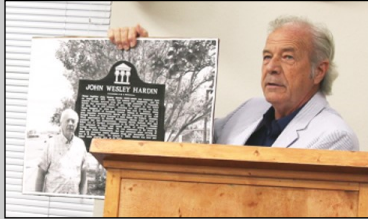




The
Escambia
County
Historical
Society,
Founded
1971

The May 2022 Newsletter

The May Meeting will be Tuesday, May 24, at 3:00 pm in the Center for Telecommunications Building (also known as the Alabama Technology Network Building, ATN), on the Brewton College Campus. See Picture Below & Map on Page 2 of Newsletter.



Russell Brown displays a model of an historical marker for the Alger Sullivan Lumber Company Residential District in Century, Florida. The marker was erected in 2017.

The Program: Russell Brown Will Present a Program on Razors.

Mr. Brown in 2016 gave a program for ECHS on his book Bratt: Recollections and Ramblings on the Growth of a Florida Panhandle Farm Community. He is currently Vice-President of the Alger Sullivan Historical Society. Retired after thirty years in the telecommunications business (AT&T), he lives in Cantonment, Florida. His presentation will include examples from his collection of razors as he talks of the history of the razor.

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Program for June ECHS Meeting

Tom McGehee, Director of the Bellingrath Home, will present a program on Steamboats on the Alabama.

Refreshments will be served at the May Meeting. Plan on bringing your favorite finger food.



The Center for Telecommunications Technology Building also known as the Alabama Technology Network Building. The photograph shows the Front Entrance. Picture is made from Entrance to the College Campus from College Drive.



Cave Drawing More than a Thousand Years Old Found in Alabama

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THE L HOUSE

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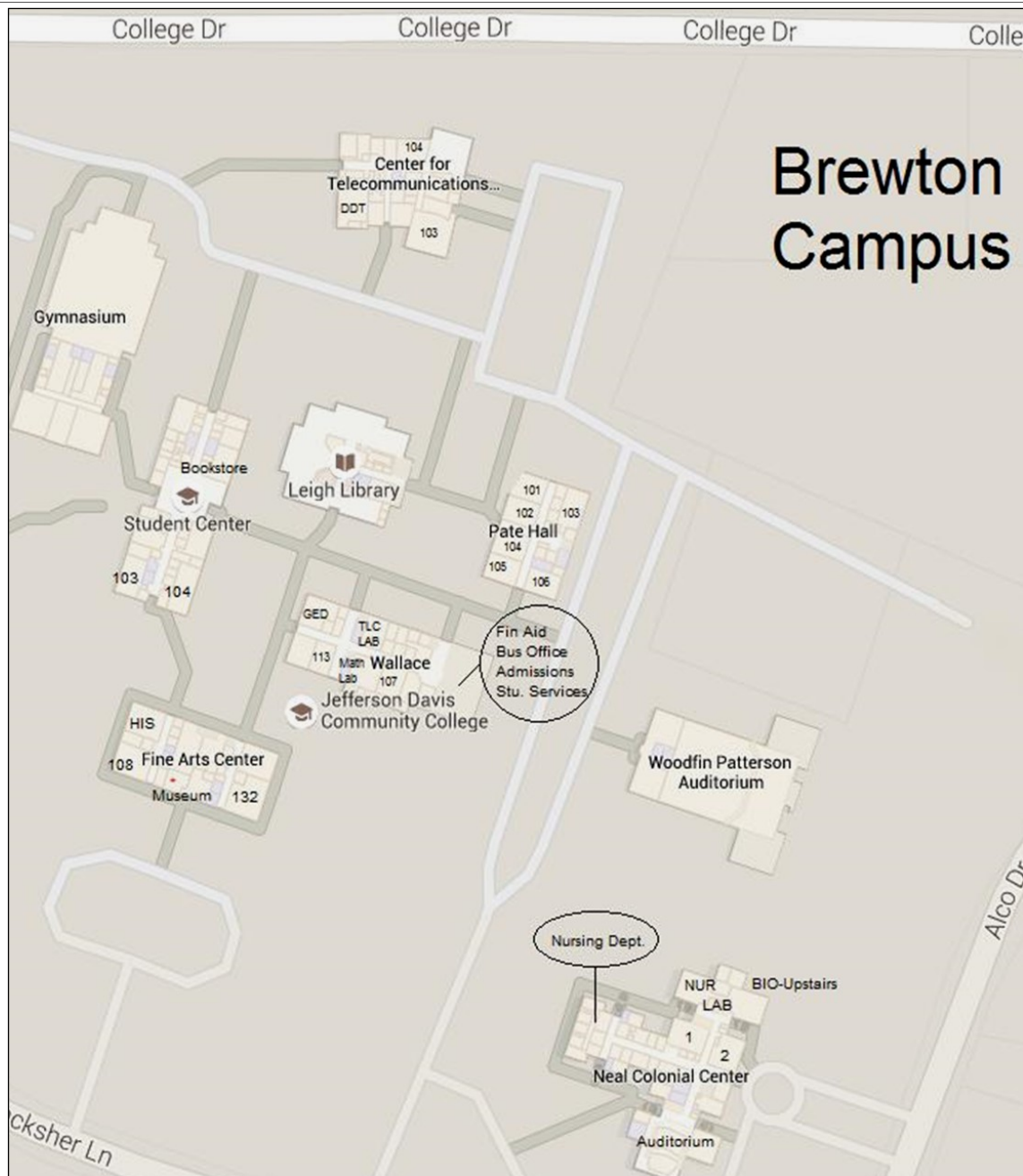
Map of Brewton Campus & Directions to the Center for Telecommunications Building, Also Known as the Alabama Technology Network Building.

