

Smoke From The Chimneys



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

July 2012

Vice President & Program Chairman Message

Regretfully I say goodbye to Brenda Batey, our outgoing president. It has been a pleasure to serve with Brenda and she has done an excellent job and will be sorely missed. (You too, King!) However, she has assured us that she will be here as a member and will be happy to assist us when she is available. We wish her well and also wish good health and offer prayers to her family at this time.

As your Vice President, I would like to make a plea to all of you to please consider accepting the Presidency of the historical society. I do not consider myself to be a relaxed or comfortable public speaker, a fact that I passed on to the nominating committee last year when I was contacted to hold an office, or I would do it myself. I am staying on as Vice President and will do anything that I can to help the next president, please be assured of that. I will take great pleasure in seeing through until completion, the refurbishing, and stocking of our building with memorabilia & historical materials.

The term of office is short and only includes four meetings and some informal board meetings here and there at your discretion through the year... It is very fulfilling and I know the right person will enjoy it. Please be thinking about it. We have come so far since Mary Ellen Alexander began the society and we must continue on to preserve our past and educate our children to do the same.

At the spring meeting, Mrs. Polly Dubuisson Mincher again spoke to us about the old days in Long Beach, a subject that is always near and dear to our hearts. Humor just manages to pop up and make everyone feel good when listening and reminiscing about times past and we are very thankful that there are still many folks left to share this information with us.

The speaker for the July 9 meeting will be Steve Roberts of MS Gulf Coast Community College. He has been teaching at MGCCC since 1978 and has been the chair of the science department for ten years. Married for 42 years to Kathy Roberts, also an educator in her 27 year, Steve's hobbies include history, buying and renovating old houses and gardening. Steve and Kathy are the parents of a daughter, Bridget and have three lovely grandchildren.

He will be speaking about a precious coastal favorite, the live oak tree. We do love our live oaks, especially the E O Hunt tree on W Railroad St and the famous Friendship Oak on the USM Gulf Park Campus. Long Beach was also the second city in Mississippi to be named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation in 1987. The city also showed its pride in 2001 by planting many trees in the median honoring community volunteers of the day.

*Respectfully submitted,
Beth Hansen*

Society Stirrings

The WWII Memorial has been sorely affected by hurricanes. Our society is very happy and proud that it could be a part of its replacement as many of us have grown up seeing the memorial all of our lives. The dedication will not take place until on or near Veterans Day in November, which will be a fitting time for the ceremony and the exact date will be in the October newsletter. The new location, on the grounds of The Town Green is a fine spot and God willing, will remain so for many, many years. If you have not seen it yet, please drop by and check it out. It is a fine memorial to our city's brave men and women responsible for our freedom. It is also a fitting tribute to the mothers who began gathering weekly to pray for their sons and daughters back in 1942. By 1945 this gathering of ladies organized into the War Memorial Association and on June 3 of that year dedicated that first Honor Roll of those who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice in that service to our country.

High School Reunion Held

The Long Beach High School Alumni of the classes of 1960-65 recently held a very successful reunion. Attendees also included members from 1958, 1959 through 1969. The weekend included a Ladies Luncheon of over 40 women and several sneaky men.

The Friday night Meet and Greet event was held for the 2nd time on the Town Green and the Saturday night event was held in the Community Center on the St Thomas Church property. Both nights were well attended and Dr Marlin Ladner spoke

SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEYS LONG BEACH, MS

Beth Hansen: Editor

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Historical Society**

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Physical Address

535 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, 535 Klondyke Rd.

Notifications will be sent if anything changes.

2012 Meetings:

January 9, Monday

April 9, Monday — 5:30 PM

July 9, Monday — 5:30 PM

Oct 8, Monday — 5:30 PM

Email Address:

lbhistoricalsociety@lbhistoricalsociety.org

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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

on Saturday night. The evening included the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1962. Tasseled souvenir booklets were given to each class member. This class along with the classes of 1960 and 1961 and 1963 were the first students to move into the then new school on Cleveland Avenue in Sept 1959 when it officially opened. It was a new experience for all of these students to be moving away from Jeff Davis Avenue and over to an area that "seemed to be out of town." This group included society members Beth Hansen, Danny Hansen, both class of '60, Eddie Ware, class of '63 and countless others. The Busy Bee Cafe was sorely missed over at the new remote location and it is most fitting that we share the memories of graduate Rose Switzer Donaldson, class of 1957, who has written down the same thoughts that are probably passing through the minds of anyone who went to the high school on Jeff Davis Avenue.

