

WPA Alabama Writers Project
Mobile County Miscellaneous Mss
by: Ila P. Prine

Does not belong with Short Story Collection

See also: Mobile Guide

Mobile County
March 15, 1940.

Reports of Progress Indicates Mobile's Growth.

The Firm of Brooke, Smith, French and Dorrance, Incorporated, New York and Detroit, advertising consultants informed their customers throughout the country in their monthly survey of conditions, that business in Mobile as of March the first was two per cent above normal.

Mr. Clyde Foreman chairman, of the Mobile Housing Board, ^{said} that the low cost housing projects are progressing rapidly, and the Orange Groves Homes for negroes is about sixty per cent complete and occupancy will begin about May 1, 1940. This project has one hundred and thirty four, three room units and one hundred and sixty four, four and half units. He said the price of rent would be about two dollars and twenty five cents per room per month, and that the units would have light and water, and gas at a minimum cost, as the public utilities had made a great reduction of rates, as there would be one large meter for the project, for each utility.

The Oak Lawn Homes the project for white people on the north-west corner of Baltimore and Gayle Streets, is about twenty five per cent complete and will be ready for occupancy about August 1, 1940. The rent for these homes will be about two dollars and fifty cents per room per month.

The Mobile Realtors are making a survey of all rental property in and around Mobile in preparation for the increase of population which will result with the building of the Army Air Depot and other new industries.

Bibliography; The Mobile Press Register, Thursday, March 14, 1940..

Personal Knowledge.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall Council Chamber

Mobile County
March 15, 1940.

Mobile's New Homogenized Creamery.

On Saturday March 9, 1940 another new industry opened its doors to the public. The Melba Creamery with Mr. Fritz Busche as proprietor, opened to Mobile the only complete dairy plant or creamery in Mobile County, where a full line of dairy products and ice cream are processed and distributed. The products are homogenized milk, buttermilk, butter, cottage cheese, coffee cream and whipping cream.

The plant is equipped with one of the newest type homogenizers made from solid, stainless, steel blocks. There is only one other of these new type sanitary, stainless, steel homogenizers in Alabama.

Mr. Busche the proprietor has been in the creamery business all his life, and has had special training in the study of ice cream making in the east, and abroad. Mobile is fortunate to have a man of his experience in catering to the public, especially the clubs and women's organizations when it needs to entertain on a large scale or elaborately, as Mr. Busche is an artist in his line.

The Creamery is located on the north-east corner of Broad and Texas Streets, in a modern brick building. In the front of the building is a specially designed retail ice-cream store. It has all the modern facilities, circuits, running water, proper drains and the special low-type counters with "air-plane" seats that are very comfortable and quite popular.

Arrangements are being made with some of the leading dairymen for the entire production of milk to supply the homogenized milk trade. At present the Melba is placing all its products except ice-cream in the leading stores in Mobile, Prichard, Toulminville, and Chickasaw. They have a branch store at 2809 Spring Hill Avenue, Crichton, Alabama a suburb of Mobile.

Bibliography; Personal Interview with Mr. Thornberg, Retail Manager of the Melba Creamery, Mobile Alabama.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall Council Chamber

February 24, 1940
Mobile County

Peter J. Hamilton Historian Organized First Historical Society In Mobile, Alabama.

Peter J. Hamilton who was born in Mobile March 19, 1859 and who was educated in schools of Mobile, Spring Hill College, University of Alabama, Princeton and also studied in Leipsic, greatest service was as a historian not as a lawyer. It was through his efforts while secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association that the first Historical Society of Mobile was organized. There had been other societies prior to this had studied history and had committees to help preserve historical records, but none devoted to this alone.

There were several meetings of a group of prominent men, before this society was perfected at the suggestion of Mr. Hamilton. On October 5, 1901 that a permanent organization was formed with the following officers, President Peter J. Hamilton, Secretary and Treasurer, Leo W. Brown, Corresponding Secretary A.C. Harte. The society was known as the Iberville Historical Society of the Young Men's Association of Mobile. The purpose was to study history, antiquities and traditions of Mobile territory and their preservation to posterity. The collection and preservation of historical records, papers, books and objects. The marking of historical sites in and about Mobile.