The Center for Telecommunications Building is the location for the May 24, 2022 ECHS Regular Meeting because the Meeting Room in the Museum will be used on that Tuesday for voting.

The Center for Telecommunications Building is located behind the library. It is directly across College Drive from the girls' softball diamond.

There are driveways from College Drive to the building although they are not shown on the map below. Parking is available near the building.

The building is distinguished by an all-glass, floor to ceiling, front lobby where the meeting will be held.



The Ultimate History (and Future) of Shaving

This article by James Hardy, July 8, 2019, is from The History Cooperative at <<https://historycooperative.org/the-ultimate-history-and-future-of-shaving/>>.

Shaving in Ancient Times

The art of shaving has long been a part of culture and self-identity. Of course, looks aren't the only factor. The earliest shaving innovations were rudimentary and developed for survival.

For example, in the stone age, men plucked out their beards using clam shells and other objects used as pincers. This was needed as protection from ice accumulating against the skin and causing frostbite.

But evidence of shaving has been found dating all the way back to 30,000 BC. Specifically, we have found cave paintings that depict beardless men that may have removed their hair using clam shells or flint blades. Either of these tools would grow blunt with

repeated use, causing them to be frequently dulled and needing replacement, much like the disposable razors on the market today.

Ancient Egypt- C. 3000–332 BC

The Egyptians made great improvements in the razor (some of which were fashioned from copper, or even solid gold!), used hot towels and developed an early form of waxing, which may account for all the smooth faces and bodies pictured in hieroglyphs (<https://www.classicshaving.com/pages/a-brief-and-none-too-formal-history-of-the-art-of-shaving>).

Shaving in ancient Egypt was considered necessary for good hygiene, and, in fact, many of the beards sported around ancient Egypt were actually wigs. Copper and bronze razors, with circular or

(Continued on page 4)



**Top, Left
A Bronze Razor.
The Bronze Age
(3300-1300 BC),
marked the first time
humans started to
work with metal.
Bronze tools and
weapons soon re-
placed earlier stone
versions.**

**Razors have been
identified from many
Bronze Age cultures.
These were made of
bronze or obsidian
and were generally
oval in shape, with a
small tang protruding
from one of the short
ends. Sample, top left.**



