

Ed L'Heureux

2007 WPHS Alumni Circle of Distinction

Ed L'Heureux spent 26 years masquerading as a successful insurance agent for Nationwide Insurance Agency. But in more recent years, he was drawn into his real love, of being a poet, a novelist, a Florida historian and a lecturer. Ed's now been writing and lecturing for more than 24 years now.

L'Heureux was born in Winter Park, attended Winter Park High School, and has now been a resident of Winter Springs for the last 34 years. Ed graduated from Stetson University in DeLand with a major in history major and a minor in political science. He enrolled in Stetson's law school, where he met his wife Laura. But, in 1963, Ed and Laura departed law school together, got married and had two children, Scott L'Heureux and Stacey Hendricks.

Both Ed and Laura went into the insurance business together and, as an agent, Ed spoke frequently at insurance conferences. In his spare time, he was an "omnivorous reader" of every aspect of history with a special interest in Florida history. He would later blend speaking and his interest in history as a noted, popular lecturer. L'Heureux has prepared more than 20 lectures on topics from Florida's role in the Civil War to the Seminole Indian Wars to the history of seven different industries in Florida.

Ed was among the select historians and experts asked to participate in a series of humanities lectures on local topics sponsored by the Winter Park Historical Association and the Winter Park Public Library Lifelong Learning Institute in partnership with The Florida Humanities Council through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Mr. L'Heureux has been a frequent personality heard and seen throughout Central Florida media on a wide range of Florida topics.

Ed is now an author with 15 published titles to his name, all published by the company he owns and operates, Sabal Palm Press. The subjects of his books vary from Florida history in his four-part Florida Conversations series to collections of poems and fiction. His fiction has a local twist. His novels, *The Morning of Joy* and *The Cry of the Hawk*, take place in the fictitious town of Wahaweechee. It's a combination of the three tributaries of the St. Johns in Seminole County: the Oklawaha River, the Wekiwa River and the Econlockhatchee River. Ed's writings appear in various college anthologies and literary magazines.