



Camp 8—larger picture inside

Volume 35, Number 5

May 2008

## The May Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 2008, 3:15 p. m.

Thomas E. McMillan Museum

### The May Program

The speaker for the May program is Larry White, an Escambia County, Alabama, Commissioner.

A native of Flomaton, Commissioner White owns an insurance agency in Flomaton and is also co-owner, with his brother Ernie White of the local radio station in Flomaton, WPFL, 105.1 FM.

The station, which has undergone several changes of ownership, began broadcasting in the mid-fifties, went off the air in the 80's and



*County Commissioner Larry White making a presentation at a Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.*

was reestablished by Larry and Ernie in 1999.

Larry and Ernie have tried to bring back many of the popular theme songs and programs that were part of the radio station's early history.

The radio audience knows Larry as "White Shoes" when he is serving as the sports announcer for Flomaton High School's 'Canes.

An article on the history of this radio station, a collaboration between Larry White and Jerry Simmons, will appear in the book, A Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook.

This book on Flomaton's history has been compiled by Jerry Simmons, as part of the city's centennial celebration and will be published this summer.

We are reprinting the history of the Flomaton Radio Station on page 7.

#### ECHS Meetings for 2008

June 24	October 38
July 22	November—No Meeting
August 26	December Christmas Party TBA
September 23	

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#### June Program

Olin Tisdale, of Seminole, Alabama is scheduled to be our speaker in June.

#### Dues

Remember to check your records to see if you have paid your membership dues. This is the last newsletter for delinquent members.

## Just briefly....

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The month of May has been rather busy for the Society. Some things have gone on in the background that can be talked about in more detail at this month's meeting. One of the most important is the beginning of the Escambia County Historical Society's Scholarship Assistance fund. We had a donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) to contribute \$500.00.

In order to try to get the program off the ground in time for the fall term, Ann Biggs-Williams, Susan Crawford and I visited with Dr. McBride and Sherry Martin of JDCC a couple of weeks ago. We asked the college to help us put into action our hopes to assist a student following a course of study related to history.

I am happy to report that we were met with quite a positive response. Suggestions were offered by both parties and if the membership approves the move at the next meeting, we will put the program into practice, to begin at the fall term.

In the meantime, should you wish to add your pledge – or your contribution – you may do so at any time. \$500.00 is a small amount in light of today's college tuition and other costs associated with higher education; but it may help encourage a young person to pursue their education. If more contributions are forthcoming, we may even be able to help two or more students.

Whatever happens this year, we certainly encourage you to lend your financial support to this effort and make your pledge to donate on a regular basis so we can

perpetuate the assistance program. There is one more thing: if you think we should name the fund, and if you have a suggestion, make it known to us by or at the meeting on May 27.

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The Society recently added to its library a neat little book, entitled Uncle Ned's Cabin and the Lost Cause, by M.B. Barnes, transcribed by Charles W. Locklin and Doris Tait Locklin. It is a non-fictional biographical account of a portion of the life of Barnes, a south Alabama planter in the mid 19th century. Illustrated with Barnes' original pencil sketches, it tells of days of slavery and time of Reconstruction after the War Between the States from the perspective of one who lived through it. The "Uncle Ned" of the title is Barnes' father's faithful slave.

One of the first pages tells of orator and statesman John Randolph concluding before his death "that he was an ignorant man, and that the more he learned the more he found out he did not know."

Further, Randolph made a distinction between knowledge and wisdom, in that "Knowledge is proud that it knows so much while wisdom is humble that it knows no more." These are statements that cause one to pause when he thinks he knows it all.

Locklin, raised in Monroeville, and his wife, Doris, now live in Montgomery.

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### A Correction for the April Newsletter

Sherry Johnston has sent us this correction about her bio:

"The TWINS in the Sherry Johnston's family are family are the son and the daughter--not the daughters! Katie and Kyle are the twins--they were born in 1983--and now both, as of a week ago, are in Orlando. Claire and Chris Kirby, my daughter and son-in-law, are in Concord, NC."

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### A Query

From: Betty Davis [mailto:davisab2@verizon.net]

I am planning a trip to Alabama in June. I am a descendent of Thomas Wall who founded many churches in Alabama. He raised his nephew Daniel Dozier. Supposedly, Thomas is buried on the old Dozier-Long home place.

I looking for a history on Thomas Wall, the Good Hope Baptist Church, Fort Crawford, as well as the location of the old home place.

# Minutes of the April Meeting

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ECHS President Jerry Simmons welcomed members and guests and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Old Business:

- The Minutes from the March meeting were approved as printed in the March Newsletter.
- Susan Crawford gave the Treasurer's Report, which was also approved.
- Ranella Merritt, chair of the Book/Library Committee, announced that Susan Crawford, Jacqueline Stone, and Ann Biggs-Williams have agreed to serve on the Committee. The committee, appointed to form policies for loaning books from the Alabama Room collection, will meet before the April meeting and will give a report on progress at that time.

## New Business:

- Proposed Amendments to the ECHS By-laws will be voted on at the May meeting. (A copy of the proposed modified amendments was published in the April Newsletter and also appears in this Newsletter.)

Jerry Simmons has asked Paul Merritt to examine the By-laws and make suggestions for any further amendments or changes that should be considered. Darryl Searcy will work with Paul.

## Announcements:

- Open House at McGee Farms - Ann Biggs-Williams called attention to an open house which was held on Sunday, April 27 at McGee Farms. The house is the location of the last surrender and signing of peace terms for ending the Civil War. The original house and furniture with an excellent small museum are open to the public and well worth a visit. For more information, check the website for McGee Farm.
- The Alabama Tourism Committee is planning a brochure on The Small Towns of Alabama. The committee is asking for suggestions of places to list and photograph.
- Pictures for the new book on the History of Brewton - Tom McMillan is asking for pictures of Brewton's past. Anyone with pictures can bring them to the Alabama Room to be scanned.

- Larry White, Escambia County, Alabama, Commissioner will present the program for the May meeting.

## The April Program:

ECHS member Sherry Johnston, president of the Alabama Cemetery Alliance, spoke of her interest in preserving cemeteries by recording and registering them with the alliance.

Lee Anne Wofford of the Alabama Historical Commission also spoke on the importance of cemeteries for their genealogical, historical, and cultural information. Her presentation also included pictures of the variety of cemetery art in Alabama cemeteries

For anyone interested in registering a cemetery with the Alabama Historical Commission, Dorothy Walker in the Commission Office is the person to contact. The cost of State Historic Markers starts at \$375.

Jerry Simmons presented the two speakers with certificates of appreciation and gift memberships in ECHS.

Tom McMillan was the host who provided refreshments for members and guests in the Alabama Room following the program.

## News of Members:

Doris Bruner, trustee, is now in section A of the Brewton Nursing Home, where she is receiving care after breaking her hip. [Note: Doris is back home as of this printing]

Morris Stone is also at the Nursing Home. He suffered a heart attack.