**Above, Razor
and nail cutter
with bone handle
found in a grave of
the Hallstatt
culture.**

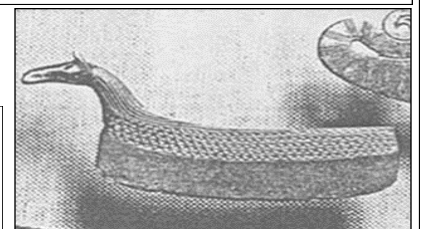
**The Hallstatt
culture was the
predominant
Western and
Central European
culture of the Late
Bronze Age from
the 12th to 8th
centuries BC, and
Early Iron Age
Europe from the
8th to 6th centu-
ries BC.**



**Razor Made of Bronze from the
First Iron Age
The Iron Age (c. 1200 to c. 1000 BC),
was the final technological and cultural
stage in the Stone–Bronze–Iron Age
sequence .The Iron Age began
around 1200 BC in the Mediterra-
nean region and Near East with the
collapse of several prominent
Bronze Age civilizations, including
the Mycenaean civilization in
Greece and the Hittite Empire in
Turkey.**

**To the Left, Bottom,
An Ancient Egypt-
ian Hatchet Razor
and Mirror, c. 3000
-332 BC.**

**Ancient Egyptian
nobles shaved their
heads and bodies
because they highly
valued hairlessness.
Remember, back
then, avoiding lice
and staying clean
was more of a chal-
lenge.**



**Above, Scandinavian
Bronze Age Razor, c.
1500–1200 BC.**

**Scandinavian burial
mounds contain elabo-
rate bronze razors with
handles shaped like the
heads of horses.**

The Ultimate History (and Future) of Shaving

(Continued from page 3)

hatch-shaped rotary blades, have been found in Egyptian burial chambers as early as 3000 BC.

Ancient Egyptians also used sharpened stone blades that were set into wooden handles. This was a sophisticated tool similar to early versions of what we now call the safety razor, which we'll see more of later. Pumice stones used to rub away finer hairs have also been found throughout Egypt.

Most notably, Alexander the Great (400-300 BC), made it a common practice for Greek soldiers to shave their beards, since having a beard was a liability during battle; it gave another soldier the opportunity to grab their face.

Alexander ordered his troops to shave after a catastrophic defeat at the hands of the Persians, where beards were grabbed, held, and the wearer speared. This trend carried on after the wars, largely due to Alexander's popularity, almost like a modern celebrity endorsement (<https://www.darkstag.com/evolution-shaving-razors/>).

In ancient Rome, the first shave a man received was considered a rite of passage referred to as the *tonsure*. It was common for Romans to shave and pluck their hair as well as attend barbers. Similar to the Greeks who groomed in the *agora*, and even as in modern cultures who use them, barbers in ancient Rome provided a local meeting place. Through much of the history of ancient Rome, particularly as it was under the influence of Julius Caesar and again under Emperor

Augustus, who promoted strong family values, it became a point of civic duty to be clean-shaven. It was even important at this point to take care of stubble using pumice stones.

Julius Caesar plucked out his beard hairs, and many Roman men followed suit (<https://www.almanac.com/history-shaving-and-beards>).

Around 100 AD, the Hellenophile Emperor Hadrian brought beards back into fashion. Beard fashion continued to fluctuate as Christianity came to Europe, making the practice of shaving extremely important among the clergy and for some Christian groups, while others preferred the asceticism of growing beards. Many Protestants rebelled against the clean-shaven Catholics by wearing beards. Beard fashion within Medieval and Renaissance courts depended on the fashion of whoever was in charge at the time.

c. 793 –1066 AD: the Vikings invading Britain were depicted as unruly in manner and looks with unkempt hair and beards. This isn't actually factual. In reaction, the trend became beardless, once again (<https://www.almanac.com/history-shaving-and-beards>).

Enlightened Refinement of the Art of Shaving

Strong shaving trends picked up again in the Enlightenment and Early Modern Era (~15th-18th century) as Enlightenment philosophy played a part in informing culture, while steel-edged straight razors

(Continued on page 5)

The Greeks and romans started to realize the potential of the razor, straightening out the circular razor into a form similar to today. Quality also improved, making their razors out of copper and iron instead of the easily dulled bronze. The *novacula*, the roman razor, was a block of iron with some finger holes or handle, and a blade. Simple but effective.

