

The September Meeting

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Thomas E. McMillan Museum

3:15 p. m

The September Program

Debbie Russell, Environmental Planning Coordinator with the Conecuh National Forest, will present the September 25th program entitled, "History

of the Conecuh National Forest and the Longleaf EcoSystem."

Image of Long Leaf Pine at Grass Stage.

Photo is by Kim Gilliland, Editor, Alabama Treasure Forest Magazine



Proposed Changes in Dues to be Voted on in September Meeting

At the September 25, ECHS meeting, members will vote on a proposed dues increase for the calendar year 2008.

Dues for an individual would increase from \$15 annually to \$25 annually. Lifetime dues would increase from \$100 to \$250.

An additional category was proposed by the ECHS Board of Directors at the September 11 board meeting. That new category would be \$50 annual dues for a business and those annual dues would include an advertisement for the business in the ECHS Newsletter.

Please plan to attend the September meeting to vote on this dues increase issue that was presented verbally at the August monthly meeting. (One reason for the dues increase is the continuing cost of producing the newsletter which is over \$2.00 per issue.)

Inside this issue:

September Speaker	2
Minutes of August Meeting	2
Upcoming Events	3
Alabama in History	3
Old Growth Longleaf Pine	4
The Flomaton Natural Area	5
A Flomaton History	7

The October Meeting : A Field Trip to the Baker-Block Museum in Baker, Florida

The October 23rd regular meeting of the Escambia County Historical Society will be a field trip to the Baker Block Museum in Baker, Florida.

We will carpool and leave the Thomas E. McMillan Museum parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to arrive at the Baker Block Museum for a 10:30 a.m. tour.

The admission to the museum is free. The museum exhibits include the turpentine and timber industry, a mercantile store, farm tools, Native American artifacts, a pioneer household display and a military display.

Outside exhibits: an 1870's Hewed log cabin, a early 20th century post office and general store, Jackson Veneer, and Mill tool Company.

There is also a wonderful research library with area family genealogies, church, community and school histories, maps, photos and other historical documents, as well as internet research.

You will also have time to spend in the museum on your own. Dutch treat lunch will be available at 1 p.m. at the Gator Cafe in Baker.

For more information on the Baker Block Museum, go to <http://www.rotsweb.com/~flbbm/baker.htm>



Long Leaf Pine Stamp

Volume 34, Number 9

September 2007

Our Speaker for the September Meeting

Our speaker, **Debbie Russell**, has been working with the Conecuh National Forest for twenty years. She says her title in layman's terms is that of District Environmental Planning Coordinator. Her official position description is General Biologist working as a NEP/GIS Coordinator for the Conecuh National Forest.

Debbie is from Covington County. She was the oldest of three girls and grew up on the family farm located north of Red Level in the Buck Creek Commu-

nity. She attended Red Level High School, graduating in 1981 as valedictorian. She continued her education, receiving a Bachelors' of Science from Alabama Christian College (now Faulkner University) in 1985, majoring in Psychology/Biology.

Debbie is a qualified Support Dispatcher for natural disasters such as wild fires, hurricanes. In fact, she worked with the National Forests in Mississippi in 2005 in this capacity during Hurricane Katrina

Minutes of the August Meeting

In the absence of **President Ann Biggs-Williams** and **Vice-President Darryl Searcy**, **Paul Merritt** presided.

Paul recognized new member **Bob Winther**, who has made several contributions to the Museum of items which belonged to his father.

Guest **Linda Menching** was welcomed.

Both the minutes for the July meeting, as published in the August newsletter, and the financial report given at the meeting by **Treasurer Susan Crawford** were approved.

In new business, the membership was informed of a recommendation by the Society Board to increase the annual dues and the lifetime membership dues (Details are given on page one of this newsletter). The recommendations will be voted on at the September meeting.

