

Published under the Supervision of the Escambia County Historical Society

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Escambia County Historical Society Christmas Party will be held at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, December 16, 1980, at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum at Jefferson Davis State Junior College.

Each visiting party is requested to bring a covered dish of his or her favorite holiday recipes. The general public is warmly invited to join us on this happy occasion.

The program, organized by Miss Rita Jane Boykin, will be a version of "NAME THAT TUNE". Everyone will participate and those that guess the name of the song being played correctly will win a prize.

We hope to see all of you, as well as your families and friends, at this friendly get-together.

NOTICE OF DUES

It's that time again---please remit your annual ECHS dues (\$6.00) for the coming year. Send your checks, made out to the Escambia County Historical Society, to:

Bert Campbell, Treasurer
Escambia County Historical Society
Box 276
Brewton, Alabama 36427

TREASURER'S REPORT

As reported at our last meeting, the Society has a balance of \$826.10 in the bank.

SOCIETY GIFTS

Last month's speaker, Mr. Edward C. Earle, Jr., has given a copy of T.E. Campbell's Colonial Caroline: A History of Caroline County, Virginia (Richmond:Dietz Press, 1954) to the Society's reference library. Many of the earliest settlers in Escambia County and their families are included in this book.

ALABAMA HISTORY ROOM PROGRESS REPORT

Wooden book shelves are now being installed in the Alabama History Room which is being established in the Leigh Library at Jefferson Davis College. These shelves will contain standard-sized history, genealogical, and reference texts of the ECHS collections. Oversize books, newspapers, etc. will be temporarily placed on metal shelving. When the room is completed and the materials to be housed there are moved, researchers will be able to take advantage of the longer operating hours, professional personnel, and fine reading/researching facilities of the library. Work study and CETA students will also be assigned to working with the collections and assisting persons doing research. Final completion of the room and movement of the reference materials will occur by the end of January.

MUSEUM NEWS

The exhibit of Ancient Peruvian Textiles will remain in the Thomas E. McMillan Museum until late December. We renew our invitation to Society members and the public to see these materials, some of which are over 2,000 years old, while they are here.

The remodeling of the museum's permanent exhibits area is progressing nicely; room divider panels are being installed to break the room into areas of interpretive-topical emphasis, and one of the cases dealing with the American Indians has been completed.

An exchange of collection materials is being worked out with the Pensacola Historical Museum. We will be exchanging some Jacksonian materials for some Spanish, French, and British colonial archaeological objects to place on exhibit; all of these materials came from within 50 miles of Brewton, and the early colonial groups made much use of the Escambia-Conecuh River systems to carry on trade, communications, and transportation with inland populations.

Mr. James Floyd Curry of Atmore has donated a fine ca. 1890 buggy lap robe of woven wool and a turn-of-the century one-room-schoolhouse slateboard from Red Level to the museum.

MEMORIALS

The memorial account now maintains a balance of \$1,728.27.

Memorials have been given as follows:

In memory of Mrs. W.G. (Catherine, "Kitty", Ryan Brooks) Champlin by John David Finlay, Jr, Mrs. John David Finlay, Mrs. E.P. Yelldell, Miss Rita Jane Boykin, Mrs. Alice Till Larkin Beall, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fidler, and Mrs. W. Emmett Brooks.

CATHERINE (KITTY) RYAN BROOKS

Catherine (Kitty) Ryan Brooks, daughter of the late William Emmett Brooks and Mrs. William Emmett Brooks (Catherine Ryan), was born in Greenville, Alabama on July 4, 1927. Two weeks later she and her mother returned to the Brooks home in Brewton, where she grew up and finished three years at T.R. Miller High School. Then, her father became a member of Governor Chauncey Sparks' cabinet and the family moved to Montgomery, where she attended Sidney Lanier High School and graduated in 1944.

After attending Huntingdon College as a day student one year, Kitty transferred to the University of Alabama, graduating in 1948. She married William Gardiner Champlin of Pensacola on June 17, 1948 and lived in Pensacola, where she died on October 21, 1980, in Pensacola Hospital.

Kitty was most active in volunteer work in her adopted community. She served as former president of Junior Daughters of the Revolution, Pensacola Chapter; President of the Pensacola Junior League; member of the Board of the Pensacola Women's Home; Budget Committee and Board of Directors member, United Way; and she also served on the boards of the Y.M.C.A., the Perdido Bay Lodge for Alcoholic Rehabilitation, and the Health Care Foundation of Baptist Hospital of Pensacola.

She became a charter member of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church and was a very active member. She sang in the choir, was president of Women of the Church, a member of the vestry, clerk of the Parish, president of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, and was a member of the Board of Wilmer Hall, Mobile, Alabama.

In the social life of Pensacola, Kitty was a former president of the Merry Makers, one of the city's oldest carnival organizations. She was employed for ten years by the State of Florida in the Department of Health and Rehabilitation Service, where she worked in the adoption placement program.

Attesting to Kitty's beautiful and worthwhile life, many letters of praise have been sent to the family. Among the phrases used in them were: "genuine public servant"; "had much to give and gave of it all"; "her contribution to the social and cultural well-being of Pensacola will have a strong impact for many years"; "she had human understanding, keenness of mind, ability to distinguish between the essential and superficial"; "she disdained praise, always working for results rather than applause". "Kitty has left a treasured memory of shared satisfaction, joys and concerns. Nothing can take them away."

The following lines written in Kitty's handwriting were apparently an original philosophy written by her, as no other source has been found, and since they express Kitty's thoughts so well. We present them here:

"What does abundant life mean to me?"

"It means a life that is filled with love and service; a life that has time for work and play; time for me and for my family as well as time for my church, friends, and community. It means being able to have what I need and the ability to share with others. It is a life of concern where hopefully I can show God's love for me to others."

Funeral services for Mrs. Champlin were held on October 23, 1980, in St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Pensacola, Florida. Officiants were the Right Reverend George M. Murray, Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast; the Reverend Van Davis, Rector of St. Christopher's, and the Reverend Robert W. Myer, Curate of St. Christopher's Church.

Survivors include: her husband; sons and daughters-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. W. Gardiner Champlin of Phoenix, Arizona; Mr. and Mrs. J. Brooks Champlin, Mobile, Alabama; David Ryan Champlin of Denver, Colorado; her mother, Mrs. W. Emmett Brooks, Brewton, Alabama; two brothers, W. E. Brooks, Jr., of Vincennes, Indiana and J. Bolling Brooks of Graceville, Florida; her mother-in-law, Mrs. H. G. Champlin, Pensacola, Florida; and two grandsons, David Gardiner Champlin and Michael Nelson Champlin, both of Phoenix, Arizona.

Send all memorials to : Mrs. J. D. Finlay/P.O. Box 737/Brewton, AL 36426.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!

Joy and Noel