The Romans copied the Egyptians and Greeks by also using pumice stones to get rid of stubble. Nicks from dull razors were treated with a plaster ointment, made from spider webs soaked in oil and vinegar (<https://www.darkstag.com/evolution-shaving-razors/>).



Top Left, Roman Iron Razor; Top Middle, Iron novacula supposedly showing a hound chasing a hare; Top Right, Roman Razor with Bronze Handle; Bottom Middle, Roman Iron Razor.

The Ultimate History (and Future) of Shaving

(Continued from page 4)

offered an increased level of safety to daily shaving rituals. For example, cast steel also allowed for longer-lasting blades, and strops became a part of the practice. Furthermore, advertising enabled a market for shaving cosmetics, creams, and powders.

The 18th century was a society of courtesy and manners that advocated for clean-shaven profiles, since shaving was considered polite, whereas beards drew attention to an individual's masculinity through a strong association with the pubic region and physical waste.

The 19th century, on the other hand, saw a widespread beard revival due to an imitation of the Victorian military-style mustache, indicating exploration and virility. Since men were often unable to shave while on adventures, beards became a sign of the adventuring spirit as well. At this point, we also start seeing ads addressed to gentlemen who shave themselves as opposed to visiting a barber. These men most commonly used a straight razor along with the strop, lather, and brush that we associate with traditional wet shaving. We also see other tools emerge at this time, including powders, aftershave, and beard waxes to keep beard styles in place.

The Enlightenment trend of self-fashioning extended to an early fluency in visual signifiers of self-identity. The way people dressed, groomed them-

selves, and interacted with others was an intentional reflection of who they were. This is a relatable concept to our age, where we find ourselves aware of the effects and influences of personal brand. The Victorians, in particular, were grooming themselves with the idea of self-presentation as well; albeit in their case there were fewer niches and a more limited ground for influence, due to a more limited class structure and fewer cultural subgroups.

That ancient man shaved is a certainty (conceivably with sharp-edged seashells or rocks). Barbers were mentioned in antiquity, as was the shaving of heads. But not until the Middle Ages was a specific implement identified as a razor. The Oxford English Dictionary notes the year 1290 for the first use of the term (<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1992-07-26-vw-4938-story.html>).

The Invention of the Razor

Large-scale razor manufacturing began in 1680 with the steel-edged 'cut-throat' straight razor, which was manufactured in Sheffield, England. Steel straight razors were the most common throughout the 19th century. This was a step up from the medieval razors which resembled small axes. Nonetheless, other

(Continued on page 6)



Circa 1887 Kampfe razor blade, and tin. Early Kamfe razors were packaged in round and rectangular lithographed tens in a variety of label designs.

From <http://www.shaveworld.org/images/PerrettKampfe-rev2.html>.



Parts of a Razor

From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Straight_razor#/media/File:Parts_of_a_straight_razor.jpg.



1899 Kampfe Advertisement

From <http://www.shaveworld.org/images/PerrettKampfe-rev2.html>.

The Ultimate History (and Future) of Shaving

(Continued from page 5)

innovations were just beginning, particularly the safety razor.

The Safety Razor

In 1770, Jean-Jacques Perret wrote *The Art of Learning to Shave Oneself (La Pogontomie)*. Around the same time, the Perret razor was invented. This razor had a wood guard that both held the blade and prevented deep cuts. The Perret blade is seen as a step towards the invention of the safety razor.

However, the development of the safety razor that we now have has gone through a few stages since the 19th century. While not yet called a ‘safety razor,’ its first form was developed by William S. Henson in 1847. It was a double-edged safety blade with a “hoe”-type shape, resembling a garden tool with a blade perpendicular to its handle. This blade reduced the need for skill in order to get a close shave. Thirty-three years later, in 1880, the Kampfe brothers patented a “Safety Razor” that coined the term and offered additional safety clips.

The real innovation to the safety razor came close to the turn of the century when King Gillette, at the time a traveling salesman, invented disposable razor blades in 1895. Then, in 1904, with the help of MIT professor William Nickerson, he was able to develop a safety razor compatible with replaceable blades. This invention allowed the safety razor to become a much more desirable option, since it was easy to discard and replace the blade once it dulled or began to rust. It also made for a simpler process than the straight

razor, which requires stropping and honing.

