St. Pete were behind me...it just made me want to make them proud." Dan Sullivan and his wife Casey offered their home to Shirley for short stays in the city in between tournaments. Casey Sullivan worked for the Times and helped Shirley get her copy girl job there.

Then came Wimbledon and her unprecedented comeback. Shirley's opponent at Wimbledon was the English player Angela Buxton. Angela's wealthy father offered her an English recreation resort pier if she won. Upon hearing this, St. Petersburg Mayor Sam Johnson sent a cablegram to Shirley saying she could have the whole Million Dollar Pier if she won. Less than an hour after winning, Shirley cabled Mayor Johnson "Coming soon to collect my pier!" Soon St. Petersburg organized the city's first and only ticker tape parade for the returning hero-

ine. A motorcade was formed at Tampa International Airport and Shirley was driven to Central Avenue for the parade. An effort was made to get the local Coast Guard to name one of their helicopters "Whirley Shirley." The date was July 27, 1956, a Friday, but everyone called it "Fryday." Local headlines blazed, "Shirley Conquers City In Love Sets." The parade ended with a ceremony at the Pier where Shirley was presented with a new Chevrolet, the key to the city, and an ornate deed to the Pier. She was also promised a bronze plaque proclaiming her ownership of the Pier. Mayor Sam said tongue in cheek, "We wouldn't want to embarrass her with its revenue, because it might jeopardize her amateur standing." Pier revenue is a matter the City continues to fret about to this day. Two new tennis courts were also named for Shirley at Bartlett Park.

The Center's "Walk of Champions" lists over 90 legendary players who competed there. The center court became known as the "Court of Dreams" because of the likes of Shirley Fry.

After winning Wimbledon, Shirley Fry went on to win the U. S. Open and the Australian Open in 1957, where she met her future husband Karl E. Irvin, Jr. They had four children.

It took a while to get the promised bronze plaque. Somewhat belatedly, on September 6, 1990, Shirley Fry was again conveyed honorary ownership of the Pier in a ceremony at the Pier Rotunda with Mayor Robert L. Ulrich. This time she received a bronze plaque instead of a piece of paper.

Written by Will Michaels

DERBY LANE

Derby Lane Greyhound Track on Gandy Blvd. was started when T. L. Weaver, a lumber entrepreneur, expanded his timberland assets and lumber operations to St. Petersburg, Florida during the land boom of the 1920s. Weaver sold one pine tract to a group of local businessmen who constructed a greyhound track. Unable to pay their outstanding balance, the businessmen gave the track back to Weaver's lumber company. Since then, Derby Lane Greyhound Track has been with the Weaver family.

The season was short in the first years of greyhound racing, so Weaver booked other

entertainment events including stock car races and even an exhibition football game with the legendary Jim Thorpe.

In 1949, Derby Lane's original wooden structure was replaced with a concrete and structure. In 1965, fine dining was introduced in a six-story enclosed clubhouse. And in 1977 a veranda clubhouse gave way to an additional enclosed grandstand. In 1990, a new greyhound kennel compound was built. It is surrounded by native plants and ponds, serving as a preserve for many varieties of birds.

TIN CAN TOURISTS

Before World War I, Florida vacations were mostly for rich people who arrived by train, steamer or private yacht. But by the war's end, Henry Ford's Model T had brought affordable travel to the masses. Florida cities outdid each other building free camps to attract low-budget tourists.

"The camp has electric lights, running water, city sewerage, shower baths and an enormous hot-water tank," Kenneth L. Roberts wrote in *Sun Hunting*, his 1922 Florida travel guide. "About the only things that aren't furnished...are free telephones, a free morning paper and free butter and valet service."

St. Petersburg fell into the tourist camp business in August 1920, when Mayor Noel Mitchell told a few squatters on a city-owned lot that they were welcome to stay. Work spread like wildfire, and 120 families soon showed up to enjoy the city's hospitality. Mitchell added amenities and transformed the lot into a free tourist camp called Tent City. But the city council closed the camp in May 1921, after one of its residents bad-mouthed the city to the press. Mitchell dreamed of opening a new camp outside the city limits, but he never got the chance.

The idea behind the free camps was that, instead of attracting a few big-spending rich people, the cities would lure large numbers of less affluent tourists who would buy their food and other necessities locally. But the plan backfired because they brought those things with them. There was canned food tucked into every nook and cranny of their Tin Lizzies, earning them the nickname "tin can tourists."

