

Memorials, continued:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Mrs. W. G. (Catherine "Kitty" Brooks) Champlin, from Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Cheatham (Opp, Alabama) and Mrs. Paul Till

R. C. (Bob) Wallace of LaFayette, Alabama, from Mrs. C. B. Garrett and Miss Rita Jane Boykin

Reverend James W. Caldwell from WEBJ Broadcasting Station, Brewton, AL; Miss Rita Jane Boykin; Mrs. John David Finlay; Mrs. Alice Till Beall; and Mrs. Barry (Carolyn) Emerich

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO
REVEREND JAMES W. CALDWELL

Reverend James W. (Jim) Caldwell was born on July 19, 1913, and died on December 26, 1980. He was not a man who would have wanted flowery words of tribute said about him, but would have preferred a simple statement of what he was and what he had tried to accomplish in his lifetime. He served his God and his fellow man well, many times carrying the burdens of his "sheep" to the detriment of his own health. He was a good shepherd and a good friend to all who knew him.

He served as pastor of Baptist churches all over the state, among them the Riverview Baptist Church of Riverview, Alabama, Pratt City Baptist Church of Birmingham, Catawba Springs Baptist Church of Brewton and Alco Baptist Church of Brewton, and during his retirement years he served as a supply pastor for numerous churches in the area. The first church he served was the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Independence, Missouri.

Intensely interested in the American Indians since his youth, Reverend Caldwell, along with Mr. Fee Martin, journeyed to New Mexico in 1969 to assist James Nelson, missionary to the Navajo Indians, in building a mission in which the Indians would worship. While there, Caldwell and Martin discovered and climbed a theretofore un-named mesa that Caldwell named "Keego Flats" as he collected some artifacts from its long-since-abandoned ruins. An ardent collector, Reverend Caldwell had fine collections of antique tools, bottles, and Indian artifacts, most of which he recovered from sites which he had located on his own.

For his beloved Keego Community he helped to form the Catawba Springs Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund and administered it for several years; he also worked to establish the McCall Water System, with which he was still active at the time of his death. He was one of the organizers of the Escambia County Historical Society, serving as its president in 1973-1974 and 1980 until he passed away.

Many terms of court for this county were opened by his prayers for wisdom for the jurors and forgiveness for the guilty. Many devotionals were offered over the local radio stations. Caldwell served as President of the Brewton ministerial Association during his tenure as pastor of the Alco Baptist Church. A carpenter and cabinet maker by trade, he built the second addition to the Alco Baptist Church and the education building at Catawba Springs Baptist Church, and he also extended the sanctuary of the latter. His handiwork resulted in the construction of many brick veneer homes in the area, including his own. Many carpentry jobs were done by him to help people out of the

Caldwell Memorial, Continued

goodness of his heart, often with little or no remuneration.

He was a good family man and took great pride in his gandchildren and great-grandchild, Jamie. He bore his fatal illness well and with dignity, refusing to accept any sympathy whatsoever, and dying as he had lived, "like a man". He will be sorely missed by his widow, Magaret Willis Caldwell, his daughter, Mrs. Jim (Bobbie) Parkinson, his grandsons, Stanley and Gene Parkinson, his great-granddaughter, Jamie Parkinson, four sisters and numerous other relatives.

MEMORIAL DATA

We welcome memorial tributes to those whose lives have so enriched our own; additionally, it is our hope to eventually compile these memorial statements to form a book for publication. Some of you have asked what sorts of things we are looking for in preparing such statements. This is included here to give our readers and their contacts a brief format guide by which to go for this purpose.

GENERAL FORM: Typed or printed, double spaced, in common narrative form.

DATA PREPARATION:

(NAME OF PERSON BEING MEMORIALIZED)

(name) was born in (location) on (Date) to (father's and mother's names). At this point, tell us when the family moved to this area (iff applicable), when and where the subject went to school, learned a trade, etc. If you know, give also the names of any siblings and, if applicable, step parents.

The second section should include data concerning the subject's marital status (names of spouses and dates of matrimony), geographical status (if and when the subject may have moved and what locations were involved), and the names of any children born in such marriage.

The third section will discuss general biographical data; occupation(s), community activities, offices held and honors bestowed, hobbies and interests, charitalbe works, and, in general, the subject's endeavors and accomplishments. Give dates where applicable. Career data should also be included here.

The fourth section will consist of brief descriptive or recollective testimonial statements pertaining to the subject--favorite sayings, the opion-ions of friends and/or the community, notes about personality or other facts of interest regarding the subject as a human being.

The fifth and final section should give the date and place of death, where and when the funeral services were held, and where the subject was laid to rest. Names of survivors in the subject's family should also be included here, as should--if applicable--any epitaph statement.

These sections may vary greatly in length (if the subject did not marry, for example, the second section will be all but negated) according to what each statement calls for. Generally, however, the statement should be limited to about two double-spaced, typed pages or one single-spaced typed page in length. We wish to capture a glimpse of the PERSON as well as acquiring hard data (facts and figures) pertaining to that person's life.

MUSEUM NEWS

The museum has acquired a collection of the carpenter's and cabinet maker's tools of Ezra Plumb, who built among the earliest structures in this area (including Jay Villa Plantation and the Leigh-McMillan home on Alco Hill). The collection is outstanding in quality and quantity, and will form the core for a craftsman's tools exhibit in the museum. This collection was given in memory of Ezra Plumb by Elizabeth Champion of Evergreen and Robert H. Jones, Jr. of Mobile.

A collection of late nineteenth to early twentieth century medical tools and books has been donated by Dr. David Gunn of Brewton.

Franklin Dewberry of East Brewton has donated an early-20th century log and timber auger. Over six feet in length, the auger was used to bore holes in stump bases for dynamiting and to drill into hevn logs and timbers in the construction of rafts to float downriver.

The MUSEUM SCIENCE class will be setting up four new exhibits before March: RAILROADS AND BADMEN, THE COUNTRY DOCTOR, TOOLS OF A CRAFTSMAN, and SKIRMISH OF ALCO HILL.

STILL NEEDED for exhibits now & in the future as "key pieces", among other needed objects, are: an antique cotton scale with counterweights, a pre-1900 Winchester rifle or Sawed-off shotgun, any old crank-or-pedal-powered tools and housewares, and early medical-dental materials.

HISTORICAL TIDBITS

By Annie C. Waters

From local newspapers of the early 1900's in this area:

"Wanted--A hog catcher for the town (Brewton). Two-bits for each grunter landed in the pound." (1905 Pine Belt News)

"Take a lesson from the postage stamp--always stick to one thing until you get there." (1902)

"A poorly paid preacher went to a deacon to ask for a raise. 'Why, I thought you worked for souls!' 'And so I do, but I cannot eat souls and if I could it would take several the size of yours to make a dish.'" (1905 Standard Gauge)

"Tale told by John Sowell-- 'I wanted a railroad ticket that cost \$3 but I had only \$2, so I pawned my \$2 to Jim Douglas for \$1.50 and then I sold the pawn ticket to Alex McGowin for \$1.50 which gave me my needed \$3. The question is, who got beat?'" (1905 Standard Gauge)

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

We need to have your membership dues in by March 31, 1981 for this year. If we have not received your dues by that time, we will have to discontinue your receipt of ECHS mailouts due to financial requisites. We encourage those of you who have not yet sent your '81 dues to do so--you get a lot for that \$6.00 and we'd like to have you stay with us. Send dues to:

Treasurer/Escambia County Historical Society/P.O. Box 276/Brewton, AL
36426