Unfortunately, the average disposable blade for a safety razor would often rust after a single use or two, making them prohibitively expensive for many. But in 1960, manufacturing began making blades using stainless steel which allowed the razor blades to be useful for multiple shaves before needing to be discarded. This innovation greatly increased the sales of safety razors, and stainless steel became the primary metal for producing razor blades from then on.

The Electric Razor

The next major innovation in the history of shaving was the electric razor, which was first developed by Jacob Schick in 1928. This first electric razor was called the ‘Magazine Repeating Razor,’ since it was based on the design of repeating firearms. The blades were sold in clips and loaded into the razor. This early electric razor was essentially a cutting head attached to a handheld motor. The motor and razor were connected by a flexible rotating shaft.

Unfortunately, this invention hit markets at the same time as the stock market crash of 1929, which prevented the Schick electric razor from going mainstream. But in the meantime, Schick opened a factory and refined his electric razor model, creating the ‘Injector Razor,’ which was a sleeker, smaller, device that’s responsible for creating the dry shave market.

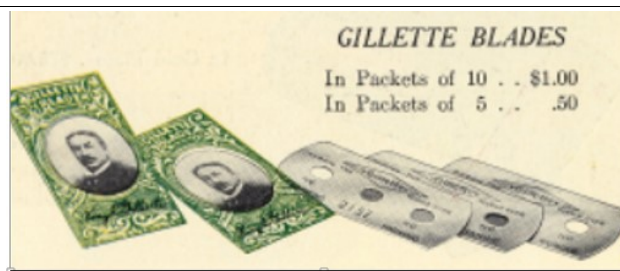
The electric razor gained notable success in the 1940’s due to its ability to make shaving fast and easy for those requiring a daily shave. Norelco took over

(Continued on page 7)

The Gillette Line Gillette Catalogue Advertisement for Razor Sets From <[https://www.si.edu/spotlight/ health-hygiene-and-beauty/hair-removal#search-results](https://www.si.edu/spotlight/health-hygiene-and-beauty/hair-removal#search-results)>.



Old Type Gillette
One of Several Sets
Retailing for \$1.00



Gillette Blades
In Packets of 10.....\$1.00
In Packets of 5..50



Old Type Milady
Decolletee Parsisienne
\$1.00

The Ultimate History (and Future) of Shaving

(Continued from page 6)

the Schick operations in 1981 and continues to make razors today.

Cartridge and Disposable Razors

In 1971, Gillette continued to lead the pack in razor innovation by inventing cartridge razors. The first model was called the Trac II, a two-blade cartridge clip that hooked onto a more permanent razor handle. Cartridge razors are the most common kind of razor in use today. The benefit is the ability to get a close and safe shave at the same time with razor heads that can be replaced at relatively low expense. As innovations continued to make life easier for consumers, the next major innovation came in 1975 when BIC made the inexpensive disposable razor for quick travel and tight budgets.

Each of these razor innovations have been fine-tuned, refined, and improved in our modern age, allowing for even greater luxury when it comes to safety and close shaves, no matter which shaving method you choose.

Modern Shaving and the Modern Razor

The current market offers diverse options for shaving implements and tools from past to present, including straight, safety, electric, and cartridge. The dry shaving market, using electric shavers for quick, daily

routines, is also still going strong, and the wet shaving market has also been on the rise, since many find it offers a more comfortable and closer shaving experience at a lower cost.

Contemporary Cartridge Razors

Among the top-selling razors in modern shaving are multiple blade cartridge razors. While Gillette's original Trac II razor was a two-blade razor, premium contemporary cartridges generally offer 5-6 blades per cartridge. More blades will often mean a closer shave with about 30 shaves per cartridge.

More blades do lead to a closer shave. However, the efficacy of shaving is more reliant on technique than the number of blades. Nonetheless, multiple blade technology allows a closer shave because the razors are able to cut just below the skin's surface without breaking it.

