



Here's What's Been
Happening At
YOUR Museum!

- **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:** December 14. For 2012 the meetings will be: January 11, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12.
- We are now a part of the FPAN/DARC Geo-Trail ! This is a high-tech scavenger hunt. Information can be found on www.geocaching.com. Mike Thomin, the Manager of Destination Archaeology Resource Center has added us to the "trail".
- **S e i n e B o a t** "Primrose" stylized framed photographs for sale. Black or brown frames available, each with 3 beautiful views of this historic vessel. \$10 & \$15 .

Museum Visitors

2006: 2,095
2007: 3,527
2008: 4,561
2009: 5,804
2010: 6,368
2011: January to November
6,721 visitors

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Volume 6 Issue 2

Fall 2011 Newsletter

Director's Corner

What a wonderful year 2011 has been for the Destin History and Fishing Museum. With constant help from our board of Directors, Business Partners and Volunteers the Museum is growing in every way.

Attendance this year exceeded all previous years; this is due in part to tour groups from Mayflower and Denour Tours, and our work with the TDC. Our participation in the Seafood Festival was very successful. We were able to enlist enough volunteers to man a food booth as well as operate the parking concession. With the aid of volunteers from local churches we have established a wonderful new area "Footprints in the Sand" at the entrance to the Museum. This is a tribute to Destin's past, current and future residents. In January, 2012 we will hold our Annual Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction, we can only hope will be as successful as this year.

As I am writing this I feel sure you are all getting ready to celebrate Christmas. I wish you all the happiest of times and want you to know how very much you mean to the Museum. Hope you will become a regular visitor.

Jean



Buy-A-Brick Program Underway

December 13th our first pavers were installed. Come by and see the patio. You may purchase an engraved paver to honor family or business!

Calendar of Events

AJ's Tin Cup Golf Classic
September 11
Benefited the Museum

Crab Island Shootout
September 24
Benefited the Museum

September 30, October 1 & 2
Destin Seafood Festival Museum had a booth and parking concession.

First Week of October
Heritage Week--Was a great time to visit Your Museum !
During October 654 visitors came to the Museum which had a special display honoring the 63rd Annual Destin Fishing Rodeo.

October 12
Chamber of Commerce "Destin Forward" Tour

February is Membership Renewal Time !

December 4
25th Annual Destin Holiday on the Harbor lighted boat parade.

January 21, 2012
Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction
Destin Community Center
Advance Tickets \$10 At the Door \$12

February 8, 2012
General Membership Meeting
6 PM at the Museum

Museum Donations are Tax Deductible !!



“Footprints in the Sand”

Celebration of life in Destin
Past, Present, and Future

Our first order of 32 pavers were delivered September 21! There are fifteen 12X12 pavers commemorating the first families from 1835 to 1935. Each of these pavers feature the family name and the footprints symbol. These early family names are: Destin, Marler, Melvin, Jones, Woodward, Shirah, Maltezo, Brunson, Taylor, Calhoun, Kelly, Walter, O’Neal, Chambliss, and Wells. An additional 17 pavers have been delivered purchased by local families and businesses. Installation was completed December 13th. Additional 4X8 or 8X8 pavers may be purchased to honor a family member, special event, business, charter boat, or organization. You can pick up a paver order form at the Museum, download one from our website, or order online at www.bricksrus.com/order/destinhistoryandfishing. 4X8 pavers are \$75 and 8X8 pavers are \$150. Color choices are red, red/tan, or sandstone.

**OUR
FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
HAS BEGUN !**
**Purchase a paver to support the
museum and honor your family or
business today!**



Business Sponsor Highlight



September 11, AJ’s held their annual AJ’s Tin Cup Classic Golf tournament, which benefitted the Museum with \$2,373.01. In their continuing support of the Museum, Alan Laird donated use of his property during the Destin Seafood Festival for a parking concession. The September 30 to October 2 parking concession brought in \$ 5,895 to benefit the museum for the total donation of \$8,268.01 !

Jean Melvin, Alan Laird, and Dave Steele
Showing off 2011 Donations
Made Possible by
AJ’s Seafood & Oyster Bar



25th Annual Holiday on the Harbor Lighted Boat Parade



Boaters were invited to help us light up the harbor with the true Destin spirit. This great holiday tradition was held Sunday, December 4. There were festivities held that afternoon at HarborWalk Village. The parade began at 6 PM with judging upstairs at Harry T’s Restaurant. A fireworks display donated by Pryo Shows, Inc. helped celebrate this special year after the boat parade. Thousands of viewers enjoyed the lights from all along the Destin Harbor.