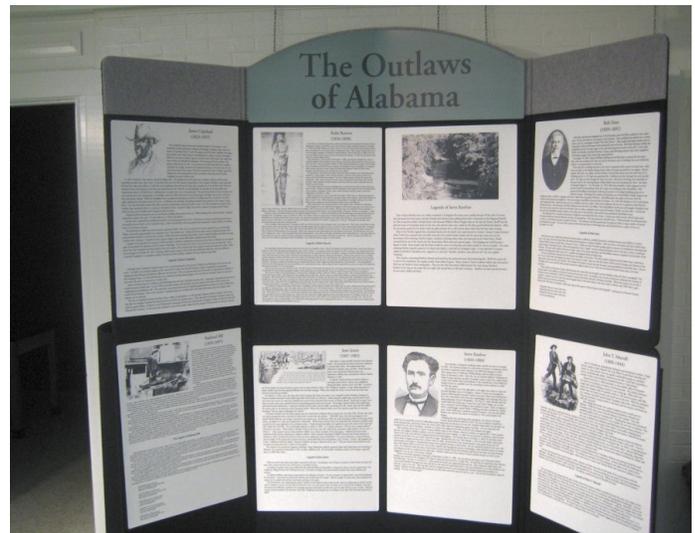
Information of interest to members included a reference to a new Cemetery Access Law referred to in an article in the August 27 Mobile Press-Register.

Also, there will be a conference in Huntsville on September 20-22 of the Alabama Cemetery Preservation Alliance.

Tom McMillan gave an update on the project to use equipment to locate the exact site of Fort Crawford. There are still plans to use equipment supplied by the University of Alabama to help in the search.

At the end of the business session, **Jerry Simmons** introduced **Dr. Alan Brown** of the University of West Alabama who presented a program on "Outlawry/How Outlaws Became Folk Heroes."

A brochure concerning The Mockingbird Call from the Monroe County Heritage Museum is available at the following address:



Display of Alabama Outlaws provided by the Alabama Humanities Foundation

Monroe County Heritage Museum
P.O. Box 1637
Monroeville, AL 36461

Dr. Brown focused on three well-known outlaws connected with Alabama: Railroad Bill, Steve Renfroe, and Rube Burrows. In addition to Dr. Brown's presentation, those at the meeting were able to view an exhibit, "The Outlaws of Alabama" (see picture above) which gave a picture and brief history of six of Alabama's most famous outlaws. This exhibit was presented by the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

Barbara Dixon and **Susan Crawford**, hostesses, supplied refreshments in the parlor at the conclusion of the meeting.

Upcoming Events

Two Events Featuring William Bartram

October 26-28, 2007

The **Bartram Trail Conference** will be held October 26--28 in **Baldwin County, Alabama, just east of Mobile**. This is the 2007 biennial meeting of the Bartram Trail Conference.

For registration information, go to www.bartramtrailconference.org

Bartram traveled through what is now Alabama during his exploration of the Southern colonies in the mid 1770's.

His descriptions of the natural environment and the Indians he encountered were published in 1791 in Travels, a literary masterpiece and an invaluable resource for subsequent generations of scholars.

February 2008

If you miss the Bartram Trail Conference, the **ECHS Board of Directors** is excited to announce that **John C. Hall, educator and museum professional**, will discuss William Bar-

tram at the **February 2008 meeting of the Escambia County Historical Society in Brewton**.

This lecture is part of the Draughon Seminars in State and Local History and is made possible by the Kelley Moseley Endowment in honor of Dr. Ralph B. Draughon, president of Auburn from 1947 to 1965.

September 29, 2007

Performance of Jack Daniel Silver Cornet Band

Step back in time to 1905 and greet the costumed characters who will be in Brewton Saturday Night September 29th at 7 p.m. at the Patterson Auditorium at JDCC.

The Original Jack Daniel's Silver Cornet Band will perform. The Brewton Arts Council encourages members of the audience to wear historical attire as well.

October 13, 2007

Alabama Historical Association's Fall Pilgrimage

The **Alabama Historical Association's Fall Pilgrimage** will meet in the **McClelland and Anniston area** on October 13.

Pre-registration received by Oct. 1 is \$10 without lunch, \$15 with lunch. On-site registration is \$13 without lunch and \$18 with lunch.