The first blade is blunt, allowing it to hook the hair above the surface for the sharper second blade to slice. Any additional blades repeat the process, performing cleanup duty for the hairs left behind. Once the blade passes, the hair returns below the skin. Modern cartridge razors also have features and innovations such as lubricating strips, indicators of how worn a cartridge is, swiveling heads to adjust for curves, and comfort edges to give additional safety. Razors with many blades can reduce the likelihood of

(Continued on page 8)



A Straight Razor on a Leather Strop.



A Modern Double-Edge Safety Razor and Blade.



A Straight Razor with a Comb Guard and a Disposable Blade.



A Basic Disposable Razor.



A Modern Safety Razor with an Exchangeable Cartridge.

Photographs from <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Razor>>.



Foil-Type Electric Shaver.

The Ultimate History (and Future) of Shaving

(Continued from page 7)

razor burn, since razor burn tends to be a side effect of a rough or dull blade.

However, some dermatologists attest to the opposite, saying that more blades mean more chances for nicks and razor burn. The best thing to do in this case is to discard your razor's blades or cartridges once they are past their prime.

Contemporary Electric Razors

Modern electric shavers may have a high starting cost, but they last on average twenty years. These come in two main categories, foil razors and rotary razors. Electric razors are most often recommended to men with curly beards or those prone to ingrown hairs. This is because they don't give a close enough shave for ingrown hairs to take place, which is a benefit when the main cause of ingrown hairs is hair that's sliced at an angle below the skin.

Modern foil razors follow a similar design as Jaco Schick's 1923 original. It has oscillating blades that move back and forth. While not suited to the face's curves and contours, foil shavers excel in offering a closer shave than their rotary rivals. Technological advancement in this case is measured in micro vibrations per minute. The higher the micro vibrations, the quicker the shave.

Rotary head trimmers were introduced by Phillips in the 1960s. Each of the three discs on the razor head has a spinning razor within it. Rotary heads have a bit of flex and pivot allowing them to fit the form of your face as you shave.

Innovation for electric shavers include making them compatible with wet shaving, allowing users to apply shaving cream in conjunction with the electric razor. The major innovation in electric shavers has to do with battery life. Modern electric shavers have a very quick charge time, emphasizing just how optimized they are for convenience.

The Wet Shaving Comeback

In 2005, Corey Greenberg (*Tech Editor for the NBC Today Show*), appeared on *The Today Show* to extol the virtues of the double-edged safety razor, sparking a strong exposure for the wet shaving revival. Additionally, the Badger & Blade website, named for the badger brush and razor wet shaving implements, began offering an online community for wet shaving tools and discussions.

For many, the wet shaving revival began as a response to the steep price of cartridge razor systems with the Gillette Fusion razor. Other reasons include tradition, effectiveness, ability to avoid ingrown hairs, enjoyability of the experience, and sustainability and environmental concerns. This trend brought back the prevalence of the double-edged safety razor, and, for an enthusiastic and brave niche, straight razors as well.

Of course, some budget-minded individuals are returning to the double-edged safety razor due to its lower cost when compared with the contemporary cartridge razor. Each razor may last only a week, but replacement blades can be purchased for pennies.

Straight razors are making a comeback as well, fulfilling a niche consumer desire for skillful, artisanal and analog goods that allows individuals to interact with the history of their tools and practices.

One appealing aspect of using straight razors in the modern world are their long-lasting nature. Indeed, most are designed to last a lifetime, and many heirloom straight razors function as if still in their prime. They don't need replacement parts and will keep a sharp edge as long as they are honed and maintained. Furthermore, the straight razor requires a full wet-shaving ritual.

The Future of Shaving

Shaving innovations for the future are trending toward increasing environmental sustainability with all natural shaving soaps, beard oils, and razors that reduce packaging or throwaway waste. One example of hi-tech innovations include razor blade dryers. Razor dryers make sure that the razor is dry of any residual water after each shave. Doing this preserves the blades from oxidizing and rusting before they become dull. This allows the blade to last longer.

Beards have become popular in the last few years, and in some cases, they're here to stay. One expectation surrounding contemporary beards is the need to maintain them with a groomed and put-together appearance. This means that even the scruffy lumberjack look is redeveloping into a carefully maintained styled or shaped beard. In this case, trimming and careful edge maintenance using specialized beard trimmers are important to the shaving process.