The charter members were Peter J. Hamilton, Leo W. Brown, Erwin Craighead, T.A. Taylor, Harry Pillans, Erwin Ledyard, Cary W. Butt, A.C. Harte, Paul E. Rapier, Wm. Fry Tebbetts, Paul C. Boudousquie, Richard Hines, F.G. Bromberg, L. De V Chaudron.

Peter J. Hamilton's Colonial Mobile and Mobile Of Five Flags were the first histories pertaining to Mobile and its people entirely.

Bibliography; The Gulf States Historical Records, Fact and Tradition by Erwin Craighead, Powers Printing Company, Mobile Alabama.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall Council Chamber

February 17, 1940
Mobile, County.

Mobile's Port Growth and Development.

In the year of 1884 Major Damerell's report to the United States Engineers proposed a channel two hundred feet wide and seventeen feet deep, because he felt the necessity of it. He said, "we have seen there has been a wonderful increase in the timber trade of Mobile, in consequence of the improvement in the channel already taken place, but this channel is not by any means sufficient, even at this time, to meet the requirements of the commerce of the port, while these demands are likely to increase almost from day to day.

The greater part of the vessels now coming to the port of Mobile for cargoes of timber and of cotton will draw when loaded, considerably more than the depth of water in a seventeen foot channel, some of them drawing eighteen to twenty feet or more. The result of necessity is that all such vessels are compelled to go down to the bay to complete their loading, thereby encountering not only great extra expense and delay, but also exposing them at times to risk heavy loss from damage and injury to the property to be transported."

Many improvements in Mobile's Port have taken place, and the channel has been widened and deepened, but still Mobile's growth at the present time requires more improvements.

On November 30, 1937, a record for the port was made when the steamship E. I. Luckenbach sailed from Mobile under her own power, with thirty-one feet four inches of her hull under water, when the channel was three feet below mean tide. It was the deepest draft ship ever to use the port, at that time.

In 1939 the United States Engineers spent approximately seventy five thousand dollars in widening the ship channel to five hundred feet between the Alabama State Docks and the Cochrane Bridge. With the many new developments in progress in Mobile, there is further need for widening and deepening the channel especially south of Mobile.

In a report by the Chief of Engineers dated March 6, 1939. in response to a resolution by the Committee on Rivers and Harbors of the House of Representati

ves United States, recommendation was made to provide a channel twenty seven feet deep and one hundred and twenty five feet wide from the Mobile River channel at its mouth, through Garrows Bend, to and including a turning basin of the same depth, eight hundred feet long and two feet wide, It has also been proposed to extend the Garrows Bend Channel to Arlington Pier a distance of five thousand feet, with provision of an adequate turning basin adjacent to the pier.

With the War Departments plan to build the Army Air Depot adjacent to the Arlington Pier at the southern end of Garrows Bend, the deepening of the channel will make available water transportation for the heavy tonnage that will be used in the construction of the Army Air Depot, and after its completion

So we see that Mobile with help of Alabama is now making Mobile a mart of commerce.

Bibliography; Information from Chamber of Commerce, Mobile, Alabama, of the Notes from Document No 232, of the 76th. Congress, First Session House of Representatives, March 16, 1939

The Mobile Register, February 16, 1940

Bibliography, Interview with Mayor S. M. Wilkins, Prichard, Alabama. The Mobile Press Register and The Mobile Evening News.

New Developments in Prichard, Mobile's Suburb.

When the small town of Prichard abolished its Ad Valorem taxes it made a great stride and many new enterprises were started.

