

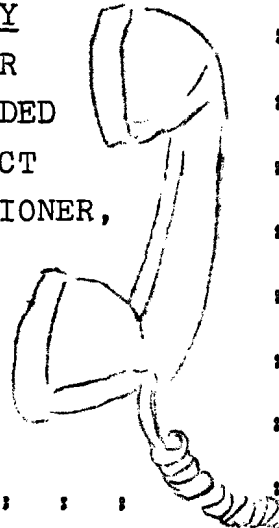
ESCAMBIA ECHOES,
A monthly newsletter,
Published by -

THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 276
BREWTON, ALA. 36426

Carolyn Pugh McLendon,
Secretary/ Editor

URGENT! COUNTY
RESIDENTS, YOUR
PHONE CALL NEEDED
TO YOUR DISTRICT
COUNTY COMMISSIONER,
SEE ITEM BELOW
UNDER URGENT.

Cancel



NOTICE OF MEETING - September 25, 1979 7:00 p.m.

Always on the Fourth Tuesday of the month.

Place: Thomas E. McMillan Museum on campus of
Jefferson Davis State Junior College
at Brewton, Al. in the Fine Arts Bldg.

Speaker: NORMAN DAVIS, Traveling Humanist

Topic: Traditional Values in a Space Age
Environment

Norman Davis is an English professor who left the classroom for greener pastures. He now works full time as a traveling speaker, taking programs on Traditional Values in a Space-age Environment to adult groups throughout Alabama. He says he likes the stimulating give and take of such programs. He represents our public library and the Alabama Public Library Service in a project funded by the Alabama Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Norman received his PhD in English from the University of Oregon in 1971. He has taught English for some ten years both in high school and college. Before coming to Alabama he worked for two years in a similar traveling speaker service in South Dakota where the idea originated. Indeed he and two other English professors there were the first traveling humanists in the nation. Norman came to Alabama by way of Idaho where he produced a slide show on Idaho heritage which he presented to groups throughout that state. Norman is a native of Arizona. He and his wife, Kristine, have two daughters, ages 11 and 17.

If you are not attending the monthly Society meetings, you are missing some mighty fine programs containing much historical information. The public is always welcome at these meetings.

URGENT! ESCAMBIA COUNTY RESIDENT MEMBERS! We need the backing of your county commissioner from your district to support the Society's request for \$10,000.00 so that we can commission someone to compile an official county history for this county. At the last meeting the Society unanimously appointed Mrs. Annie C. Waters, Rev. J.W. Caldwell and your Editor to make an application to the Escambia County Commission for this purpose. Rev. Caldwell's presentation was verbal, but written presentations were made by Mrs. Waters and the Editor. These presentations are in the back of this newsletter for your reading.

PLEASE DO NOT FAIL TO MAKE THIS CALL! Publishing a County History has been the second important thrust of this Society after the establishment of a museum. Also, if you know someone who was influential in securing votes for the various commissioners, please contact that person to give us backing. There are many standing in line for funds from the Commission. We need to help them see the importance of this endeavor.

A CHILD IS BORN - to our Museum Curator, John T. Powell and his wife, Kim. Seven pound fifteen ounce LOGAN THOMAS POWELL made his debut on August 28th at 3:33 a.m. Powell reports that he kept them waiting for nearly two weeks and that "he'd better not ever do that again." They have appreciated your concern and exclamations of congratulations. John is a hard-working and enthusiastic addition to our Society and for the museum.

YES, WHAT YOU HEARD IS TRUE! Your Editor will become Mrs. Barry Lovell Emerich on October 20th. A private home ceremony is planned. No, I am not leaving Brewton. Barry is retired from the Navy and will come to Brewton to live and seek employment. He is a resident of Gulf Shores but suffered no loss to speak of during the recent Hurricane.

MEMORIALS PAID FOR THE MUSEUM FUND:

IN MEMORY OF MRS. ALMA LOW

By: Mrs. Emily Finlay Smith
Mrs. John D. Finlay, Sr.

