



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

January 2019

President's Message

Happy New Year,

Hope your new year is off to a good start and going as planned. Remember last January when our heater stopped working and we had to reschedule our meeting? Happy to say that we will be on time this year and toasty warm.

The meeting, our annual awards luncheon, is on January 21, at 11:00 a. m. It's always a good time for some extra socializing.

I was just thinking back on our programs from last year. There were only three remaining meetings after the January cancellation. With the Awards taking place at the April meeting, the remaining two were very enjoyable with interesting speakers. Hearing from Spike DeBenedetto about his arrowhead and other Indian artifact collections, was a departure from what we usually

have and was very worthwhile. It was a lucky day for us that he came to the society asking for our help. More on October speaker John Cuevas, below.

The annual Cemetery Tour held in October, after the last meeting, was a success as always. This year, we had two cancellations. Billy Skellie took one of them and I took the other (I hadn't planned to do it again this year, so it worked out.)

Thank you Billy, and thanks to all who give of themselves every year to make this event a success. A special thanks to Jason Lykins, who filmed from above with a drone, as well as on the ground. For those of you who haven't seen the video, it's on Facebook and probably YouTube as well.

A special thank you to Alderman Bernie Parker for the two lovely signs on Klondyke Rd. to lead visitors into our building and also for the beautifully cleaned look of our building. It has been

so sparkling white that it almost looked new. Thank you Bernie!

Initial sales for the 2019 calendar were not as brisk as I had hoped but we will continue to push them. You never know how things are going to happen. Just this week, we made \$100 on sales of last year's Gulf Park College Calendar. Allisa and Eddie will tell you all about that at the meeting.

Sincerely
Beth Hansen,
President

Last Meeting

John Cuevas, author of several books about the coast, namely the one on Cat Island, telling about his ancestors who owned the island, was also very enlightening. He passed on a few new tidbits. Always nice to hear about the first family of Long Beach. John's books are also very good.

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

Beth Hansen: Editor
228-864-6100

Published quarterly by the
**Long Beach
Historical Society**

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Long Beach, MS 39560-0244

Physical Address

645 Klondyke RD

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

Meetings will all be held on the THIRD
Mondays at Historical Society Building, 645
Klondyke Rd.

2019 Meetings:

- **January 21 - 11:00 am**
(Awards Meeting)
- April 15 - 6:00 pm
- July 15 - 6:00 pm
- October 21 - 6:00 pm

Email Address:

lbhistoricalsociety@lbhistoricalsociety.com

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

**Upcoming Awards and
Luncheon Meeting**

Please join us for the meeting on Jan 21, at 11:00 a. m. for the presentation of awards accompanied by lunch.

Coast Trolley Line

We've all seen the pictures and many have asked about the old coast trolley from time to time. Hopefully, the following information may answer some of those questions.

Residents along the coast were known to have had the desire of linking up with their sister cities by way of an electric trolley line back in the 1800's. By 1895, Biloxi got the ball rolling and within five years possessed an operational trolley in its city only.

By January of 1905, residents were encouraged by the Biloxi trolley and felt that prospects were good for connecting with other towns. They had no idea how quickly their wishes would come true.

Spencer Bullis, a New York engineer and promoter, who later became the first mayor of Gulfport was responsible for the arrival of Capt. Joseph T. Jones, a wealthy oil man from PA, to this area. Capt. Jones spent \$200,000.00 to buy the Biloxi

trolley line. He incorporated in March, 1905, as the Gulfport and Mississippi Coast Traction Company.

One of the incorporators in this venture was a wealthy Illinois capitalist and Long Beach resident, Mr. Joseph Van Cloostere, who at that time, was in the process of beautifying our city's west end with a beautiful new beach home.



The Jones purchase was said to have been the largest cash deal in the history of Biloxi. Plans were made to extend the line west as quickly as possible. The charter was signed by Gov. Vardaman on May 7, 1905. On July 3, a ceremony was held at the county courthouse, complete with the driving of a silver spike to commemorate the beginning of the trolley line. Capt. Jones promised to keep beautification of the area uppermost in his thoughts as he was of the opinion that the Mississippi Gulf Coast was some of the finest residential property on the continent.

Work on the trolley line was

delayed for several months due to the yellow fever epidemic.

By October, it was reported that many men were engaged in completing the grading of the road in anticipation of track laying. Next would be the laying of creosoted crossties and steel track. It was hoped the line would have running cars by February 1906.