On January 29, 1940 when the City Council of Prichard met the machinery was set in motion to secure a \$900,000 housing project that will have about three hundred family units. Mayor T.M. Wilkins appointed five members to the housing board who are Rev, Jesse E. Smith Chairman, for one year, Ivan E. Myles merchant for two years, John M. Will newspaperman, for three years, Eugene George Jr. salesman, for four years, John W. Blalack, railroad employee for five years. The members of this board immediately applied for a certificate of incorporation. The certificate was received at the City Hall in Prichard Thursday February 8, 1940 and their next move is to apply for Federal Funds. The project is planned to take care of approximately three hundred families, with half of the homes to be for white tenants and the other half for negroes.

This housing project is not the only work in progress in Prichard, as a new public library may be ready for occupancy by the first of March. Shelves have already been installed and W.P.A. workers have been engaged for some time in preparing books for the library. The City Council appropriated money to paint the interior of the library that will be housed in the City Hall.

Mayor Wilkins also announced that assurance that Main Boulevard leading from Craft Highway to the Prichard National Armory will be paved, as he received notice from G.T. Nichols W.P.A. Director of Operations for Alabama, that the project had been classed as eligible, since the boulevard is the most direct route to the Armory. The money is expected to be released soon.

Bibliography; Interview with Mayor T. M. Wilkins, Prichard, Alabama.
The Mobile Press Register and The Mobile Press, Mobile Alabama.

FEB 5 1940

File
(B)

New Bulk Materials Ware house Begins Operations at State Docks.

In 1939 a W.P.A. Project sponsored by the City of Mobile at the cost of \$340,000 started work on a bulk material warehouse at the State Docks. On January 26, 1940 this warehouse was christened by the arrival of nine thousand tons of Chilean nitrate of soda on the Lykes Brothers' vessel "West Gambo" via the way of Panama Canal. This nitrate of Soda is the property of the Chilean Nitrate Sales Corporations of New York City, who is represented by the Walsh Stevedoring Company of Mobile. The new warehouse is built to store fifty thousand tons of bulk material that will be handled by machinery to and from the warehouse. The nitrate of soda will be distributed in this State and other Southern points.

Since the war in Europe the Port of Mobile has expanded its services with South American countries, and the facilities have been enlarged to keep pace with the rapid growth.

Bibliography; Mobile Press Register, January 25, 1940 and interview with Miss Anderson Secretary of Mr. Sauls of the State Docks, Mobile Alabama.

Ira B. PRine
City Hall Council Chamber
Mobile Ala.

January, 19, 1940
MOBILE, Ala,

JAN 22 1940

Mobile has New Service to Honduras and Guatemala.

When the State Docks Refrigeration plant was first opened in 1937 the people of Mobile and vicinity did not fully appreciate its potentialities. It was not long before there was prompt response from the growers, shippers and packers of perishable foodstuffs.

Now the Cold Storage or Refrigeration Plant at the State Docks is one of the busiest spots. Everything in fruit, vegetable and sea foods are being handled. The facilities for handling these products are the finest of its kind anywhere in the country. There is a five story Cold storage warehouse with fruit terminal that is accessible to cargoes directly from ships, as well as it can be reached by rail and street connections.

Among the many products handled are strawberries from upstate, potatoes from Baldwin County, fish and shrimp and other sea foods from adjacent waters. The major imports handled are bananas. The terminal has a normal capacity of 250 cars per day and can load 50 cars at one time under the shed.

The new service to Honduras and Guatemala recently inaugurated by the West India Fruit and Steamship Corporation, has two motor boats operating between Mobile and these ports. At this time there are no cargoes being carried to Guatemala and Honduras, but bananas, pineapples, coconuts, sisal and chicle from Central America and these ports are imported. The plans of the West India Fruit and Steamship Corporation are to establish freight and passenger service to Cozumel Mexico and Cuban ports, on a weekly schedule, having a boat sailing from each port.

Mr. A.A. Richards manager of the Refrigeration Plant is now in Puerto Rico in the interest of stimulating South American trade with Mobile port. Bibliography: Personal interview with Mr. Hoyle of the Cold Storage Plant and Mr. Rudy Verdis of the West India Fruit and Steamship Corporation.

Notes from Port of Mobile News for January 1940.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

January, 19, 1940
Mobile, Ala.
Mobile, Ala.

