



Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

January 2020

President's Message

Hope your Christmas was merry and your New Year bright!

I'd like to begin by talking about the 2020 calendar. As you know, we regretted that it couldn't be introduced at the October meeting, but it was ready early in November. We set up our fabulous and large tent on the Town Green at Christmas on the Avenue, on Dec 14th. The weather was only slightly chilly and Eddie and his wife, Susan, along with Danny and I, spent a nice day together. We sold calendars and several copies of Rosalie and Radishes too. The book buyer gave us an idea and we also bought copies to use as Christmas presents.

Speaking of the calendars, they will be on sale at the meeting and I will also open the building again every month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 12:00 until 2:00. Please support the society by buying at least one,

since it's our only fund raiser of the year. Don't stop at just one, however. The calendar is named Favorite Food Places and Fun in the Friendly City. It contains some old pictures you may not have seen before and lots of info about all of them. The girls on the front will be surprised to see themselves adorning the calendar.



*Suzie Baker, Joy Carbine, Deanne Gosselin,
Sondra Collins, Diane Crowder*

Another special and important event also occurred the same day as Christmas on the Avenue. It was the second annual Wreaths Across America Day at the Long Beach Cemetery. This is a national program which began at Arlington National Cemetery in 1992 and now

occurs all over the United States on the same day each year in December. The Long Beach American Legion Post 1995 began the program in our city last year, spear headed by member Charlie Martinek. This year the Post was joined by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3937 and the humble beginning of seven wreaths the first year rose to over 200 this year. The impressive ceremony included a thorough program, and dedicated musicians. It moved all of us present. It was especially beautiful seeing all of those live wreaths on the graves of our loved ones. Folks, if you did not attend, do not miss it next year. Charlie walked the entire cemetery collecting data and noting the resting places of all veterans interred. Charlie, consider this a shout out for a job well done.

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SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEYS LONG BEACH, MS

Beth Hansen: Editor
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**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.

2020 Meetings:

• January 20 - 11:00 am (Awards Meeting)

- April 21 - 6:00 pm
- July 20 - 6:00 pm
- October 21 - 6:00 pm

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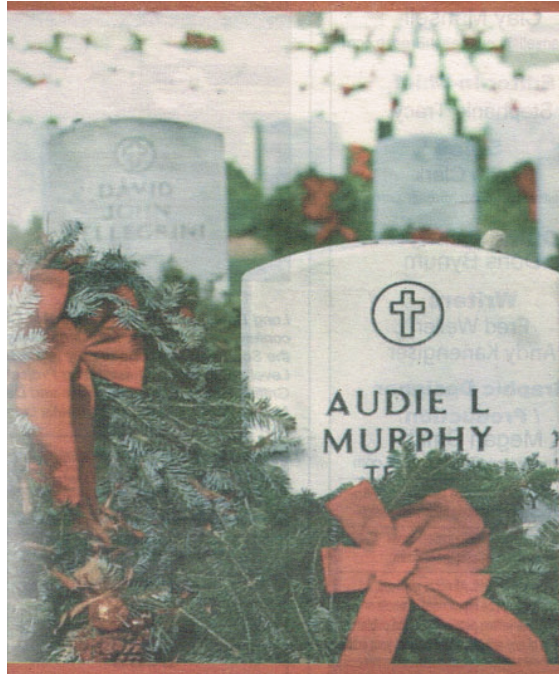
Mission Statement

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

P. S. All military veterans are eligible for a wreath but it is helpful if the gravesite denotes this. Relatives may obtain a government medallion to attach on the tombstone.



Another piece of important news to be shared is that member and elementary school teacher, Carol Paola, was presented with a \$5,000.00 grant to aid in student history preservation.

When the grant presentation came about, Carol invited me and Eddie to attend the ceremony along with Mayor Bass and city representatives. She has again invited me to give more presentations to her students while carrying out the purpose of the grant education. Congratulations Carol, we are so proud of you!

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Awards Luncheon on Jan 20th.

Sincerely
Beth Hansen

Teacher rec

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Reeves Elementary teacher Carol Paola was recently presented with a \$5,000 grant to help in her quest to preserve area history with her students. The grant was awarded by CSX, a leading supplier of rail-based freight transportation in North America.

Paola's grant, "Preserving our Past with Patriotism, Service, and Pride in Place," outlines a mission to develop patriotism and pride in place by providing educational, outreach and service experiences that honor and highlight the contributions of early residents of Long Beach and the impact of the railroad on our communities through transportation.

Carol Paola, presented with CSX. Presented by Yelverton (left)

eives \$5k grant

tion of goods and services. It also strives to highlight ways in which first responders and community governments have partnered make the communities safer, as well as the contributions of military families who have made Long Beach their homes. Further, it hopes to, through playground experiences, provide ways for military children to interact and form friendships.



