



# CAPE CORAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Preserving Our City's History



Sept/Oct 2010

Newsletter Volume 10

Issue 6

### REMINISCENCES RECALLING THE EARLY DAYS OF TELEVISION

What a treat we have in store for you! We are kicking off our 2010-11 season with none other than renowned celebrity, Jimmy Nelson, and his ventriloquist pals, Danny O'Day and Farfel.

The trio catapulted onto the TV scene in the early '50s, when Jimmy and his dummies appeared on [Milton Berle's TEXACO STAR THEATRE](#). His 5 minute commercials were seen by over 40 million viewers each week.

Aside from commercials, Jimmy was busy during television's "Golden Age" appearing regularly on the Ed Sullivan show, Jackie Gleason, Mike Douglas, Merv Griffin, the Tonight Show and his own weekly show on ABC-TV.

Jimmy and his wife, Betty, a former vocalist during the "Big Band" era, reside in Cape Coral where they are active with the American Lung Assoc. Betty is a member of the ALA National Assembly, and Jimmy, Danny and Farfel present a series of non-smoking programs to elementary school children.

Jimmy received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the International Ventriloquists Assoc. in 1998, and was inducted into the Ventriloquist Hall of Fame joining other hall of famers Edger Bergen, Paul Winchell, Shari Lewis and Senor Wences.

His program recalls the early days of television, complete with film clips, and a live performance with Danny O'Day and Farfel. Photos & real dummies, donated by Jimmy Nelson, can be seen on display at the Cape Coral Historical Museum.

[Jimmy Nelson, Danny O'Day...and Ronald Reagan!!!!](#) (link)  
[Biography for Jimmy Nelson](#) (link)



#### Mark Your Calendar....



**November 9, Theresa Schrober, Mound House**  
**November 11, Veteran's Day Parade**  
**December 4, Cape Coral's Calusa Festival**  
**December 14, Christmas Program**  
**January date TBA, Yard Sale**  
**January 11, General Meeting TBA**  
**January date TBA, Bus Trip**  
**February dates TBA Atocha Coin Display**  
**February date TBA, Burrowing Owl Festival**

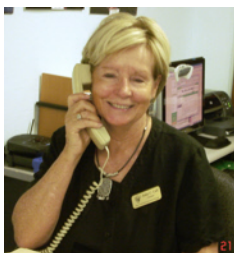
### GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday ,  
October 12, 2010 2:30 PM  
Cultural Park Theater  
528 Cultural Park Blvd.  
Bring your Family and Friends  
No Admission  
No Reservations**



In 1955 Jimmy began a long association with the Nestle Chocolate Co. Featuring Farfel in a series of commercials introducing a new product, Nestle's Quik, now Nesquik. Ask any baby-boomer to sing the Nestle jingle and many will remember "N-E-S-T-L-E-S, Nestles makes the very best..", here's where Farfel sings "CHAW-CLAT!" with a SNAP of the jaw. Those commercials ran on network television from 1955-1965, and were revived from time to time in the '90's.

[Jimmy Nelson on the Pat Boone Show!](#) (link)



### CURATOR CULL'S CORNER:

After a wonderful two weeks visiting my family in England and France, I am renewed and ready for another successful year. Many of you have worked outside during the hot summer tending to the Rose Garden and Native Landscaping, a special thank you to all.

Many thanks to the City of Cape Coral, as we have a much needed new air conditioning system in the Rosen building. We now can work in a more efficient and comfortable environment.

We are making plans to update the museum Gift Shop. One of our very early residents and business owner, Nazzarena Rodino, donated a counter and bench that came from the original Rose Garden gift shop. Society member Pat McCarn, is restoring the bench which will be placed at the Rose Garden display and when restored the counter will be placed for use in the gift shop. We are happy to be able to utilize these very important artifacts. Many exciting programs and events are planned for the coming season. I have missed seeing the happy faces of our volunteer family and look forward to welcoming you back again. Call me at 772-7037 to schedule your volunteer time and also to serve on committees as needed. Anne

[Visit Our BLOG](#)



**Cape Coral Historical Museum Phone: (239) 772-7037**

PO Box 150637

**E-MAIL: [ccoralmuseum@embarqmail.com](mailto:ccoralmuseum@embarqmail.com)**

Cape Coral, FL 33990

**WEBSITE: <http://www.capecoralhistoricalmuseum.org/>**

**Open Wed, Thurs, Sun. 1 to 4 PM**

### IT WAS THE MONTH OF...



**September 1964** when the Merchants' Association President, Ed Quirk, formed a Committee to study a plan to organize a [Cape Coral Chamber of Commerce](#). Committee Chairman, Charlie Blackburn called the first meeting to



review materials received from the [national Chamber of Commerce](#) detailing the steps required to organize a local chamber.



### DID YOU KNOW .....

Kenny Schwartz, 1st resident of Cape Coral and General Manager for Gulf American Land Corporation, left Cape Coral in September of 1964. Upon leaving he became President of American Variety Stores of Fort Myers. Kenny currently lives on the east coast of Florida.



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### COMING IN JANUARY ... ANNUAL TRASH TO TREASURE SALE



It's time to clean out those cupboards and drawers and support your Historical Society. The Museum will be accepting donations of all your unwanted items or will reserve a space for you to rent for your own sale.



**Our Membership Chairman, Pat Emerson, needs to update all our records for future mailings of our Newsletter. Please fill out the form below and return to the Museum. If you would like to receive your Newsletter by email, be sure and include your email address.**

**Please Mail to: Cape Coral Historical Society  
PO Box 150637, Cape Coral, FL 33990**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please remember to shop at our museum gift shop to buy that unique gift for your friends and family up north. We have many lovely items including books on local history with a good supply of DVD's and books including our newest book "IMAGES OF AMERICA" Cape Coral. You will see a wide selection of sizes in our burrowing owl t-shirts, as well as mugs, license plates, and jewelry. There are still some lovely German plates at a reasonable price. Come in and browse and you may find just what you want.



### DON'T THROW IT AWAY

**Remember the Historical Society if you have anything of historical value about Cape Coral.  
All donations are greatly appreciated**



# Visit our Gift Shop



For

**UNIQUE GIFTS AND NO LINES!!**

## **NEW ARRIVALS:**

**Journals of Military History Quarterlies \$5.00 Each**  
**Decorative Hand Painted Bavarian Plates From Germany**  
**New Pictorial History Book of Cape Coral**

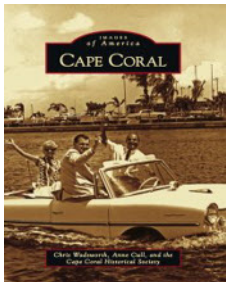
**PLUS**

**Many other books for adults and children:**

**Cape Coral Coffee Mugs, Shirts, Hats**

**Cape Coral License Plates**

**Cape Coral Videos and DVDs**



**OPEN WED, THUR, SUN, 1- 4 PM**

## **Historical Photos**

**A City is Born!**

**Aerial Photos 1957 to 1959**



**Raw Land 1957**



**Yacht Basin Area  
April 1958**



**Causeway 1958  
First 4 Homes**



**March 25 1959  
Expansion Westward**



**First 4 Homes  
May 1958**



**First 8 Homes  
September 26 1958**