For questions, contact Bobby Moca (205)985-9488

October 13, 2007

Alabama Genealogical Society's Fall Seminar

The **Alabama Genealogical Society's Fall Seminar** is October 13, 2007 from **8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery**. Speaker Craig R. Scott will discuss "A Potpourri of Military Conflicts."

This will include dealing with the records of the Revolutionary War, Indian Wars, War of 1812 and the Mexican War.

October in Alabama History

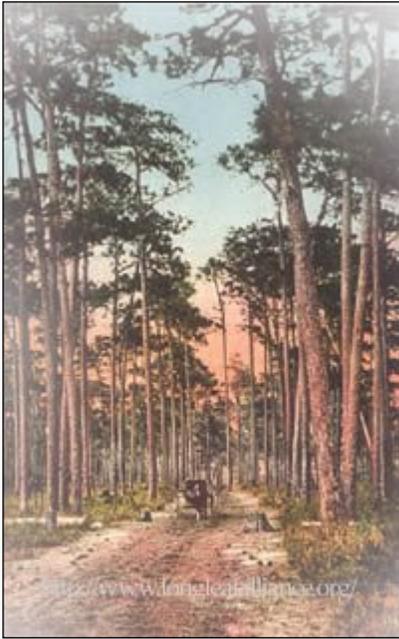
October 1-4, 1867: For the first time in Alabama history, African Americans vote in a statewide election. About 70,000 black men, the majority of voters in the election, called for a constitutional convention and elected an overwhelmingly Republican set of convention delegates, including 18 blacks. That convention produced Alabama's fourth constitution

October 9, 1908: Two-term Alabama governor James "Big Jim" Folsom is born in Coffee County. Folsom, known for farm-to-market road paving and other programs to benefit Alabama's common folk, served as governor from 1947-1951 and 1955-1959.

October 22, 1821: The steamboat Harriet reaches Montgomery after ten days of travel from Mobile. This was the first successful attempt to navigate so far north on the Alabama River and opened river trade between Montgomery and Mobile.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Old Growth Longleaf Pine



The picture shows the characteristic flat topped crown and gentle lean of longleaf pine.

This essay is from the Longleaf Alliance website.

“The majority of forests that exist in the Southeast today offer little to stimulate the imagination and provide a scant connection to the heritage of the landscape.

“However, character is what sets apart old-growth longleaf pine forests from the young, neatly planted forests that predominate in today’s Southern landscape.

“The crowns of these longleaf patriarchs have long ago stopped growing in height and flattened out; seeming to suggest that somewhere along the line, these trees have acknowledged that there is not an advantage to being the tallest tree in an

environment dominated by lightning.

“Also, perhaps recognizing their own uniqueness, or as a testimony to their stubbornness, old (large diameter) longleaf may subtly lean to one side but refuse to concede to the forces of gravity.

“Each tree has a story to tell. The gnarled longleaf pines on the steep slopes of Choccolocco Mountain, AL stretch out of the rocky ground like long arthritic fingers; bearing witness to the infrequent (yet historic) ice storms of the area.

“Unhealed notches (boxes) cut into the bases of large longleaf in the sandhills of Southern Pines, NC remind us of an industry responsible for giving that state the nickname of Tarheel.

“Ancient longleaf outside of Niceview, FL have seen the demise of socially complex Native American cultures and the sequestering and transfer of same piece of land by the Spanish, French, English and finally Americans.

“Veteran longleaf near Withlacoochee FL smothering under an unhealthy buildup of forest litter testify to a battle lost between those who understood the value of fire for forest vigor and those who wanted to see it extinguished.

“Perhaps there is even a tree or two in the Altamaha Basin that carries metal from the frequent skirmishes between Georgia militia and British rangers fighting for territorial rights during the Revolutionary War.

“A great deal has changed in the southern states over the last 500 years and each of these ancient longleaf forests stand as a living legacy to those destructive forces that devastated all but a handful of virgin

forests.

“A survey done by a Florida researcher in 1996 found that less than 0.01% of the remaining longleaf pine forests would be considered old-growth.

“Those stands that remain are important scientifically because they serve as a benchmark for forest structure conditions that likely existed prior to European settlement.

