

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

Published by and under the Supervision of

The Escambia County Historical Society

P.O. Box 276

Brewton, AL 36426

OCTOBER 21, 1980

MEETING:

Tuesday, October 28, 1980, 7:00 P.M., THOMAS E. McMILLAN MUSEUM

The topic of this month's meeting will be a multiperson presentation of current society business, questions, answers, and policies. Speakers will include Rev. James W. Caldwell, society president; Dr. Virgil Warren, Dean of Instruction at Jefferson Davis State Junior College; and John Powell, museum curator. Society members will be encouraged to participate in this program, which is designed to provide a "catch-up" meeting for information and decision-making purposes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of September, 1980, the society had a balance of \$1,032.70 in its general operating fund.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORY BOOK COMMITTEE

The Book Committee reports that Eugene Pettis has accepted the responsibility of replacing the late J. Vernon Brantley in that group. We lament Mr. Brantley's passing, and we wish Mr. Pettis good tidings as he performs this valuable service.

HISTORIC SITE MARKERS PROJECT PLANNED

Escambia County has many historic, important sites. Several years ago, the Escambia County Historical Society moved toward the acquisition and placement of state historical markers to provide visitors and local residents with information about this area's history and heritage. We hope to successfully place several of these markers next year, and we welcome information and suggestions that could be used for this purpose. These markers would be placed in such a way as to be easily viewed by the public while still being near the sites to which they would be dedicated. Their use would both educate and beautify the community.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Several of you have asked about the duties and present makeup of the historical society's Executive Board. We offer the following for your information:

(From the By-laws of the Escambia County Historical Society, Articles VI and X respectively):

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Executive Board

Section 1: The Executive Board shall consist of all elected Officers and the Chairmen of Standing Committees.

Section 2: The general management, direction and control of the affairs, property and funds of this Society shall be vested in the Executive Board.

Officers

Section 1: the officers of the Escambia County Historical Society shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Publicity Chairman, and Historian/Curator.

The members of the Executive Board of the Society for 1980-1982 are as follows:

President: Rev. James W. Caldwell
Secretary: Miss Rita Jane Boykin
Librarian: Janel Redditt
Historian: Annie C. Waters

Vice President: Gladys Byrd
Treasurer: Bert Campbell
Publicity Chairman: vacant
Curator: John Powell (advisory
role only)

Standing Committee Chairperson: Mrs. John David Finlay, Chairperson,
Memorial Committee

MEMORIALS

Memorials for the month of October, 1980 are:

Miss Bernice Larkin--by Miss Rita Jane Boykin, Mrs. John D. Finlay, Mrs. E. P. Yelldell, Mrs. C. B. (Rochelle) Garrett, Miss Mary Larkin, and Mr. and Mrs. Gid Boykin.

Miss Bernice Larkin was a lifelong resident of Brewton. She graduated from the old Brewton Collegiate Institute and then from Troy Normal School. She taught in elementary schools in Escambia, Baldwin, Coffee, and Jefferson Counties, and in Charlotte, North Carolina.

She graduated from George Peabody College and worked as a home demonstration agent in Searcy and Sheridan, Arkansas for 15 years; during this time, she did graduate work at the University of Tennessee. Her work there included teaching improved food production methods.

After her retirement, Miss Larkin made her home with her sister, Mrs. C. B. Garrett.

She was a Charter Member of the Escambia County Historical Society and she maintained a continuing interest in its activities. Although blind in later years, she enjoyed having friends read the Society's Quarterlies read to her.

Mr. Eddie Garland Butler, Sr.--by Mrs. Eddie Garland Butler.

Eddie Garland Butler, Sr., 65, a retired school official, died September 29, 1977. He was a resident of 208 Beck Street in Atmore, Alabama. Mr. Butler was a native of Woodville, Alabama. He began his teaching career at Brent Elementary School, Brent, Alabama, in Bibb County in 1945.

Moving to Atmore in August 1948, Mr. Butler became City Superintendent of Elementary Schools. He also served as principal at A.C. Moore School and Rachel Patterson School for 16 years.

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Butler Memorial, continued:

After retiring from the Escambia County School system, he taught the 6th grade at Ernest Ward School, Walnut Hill, Florida from 1965 until his second retirement in 1975. A World War II veteran, he was Chairman of the Board of Deacons and First Baptist Church in Atmore, a position he held until his death.