Twelve cars were shipped from Philadelphia in January, 1906. Price per car was \$8,000.00 and were the finest made and possessed air brakes and the latest improvements. A reporter for the Daily Herald said that upon arrival they could be unloaded on the track, and after being connected to electricity, someone could holler out "All Aboard." That could have happened but all of the steel was not yet in place. However, there was so much of it down

DUES ARE DUE

Dues are due every January, unless you recently paid or recently joined during the latter part of last year. Any new members who signed up at one of the festivals on the Town Green do not have to pay again at this time. You may also pay your dues online: <https://lbhistoricalsociety.org/members>

And, remember, when you reach your 90th birthday, dues become complimentary, which is a small perk of the society.

that nearly all materials could be transported on it, which assisted in expediting the work.

On a project of this size, delays were quite common. One problem was keeping good laborers and securing all necessary materials. 1906 was no exception. Capt. Jones and his group had many hurdles to overcome. Those necessary materials were required for the building of the powerhouse that would actually run the trolley.

The manufacturer reported that there were advance orders ahead of the coast trolley line order and they must be fulfilled first. Once completed, the powerhouse had the capability to provide electricity to nearby towns if requested. Surely it was. It is thought that our own city may have gotten its first electricity when the trolley went into service.

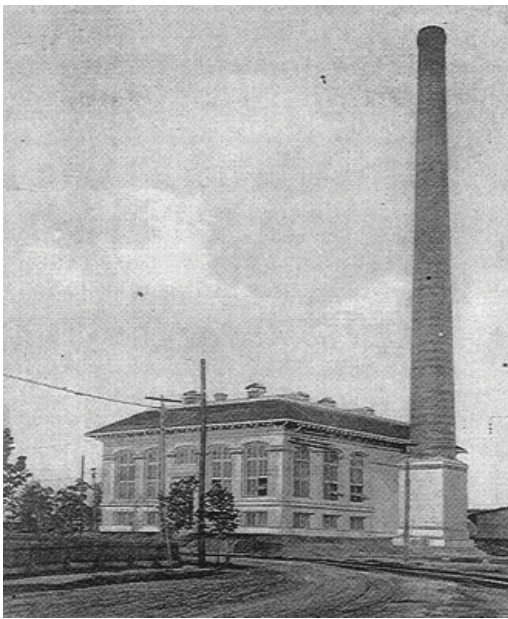
Although twelve cars were ordered in January 1906, two of the cars arrived in mid- March. They were standard interurban coaches, complete in every appointment, forty-five feet long with a seating capacity of forty-eight passengers, furnished with improved rattan seats. The exterior finish was Pullman green with gold trimmings and a liberal supply of brass. The interior was of elegantly polished hardware with birds-eye maple trimmings overhead and on the sides. They were equipped with the latest improved electric heating methods. Large movable



windows took up the entire sides and were protected on the outside by strong wire netting and shades on the inside as a protection from the sun.

The vestibules were extra wide and handsomely trimmed in maroon and gold, and the safety of the passengers was insured by collapsible gates, used while the cars were in motion.

Divided by a glass partition into two compartments each furnished alike, allowed the smokers room to enjoy their cigars without hanging on to the back vestibule.



When the electric generating plant was complete, in addition to its primary function of supplying electricity for the trolley, it also supplied the waterworks, lighting for Gulfport, heat for the Great Southern Hotel, railroad offices, the Union

Station, and half the businesses in town. The smokestack, over one hundred feet high and seven feet in diameter, was a landmark in Gulfport for many years. (Per Henry Black in his book, *Gulfport, Beginnings and Growth*)

By October, 1906, the trolley line was about a mile past Long Beach and running on a regular schedule. It was expected to be in Pass Christian within a few weeks.

The trolley ran for twenty years, being discontinued in 1926 when the seawall was built. Buses replaced the trolley cars.

Beth Hansen

Sources: *Genealogy Bank.com*
Gulfport, Beginnings and Growth
by Henry W. Black

Condolences

We were very saddened by the death of society member, Mike Wren, who passed after a courageous battle with liver cancer. Mike served for several years as our Governmental Affairs Liaison, a position created during the time when the government had the society confused with another group. Mike served us most competently during this time and he will be sorely missed. We extend our sympathies to his lovely wife Fran, and their large family.

Lou Scardino, "Lucky" Fayard III, Randall W. Slocum, Jimmy DiLorenzo, Violet Riley, Q. D. Spruill, James Hancock, Nancy Hicks, Vickie Scott, Genovefa Cupp, and Georgie Irwin.

**Your support is needed for the
Annual Society Fundraiser**

**Buy the 2019 Calendar or Calendars at
the meeting.**

**2019 features the History of
St. Thomas School — 1921 - 2005**

\$10.00 Large


\$5.00 Small

A BIG Thanks
to our Sponsors!

