

# Local Jeff Miller Created Popular Fivay.org Site

## Guest Speaker At The July Zephyrhills Historical Association

by **Doug Sanders, History Writer**

When Jeff Miller created and launched fivay.org in 2001, it was the start of a website which now has more than 11,000 postings of historic photographs and a listing of early residents and historical markers in Pasco County.

As the guest speaker for the July meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association, Miller admits to looking at old newspapers, visiting libraries and doing "almost anything that will make the fivay.org web site more complete."

At the Zephyrhills Depot Museum, Miller's slide show featured rustic pictures of Zephyrhills when it was not much more than the Abbott post office – and one old Pasco County map that had two locations for Dade City. He also had high school yearbook photos of County Administrator John Gallagher and Tax Collector Mike Olson. But Miller's slide show points out there were often failed attempts to save historic structures that later went up in flames or were flattened by the force of a hurricane.

Originally from Beckley, W.Va., Miller came to New Port Richey in 1980 and he did maintenance work on the broadcasting equipment for radio station WGUL, ending up with his own talk show over the next 12 years. His guests often talked about local history.

It also matters that Miller likes to do websites, including his own domains devoted to the history of mathematics and the history of broadcasting in the United States.

With pictures loaned to him by photo collectors and local families, the fivay.org website gradually expanded to cover all of Pasco County. "I edit the pages on my own computer and make frequent updates," Miller explained, "usually at least something every day."

So far, Miller has scanned photos on Dade City (402); Zephyrhills (355); San Antonio/St. Leo (346); and Trilby (28).

Fivay.org also has nearly 100 Pasco historical profiles, including the Zephyrhills Masons; forgotten communities like Chipco, Ehren and Herndon; lunar astronaut James B. Irwin (baptized as a child in New Port Richey), and Johnny Cash, June Carter Cash and Dr. Billy Graham (visiting mother-in-law, Maybelle Carter, in Port Richey).

Those who saw the slide presentation in Zephyrhills learned that Miller had named his website after the short-lived community of Fivay (1904 to 1912) in west Pasco County. Located at what is now the intersection of Little Road and State Road 52, Fivay had a population of 1,500 and the largest sawmill operation in Florida.



Jeff Miller seated as the talk show host of "Open Line" at WGUL radio station.

Photo courtesy of fivay.org

Miller, a math teacher and website administrator for Gulf High School, has scanned about 1,500 articles from the *Dade City Banner* and photographed old articles from the *Zephyrhills Colonist/Zephyrhills News*.

"I am also interested in the history of the local schools," he adds. "That makes up a separate section of the web site. I have photographed all of the minutes of the school board meetings from 1887 to the early 1920s."

In November 2011, Miller decided to share the old pictures and the video clips at fivay.org with an image and video hosting website and online community called flickr.com. (Mobile users can use Flickr's official app for iOS, Android, and Windows Phone 7 operating systems.)

For those with a family album that is gathering dust but has scenes of old Pasco County, Jeff Miller can be reached at Box 641, New Port Richey, Fla. 34656 or at Jeff560@aol.com.



Snow on the roof of the Lock-Edwards home in 1958, one of 79 Dade City homes posted on fivay.org.

Photo courtesy of fivay.org

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