



"There is a history in all men's lives." Shakespeare

"Preserving and publicizing the history of Covington County and the Andalusia area"



The Covington Historical Society

Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2

December 2016

40th Anniversary 1976-2016

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED - The Covington Historical Society celebrated the 40th anniversary of its founding at the November 2016 meeting. A covered dish supper was held at the **Power Plant Marketplace on Tisdale Street**. **Historian Sue Wilson** read excerpts from the old scrapbooks which told of the society being officially established on **October 13, 1976** under the auspices of the **Andalusia Public Library**. **Margaret Studstill West**, the city librarian at the time, supported this project. **Joe Wingard** was the charter president. Charter members still living were listed and named, and those present were recognized. The list includes **Peggy Eiland, Bill Law, Betty Sue McInnish, Margo Russell, Dan Shehan, Norma Evers Sikes, Curtis Thomasson, Sidney Waits, and Joe Wingard**. A certificate, a mug, and a boutonniere were presented to **Wingard** for his dedication to help establish the society. A proclamation from **Mayor Earl Johnson** and the **City of Andalusia** was read by **Wilson** as was a congratulatory letter from Covington County Commission Chairman **Greg White**. It was announced that a letter of thanks for the achievements of the society over four decades from **Steve Murray, Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History**, had been received and was shared with the group in attendance. **Norma Evers Sikes** also sent an e-mail message along with **Dorothy Stokes Gullberg**, out of town CHS members. Outgoing **CHS President Dr. Morgan Moore** was presented a certificate, and his name was **added to the president's plaque which hangs in the Three Notch Museum**. **Jan White** took a lot of photos for scrapbook. She has been very diligent to video our club program meetings.



2017 OFFICERS INSTALLED – Past President **Joe Wingard** installed the new **CHS officers for 2017** at the November meeting – **David Wyatt**, president; **Sue Bass Wilson**, vice-president and historian; **Norma King and Nancy Robbins**, co-recording secretaries; and **Harmon Proctor**, treasurer. It was noted that the society has presented approximately **420 programs** in the **40 years**, and it is with much pride that the rich history of Covington County and Andalusia has been preserved and publicized. If anyone has ideas for upcoming programs, members

are urged to pass these along to the officers as soon as possible so plans for the new year can be made.

2016 CLUB YEAR REMEMBERED – Programs presented to the society during 2016 were as follows: **Feb.** – “Remembering Andalusia in 1916,” Sue Bass Wilson; **March** – “Sweet Gum Bottom Antiques, Show & Tell,” George and Brenda Gantt; **April** – “A History of the Point A and Gantt Dams,” David Wyatt; **May** – “The History of Decoration/Memorial Day,” Francis McGowin; **June** – “Memories of Workin’ and Clerkin’ – Anecdotes from the Covington County Courthouse,” Retired Cov. Cty. Clerk Roger Powell; **July** - “The Outlaws of Covington County – 1887-1897,” Wyley Ward; **August** – “Song of Alabama (The story of German POW’s in Cov. Cty. during WWII),” Beverly Pace; **Sept.** – “The History of Legal Development in Cov. Cty.,” Retired Attorney Ab Powell; **Oct.** – “William Weatherford, Red Eagle: Action and Adventure After the Creek War,” Judge Trippy McGuire.



ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AWARD – A distinguished state award was presented to the **Covington Historical Society** at the AHA’s 69th annual conference in Montgomery in 2016, the **James Ray Kuykendall Award**. Sue Bass Wilson, officer of the society accepted the award on behalf of the CHS. Wilson had

prepared documentation of the society’s activities for the past 10 years for the nomination. In notifying the organization of the honor, the judges wrote, “**We could easily see that you placed much, time, love, and labor in preparing and submitting your application packet. We extend congratulations on your organization’s outstanding achievements and for significant contributions to a greater appreciation of community and state history.**” Bobby Joe Seales, Award Committee Chairman, presented the award at the **Capitol City Club** banquet. Fellow CHS members attended the event, **Nancy Robbins, Linda Castleberry, Norma King, and Jim Wilson**. The award is given to a local Alabama historical society in even-numbered years.

CHS RECEIVES CONTRIBUTIONS for Three Notch Museum from Power South and Covington Electric Cooperative - Thanks to **CHS member Sidney Waits, Gary Smith and Ed Short** responded to his written request to assist the society in funding a paid employee at the museum during the weekdays. The hours of operation are **Monday - Friday, 9:00 – 2:00**. **Linda Castleberry** is on duty to handle duties of not only welcoming visitors but also to do the necessary chores involved in accessing artifacts and organizing displays. The society also appreciates the quarterly donations from the **City of Andalusia** which helps to fund the museum operation.

