

Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

HAHS MUSEUM
HATTIESBURG
CULTURAL CENTER
723 MAIN STREET
P O BOX 1573
HATTIESBURG MS
39403-1573
601 582-5460

PLAY BALL!

Driving on Hardy Street past the ball field at Kamper Park is all it takes to bring back nostalgic memories to long time Hattiesburg residents - especially those whose family members have played on the field for five or more generations. However, it is doubtful that many today can remember the teams in these photos or the game they played there, unless we name them.



Rotary: 1. Leroy Morris, 2. Ed Polk, 3. Rosce Herrin, 4. Alec McCurdie, 5. George Hawkins, Jr., 6. Chet Nard, 7. Bob Graves, 8. Jim Suayne, 9. Buck Austin, 10. Lew Faulkner, 11. Fewell Thompson, 12. Bill McIntosh, 13. Ellis Hickman, 14. Clarence Wood, 15. Fern Champenois, 16. Charlie Hightower, 17. Goose Gandy.

The Rotary Club (above) and the Kiwanis Club (photo on following page) were the only two civic clubs at the time, according to information attached with the pictures. "These two pictures are the only authentic record that they ever played a game other than the one played on this occasion-- --- estimated to be during the summer of 1927 or 1928. No newspaper account has ever been found; no official score; and members of both teams have been reluctant to talk."

Another attached note says, "No record of score—number of innings played; spectators—if any—gate receipts. Etc. Come to think of it---I'm sorry I included this item."

After carefully removing the photos from browned scrapbook pages more information appeared: "Hattiesburg Inter-Club baseball Game—Rotary 16 vs Kiwanis 12 about June 1924-1925. BATTERIES ROTARY Dr. Hightower & Gandy KAWANIS Andy Harman & Dr. Bethea."

The baseball field at Kamper Park (currently named Cameron Field) has a long and varied history. It was the first ball field in the city to originally be dedicated for playing ball. Other sites were just empty sand lots or cow pastures until then.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)



Kiwanis: 1. George Causey, 2. H. S. (illegible), 3. Dr. McLeod, 4. Dr. S. E. Bethea, 5. (illegible), 6. (Unknown), 7. J. L. Wheless, 8. Harry Hoffman, 9. W. L. Oakley, 10. (Unknown), 11. (Unknown), 12. (Unknown), 13. (Unknown), 14. Ed Kernaghan, 15. Bill Glover, 16. (Unknown), 17. Andy Harmon, 18. G. P. Smith (there is no 18 in the photo—Smith may be one of the Unknowns).

The baseball park was built for the Cotton States Professional Baseball League in the early 1900's, and local team names included the Tar Heels, Woodpeckers, Timberjacks, Hubmen, and the 1949 state semipro champion Pinetoppers. John Moragne used professional road grading equipment pulled by mules to create the infield and mound in 1916 or 1917. The first wood bleachers were built in 1933 by local carpenters. Metal was added in 1949.

The field saw more than just baseball. As early as 1912 the newly formed football team for Mississippi Normal College (USM) played football there against local high schools and the Boy Scouts. Hattiesburg High School continued to play football there until they had a field of their own. Prior to WWII many pro teams including the New York Giants, St Louis Cardinals, and the Philadelphia Athletics played exhibition games here. Elementary school football and recreational football were played there as well. T-ball and fast pitch girls' softball players have also rounded the bases over the years.

Today Kamper Park's Cameron Field is home to Hattiesburg Optimist Club sponsored Dixie Youth Baseball—one of the most successful programs in Mississippi.

The "Play Ball!" call, the lights, the covered bleachers, the red clay, and players on the bases stir up fond memories and help preserve Hattiesburg's sporting past.

Thanks to our interested and generous donors many historical photos, papers, and books about the Pinebelt Area and Mississippi can be found in the HAHS Archives. The photos and information are stored there.

