

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

JUNE 1997

"It is a profound mistake to think that everything has been discovered, as well think the horizon the boundary of the world."

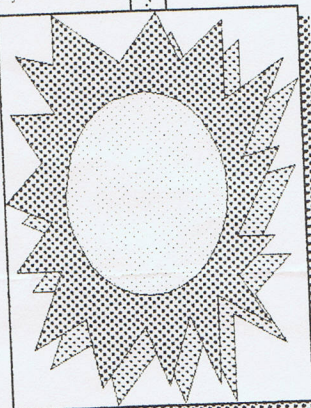
Editor: Barbara Jones
1401 Shoffner Street
East Brewton, Alabama 36426
 Articles for publication are welcomed!

WHITEY STILL

The Whitey still was located at Miller Creek, and was one of the earliest turpentine stills in this area, having been built sometime in the early 1900's.

One of the stories told about this still was that the owner, being so proud of his new copper still, first ran off a charge of liquor before beginning to distill the turpentine. Not wishing to take the time to age the liquor in charred barrels, he went all over the countryside collecting peach seeds to color and flavor his product.

Whitey was a thriving community seventy years ago. The Bagdad Land and Lumber Company owned thousands of acres of timber from Milton, Florida, to Bradley, Alabama. In 1916 a railroad was built from Bagdad to Bradley. This company leased hundreds of convicts from the State of Alabama to work the turpentine. Large stockades were built to house the prisoners, houses built for the guards, and other buildings were erected to support this community. Guards were hired at \$40 a month and furnished a house to live in. Pine trees were tapped



MEETING NEWS
Meeting date:
Tuesday, June 24,
1997
Meeting time: 3:00
P.M.
Meeting Place:
Jefferson Davis
Community Col-
lege; Thomas E.
McMillan Museum

for turpentine three or four years before the actual cutting began.

Sometime in the 1920's the trees were cut, the railroad was taken up and Whitey began to die. No trace exists of this thriving community now.

Bradley

Bradley, Alabama is situated near three creeks, Little Blackwater, Panther and Bear Creeks. None of these creeks could be used to float logs out, so a large ditch was dredged nearby to float timber. Stories are told of men who couldn't read or write, yet could figure to an inch exactly how many board feet would be in a log.

GRAVE SITE

In a lonely spot near the Conecuh River is the grave of Jesse Howard, first Probate Judge of Escambia County, appointed following the Civil War.

Dr. Eugene Allen Smith

Dr. Eugene Allen Smith worked as a state geologist for thirty years. He used a horse-drawn buggy in his trips across the state to make geological surveys. The buggy is now on the second floor of Smith Hall, named in honor of Dr. Smith, at the university

of Alabama.

We need volunteers to help in the Escambia County Historical Society Room of Archives and History.
Address all mail to: Escambia County Historical Society—P. O. Box 276—Brewton, AL 36427