



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

January 2023

President's Message

Happy New Year to one and all. Time to move on from those 2's that we fought so hard to get used to. At first it was cute, funny, and clever. Some folks tried to see just how many times the number could be used. Something happened at 2 o'clock, on the second month and 2nd second, etc. However, I hope new numbers mean a nicer year full of less turmoil.

We had another good CEMETERY TOUR last October. The crowd wasn't as large as 2021 but it was still a good turnout and some of the folks lingered around for a while talking to each of the re-enactors and those packing up. They were very complimentary. Thanks to members Pat & Russ Jones, who chaired the event again. Russ is also one of our repeat presenters. Thanks to all the members who participated in making the evening a success by helping us pass history along!

2022 wasn't nice to the History House either. We replaced the front steps last year and recently required the services of a plumber.

Thank you to all of you who attend the meetings. It's heartwarming seeing a community come together. I would also like to single out the Class of 1958 and one member of 1957 who is married to one in the group. OK, it's Buddy Ray and his wife Louise Rishel. Several folks from this class are always in attendance and it is apparent they are enjoying themselves, as we all are. We're a laid-back group who enjoys reminiscing about our little community!

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday, Jan 16 at 11:00 a.m. at the Awards Luncheon!

Sincerely
Beth Hansen

Programs

SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEYS LONG BEACH, MS

Beth Hansen: Editor
228-864-6100

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Long Beach
Historical Society

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Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 244

Long Beach, MS 39560-0244

Physical Address

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.

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

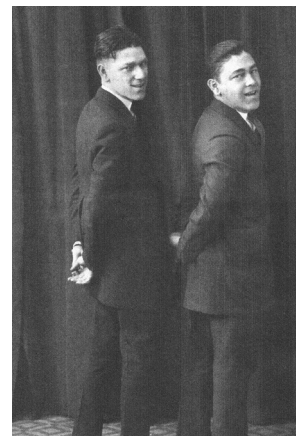
The October program was about a native-born New York entertainer who actually became famous after getting his start in show business in the great state of Mississippi. Those in attendance really seemed to enjoy the program and were full of questions at the conclusion.

Some years back we stopped having a speaker for the awards meeting, especially if there were many awards. One year a speaker was a little long winded and we were all shifting from one hip to the other so we decided to discontinue the speaker for awards month. However, there isn't a full complement of awards for last year, so a program may hit the spot this time. Each year since Covid should advance us to those pre-Covid times in the society.

And, of course, don't forget the complimentary lunch. We all seem to enjoy that and the comradery that goes along with it. To you out of towners, we have the speaker or awards first and then break for refreshments. I ring a bell (LOL) when it's time to resume the business part of the meeting. (The bell belonged to Mary Ellen, an old cow type bell, another LOL here.)

A recap of Harry Moses Horwitz who later changed his name to Moe Howard. I saw an article about 17-year-old Moe in the Mississippi magazine in 2012.

Moe answered an ad he had seen in Billboard magazine, for a male who could play parts for young and old and could provide his own wardrobe. The job was at Dock side 8, in Jackson, Miss. Apply to Capt. Billy Bryant, on the showboat, Sunflower. The year was 1914. Moe didn't have much of a wardrobe and submitted a picture of his handsome neighbor. He got the job and free train tickets to Mississippi. Moe didn't want to tell his parents that he was going to Mississippi, so Shemp told them he went to Philadelphia and would phone later.



Of course, Capt. Bryant was not pleased to see someone who did not resemble the photo he had received and didn't know if Moe could even act. But at that time, Moe skipped a lot of school and went to see all the latest plays in the local theatres in Brooklyn, and memorized most all of them. And he could act!

The Capt. made Moe work off his debt for the railroad tickets and finally

let him read for the parts, after several weeks. He was a hit and got a raise in no time. He went from \$30.00 weekly to \$65.00, after a time. He kept a little and sent the rest home to his parents. Capt. Bryant invited him to come back the next summer and Moe went. It was fun traveling up and down the river and honing his acting skills at the same time.

Back then, in the little towns along the rivers, the calliope on board could be heard a good distance from the showboats. The townspeople would all run down to the docks in order to buy tickets to the shows, which would quickly sell out. This was the way people were entertained back in those days.

Shemp had always wanted to act too and he and Moe finally broke into vaudeville. They were making a living as comedians and worked all over the south and Midwest. For several years they worked with a so-called friend, who took most of the money and hardly gave them any. They finally parted ways with this man and Moe, Shemp and a friend, Larry Fine, appeared as the Three Stooges. Later Joe Besser and Joe DeRita were temporary members of the Stooges.

Moe was very thrifty and encouraged the others to always plan for the future. When Shemp decided to move on to other acting parts, their youngest brother, Curly, joined the act. He would later pass on at age 49 after a series of strokes and an illness of 6 years.

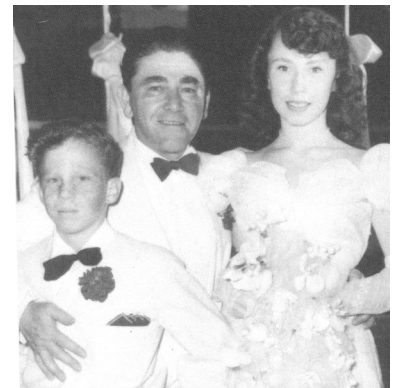


Moe had married Helen Schonberger, a cousin of Harry Houdini, in 1925. They became the parents of a daughter and a son. In 1940 they built a two-story home in the Toluca Lake area of North Hollywood, down the street from Bing Crosby.

Shemp and Gertrude Frank also married in 1925. At the age of 60, he went to a prize fight one evening with friends and on the way home, he just slumped over in the car seat, closed his eyes and passed on with a smile on his face.

Moe would outlive his brothers and the other stooges and was deeply upset with the passing of each, especially Larry Fine. All were married to their wives for many, many years and enjoyed happy family lives with children and grandchildren.

In his last years, Moe was in demand as a speaker at colleges and appeared on the Mike Douglas Show and others during the 1970's. The stooges had a resurgence on TV and were well known to the younger set. Once when Moe went to pick up his grandsons from school, a few hundred screaming kids came out to see him. Another time, Moe was surprised when two of his grandsons found a photograph of him, Curly and Larry in their new set of World Book encyclopedias in Volume C under the heading of Comedy.



DUES ARE DUE

Dues are due every January, unless you recently paid or recently joined during the latter part of last year.

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