NEW DEVEREAUX HILL SIGNS – As you ride up Devereaux Hill from River Falls or ride down the hill from Andalusia toward River Falls, you may notice the new signs marking the hill. The **State of Alabama** apparently required the replacement of the

older signs that had been located on the right of way shoulders for some time.

Sidney Waits handled all of the particulars with the **State Highway Department**



representative, **Brent Maddox**, so that the new signs could be manufactured and installed. Thanks to **Charles Gantt** also for his observation of the removal of the two older signs which led to our finding out exactly what was going on! The society had some expense in this, and **Waits** was able to get the most material for the least cost! We appreciate all the work he did on this project that marks the historic **“Debro Hill!”**

“REMEMBER WHEN” NEWSPAPER ARTICLE – Since the end of **March 2016**, a weekly article has been appearing in **The Andalusia Star News** called **“REMEMBER WHEN.”** **Sue Wilson, Museum Committee Chairman**, is the author and is writing these remembrances to promote the **Three Notch Museum** and the **Covington Historical Society**. This can be read online at www.andalusiastarnews.com or on the Facebook pages under **Andalusia Star News** or **Sue Bass Wilson**. Feel free to **SHARE** this column with your **FB friends** who have Andalusia connections. We express thanks to **Editor, Michele Gerlach** for this opportunity to promote the museum.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY AFTERNOONS – **Harmon Proctor** has filled this volunteer position for a very long time, and we appreciate his dedication and the hours he has spent welcoming visitors on Sunday afternoons at the **Three Notch Museum**. Would you be able to offer your services for one Sunday afternoon a quarter? Please consider this and let **Linda Castleberry** know as soon as possible. She can be reached at **488-0788** or **222-0674**.

MAL MOORE MEMORIAL HIGHWAY – During the 2015 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature, a resolution was passed to honor the late **Mal Moore**, a native son of **Dozier**. Former football player under **“Bear” Bryant**, coach, and later Alabama Athletic Director, Moore was part of **10 national championship teams** and was inducted in 2012 into the **Alabama Sports Hall of Fame**. A portion of **U. S. Hwy. 29 N. in Covington County and Crenshaw County** was named in Moore’s honor and signs were placed by the **Alabama Department of Transportation**. Family and friends gathered in late 2015 for the formal dedication ceremony.



“Coach Moore exemplified all that we should aspire to be,” and **“Coach never forgot his humble roots,”** were tributes stated at the gathering.



NEW POWER SOUTH HISTORICAL MARKER – There is a new historical marker in Andalusia on the front lawn of the new Power South Energy Cooperative building. This is an **“official” Alabama Historical Association** plaque with the history documented thereon. Congratulations to Power South for being a part of preserving the history of Covington County.

DONATIONS OF ARTIFACTS TO THREE NOTCH MUSEUM continue to be amazing – The daughter of the late **Katherine Broughton Torrontor, Sharon Wales**, sent a package of old Andalusia photos and post cards along with old newspaper clippings as well as a collection of Andalusia garden club and study club yearbooks going back as far as **1915**. Here is one post card of the **Judge A. L. Rankin home** and later known as the **Merrill-Scarborough home** which was located on **East Three Notch Street**. To save it from being razed, the **Charles Gantt family** moved it to their property near **old Montezuma** back a few years ago. Charles and Jean restored to its original beauty. Some of you may remember the CHS program that was presented on **Dr. Wilbur Sawyer** of the **World Health Organization** who came to Andalusia in **1924** to study **hookworm and malaria**. He boarded at the Rankin house with a “bevy of school marms” and wrote letters home to his wife in New York about the wonderful Southern hospitality he experienced. He photographed the **Covington County Courthouse** and stated in one of his letters, **“You can build a marble courthouse, but you can’t keep off the spit!”**



TIME TO RENEW YOU CHS MEMBERSHIP IN January 2017 – Please forward your dues to the CHS if you are a participating member or just a supporting member or a “friend of the museum.” Thank you so very much. Detach and return below.

Editor – Sue B. Wilson Technical Editor – Doreen Cumbie



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(Detach and Return)

Name _____ E-Mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Comments _____

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Mail to – CHS, P. O. Box 1582, Andalusia, AL. 36420