The Busy Bee

This is written to the best of my remembrance, which is not always exact. I hope it is accurate enough to evoke some fond memories in the minds of those of you who grew up in Long Beach in the 50's. As I recall, around 1950 or so, when I was about 13 years old, a new café was opened by a local restaurateur named Bennie Stallone in Long Beach. It stood on the corner of Jeff Davis Ave, just across the street from the school, which at that time housed 1st grade through 12th, around 130 students. Shortly after opening as Bennie's Ice Cream Parlor, Jim and Bea Shuhardt took over and changed the name to The Busy Bee. A lady named June Lemon, mother of Terry Lemon, a class or two behind me, went to work there as waitress for the Shuhardts and the world changed for those of us going into our teens. We had a HANGOUT! If you ever watched the T.V. show Happy Days, we lived it, complete with Arnold's, their hang-out on that show

As you entered The Busy Bee, just to the left was a small dance floor with a Juke Box against the wall, where we played the latest hits by Elvis, Chuck Berry, Fats Domino, Theresa Brewer, Connie Francis, and so many more I can't name them all. Rock and Roll was just hitting its stride, thrown in with Country, and Pop. The first

time I ever heard Hound Dog and Blue Suede Shoes was on that Juke Box... To the right was the soda counter, with attached padded seat stools on a revolving pedestal. Behind the dance area were several booths, which seated about eight comfortably, ten if we scooped. The menu consisted of hamburgers, french fries, hot dogs, onion rings, chips, and plate lunches, and I'm not talking fast food, it was old-fashioned, home-cooked, melt-in-your-mouth GOOD, with real ice cream shakes, sundaes, banana splits, and fountain sodas, and all for a tenth of what that would cost today. We all ate lunch there every day, stopped off after school, after the football games, dates, movies at the Lobe Theatre, which was just next door, the Moonlight Drive-in, just down Highway 90, or the skating rink in Gulfport. Jim and Bea were probably in their early forties at that time, June maybe a bit younger, and they went all out to provide us with a good, clean, and well-supervised place to gather, and we adored all three of them. June, who was a former dancer, gave a group of us dance lessons, jitterbug, foxtrot, waltz, and even the rhumba. That is where we had our first romances, arguments, cried over our break-ups, laughed over our misadventures, celebrated our triumphs, mourned our defeats, and heard all the latest gossip. Our class graduated in 1957, and we all moved on or away. A family named Luter eventually took over the café, but it was never quite the same as those glorious days of the early fifties for those of us who were there. The Busy Bee, along with the Lobe and the Moonlight, quietly faded out of existence in the 60's, but will always be a part of the lives of those teen-agers like myself who remember.

Note: The photo and poem came from another former student, Betty Lou Hancock, who was a class or so ahead of me. She has been married to Alan (Baby) Holder for many years, and if I am not mistaken, the car parked in front in the photo belonged to her brother, James Hancock! Both are well-known lifelong residents of Long Beach.

Written and submitted by:
Rose Switzer Donaldson
05/2011

SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEY'S

THE "BUSY BEE"

There once was a place where "us young" kids could go

Just to have a Coke after a show

You felt welcome there

No one 'hassled' you

The juke box – Frankie Laine

No grass

No uppers

No downers

The owners really made you feel at home

Real bugers cooked fresh on a grill

Ah! The 40's and 50'

How I wish my "young" ones could know

The joy of being really wanted

If once more to see

A little place

Like the Busy Bee!

Betty Lou Holder



Thanks

Many thanks to Ginny McCaughan Lacy, granddaughter of Harper McCaughan, and Jere Hayward for the delicious refreshments served at the April meeting.

Rest in Peace

Condolences to the friends & relatives of the late Jane Dauro Berdine, Dr Danny Niolet and Mrs Maydean Ferguson Floyd.

The Future of Our Building

We are in the process of deciding on chairs and flooring for the meeting room and will unveil the results at our October meeting so be prepared for a new and comfortable look at that time.

Yearly Dues Reminder

As always, yearly dues are due and payable by July 31. Send in your check now to keep our newsletter in your mailbox. The society is nothing without your support.

SPOTLIGHTING OLDER HOMES IN LONG BEACH



Built in 1879 on Church Avenue as a 18' x 24' structure. It served as the Methodist Church from 1879 to 1904 when a new church was built. The building was moved to its present location and remodeled into a residence more than double its original size. It has remained a residence since 1904 and is one of the oldest remaining structures in Long Beach.