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Newspaper clippings

MISSISSIPPI RANKS THIRD AMONG THE STATES IN NUMBER OF FARMS

Front page news on April 1, 1919 showed that Mississippi was 3rd from the TOP in how many farms there are in each state and it wasn't an April Fool's joke. Texas was in first place with 450,000.00 farms, Georgia was in 2nd place with 330,000.00 and the great state of Mississippi had 295,000.00. The info was in chart form, but this highlight is much easier to read and not so boring.

MEXICO WOULD AVOID CLASH WITH THE UNITED STATES

Mexican Secretary of the Treasury
Favors Reciprocal Border
Guard Service.

Mexico City Aug. 28.—An important step toward the adoption of measures tending to prevent clashes between Mexico and the United States was taken Thursday night when Luis Cabrera, secretary of the treasury and generally regarded as the mouth-piece of the present administration, stated in a press interview that the Mexican and American governments should sign an agreement for reciprocal border guard service.

TRACTION COMPANY WATCH WASHOUTS

High Waters Caused Washouts at
Long Beach and Piaggio Stop
Necessitating Transferring.

The tracks of the Gulfport and Mississippi Coast Traction Company were washed out at Long Beach and the Piaggio stop as a result of the high waters caused by the presence of the tropical hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico during the past forty-eight hours and at the Piaggio stop it was necessary to transfer passengers traveling between Gulfport and Biloxi.

There was also a washout at the Hovey place and one at the Barret point near Gulfport but these were not of a serious nature. The one at the Lang place in Long Beach is the worst of the three and passengers were transferred up until a late hour today, the Piaggio damage having been repaired.

Manager W. A. Sullivan of the traction company was on the job during yesterday and today with a force of workmen and as fast as the tracks showed indications of being washed they were repaired with all speed. In places where the water was so high that the cross ties floated they were staked down and in this manner cars were allowed to pass over the tracks in safety. A broken rail was also included in the damage at Piaggio stop but this was repaired. Unless we have a more serious storm than is anticipated the traction company will not suffer any material damage to their tracks between Biloxi, Gulfport and Pass Christian.

The Piaggio home later became the Merry Mansion, so this was at Cowan Rd. & E. Beach Blvd in Gulfport.

from 100 years ago

PASTRY SALE AT LONG BEACH TOMORROW

Long Beach Methodist Ladies will conduct a Cake and Pastry Sale Saturday 9:30 a.m. at Castanera's Drug Store. A good opportunity for the ladies to secure something for Sunday dinner. advertisement 84t

evening at 7 o'clock. There will be refreshments and amusements of all kinds. Admission will be free and everybody is invited. In case of rain the picnic will be held the following evening.

PICNIC CATHOLIC CHURCH, LONG BEACH

There will be a picnic at the Long Beach Catholic Church tomorrow

PLANE STARTS AND LANDS FROM BUILDING

Newark, N. J., Aug. 23.—An airplane landed on the roof of a building today, then made a flight from the roof. Edwin E. Ballough, formerly of the Canadian aviation services and now in the employ of a local dry goods firm as an aviator, carrying one passenger, circled the army quartermaster stores building from a height of 700 feet and landed on the roof, which is 987 feet long and 80 feet wide. The machine then was wheeled to one end of the roof, taxied a short distance and took the air. The feat was accomplished in Paris a year ago.

More Southern Troops Coming Home Soon

Washington, April 1.—Army organizations assigned for early convey home, announced by the War Department today, include the 114th Engineers Train, which is a unit of the 39th (Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi National Guard) Division.

THESE ARE PRICES SECURED BY THE BILOXI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FROM THE GROCERS OF BILOXI:

24 lb. sack Obelisk Flour	\$1.75
2 lbs. Best Sliced Box Bacon	\$1.30
2 lbs. Salt Side	70c
1 10-lb. Premium Ham	\$4.25
1 lb. Best Butter	70c
1 lb. Lard, Compound	30c
2 cans No. 2 Tomatoes	30c
2 cans Blue Ridge Corn	35c
3 cans No. 1 Tomatoes	27c
2½ lbs. Best Head Rice	38c
2 lbs. Cream Meal	12c
2 lbs. Hudnuts Grits	12c
2 lbs. Lima Beans	25c
2 lbs. White Beans	25c
2 lbs. Red Beans	30c
2 lbs. Black Eye Peas	15c
1½ peck Potatoes, 7½ lbs.	33c
5 lbs. Am. Standard Granulated Sugar	.50c
2 cans large Pet Cream	30c

\$12.62

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