They even had their own organization, the Tin Can Tourists of the World, founded in Tampa in 1919. Its members wore a white

celluloid lapel button with the letters TCT in dark blue, and each wired a soup can to the radiator of his flivver as a recognition signal. When they passed each other on the road, they would wave and shout a secret greeting.

The tin-canners gained a reputation for "squeezing a nickel until the Indian begged for mercy and the buffalo ran away." It was only half-jokingly said that they "arrived in Florida with one shirt and a \$20 bill and didn't change either while they were here."

Some stayed long enough to enroll their kids in Florida schools. In those cities that charged tuition, the going rate was 50 cents a week or \$25 a year. It wasn't long before the camps began attracting a new type of resident: snowbird handymen who undercut the prices of local craftsmen while living rent-free all winter.

"These automobile hoboes are about as welcome in Florida as a rattlesnake at a strawberry festival," Roberts wrote. This was especially true when the Great Depression of the 1930s made jobs scarce everywhere. As the cities closed their camps, private ones took their place. But many tin-canners spurned the camps altogether and camped wherever they wanted until somebody ran them off.

The gas rationing of World War II put an end to true tin can tourism. There was a resurgence of low-cost Florida vacations after the war but those tourists towed trailers instead of staying in the "canvas manions" of real tin-canners. Unlike the tourists of the 1920s and '30s, who ate out of tin cans, the postwar tourists lived in them.

Written by Lester Dailey

THE CLUBS

Dozens of clubs began to form in the city, attracting residents and visitors, young and old, and male and females. The Women's Town Improvement Association, founded in May 1901, was considered the most important of these clubs. This group of women was dedicated to the beautification of the community and the uplifting of local culture. It sponsored Lyceum courses and Chautauqua lectures and agitated the city fathers for parks, band shells, sidewalks, paved streets, and cattle-free lawns. It held ice-cream socials to raise money for improvements. In 1913, the WTIA purchased its own building which it graciously shared with the Board of Trade. This unusual arrangement disturbed and embarrassed some members of the local male elite, but anyone who lived in the city knew that it was not easy to keep up with the "meddling women."

The St. Petersburg Women's Club on Snell Isle still operates today. Along with the Florida Winter Art School, these women would inspire appreciation for the arts and the growth of the St. Petersburg Museum of Art, the Morean Art Center, and the Dali and many galleries that would open in the city into the 21st century.

Katherine Bell Tippetts

Colonel William Tippetts and his wife Katherine with their four children moved to St. Petersburg in 1902. Tippetts's health was failing and they believed the gentler Mediterranean climate of St. Petersburg would help. A devastating fire that burned down their home in Lake George, NY provided further incentive to relocate to Florida. Tippetts purchased the Lakeview rooming house and renamed it the Belmont Hotel after Katherine's family home in Maryland. They immediately set about renovating it. Despite the climate, William's health deteriorated and he died in

1909, leaving his widow with four children to raise on her own. She continued to manage the hotel and real estate interests, while make sure all four children received a college education.

Tippetts was caught up in the excitement of the Progressive Conservative movement. The day was past when fashionable women considered joining purely social or cultural clubs. An every increasing army of club women made what was once nobody's business theirs, working without pay and more often without thanks, so that more people could enjoy the good things of life. This "old girls network" did everything from improving the sidewalks and roads, to planting trees, to agitate for women's suffrage and Seminole Indian welfare.

One day, Katherine saw a boy shoot a cardinal and found that he had beheaded and skinned four additional birds. She resolved to organize the Audubon Society if only two persons could be induced to help her. At first no one was willing to help, but then on November 25, 1909, John Ennis and seven other concerned friends met at the Belmont to officially form the St. Petersburg Audubon Society. Many more citizens joined the society, and public sentiment was awakened—a love of birds, and a desire to protect them instilled in the community.

Mrs. Tippetts was president of the Florida Audubon Society for 23 years. Through her many contacts, she promoted the creation of 11 bird sanctuaries in Pinellas County and an additional 30 sanctuaries in the state, as well as the passage of a 1913 law establishing the Florida Fish and Game Commission. She was also instrumental in legislation that removed the American Robin off the game list. Recognizing wandering cats as a threat

to birds, she helped define a city ordinance that required cats be licensed, hoping to decrease the numbers of birds killed by local pets.