Alan Robinson is now back at the Brewton Airport.

## Visitors at the Meeting:

Lee Anne Wofford, Phyllis Armstrong, Barbara McCoy, Shannon Hall Jones, Milton Sullivan, and Ted Urquhart.

# Proposed Amendments

*By ECHS President Jerry Simmons*

In order for our 501(c)(3) status to be fully effective and in order to comply with many politically correct issues, we found that we need to have an official policy toward non-discrimination, as I mentioned in the March meeting.

When we started looking more closely at the bylaws, we also found where we have not been following them to the T in quite some time. The bylaws clearly state that before one becomes a member, the membership must vote to approve the prospect.

We don't want to disenfranchise anyone, so we are proposing one amendment to the bylaws that covers the two issues above.

This is the change proposed:

“ARTICLE IV, Section 1: Membership in this organization shall be granted to any individual who expresses a desire to belong, along with the tendering of the annual dues in effect. In accepting any individual as a member of this Society, this organization warrants that it does not advocate, support, or practice unlawful membership discrimination based on age, marital status, ethnicity, gender, national origin, disability, race, size, religion, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic background.”

The officers and Trustees of the Escambia County Historical Society deeply apologizes that this ambiguous statement has been allowed to slip past us. It is our sincere hope that the valued membership of this Society will see the need for adjusting the bylaws and will support our decision to amend ARTICLE IV, Section 1, at the May 2008 general meeting of voting members.

## **ARTICLE XIV IS PROPOSED TO BE ADDED:**

From time-to-time the elected officers to this Society have found themselves in situations that require interpre-

tations above and beyond the current bylaws as written. When those situations arose, it was prudent for the President to refer to recognized publications that cite the rules governing parliamentary procedures. For the most part, that publication has been Robert's Rules of Order.

The 10th edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, RONR (10th ed), p. 56930-35, not only suggests, but strongly recommends the cited 10th edition be incorporated in all bylaws as follows: "The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society (or business) in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt."

In short, this Society proposes to incorporate Robert's Rules of Order as the basis on which this Society decides for itself the meaning of its bylaws, and ensuring that no interpretation will be made until all provisions of Robert's Rules of Order have been met and tested. The 10th edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, RONR (10th ed), p. 569 30-35, not only suggests, but strongly recommends the cited 10th edition be incorporated in all bylaws.

Therefore, we propose that an new article be inserted in the Escambia County Historical Society bylaws as follows:

“ARTICLE XIV, Section 1: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.”

There are some other areas in the bylaws in which we are going to look at as well. Paul Merritt is to serve as chairman of the committee charged with looking into bringing the bylaws up to date.

## **Alabama History Notes**

**May 1, 1961:** Harper Lee of Monroeville wins the Pulitzer Prize for *To Kill A Mockingbird*, her first, and only, novel. The gripping tale set in 1930s Alabama became an international bestseller and was made into a major Hollywood motion picture starring Gregory Peck.

**May 21, 1861:** The Confederate Congress meets for the last time in Montgomery. Montgomery served as capital for just three months, from February to May 1861. After Virginia joined the Confederacy in April 1861, leaders urged the move to the larger



# The Alabama Historical Association Meeting at “The Shoals”

*ECHS member Kathryn Wilkinson has sent us a report on the sixty-first annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association which was held April 17-19 in “The Shoals.”*

*The Shoals area of Northwest Alabama includes the cities of Florence, Muscle Shoals, Tuscumbia, and Sheffield as well as Colbert and Lauderdale Counties.*

*Pictures on this page are from the website for the Shoals area highlighting some of the scenic and historical attractions in the area.*



*The Rosenbaum Home Museum in Florence is the only Frank Lloyd Wright-designed structure in Alabama. Built in 1939 for newly-weds Stanley and Mildred Rosenbaum, Wright also designed the addition which was added in.*

*The home, which had been occupied by the Rosenbaum family since its construction, was bought by the city of Florence in 1999, restored to its original state, and opened to the public as a house-museum.*

*Built in the Usonian design, the name stands for the United States of America, Wright designed these houses for the middle-class American family. Affordable and designed so that additions could be incorporated in the design as a family grew, the house has been called “an American Architectural Treasure.”*

*It is the only Wright designed home open to the public in the southeast.*



*Ivy Green, the home of Helen Keller, located in Tuscumbia.*

*Florence, Alabama is the home of W. C. Handy, known as the Father of the Blues. The home is now a museum.*



*The O'Neal Bridge over the Tennessee River near Florence, Alabama. Built in 1939, this bridge, with steel decks and steel trusses underneath the decking, is still in use.*

*Many of Alabama's steel-truss bridges have been replaced or neglected. In 2007, the Alabama Historical Commission placed the steel-truss bridges of the state on the Places in Peril lists.*

*This four-lane bridge has the same steel deck and truss design as one in Minnesota which unfortunately collapsed, and, according to an article in the Birmingham News, as of January 16, 2008, engineers were checking the O'Neal bridge and two others in the state for safety issues.*

## Kathryn's Report

“The sixty-first annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association was held April 17-19 in “The Shoals.”

“The headquarters hotel was in Sheffield, our sessions were in Florence and our tour was of Tuscumbia so we managed to see something of each area.

“This section of the state was settled about 1817-19. It appears the land was very fertile and grew cotton extremely well. Within a very few years the settlers were very wealthy and building large, beautiful homes, some of which we saw on our tour.

“**Brewton received prominent recognition** when Anne Feathers (this year's president of the Alabama Historical Association), told how the people from Brewton took the county records from Pollard in the dead of night, thereby switching the county seat. This was followed by the dumping of many cats in Brewton by perhaps the

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people of Pollard. It is said that since that time there has never been a shortage of cats in Brewton.

“Among the sessions was one on the **Athenaeum in Eufaula** which houses the collection of A. S. Williams II. **The collection specializes in the American presidency, the Civil War, Alabama and Southern history, and the literature of the South.** It contains a large map collection with emphasis on Alabama and the Civil War. The Southern Indian and Black experience in Alabama are well represented.

“There are many first editions. One of the most notable is a copy of the **first book published in Alabama, Henry Hitchcock’s Alabama Justice of the Peace (Cahawba, 1822).**

“The ultimate goal of this private collection is the promotion of scholarship in these areas.

“**The most memorable of the sessions was “The Stones Talk: Returning from the Trail of Tears by George Makowski and Zack Stanfield,** professors at the University of North Alabama.

**“He remembered his grandmother saying that the only thing that endured were stones.”**

1845 someone named Edwards wrote a journal of the trip for her.

“Mr. Hendrix wanted something to remind people of the Indians’ dreadful journey to Oklahoma and the courage of the young Indian girl who endured great hardships to return to Alabama. He remembered his grandmother saying that the only thing that endured were stones. He has therefore built a stone wall in memory of the journey to Oklahoma and the return.”

