

Smoke From The Chimneys



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

January 2014

President's Message

As we begin a new year, it is traditional to look back on our accomplishments and to examine the challenges that lie ahead. Some much needed revisions were made to the society bylaws and we changed the beginning date of the fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year. This means that dues are no longer due in August but in January which gave us all an extra four months this year.

A dedicated budget was put into effect as well as a hospitality committee for our meeting refreshments and Smoke from the Chimneys has been expanded from four to eight pages and now includes advertisements which enables us to produce it free of charge while including more news. We've continued to improve our office which we now also use as a Board room when those meetings occur. We're looking forward to setting up our library which is the last room that we will utilize. For the first time since before Katrina, the Society has produced a calendar. This was a difficult undertaking by Brenda Batey and Charlotte Timmons. It required nine months of planning, designing,

and selling of ads to merchants who supported our efforts. The calendar has been well received by the public and we continue to get requests for copies.

We had a booth set up at Christmas on the Avenue, a yearly fundraiser put on by the Long Beach High School Concert Choir and sales for our calendars were brisk. Recently, for the first time, we set up a table at the Farmer's Market. We plan to do this again and again as it's a good way to keep the society in the public's eye. It's a venue for our calendars, tee shirts, note cards or even to garner new members. Please let us know if you would be interested in taking a shift of an hour and a half sometime in the future. You and a friend may want to sign up together.

The New Year offers many challenges for our Society. As I wrote last year, the life blood of any organization is new members. Particularly does the Society need to attract the "younger generation" to help carry on when we "ole timers" pass the reigns of leadership. Accept a personal goal this year to enlist at least one new member, particularly a young

person. The challenge we face is to begin preparing to "pass the torch" to a new generation which will appreciate the rich history of Long Beach.

Happy New Year!
Donald Dana

Vice President/Program Chairman Message

We certainly enjoyed hearing Tom Adams, the spry 92 year old triple war veteran speak of his war and post war experiences at the October meeting. He also brought along many pictures and it was an interesting and enjoyable program.

During the October meeting we were also presented with a 1938 LBHS sweater belonging to the



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**SMOKE FROM THE
CHIMNEYS
LONG BEACH, MS**

Beth Hansen: Editor

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**Long Beach
Historical Society**

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645 Klondyke RD

(South side of the central fire station on Klondyke RD)

Meetings are always quarterly and on the 2nd Monday at the Historical Society Building, 645 Klondyke Rd. Notifications will be sent if anything changes.

2014 Meetings:

January 13, Monday, 11:00 AM
April 14, Monday, 6:00 PM
July 14, Monday, 6:00 PM
Oct 13, Monday, 6:00 PM

Email Address:

lbhistoricalsociety@lbhistoricalsociety.org

Website: www.lbhistoricalsociety.org

Eddie Ware – Webmaster

Mission Statement

The Society's purpose is "to bring together those people interested in the history of the City of Long Beach and to coordinate their efforts in preserving and recording that history for future generations."

Long Beach Historical Society is a volunteer-based organization dedicated to the:

- Preservation and management of historic and cultural resources of Long Beach
- Provide educational opportunities for both its membership and the public

Vice President From Page 1



late Jimmy Fillingim, member of an early Long Beach family. It was given to us by his daughters, Genie Hendry and Irene Pitts. This is just one of several gifts from the Fillingims and please see Genie's note further down in the program.

The January meeting will be our annual soup luncheon at the Methodist Church beginning at 11:00 a. m. on Monday, January 13. Some great soups and desserts are being lined up for this event that you won't want to miss.

Awards for the past year of 2013 will be given out including the Mary Ellen Alexander and Harper McCaughan awards to some deserving recipients.

The program will be given by Dr. Frances Lucas of USM who is vice-president and campus executive officer for the coast which includes Gulf Park and four other teaching and/or research sites. Dr Lucas will speak to us about the past, present and future of the campus. The Long Beach library will soon make a donation to us of several surplus

items that they no longer need. All of the items will be beneficial to us and included are some slanted map tables that I plan to use to display, for our viewing pleasure, the scrapbooks made so lovingly by the late Frances Bertucci. They will be in place by the April meeting.

After the October edition of Smoke from the Chimneys where I'd mentioned a lot about past veterans of war, I got a call from Barry Kunz who graduated from Long Beach High School in 1951. He told me that he and his twin brother, the recently deceased Gary Kunz, and five other boys from their senior class were relieved of their studies to go and serve in the Korean War. Imagine that, 7 young men all at once.

After their training and before being shipped out, the boys were given leave to come home to Long Beach and receive their diplomas. Some of the others were Elmer Alexander, Billy Mott and Bobby Boatner. Barry remembers how shocked and cold he was to be in minus 40° weather and having to wear gloves all the time. I did not find any information online about this but will check further at the library and do an update in the next edition of Smoke.