She also successfully convinced the publisher of a school paper, *The Boy's World*, to remove airgun advertisements. Although Florida laws against killing birds had been passed in 1901, St. Petersburg Audubon busied itself posting law summaries and penalties since robins and meadowlarks were still being killed as game-birds. Instead of killing birds, Society members local boys to build bird houses. Mrs. Tippetts even organized the city's first Boy Scout Troop in 1910 to teach respect for nature and wildlife!

Once she learned a local hotel was using the Pied-billed Grebe for a sporting event in which children would grab the birds, put nooses around their necks, and place them in the pool to catch fish. She soon put an end to that!

After her resignation from Audubon, Mrs. Tippetts' work with the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs took priority. This was a time when opportunities to enter public life were beginning to open up for women. Though the FFWC women could learn to how conduct business, organize meetings, manage

money, and be set on the road to personal achievement. But she always claimed, "My children always came first, my business second, and my club work was my recreation."

In 1922, Mrs. Tippetts ran for a seat in the State legislature but lost to M.W. Ulmer. It was another another seven years before a woman joined their ranks. Never-the-less, She went on to help create the Florida Fish and Game Commission, became president of the American Forestry Association, was a national flower commissioner and made the wild rose the national flower. She saw to it that the mockingbird became Florida's State Bird and that every other State designated a state bird.

Mrs. Tippetts sat on the State Board of Literacy, became a trustee of the National Park Association, and sat on the National Board of Finances of the YWCA. She was a director of the National Campfire Girls, treasurer of the Pinellas County Board of Trade, and director of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce. As vice president of the Crippled Children's Guild, she established a children's hospital. which has become All Children's Hospital. Her legs were permanently injured in an auto accident. She was also a charter member of the St. Petersburg Memorial and Historical Society.

LESSON 1:

BOOSTING THE SUNSHINE CITY

Objectives:

Students will learn to use promotinal materials to “boost” or promote St. Petersburg.

Materials:

1. 3”x5” cards
2. Pencils, markers, crayons
3. Powerpoint - “Sports and Recreation”
4. Postage stamps (optional)

Websites:

<http://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/listings/attractions>

Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks:

SS.4.A.1.1, SS.4.A.1.2, SS.4.A.3.1, SS.4.A.4.1, SS.4.A.4.2, SS.4.A.6.4, SS.4.A.9.1, SS.4.G.1.1, SS.4.G.1.2, SS.4.G.1.4, LA.4.1.4.3, LA.4.1.6.1, LA.4.1.6.2, LA.4.1.6.3, VA.4.C.1.1, VA.4.F.3.2, » VA.4.F.3.3.

Activity 1:

1. Show students powerpoint program, focusing on postcards promoting “The Sunshine City.”
2. Form students into workgroups to collaborate on ideas for their own postcards to boost the city.
3. Give each student a 3”x5” card on which to create a ‘booster card.’
4. Students may also create jingles or slogans for their postcards.
5. Optional: Have students mail their postcards to—

St. Petersburg Museum of History
335 2nd Avenue, N.E.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

LESSON 2:

HAVING FUN, THEN AND NOW

Objectives:

Students will identify recreational activities of the past and compare them to some current activities.

Materials:

1. Pencils and paper
2. Handouts of page 6 and 7 for *Old Dandy the Horse*.and *What to do and How to Do It*.

Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks:

SS.4.A.1.1, SS.4.A.1.2, SS.4.A.3.1, SS.4.A.4.1, SS.4.A.4.2, SS.4.A.6.4, SS.4.A.9.1, SS.4.G.1.1, SS.4.G.1.2, SS.4.G.1.4, LA.4.1.4.3, LA.4.1.6.1, LA.4.1.6.2, LA.4.1.6.3, VA.4.C.1.1, VA.4.F.3.2, » VA.4.F.3.3.

Activity 1:

3. Read *Old Dandy the Horse* and the 4th of July celebration in 1908 story just below it.
4. Ask students to identify and write down all the recreational activities in the stories.
5. Have students discuss what kinds of recreational activities they pursue. How are they similar or different from those in the story? Which ones have changed and which have stayed the same?

Activity 2:

1. Have students create an illustration for *Old Dandy the Horse*.

LESSON 3: FAMOUS PEOPLE AND PLACES

Objectives:

1. Students will be introduced to some of St. Petersburg's most famous sports personalities and recreational places.

Materials:

1. Powerpoint program - *Sports and Recreation in St. Petersburg*
2. Copies of quiz on page 28
3. Pencils

Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks:

SS.4.A.1.1, SS.4.A.1.2, SS.4.A.3.1, SS.4.A.3.7, SS.4.A.6.3, SS.4.A.3.7, SS.4.E.1.1.