Pioneers of Paradise

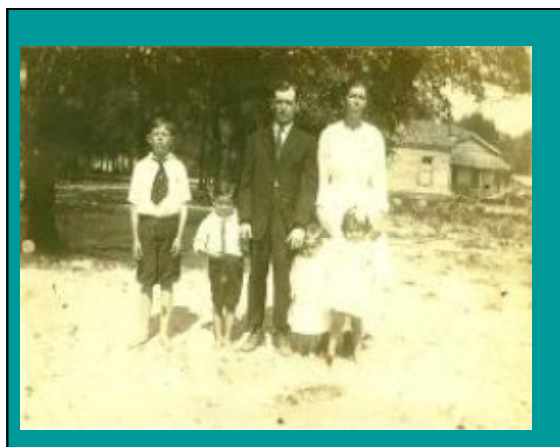
The Brunson Family

Written by Kathy Marler Blue

Lorenzo Dow Brunson and Sarah Etta Brown brought their family by boat from Portland, Florida to Destin in 1927. Their children were Jesse Eldon "Cobby" (1908-1988), Thomas Reddin "Salty" (1913-2011), Kathleen (1915-2009), John Dow "JD" (1918-1970), Zachary "Zach" (1921-2000), Roy Renzel (1922-1924), and Mabel Brunson (1924-1977). The Brunson sons joined the Destin Fishing Fleet as Captains and all the girls married boat captains. The men of these families came to fish with Leonard Destin, Jr. It was not long until almost all of them had built themselves a boat to harvest the abundance of fish the local waters offered.

Lorenzo was born June 19, 1883 in Alabama. He was the oldest of seven children of parents Thomas M. Brunson (1855– 8 July 1906) and Emily Louise Thomas (1868-?). His wife Sarah was born in Florida August 17, 1886. Sarah was one of eleven children of John Reddin Brown (25 June 1853-18 November 1923) and Catherine Howard (18 October 1852-18 August 1920) who were married January 12, 1871 in Pensacola, Florida.

Cobby married Madeline Marler (16 August 1902-5 September 1986) in 1922. Reddin married Gladys Parrish in 1933. Kathleen married Roscoe Mikel (9 August 1916-3 January 1989). JD married Winnie Odell Chambless (8 March 1918-30 December 2003) in 1944. Zachary married Mary Chambless (born abt. 1924) in 1942. Mabel married Jesse Elmer Broxson (28 October 1921-5 December 1981) in 1940.



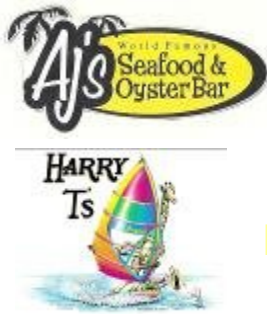
This photo of the Lorenzo Brunson family was taken in the 1920s.

From left are "Cobby", Reddin, Lorenzo, Etta, and daughters Kathleen and Mable Brunson.

Photo of Sarah Etta and Lorenzo "Wren" Brunson taken by Moulton's Studio in Andalusia, AL.



"Etta" & "Wren" Brunson
Photo taken in the 1970s.



Museum Benefits During the Destin Seafood Festival

The museum was busy during the Destin Seafood Festival held September 30, October 1st and 2nd. This year's Seafood Festival was a huge success for all of Destin. An estimated 51,000 came out to enjoy this festival. The museum had a fundraiser including a parking concession and booth.

Alan Laird of AJ's Seafood and Oyster Bar donated the use of his parking lot for the museum to use for a parking concession. A \$5 per car charge gave visitors to the festival a free coupon for museum admission and a \$5 coupon for AJ's Restaurant. Volunteers manned the parking area to collect money and pass out coupons.

Dan Empson of Harry T's Restaurant donated his cooking staff and food products to sell Fish Tacos and Sweet Potato Fries in the museum booth down on the docks during the festival. More wonderful volunteers made a great fundraiser!

This fundraiser brought \$ 9,057 to the museum!



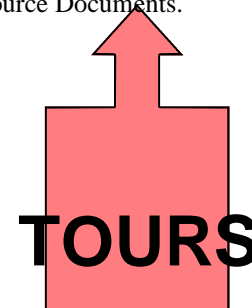
Mayflower Tours out of Illinois brought winter visitors to the museum October 24th, 31st and November 14th. They have 21 tour dates set up for 2012.

In conjunction with Pelican Beach Resorts of Destin, **Denoure Tours** brought weekly guests to the museum.



