

Long Beach Historical Society

Remembering the past to preserve our future

July 2018

President's Message

We're halfway through another year of history and our good natured complaints about the freezing cold have been abandoned for the sweltering heat, which is understandable. Keep those plants watered and alive!

It isn't too early for us to be thinking about the 2018 Cemetery Tour, and we are in the process. October will be here before we know it. We're blessed to have such a great team who all pull together to make it a success every year. I can't praise them enough. This year we must get some overhead shots with a drone after the luminaries are lit. It's quite beautiful out there in the darkness of evening. Hopefully the Boy Scouts will again make it happen for us old folks, lol!

The 2019 Annual Calendar is also on our minds. Plans are

in the works to showcase the now defunct St. Thomas School, which was a vital and vibrant part of our community for 83 years before being destroyed by hurricane Katrina in 2005. The school was built in 1921 and opened in 1922. We are blessed to have many pictures through the years. Well, thanks to Paul Jermyn who always has more to add to every collection!

Sales of both the 2018 Gulf Park Calendar and Rosalie and Radishes continue to trickle in on the website and Allisa Beck tells us that there will be another gathering of the Gulf Park Alumni during the year. She will have calendars on hand.

Eddie and I have not been dragging our feet on purpose and hope to have a sign on the front of the building as well as the new door, before the summer is over. We must get the front of the building in

order before another brutal, few days of a winter, undermines something on that north side.

See you all at the meeting!

Sincerely,

Beth Hansen,
President

Meetings

The April meeting featured an in-house program presented by Beth Hansen about the 1959 high school built in 10 months, from October 1958 until August 1959. Positive comments about it resulted in the program being the feature story of this issue of Smoke from the Chimneys.

The July 16 program will be given by Spike DeBenedetto, an archaeological enthusiast, who is, in his words, rescuing one rock at a time. The rocks he speaks of are arrow heads but he is

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SMOKE FROM THE CHIMNEYS LONG BEACH, MS

Beth Hansen: Editor
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Long Beach Historical Society

2018 Officers

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- Secretary – Allisa Beck
- Treasurer – Pat Skellie
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- Eddie Ware

Mailing Address:

P. O. Box 244
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.

2018 Meetings:

- March 19 - 11:00 am (Awards)
- April 16 - 6:00 pm
- **July 16 - 6:00 pm**
- October 15 - 6:00 pm

Email Address:

lbhistoricalsociety@lbhistoricalsociety.com

Website: www.lbhistoricalsociety.com

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

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of course, interested in other Native American artifacts too. His passion has been ongoing for nearly 40 years now. We're really looking forward to this program and hope you will all join us next Monday evening at 6 p. m.

1959 High School at Old Pass Rd and Cleveland Ave

The following article, adapted from the April program on the 1959 high school, is very timely as we now find this same building in need of more space and modernization, including keeping our faculty and students safe at all times. The vote is on August 2nd.

The 1926 school on Jeff Davis Avenue, built on property donated by Harper McCaughan, was intended for all 12 grades. By 1950 it had become so crowded that elementary classes were taking place off the main campus in spare rooms provided by local churches. Rent was paid for the use of these additional facilities.

Supt. Appleby was scrambling to comply with Health Department regulations in the lunchroom building, replacing equipment in the science lab and other major improvements.

In March of 1951, Mayor Thompson announced the city was seriously looking into building a new high school with a gym and also a public health clinic. The plans were big and four different sites were being looked at to fulfill the plans. Supt. McQuiston was ready to collaborate with architects and the Board of Trustees.

By November of that same year, it was reported that if the work could get underway by January 1, of 1952, it could be finished by summer. Plans were made for rewiring the present building, installing new lights as well as other important changes to use the building for the lower grades, but nothing ever materialized from any of those plans.

In August of 1952, the plans took off again beginning with a public discussion of why new facilities were needed. Concerned citizens spoke and input was accepted from everyone present, which included, Oscar P Wren, a member of the school board and father of officer Mike Wren. Also speaking was Clarence Thomas, a local merchant and father of three young children. Sadly, Mr. Thomas, age 59, passed away a few hours after returning home that evening.

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Several years would pass before the discussions again became serious but seemed to center around the addition of classrooms only and not a whole new building. However, an in depth 1955 enrollment study revealed a huge jump to 642 students compared to 350 in 1950. Supt. Reeves was then asked to furnish statistical information in regard to expected enrollment in 1960 in order to adequately formulate some long range plans.