“These stands represent a genetic journey that started several thousand years ago with the marriage of a flicker of flame and a pine seed. Many of these virgin longleaf forests offer a refuge for plants and animals that are otherwise rare across the Southeast.

“Culturally, these stands serve as a link to our southern heritage (with countless cultures having risen and fallen during the tenure of longleaf).

“The emotion of standing in an ancient grove of longleaf pine can perhaps best be described as spiritual. Wind stirring through the tops of the 350 year old trees, the perfume of pine resin, the sounds of birds scurrying about through a lush carpet of grass cause the visitor to draw in a breath of awe and suggest that something this magnificent was surely not created by accident.

“With so little longleaf remaining, these ancient groves of longleaf pine forest are important because they are a snapshot of a forest that was once so vast that it was thought to be inexhaustible and serve as a reminder to what exactly has been lost.

“Perhaps these groves are important simply because they are survivors. “



This picture by David Blevins shows wiregrass which is so important for the survival of a longleaf pine forest. The wiregrass allows for the low intensity burn which is beneficial to these trees.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Flomaton Natural Area

The following story tells of the fire which led to the destruction of the old trees in the Longleaf Pine forest near Flomaton. Located at Van Hoosen Road and Highway 31 North, the stand of Longleafs, this stand had been dedicated to preservation in the first half of the twentieth century by the Alger-Sullivan Lumber company, the owner of the land. Now owned by the International Paper Company and called the Flomaton Natural Area (FNA), this stand once had trees estimated to be around 350 years old. In 1993, a fire from a garbage pile left unchecked got into the area and combined with other factors led to the destruction of the oldest trees.



The Flomaton Natural Area in 1958

there was little need to call dispatch and tell them it was going to be a late evening. The last puffs of smoke were expelled later that day with little human intervention. By all counts that afternoon, an angry conflagration had been avoided and the patriarchal longleaf pines were saved.

For weeks after the fire, the forest seemed to take on a new life. In places the fire opened up the other-

wise impassable thicket of briars and brush, allowing several varieties of flowers to sprout from the ashes. Although the last fire that these longleaf pines had seen was several decades prior, they were veterans of countless fires in the past and stood seemingly unaffected by the disturbance.

that fire was discovered. The forest, called the Flomaton Natural Area, was a 50-re impenetrable jungle of briars and brush with many old, scattered longleaf pines. However, when the local volunteer fire department

Though it wasn't immediately evident from the fire at the Flomaton Natural Area, the lifeline of these longleaf pine trees had been severed. The result of a seemingly unimpressive, smoldering fire had been the consumption of most of the trees' fine roots. Although by all outward appearances, the long leaf pines looked verdant and healthy: with most of their fine roots gone, the pines struggled to survive on diminishing resources and still fend off insects and pathogens.

On a warm Alabama spring evening in the waning years of the 20th century, a small, innocuous ember floated from a smoldering pile of garbage and gently settled on a soft pedestal of pine needles in a nearby forest stand. Nobody could say for sure when it happened, but at some point later in the afternoon, a wisp of smoke began to twist up out of the ground where the ember had landed. Minutes, or perhaps hours later, from where the smoke had appeared, a small flame stood up out of the pine needles and began a slow dance through the woods.

As the temperatures cooled in the evening, the fire slowed and eventually bedded down next to ancient longleaf pine trees for the night. It would not be until the next morning

“Although large conflagrations are devastating to longleaf pine forests that have gone without fire for multiple decades, low-intensity fires that burn under dry conditions in degraded longleaf pine forests can smolder in the organic duff layer and result in upwards to 60% of the old longleaf pine [being destroyed] “

arrived, they were probably relieved to find that the fire that had slowly fingered its way into the woods was contained on all sides by dirt roads.

Likewise, since the flame had moved into the humus layer and was obviously running low on strength.

Two years after the fire, the contest for life was lost to unremitting attacks by small, wood-boring beetles. Longleaf pines that were alive well before Alabama was a state, longleaf pines

(Continued on page 6)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Flomaton Natural Area continued

(Continued from page 5)

that had survived incalculable natural and manmade disturbances, were now dead.