Beth Hansen

Note from Genie Fillingim Hendry On behalf of my sister Irene and I, we would like to say "thanks" to the Long Beach Historical Society for accepting our father's Long Beach High School sweater. It was interesting to hear during the Society's October 13 meeting just "why" the school colors were

SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEY'S

changed. We were also happy to donate some Long Beach sports and school pictures, a tourism brochure and color postcard. My mother, the late Genie Jordy Fillingim, receives the "credit" for preserving these Long Beach items. She saved the Long Beach radish and strawberry crate labels that were used several years ago for greeting cards to benefit the Society. The original labels were donated during our visit. Thanks to all of you for preserving Long Beach's history so that generations to come can learn more about their ancestors and the families that put Long Beach on the map. Sincerely,
Genie Fillingim Hendry

Historic Homes in Long Beach

At the October meeting, Barbara Kimball, Historic Sites Chairman spoke to us about the importance of documenting homes older than 50 years of age in our city. She asked that each member contribute information on one house. You may choose your own, or that of a relative or friend that doesn't belong to our society. Possibly there may be a home that you just happen to know the history of.

Hurricanes have destroyed so many homes close to the beach prompting us to want to know more about older homes in other areas of our city. This information will be invaluable in future years and must be documented now before the information becomes unavailable.

This Old House

The following has been taken from a story written by Monnie Rose Little Shirley in 2006 about her family's home on Cleveland Avenue.

"Lambert, build it strong because they have those old September storms," were the wise words my grandma, Peachie, gave her husband, Big Daddy, one day in a little tourist court cabin in Long Beach, Mississippi back in 1948. Housing was hard to come by in those days in the Deep South. There had been very little construction for about fourteen years due to the Great Depression and also World War II. Now, just a few years after the war, our family of four desperately needed a roof over our heads.

My Dad, Robert Little, ran a butcher shop at the back of Wilkerson's Grocery Store and got to know a lot of people in Long Beach through his meat market. One of his customers sold him a wooded double lot which was only about three blocks from the store and within walking distance of school, church, other stores and the city bus line.

The lot provided not only a site for the home, but also much of the lumber. There were

JANUARY YEARLY DUES
Dues are due now and run through Jan. 1 - Dec. 31

- **\$15.00 Individual**
- **\$20.00 Family**
- **\$5.00 Student**

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www.lbhistoricalsociety.org

Payment is through Paypal. (An account with Paypal is not required to do this).

quite a few long needle pine trees which were cut down and hauled away by oxen to the local lumber mill. The owner of the mill and my Dad struck a deal, they would each get half of the lumber provided by those trees. The dream of home ownership was beginning to take shape. Big Daddy, my mother's dad, was a carpenter by trade and a fine one at that. He had built many of the structures in and Lumberton, MS and had a work ethic to be envied. He believed in placing the nails closer together than required by code and giving his very best to every effort.

After some of the land was cleared and the logs returned as boards, he

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worked every day on the structure and was assisted by a hard working Negro named Napoleon. My dad joined in the work every minute he could get away from his business at the meat market. The three men plus the lumber provided by the land and lots of hard labor began to add up to an actual house.

The house was only 20 x 28 feet in size, but to us it looked like a mansion. I remember the first time I visited the construction site. The fresh smell of pine hung heavy in the air and the frame of the house was a very inviting jungle gym. I could barely wait for our mansion to be finished so we could move in. The only problem with the house being finished was that my grandparents would then have no reason to stay. They would be going back home to Lumberton and we would only see them occasionally. But, that day finally came and we moved into a simple partially finished structure we called home. The outside was made of unfinished wood and it only had a sub floor at that time. Some of the walls inside did not go all the way to the ceiling because there was not enough lumber to finish the project. But, it was home and the four of us moved in.

My brother loved to climb up the door casings and wait for me

to say some silly thing to make him laugh and fall in a heap to the floor and then he would do it again. He was a rather mischievous fellow, but we had lots of fun roaming in the woods and tall grasses nearby, attempting to build playhouses and just having good fun in general.

I remember in the winter it got so cold one year that a damp cloth actually froze to the floor; that just shows how cold it was inside the house. We did have a small space heater and we huddled around it to stay warm.

The great outdoors beckoned to us and we enjoyed fishing in the rivers as well as the Gulf of Mexico. In time sand was pumped from the gulf to form a beautiful beach- Wow! What a wonderful time and place to live.

My little sister, Marlene, came along while we lived in the little house, but by this time we had tar paper and then siding added to the house, so it was better insulated.

Now our family was complete, but also very crowded in the little house; Big Daddy to the rescue once again. It was wonderful having him with us. H would play his harmonica at night and the sounds

were soothing after a long day spent with the noise of hammering, sawing and such. A new wing was added to the small house and beautiful hardwood floors covered the rough base flooring. All of the walls were completed to the ceiling and then covered in dry wall. It was beautiful and to us very big. My mom, Pauline, helped with the construction of this house too and did a great job using a nail setter to make the nails flush with the walls. We now had three bedrooms, a living room, dining room, kitchen, and my dad's office (he was in insurance by this time) but we still only had one bathroom. Somehow, we did not realize that anyone could possibly have more. We were blessed indeed.

When I went away to William Carey College in Hattiesburg, MS, one of the most welcome sights at each break was that structure with green shingled roof and white siding. This place where I had retreated from the world, been nurtured and loved was still home.

