

Smoke From The Chimneys



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

April 2019

President's Message

Happy Spring Everyone,
The yearly Awards Luncheon at the January meeting was a great success. Three Friends awards were given this year, all for helping each year with the Cemetery Tour. Recipients were Mary Scott and Rebecca Scott, a mother/daughter team, and also Jeff Savarese. The three have all helped for several years even though they aren't members of the society. (Mary is a former member and we need to change that.)

Donald Dana was given the Harper McCaughan Award for being a leader in the selling of the most ads every year for the Pictorial Calendar, which is our main fund raiser. There would be no calendar without those ads and Donald is someone to be counted on at all times. Thanks again Donald.

The Mary Ellen Alexander Award this year went to Ray Bellande of Biloxi and Ocean Springs who

had a long career as a geologist. Ray has spent many years of his life compiling coast history, writing countless newspaper articles, and maintaining multiple websites. He's adding the MEA award to a long list of others, such as, Historian of the Year for both Biloxi and Ocean Springs, Award of Merit from the Mississippi Historical Society, and Preservationist of the year for the City of Biloxi. I've come across his work numerous times for personal and society searches. Ray was very happy with his award and enjoyed being with us, in fact, was the last one to leave the building, with Eddie and myself.

Back in February, at Carol Paola's request, I gave a program for two of her Discovery classes. Eddie made a Power Point presentation with my information and taught me how to use it. He also made souvenir booklets for each child, which he handed out. We found out this really helped the children,

because they didn't have to take notes. The large classes came on two consecutive days and enjoyed viewing selected pictures of old homes, which I had specifically chosen for them, i.e., the Angel House fire; Michel's three story home, visited by the students while being built in late 1800's; Mayor Carroway's rescue help with the horses, plus others. The students seemed to enjoy all, asked many questions and also imparted their own wisdom. One student asked if Eddie and I lived there in the building!!! I was surprised to learn from Carol that they knew more about Power Point Presentations than I

Sincerely
Beth Hansen,
President

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

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228-864-6100

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Historical Society**

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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:

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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

UPCOMING MEETING

Hoping to duplicate the success of the February presentation, the April 15th meeting will also be a Power Point presentation on our new big screen television. However, the homes will be different and geared to adults. Some of the homes are pictures on the wall but some of them have never been shown or discussed in the past and the that have been will also contain new information. This is so current members may enjoy it as much as prospective new members who have been invited.

Some of the recent new home owners have embraced our little town and this will be an opportunity for them to learn more about local history and who was creating that history.

History of Hancock Bank in Long Beach

The Hancock County Bank
OF
Long Beach, Mississippi
will hold open house
Saturday, May 28th
from 4 p. m. until 8 p. m.

Coast citizens are cordially invited to participate in the celebration of this event, joining with the citizens of Long Beach in christening this latest achievement marking the unending progress of this Coast Section.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS PROMPTLY
AT 9 A. M.
Monday, May 30th
Hancock County Bank
Resources Over Two and Three Quarter Millions
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H. S. Whites, President E. C. Rogers, Vice-Pres. Peter Tinsley, Asst. Cashier Chas. T. Mitchell, Asst. Cashier
Dr. A. R. Robinson, Vice-Pres. Leo W. Bell, Cashier R. L. Rogers, Asst. Cashier Boyd St. Tinsley, Asst. Cashier

The home was moved close by to a new location on 2nd St. in plain view of the new bank. It still stands today in 2019.

On Saturday afternoon before the Monday morning opening, a four hour reception was held for the community and others along the Coast, to view the lovely new building.

Designed by William Nolan, a New Orleans architect, the building was very pleasing in design. Slightly elevated on a partial terrace, construction was carried out with the most up to date materials of the day. John T. McDonald of Bay St. Louis was the contractor. Face brick, reinforced concrete, and steel were used. The main entrance door was of glass and brass. Cashier spaces contained Tennessee marble which was also used as a high baseboard around the lobby. All woodwork was of stained mahogany. Solid mahogany was also used for all furniture, including the work desks.

Hancock County Bank of Bay St. Louis (established in 1899) purchased a fifty foot lot in the middle of the business section, at the head of 2nd St. and Jeff Davis Avenue, from Dr. A. R. Robinson of Pass Christian. A March opening was planned but due to delays in obtaining materials, the city of Long Beach was very pleased with a May 30, 1927 opening.

The site was the former location of the two story home of the first mayor of the town, Joel N Whitten.