**The Historical Association President for the coming year will be Kenneth Noe of Auburn University.**

### **Upcoming Events for The AHA**

• **Fall Pilgrimage—October 18 in West Jefferson County/Tannehill. The Tannehill Historical Park is located near McCalla, Alabama, off Interstate Highway 20/59 east of Tuscaloosa.**

• **The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Association will be on April 23-25 in Tuscaloosa.**

**“Attending these conferences is a very pleasant way to become better acquainted with all sections of Alabama.”**

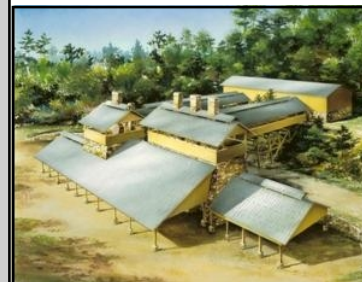
*Kathryn Wilkinson*

“**They discussed the removal of the Indians in 1838-39 from north Alabama.** The Indians were placed on boats at Waterloo, a town on the Tennessee River in the extreme northwest corner of the state. They were tagged with shiny buttons and sent on their way to Oklahoma.

“**Then Tom Hendrix, a Euchee Indian [a tribe of Native Americans who previously lived in the eastern Tennessee River valley, northern Georgia, and northern Alabama], told the story of one of his ancestors who walked back to Alabama from Oklahoma.** The girl was about then about thirteen when she started. It took her from three to five years to make the journey. In

The illustration at right by Anita Rice is from the website for Tannehill State Park and shows the ironworks at peak production in 1865.

Beginning with the construction of a forge, operational in 1830, the ironworks were built between 1859 and 1963, and destroyed by a union army raid in 1865.



### **Coon Dog Cemetery**

One last attraction for “The Shoals” area which should not overlooked is the unique Key Underwood Coon Dog Cemetery. Mr. Underwood buried his dog “Troop” here in 1937 and now there are some 185 dogs buried here with unique headstones and epithets.

Located in an area called “Freedom Hills,” off of Alabama HWY 247, near the Natchez Trace.

### **A Call for Papers**

The Association is “inviting” proposals for individual papers to be given at the 2009 meeting.

**Proposals will be accepted until October 1, 2008.**

**A flyer with details for submitting proposals is in the Alabama Room.**

# History of the Radio Station in Flomaton

By Larry White and Jerry Simmons

As the bustling little timber, railroad and farming communities continued to thrive in the mid-fifties, members of the Tri-City Chamber of Commerce decided that the time had come for a local radio station. Carl Jones Sr., President of the Escambia County Bank, initiated the efforts and solicited businessmen and leaders to partner in the new media of the airways. L. D. Weaver, Bill Kline, Ernest Jackson, and Ben Haskew were the original owners of Tri-City Broadcasting Company.

The group applied for and received a license from the FCC to operate a 250 watt AM Radio Station from “dawn til dusk” at the 990 kHz frequency. Property was purchased and a building was built on Highway 31 South and WTCB took to the airways in early 1956. The call letters officially stood for “Tri-City Broadcasting” but to some it stood for “Where Tri-Cities Begin”.

Hoyt Bonds was the original Engineer for the station. Mr. Bonds was responsible for the application for license, building the tower, installing the broadcasting equipment, regular operating maintenance and just keeping the station on the air. He even served as a DJ from 4:00 P.M. until sign-off. Hours of operation naturally varied with the seasons.

After a couple of years at 250 watts of power Bonds applied for an increase to 500 watts which was approved. The station operated at that power until it was sold in the 70's.

Ben Haskew was the first General Manager of the station. Some of the early on-air personalities were: Paul Woods, known as “Poppin-off Paul;” Bill Sky, known as “Po ole Bill Sky;” Bill Dykes, DJ and sales; Bill Van Merkestyn, known as “Bill Van, the Sports Man;” and Robert Atkins who called himself “Rockin Robert.”

The station played a variety of music: country, pop, and gospel. It carried a number of religious programs including live Sunday morning singing and preaching from the studio.

The early music library consisted of thousands of 33 and 45 RPM vinyl records. Local news was complemented by national news received by teletype. Live services from the Flomaton First Baptist Church began in the late 50s and continued until the mid-70s when the station sold.

Paul Woods had begun his radio work at WATM in Atmore in the early 50s and came to WTCB in 1955. “Poppin-off Paul’s Platter Party” was enjoyed by everyone. Woods was also a favorite on “Phone-Ads of the Air” which aired every day at noon.

This live call-in show gave an opportunity for anyone with a

**"IT'S" BACK**  
BY UNPOPULAR DEMAND

**RADIO'S LOUDEST MOUTH  
POPPIN' OFF PAUL**  
ON  
**Paul's Platter Party**  
2:00 P. M. TO 4:30 P. M. DAILY  
**WTCB**  
"Your Newly - Musical Station"

Ad in The Flomaton Journal  
circa 1956

phone to advertise anything they might want to buy, sell, trade or giveaway. Folks enjoyed the opportunity to be on live radio.

Woods' rock 'n roll program was advertised in the Flomaton Journal in January, 1956. Woods became Station Manager in the mid-sixties and continued as Manager and DJ until the station sold.

His on-air foolishness made him a favorite of many of the older ladies. He would “cut-up” with them on the call-in shows and they loved it. Woods did afternoon shows remotely from local businesses such as Stanton's in Century. He and his wife Janie also owned and operated the Escambia Drive-in Theatre on Highway 4 in Century.

“Po Ole Bill Sky” was one of the early DJs. Many recall his morning shows of news sports and weather which included his morning coffee sipping on the air. Bill stayed with the station until the mid-sixties.

Bill Van the Sports Man covered local sporting events. He was the originator of “Pigskin Preview,” a Friday afternoon show which covered the football news of all the local teams. The Blackcat, Hurricane, Royal, and Eagle fans eagerly gathered around the radio to hear Bill's views and prognostications.

His other DJ activities also included shows where he used his ability to change his voice to be “Big Mo” and “Corn Pone.” Some were convinced that there were three people on the show. Van Merkestyn was a special guest several times on WPFL's revival of the “Pigskin Preview” show in the late 90's.

Bill Dykes, brother-in-law to Hoyt Bonds, worked on the board but his main duty was advertising sales. Dykes was with the station until it sold in the early 70's.

Many may remember that Bill's second job was throwing newspapers. Until 1965 he was the “paper man” for the Mobile Press-Register, the Pensacola News-Journal, the Montgomery Advertiser, and the Birmingham Post-Herald. He turned those duties over to Larry White and William and Tommy Neal in 1965.

Over the years the Radio Station served as a part-time employment for many young DJs. Carl Jones, Jr., Bill Jordan, John Neil Rouse, Joffrey Tullis, Earnie White, Reggie Ptomey, Bill Cameron, Johnny, Kenny and Mickey Folsom, “BeBop” Billy Cox, Neal and Anderson Collier, Joe Shivers, Randy Rose and many others served as board DJs cutting commercials, spinning records, and giving the news, sports and weather.