This time the talks gained momentum and finally came up for a vote in November of 1957. An ad appeared in the Daily Herald with a long list of progressive minded merchants who endorsed the bond issue. At this time, 151 elementary students were still attending classes off the main campus. They were in various churches and also on the former Van Cloostere property on the beach, then owned by the Future Farmers of America. Yearly maintenance and rent on these locations totaled in excess of \$4,000.00 yearly.

By early March of 1958, the city advertised for school bond bids in the amount of \$350,000.00 and was in the process of securing 20 acres of

land on which to build a new high school. Mayor R. L. Reed announced March 25, 1958, as the date when bids submitted by several Mississippi and Louisiana firms were to be opened. The commission accepted the low bid submitted by Scharff and Jones of New Orleans.

Twenty acres of property on the corner of Cleveland Avenue and Old Pass Road was then purchased from Mrs. Ione B Thomas, of the Glad Farm. She and her late husband, Clarence, who died six years earlier, owned 200 acres at the site.

After many, many years, a new school would be forthcoming. Through the years, we students knew that school plans were being bandied about as well as hearing our parents talking about it all the time. Besides street paving, a new school was a hot topic around town, finally coming to fruition.

The building contract was awarded to the Roy Anderson Construction Co. of Gulfport, for the new Junior-Senior high school. Ground was broken on Monday, October 7, 1958. At the long-awaited ceremony were Supt. Thomas L Reeves, School Board President, Tom Wilkerson, Board Secretary Cecil Culpepper, and Mayor Robert L Reed, who

turned the first spade of soil. Also present were Roy Anderson, contractor, and the architects, Lloyd Grace and Willis Guild.

Construction began within one week after ground was broken and was completed right on time, in August of 1959, taking only 10 months to complete. The cost was \$384,000.00. An announcement and picture of the school appeared in the Daily Herald on August 19, in preparation for the September 3 opening.

Some of you may have noticed that dates presented here are different from those previously posted. It is not known why pictures of the old high school were labeled with captions denoting the years of its use as being from 1926 until 1956, when in actuality it was used by high school students through May of 1959. This writer has firsthand knowledge, being one of those students, along with many others.

Those of us who began high school on Jeff Davis Avenue in 1956 and completed the first 3 years on that campus were the upperclassmen transferring to the new school on Sept 3, 1959, thus becoming members of the first graduating class of

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 it in May of 1960. In regard to the Historical Society, including me, Beth Bourg Hansen, and my husband Danny, other members of our class were Mike Wren's youngest brother, Chris. In our class also, was member David McDaniel as well as Sally Russ Boulay's brother, Jimmy Russ. The son of the Secretary of the School Board, Cecil Culpepper, was also in our class. The whole group of students from the 12th down to the 8th grade, comprising the classes of '60, '61, '62, 63' and '64 numbered close to 300. In the Junior class was member Christine Thomas Butts, the daughter of the previous owners of the property, along with Mayor Reed's twin daughters, Ida and Carol, and member Gene Watts. Members of the society in the Sophomore class were Bobby Patenotte and Ron and Janice Hare Robertson. Eddie Ware was in the Freshman class, as was Mary Ellen Alexander's nephew, Tom Alexander, along with Buddy Wilkerson, Fran Wren's brother. Their dad was President of the School Board at that time. Current members of the society in the 8th grade class were former mayor Billy Skellie, Sheila Estes Donald, Linda Leach Sanders, Gary Mander, Jr and Dickie Thomas, also a child of the previous property owners. These

folks were all just a small part of a larger group whose high school years were sort of left in limbo by an unintentional date snafu.

We were all excited about the long anticipated, new school with its modern conveniences. Wow, it even had a gym and Physical Education department. However, it was quite an adjustment moving from the heart of town to a rural setting. Don't laugh, but Jeff Davis Avenue was alive compared to the Glad Farm property in 1959, and we were really sad about leaving our own little hang out, The Busy Bee, across the street from the Jeff Davis Avenue school. There were no public buildings in the new area, nor any paved roads yet. No sales for Cokes, Barqs, hamburgers, chips, etc. would be taking place across the street from this new school, as needed and wonderful as it was.

Long time Board member and webmaster, Eddie Ware, walked to school across the pasture between his house and the fancy new school on most days. He says the grass was tall and the bugs were numerous and hungry!

Four years after the Junior-Senior High School opened, the city built a much needed new

stadium, just north of it, in only six months, from March until September. The \$135,000.00 structure was dedicated on Sept 13, 1963 at the season opener when the Bearcats played the Eagles of St. John. Danny Satchfield played quarterback, Richard Daniels and Wayne Smith were halfbacks and Melvin Dubuisson, fullback. Johnny French and Allen Pitts played on defense. Frankie Fillingim played tackle, Jimmy Scully and Jimmy Hillman were ends. A newspaper article in the sports section quoted Coach Magee as saying that Billy Skellie, (future mayor) had been injured and would not be playing that night but Billy recovered and did see some action in the game.