Special to Long Beach Breeze
Long Beach teacher, is with a \$5,000 grant from the grant to her is Joel

ach appreciate the importance of local history, preservation of historic sites, and the impact of early residents and the railroad on Long Beach and the Mississippi Gulf Coast," Paola said.

A New Coast Town White Harbor, Mississippi

In 1894, the Beacon, a popular newspaper in Pass Christian, published an article telling about a new town between Pass Christian and Long Beach.

Several coast townsmen came together to create the town; John Lang, of the Pass; James Thomas of Long Beach, F. Elmer of Biloxi, and C. W.

Stewart and Pierre Michel, both of New Orleans. (Michel would later become a Long Beach home owner.) There were also others involved. The group wanted to see the long stretch of unoccupied beachfront land, as well as the interior to the railroad, between Long Beach and Miltenbergers, gain some new residents. Miltenbergers was a private residence with land extending from the beach all the way back to the railroad, (common in the early days) where the trains also made stops. So they laid it out and platted it as a new town, and named it for a natural harbor in the vicinity, White Harbor.

White Harbor was just that, a large, natural harbor, with plenty of white, glistening sand. It was actually the first port on the coast and a natural one at that. Saw mills were close by, including the Heirn sawmill, and schooners often came to White Harbor; anchored out front, and came ashore to purchase lumber which would be floated out to them.

The railroad wasted no time in following suit, and to enhance its own interests, built a new station on its rail line, known as "White Harbor". A wide avenue had already been cut from the beach back to the tracks, so the new little town had some very important conveniences early on. The land of the new town was touted as being some of the

finest on the coast for residential use and well suited for vegetable farming as well. The lots were offered at lower prices than in the adjoining towns, however those involved soon became concerned that speculators might try to buy up the lots for resale at higher prices, which might in turn, delay the settlement. But that didn't happen.

In time, White Harbor became a populous section, and also for a time, included a Jesuit College.

Harrison County had also approved a road from Pass Christian to White Harbor and declared it to be public in 1897.

In 1908, the tiny town also had some trouble getting telephone service. There was a long list of folks who desired the convenience but did not want to pay for the poles and thought the request for them to do so was unfair and unjust discrimination. Creosoted poles were \$5.00 at the time and then cypress poles for \$2.00. Even when the price dropped to 5 cents a pole, these future customers still balked. They wanted fair play or none at all.

By December of 1909, the Coast Traction Company set up camp at White Harbor in preparation

for extending the trolley to Pass Christian. It brought in mules, wagons, scrapers, and laborers, and set up tents on the grounds in order to begin the task. Once, when a search was ongoing for a hit and run driver, one of the officers suggested that he thought the auto involved was from White Harbor, but Marshall Klein reminded him that there were no autos, owned or being used presently, in 1910 in either Long Beach or White Harbor. An ex-Memphis, Tennessee, resident, W. T. Nettles, resigned from a salaried position in that city, just to move to White Harbor. He was well satisfied with his move to the area and was spotted in a Gulfport hardware store, Smith-Todd, buying 75 one gallon preserve jars. He told those present, he also had plans to put up 1,000 cans of tomatoes. His recipe called for one pound of sugar to each pound of tomatoes. His neighbors said it was so delicious, it should be commercialized. (oh, the power of sugar!)

Gypsies invaded the Coast once and camped out at White Harbor in 20 wagons of the so-called wanderers, who created quite a stir as they passed along on the beach!

The little town was beginning to sound like a paradise but it was not without problems. It seems

the area was somewhat low in the front, getting closer to the water.

It was mentioned once that the town was part of "the Pass" but a full article in 1916 said it was a suburb of Long Beach. The article actually stated that it was really inaccessible because of a lack of roads and claimed it was now depopulated except for the Hanrahan family, which had children in the Long Beach school system. After the 1915 storm, the Jesuit College in White Harbor was never repaired either.

Speaking of the 1915 storm, many washouts on the beach resulted from the then unnamed cyclonic storm, later described as a Category 4 hurricane by modern standards. Talks of a seawall began to surface and the county thought it best not to replace any roads until something could be done to prevent any further problems.

The areas most talked about were between White Harbor and Biloxi. Porter Avenue in Biloxi; the E. J. Bowers residence in Gulfport; Piaggio Villa, which later became the Merry Mansion (on Cowan Rd.) in Gulfport; Jeff Davis Ave. in Long Beach and of course, the area around the town of White Harbor.

In 1920, the county was apparently forced to spend

\$5,000.00 repairing the roads at Piaggio Villa and White Harbor, with talk of never repairing those two places again without some bulkheads being installed to protect the roads in the future.

Condolences

It's with a great deal of sadness to note the death of Edmond Boudreaux, Jr., our Mary Ellen Alexander award winner in 2016. "Eddie" was only 70 years of age.

Also, Mary Dauro Hansen, age 98, mother of members Danny and Billy Hansen. Beth's aunt, Bennie Dailey, age 99, of the Ideal Shop in Gulfport, both blessed with very long lives, and who will be greatly missed.