MOBILE HAS NEW SERVICE TO HONDURAS AND
GUATEMALA.

When the State Docks Refrigeration Plant was first opened in 1937 the people of Mobile and vicinity did not fully appreciate its potentialities. It was not long before there was prompt response from the growers, shippers and packers of perishable foodstuffs.

Now the Cold Storage or Refrigeration Plant at the State Docks is one of the busiest spots. Everything in fruit, vegetable and sea foods are being handled. The facilities for handling these products are the finest of its kind anywhere in the country. There is a five story Cold Storage Warehouse with fruit terminal that is accessible to cargoes directly from ships, as well as it can be reached by rail and street connections.

Among the many products handled are strawberries from upstate, potatoes from Baldwin County, fish and shrimp and other sea foods from adjacent waters. The major imports handled are bananas. The terminal has a normal capacity of 250 cars per day and can load 50 cars at one time under the shed.

The new service to Honduras and Guatemala recently inaugurated by the West India Fruit and Steamship Corporation, has two motor boats operating between Mobile and these ports. At this time there are no cargoes being carried to Guatemala and Honduras, but bananas, pineapples, cocoanuts, sisal and chicle from Central America and these ports are imported.

The plans of the West India Fruit and Steamship Corporation are to establish freight and passenger service to Cozumel Mexico and Cuban

Ila B. Prine
City Hall Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

January 19, 1940.
Mobile, Ala.

- 2 -

ports, on a weekly schedule, having a boat sailing from each port.

Mr. A. A. Richards manager of the Refrigeration Plant is now in Puerto Rico in the interest of stimulating South American trade with Mobile port.

Bibliography: Personal interview with Mr. Hoyle of the Cold Storage Plant and Mr. Rudy Verdis of the West India Fruit and Steamship Corporation.

Notes from Port of Mobile News for January 1940.

1/22/40
V. W.

JAN 11 1940

File
(B)

Ila B. Prine
City Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

January 10, 1939
Mobile County

PRICHARD ALABAMA ABOLISHES AD VALOREM TAX

At the City Council meeting on Prichard, Alabama, on January 2, 1940, an ordinance was adopted repealing the city's ad valorem tax effective this year, but not affecting taxes already due. Prichard's veteran Mayor, T.M. Wilkins, had hoped for years, to have to have this ordinance adopted, but was not able to introduce it until this year, after an audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1939, was made by L.J. Richard and Company, Mobile, Ala.

Mr. Wilkins said he hoped by the repealing of this tax that many new industries and building activities would result. The audit showed that there ^{was} three other sources of revenue, the gasoline tax, business licences, and police fines and costs, were more productive last year, than the ad valorem tax. Beer and liquor taxes alone, were almost up to the property tax total. The repealing of the ad valorem tax did not include the tax on motor vehicles which amounted to a very small sum last year.

Prichard is Mobile's only incorporated suburb, and is a wide awake, progressive town. Mayor Wilkins likes to recall that after the Roosevelt administration started Federal relief on a big scale he put the first C.W.A. crew to work in Mobile County, and Prichard has taken advantage of all opportunities for improvements through Federal aid. Nearly \$300,000 worth of improvements have been made, including almost \$200,000 being used for pavements, sidewalks curb and gutter, bridges and drainage, while the remaining \$100,000 being used for a new City Hall and Annex and a National Guard Armory.

The City, in co-operation with the county health department, has opened a public health clinic, and is preparing to open a new public library this year.

Twenty five ¹additional street lights were placed last year in Prichard by a contract with the Alabama Power Co. The Alabama Water Service Co., which has the local water franchise, recently completed a 530,000 gallon storage tank to furnish better fire protection and to insure adequate water supply in case of an

JAN 11 1940

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

Mobile County
Ala.

emergency. The unusually tall tank can be seen for miles around, gleaming in the sun light, as it is painted with aluminum paint and is bullet shaped.