Gifts to the Society
October 1 - May 2019

George Carter

- Boy Scout shirts (Troop 13 & 52)
- HHS Band uniform circa 1956
- Navy Dinner Dress Blue uniform
- Navy Work Whites uniform
- Navy officers cover with badge
- Commencement gown (USM with Liberal Arts hood)
- USM mortarboard caps

Lynn Helwig

- T-shirts: Camp School Cougars 1990, Hawkins Jr. High 1992, HHS 1995

Bill Wicht

- Annuals: 1947 (MSC) Southerner, 1948 (MSC) Southerner, 1949 Alabama Corolla
- Diary of Tom Vogle written during WWII

Barbara Curry

- Thompson's Pocket Speller circa 1916

Tommy Sellers

- Oscar Sellers memories: "As I Remember Moselle and Eastabuchie, Mississippi"

Barbara Hamilton

- "Commemorative History 19th Avenue Baptist Church"

Mrs. Wanda McKissack

- Postal Commemorative Society United States Presidents Coin and Stamp Collection, Volume I & II

Tony Jackson

- Clippings, papers, photos, and certificates of Grace Annie Love and Mary Elise Love

Sonny and Pat Hamilton

- "The Milner Story" booklet, HPD defensive driver poster circa 1960, MS tax tokens, Jersey Cow Days tickets, News clippings: Joe Tatum anode installation 1961, 27th Fighter Group at City Airport

Mark Klinedinst

- USM 75th Anniversary Coca-Cola bottles

Dee and Toddy Tatum

- Assorted ephemera including: Victory Cookbook Wartime Edition, 1943; Lydian Cook Book, Main Street Methodist Church, 1947; advertisement giveaways; programs and papers of Meistersingers, Hattiesburg Civic Chorus, HCLCO, and Garden Guild; pen and ink drawings by Kim Garraway; Secretarial Training, by Charles G. Reigner, 1929; Games for the Playground, Home, School and Gymnasium by Jessie Bancroft, 1923 (previously owned by Alma Davis at State Teachers College); 1950's soap box plates; S&H Green Stamps; and glass medicine bottles.

MONETARY DONATIONS

- Norvell Robertson Chapter DAR
Ab and Connie Jones
Billie S. Harold
Dr. & Mrs. R. H. Clark, Jr.
Sara & Jack Brewton
Eloise Jones
Ursula Jones
John & Margaret Papadakis
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Gale Saenz
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- Hallie Jeanne Herring
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Linda Becker Smith
James Edward McInnis
Alejandro Wooton/Ron Hancock

HONORARIUMS

- Lynn & Joe Meador
Ursula Jones
David Ott

MEMORIALS

- Laurie Crowson
Jacq Jones
A J Jones
Moran Pope
Tom Rhea Phillips III
Col. & Mrs. Raymond Chapman
Bishop
Dr. Toxey Michael Morris
Jo Annis McInnis Rhodes

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

- Barbara B. Mann
Lee Terrio
Franklin J. Lee

Thank you!

★ ALSO last newsletter's **Can you identify the items...?** Answers

- Well bucket with inside flap that opened to allow bucket to sink and closed to draw our water, Ronald West, Sr. Collection, donated by Paula West
Counter top double church key for opening cans before pop-tops, Ronald West, Sr. Collection
Axle view of Lindsey eight-wheel wagon wheel hub (pre-1950), donated by Robert Turner, Jr.
Side view of Lindsey eight-wheel wagon wheel hub (pre-1950), donated by Robert Turner, Jr.



