



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

April 2023

President's Message

Happy Easter to all, what a great and special time of year, and extra special to those of us who may be Christians! The religious side and the bunny side are both looked forward to each year! However, the price of eggs is a big downer!

Paired with spring, this is a glorious time of year. New plant growth is sprouting up everywhere, helping us to forget the little freeze and making some of us want to be on our knees in those flower beds. I can't resist it, even though I, as a senior citizen, know better, lol!

Isn't it exciting to see the work progressing on the Quarles House? It's finally happening. Can you imagine our society having another new home, and this one coming up, will be the ultimate!!!!!! We've come a long way since 1997. I know Mary Ellen is looking down with pride. Thanks again Jim and Janet!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I think everyone is also looking forward to the return of Amtrak later this year between NOLA and Mobile. I have enjoyed seeing the streamlined looking trains making practice runs through the middle of town during the week days. We're all awaiting an announcement of the opening date which is said to be between Oct 1 and Dec 1. The company has already upgraded the boarding platforms in the four cities chosen for participation. Those are Pascagoula, Biloxi, Gulfport and Bay St. Louis.

During the World's Fair years in New Orleans, when Amtrak had an extended run here, I enjoyed a few rides to the city. On one occasion, my mom and I even took my two youngest children, five and nine, for a short ride from Gulfport to Bay St. Louis, just to say they'd ridden a train. One of my teenagers raced over in the car to meet us in "the Bay". It was a quick and fun family outing!

Sadly, on a serious note, after writing the above, we learned about the terrible weather, injuries, and deaths of our fellow Mississippians. Katrina comes racing back to our minds so very quickly. Time to pray and donate to our fellow Mississippians!

Sincerely
Beth Hansen

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

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Long Beach
Historical Society

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645 Klondyke RD.

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

2023 Meetings:

- January 16 -11:00 am
- **April 17 - 6:00 p.m.**
- July 16 - 6:00 p.m.
- October 15 - 6:00 p.m.

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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

Yearly Awards Presentation

Our Awards presentation this year was two Friends Awards, which went to Bruce Gremillion and Rosemary Gremillion. These two are such faithful members and love the historical society. For the last few years, they have manned the Welcome Table at the annual Cemetery Tour and sometimes it's cold and damp out there but we've gotten no complaints yet. Thank-you Rosemary and Bruce. Bruce, you're the youngest Ninety-year-old whom I know!!!!!!! Don't send in a check for your dues anymore, they're free now! Congrats and thanks!

Last quarter's Meeting

Since we didn't have a full complement of yearly awards at the January meeting, I presented a program about the Jewish New York comedian who got his start in our great state of Mississippi. It was Harry Moses Horwitz, better known to all of us as Moe Howard, leader of the Three Stooges. Included of course, were all of the other Stooges, brothers, Samuel, better known as Shemp and Jerome, known as Curly. Also included was the great Larry Fine and others who joined the group from time to time, when either illness or other jobs arose.

Everyone seemed to really enjoy the program and many had tons of questions and enjoyed the pictures too. By the way, when Moe was 17, he answered an ad for an actor to work on a summer showboat, docked in Jackson, MS. which made trips up and down the rivers. He came back down for a 2nd summer to hone his craft and the rest is history, after his brothers all joined him at different times.

The Next MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday April 17, 2023, at 6 P. M. Speaking to us will be member Cindy Easterling, who lives part time in Pass Christian and in St. Louis, Missouri.

Cindy is a native of New Orleans who spent most of her growing up summers on the Mississippi Gulf Coast with her grandparents. She's from a long line of ancestors who spent much free time on the Coast. New Orleanians have contributed much to the success of our city and Coast. Her degrees include Art & Architectural History and Architectural Drafting and Design. She has practiced architecture for over 40 years,

twenty in the employ of various firms and is self-employed now. Cindy has given frequent presentations on AIA topics over the years, was well acquainted with Mary Ellen, and well versed on the subject of the Quarles House.

Note from Beth: *“Through the years people have inquired about a bottling company in the city so I decided to publish this cute story written by member Doug Hendon for the second meeting of the Society, dated Oct 6, 1997. Doug (RIP), was one of three members presenting that evening. All three were descendants of pioneer citizens. I was present at that meeting and they all did a great job. For this newsletter, I’ve taken the liberty of changing or adding info about buildings which are no longer on the avenue as we know it today. Enjoy!!”*

Feature Story

In the late 1940's and early 50's, Long Beach had a soft drink bottling company. The Nu-Grape Bottling Company was located on the west side of Jeff Davis Avenue, at 138, to be exact, between 3rd St. and the Bankhouse Coffee building, sitting behind the buildings which faced the avenue in those days. The company was a 3-man operation, or I should say two men and a boy.....I was the boy.

Mr. Lyman H. Coker was the manager and inspector. The other gentleman was Dallas F. Boothe, a good natured, tall, lanky fellow, and in the days before video games, he had the best hand and eye coordination of anyone I'd ever seen. We bottled two flavors, grape and one of the best orange drinks I'd ever tasted.