Suggested Activities

Activity 1:

1. View powerpoint program with students stressing individuals or groups in the quiz.
2. Hand out copies of the quiz to each student.
3. Ask students to complete quiz by placing the correct number in the box next to the name.
4. Review the answers with the class.

KEY TO FAMOUS PEOPLE AND PLACES QUIZ ON PAGE 28

1. Manhattan Casino, 2. Fountain of Youth Pier, 3. South Mole Beach, 4. Little Brother of War, 5. Noel Mitchell, 6. Katherine Bell Tippetts, 7. Babe Ruth, 8. Sunshine Baby, 9. Shell Grotto and Ostrich Rides, 10. George Gandy, 11. Jenny Hall, 12. Shirley Fry.

FAMOUS PEOPLE AND PLACES QUIZ

LESSON 4: WHAT IS THERE TO DO?

Objective:

Students will identify recreational activities in St. Petersburg today.

Websites:

1. <http://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/listings/attractions>
2. <http://www.stpete.org/parks/starts.asp>

Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks:

SS.4.A.1.1, SS.4.A.1.2, SS.4.A.3.1, SS.4.A.3.7, SS.4.A.6.3, SS.4.A.3.7, SS.4.E.1.1, LA.4.1.4.3, LA.4.1.6.1, LA.4.1.6.2, LA.4.1.6.3

Suggested Activities:**Activity 1:**

1. Divide students into small work groups of three or four.
2. Ask students to create a list of recreational activities available to them in their community or at home.
3. Have students compile their list with the other groups to see if they can come up with any more activities.
4. Ask students if they have thought of any more activities to add the list.
5. Ask students about the kinds of recreational activities in which they participate.

LESSON 5: WHO'S WHO AND WHY

Objective:

1. Students will create a character based a famous sports personaliy in St. Petersburgs history.
2. Students will learn to identify what makes a character heroic or tragic.

Websites:

Students may search the internet for information about a specific personality.

Books:

Students may visit the library to research information about their character.

Materials:

1. Background information from lesson plan
2. Paper
3. Pencils
4. Props

Sunshine State Standards Benchmarks:

SS.4.A.1.1, SS.4.A.1.2, SS.4.A.3.1, SS.4.A.3.7, SS.4.A.6.3, SS.4.A.3.7, SS.4.E.1.1, LA.4.1.4.3, LA.4.1.6.1, LA.4.1.6.2, LA.4.1.6.3, TH.4.F.1.1, TH.4.S.3.2.

Suggested Activities:

1. Divide students into small groups of two or three.
2. Have each group research a historical or present day sports personality to create a five-minute character sketch about that person. Make sure each group selects a different person.
3. Ask students to identify in their skit what makes their character special, e.g., are they heroic or tragic and why?
4. Have the students read their character sketch to the rest of the class.

VOCABULARY

Casino - buildings used to host civic functions including dancing, concerts and gambling.

Chautauqua - a resort town in southwestern New York, on Chautauqua Lake, noted as the birthplace of a 19th-century popular education movement

- an institution offering popular adult education courses and entertainment, typically held outdoors in the summer in the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries.

Complex - a group of similar buildings or facilities on the same site.

Hobo - a homeless person; a tramp, a migrant worker.

Lyceum - a place for lectures and educational programs.

Memoirs - an autobiography or a written account of one's memory of certain events or people.

Mole - a large solid structure on a shore serving as a pier, breakwater, or causeway.

- a harbor formed or protected by such a structure.

Pier - structure leading out from the shore into a body of water, in particular

- a platform supported on pillars or girders, used as a landing stage for boats.

- a similar structure leading out over the water and used as an entertainment area, typically incorporating arcades and places to eat.

Recreation - activity done for enjoyment when one is not working.

Segregation - the action or state of setting someone or something apart from other people or things, or being set apart .

- the enforced separation of different racial groups in a country, community, or establishment.

Yacht - a medium-sized sailboat equipped for cruising or racing.

- a powered boat or small ship equipped for cruising, typically for private or official use; a steam yacht.

