

ESCAMBIA ECHOES

Publication of
The Escambia
County Historical
Society

September, 1997

P. O. Box 276
Brewton, Al-
abama, 36426

JAMES
ADAMS
STALL-
WORTH

(1822

1861)

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Al.

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Legislature:

U. S.

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1857-61. is

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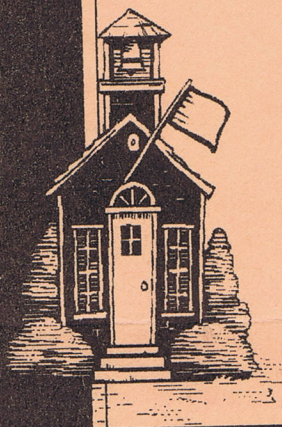
Cemetery,

Evergreen

(Conecuh

County), Al-

abama.



Editor: Barbara Jones

AVE MARIA GROTTO

The Ave Maria Grotto, located on the grounds of Alabama's first and only Benedictine Abbey, consists of

over 125 miniatures, reproductions of famous churches, shrines and buildings from all over the world. Encompassing an area of over three acres, this miniature fairyland was built by Brother Joseph, who died in 1961 and is buried in the Abbey cemetery a short distance from the Grotto gift shop.

Brother Joseph Zoettl, O.S.B. was born in Landshut, Bavaria in 1878, he came to Saint Bernard Abbey in 1892. After becoming a Brother in the Benedictine Order, he was appointed to the power plant for the Abbey, and while there he developed his hobby of building miniature shrines.

The first replicas were erected on the monastery recreation grounds but because of the large number of visitors a new site was selected and on May 17, 1934 the Ave Maria Grotto was dedicated. His work continued for over 40 years, using materials sent from all over the world. His last model, the

MEETING NEWS

The Escambia County Historical Society will meet at the Brewton Jefferson Davis Community College Campus, Thomas E. McMillan Museum, Tuesday September 23, 1997 At 1:45 P.M. Transportation will be provided from the College to the retreat of Dwight and Betty Milligan. The bus will

leave the College at 2:00 P. M. The Milligan retreat is located near Castleberry. You will not want to miss this trip. Dwight and Betty are very gracious to entertain the society and invite them for this visit. Refreshments will be served. You should arrive back at the College about

Best Wishes to Ann Biggs Williams, we shall miss you A LOT, but we wish for you a great retirement. You have been a great inspiration for us, and a very gracious lady for whom we could never express our appreciation adequately for the help and guidance you have given to us.