A typical run started just at daylight on a Saturday morning. The syrup was gravity fed from two large wooden barrels that were in the loft. Downstairs there was a large metal conveyor belt running down the center of the building. It held around six bottles across. I stood on one side of the conveyor and the bottler on the other. I loaded dirty bottles in one side, upside down in the belt, and as they moved around, were washed and returned back to me...I took the clean bottles and stuck them in the other side for the bottler and at the same time

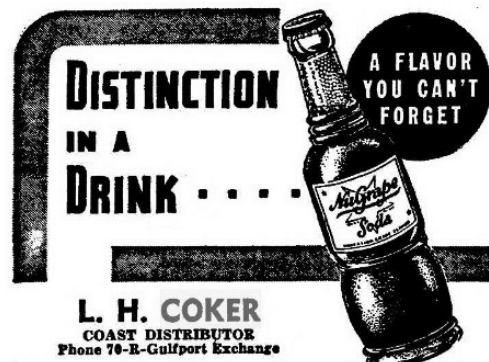
putting more dirty bottles in the rack. (Lucy & Ethel candy skit style). The bottler standing on the other side would remove a clean bottle and place it in the first station of the bottling machine and start the actual bottling process. The machine had three stations, the first syrup, the second, carbonated water and the third, installation of the cap.

The first bottle was put in and the handle pulled one way for syrup in the first bottle. Another clean bottle came in and moved the first to station 2 where the handle was pulled with the bottler's foot putting a cap on bottle. Another bottle came in..1 to 2 to 3 and 3, etc. The bottler

then took the finished bottle and threw it down a long wooden chute. The man was amazing as his left hand was putting clean bottles in the machine and working the handle with right hand while one foot was working the peddle all at the same time, throwing the finished bottle down the chute where Mr. Coker removed and placed them on top of a box for inspection (light bulb inside).

Mr. Coker then put the bottles in wooden cases. Once the operation began, we would bottle around a hundred or so cases in a few hours. As I mentioned before, the bottler never missed a beat, and still had time to hand me a drink before its' cap went on. One hasn't lived until tasting a fresh cold soda pop with fizzy carbonated water and fresh syrup!

We then loaded the cases on the truck and Mr. Boothe and I made deliveries, mostly in Gulfport, till around dark...a long day but always great!



Small Feature in School History

One-Hundred Years Ago, in 1923, the first group of students in our school system completed twelve grades in the town for the first time. Those five graduates were Eddie Belle Richardson, Margaret Cruthirds, David Weeks, Martha Kerr, and E. H. Conn.

Why is this, you ask? Because for many years, there were only ten grades being taught at Long Beach School. A certificate was given to all whom completed the ten grades, but if desiring a regular diploma, enrollment was necessary in another school which taught twelve grades. Many enrolled at Gulfport High School but they had to catch a trolley or bus at the shore. This necessitated fare both ways. Some families with several children could not accomplish this task and made arrangements for their children to spend evenings and nights with friends or relatives living in Gulfport.

Fortunately, our graduates never had to be concerned with that problem again after 1923.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Back in 2000, the society began recognizing homes 75 years and older with a plaque of recognition for their property. For those of you who remember, it's a "no strings attached" honor. At the present time, we now have several such properties. At the inception of the program, we split the cost of the plaque with the homeowners. It was deemed at that time that if the cost became prohibitive, we may want to switch to a List of Recognition.

Now that there are so very many homes in the 75-year range, and we recently had another request, the Board has decided to switch to the list, which will be prominently displayed in our building. Now that the homeowner will be assuming the cost of the plaque, he will therefore be free to choose something of his own likes and desires.

The latest one is at 125 Beach Park Place, the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Ken Walker, who are also members of the society. We will be having a small ceremony at the home at _____ for anyone who can be present.

Condolences

We ran a short newsletter last quarter which didn't accommodate as much news as desired, so following is mention of Dr. J. Hurd Gaddy, who passed in late November at the age of 99.



Our hearts are with the family of Dr. Hurd who was so greatly loved by all who knew him. He shared a special bond with all of his patients, holding our children even before we did!

When the Society participated in the Veterans Parades, Dr. Hurd was always present, very handsome and fit in his WWII uniform. It may have been new but he surely looked as good in it as he did at age 19 wearing it for the first time.

Once when many of us Long Beachians were on one of the "Father Louis Cruises" to the Caribbean, Dr. Hurd regaled us with his mesmerizing storytelling, as his family called it. We all loved hearing about his hilarious memories of bringing his college sweetheart home to the farm for her first weekend visit! Her name was Denise; she wore short shorts, and smoked cigarettes! And what a fabulous sport she was as her adoring husband chattered away to his delighted audience!

Dr. Hurd appreciated our mission here at the Society and told us so at the meetings he was able to attend and in correspondence when paying his dues. We reminded him that he was exempt from paying dues after his 90th birthday but he wanted "to do his part" and continued to send in his dues!

Dr. Jim gave his dad a fine send-off at the Mass of Christian Burial at St. Thomas Church, sharing high lights of his life with all of us. RIP old friend!

In Memory

This month marks the birthday and passing of Claire Morrison, the oldest member of the society, who passed at 105, on 19 April, 2020. A wonderful and long life!

Thank You

A special thank you to Ron and Genie Fillingim Hendry for the generous memorial they began for her cousin, Janet Cassibry Brame. The Hendrys are always so thoughtful in their support of the historical society which is very much appreciated. Please accept our condolences on the passing of your loved one.

Genie and Janet are descendants of one of our city's pioneer families, Ed & Constance Fillingim. Janet, who passed late last year at age 91, in Illinois, was the daughter of Florence Fillingim and Thomas Cassibry. She loved her hometown and spending time with her grandparents during her growing up years. Janet, a widow, left three children and six grandchildren.

Mrs. Brame also provided information to Mary Ellen Alexander about the Fillingim family during the writing of Rosalie and Radishes.

Dues are due every January, unless you recently paid or recently joined.

Check the address label to see if your membership has lapsed.

- Per Individual \$15.00
- Family \$20.00
- Student \$5.00 (thru 12th grade).

Mail to:

Long Beach Historical Society
PO Box 244

Long Beach, MS 39560

You may also pay online:

www.lbhistoricalsociety.org/members

Find more at lbhistoricalsociety.org



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