PLACES TO VISIT

ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM OF HISTORY
335 2nd Ave NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 894-1052
<http://www.spmoh.org>

ST. PETERSBURG YACHT CLUB
11 Central Avenue,
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 822-3873
<http://www.spyc.org>

ST. PETERSBURG PARKS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Located throughout city, you can visit a park or recreational facility in your neighborhood by looking them up at:
<http://www.stpete.org/parks/directory/index.asp>

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Lesson Plan and Activities Agreement

ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM IN A BOX

REPLACEMENT COSTS	RETURNED:	YES	NO
Vintage Uniform			
Saints Jersey	\$185	_____	_____
Pants	\$100	_____	_____
Cap	\$ 30	_____	_____
Socks	\$ 20	_____	_____
Tampa Bay Rays			
Collector Edition baseball in box	\$ 25	_____	_____
Signed Rays Cap	\$ 25	_____	_____
Assorted Rays Baseball Cards - 17 each	\$ 25	_____	_____
Miniature Bat-Red - St. Petersburg Cardinals	\$ 25	_____	_____
Fishing Reel	\$ 10	_____	_____
Fish hook	\$ 5	_____	_____
Books			
<i>Build It and They Will Come</i> by Paul Pederson	\$ 35	_____	_____
<i>Baseball</i> , St. Petersburg Times, March 6, 1977	\$ 10	_____	_____
The Everything Kids' Baseball Book by Greg Jacobs	\$ 10	_____	_____

Note: Graphics on the PowerPoint by the artist Hermann Trappman and Neily Trappman Studio are copyrighted. They may not be reproduced unless licensed by a studio representative.

Date Checked Out: ____/____/____

Date Returned: ____/____/____

Name of School: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Grade ____ 4 and/or ____ 5 No. of Students Served: _____ Visiting Presenter? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, what date? ____/____/____ Time(s): _____ Fee(s): _____

By signing this agreement, _____ agrees to return the

Name of Borrower

St. Petersburg Museum in a Box in good condition and to replace any missing or broken pieces. Box returned in good condition: ____ Yes ____ No Approved by: _____

St. Petersburg Museum Representative

RECREATION AND SPORTS IN TAMPA BAY

POWERPOINT SCRIPT FOR TEACHERS

Slide 1:

This lesson covers Sports and Recreation in the St. Petersburg region over thousands of years from the ball games played by the Tocobaga Indians through our modern 21st century sports and clubs.

Click through postcards.

St. Petersburg started promoting itself as “The Sunshine City” with the coming of the Orange Belt Railroad. In 1889, the railroad sponsored seaside tours to St. Petersburg, where tourists could play on the beaches, feed the pelicans, go fishing, or even hunt alligators.

Slide 2:

From the very beginning, the *St. Petersburg Times* promoted the city as a destination for tourists. This vintage postcard from the 1890s reads:

What the wild waves are saying,
I'm going to tell you.
They repeat my heart's wish.
That you might be here too.

Slide 3:

Orange Belt Railroad Pier with Bathing Pavilion and toboggan slide was built in 1889 with loading docks and warehouses for shipping and trains. It was used by many visitors for fishing and swimming.

In 1896, D.F.S. Brantley built a pier at the foot of 2nd Avenue S. which stretched fifteen hundred feet into the bay. He also built a 34-room bathing pavilion on it 1,000 feet from the shore. Local residents were encourage to go to any lengths to keep tourists happy.

Slide 4:

Schools of fish in Tampa Bay were said to be so plentiful that they would slow the progress of sail boats. People staying at a hotel near the water complained that the mullet jumping in the bay kept them up at night.

The Railroad Pier became one of the popular spots to fish. Notice the fishermen who are wearing three piece suits.

Slide 5:

Noel Mitchell hung smelly tarpon from the porch of his real estate office to attract sports fishermen to St. Petersburg. Grouper may reach extremely large sizes, growing as long as 8.2 feet and can weigh as much as 800 pounds. Fishermen could also pose for fantasy postcards, like the one on the lower left, to send to their friends in the North.

Slide 6:

In 1901 Edwin Tomlinson constructed the Fountain of Youth Pier which had a cottage at its end. It was located at Fourth Avenue South.

In 1905, Frank A. Davis bought the Brantley Pier located three blocks north of the ACL Pier and replaced it with the Electric Pier. It was 3,000 feet long, 16 feet wide, and was lit up by hundreds of incandescent lights. Davis extended his trolley line onto the Pier to shuttle passengers and freight from the pier to downtown. Davis bought a steamboat called the Favorite to take visitors on excursions to Tampa and to Piney Point in Manatee County. The Electric Pier too would become a major tourist attraction in the years to come.