Bibliography: Personal interview with Mayor Wilkins, City Hall, Prichard, Ala.
Mobile Press-Register, Mobile, Ala, Sunday, Jan, 7, 1940

Mobile's water front is a continual coming scene, with the various types of boats and vessels coming in. On Tuesday, a queer cargo was unloaded at the Alabama State docks. From a three masted schooner Florida Calita that looked like something out of a story book. The small sailing vessel came from Belize, British Honduras under her own sail until she neared the shore when she ran into heavy seas and had to except help from the coast guard.

She was loaded with approximately three hundred and twenty five tons of calcium nuts, that are "baby coconuts."

The nuts were sent here for the New American Shell Corporation, a New Jersey concern, that is now fitting up a shell factory on Alabama State docks land in a steel building near the Star Fish and Ocean Company's plant on the Industrial Canal.

Earl H. Jones, president of the concern tells plans for a modern pier and conveyor system to accommodate ships that would soon follow the Florida Calita here with cargoes of nuts.

This factory will extract a high grade vegetable oil, some-thing like coconut oil, that is used for lubrication in Africa palm oil. It will then be loaded into tank cars as shingles at the pier and shipped to processing plants and made into butter substitutes, salad oils, patent shortening and finer grades of soap.

As it has been said of the bay, at packing plants, everywhere the wind that blows, so it will be true of the water here, with it

file
15

January 5, 1940.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

JAN 8 - 1940

Mobile
County

CARGO OF COHUNE NUTS DELIVERED IN MOBILE.

Mobile's water front is a continual changing scene, with the various types of boats and vessels coming in. On Tuesday January 2, 1940, a queer cargo was unloaded at the Alabama State Docks, from a three masted schooner Gloria Colita that looked like, something out of a story book. The small sailing vessel came from Belize, British Honduras under her own sail until she neared the shore when she ran into heavy seas and had to accept help from the coast guard.

She was loaded with approximately three hundred and twenty five tons of cohune nuts, that are, "baby cocoanuts."

The nuts were sent here for the Pan-American Shell Corporation, a New Jersey concern, that is now fitting up a model factory on Alabama State Docks land in a steel building near the Star Fish and Oyster Company's plant on the Industrial Canal.

Karl M. Jones, president of the concern told of plans for a modern pier and conveyor system to accommodate ships that would soon follow the Gloria Colita here with cargoes of nuts.

This factory will extract a high grade vegetable oil, something like coconut oil, only richer, and more comparable to African palm oil. It will then be loaded into tank cars on sidings at the plant and shipped to processing plants and made into butter substitutes, salad oils, patent shortenings and finer brands of soap.

As it has been said of the hog, at packing plants, everything is used but the grunt, so it will be true of the cohune nuts, only it

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

(2)

has no grunt, but the thick, fibrous, shell can be reduced to a sort of charcoal, and treated to form activated carbon, principal chemical ingredient through which wearers of gas masks may safely breathe.

The shells can be ground and processed to form a "wood-flour," for use in plastics.

Mr. Jones said he brought this part of his industry to Mobile because of its rapid development as Alabama's seaport; and the advantageous situation as to West Indies and Central American sources for raw materials.

The arrival of the Gloria Colita on Tuesday helped to make a record for Mobile Port as one of the busiest days in several months, according to veteran water front men.

Some of the other vessels activities at Mobile's port Tuesday were the:

(1) American steamer Shickshinny loading steel and tin plate at State Docks.

(2) Greek steamer Tasis loading general cargo at State Docks.

(3) American steamer San Anselmo, which recently ran aground, is unloading cargo at State Docks, prior to undergoing repairs.

(4) American steamer Point Lobos discharging cargo at State Docks.

(5) American steamer Bellingham, Pan-Atlantic unloading at docks, then will take on cargo.

(6) Norwegian steamer Sorangen unloading bauxite ore at coal tipple.

(7) Norwegian steamer Cetus unloading ore at tipple.

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

(3)

(8) British Motor schooner Ross Norman unloading bananas at cold storage plant.

(9) Norwegian steamer Dilvangen Aluminum Line, unloading at M & O Pier.

(10) American steamer Comayagua unloading bananas at united Fruit Pier 1.

