

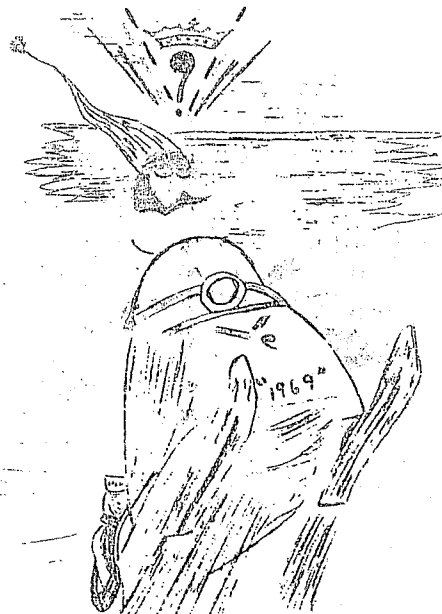
The First Winter Carnivals In St. Augustine River

The first carnival to be held in St. Augustine was February 15th, 16th, & 17th during the winter of '68. They were first organized by Veronica and Edith Driscoll along with the help of Sister Georgina Friel. Being the first carnival held in St. Augustine, people were unsure of the idea and were slow to volunteer until they realized how the carnival would run and just how much fun it would be. Being the only 3 to organize the events along with their many other responsibilities, preparations took about a month, the hours were long. Veronica recalls working in her father's basement and finding two barrels and a few planks of wood and creating a make-shift bed just to get a bit of sleep while her sister worked and they would switch up after a while, the work had to be done but they also needed sleep. Preparations included making the accessories; sashes, capes, crowns, etc. for who was to become the first ever winter carnival king and queen in St. Augustine. The ladies also had to make the decorations for the decorations for the basement of the Catholic Church where most of the events, except games would be held on the river front. They also had to prepare all the sandwiches which were to be sold throughout the game day. Lastly, they had to plan all the games that would take place on the river. The weekend's events would go as follows; Thursday would be the picking of the carnival Queen, Friday would begin with a parade and was packed with games and Saturday there were a few games for children and Saturday night there was a dance held in the basement of the Catholic Church.



The first candidates for carnival Queen were Geneva Maurice, Lillian Fequet, and Loretta Shattler. Having sold the most tickets, Loretta Shattler became the first carnival Queen and her escort, who became King, was Monford Driscoll. The children who were the prince and princess that weekend were taught a waltz that they would perform Thursday night. Friday came and the day was packed full with activities. Friday came and the day was started off with a parade of the King and Queen around town in a coach box accompanied by the prince and princess along with the runners up and the clown and bonhomme. The first clown to take part in the winter carnivals was Mr. Medrick Maurice. After writing to the mayor of Sept-Iles, the ladies request was answered and they received their bonhomme head, Mr. Willard McKinnon volunteered to be the first carnival bonhomme of St. Augustine. Veronica and Edith also had tremendous help from Mrs. Aldith Organ. She helped the ladies with all the sewing needs such as making the bonhomme and clown costume and many other things. During Friday, the games took place on the river front. Games included Saw the Log, Climb the Greasy Pole, Snow Racquet Race, 3-Legged race, Sack Race, Ice Sculpture Contest and many others. With the help of Carter Bursey, Veronica and Edith towed a shack to the river which became a canteen where they sold sandwiches they had made along with coffee. The amount of participation in the games and days events was unbelievable. Even people from La Tabatiere and Harrington Harbor had come to participate in the events and yet today still talk about how great the carnivals used to be. On Saturday, games continued and Saturday night, a dance was held in the basement of the Catholic Church. However the dance had to be over at twelve o'clock midnight because there was a church service the next morning. Veronica remembers these times when the whole town would get together and just have a great time. Veronica, Edith and Sister Georgina Friel continued to organize the carnivals for the next 3 winters, after that a committee took over with the planning duties.