However, clean shaving remains popular. Due to the increased convenience and safety brought on by the shaving innovations of the past few decades, daily shaving is seen as lower maintenance in some cases than cultivating a beard.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Hiking the Chambira River Trail



Manatee Falls, a Tributary of the Chambira River

By Darryl Searcy

The date is 12 March 2013. If my thoughts are clear, this would be the 71st day of the year in the Gregorian calendar. There were 294 days remaining until the end of the year. The day of the week is Tuesday.

While on a plant collecting expedition in the Peruvian Amazon River Rainforest, we set up campsite on the Rio Chambira after a four hour hike through some very rugged country. Our packs were weighed down with books, sleeping bags, and clothing fit for warm days and another set for cool nights. At camp, the interconnectivity of man, nature, and God seemed as self-evident as the relationship between rain and puddles. And just as everything at camp was somehow seeming more hospitable, so too was our hike in the woods on a trail of thick underbrush, large boulders, slippery slopes, and spiders the size of golf balls hanging around wherever insects were apt to gather. Somehow the trek was more than just a hike, it was very hard work. By the same token, I suspect it was the most fulfilling experience that some of these guys had ever known. For me it was an ecstatic awakening to the beauty and splendor of the

Andean rainforest.

Being in this place, in this forest has a way of choosing its own lessons to teach. As it turned out, thanks to a trio of seasoned logistics men, the most important lesson of the day was how teamwork has everything to do with the success of the overall expedition. “Look sharp men, because it is here that we rendezvous with Dr. James Castner, a wildlife biologist with the Exploronapo Organization for Tropical Studies.”

We allowed ourselves a moment of rest and recuperation with a refreshing drink of coconut milk before our friend arrived. Upon arrival he wasted no time in small talk; he was cool, clean, and collected. We learned that he had been transported up river by boat, and except for the last few hundred yards, had done some travel by horseback. Regardless, he was a likeable person; much younger than we had expected. His job was to accompany us to the Rye Wilderness Trail by way of Leticia and to guide us to our first coordinates.

We continued on to Leticia at the height of steamy

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Hiking the Chambira River Trail

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afternoon heat. The trip began by stripping our bags to the bare essentials: a change of clothes for when we would inevitably get drenched, a couple pairs of clean socks, underwear, some basic toiletries and a handy jungle kit, headlamp, a safety whistle and a sturdy rain jacket. We carried everything, including bottles of water, on our backs for the entire duration of the hike and we minimized as much as we could. Once packed, our guide (Cece), who literally grew up in the Amazon jungle, advised us to wear our hightop rubber boots, which would soon become our best friends. After a refuel of rice and beans, it was straight into the bush for our first three-hour trek at sunset. With so much foliage it gets dark early in the rainforest, so before we realized the need, we were relying on our trusty headlamps to prevent the wearer from sinking into anaconda-infested waters and making it to the base camp unharmed.

Our legs aching and shaking on arrival, Cece generously helped us set up camp, collecting firewood distributing MREs (meals ready to eat) for our evening meal and slinging our hammocks and overhead tarps to protect us from rain and mosquito attacks (or any other jungle critters for that matter). This included hanging our boots over wooden poles to prevent spiders and snakes from homesteading overnight. I warned the men, that DEET or no DEET, you will be eaten alive in the Amazon. Always wear long sleeves (just power through the heat and humidity), apply mosquito repellent regularly and eat a few extra bignay fruits. "Remember," I said, "this very itchy experience will someday make for killer dinner party conversation." We will be encamped here for about 24 hours to make two collections on the Rye trail and then we head out again.

Dr. Castner led off the critique this evening, and conducted a slide show of what we should expect at first light tomorrow. At the end of his slide show, using a battery powered projector, he informed us that his job was done and he would be heading toward Lima in early morning.

After dinner, Cece regaled us with the legend of Madre Monte – a jungle spirit that captures human souls and keeps them in the rainforest. He offered a few tips on how to spot her should she visit us in the

night. "You are never ever to get out of your hammock, even if you think she comes and grabs you in the middle of the night. It's probably just Madre Monte in disguise trying to lure you into the jungle." He also warned us of jaguars who are attracted to the heat that emanates from the campfire. Thanks to Cece's thoughtful bedtime story, I enjoyed a rather sleepless night on the banks of the Chambira River.