Slide 7:

In 1908, St. Petersburg celebrated the 4th of July with a sack race, a potato race, an obstacle race, a foot race, and a greased pole contest in the morning, and then, in the afternoon, had a pie eating contest, a pony race, a baseball game, a boat regatta, and ended up the day with fireworks in the evening.

Slide 8:

William Straub of the *St. Petersburg Times* and and Lew Brown of the *Evening Independent* filled their pages with tourist news and upbeat stories promoting the Sunshine City as America's foremost vacationland.

The white sands and crystal clear water at Spa Beach on the north side of the Pier had been a popular bathing spot since the early 1900s, and more so after the "Million Dollar Pier" was opened in 1926.

Goodyear blimps, like the one in the postcard, were stationed at Albert Whitted Airport from 1930 to 1939.

Slide 9:

The City Council and William Straub, the editor of the *St. Petersburg Times*, became embroiled in a controversy over what was to happen with St. Petersburg's waterfront. It was turning into an eyesore with stinking fish houses, ramshackle warehouses, and a railroad terminus, not to mention the smoke belching from Frank A. Davis' electric power plant.

Straub was the most vocal opponent of turning over the city's waterfront to shipping and railroad interests. He considered public parks essential for community order and well-being. Like Frederic Law Olmstead, who designed Central Park in New York City, Straub was a visionary who saw that the inner-city needs beautiful green spaces where citizens can find solace from the bustle of urban life. The Board of Trade believed that protecting the environment was critical to sustaining the tourist trade. Today, St. Petersburg's Straub Park is a result of Straub's vision.

Slide 10:

Black Americans in St. Petersburg had no access to swimming pools and extremely limited

access to the waters of Tampa Bay. they had no access to the Gulf of Mexico. Because “The Sunshine City” was racially segregated before the 1960s, South Mole Beach, on the south side of the Pier, was set aside for African Americans to use, but the Million Dollar Pier seen in the background was off limits.

Click

Deeply committed to the cause of a swimming pool for Black children, retired school teacher, Jennie Hall donated \$25,000 to build a pool in 1953. Her generosity shamed the City into contributing another \$35,000 for the project. The pool, which opened in 1954, is still used today and was designated a historic landmark by the City of St. Petersburg on December 2011.

Slide 11:

As St. Petersburg developed as a tourist destination, its sand driven streets were gradually replaced by brick pavers, then pavement. The tents in the top right postcard were probably set up for railroad workers, not for camping. That would come later. F. E. Davis installed a trolley line to Gulfport and Jungle Prada and cars quickly began to line the streets. The downtown was bustling with business.

Slide 12:

The Sunshine City of St. Petersburg became famous for its green benches that lined the streets and parks. The green bench was the symbol of the hospitality and friendliness of the city, offering residents and tourists a place to sit, rest, enjoy the weather, make acquaintances, and watch the passersby. Real estate dealer Noel Mitchell is credited with installing the first benches (then painted orange) in 1908 to encourage pedestrian traffic to the areas of downtown where his properties were located. The backs of the benches carried advertising for his businesses and the idea rapidly caught on with his competitors whose benches, in a wide assortment of colors and types, proliferated on the city’s sidewalks. Eventually the city administration, after overcoming much local opposition, imposed a standard size and type of bench and specified that they be painted green.

Click

Under protests by many residents who loved them, the Green Benches were removed for urban renewal in 1970. Some thought the benches gave the city an image of a place where only old people lived.

Slide 13:

The Royal Palm Theater was St. Petersburg’s first movie theater. It was opened in 1905 by Bill Carpenter at 247 Central Avenue. He had a large caged alligator in the lobby to attract patrons. He also owned a curio shop next door to the Detroit Hotel, where he kept a thousand baby alligators, which he shipped all over the country, guaranteeing them to be alive when they arrived.

During the 1910s, the Pheil Building was constructed for the Pheil Hotel (later named the Madison) and the Pheil Theater, by Abram C. Pheil, who had made his money in the dredging and phosphate businesses. It took Pheil ten years to complete, because its developer, refused to borrow money and worked on it only when he had enough cash available. The

theater finally opened 1918. It an unusual seating arrangement where, theater goers entered through one of two doors next to the movie screen and walk up the aisles - toward the “back” of the theater - to find a seat. Because Pheil had been in a theater fire in Chicago years before, he designed his to be safer in the event that the projection room caught on fire. The domed ceiling was decorated with cherubs. When the adjoining bank was expanded into the Pheil building in the 1960s part of the theater was demolished and the remainder incorporated to make a much larger building. What used to be the Pheil Theater foyer became the bank’s lobby, mezzanine, and data processing area.