When the last of the trees dropped its needles, two years after the spring wildfire, it was determined that no long-

The Flomaton Natural Area today is being restored through the joint efforts of The School of Forestry at Auburn University, The RSDA-Forest Service, and the Alabama Forestry Commission, in agreement with Champion International Corporation. These entities have started a program of restoring the longleaf pine ecosystem. The stand is now said to be returned to its state of being a good representation of virgin stands of longleaf pine described by early authors.

leaf pine greater than 18" diameter survived the fire and no longleaf pine greater than 80 years old survived (including one tree more than 360 years old).

For several years, the ghostly masts that were once trees stood as indicators to a problem that many other land managers across the range of longleaf pine were about to realize. The problem revealed by the wildfire at the Flomaton Natural Area was that a fire-deprived longleaf forest responds differently to fire than it did historically, when fire was a frequent visitor.

In 1889, a Florida resident made a farsighted prediction: "the total abolition of forest fires in the South would mean the annihilation of her grand (longleaf) lumbering pineries." As a consequence of an overzealously applied policy of total fire suppression, many of the mature, remnant longleaf

pine stands seen today are unhealthy, decadent, and at risk of catastrophic fire.

Although these mature long-leaf trees have been able to persist on the landscape, decades of fire suppression has created a forest unable to repopulate itself. Today, most natural resource professionals recognize the necessity of

fire to restore degraded longleaf pine forests.

However, what is not as well recognized is that the biggest threat to the restoration of these stands is the inappropriate reapplication of fire. Regardless of the land ownership, there are numerous instances where fire (either prescribed or wild) set under the wrong conditions has resulted in longleaf pine stands with many dead, mature trees as witnessed in the Flomaton Natural area.



Logs from Flomaton were used for restoration purposes in Colonial Williamsburg. Here tree #281, determined to be 287 years old, is cut to be used in the Peyton Randolph home (Inset).

Photo of the Peyton Randolph House

A History of Flomaton from 1964

The following article from 1964 is reprinted with permission.

PROGRESS IN COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT A History of Flomaton, Alabama

By Mrs. Korrie G. Brown,
February 12, 1964

In order to tell of the progress of a community, we must know something of the origin and background of that community.

The Alabama- Florida Railroad Charter was

signed in 1850 and when completed went no further than the Tensaw River. A branch line was built to Pensacola and the last spike connecting the Montgomery and Mobile Division with the Pensacola Division was driven by Major Reuter in 1872.

In 1880, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad came into possession of this railroad and they bridged the road across the river into Mobile, thus connecting Mobile with the northern part of the country.

The first depot in Flomaton was an upright plank shack. There were two more stations built after that, both burned, before the present station was built in 1912.

The first store was built and operated by Mrs. Wiser, Mrs. Charlie Brown's grandmother. She also operated the first hotel.

Major Reuter, the contractor who built the railroad line to Pensacola and drove the spike connecting the two divisions, named the town "Reuterville." It was later named "Whiting" for an early settler, but many called it "Pensacola Junction."¹¹

Dr. James A. Wilkerson who came here from Illinois and practiced medicine here for many years and died of overwork during the yellow fever epidemic in 1898, decided to do something about the name of the town as mail was coining addressed to all the names.

He took the first three letters of Florida,



"Flo," and the last two of Alabama, "ma," and submitted the name "Floma" to the Postal Department. Because of the similarity of the name to "Florala" the Postal Department rejected the name "Floma," but added "ton" to the name and so the name of the town became "Flomaton."

Early records speak of deep mud and narrow streets. In 1917 there were no paved streets except in front of the W.J. Bryan home where Mrs. Hugh Barker now lives and the part of Palafox in front of Teats, Edward's and the Drug Store.

There were only a few stores, the William Townsend store, the Scroggings store, the Drug Store, a barbershop, cafe, and a livery stable. The Post Office was in the back of the Drug Store with Mr. Rufus Abernethy as Postmaster.

There was no Houston Street for a long time, only Railroad, Gary, Ringgold, Church, a path on what is now Wilkinson (which they called Pig-tail Alley), College and Poplar Streets, all leading only a short distance from the main street of Palafox.