At its opening in 1963, the stadium wasn't named for anyone. However, in 1980, nearly a year after the death of Lance Lumpkin, the decision was made to name it after this popular coach who held the position from 1940 until 1953. It remained so until 2005, when the reunion group of 1960-1965 and beyond, suggested the name of another popular coach, Paul Magee, should be added to it, and thereafter the stadium became known as Lumpkin-Magee Stadium. Paul was the head coach from 1956

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until 1963 and again from 1985 until 1987. He was quite thrilled with the change and most of us from the reunion group were at the stadium for the celebration. Sadly, Coach Magee passed away four years later in 2009.

Bringing the school complex to completion was the building of the Junior High School. The low bidder was Frederick T. Hoff Construction of Gulfport in July of 1963, when the building of the stadium was also taking place. The school was built on a ten-acre lot adjacent to the stadium and senior high school and was expected to be ready for occupancy in September 1964. Its existence would be very beneficial to both age groups to be in their own space and would allow the Junior-Senior High School to become the Senior High School. Since that time, the Junior High found its own niche in the world of academia, sports and social groups, thereby creating an easy transition to the high school.

Written by Beth Hansen

Source: *Genealogybank.com* for *Daily Herald* coverage

Trivia question

What humanitarian requests were granted to jail prisoners in our town in the early days?

Condolences

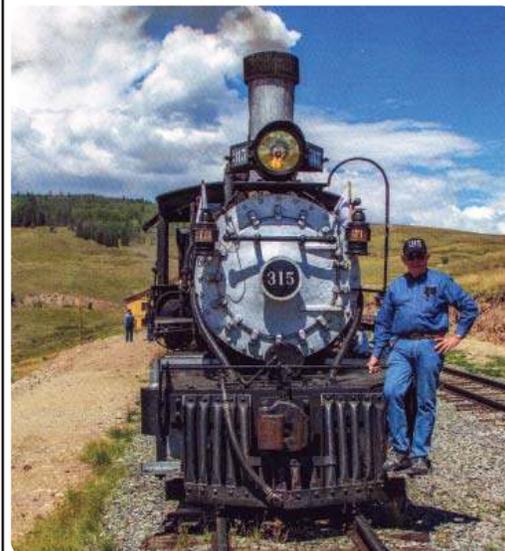
The society extends its sympathy to the families of Ryan Hall, Lucy Welch, Vincent A Dauro, Natalie Abrams, Ruth Coleman, Elizabeth Graham, Marie Anthony, Joe Blackwell, Charles Kelly, Judy Campassi, Maggie Fletcher, Jake Jones, Sallie Mae Kapp, Perry Shirk, Juanita Pavolini, and William Hincks and anyone whom we have missed to list here.

Member News

When John Pearson last paid his dues, he sent us this newsy card, which we've thoroughly enjoyed. Wonderful to hear from our friends who have moved away, which John did after Katrina. Seeking higher ground, he found it on the western slope of the Rockies in Colorado. He also found a new historical society, the Durango Railroad Historical Society! Isn't that cool? He also said he loves keeping up with his old home town through Smoke from the Chimneys. Here are his own words about his activities:

Out here I have gotten involved with a very specific type of local history. This is a very "hands on" activity as we scrape rust and paint and also do mechanical work to make this 120 year old "iron horse" come to life again. In the photo I am "working" as part of the train crew for operating a charter of about ten

vintage wooden freight cars on the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad (former D&RGW now owned by the states of Colorado and New Mexico) over the 65 mile line between Chama, MM and Antonito, CO. This year we have been invited to be the lead locomotive of a double headed passenger train on Memorial Day weekend when the tourist passenger service begins for the 2018 season, after the snow is plowed off the tracks over elevation 10,000.



John rides the front step of Locomotive 315, serving as brakeman during switching of cars at Osier, CO. This locomotive operated from 1895 to 1949 before being retired and given to the City of Durango where it stood in the city park over half a century. It was restored to operational condition and is operated a few days yearly by the Durango Railroad Historical Society.

Daily Herald 100 Years Ago in 1918**Service Flag Exercises at
Long Beach Sept. 26**

Rev. W. D. Mathis, pastor of the Long Beach Presbyterian Church will conduct Service Flag exercises on Sunday Sep. 29, 8 p. m. assisted by Rev Campbell of Biloxi and Rev Sutton of New Orleans. Nine boys from that church have answered the call of their country. Charlie Kranz, Tom Meeks, Andre Fillingim, Robert and Gordon Dinsmore are all in France, while Sam and Roddy Capers, Will Klein and Julian Watrous are in the Navy. All relatives, and friends of these boys are cordially invited to attend this service.