In 1912, George Gandy, builder of the Gandy Bridge, purchased land downtown and built La Plaza Theatre and office buildings. The plaza was criticized by many as “Gandy’s White Elephant,” but it soon made hefty profits. The theatre drew such attractions as the John Philip Sousa band and the controversial landmark film *The Birth of a Nation*. Gandy’s La Plaza Theatre was acquired by the Florida State Theater in 1948 and demolished in 1957.

Prior to the air conditioned Florida Theater opening in 1929, theaters closed during the summer months. It was located on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Fifth Street and was built to look like a Spanish medieval castle. It had 2,300 seats, nine dressing rooms and a rooftop garden. The theater’s towering walls were decorated with suits of Spanish armor, tapestries and other exotic decorations. The “King of Rock and Roll,” Elvis Prestley, played there.

Slide 14:

PreColumbian Native Americans in Florida played a rough and tumble ball game centered around a tall pole erected on a clay court on the main plaza of of their villages. Ballgames were played and ceremonies performed to ensure abundant food and rain for crops. Teams were made up of every male from two different towns. The ball game was called “little brother of war ” because sometimes Indian nations would settle territorial disputes by playing a ball game instead of going to war with each other. Read more about the game in the lesson plan.

Click

Baseball began to find its way into Florida in the 1880s. Local teams from St. Petersburg, Tampa, Bartow, and Tarpon Springs, competed with each other. When the U.S. Army arrived in Tampa Bay in 1898 to launch the Spanish American War with Cuba, the first thing it did, after setting up encampments, was to form a baseball team to challenge the locals.

The rules of the time made for an exciting game. Spit, tobacco juice and licorice balls were all perfectly legal. Fielders wore thin, fingerless gloves and the pitching rubber was 50 feet from home plate instead of 60 feet like it is today.

Players used a dead ball that didn’t bounce. Scores at every game were high with as many as 30 runs batted in. Four strikes and four swings counted for a “hand down” or an out, and five balls counted for a walk.

Slide 15:

Baseball Team owners began to move their Spring Training Camps to St. Petersburg in 1914

at the urging of St. Petersburg “booster” Al Lang who became a local hero. He was elected mayor in 1916 and again in 1918.

Babe Ruth is considered the best baseball player of all time. He had 714 home runs plus 99 wins as a pitcher. He held the World Series consecutive scoreless inning record until it was bested by Whitey Ford.

Lou Gehrig also trained here. He set several Major League and American League records and was voted the greatest first baseman of all time by the Baseball Writers’ Association. He played for the New York Yankees until his career was cut short by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), now commonly referred to in the United States as Lou Gehrig’s Disease. Gehrig and “The Babe” leased separate penthouses at the Flor-de-Leon on 4th Avenue. NE.

Slide 16:

Charles R. Hall developed Lakewood Estates and Golf Course in the early 1920s during the land boom. An Invitational Golf Tournament originated on the Lakewood golf course in 1927. This same Amateur Invitational Tournament continues today, the oldest sustained Amateur Golf Tournament in the country.

Click

Now part of the Renaissance Vinoy Golf Club in St. Petersburg, this building used to be known as the Snell Isle Golf Club and the Sunset Country Club. It was built in the 1920s by C. Perry Snell. The Sunset is a combination of romantic interpretations of the Moorish Islamic style of architecture which is very rare in St. Petersburg.

Slide 17:

Golf had its famous Babe too. Mildred Ella “Babe” Didrikson Zaharias was an Olympic athlete who achieved outstanding success in golf, basketball and track and field. She was named the 10th Greatest North American Athlete of the 20th Century by ESPN, and the 9th Greatest Athlete of the 20th Century by the Associated Press. She won two gold medals and one silver medal for track and field in the 1932 Los Angeles Olympics. After a hugely successful career in golf, Babe died of cancer at age forty-five. At the time of her death she was still a top-ranked female golfer.

In 1949, Zaharias bought a golf course in the Forest Hills area of Tampa and lived nearby. After her death, the golf course was sold. As it lay unused, developers tried to acquire the land for residential housing. In 1974, the City of Tampa took over the golf course, renovated it, and reopened it, naming it the Babe Zaharias Golf Course. At some point afterward, it was accorded historical landmark status.