All dwellings in the town were badly weather-beaten and showing no evidence of having been painted in years except the W.J. Bryan home, and the Cliff and Harris Vinson homes or Church Street.

There were three churches, the Baptist, the Methodist, and the Catholic, and no school building as school from the fourth

through the seventh grades were taught in the lower floor of the Masonic building which was located next to the old Catholic Church.

I taught the first three grades in a building called the Greasehouse, down back of Dick Fore's home.

In November, 1918, a mass meeting of the people was held in the building used as a school and plans were started to build a school.

A lot where the Elementary School now stands was secured and in September, 1919, a two-story building was opened for use.

It was after then that Miss Lucille Mayo came to Flomaton and began teaching the school year of 1922-1923. She served the community in this capacity for over twenty years.

The school soon outgrew the building and they were teaching in the Klu-Klux Hall, located on Rose Hill at College Street and what is now Ringold Street, and in the Catholic Church and the Baptist Church.

During the Commencement of 1925, the people of Flomaton realized the inadequacy of the old Elementary School building to house both the Elementary and High School pupils.

Fired by this need, a small group of public spirited citizens canvassed the town in an effort to raise sufficient funds with which to build a High School building. Several thousand dollars were raised with the added promises of donated building materials by carload lots, such as cement, brick and lime.

These plans were placed before the County Board of Education. The County Board pledged their aid. A site was secured and plans were submitted to the building committee from which the plans for the

(Continued on page 8)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

A History of Flomaton continued

(Continued from page 7)

present High School were erected.

In 1927, through the influence of Mr. C.J. Meriwether, who was ever loyal to the cause of education, having served as chairman of the local school board for a number of years and on the County Board of Education as well, the County Board of Education took over the financing of the building, securing state aid.

The cornerstone was laid in 1928, and school opened for the first time in the building in September of that year with Mr. John Martin as principal with five teachers in the High School and five in the Elementary School, the principal supervising both schools.

In the summer of 1931, the second story of the Elementary School was torn off and more classrooms were added to the ground floor. Since then a well-equipped cafeteria has been added and more classrooms,

A vocational building was erected and formally opened in January 1938, and a High School Gym in 1962.

Of the churches in the town, the Methodist is the eldest, having been organized in 1870 by Reverend Bob Baker in a little log schoolhouse on Palafox Street about where Victone Cleaners now stands.

This building was used until 1883 when it was moved to the northwest corner of Church and Palafox Street. In 1904, this building was sold and removed to make way for a more commodious building which was destroyed by fire on January 23, 1944.

This lot was sold and the lot on the northeast corner of Church and Palafox Street was purchased where the present Methodist Church was built and formally opened in August 1947.

The First Baptist Church was organized in 1878, and for a long time stood where the L. L. Harper home now stands.

The church needed repairs and more space so it was sold and a new church was erected on the southeast corner of College

and Houston in 1947 with Reverend McCoy Bynum as pastor.

The Catholic Church was organized somewhere around 1913 and was on the lot where Dick Fore's home stands. That building was sold after being damaged by the flood of 1929 and its membership had dropped to approximately eight.

In 1940, a new Catholic Church was built on Houston Street with Father John Morgan as priest.

The Pentecostal Church was organized in a tent in 1929, by Reverend S. D. Page of North Carolina. The present church on

“Clubs and civic organizations have played an important part in the growth of Flomaton.”

Palafox Street was built and formally opened in 1953.

The Christian Church was organized and built in 1945 with Reverend Charles Lucas as the first pastor.

Bethel Baptist Church was organized and built in 1949 with Reverend Cloud as its first pastor.

Clubs and civic organizations have played an important part in the growth of Flomaton. The first federated Club in Flomaton came into being by a series of progressive steps.

In the school year of 1917-18, a Parent-Teacher Association had been organized. Members of the group becoming interested in civic conditions of the town met on February 8, 1928 and formed a Garden Club.

On February 29, 1928, the Garden Club became the Civic Club, enabling its members to branch into other fields of activity. Under the leadership and guidance of this club, new interest and civic pride was cre-

ated resulting in many town improvements.