IN MEMORY OF NORMAN R. FINLAY

By: John David Finlay, Jr.
Mrs. Emily Finlay Smith
Mrs. J. D. Finlay, Sr.

ANSEL ADAMS PORTFOLIOS I and II on display in museum - Noted Photographer! Some of his works have been published in book form, the name of the book is "Ansel Adams Presents." Provided through the University of Alabama Art Gallery in Tuscaloosa, the exhibition will be housed in the McMillan Museum for a period of two months beginning Monday, September 17. Ansel Adams developed the method of photography which became the nucleus for the "F.64" School. His works concentrated primarily on static forms and are acclaimed for their extreme clarity of detail due to use of an extremely small camera aperture setting. This photographic exhibition includes representations of many extraordinary architectural and structural entities and components. The displays will be house in the temporary exhibits section of the museum and is the first in a series of temporary exhibitions to be held on a quarterly basis at this institution. Funds for this exhibit were provided through the Endowment Fund income provided by this Society and being administered by the Thomas E. McMillan Museum Advisory Council.

The museum is open to the public from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For the benefit of those who cannot attend during these hours, it will open from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays. Four groups are encouraged to contact the museum at 867-4832 for visitation on a reserved appointment basis.

John Powell can usually be found in the museum at Extension 69, except during his class periods which for this quarter are as follows: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:00 to 12:30, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Go by the museum to see the Adams display and all the changes that have been made. The museum area, office space and study area have been enlarged. Several more office spaces have been added for use by the Historical Society and the museum that had been previously ear-marked for the art department. The museum is almost a year old now, and we're proud to admit that we are getting older, but we're

There is one student assistant in the museum now and application has been made to the county for a CETA federally funded worker. This together with the R.S.V.P. volunteers, Miss Rita Jane Boykin and Mrs. Barnes F. Parker, has our museum looking up!

ACCESSIONS NOW IN THE MUSEUM:

From Charles Jackson - 5 Civil War minnie balls

From Mabel Sanders Amos, former Secretary of State, - a large quilt, approximately king-sized, Martha Washington's Flower Garden design, made by Mrs. J.J.Sanders of Brooklyn, Ala.

From the Ed Leigh McMillan family - the pistol and handcuffs used by Sheriff E.S.McMillan when killed by Railroad Bill; Judge N.R.Leigh's walking cane; froe or draw-knife used for planing timber and was used by the builder of Jay Villa plantation house in Conecuh County; hand-brush made from local wild turkey beards and wood from the steamboat SHAW; Mr.T.R.Miller's personal gold-leaf shaving mug; photos of logging operations in the area, and a brief history of the steamboat SHAW.

PRESENTATION TO THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY COMMISSION, by Mrs. Annie C.Waters

It has been said that history has limited meaning for all of us except those who have been bitten by the history bug, but history reveals what we are and why we are what we are, to a great extent.

James Anthony Froude, noted English historian said that history is "a voice forever sounding across the centuries the laws of right and wrong. Opinions alter, manners change, creeds rise and fall, but the moral law is written on the tablets of eternity."

With proper motivation history can be an exciting adventure into the past. Our time machine is the history book.

History can and should play an important part in developing responsible citizenship in the youth of our generation, and become a stabilizing force in our rapidly changing society.

Many events now preserved only in crumbling newspapers, military records, old congressional records, and the memory of man, if permitted to pass from our reach can never be recalled. That a permanent record of Escambia County be made now is very imperative and if now existing materials are not collected, when searched for in the future will be shamefully lost.

Even now much has been lost since so many of our elderly citizens have passed into eternity and taken with them so many unwritten facts of our heritage. We would not say that we may depend on tradition but in many years of research I have always found a nucleus of truth in traditions that I have been able to verify from authoritative sources. The history of Escambia County now exists in numberless places but if not gathered into one narrative will it still exist 10 years from now or even 5 years? I, and others have gathered information for many years and I have hoped that a history of our county would be published in my lifetime. Gentlemen, you can help this dream materialize!