Another favorite personality was Mrs. Mary Beth White who would call in the Pollard News. Mrs. White would give the local

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## History of Flomaton's Radio Station (Continued)

(Continued from page 7)

church and social events including birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, servicemen, and ladies circle news. Perhaps the highlight of her on-air segment was the daily singing of "Happy Birthday" to all those on her birthday calendar. Mrs. White truly added the local and rural touch to the radio programming.

The "Dawn til Dust" limitations were ignored one night in the 1960s when a hurricane approached the area from across the state of Florida. Not until the storm reversed its course just west of Tallahassee at about 10 or 11 p.m. did the station go off the air.

The restriction kept WTCB from covering live football games. However, sports coverage did include "Pigskin Preview" and live coverage of afternoon baseball. Many Little League games from Century were broadcast as well as countless high school baseball games.

Earnie White and Bill Dykes covered the Flomaton Hurricanes' State Baseball Championship in 1972. Gary Downs and Earnie White covered the Century Blackcat state baseball championship in 1974. Earnie, Joffrey, Larry White, and Danny White continued the "Pigskin Preview" show every Friday for several years. Earnie, Larry, and Joffrey taped the Friday night football games which were re-played on Saturday mornings. This continued through the next two ownership changes.

In 1972 WTCB Radio was sold to Vogel Communications which owned several radio stations. Bill Vogel hired Gary Downs as Manager and John Randall Johnston as Assistant Manager. Johnston became manager a year later after Downs departed to another station and Earnie White became Assistant Manager. Johnston was later transferred to another Vogel station and Joffrey Tullis was promoted to manager. Earnie White worked at the station while attending college and was with the station from 1972-1977 when he left for Tuscaloosa and Law School.

In January 1977, the radio station building was destroyed by fire. The library of twenty years of accumulated country, pop, and gospel music was lost forever. Included in that library was a complete inventory of original Elvis hits. However, Johnston and White managed to get the station back on the air in just four days. A small travel trailer served as the studio until the new building could be built. None of the original equipment survived the fire.

In the early 80's Vogel sold the station to Ernie Ashworth, a country music star most noted for his hit record "Talk back trembling lips." Ashworth naturally held to a country music format. He

changed the call letters to WPIK for "Pik of the Country." Many will remember Ashworth's suits embroidered with numerous sets of lips. Ann Godwin Barrow served as Manager along with Ashworth himself.

After a couple of years Attorney Charles Godwin of Atmore purchased the station. His wife Linda served as manager with Shirley Allen as a key employee. The Godwins changed the music format to Gospel.

A few years later Godwin sold the station to Jerry Ray Spencer.

Spencer had been a radio personality in Pensacola for many years and was well experienced in the radio business.

After operating the same 990 AM frequency for a couple of years, Spencer applied for and was granted an FM license for Century, Florida to operate a 25,000 watt FM station at the frequency of 105.1 MHz. Call letters assigned were WRBK. Spencer simulcast both the AM and FM frequency from the Highway 31 location.

The AM tower remained at the station and the FM tower was located at McDavid, Florida. Spencer made a business decision to sell the AM frequency to a group in Pensacola.

The frequency was changed to 1090 and moved to Pensacola where it continues to broadcast today. Spencer took on partners in Pensacola and moved the FM frequency to Pensacola and changed the call letters to WPFL for Pensacola, Florida. The intent was to take advantage of the market area in the North Pensacola area from a Nine-Mile Road studio.

A well-known radio personality in the Pensacola area, Gordon Towne, was one of the partners. Shortly after moving the radio station to Pensacola, Jerry Ray Spencer suffered a fatal heart attack. Jerry Ray, as he was known, was well received in the Tri-City area and many local citizens mourned his passing.

For a few years the Tri-City area was without a local radio station.

After Spencer died, the FM station did not survive in the Pensacola market area. The owners sold the FM station to Dayton Communications of Georgia. Dan Dayton, who was also involved in a Georgia TV station, operated the radio station from a studio in Century with the assistance of Terri Sanders.

After the loss of the local radio station, Earnie and Larry White continued to cover Flomaton Football.

From 1985 through 1999, the duo broadcast Flomaton football games on WKNU in Brewton and then WKGK in Atmore. In

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A look at the "board" in the original WTCB studio, and a very young Bill Jordan, who went on to be a regular with WKRG-TV in Mobile. Bill graduated from FHS in 1960



# History of Flomaton's Radio Station (Continued)

1999, WKGT sold to a firm in Bay Minette. Without a radio station on which to continue their sports coverage, the Whites began searching for another opportunity. Through Terri Sanders they learned that the old 105.1 frequency was for sale. The Whites entered into a Lease-Management Agreement (LMA) with Dayton Communications to operate the Radio Station.

The studio was established in a mobile home on Old Fannie Road and WPFL 105.1 FM was again on the air. In May, 2001, Tri-County Broadcasting, Inc., locally owned by Earnie and Larry White, purchased the frequency and equipment from Dayton Communications.

Tri-County Broadcasting, Inc. built a new 500' tower in the Pineview Community in 2003 and moved the transmitter from the McDavid tower. The coverage area and signal was enhanced significantly by the new tower. In November 2007, the former radio station property at 20630 Highway 31 South in Flomaton was purchased and the building was remodeled. New broadcast equipment was purchased and the move to the new studio was completed in February, 2008.

The local radio station that had begun in 1956 on "radio ridge"

in Flomaton has returned to its original location. The Whites continue to attempt to bring back many of the original and nostalgic characteristics of the station they remember when they were growing up. Ronnie Hammond currently serves as the General Manager.

Although the primary music format of "Oldies" and news are provided by ABC Satellite Network, the station still thrives on its local programming. "Phone Ads of the Air" still enjoys a large listening audience. "Pigskin Preview," the Friday Night Scoreboard Show, high school football, baseball, basketball and softball along with Auburn football and basketball make WPFL a leader in sports coverage.

Sunday Morning Gospel Shows with Ronnie Hammond and Solomon Odom, live Worship Services from local Churches, as well as other taped Gospel messages and recorded music make spiritual programming a major part of the station format. Local weather, special remote broadcasting, and feedback shows add to the local agenda. WPFL, 105.1 FM, continues to be a popular spot on the radio dial for the local listener. §

## A Cemetery is Found

Keith Wasdin has sent this note:

On a tip from a cousin I have located what appears to be a forgotten cemetery in the area near Jack Springs. There are only three grave markers.

I am not sure if this cemetery has been recorded but I thought it worth noting to you. It is located near the intersection of Taylor Road and Booneville Road. It is approximately 100 feet south and east of the intersection.

It is located very close to the property line, so I can't tell whose property it is on. I think it is on timber company land. I will forward a site map. I do not have pictures but will get them on my next trip.