Landscaping, shrub and flower planting by home owners and the first town clean-up program was begun. Hundreds of cans, bottles, and rubbish were picked up and placed in one huge pile,

The crepe myrtle was adopted as the town flower and many of these beautiful shrubs were planted, as well as the first abelia, azaleas and camellias.

Wishing to grow mentally the members planned a study course and out of this grew the Flomaton Study Club which was organized on November 9, 1928 and was federated the same year. The Club disbanded in 1960.

It was they who named the Elementary playground the "Norma White Playground" for a beloved teacher* While in existence, its members worked with every worthwhile project of the community, helping with the Red Cross, the Blood Program and the March of Dimes, the Cancer Drive and the drives for crippled children.

During the depression of the early 1930's they answered numerous calls for clothing and books for underprivileged children. Many of these requests were made by our school's beloved teacher, Lucille Mayo. In February 1930, the Flomaton Study Club voted to form a Public Library.

This was duly accomplished and Dr. W.L. Abernethy generously donated the use of a building. His sister, Miss Kate Abernethy, was the first librarian. Mrs. James McCurdy, Mrs. C*W* Edwards, and I were members of the Library Committee.

The library functioned for about seven years when it was discontinued and the books were given to the High School Library as they were striving to get enough books to accredit the High School.

There were seven hundred books. The Club continued to function and work in the interest of the community until it was discontinued, working with the cemetery, the school, the hospital and promoting a Junior Club in 1932.

(Continued on page 9)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

A History of Flomaton continued

(Continued from page 8)

In 1956, they gave their first \$100.00 scholarship to the most outstanding High School graduate. This continued for three years. Miss Ida Mae Tedder was the recipient of the first scholarship.

The Lions Club was organized on December 14, 1934. Besides procuring glasses and working with the underprivileged, the Lions Club promotes the Boy Scouts, the local Blood Program, the first City Park near the bridge, and a swimming pool — still a dream of the future.

The Lions later sponsored "Lions' Park" with its recreation facilities.

The Research Club was organized in 1948. It has helped in many fund-raising projects for worthwhile community projects, purchased playground equipment and helped to keep it in repair.

They gave a record player to the Elementary School, placed a backstop on the playground, helped in the erection of a chain-link fence around the Elementary schoolground, helped beautify the Abernethy Hospital grounds and made drapes for the hospital.

Their present project is a Lending Library. This Library was housed in several buildings until the present Public Library was built in Lion's Park*

The Tri-City Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1950, with Carl Jones as president. The purpose of a Chamber of Commerce is to advance the commercial, industrial and civic interest of a community.

The Tri-City Chamber of Commerce promotes the Christmas parade. It has promoted the widening of the bridge over the Escambia River on Highway No. 4, the improvement of Palafox Highway through South Flomaton and on south, helped secure waterworks in South Flomaton, promoted the Radio Station as a means of area advertising, promoted the Cemetery as a community service and promoted the United Fund.

They helped secure the new Post Office, helped on expansion of the city limits, and worked for an overpass since its organization.

In the early years, Flomaton depended largely on the Railroad for support with the few merchants and the outlying farm area adding to the town income.

Today, the oilfields, pulpwood and lumber business, sand and gravel industry, dairy and cattle industry, concrete works of many types, and the Goodwill Manufacturing Company employ a total of 461 employees in the immediate vicinity.

In the outlying area, there are many things that add to the income of the community, among these are garages and service stations, which were unheard of in the early nineteen hundreds.

In that era, there was one dentist, two doctors and one hospital at Century. Now we have two well-equipped hospitals, The Turberville Memorial Hospital opened in 1905 with eight or ten beds. Later, there were twenty more beds added.

A thoroughly modern hospital is now under construction which will have forty beds with plans to add another wing. The Abernethy Hospital opened for service in 1956 with nine beds, later eighteen beds were added, making a total of twenty-seven beds.

A new wing is under construction which will add twelve more beds bringing the total to thirty-nine. This wing will be completed in the early spring of 1970.



Picture of Flomaton in 1919