The **TDC** brought special guests to visit the museum October 4th and 11th. These VIPs were introduced to the history of Destin. October 12th the **Destin Chamber of Commerce** "Destin Forward" class was given a tour to familiarize themselves with our unique past. November 21st the senior class of the **Niceville St. Paul Lutheran Church** had a private tour to learn about Destin.

Off site talks are getting the word out about Destin and its history. October 12th Kathy spoke at the **Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida** in ValP sharing a PowerPoint presentation during their "History Sandwiched-In event. These are free lunch-time lectures held monthly. **Destin Elementary School 1st graders** received a special lesson from Kathy Blue on November 15th with hands-on items about Primary Source Documents.



Cast Net Fishing Helped Feed Early Families



**Willie Mae Marler
Taylor
Admiring
her father's castnet.**

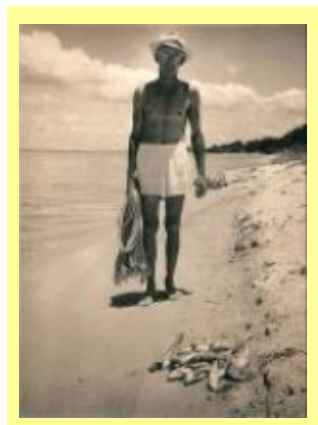
Destin's fishing history begins in 1835 with Leonard Destin. Leonard made his first fishing nets by hand and fished with them from the tender (lifeboat) off his sailboat. The original fishermen in Destin began fishing with a larger net known as a seine. Webbing for the seine was hand made much the way a cast net was created. Cotton yarn was used, knitted and tied, using a wooden net needle.

From the time they were young, children of Destin were taught by their elders how to tie a net. Learning to fish with the net was also on the list of requirements. Fishing for mullet was very popular since it was a local favorite food fish. Seeing who could spread the net the largest was always a challenge.

Willie Mae Taylor was a 3rd generation Marler of Destin. Her father was William Thomas Marler, better known as "Uncle Billy" and who the Destin Bridge is named in honor. Her mother was Camela Katherine Brooks. Willie Mae's grandparents were William Elisha Marler and Sarah Rotincia Lancaster who came into this area after the Civil War. Willie Mae married Clement James Garfield Taylor and lived her life here in Destin. She was a gracious lady and dedicated her life to the community and the preservation of Destin's heritage. The picture of Willie Mae was taken by Ladie Penick in 1957 here in Destin while she was admiring a cast net made by her father. This is one of the museum's favorite photos with its simple artistic format it has a timeless and elegant look.



**William Thomas
Marler
working on one
of his cast nets.**



**Clement Taylor
cast net fishing
along
Choctawhatchee Bay.**



**Cecil Woodward, in 1927,
at age 8 knitting a cast net.**

Visit the Museum to see the new Cast Net Exhibit !!

destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Museum Board of Directors

Executive Board President: Mike Long Vice President: Dave Steele

Secretary: Monica Autrey Treasurer: John Lefler

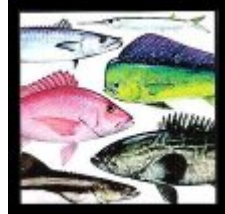
General Board: Richard Derek, Dan Empson,, Norm Hall, Dan Martin,

Lloyd Taylor, Russell Wamble

Executive Director Jean Melvin Associate Director Kathy Marler Blue

Museum Docent: Dave Fraser

Newsletter Writer and Editor Kathy Marler Blue



**PLEASE MAIL YOUR
DONATION TO:
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FISHING MUSEUM
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Website:
destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org



**Recycle Ink
cartridges
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Your recycled cell
phones earn \$5-10 each
for the museum. Keep
them coming!!!

**Tuesday - Saturday
10am to 4pm**

Admission: Adults: \$5

Seniors & Military: \$4

Students: \$3

Kids 6 & Under

and Members : Free

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

Join or Renew Your Membership Today

Destin History and Fishing Museum is a non profit organization whose members are dedicated to preserving, documenting, and sharing the complete history of Destin. There are limitless ways you, your friends, and associates can be part of realizing these efforts. Now more than ever we can use your support. **Your donation or membership is tax deductible.**

Please fill out the form below and mail it to the museum.

Yes, I Give My Support!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Membership/Amount \$20 _____ \$ 50 _____ \$ 100 _____ \$250 _____ \$ Other _____

Check # _____ If you would like to pay by credit card please call the Museum and have your credit card ready.

Mail to: Destin History and Fishing Museum P.O. Box 548 Destin, Florida 32540-0548

Thank you. Without your faithful and generous donations and efforts, the museum would not exist today.