The graves are as follows: Orgine Boon March 20, 1826 to Mar 3, 1902; Mrs. N.L. Godwin Feb 24, 1877 to Mar 31, 1912.

An infant whose head stone gave no name was broken by has listed the dates, April 10, 1907 to Feb 28, 1908.

There could be other graves that are just not marked.

Mr. Boon was the son of James Jarvis Boon, Sr. the original settler of the area. Booneville is named after him.

Orgine Boon (Origin or Origine) was born in that area of what was then Baldwin Co. in 1826 and had a twin named Cyrus. He served in the 23rd Alabama during the Civil War.

The Boon family has some connection to the Creeks but I don't think he was Indian. It also appears that his maternal grandfather may have been killed at Fort Mims. This man comes from one of the oldest Alabama families. He was the father-in law to one of the Steadhams. He is said to be buried in the Steadham Chapel Cemetery but that is not correct.

Nancy L. Godwin appears to have Boon's daughter but I don't have very much on her.

I wanted to let you know about it. It is very neglected and sad.



**(Left) Damascus school, 1937**  
*(Escambia County School Board Collection)*

## Our Business Members

Please patronize our new business members. Be sure to tell them you appreciate their support of the Escambia County Historical Society!

**DIXON'S NURSERY**  
**Nursery—Landscaping—Irrigation**  
 323 Dixon Nursery Road  
 Brewton, Alabama 36426  
 Phone (251) 867-5847


*Maye's*  
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*(Continued on page)*

## A Writer's Reception

*ECCHS Member Sherry Johnston sent us this request:*

I am trying to set up a "Writer's Reception" in July at Yours Truly Designs. I want to invite local writers to come into the shop, share their works with the general public, have some light refreshments.

I am looking for local poets, fiction or non-fictional writers, anyone who has professed an interest in writing, been published or non-published, who would like to "show off" or just be featured. Yours Truly Designs is supposed to be all about things we do best--whether it's creating something with your hands, your mind, your heart and soul.

Please join me in this event. It would possibly be

an early evening event during the week, after regular working hours here at the library, such as a Monday or Thursday, Tuesday, etc Let me know what you think, and also suggestions of others who might be interested.

I'd like to include some of the young people who have professed an interest in writing at the various schools in the area, so will need to get that info out to those in the education field. It's harder to include the kids in the summertime, but think a lot will be around simply because it's too costly to travel much right now, with rising fuel costs.

Families are having to learn to stay at home, enjoy activities and events closer to home. Thanks and looking forward to hearing from you.

## Our Business Members (continued)



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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Alger's Camp 8 and the Reserve Pastures

By Darryl N. Searcy

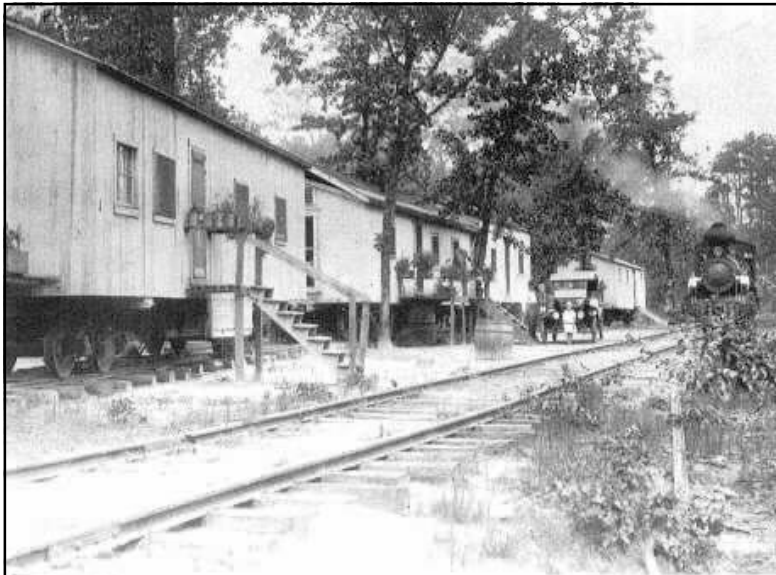
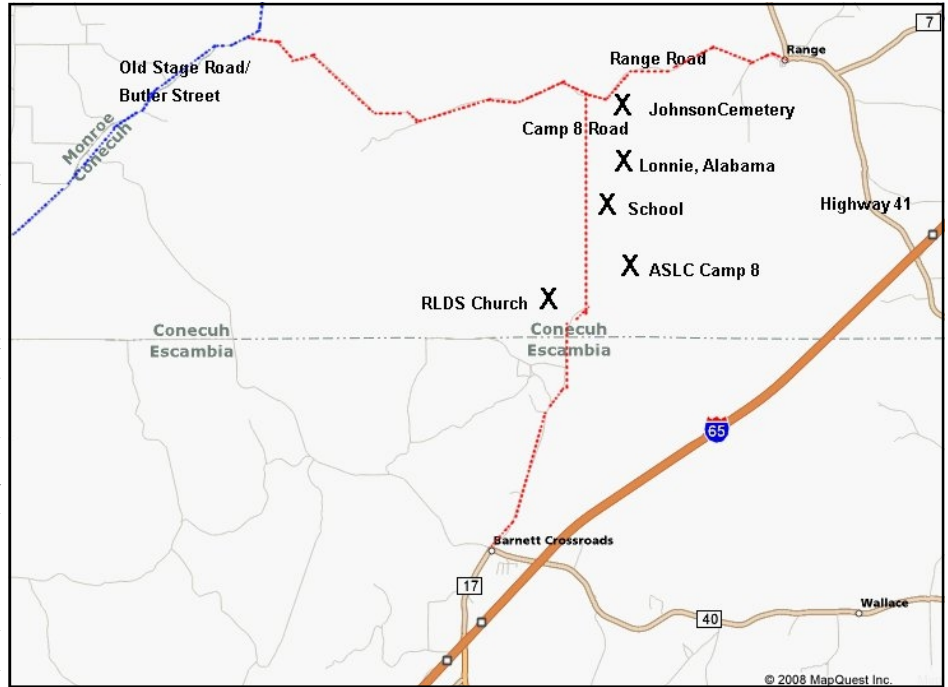
(Photos courtesy Jerry Fischer and the Alger-Sullivan Historical Society)

Quite often one must speak of the people involved before a genuine account of an event or place can be discussed. Such is the case when writing about the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company Camp 8 and its sub-camps, Alger's Reserve Pasture and the Huxford Camp.

So vast and modern was the operation that men and women established homes and raised families within it. Schools and churches were built, and thriving communities sprang up on the fringes. One sub-camp was located inside the Alger Reserve Pasture in Conecuh County and the other was located near the community of Huxford in Escambia County. Camp 8, home of the main logging operation, was located a couple of miles south of the Reserve Pasture at the Escambia and Conecuh county lines on Camp 8 Road (now known as John Bland Road).

