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Tapestry: a catalogue of Zephyrhills High School history

By BETTY KOSSICK
Contributor

Madonna Jervis Wise, the author of *Tapestry*, written to commemorate the 100th year (1910-2010) of formal education in Zephyrhills, is to be commended for her extensive research. By gathering newspaper archives she has pieced together an anthology of the city's history through education. She takes on the work of a weaver as she creates this tapestry. She entertains the use of the words applied to the art of weaving and they are appropriate for her massive effort. *Tapestry*, aptly named, is not a storybook, but rather a catalog of information from a historical perspective. Regardless of its form, it takes many threads to weave a finished product. The fact that Wise is an educator's educator with a long personal history as a teacher at Zephyrhills High School and other positions in the district, meant she had several strands to begin her work. Her husband, Ernie, is also a beloved ZHS teacher. Two of their three children were also ZHS graduates. Thus, it's obvious from the start that Wise took on the task as a labor of love to preserve history.

Despite the book being created in a catalog reference-type, the book is interest-

ing perusing for those who hold an interest in Zephyrhills history and the high school in particular. As one who wrote many articles in particular "Faces Around Zephyrhills" and "Faces Around East Pasco" for Zephyrhills News from January 2004 to April 2008, interviewing people from all stations of life, I found myself intrigued with information that I didn't discover in my interviews about these same people. I enjoyed it all. Wise explored every microfilm copy of Zephyrhills News, as well as gathering information from area newspapers such as St. Petersburg Times and the Tampa Tribune. Of course, the archives at the Zephyrhills Library and the Zephyrhills Depot Museum and the Dade City Pioneer Museum all offered added threads for the weaving.

"It was my goal to preserve their stories," Wise said.

The history of Zephyrhills High School is in essence the history of Zephyrhills itself, as many of the town's leaders over its years, including today, are products of ZHS. The connection is inevitable. Wise gives credit to all the stakeholders in Zephyrhills and it's schools for making this century celebration book possible.

History of Zephyrhills

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by Author Madonna Wise

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COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL, THE BOOK PROVIDES HIGHLIGHTS OF EVERY YEAR FROM 1910 TO THE PRESENT AND PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF HOW ZEPHYRHILLS REACTED AND REFLECTED WORLD EVENTS AND SOCIAL CHANGES (WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, GREAT DEPRESSION, 1960'S AND SO MUCH MORE). THE STARS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE CELEBRATED WITH PRIDE BY THE TOWN AND THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY, SOCIETAL CHANGE AND GROWTH SHAPE AND MOLD STUDENTS AS THEY GROW INTO CITIZENS.