**New Orleans Banker
Beautifying Premises
June 20**

Mr. Gustave Lemle, attorney for the New Orleans National Bank, who purchased the Bailey home on East Beach, some time since, is having his premises beautified by a landscape gardener. The two acre front yard, with physical features of which are quite pretty, but what nature failed to do, the gardener will do. When finished the home will resemble the other beach front homes in Long Beach, which are so famous for their beauty of site.

**Truckers Association to Build
Concrete Store Dec 2**

President Inglis of the Long Beach Truckers Assn., Inc. announced this afternoon that a concrete store would be built by the association in which would be kept everything needed by the members and others who desired to patronize it. The association will also make barrels for shipping purposes, said Mr. Inglis, and in fact everything will be done to conserve the dollars of the members of the association.

**W. J. Quarles in Poor Health
Aug 24**

Mr. Quarles, the father of the trucking industry in Long Beach is in very poor health, being confined to his bed most of the time. Many years ago, when the present garden sites of the town were covered with pine trees, Mr. Quarles moved there from Tennessee, and seeing the adaptability of these lands for commercial gardening began to experiment. He was very successful and today over 200 cars of vegetables are annually shipped from that point.

July 3

The Chateau de Madrid in the Bols de Boulogne, Paris, has been taken over by the Red Cross for blinded American fighters. The chateau is exceptionally well suited for hospital purposes, as the rooms are large, airy and well lighted.

Daily Herald 100 Years Ago in 1918

Simmons- Hodge July 15

Wednesday last at 3 p. m. at the home of Ben Simmons, brother of the bride, was celebrated the marriage of Miss Alma Simmons to Rev. Grover Cleveland Hodge. The ceremony took place under a large arbor which was transformed into a natural forest bower, a host of friends having gathered to witness the sacred rites. Miss Ella Ritnour of Gulfport presided at the piano, and as the soft notes of Mendelsohn's wedding march were heard, the bride's only attendant, Miss Ethel Simmons entered, followed by the bride on the arm of her brother, Ben Simmons, who gave her to be married. They were met at the altar by the groom and his brother, J. A. Hodge, who acted as best man. Rev. W. C. Grace performed the ceremony.

The brides dress, was of soft chiffon, embroidered in wild roses. She wore a veil of illusion.

Both just graduated from college this year, she from II&C, he from Mississippi College. They also finished at Long Beach High in 1914, he the class president and she the vice president.

They announced their intention of going to Jackson on the G&SI but to the surprise of friends they got off at Landon, where they were met by J. H. Jermyn, and brought back to Long Beach where they spent their honeymoon camping.

The couple will soon be at home in Fort Worth, Texas where Rev. Hodge will continue his theological studies.

Field Meet A Success April 2

First Honors & the Cup in Athletics went to Long Beach

The Harrison County field meet at Gulfport was a success despite threatening weather conditions. Many students participated in the exercises and the attendance was good.

Schools scoring highest in the events were Long Beach with 39 points, Pineville with 38 and Woolmarket 36.

Those placing from Long Beach were Frank Courtenay, John Simmons, Harry Marhut, Wadsworth Reinike, John Johnson, Lloyd Gates, James True, Eddie Bell Richardson, Lillian Johnson, Joseph Hasis, Alice Harris, Annie Mae Meek, Lunette Daugherty, Ruth Beeson and Eleanor Toomer.

Night Watchman

Mar 30

Businesses of Long Beach have hired a watchman for the nights, who patrols that section of the town and Jeff Davis Avenue as far as the beach. This innovation followed several recent burglaries involving a loss to the merchants of hundreds of dollars.

Trivia question answer: During winter, the marshall allowed the men to leave periodically, on the honor system, to go home and cut wood so their families could stay warm.

ATTENTION

Dues were due in January
Check the Expiration Date under your
address, if it is prior to 12/31/2018
your dues are past due!

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

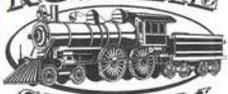
1. Individual \$15.00
2. Family \$20.00
3. Student \$5.00

Mail check to:
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.



ROSALIE

STATION
CAR WASH & DETAIL
96 Jeff Davis Avenue
Long Beach, MS 39560
228-868-6003
www.CoastalCarWash.com




Smoke From The Chimneys
Long Beach Historical Society
P. O. Box 244
Long Beach, MS 39560-0244