By: Jenna Shattler
2004



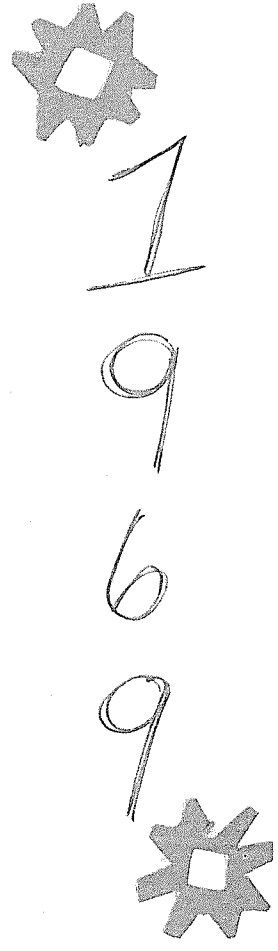
Winter Carnival St. Augustine

***** WINTER CARNIVAL PROGRAM *****

THURSDAY EVENING: (February 27, 1969)

- 8:30 at church basement: Grand opening of St. Augustine WINTER CARNIVAL 1969.
- Age 16 up... 25¢ entrance fee
- * Arrival of Mr. Carnival
- * Entrance of Carnival Queen and her escorts
- * National Anthem (O'Canada)
- * Coronation (Crowning of Carnival Queen)
- * Merry Waltz by:
 - CROWN BEARERS: Antoinette, Jimmy Fequet
 - FLOWER BEARERS: DeLourdes, Randy
- * Royal Polka by: Queen and escorts
- * Square Dance:
 - MUSICIANS: Tony Martin.....Guitar
 - Clyde Bursey.....Accordian
- * Dismissal: 2 o'clock

The people of St. Augustine and the Carnival Queen candidates: Lorna Belvin, Gwendline Maurice and Mary Stella Shattler extend an invitation to join in the fun of this Winter Carnival.



***** FRIDAY (February 28, 1969) *****

- Parade
- 10:00 Parade by Queen and her escorts. All others are invited to DECORATE their ski-doo's and follow the Queen. Judging of snow sculptor and best decorated ski-doo's will follow.
 - 11:00 Contests on the River
 - * Target Shooting (Douglas Fequet)
 - * Sandwiches and hot drinks sold on the river.
 - 1:30 * Ski-doo Skill Race (Lionel Gallibois)
 - * Sack Race for women (Mrs. Rene Shattler) for men (Renny Bursey)
 - * Wheelbarrow Walk for women (Annie Maurice) for men (Ernest Belvin)

Games for children in basement of church at 1:30

- 8:30 Bonfire Party
 - * Fireworks to please you
 - * Music to entertain you
 - * Hot coffee to warm you
- 9:30 Costume Party
 - Prize of: best costume (NO costume NO admision) Age: 16 years old up
 - * Fun, Laughter, and Games
 - * Judging of best made:
 - cakes, dresses, stockings: by women
 - little woden house and cometics: by men

***** SATURDAY (March 1) *****

- 9 to 10 * Target Shooting (continued)
- 10:00 * Tug-of-War: men (Medrick O'Brien, George E.) women (Mrs. Hollis Belvin, Mrs. Frank Maurice)
- * Three-legged: men (Tom Lensard) women (Mrs. Peter Loch)
- * Racket: men (Clyde Bursey) women (Angelina Maurice)
- * Kick-the-Shoe: women and men (Ignace Boland)
- * Climb a Greased Pole: (Lionel Lavallee)
- * Sandwiches and hot drinks sold on the river
- 1 to 2 * Target Shooting (continued)
- 2:00 * Contests for children (under 14)

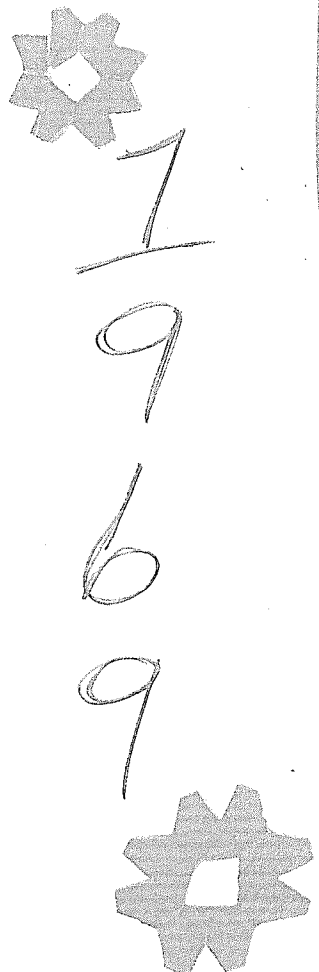
SATURDAY EVENING:

- Admission 25¢. 16 years old up
- 8:30 Closing Dance
 - * Distribution of contest prizes
 - * Grand Raffle Ticket draw
 - * Square Dancing for all to enjoy

CARNIVAL MENU (Mr. Victor Lavallee's Restaurant)

- Soup and crackers
- Choice of turkey or steak
- Cake, pie
- Coffee, tea

AT YOUR SERVICE: Friday 11:00 to 1:00 a.m.
Saturday 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
PRICE: Full meal \$1.50



15th

February

16th

1968

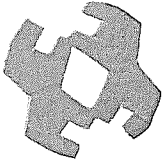
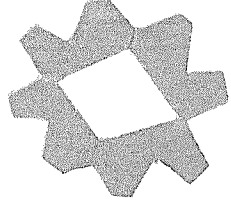
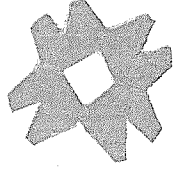
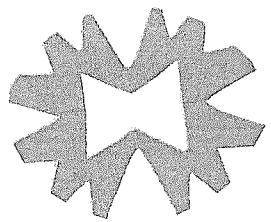


Winter Carnival
in
St. Augustine

*** WINTER CARNIVAL PROGRAM ***
THURSDAY EVENING:

- 8:30 at the Church basement: Grand opening of St. Augustine WINTER CARNIVAL 1968. (Free entrance)
- * Arrival of Mr. Carnival.
- * Entrance of the Carnival Queen and her escort
- * National Anthem (O Canada)
- * Coronation (Crowning of the Carnival Queen) by Mr. Cecil Driscoll
- * Cuckoo Waltz.
- * Square dances:
Maxwell Shattler---Fiddle.
Tony Martin---Guitar.
Clyde Bursay----Accordion.
- * Dismissal: 2 o'clock.

The students of grade 8 & 9 and the Carnival Queen candidates, Geneva Maurice, Lillian Pequet and Loretta Shattler, invite both the people of the village and outsiders to join in the fun of this first Winter Carnival in St. Augustine.



1968

*** FRIDAY ***

- 9:30 PARADE by the Queen and her escorts. All other citizens are invited to follow the Queen on their Ski. Judging of the snow sculptor will follow.
- 10:30 Contests on the river:
* Dog team race (far as Jim Kennedy's)
- * Sack race (length of race will be made)
- * Free:
All must bring their own sacks. For 14 years of age and up.

- 11:30 * Sandwiches and hot drinks sold on the river
- 1:30 * Hockey game and broomball if the ice is in good condition and the players have practiced
- Following the games:
* Running race (14 years old and up)
- * Target Shooting. (25¢ for 3 shots)

Friday Evening:

- 8:30 Shaking Party (14 years old and up)
- * Bonfire to warm you
- * Fireworks to please you
- * Sandwiches and hot drinks to help you skate faster.

*** SATURDAY ***

- 10:00 Ski-doo racing (50¢ admission) (far as Steamer Island)
- * 3-legged race will follow.

Saturday afternoon: CHILDREN ONLY (Under 14)

- 1:30 * Contests on the river:
* Sack racing
* Running race
* 3-legged race

Saturday Evening: Admission 25¢

- 8:30 * Closing dance (Until 12 o'clock)
- * Distribution of contest prizes
- * Grand raffle ticket drawn
- * Presentation of gifts to the Carnival Queen and Duchesses.

Sincere Thanks to the people of St. Augustine and all outsiders for supporting this First Winter Carnival in St. Augustine.

Special Thanks to the WINTER WORKERS for preparing the ice for this occasion.