Alger's Reserve Pasture and the Huxford Camp are, in fact, large tracts of land that span several sections in the southwestern part of Conecuh, Escambia, and Monroe counties, near the townships of Range, Repton, Huxford/Uria and Butler Street, and the community of Barnett Crossroads. The overall working acreage touched or encompassed some 30 sections, or [over] 100,000 acres. Some say the land was more far-reaching, while others say it was less, but the fact remains that the Alger-Sullivan Company alone owned at least 25,000 acres [in that area] and had access to numerous unnamed tributaries, wetlands and flood plains that fed into the Big Escambia Creek to the west and Bushy/Burnt Corn creeks to the east.

So much land and timber was involved that [it's said] little or no attention was paid should encroachment on Alabama or Federal lands occur,



ASLC Camp 8 scene

but for the most part, it was the job of surveyor Walker Pruett to keep the operation within company boundaries. To the north the land was bordered by Federal Highway 84, hard clay roads to the south, State Highway 41 to the east and Big Escambia Creek swamps and the Old Federal Road to the west, and bordering on lands owned by the Alabama Department of Corrections, known then simply as the Alabama State Farm, but known today as Holman Prison.

Although vast in size, there was room for small private farms inside the Reserve Pasture. Whether or not these "pea patch" farms were legitimate claims or squatters nesting on cleared lands is not known. What is known is that to the east of Big Escambia Creek was a large farm owned by Abner (Ab) Tolar. Accounts are repeated today that Mr. Tolar played an important role in supplying homemade libation to any worker who

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Camp 8 and the Reserve Pastures

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felt the need to take the edge off a hard day's work.

Along the Conecuh/Escambia County line was Camp 8. Camp 8 had a commissary, as well as a dentist and a medical doctor, [both coming] from the Century mill operation on a weekly basis. There was a school located between Camp 8 and the Reserved Pasture for white students only and known as the Long School. Although the Long School was located inside Conecuh County, it was closed in 1929 and the children were bussed to the new Wallace School in Escambia County..

Marbel Crutchfield Bland tells that the Long School was established on land deeded to the State of Alabama by one Bud Long. Mrs. Bland is in possession of the original deed that was presented to her father when he purchased the land from the state. The deed clearly shows that the Long School was situated on the two-acre tract along the old Camp 8 Road. More recently, under the rules set out by the 9-1-1 Emergency Management System, Camp 8 Road was renamed John Bland Road.

Just inside Conecuh County on the old Camp 8 Road, a church was established by the Reformed Latter Day Saints. Only occasional worship services were held in the building when a Prophet of the faith was able to make the trip to south Alabama. When the church was disbanded by the Latter Day Saints, the land was sold to Frank Hobbs, himself a minister of the Free Will Baptist faith. The sizeable parcel of land on which an old homestead and the church was located was transferred to James Smith in 1970. The barn-like structure that was the original church has been refinished with log-like vinyl siding and is used as a hay barn and shelter for a handsome pair of gray-colored mules.

The vast size of the Camp 8 operation naturally attracted other industry and homesteads to be established on its fringes. One such operation was a small general store and sawmill owned by Solomon Monroe Long. The Long property was situated on the northeast perimeter of the Alger Camp, between parcels that are now owned by Rayonier Forestry and John Bland.

Mr. Long's granddaughter, Frankie Long Gaupp, tells the amusing story that her grandfather minted a kind of script with which he paid his laborers. The coins could be redeemed only at the Long General Store. The enterprise became quite successful and the community that sprang up around it became known as Lonnie. A U. S. Post office was established there. By 1920 Lonnie had vanished into

distant memory, but Mrs. Gaupp's parents had the foresight to save a few of the coins as a reminder that a forgotten community once thrived on the edge of the Alger operation.

Although the entire Alger-Sullivan operation, and people who lived in or around the associated destinations, were inside Conecuh County, the occasional U. S. Mail Service deliveries were made from Brewton designated as Route 4, Brewton, Alabama.

Alger's Reserve Pasture and the Huxford Camp were dense forests of longleaf pine and hardwood. At the center of each operation was a small community nestled among stands of live oak and white cedar trees. Each camp site was situated at the edge of a creek and its wetlands. The sub-camp in the Reserve Pasture was situated on what we know today as Break Neck Creek.



**December 1935 ASLC logging camp  
(at left above)**

The myriad of pristine creeks that were spring fed provided ample fresh water for men and animals alike. Large crude box-like structures [similar to railroad boxcars] housed the workers. Rail fences corralled the mules, goats, cows and pigs, and there were small plots set aside for vegetable gardens that the men tended after the evening meal. Ordinary supplies for the Reserve Pasture and the Huxford Camp were brought from the Camp 8 commissary..

These were hard times, of course, requiring hard men to do the job of cutting, stripping, skidding, floating, and loading rail cars that moved the timber from the Reserve Pasture and the Huxford Camp to the giant sawmill at Century, Florida.

Alton Bell says there were no fat men at Alger's Camp 8 because there wasn't time to put it on. They worked hard, ate hearty, slept sound and kept trim. There was no time for argument among them, but somehow there was time to compete in pitching horseshoes, or to play a game of poker and drink rot-gut whiskey. If anyone could manage to spare a few dollars for a battery-powered radio, they all gathered around to listen as Joe Lewis defended his long-standing title, or to hear country and gospel music.

There was a railroad that operated along the Big Escambia Creek that was known as the Escambia Railroad (sometimes referred to as the "Alger Railroad."). To the east was the Alabama Railroad lines on which the Pensacola & Selma Railroad operated, but the two rail lines did not form a joint service to Camp 8. Over later years, the Alabama Railroad, Pensacola & Selma, the Manistee & Repton and L & N did carry by-products like turpentine and pitch-pine stumps

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Camp 8 and the Reserve Pastures

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from the reserved pasture. The turpentine went to the Huxford Turpentine Mills located between Wallace and Brewton, or the Kelly Turpentine Still at Wallace. The pitch-pine stumps went to mills located along the Conecuh River in Florida.

The rail line lay along the western side of Big Escambia Creek on fairly high ground. The creek is well known to overflow its banks in the rainy season and the Alger operation couldn't afford to have annual floods halt its important work in Century. Feeder lines networked inside the Huxford and the Reserve Pasture, making it possible for the train to pick up and drop off specially designed logging flatcars wherever needed.

At Moyeville, north of Flomaton and Atmore, the first trestle was erected that spanned a tributary stream. The line continued to run as straight as an arrow along the western side of Big Escambia to a place called Bell Eddy where it crossed the creek and made entry into the Reserve Pasture.

More low-water trestles were erected inside the Reserve so the train could switch from one spur line to another to make up a load. Such a layout allowed the train to work its way around the logging site in a large loop so a turn house was not needed to head the engine back towards its final destination. The bridge crews were kept busy day and night repairing, laying rails and building trestles to the logging sites, or removing rails here to be placed there in another spur line.

