



Escambia Echoes

November-December 1983

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Escambia County Historical Society

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - December 13, 1983, at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum in Brewton, Alabama at 7:00 p.m.

PROGRAM: Rita Jane Boykin and Betty Campbell

The Escambia County Historical Society will hold the annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. There will be surprises for everyone. If you want your Christmas gift from under the tree be sure to be there. There will be party refreshments for everyone. Bring a friend. The public is invited.

BOOK: The History of Escambia County, Alabama will be ready for delivery around December 1. We will notify you immediately.

MEMORIALS: James Padgett Luttrell By Ms. Mary Foster

Albert C. Tate, Jr. By Mrs. Jim F. Smith

Theo May Owens By Mr & Mrs. A. H. Riley

Continued list of pre-ordered book, History of Escambia County, Alabama.

Ms. Lula Pearl Neal, Douglas Avenue, Brewton, Alabama

Lavaun A. Brewton, 870 S. Everett, Lakewood, Colo. 80226

Mrs. Robert H. Maxwell, P. O. Box 587, Atmore, Alabama 36504

Ms. Marie Fregia, P. O. Box 11, Dasietta, Tx. 77533

Dr. J. W. Douglas, 40 Star Lake Drive, Pensacola, Fl. 32507
 Mrs. Opal B. Tankersley, 504 Meadow Lane, Arlington, Tex. 76010
 Louise Wiggins, 15 Bertram Street, Pensacola, Fl. 32506
 Mina L. Godwin, 1602 Graupera Street, Pensacola, Fl. 32507
 Evergreen-Conecuh County Public Library, Evergreen, Al. 36401
 June Martin, Keego, Brewton, Alabama

ATMORE GETTING NEW LIBRARY BUILDING:

The W. T. Neal Trust Fund has given or pledged in excess of \$525,000 toward Atmore's effort to build a library worthy of the needs of the community.

Eighty-five-year old Miss Edna Byrne, the town's first librarian remembers, 60 years ago, when "I spent the morning part of the day teaching private kindergarten in Mrs. Alexandra Patterson's home. Then, around noon, I walked down on North Main Street to the old Bank of Atmore. We had two upstairs rooms we used for our library. That was back in 1923. We had about 513 books that had been donated to us from their private collections by our library association members. Miss Elsie Schott and I catalogued all the books. She new something about how to do that."

Mayor Patricia McKenzie remembers those days, too. She had been a pupil of Miss Byrne's in the little kindergarten in her mother's home. "I remember Mother helping Miss Schott get to New York City to go to a librarian's school. When she came back here, she went to work as Miss Byrne's assistant. Mother was very proud of our library."

Atmore Library has undergone a series of changes and moves under the guidance of several librarians.

In 1923 the library association decided members should pay \$1 a year to help defray the library's costs, Miss Bryne said. "By the end of the first year, we had 4,154 books." After about five years as librarian, however, Miss Byrne left the library to accept a teaching post at "The best elementary school in Pensacola, Fla."--T. K. Young Elementary.

Library records since 1923 indicate a move into Carney Lodge, No. 549. The problem, as with many libraries was space. This was not home for the library very long. In 1942 the old lodge was torn down to build a new American Legion post. The library moved to a council room at Atmore City Hall. Space was so limited there, not all of the books could be unpacked. The sides of the gazebo structure, adjacent to the City Hall, were partially enclosed and the library was moved into this.

By 1949 the American Legion post building was completed. Rooms were leased by Atmore City Council and the library moved back to the old familiar location. But the community city officials and library staff wanted so much more for the library. To further it's growth, the board of trustees headed up "Operation Library" in 1958, a drive to raise money to build a large and permanent home for the facility that already offered so much to the community.

Mrs. W. R. Holley, an avid supporter of the effort, donated a lot on South Trammel Street and later \$10,000, to be used in constructing a new building. Because of her generosity, the library was named for her late husband, a former maoyr of Atmore.

From article by Jackie Harrison,
 Mobile Press Register

HAPPY THANKSGIVING -- MERRY CHRISTMAS!