

Pioneers of Paradise

The Shirah Family

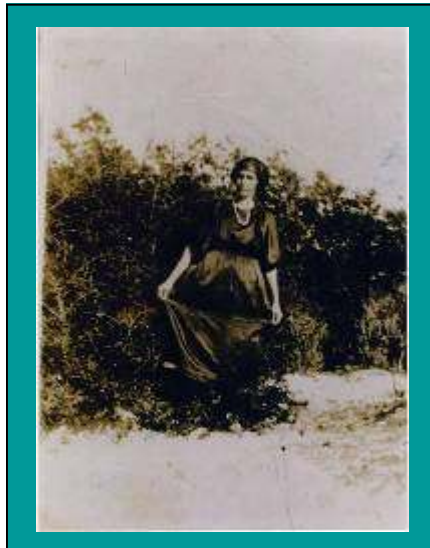
Written by: Jean Melvin

Robert William Shirah married Mary "Minnie" Yohn in Vernon, Washington County, Florida in 1895. In the 1920 census, the family can be found together (minus the oldest child Mary Alice) living in Apalachicola, Florida. Robert's occupation in the census was listed as a fisherman and the eldest sons were all working as oystermen. Sometime after this census was taken, Robert and Mary decided to go their separate ways. Mary took nine of her children and moved to Destin sometime around 1921. Mary made her home on the Destin Harbor on a lot situated between her son-in-law, Clarence Marler and Dewey Destin. All Mary's sons were fishermen. The older ones occasionally fished out of Bayou La Batre, Louisiana. Three of her sons, Robert, Charles and Milton, married daughters of Lillian Sprinkle, Mary's friend from Bayou LaBatre. The girls married Destin fishermen. Alice married George Destin, Gladys married Clarence Marler, and Bessie married Benson Walls. While visiting in Bayou LaBatre, Mary became sick and was taken back to Destin by boat. She died soon after in the home of her son James C. Shirah and his wife Helen Marler. All nine children remained in Destin and became part of Destin's fishing community.

Robert William Shirah and his oldest son George Dewey Shirah remained in Apalachicola, Florida and never lived in Destin.



James Clifton Shirah



Mary "Minnie" Yohn Shirah

Robert William Shirah
&
Mary Minnie Yohn's Children:

Alice Mary, George Dewey,
Barney Martin, Charles Louis,
James Clifton, Robert William,
Gladys Pauline, Bessie,
Roy D. and Milton D.



Bessie Shirah



Alice, Robert, and Bessie Shirah



Elgin Inez Sprinkle and Milton D. Shirah

24th Annual
Holiday on the Harbor
Lighted
Boat Parade



BIG PLANS
UNDERWAY FOR THE
25TH HOLIDAY ON
THE HARBOR
BOAT PARADE

The DHFM hosted the 24th Holiday on the Harbor lighted boat parade Saturday, December 18, 2010 which was sponsored by the Destin Charter Boat Association, Harry T's Restaurant, and MeLasers. Craig Barker was the Master of Ceremonies for the event with judging from Harry T's Restaurant. Twenty-four boats registered for the parade which was viewed all along Destin Harbor.

WINNERS IN EACH CATEGORY WERE:

- Private 30 ft. & Under: **GUSU**--Captained by "Santa" Steve Hill
- Private 31 ft. & Over: **LYNNE MARIE**--Captained by Tommy Graves
- Charter/Commercial 30 ft. & Under: **ARMY ONE**- Captain Bill Moore
- Charter/Commercial 31 ft. & Over: **SWOOP II**- Captain Matt Wheeler
- Tour Boat/Motorized: **SOUTHERN STAR**- Captain Cliff Atwell
- Overall Best Entry: **"C" LADY**- Captained by Norm Leonpacher

The Museum thanks everyone that participated in helping to light up the Harbor with holiday spirit and everyone that came out to join in the beautiful display. Special thanks to the Destin Coast Guard Station, City of Destin, Destin Fire Control District, AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar, Dewey Destin's on the Harbor, Harbor Docks Restaurant, Harry T's Restaurant, Back Porch & Oyster Bar, and 790 on the Gulf, the Parade Committee and judges for helping to make the parade a wonderful Destin Holiday Tradition!! \$855 was made on this fundraising event.

Annual Gumbo Contest & Silent Auction

The Annual Gumbo Contest and Silent Auction was held Saturday, January 22, 2011 at the Destin Community Center. Ticket holders had great deals on 51 Silent Auction packages, live music by Denis Milonas & Jim Downu with *Seminole Wind*, and gumbo creations from 37 local contestants. \$8,153 was made on this fundraising event. The gumbo competition was very close and the winners were:

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY

First Place: Keith Najarian
Second Place: Alvin Claybrone

RESTAURANT CATEGORY

First Place: The Back Porch
Second Place: Pompano Joe's

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Poppy's Crazy Lobster

Special thanks to the judges: Greg Featherston/ HarborWalk Dock Master, Caitlin Herzog/UWF History Graduate Student, Chris Manson/Beachcomber Editor, Bill Marler/Retired Vitro Services, Dan Martin/Pelican Beach Resort, Kathy Newby/Ok. Co. Public Information Officer, Jim Roberson/IGFA International Committee, Jim Wood/Destin City Council.

We also give many thanks for the tremendous work of our Museum Board, members, and army of volunteers!

Board Vice-President Dave Steele Presenting Awards



INDIVIDUAL
CATEGORY

1st: Keith Najarian



2nd: Alvin Claybrone



RESTAURANT
CATEGORY

1st: The Back Porch



2nd: Pompano Joe's



People's Choice Award: Poppy's Crazy Lobster