One might say, "Oh well, a local history isn't so important." But I say, HISTORY like charity begins at home. We are one of the few counties in Alabama that has no published history. Our county is prosperous and well known in history circles everywhere, but yet we have no published history book.

Our purpose is to rescue from oblivion and put in permanent form some of the incidents, traditions, and family achievements of the past 163 years for the instruction of present and future generations and to present more fully to readers of historic literature in other parts of our state and nation a view of life in Escambia County both in earlier and in the present time, not forgetting the influence it can be before the view of capitalists and home-seekers in this migratory age.

As a member of the Escambia County Historical Society, I respectfully petition with the Society your earnest consideration in the accomplishment of this task.

--- Mrs. Annie C. Waters
Route 5, Box 471,
Brewton, Alabama 36426

PRESENTATION BY Carolyn Pugh McLendon, Secretary/ Editor -

At the regular meeting of The Escambia County Historical Society held on August 28, 1979, a discussion was held regarding the need for a county history that had been on the hearts and in the minds of the members for many years. The members were reminded that nearly every county in Alabama has an official county history except Escambia, although Riley's History of Conecuh County printed in 1881 contained a little Escambia County information. The members expressed a desire for getting a professional historian to compile the history from the Society's records as well as doing some research on areas the Society has not covered. Cognizant of the fact that the Society had just completed canvassing the county residents for contributions totaling \$200,000 for the fine new Thomas E. McMillan Museum now completed and open to the public, the Society did not feel that they could go back to the public for funds for the book at this time. On becoming aware that the Escambia County Commission would have some additional revenue from oil and gas depletion as a result of recent legislation, The Escambia County Historical Society felt it fitting that the county governing body take a part in having the history compiled and, by unanimous vote appointed Carolyn P. McLendon, its Secretary and Editor, Mrs. Annie C. Waters, local historian, and J.W. Caldwell, charter member and first President of the Society, to go before the Escambia County Commission to request funds for the book.

At this time we respectfully request funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 so that a competent professional historian can be commissioned to compile the book. We anticipate that the compilation will take approximately two years at which time a suitable publishing company will be sought and an estimate of the cost of publication requested. There is a possibility that once the book is compiled we could get the various cities in the county to contribute toward the publication costs and at that time we can go back to the public for financial assistance for this equally worthwhile project.

Except for the efforts of Floyd Currie and Mary Brantley of the Atmore area, The Flomaton Research Club of the Flomaton area, and Ed Leigh McMillan, Annie C. Waters, Dan S. Robertson, W. Emmett Brooks, and the Escambia County Historical Society since its organization in 1972, this county is far behind in preserving its written history. In the past people who have come here doing historical research have run into a blank wall except for the help given them by these individuals and organizations. The Escambia County Historical Society has since 1973 published The Escambia County Historical Quarterly, 500 copies of each. Most of the back issues have sold out, but can be seen in the schools and libraries of this area through the foresight of the Society in donating to them copies of each quarterly. (A sample copy of the March, 1978 issue is being given to each of the Commission members for your perusal.)

We urge you to consider this an item of foremost importance and grant this request for \$10,000.00 in funding for the compilation of an official Escambia County History. Credit would, of course, be given in the book that it was published through the conjugal efforts of the Commission, the Society, and whomever else it becomes necessary to request assistance from.

Respectfully requested,
Carolyn Pugh McLendon, Secretary/Editor
The Escambia County Historical Society.

OTHER MUSEUM NEWS:

At the August meeting the Escambia County Historical Society also made this resolution:

"That the Society request Dr. George McCormick, President of the Jefferson Davis State Junior College, and the Thomas E. McMillan Advisory Council to go before the Escambia County Commission at its next meeting and request that the Commission designate the Thomas E. McMillan Museum as the "official county museum for Escambia County, Alabama."

This has been done and the Commission has designated the museum as the official county museum, stating that all the old county records desired by the museum management could be housed in the museum for research purposes. This designation has made the Museum eligible for CETA funded employees and the same have been applied for. This will also made the museum eligible for other national organization preservation grants and other federal funding for specific purposes.

*Late Notice - Commitment for
book has been made 1/11*