Other recent passings include, Dwayne Maloney, Troy Bass, Jean Marie Mount and Catherine Carrubba. Our thoughts are with their families.

Thanks

A heart felt thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Douglas St. John as well as Jim Alexander and Janet A. Griffin for their generous donations in memory of Donald Dana.

Also to Board Member Gary Mander for his donation toward a microwave for the History House.

Y'all are the best!

DUES ARE DUE

Dues are due every January, unless you recently paid or recently joined during the latter part of last year. Anyone that renewed or signed up at the Christmas on the Avenue on the Town Green are paid for 2020 and do not have to pay again at this time.

Check the address label to seen 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

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

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to our Sponsors!*




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Newspaper clippings

Friends of Suffrage Rally

The announcement yesterday afternoon that the senate had ratified the suffrage amendment, revived the hopes of suffrage leaders and sympathizers in Gulfport. That indefatigable worker, Mrs. J. C. Hardy, rallied the friends of the cause and as a result a large number of telegrams were sent to Jackson, asking house members to vote for ratification. Among the number were men who had not heretofore openly expressed themselves for suffrage but who nevertheless believed the time had come for the state to ratify. The outcome of today's vote on the question will be awaited with anxiety.

S. W. Capers Dies

S. W. Capers, night train dispatcher for the L & N at the Union Station, died last night at 7 o'clock at his home in Long Beach from influenza after an illness of two days. His trouble became complicated with pneumonia and the end came quickly. Before he was stricken, Mr. Capers was a fine specimen of physical manhood, being tall, broad shouldered and muscular. He was at the Union Station here for a long time and was universally liked, being very affable and accommodating. He was about 30 years of age and is survived by a young wife and two small children, all of whom are now bed-ridden with influenza.

Gift By Cable

George Lambrakis of the Olympia Café sent to his mother in Sparta, Greece, yesterday one hundred dollars as a birthday gift by cable. The cost of the wire was \$8.25. Mr. Lambrakis, who has been very successful in all his business ventures in Gulfport expects to leave on a visit to his mother in the early spring and will remain with her four or five months. While in the home of his ancestors Mr. Lambrakis will doubtless visit many of the old battlefields.

Baseball Looking at Gulfport

G. C. Herrick of the Milwaukee Baseball Association is in Gulfport with the view of investigating conditions here as a place fitted for the training next winter of the Milwaukee team. He has looked over the old training grounds used years ago by the Detroit Tigers, and he pronounces them the best he has inspected since he reached the south. Those in a position to know, state almost with positive assurance that Gulfport will be chosen as the training field of this team next winter. Mr. Herrick came here from Mobile.

from 100 years ago

C. W. Clark Here On Visit

C. W. Clark, an L&N conductor on the Birmingham division is in Gulfport to visit his family who for several months has been domiciled on his 20 acre farm in Long Beach. On the farm 10 acres are planted in Honduran rice and the remainder in sweet potatoes, corn, etc., and as to their value he states he would refuse \$3,000 for his crops although they are not yet perfectly matured. For his investment, states no less than \$8,000 would interest him. When he first came into possession of this property it was in the woods, and within four months after a clearing was made he was eating and selling sweet potatoes grown upon it. He of course is a great enthusiast about this section, and Mrs. Clark is as much charmed with it as he is. Mr. Clark is an intelligent, practical man and in his opinion the value of the cut-over lands here cannot be exaggerated.

Californians Come To Coast

Among newcomers to Gulfport are S. A. Carhart and Rafael Rossi, both From Ingo county, California, which is near the eastern slope of the Sierras. Sometime ago they got in Communication with the Chamber of Commerce and so well pleased were they with the description of the coast given by Secretary Bolton that they decided to come. Mr. Carhart has purchased 300 acres of land on Bayou Portage, back of Pass Christian, and will engage in the bee industry. He also expects to farm and will plant sugar cane and sweet potatoes. Mr. Rossi has bought the Dedeaux place near Lyman consisting of 1500 acres and will take up the sheep industry. As a starter he expects several car loads of sheep which he shipped before leaving California. Both have taken a careful survey of the county and the coast section and are more than satisfied with the outlook.

Biloxi Trolley Wire Breaks

Passengers on the Back Bay car line were given a scare yesterday morning shortly after 9 o'clock when a high tension live trolley wire broke on Reynoir street and coiled up close to the moving car with fire flying in all directions. The car in charge of Motorman Chas. Gonzales, was on the way to the Bay and had reached a point in the 600 block of the street, when the large wire broke and fell to the ground with such force that it caused the passengers and motorman to rush to the rear end of the car for safety. The traction company office was notified and in a few minutes men were on the job to prevent anything serious and to keep the car from going into the Bay. When the wire fell there were several children playing in the vicinity but fortunately none were injured.