Located to the rear of the transactions area was the

sophisticated vault which seemed to be ahead of its time. Fitted with the latest in theft prevention devices, the warning alarm was controlled by sound waves, and clapping hands would elicit a buzzing sound.

A large director's room was located behind the vault with openings to the north and west.

Earl Batchelor was named Assistant Cashier of the Hancock County Banks and also as Manager of the new Long Beach Branch.

Since Long Beach was still basking in its reputation as THE farming market on the coast and still known as the Radish Capitol of America, the farmers were quite happy at the prospect of having a bank.

The Long Beach bank was in operation for six years when the parent company announced the opening of a fourth bank on Monday, August 15 1932. Eight months later in April 1933, the company made another announcement that the Long Beach and Gulfport branches had consolidated and the Long Beach branch would be closing, an action which took place immediately. At the time, Gulfport was without a bank.

The bank did utilize the vacant building during the 30's, as different activities were reported as having taken place there. In fact, in 1939, when the librarian at the WPA library in the Packing Shed, was informed that the library must be closed for 30 days for regulations, she was also told that all books

must be turned in. A group of city minded individuals quickly sprang up to form a new independent library. Their first meeting took place in the idle bank building, which also became its temporary headquarters. The newly formed library stayed in the building for over a year, until the bank put it up for sale in August 1940.

In the fall of 1940, the bank sold the Jeff Davis Avenue building to the Masonic Lodge, which immediately began the addition of a top story. Plans were made for the lodge to occupy the addition on top while the U. S. Post Office would occupy the bottom floor.

The renovations took place pretty swiftly and the Post Office moved into the first floor area of the former bank in mid-December. Dedication ceremonies took place on Dec 28, 1940, with much fanfare.

Twenty-two years later, Hancock Bank again made an announcement. Due to the growth of the city, it would restore the Hancock Bank to Long Beach on May 18, 1955. It would be the first of Hancock's banks in Hancock and Harrison counties to have drive-up banking.

Also due to the ensuing growth in the city, there was an expansion of the bank in 1966, eleven years later. The building was enlarged to four times the size of the former one. The new safe deposit vault with more than 200 boxes was a major addition to provide full banking services. Two Long Beach firms, Interiors by Dama and Enzo Fashions (the latter for draperies)

were used. Nice of the bank to utilize the local merchants. An open house was held on Friday, March 11 and a ribbon cutting took place with honors by Mayor R. L. Reed. Hancock Bank also celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 1966 and celebrations were held in all of its branches around the coast. Hancock Bank has served us well through the years, even with the addition of other banks from time to time.

The bank was happy with its latest building thinking that it was in keeping with the Long Beach City Hall and the fine new library which also opened that year on the corner of 3rd St. and Jeff Davis Ave.

Source: genealogybank.com for Daily Herald access.



NEW BANKING FACILITIES

Tomorrow marks an important milestone for Hancock Bank. A branch facility—in Long Beach—opens its doors. Drive-in banking and many other useful banking services will be offered for the first time in this locality. This occasion in itself is an important event; but even more important, the expansion is a continuation of that principle of service which has guided us through the years. The desire to serve, to serve adequately, and to serve well has motivated all our activities.

So it is with pleasure that Hancock Bank announces the opening of this new branch. Located in Long Beach on Jeff Davis Avenue, the facility is situated for the convenience of a growing community.

You are cordially invited to join with us in dedicating the Long Beach banking house at eight o'clock tonight. Local dignitaries will be present; refreshments will be served; and favors will be presented to those attending. Come and inspect this newest addition to Mississippi Gulf Coast banking.

The building of this branch has been made possible by the confidence and good will of thousands of our customers. With their faith Hancock Bank again pioneers in expanding its operations. As Hancock Bank moves on with you into the future, it rededicates itself to the service of its customers, that ours may be, through the years ahead, a community of increasing prosperity and happiness.

An Identical Facility Will Be Completed In Northeast Gulfport within A Few Days. Please Watch For An Announcement Of Its Opening.

We Thrive on Thrift

HANCOCK BANK

Bay St. Louis Gulfport Pass Christian

STRENGTH SERVING THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST SINCE 1899 STABILITY INTEGRITY

Thank You From Donald

I would like to thank the Long Beach Historical Society Officers and Directors for honoring me with the Harper McCaughan Award. I have been pleased to have had a part in developing the Pictorial Memories Historical Calendar over the years and working with many dedicated members of the Society.