The train cars were loaded in daylight hours and pulled to the sawmill at night. The cars were off-loaded into a holding pond, where the logs floated until ready for cutting. Floating the logs prevented them from being attacked by bore worms and termites.

While the rail cars were being off-loaded, the engineer and fireman gathered wood, supplies and water for the return trip to Conecuh

County. For both loaded and light haul, the rail line avoided as many hills and valleys as possible, as the engine was not powerful enough to pull heavy loads up steep grades.



**ASLC Engine # 2 ca 1912**

*Zadnichek Collection*

One train engineer was Burton Fields, who began his railroad career as a water boy. Burton and his wife, Ruby, lived at Camp 8 until their first child was born. In time three children were born to them; Molly, Mattie, and Tommy. When Molly was an infant, Burton moved his wife and baby to the Barnett Crossroads, where she would be near her mother while he stayed at the Huxford Camp work

site. To get home on weekends, he walked several miles through the Big Escambia swamps, and made the return trek early Monday morning.

Burton and Ruby's daughter, Molly, is married to Dr. Billy Whittle of Brewton. Their son, Tommy, was a former road commissioner and chairman of the Escambia County Commissioners. He also served as a special assistant to Gov. Fob James in Montgomery. The younger daughter, Mattie, lives in Tallahassee, Florida.

Burton was a slightly built man, but a cautious man as well, a man of keen wit and ready laughter. He loved a good joke and was quick to pull a prank on his fellow workers. Sometimes a friendly prank got out of hand, but those who knew him say that he was an affable man who never bore a grudge and was never late to work. He

set his railroad watch and kept a strict rule to be on time. No doubt, he got scant few hours of rest, as his work required long hours of tense attention to guide the train through its paces.

An amusing story is told that Burton loved to chew on green twigs as he kept the old steam locomotives on the rails. When the old engine reached an oxbow turn near Sardine, he brought it almost to a stop in a thick forest



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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Camp 8 and the Reserve Pastures

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of black gum and tupelo trees. It was his pleasure to reach out and snap a couple of small twigs. Offering the fireman a twig as well, the two men chewed the sweet fibers to help them stay focused while looking far into the darkness to be sure the rails were clear.

Men who knew him say that Burton had itchy feet. When the camp fires were glowing and there was a fiddle or banjo making music, Burton would spring to his feet and yell, “look out now cause I’m gonna dance a little for you boys.” When Arnie and Ouida Grissett had a new baby boy, Burton came to their house to see the baby. He asked Mrs. Grissett if she would hold the baby up so it could watch him dance a little jig. Burton danced and the baby, though an infant not yet crawling, did smile and laugh..

Mr. Burton loved it when youngsters gathered at his feet to listen to tall tales that only he could tell in ways that were always full of laughter. Johnny Grissett repeats a story that Burton told about himself and his partner. The men had some rest time in Century while their train was being made ready for the return trip to Camp 8. They decided to visit a local café to kill the time. There was a fancy cake on the counter and Burton asked the price for a slice of it. At another table sat a few men of the bridge crew. The bridge crew was quick to brag that they made more money than the train men, so one of the men made a comment that there was no need to ask the price as the train men couldn’t afford cake like that.

Mr. Burton didn’t take too kindly to the comment so he offered to buy the whole cake. The waitress gave it to him, whereupon he promptly walked to the door and held the cake in outstretched arms and dropped it. When it came down he kicked it like a football onto the enclosed yard area. Then he yelled over his shoulder that if the bridge crew men got on all fours and acted like pigs they could have some cake too.

Johnny says Mr. Burton laughed and laughed as he told the story. He said that the yard had an old rotting rail fence around it. One of the men grabbed a piece of the wood and began beating Burton about the head with it, wood bits going everywhere. The biggest belly laugh came when he said his wife spent over two hours picking splinters out of his scalp..

It was not unusual to come eyeball-to-eyeball with a large wild boar taking a nap or grazing on acorns that had fallen between the crossties. The train engineer always carried a pistol or shotgun, as

such an encounter was welcomed. It meant meat at the camp and fresh meat at home. Burton enjoyed his nightly travels and often told tails of encounters with large and small stubborn animals that refused to give way to his engine. There has always been much talk of panthers that roamed the dense swamps then and now.



(Above) ASLC Camp 11 commissary circa 1930s—typical of logging camps

As the logging business slowed at Camp 8 and the sub-camps began to scale down, Burton went to T. R. Miller Mills to work out his days to retirement. He died in 1992 and was laid to rest at the New Bethlehem Methodist Cemetery near his home at Barnett Crossroads.

Of course, Burton Fields was not the only Escambia man to work at Alger’s Camp 8 or at the sub-camps. There was Leland Nall and Agee Hollinghead. These two fine gentlemen were

the cooks at the Huxford Camp. Some say that the location housed about 35 men. An equal number of men with families who lived at Camp 8 but worked in the Reserve Pasture and Huxford camp sites usually took the noon meal wherever there was hot food. The two cooks were always prepared to dish up another plate of food.

A neighbor of Mr. Gee and Leland also worked and lived at Camp 8. His name was Albert Bell, married to Eunice Grimes. Albert and Eunice had three children. A daughter and two sons were born to them, but the girl was the only child born while they lived in Camp 8 housing. Shortly after she was born Albert and Eunice left the camp housing facilities to set up housekeeping in a place of their own. The daughter, Linnisstine, attended the Wallace School and graduated from W. S. Neal in East Brewton. She attended nursing school at Jeff Davis College and answered her calling as a RN at the D, W, McMillan Hospital. She is married to Donald Dawkins of Brewton.

Mr. Hollinghead, who preferred to be called “Gee,” spent his week at the Huxford Camp, but his real home was near the Gravel Hill Church, about three miles east of Barnett Crossroads and about five miles west of Wallace. The distance was great but Mr. Gee either walked or hitched a ride home on Friday evenings so he could spend the weekend with his family.

Leland, as he preferred to be called, lived for a while at Camp 8. When his daughter was born, he established a home a short distance from Camp 8 on a private farm. His assignment often placed him at the Huxford Camp, but because of the distance, Leland usually remained at the camp with Mr. Gee. The kitchen floors were bare dirt, so the men slept on rolled out pallets or make-shift bedrolls.

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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Camp 8 and the Reserve Pastures

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These men, while not a part of the dangerous work of felling and skidding trees, had a daunting job nevertheless. The work required long hours over hot wood-burning stoves and cleaning up after three daily meals. Those men who actually lived at Camp 8, and who traveled to and from home at night, were often obliged to take the noon-day meal at one of the camp sites. This placed an extra burden on the cooks, as it was never quite clear as to just how many stomachs needed filling on a given day. But feed the crews they did, apparently without complaint, and no worker returned to the woods on an empty belly.