Slide 18:

The St. Petersburg Tennis Center, located at 650 18th Avenue South, was founded in 1929 and has operated at its present location in the Bartlett Park neighborhood since 1935.

The center features St. Petersburg’s only public clay courts and is the headquarters for all tennis programs for the city.

Click

The tennis center is a tremendous community asset with a rich history. The center has host-

ed some of the world's best professional players including: Shirley Fry, Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Rod Laver, Jennifer Capriati and Jack Kramer.

Click

With a ceiling that peaked at 34 feet, 4 inches, Coliseum owner Max MacDonald booked tennis pros Pancho Segura, Jack Kramer and Bobby Riggs to face off against each other in the 1950s.

Slide 19:

The St. Petersburg Yacht Club was founded in 1909. Following the reclamation and completion of the waterfront, the clubhouse was opened on its current site in 1917.

The St. Petersburg Yacht Club is one of the few "yacht" clubs to support powerboat racing. The Southland Sweepstakes powerboat races began in January 1939.

Slide 20:

The Southland Sweepstakes powerboat races began in January 1939. In 1951, poor weather conditions forced the powerboat races to move inland to the sheltered waters of Lake Maggiore. Contestants considered it to be one of the finest courses for powerboat racing in the nation.

Lake Maggiore was the site of more world speed records than any other lake in the world. Sunshine Baby IV on Lake Maggiore just after Ray Gassner won the 1960 Southland Sweepstakes race. This is the first time the Sunshine Baby IV raced.

Sunshine Baby IV on Lake Maggiore just after Ray Gassner won the 1960 Southland Sweepstakes race. This is the first time the Sunshine Baby IV raced.

Slide 21:

The St. Petersburg Lawn Bowling Club is the oldest formally organized lawn bowling organization in Florida and the tenth oldest club in the United States. Located next to the Mirror Lake Shuffleboard Court, it is also the only location officially recognized by the American Lawn Bowls Association for the testing of "bowls," which is what the balls are called.

Click

A girl throws a bowl during a historic reenactment.

Slide 22:

The St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club was the first organized club of its kind. It had thousands of members and served the recreational needs of St. Petersburg's wintering tourists.

Click

Visitors also played cards at the club.

Slide 24:

Derby Lane Greyhound Track on Gandy Blvd. was started when T. L. Weaver, a lumber

entrepreneur, expanded his timberland assets and lumber operations to St. Petersburg, Florida, during the land boom of the 1920s. Weaver sold one pine tract to a group of local businessmen who constructed a greyhound track. Unable to pay their outstanding balance, the businessmen gave the track back to Weaver's lumber company. Since then, Derby Lane Greyhound Track has been with the Weaver family. It is the oldest continuously operated greyhound track in the world.

Click

In recent years, dog racing has been condemned by animal rights groups as a form of animal cruelty. As a result, Greyhound Rescue groups provide opportunities for retired greyhounds to be adopted.

Slide 25:

Before World War I, Florida vacations were mostly for rich people who arrived by train, steamer, or private yacht.

Click

But by the war's end, Henry Ford's Model T had brought affordable travel to the masses. Florida cities outdid each other building free camps to attract low-budget tourists. The idea behind the free camps was that, instead of attracting a few big-spending rich people, the cities would lure large numbers of less affluent tourists who would buy their food and other necessities locally. But the plan backfired because they brought those things with them. Canned food was tucked into every nook and cranny of their Tin Lizzies, earning them the nickname "tin can tourists."

Slide 26:

Dozens of clubs began to form in the city, attracting residents and visitors, young and old, male and female. The Women's Town Improvement Association, founded in May of 1901, was considered the most important of these clubs. This women's club was dedicated to the beautification of the community and the uplifting of local culture. They sponsored Lyceum courses, Chautauqua lectures, and campaigned the city fathers for parks, band shells, sidewalks, paved streets, and cattle-free lawns. They held ice cream socials to raise money for improvements. In 1913, the WTIA purchased its own building, which it graciously shared with the Board of Trade. This unusual arrangement disturbed and embarrassed some members of the local male elite, but anyone who lived in the city knew that it was not easy to keep up with the "meddling women."

St. Petersburg Women's Club on Snell Isle still operates today. These women would inspire appreciation for the arts and the future of the St. Petersburg Museum of Art, the Morean Art Center, and The Dali, the St. Petersburg Museum of History and the many galleries that would open in the city.