



ESCAMBIA ECHOES

JANUARY, 1997

HERRINGTON, ALABAMA

It would be hard to imagine now that Keego was ever a resort. Well, it wasn't exactly at Keego; just about a mile down the road, and they called it Herrington. The famous, near famous and some rather infamous residents of this section of the country made it their home away from home. They drank the sulphur water that flowed from a spring there.

Herrington was in its heyday in the late 1890's and early 1900's. It was James Herrington who built the two story hotel and at one time he was treasurer of Escambia County.

The sulphur springs were discovered beside the railroad tracks while they were being built there. The spring water turned out to be loaded with iron and chalybeate and was commonly known as "good for what ails you."

The spring site was moved back from beside the railroad tracks and surrounded with a concrete basin and steps descending into the pit. A large and rather luxurious hotel featuring 22 rooms was built near the spring by Mr. Herrington, who named the hotel the El Dorado Hotel. You could live in style for \$4.00 per week, which included room and board.

Soon afterwards Mr. Herrington died. His heirs took over the resort and operated it for awhile.. Then it was operated by Mrs. W. H. Strong. Later it came into the ownership of the Martin family when Dr. J. E. Martin, a physician, practicing in Brewton, purchased it and moved his family to Herrington.

Herrington's gay life was destined to be short. It was in 1909 or 1910 that a fire destroyed the big hotel and also destroyed a number of private homes and other buildings to the ground.

Dr. Martin soon began construction of a four-room log house for his guests who insisted upon coming back to the resort. Then about 10 years later, in about 1919, a storm, some say a cyclone, finished where the fire left off.

It was not enough to finish Herrington off as a resort, then the flood of 1929 did the rest. The water rose eight feet over the town and when the flood waters receded, so did the spring waters. In some way that has not been explained. The flood waters changed the course of the spring and to this day the basin has remained dry.

YOU MAY MAIL YOUR 1997 DUES TO:

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MEETING NEWS

MEETING DATE:

January 28, 1997

Meeting Time:

3:00 P. M.

Meeting Place:

Thomas E. McMillan
Museum; Jefferson
Davis Community
College Campus

**Program: Mr. Bud
Harrison from Jay, Fl.**

Mr. Harrison is a
retired Agriculture
teacher, he will speak to
us about his experiences
in North Africa during
World War II

Many thanks to Mrs. Ann Biggs
Williams for all she does!