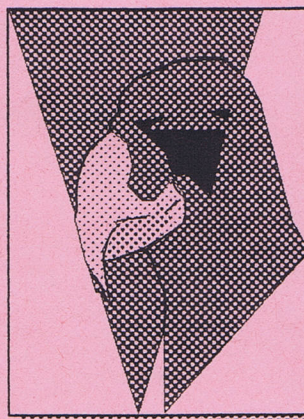


ESCAMBIA ECHOES

MAY, 1996

ESCAMBIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 276 BREWTON, ALABAMA 36427



Rickards' Mill Trip

The trip to Rickards' mill was enjoyed by those traveling there. Because of family emergencies, I did not get to go, and really feel that I missed a real treat!

Thanks to those who planned this trip and to the people at Rickards' Mill. We will be planning another trip soon.

NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to work in the "Alabama Room" at Jefferson Davis Community College's Brewton library. The Alabama Room houses the historical and genealogical archives of the Escambia County Historical Society. Duties would include helping with researchers, filing, typing, indexing, and completing inventory.

If you would like to know more about volunteering, please contact Ann Biggs-Williams, JDJCC Librarian at 334-809-1581.

Editor:
Barbara Jones
1401 Shoffner Street
East Brewton, Alabama 36426

THE RITZ

In the September 17, 1936 edition of the Brewton Standard we read that every seat was occupied and scores of persons were unable to gain admission to the formal opening of Brewton's new Ritz Theater. There was an audience of nearly 1,000.

The formal opening ceremonies were brief, they lasted about 30 minutes. In the absence of the Mayor (Smith), Joe T. Larkins and C. S. Overstreet welcomed the owner, Mr. Roy E. Martin, and associates on behalf of the City of Brewton. The entire day had been an exciting one through-out the city, it was the climax to weeks of waiting on the part of the people. They would finally realize the fulfillment of the promise of a theater. After over 50 years, the Ritz closed its doors. Thursday, January 22, 1987 the last movie was shown there. It was "Crocodile Dundee."

In February 1986, the City of

Brewton obtained the option to purchase the building.

Space doesn't permit the details of things which conspired in the years between the closing of the Ritz and the opening of the Message Center where the flashing light of the Ritz sign can be seen today, but the people of this area can be very proud of the historians here who have worked very hard to preserve this piece of our past.

Plans are to landscape the entire area around the Message Center and to place walking paths in the area.

As we ride by the bright Ritz sign, we can remember the days walking to the theater, getting a big bag of popcorn and watching the movies all day. I wish that our children could enjoy such treats!

Meeting News

Meeting Date
May 28, 1996

Meeting Time:
3:00 p. m.

Meeting Place:
Jefferson Davis Community College-Thomas E. McMillan Museum Program:

Lynn Chambers, City of Brewton Librarian will present a program about Historical and Genealogical research on the Wahl

Hostesses:
Kate Addison and Minnie Smith

NOTICE:

The Jefferson Davis Community College Library will be closed for quarter break on May 29-June 11, 1996. When the Library opens June 12, 1996, the summer library hours will be as follows due to reduced summer staffing:
Monday through Thursday, 7:30 A. M. until 6:30 P.M. — Friday, 7:30 A.M. until 1:30 P.M.
The Library will be closed July 4 and 5, 1996, for Independence Day holiday.