Every man in camp knew and respected the cooks. Most of the logging men knew their wives and children as well. Mr. Gee always referred to his wife as Miss Sarah, but Leland said his wife's name ever so softly when he referred to her as "Eller" (Ella). Mr. Gee had fathered four children; Hazel, Clarence, Valeria, and Rosalee. Leland had fathered two children, Lenora and Edward.

While this has nothing to do with the account at hand, it was told to me by an older brother that Mr. Gee's oldest daughter, Hazel, was of such great beauty that God must have wanted her in Heaven, as she died quite young in 1940. Hazel married at the young age of 16 to a man from North Carolina. The couple never had children of their own but adopted babies for whom they built a happy home and raised the children well.

The old-timers who remember Camp 8 and the sub-camps, will quickly tell you that none in the land could roll out better biscuits than Mr. Gee, or mix better crackling-cornbread than Leland. There was always fresh rolls, cakes and cooked vegetables aplenty. The smell of beans, rice, collard greens, fried pork and squirrel gravy drifted over the dense forests like a heavy fog.

Frank Coker of Excel, Alabama worked at the Huxford Camp. He recalls a time when the payroll money was late getting to the pay master. When that happened, the men would be required to return to the camp on Saturday to get their money or wait until Monday morning. Dollars and cents being in short supply in those



**(Above) The logging engines were retired and relegated to the scrap heap, while log trucks assumed their duties transporting logs to the sawmill in Century.**

depression times, Frank needed his money now so he could leave it with his wife and children for use in the coming week..

Frank tells of a time when he had to see the pay master on Saturday afternoon. Taking his own son and two neighborhood boys with him, he began the trek to the pay master's office. It was nearing the evening mealtime, so Frank and the boys took seats at the long community table. Baked beans were on the menu that evening. He says he had never seen boys eat like those boys ate the beans and cornbread that day.

Frank recalls that the beans had been boiled until tender and ladled into a large Dutch oven-like pan. Brown sugar was stirred into the beans and long strips of bacon were placed over the top. The dish was put back into the oven to cook again, sizzling the bacon to a delicious crispy brown. Those boys ate like there would never be another meal. It was baked beans fit for a king.

Any edible nuts, plums, poke, rabbit, snapping turtle, squirrel, or turkey found in the woods was taken back to Mr. Gee for cleaning and cooking. And don't forget Burton Fields, who could be counted on to supply the camp with a fat pig or venison.

There was some tongue-in-cheek talk that Burton once shot a fox from the cab of his engine. He dressed the fox and cut it into small pieces so it couldn't be positively identified. Mr. Gee saw the fresh meat only as an appetizing meal. Oh the goodness of it, as he stewed it down with gravy and dumplings. No man questioned the delicate

flavor of so good a supper. Nothing was wasted. Mr. Gee was known far and wide for his delicious cobbles of dewberries, wild pears, sweet crabapple, Indian strawberry, and pawpaw. By his side stood Leland ready with fresh cream and butter and a large ladle in hand for those who wanted seconds.

It was not unusual for the two men to help out at the kitchens and commissary at Camp 8 and prepare meals for "family day" weekends. One thing was certain though, on Sunday morn-



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# The ECHS *Journal* Section

## Camp 8 and the Reserve Pastures

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ing Leland would be home with Ella and the children. He could be counted on to occupy the front pew at Canaan Freewill Baptist Church for Sunday worship. While Ella and Lenora prepared the noon meal and cleaned house before attending church services, Leland set up a tall stool on the front porch. He was an excellent barber, and for the lofty price of 25 cents per head, he was open for business and ready to keep the men and boys of the community looking spiffy.

Mr. Gee passed away in 1982 and was laid to rest at the Gravel Hill Cemetery east of the Barnett Crossroads. In his lifetime, Mr. Gee had two wives. The first, Sarah, passed away in 1944 and the second, Willie Eddings Hobby, passed away in 1964.

Leland passed away in 1987 and is buried at the Canaan Freeway Baptist Cemetery. In 1995 his loving wife Ella was placed by his side.

And let us not forget the women who worked at the camps as well. While there were no family housing at the sub-camps, there was the feminine touch nonetheless. It is unlikely that anyone living today will remember their names, but there were two hard-working black women who tended the camp fires, washed the meager linens, cleaned the kitchen utensils, and straightened the sleeping quarters. The women were paid by the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company to do the domestic work, but if the men folk needed personal laundry, ironing or mending done the ladies were ready and willing to perform these duties for a small fee.

It is not known if the women had families of their own. There were several small houses along Camp 8 Road that were occupied primarily by black families. It would have been an awful burden to walk the distance from home to work, so the women either stayed at the camp until Friday evening, or else trudged the dirt roads to their shanty. Frank Coker says that the women usually spread a quilt or blanket roll in the open air under the trees, and to his knowledge no harm ever came to them.

It was permissible that small children could be brought to the camp site while their mothers worked. A couple of the older boys at

Camp 8 were allowed to earn a pittance gathering wood for the kitchen stoves, and to carry water from the nearby stream for scrubbing, washing, and drinking. In time, community bath facilities were erected at the Huxford Camp and large barrels of sun-heated water was usually available to cleanse the weary worker. The young boys kept the tanks full of water, thankful for any rainfall that would make their job a little easier. The alternative to bathing in warm water, often infested with mosquito larva, was to bathe in the frigid waters of the spring-fed creeks.



**ASLC steam locomotives' "graveyard." These relics were eventually sold for scrap in the 1970s.**

Shortly after Camp 8 was moved to a location near Flomaton, the sub-camps were also dismantled. With the advent of motorized trucks to move the logs, the logging engines were retired. The Reserve Pasture was divided and large portions sold to other timber companies. Logging operations from the Reserve Pasture continue to this day with tree plantations being done by professional tree farmers.

In the late 30s and early 40s when the logging operation at the Reserve Pasture began to slow and Camp 8 was ready to move, most of the workers found other jobs, or followed Camp 8 to its new location. Some men drifted back to farming or seeking work at the shipyards in Mobile. Some moved to Brewton or Atmore to find work at the T. R. Miller Mill or Swift Lumber Company. Many of the black workers broke up housekeeping and moved to Evergreen where conditions were more favorable for them, and where their children could attend segregated schools.

At least 6,500 acres of the Reserve Pasture was recently sold to a Panama City, Florida consortium that proposed to establish a nationwide garbage dump. The measure to build has thus far been resisted by the citizens of Conecuh County, but in time, it is expected that the venture will raise its ugly head again and again until it becomes reality.

(More to come in next month's ECHOES)



# FIRST CLASS MAIL DATED MATERIAL

THE NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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*ECHOES, The newsletter for the Escambia County Historical Society is published monthly except November. Comments are welcome. You may email the Society at [escohis@escohis.org](mailto:escohis@escohis.org) or call 251-867-7332, or 251-809-1528.*

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