In 1997, shortly after the Society was started, Mary Ellen and I had brainstormed possible ways for the Society to raise money. I had been active in the Mississippi Historical Society as a Director (and later President) for many years, and in early 1998 I attended a workshop in Jackson sponsored by MHS. During the "show and tell" workshop, a representative of the Hattiesburg Historical Society explained how that group had developed a calendar which featured historical pictures of their city.

I returned from Jackson and told Mary Ellen about the calendar. Sitting at her kitchen table, we decided that Long Beach could develop a pictorial calendar as a fund-raiser. I agreed to sell the advertisements if she could come up with the appropriate pictures and text. Mary Ellen's brother, "Winks", overheard our discussion and thought it a great idea!

In the spring of 1998, we began developing the calendar. Craig Carpenter, who owned a printing company in the old Post Office building on Jeff Davis Avenue, agreed to layout the design and publish the calendar. Throughout the late summer and into the fall,

work continued until the 1998 Pictorial Memories Historical Calendar was printed. As they say, "the rest is history!"

--Donald Dana, Jr.

CONDOLENCES

All of us are still mourning the loss of Mable Dauro Skellie, the 2nd president of our society. Besides being missed by her children and other family members, she will also be missed by her large extended family, including many first cousins, some of whom are also members, as well as countless friends. Mable is also survived by an aunt, the youngest from the Dauro family, Mary Hansen, who was only 6 years her senior.

Wearing many hats during her lifetime, Mable was a fine example to others. She was proud of the accomplishments that took place during her tenure as president during the years of 1999 to 2001. She remarked that a highlight of the last year of her presidency was the Society's winning of the Frank Everett Award for the interpretation and preservation of Gulf Coast history. There was a monetary value along with the honor and the society purchased some display cases with it.

In 2008, Mable was honored by the Historical Society with the coveted Mary Ellen Alexander Award.

Other progress made during that time was the landscaping of the WWII Memorial and the placing of several historical markers, plus the

preparation and presentation of the old home plaques. Mable was very appreciative of the generous contribution of time and effort by all concerned, who made these actions take place.

Mable helped her husband, William Skellie, run the family grocery business, found time to work outside the home for a time, was active in her church, St Thomas Catholic, was a founding member of the Carnival Association of Long Beach, a charter member of the historical society, serving in various capacities in all. In later years she volunteered her time in helping others.




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Newspaper clippings

LONG BEACH'S OFFER PRACTICALLY ASSURES GIRLS' COLLEGE FOR COAST

The offer made by the people of Long Beach to subscribe \$25,000 to the girls' college which Col. J. C. Hardy contemplates establishing on the coast, has given definiteness to the proposition. Incidentally it shows that the Mississippi Coast has its eyes open to the main chance and is not passing up anything that would mean so much to its general development as the college proposed by Col. Hardy.

When seen yesterday about the offer of Long Beach, Col. Hardy expressed pardonable gratification. It means, he said, the practical assurance of the school. There are several handsome sites in Long Beach and the people have shown commendable enterprise in seeking to secure the school.

However, Long Beach, it is learned, is not the only contender for the school for Pass Christian has also voiced a willingness to secure it and will doubtless back up its wishes in the premises with a substantial offer. Pass Christian also has a number of suitable sites and would consider itself extremely fortunate in being chosen by Col. Hardy. It is not improbable that sharp rivalry will soon be evident between the towns which would like to be the home of the new school. A school such as that contemplated by Col. Hardy is one which

any community might eagerly reach for.

"Things are shaping up nicely," said the colonel yesterday. "So very nicely in fact," he added, "that I have been making plans for the buildings which, in their entirety, will make a thoroughly modern as well as handsome school plant." The buildings will be of brick and the plan is such that additions can be made from time to time without detracting from the harmony of the whole. The initial plant will cost about \$100,000 and will accommodate 150 girls, but provisions will be made to meet an increase of about fifty new girls a year until the annual attendance reaches approximately 500 pupils. The school will be complete to the minutest detail and will not only be a joy to the pupils but an ornament to the coast and state.

COAST WILL REJOICE

The coast will rejoice to know that Col. Hardy has perfected his plans to that extent where he can speak of his school as almost a certainty. His residence of six years on the coast and his presidency of the Gulf Coast Military Academy have both shown that he is a citizen worth holding on to, and a school man of large ability to whom success is no stranger.

Plant Freak.