He was a Sunday School Superintendent at First Baptist Church, a Sunday School teacher, a member of Brotherhood and president of the Escambia Camp of Gideons.

For many years, Mr. Butler served as a Boy Scout leader and was the scoutmaster for a troop at age 60. His talent as a lay speaker brought him to fill many local pulpits in the absence of other pastors or during the calling of pastors. He also was a charter member of the Atmore Men's Garden Club and a past president thereof.

Mr. Butler is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Atmore, Alabama.

A Memorial gift for Mrs. W. T. (Mabel Haskins) Binion was received in August from Mrs. Myrtice P. Robinson of Atmore. We apologize for its accidental exclusion from the August issue of the Echoes.

Let us remember that "A Memorial is a Living Rememberance", which continues to serve.

Please send all memorials and contributions to the Memorial Fund to:
Mrs. John David Finlay/P.O. Box 737/ Brewton, Alabama 36426.

The present balance in the Memorial Fund is \$1,548.27.

RESIGNATION

The Executive Board of the Society has regretfully accepted the resignation of Mrs. Carolyn Pugh Emerich as Editor for the Society. We join in expressing our sincere appreciation to her for her efforts, interest, and accomplishments in the past and we wish her well in all things in the future. Carolyn will continue in her position as Chairman of the Book Committee.

The publication of the Historical Society newsletter and quarterlies will continue as a cooperative effort of Society officers on an interim basis.

MUSEUM NEWS

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum is undergoing a major improvement in its exhibits and preservation capacities, largely as a result of funding through an Institute of Museum Services (Department of Education) grant recently acquired. Through such ongoing improvements, the museum promises to be a facility that can be a source of pride and great educational benefit to the general public.

Donations to the museum this month include:

A ca. 1910 brass and Tiffany-style shade lamp from Rita Jane Boykin; An iron shoe last, Singer pedal-powered sewing machine, and a group of turn-of-the century kitchen tools from Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Hoard, to be given in Memory of Mr. M. P. McCloud of Flomaton; A group of children's clothing made from material purchased at Robbins & McGowin's (1 1912 Night shirt for George Green, 1 1913 Dress, and 1 1907 underskirt), donated by Miss Bessie Mae Harold.

Museum News, continued:

The museum and the college wish to thank the Society and the general public for the support and generosity shown to the McMillan Museum. The museum still needs many items for use in educational exhibitions about local history and archaeology. . . please keep this in mind.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

By Annie C. Waters

"The people, some time ago, voted to his majesty the hog the liberties of the city, but the Standard Gauge now loudly denounces him. Last Thursday, as the editor was writing an editorial one of Squire Raab's razorbacks straightened himself up under the building and began to scratch his back, a procedure that so violently agitated the sanctum that the editor went out with a column rule in his hand and belabored him in the side to coax him out. This of course broke the chain of thought, so the editorial will not appear this week."

----Standard Gauge, Brewton, Alabama, May 23, 1889.

"A BOY--

is like a bicycle because he cannot stand alone, he needs a steady hand to direct his way. He runs easiest downhill. If you lose control of him, he may break your heart, if not your head. He is not made to travel on bad roads. The straighter you keep him, the more safely he runs. The faster he runs, the more closely must his guide stick to him. He needs blowing up once in a while. He should never be run by more than two cranks."

----Pine Belt News, 1902.

SOCIETY SEEKS GRANT FUNDING

The Escambia County Historical Society has submitted a grant application through the Archives and History Division of the State of Alabama to aquire over \$6,000.00 in matching funds for the purpose of preserving, microfilming, and utilizing invaluable county records and local historic manuscript collections housed at Jefferson Davis College and in Ed Leigh McMillan's office. The Society would match this amount through financial input, volunteer time, and equipment and space use. The Project Director would be Gladys Byrd, City Librarian and Society Vice President; the Authorizing Agent is Society President James W. Caldwell, and Treasurer Bert Campbell would administer monetary transactions.

This grant support would enable us to preserve irreplaceable and endangered materials for the use of present and future generations of researchers. We hope that the Federal Government, which funds such requests, will view this proposal favorably.