HAHS MUSEUM
 Post Office Box 1573
 Hattiesburg, MS
 39403-1573

Museum Hours
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
 Or by appointment
 Call 601-582-5460

Located in the
 Hattiesburg Cultural Center
 723 Main Street
 Downtown
 Hattiesburg, MS

Website:
www.hahsmuseum.org

Email:
hahsmuseum@megagate.com



Officers

President
 Paula Harvey

Vice President
 Ursula Jones

Secretary
 Jeanne Herring

Treasurer
 Barbara Curry

Historian/Parliamentarian

Tom Rhea Phillips III
October 31, 1959 – March 24, 2019

The HAHS is deeply saddened by the loss of our long time member Tom. A Hattiesburg native, proud of his local heritage, he became an accomplished historian and society supporter. Tom was a skillful speaker by his high school years, and his quick wit and enthusiasm to share local and military history made him popular with both student and adult groups.

As an active member of the HAHS, he served as an officer (including president and historian), board member, museum worker, donor, and friend. A prolific collector, Tom shared his knowledge and treasures of our area's past with the HAHS Museum. Many of the



Speaking in history class as a student at HHS



Helping with tours in the HAHS Museum

HAHS collections and artifacts that he assembled will continue to document this area's history—just as Tom wanted.



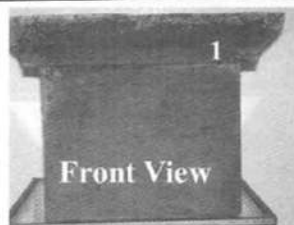
Working HAHS's Archives Room with Brian Blair

Although the HAHS exhibits and archives don't speak in

words, Tom's contributions will continue to surround museum visitors as a testimony that Tom was and still is here.

Can You Identify these Tom favorites

Our "Can you identify?" was such a hit, we thought we would try it again. Answers to last issue are on page the previous page.



Item 1
 donated by
 Tom Phillips



Item 2 from
 the West
 Collection



(Answers on the last page)

YOU ARE INVITED!

Annual Meeting

Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

5:30 P.M.

HAHS Museum

723 Main Street

Plan now to come and bring a friend!

Light refreshments will be served.

The annual meeting of the Hattiesburg Area Historical Society will be held on July 9, 2019 at 5:30 P.M. in the museum room of the HAHS in the Hattiesburg Cultural Center at 723 Main Street. Plan to attend and hear what the Society has been doing and what new collections have been acquired. View the hard work of museum volunteers Hattie Phalen and Barbara Curry. Tour our updated website with Web Master Lee Terrio. Visit with others interested in preserving history of this area and learn of ways to help. Early and late arrivals are welcome.

For additional information you may call the HAHS office at 601-582-5460 during our regular hours Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 2 to 4:30 P.M.

We look forward to seeing all of you.

Please read MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT on back.

With the increased use of cell phones and email, many members have canceled their land-line phones. Others have moved to new addresses. It has become increasingly difficult to contact our members without up-to-date information. Please fill out and return the following form(s) by mail or in person, if you think your information needs updating or want to volunteer.

MEMBER INFORMATION

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT _____

TELEPHONE: (____) _____ OR (____) _____

E-MAIL: _____

Providing your e-mail address means you agree for the HAHS to contact you by e-mail when necessary. Newsletters will continue by USPS and may also be viewed online. The HAHS **DOES NOT** share contact information with other organizations/businesses.

WILL YOU HELP?

I am willing to serve as an officer or board member of HAHS. _____ Yes _____ No

I am willing to serve on a committee. _____ Yes _____ No

I would like to volunteer at the HAHS Museum. _____ Yes _____ No

I am willing to help with: (Please check any you would like to do.)

_____ Answering the telephone

_____ Greeting visitors

_____ Filing

_____ Acknowledging donations

_____ Writing newsletter articles

_____ Arranging exhibits

_____ Researching answers for information request

Other: _____

Please return to the HAHS, P.O. Box 1573, Hattiesburg, MS 39403

Answers to our Mystery Items

1. A corbel (a support structure). This particular corbel (courtesy of Tom Phillips III) was probably decorative; it was removed from the Waldoff Building when it was located on East Pine Street.
2. A book press originally from the Ronald West collection. It was donated by Paula West. We don't know when or where it was used, but it was on display at the old Southwest Drugstore.