I finally moved away to Florida when I married my precious Gene. We made our own home and raised a family of three boys: Greg, Dean and Barri. The children loved to visit their grandparents in Long Beach, go camping and fishing with them, go to the beach which

is only five short blocks away, and enjoy life in the old homestead. We all love to spend time there. It's not really the dwelling that calls us back over and over again, but the people who live there, Robert and Pauline Little, my parents. Wood and nails may make a house, but it takes

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people and love to make a home. This old house has not always had an easy time. In August 1969, Camille split the two sections of the house apart and my Dad used a clear hose pipe with water in it as a level and jacked the house up and put it back together.

During Katrina, water came up even with the floor, but not into the house, trees once again were down all around it, but this old house, put together bit by bit with love, sweat, and perseverance, once again stood against the wind and the waves.

This old house, lovingly and caringly built, has stood strong through all of the good and bad times our family has endured. It has taken many beatings from storms and still managed to hold its rafters high. To me it is a tribute to a good work ethic that says, "Go the extra mile, build better than required by law, do things God's way." This old house, my childhood home, my refuge, "The Good Lord willing," long may it stand.

Editor's note: Sadly Mrs. Little passed away during the year and Mr. Little has moved to Florida to be near Monnie, herself a widow now. Her story, in its entirety, may be read at the Long Beach Library and also here at the Historical Society.



Condolences

The society is saddened by the passing of the following folks in our community, the friends, neighbors and loved ones of those in our city: Angela Pucheu, Phillip Allen, Florence "MiMi" Gottschalk, Keith Sadovsky, Lorena Harris, "Baby" Holder, Karen Creel Leary, Anne Blakeney Pavolini, Tony Matthew Serrato, Dr. Roderick Newell, Kayla Nicole Maniccia, Tommy Walters, Kathleen McCurry, Bill Hickman, Kathryn Magee, Gene Edwin Stokes, Catherine Broussard, Michael Eugene Gerhart and Ronald Cogley.

Note from Beth Hansen

I'm heavily into genealogy and noticed several years ago that the Pascagoula Library, which has many resources for the hobby, also has an area with long shelves that are filled with family folders. Family members come in from time to time with printed, copied or typed pages containing facts about their families. Included are new clippings and a wide assortment of materials. Anyone using the library is free to just "pick a folder" for perusal and use the information in any way

desired. One never knows what may be found in a source as wonderful as this for the compilation of family facts. I had a vision that our society could have the same thing in our own library someday.

Donald Dana came up with another idea that goes hand in hand with this one and that is for everyone to compile their own family story. It would be a way for us to continue where Mary Ellen Alexander left off in her book, Rosalie and Radishes. Obviously, there was not enough room in the book for all of the families so we will be happy to collect and house those stories for those of you who will participate.

Hopefully everyone will want to do this. Years after all of us have gone on to our great reward, maybe our great, great grandchildren will come into the Long Beach Historical Society Library to see if they may find any facts about their forebears. I am always excited to find anything new on my ancestors and I'm sure that it will give great joy to our descendants in the future.

Please think about these two ideas that we will combine into one. Write something in any manner that you choose, story form or fact sheet form or even your family tree, and make copies of any documents or clippings that you think others may want to see. We may even arrange something to help you with the copying.

Please give this some serious thought and also pass it onto friends and relatives who aren't members as this would need to be a citywide project in order for it to be successful.



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Announcements

24th Annual Mississippi Coast
History Week in Biloxi
Feb 16, 2014 – Feb 19, 2014
Biloxi Visitors Center

Sponsored by the Mississippi Coast
Historical/Genealogical Society &
City of Biloxi

We participate in this every year so
if you'd like to take a shift of a few
hours on one of these days, please
let us know by calling 864-6100
(Beth Hansen)

Reminder for USM events

On the USM Campus Thursday,
January 30 12:30 – 2:30 p. m. in
the Gulf Coast Library Third Floor.
A program: From the Flatlands to
the Coast: Bringing the Mississippi
Delta to the Mississippi Gulf Coast
which includes a Roundtable
Discussion Featuring: Dr. Douglas
Bristol, Dr. Luther Brown, Kathleen
Robbins and C Sade Turnipseed.
Also on Friday, January 31 from 6
– 7:30 p. m. at the Mary C O'Keefe
Cultural Center, Ocean Springs.
Mississippi Delta Blues musical
presentation by Robert Terrell
and Leo "Bud" Welch. (Serving
Fried catfish and hushpuppies)
Both events are free and open to
the public. 228-214-3423 – krc@
usm.edu and usm.edu/gulfcoast/
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2014 Calendars may be purchased at the Long Beach Library, City Hall and at Long Beach Pharmacy on Beatline Rd. Out of towners may send orders to us at P. O. Box 244 or order on the website: www.lbhistoricalsociety.org. Prices are \$6 each or 2 for \$10 on the larger calendar, which is 8 1/2 x 11 or \$3 each or 2 for \$5 on the smaller, which is about 5 x 7..



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Smoke From The Chimneys