(11) Pan-American ship Wordan unloading bananas at foot Government Street, then will await sailing orders.

Bibliography: Information secured from Mr. Karl M. Jones, and the State Docks.

Secular : Religion, Churches (S-661)

JAN 8 - 1940

January 5, 1940.

Ila B. Prine
WPA Writers' Program
City Hall Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

Mobile
County

CORNERSTONE LAID AT ASHLAND PLACE, MOBILE, ALA.

On Sunday afternoon December 31, 1939, several other denominations joined the Methodists in laying the cornerstone of the new Ashland Place Methodist Chapel at Old Shell Road and Wisteria Avenue which is a unit of the St. Francis Street Church.

This chapel will serve the exclusive residential section of Ashland Place and its environs, as the parent church, St. Francis Street Methodist is one of the few churches located in down town mobile.

The cornerstone was donated by Forrest Wilson, of Wilson Marble Works, Toulminville and was presented by H. V. Young chairman of the building committee, after the opening devotional services, led by Dr. G. Stanley Frazer.

There were greetings brought from the Protestant Ministerial Association by Rev. Capers Satterlee, Dr. A. J. Dickinson for the Baptists, Dr. J. B. Carpenter the Presbyterians, Rev. Herbert Schroeter the Episcopalians, and Rev. Herbert W. Price and other Methodist Churches. Dr. John Frazer, brother of the Pastor extended greetings from the Mobile district in his capacity as district superintendent.

Dr. Stanley Frazer read the following letter from President Roosevelt" Dear Mr. Frazer: I congratulate the people of the Ashland Place Methodist Chapel on the happy occasion of the laying of the cornerstone of the new building.

This act bears eloquent witness to the strength of religion in the hearts of the faithful people who are rearing this new temple to the Glory of the Most High.

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

In sending my cordial greetings to all who participate in the ceremonies, may I express the hope that the new chapel, through long years to come, will be the center of a deep spiritual life which will enrich the entire community.

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D. Roosevelt.*

Letters from Governor Frank Dixon, of Alabama and Bishop J. L. Decell of the Methodist Church were also read by Dr. Frazer.

All the letters and messages were sealed into the cornerstone, along with several rolls of membership, including the Sunday School, the official boards and others. Photographs, periodicals, hymn books, the church discipline and the Bible were placed in the stone, and also a copy of The Mobile Press Register of Sunday morning December 31, 1939.

Dr. Frazer spoke the words of dedication as the cornerstone was sealed and placed in position. This was followed by a hymn "On This Stone Now Laid With Prayer," by the congregation and the benediction.

Bibliography: Personal investigation,

Notes from Mobile Press Register Jan 1, 1940.

December 22, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

AGRONOMIST WARNS AGAINST PLANTING OF SEA ISLAND COTTON.

In the past few months there has been unusual interest shown in the Sea Island Cotton that was grown and ginned in Mobile County, selling at thirty cents per pound.

J. C. Lowery, agronomist with State extension service warns farmers not to become too enthusiastic about Sea Island cotton and plant on an extensive scale, because it is a highly specialized crop and is very susceptible to weather conditions. He feels that the average farmer can not afford to risk his entire crop year on such a hazardous crop. Too Sea Island cotton has to be ginned in a special gin, as it is the long staple variety.

Mobile and Baldwin counties were the only counties that successfully grew the cotton the past year, although Tuscaloosa, Cullman, Henry, Dale and several others had planted.

Bibliography: Mobile Press, Mobile, Ala. December 21, 1939.

December ,29, 1939

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

Little Misnomer

LOCATION OF TOWNS AND MOBILE AIRPORT

Cataloged under Subject
"Bates Field (Mobile Airport)"

The Mobile Jaycees Flying show was held at Bates Field, located four and one half miles from Mobile on the Cedar Point Road.

To reach Bates Field leave Bienville Square on the North or St. Francis Street side and go West fourteen blocks to Broad street turn South on Broad for twenty four blocks into Washington Avenue, continue South on Washington Avenue twelve blocks into Cedar Point Road.