Usually the caterpillar eats the plant, but there arrived at London recently a caterpillar which a plant had eaten. It came from New Zealand. The caterpillar, about two and one-half inches in length, burrowing into the ground, took with it on its head the spore of a parasitical fungus. The latter, germinating, rooted in the body of the caterpillar. From the caterpillar's head has grown a fungus plant 5½ inches long, with a head like a bulrush, 1½ inches in length. The caterpillar has become wooden. The vegetable growth fills its skin, which is perfectly preserved. Every segment is plainly marked out and the legs are intact.

from 100 years ago

UTILIZATION OF SOUTHERN LANDS

Head of Development Association Speaks On Subject To Gulfport Business Men.

Clement S. Ucker, manager of the Southern Settlement and Development Association, and Mr. Moore of the Southern Pine Association, spoke to Gulfport business men last night on the need of land development work in the south. The meeting was presided over by H. E. Blakeslee who also made timely remarks.

Mr. Ucker showed what has been done in the Carolinas, Virginia and Georgia by concerted action, and believes that as much can be done in Mississippi. Mississippi, he said, led all the states of the south in tick eradication.

Mr. Ucker made a fine talk, showing plainly that the south cannot hope to enjoy the same prosperity which has come to other sections unless its lands become utilized. That is the keynote of the movement which he heads.

Mr. Moore seconded all that Mr. Ucker said and emphasized the need in this section of the spirit which made California.

Mr. Blakeslee explained the plan of organization and expressed the belief that Mississippi would follow the footsteps of other southern states which have gone in for land development.

Another meeting will be held in Gulfport in two or three weeks. The movement applies specially to south Mississippi but may be extended to take in the whole of the state.

A 12-Fingered Pickpocket.

When Gerardo Gulliano was arraigned in New York city for stealing a wrist watch he was sent to have his finger prints made. Then it was discovered that he had five perfectly formed fingers on each hand and a thumb. Further investigation showed that he also had six toes on each foot. It is the first time in the police department records that such a case has presented itself.

WATROUS-QUARLES

A wedding of more than local interest took place at the Presbyterian church in Long Beach last Saturday afternoon, the Rev. Dr. Mathis officiating. The contracting parties were Miss May J. Quarles of Long Beach, and Mr. Jeffrey Steele Watrous of Mobile. The church was prettily decorated under the direction of Mrs. Hendon and her assistants, in trailing vines, ferns and pink roses. Miss Killo Toomer presided at the organ and Miss Florence Pillingham added to the pleasure of the occasion by singing very sweetly a solo—"I Love You." The ushers, Miss Grace Quarles and Miss Christine Ziz, were dressed in simple white organdy preceeded the bridal party to the chancel. The bride dressed in dark blue georgette crepe, had as her attendant her cousin Miss Pauline Quarles, attired in a delicate pink georgette and the groom's attendant was his brother, Julian Watrous, of Pascagoula, who followed the ushers. The aisle was strewn with pink rose petals by two dainty little flower girls—Winnie May Toomer and Rosemary Emery. Immediately after the ceremony the relatives of the two families were received at the bride's home where refreshments were served and the cutting of the brides cake, and all joined in wishing the newly wedded pair much happiness. The many bridal presents attested the popularity of the bride, who is well known throughout South Mississippi, especially in her native county—Harrison where she served as demonstrator for a number of years. Miss Quarles was truly the inspiration that put into activity the work of the girls clubs, which was carried to a fine success under her instruction. Harrison County captured the banner over the competing counties of the State at the State Fair, and also many premiums for the quality and quantity of the products put up under her direction. Her last work in this line was as supervisor of Girls Clubs in nineteen different counties. And in appreciation of her ability and splendid service she had recently been offered a very remunerative position by the State of Mississippi. Mr. Watrous is a graduate of the A. & M. College of this state, also of the Western house school of Electrical Engineering, and he has held important positions in Havana and other points in the Tropics, but at present he is in charge of the construction of the Electric Engineering at the Chickasaw Plant near Mobile.

Mr. and Mrs. Watrous will make Mobile their home.

Source: genealogybank.com

ATTENTION
Dues were due in January
This could be your last newsletter!

Check the Expiration Date under your address, if it is prior to 12/31/2019 your dues are past due and this will be your last newsletter!

Membership is from January 1 until December 31. We offer three types of membership:

1. Individual \$15.00
2. Family \$20.00
3. Student \$5.00 (K - 12)

Mail check too:

Long Beach Historical Society
P. O. Box 244
Long Beach, MS 39560

You can also pay online:

www.lbhistoricalsociety.org

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