Up bright and early (I'm not sure that anyone but Cece had a wink of sleep), Cece had prepared a delightful homemade breakfast of eggs and tinned biscuits over the campfire (we dared not to ask where he found the eggs). To a man, whether he liked coffee or not, a few cups were inhaled before mustering up the courage to bathe our faces in the nearby river and ready ourselves for another day of intense trekking through mud and over makeshift bridges fashioned of nothing but fallen logs. Off we went, making a few stops along the way to admire neon-blue butterflies and pineapples growing in the wild, slap mosquitoes off our faces and greet our new tarantula friends. We chased howler monkeys, bumped into the biggest frog in the world (considered a local delicacy) and tasted a sweet sap dripping from an ancient tree. A few hours later, we stopped for a break at a Malacca, the traditional rounded homes of Amazonian tribesmen. We enjoyed a lazy lunch and a fireside chat here with one of the local leaders. He shared a few eerie legends, which were rather longwinded and, frankly quite sexist. We also sampled a strange homegrown herb, a mint-green powder which we rather foolishly snorted in the hopes of clearing out our sinuses. Some guys broke out in fitful sneezing, while I ended up with a powerful headache.

Then it was off to our first coordinates, with the local shaman leading the way. As we traipsed deeper and deeper into the jungle, we came upon a tree house that was used by local hunters to trap large game. Along the way, I came to fully understand why it's called the rainforest, as we got absolutely drenched in a fresh afternoon shower. We arrived wet and hungry, but recovered ever-so-slightly with a power nap while standing in the rain (our first real shower in what felt like weeks), despite it being little more than a day. Then, it was back to the jungle trail, where we canopied our way up to a tree house, courtesy of the

(Continued on page 11)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

Hiking the Chambira River Trail



The Soccer Players

(Continued from page 10)

hunters. There, on hard straw mats under the stars, we enjoyed an evening of classic jungle songs and having a laugh with our guides late into the night, still smiling despite our sleepless night and intense bouts of sneezing the mint-green powder. The men were growing weary and the back packs were getting heavier as we bore the added weight of continuous rainfall.

Up again at sunrise, we made our way down from the trees and headed towards the murky water. We boarded a longboat, which took us several miles along the very heart of the jungle, the Amazon River. We knew “the river” would be our drop point, but no thoughts that our journey would allow us to feel the true power and expanse of the world's largest waterway (or second largest, depending on your point of view). It was not but an hour or so that we were pulling up just short of passing into Brazil, where we’d be spending a day on the water at a camp that was actually a Brazilian family home.

We knew beforehand that it was common for locals to rent out their homes to Amazon touring agencies to earn additional income, which is great for local families, but unfortunately for us, it made for a very uncomfortable stay because the homeowners made us feel really unwelcome, as we would not be dispensing hefty gratuities as vacationing and game hunting party's might do upon departure.

During this excursion onto a back water slough off the great river, we came upon a village school that was in recess and the youngsters were playing soccer. We pulled up and went through the motions of whooping and hollering to encourage the game. Someone on the playing field kicked the ball out of play and it headed down the embankment toward us. The little fellow you see at forefront (white T-shirt) suddenly sprang into action. He jumped off the embankment head first, got his balance, turned around and head butted the ball in a high arch back onto the playing field.

We cheered and applauded; gave him a bag of peppermint jaw breakers and went on our way. Those were the moments we’ll cherish, as it seemed wherever we traveled and to come upon a village the children somehow managed to find the time to play a little soccer, and to greet these strange North Americans with wide smiles. How could we not hope that maybe standing up there is another Guerrero, Cubillas, or Cueto waiting for the right age to get in the big time footballing game. It would be wonderful if some day that little fellow will have earned the right to wear the two stars granted by the Peruvian Soccer Federation badge, which signifies the two times Peru won the Copa America, and five times earned the right to play-off in the World Cup FIFA finals (Fédération Internationale de Football Association).

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 276, Brewton, AL 36427;
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