The towns of Toulminville, Prichard, and Whistler are located on U. S. Highway No. 45.

Vertical handwritten note on the left margin, partially illegible.

Faint, mostly illegible text in the lower half of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.

File
13

Dec. 22, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

MOBILE JAYCEES' FLYING SHOW.

Mobilians had a thrill that at times was breath taking on the afternoon of December 3, 1939, when the Jaycees' brought to Mobile some outstanding aviators.

They sponsored the flying show to stimulate interest in aviation, using the proceeds from the show to finance civic aviation promotion in Mobile.

Mr. Don Stremmel, Jaycee aviation committee chairman, was master of ceremonies, among the exhibitions the following were the most outstanding: Smoke trail acrobatics by Joseph "Buddy" Batzel of Trenton, N. J. flying a one-place Laird Special; up-side down flying by Don Walters of Columbus, Ohio. at a height of twenty five feet; aerial clowning by Jimmy Granere of Canada, in a demonstration "how not to fly," four hundred miles per hour; power dives by Harold Johnson of Chicago, demonstrating "test pilot" work; formation flying and "dogfights" by the Granere brothers; and a comic "pants race" by all participating pilots.

What did you get them
How do you get them

Harold Johnson demonstrated first in a small pursuit plane, and later "stunted" in a six ton tri-motored Ford plane.

The climax was reached when Joseph "Buddy" Batzel jumped at a two-mile height and delayed opening his parachute until half way down. There were audible gasps from the crowd as his body plummeted through the air.

The stunting was covered by a special permit from the Civil Aeronautics Authority.

Bibliography: Personal interview with William Funchess, a spectator at the show, and notes from the Mobile Press Register, Dec. 3, 1939.

December 15, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

OAK LAWN HOMES.

The Peyton, Higginson Construction Company, of Mobile, who bid \$326,600 on the Oak Lawn homes, was lowest of the seven contractors making offers on construction of the homes. Their bid has been approved by the United States Housing Authority.

The Oak Lawn homes is a low cost housing project for white people, that is being sponsored by the Mobile Housing Board, with Clyde Foreman chairman of the Board.

The project will be located on a five hundred by seven hundred feet site at the northwest corner of Baltimore and Gayle streets in Oakdale.

There will be twelve dwelling buildings containing one hundred separate family units with four hundred and forty six rooms. The units are built so as to range from three rooms to four and one half to five and one half rooms to accomodate the different size families.

The property was bought from Miss Annie Kelly, who consented to sell only for the purpose of aiding low cost housing. The property had been in the Kelly family for more than seventy years. It is a high well-drained piece of property and is located within walking distance of public and parochial schools, as well as near the Oakdale Community Center and Arlington Pier recreation area.

There is to be an administration building, and each dwelling unit will have its own fenced in back yard, and will be equipped with gas or electric refrigerator, gas cooking stove, hot water heater and space heater.

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

Dec. 15, 1939.

The Oak Lawn homes will be rented on the same basis as the Orange Grove homes, the charge of statutory rent. There will be two parking areas and a central playground within the area.

Bibliography: Interview with Mr. Hiden Engineer for the Mobile Housing Board, Mobile, Ala.

Notes from the Mobile Press Register December 10, 1939.

While we find good and quality exhibition coming from other parts of the world today we find a spirit of...
...the...
...the...

December 15, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

MOBILE'S CHRISTMAS DISPLAY.

On Saturday night December 2, 1939, Bienville Square, gayly illuminated with thousands of multi-colored electric lights, was the setting for the formal opening of Mobile's second annual Christmas street decoration project.

Mayor Cecil Bates pointed out in his brief address, "that while we find greed and unholy ambitions running rampant in other parts of the world today we find a spirit of brotherly love prevailing in Mobile." He also lauded the Exchange Club who is assisted by the Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the project.

There was a vested choir of about fifty voices who sang Christmas Carols, under the direction of Tom Byrnes.

The granite cross that was erected as a memorial to Jean Baptiste le Moyne Sieur de Bienville, founder of Mobile, is illuminated with blue neon lights.

Near the band stand is the large three-part cyclorama, depicting "The Nativity." "The Crucifixion" and "Christmas, 1939." Mr. Ed Norton who is the creator of the cyclorama, lectures twice nightly on his work, at the hours of six and eight, as he describes the different scenes in the Christmas display, spotlights are played on them.

The entire electrical display is lighted from five until ten o'clock each night and there is a program of chimes, carols, and sacred music from five thirty until ten o'clock with the exception of the time Mr. Norton is making his lecture.

This display will be open until the day after Christmas.

File
15

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

Dec.15, 1939.

Bibliography: Personal observation and notes from December 3, 1939,
Mobile Press Register, Mobile, Alabama.

file
B

DEC 16 1939

December 15, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

MOBILE'S NEW BUS STATION.

On Thursday December 7, 1939, work was started on the southwest corner of Government and Conception streets clearing the site for a new bus terminal.

Mr. C. E. Shriner, terminal manager of the Teche Greyhound Lines said the new terminal would cost approximately \$125,000, and would be almost an exact duplicate of the Teche Greyhound depot in midtown New Orleans. It will be modernistic in design, the entire lower floor will be devoted to waiting rooms, ticket office and a restaurant, he said. The second story will house rest rooms for passengers, lounging and locker rooms for drivers and other attendants and company offices.

The actual cost of the building is to be \$46,897. Mr. A.M. Moragues of the Staples-Pake-Griffin Ltd., arranged acquisition of the site while the J. F. Pate Construction Co, will have charge of the construction work.

The site of this terminal is of historic interest because it was formerly the home of Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, who as a young lady lived there with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Murray Smith.

Thomas Cooper De Leon wrote, "Mrs. Murray Smith was socially ambitious beyond the family limit, and very lavish of means to attain the desired result. She took a handsome city residence, issued invitations for unremitting entertainments, and served the guests with all that market and chef could produce. Somehow these could not command success, however, they may have deserved it. The functions were costly but not

December 15, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

popular, the social usufruct did not come and Mrs. Smith, found Mobile too rooted in old ways to comprehend a salon after the mode of one she longed to sway.

"This ambitious lady had four daughters Misses Armide, Alva, Virginia and Mimi. She planned a final and still more elaborate function, larger, more costly, and all embracing. She studied the injunction to Sempronius, but success again refused to crown deserving persistence. Some People ate Mrs. Smith's supper many did not. There was needless and ungracious comment, and one swift writer pasquinaded her social ambitions for "Private" circulation. Then the lady concluded that Mobile was unripe for conquest as for introduction of the salon. She carried her daughters and her advanced tastes to New York, where the field was broader for deserving effort, including Mr. Smith's business ones, Results, in one sense at least justified the move. She lived despite failing health in a whirl of society, and died in it. Her second daughter Alva married W. K. Vanderbilt, and after divorce, O. H. P. Belmont; and her grand-daughter was the mistress of Blenheim." So on this site will be a modernistic structure that will rival some of the glory of the past that pervaded the old home.

The new terminal will facilitate use of the Bankhead Tunnel under Mobile River by Teche Greyhound traffic to and from Eastern, Northeastern, and major Northern Points. The affected schedules, through a resultant shortening of the route by seven or eight miles, are expected to be reduced 15 minutes thereby, according to Mr. Shriner.

Bibliography: Notes from Belles, Beaux and Brains of the Sixties, by Thomas Cooper De Leon, Publisher G. W. Dillingham Co. New York. Information from Mr. C. E. Shriner, Terminal manager of the Tech Greyhound Lines, Mobile, Ala.

December 8, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

MOBILE'S UNUSUAL VEGETABLE.

Mobile has an unusual vegetable grown by Mrs. R. H. Sells. 1909 Hunter avenue.

The product or vegetable was grown on her back fence, and has caused considerable comment. County Farm Agent Charles J. Brockway who had some of the "vegetable" for his dinner recently said, "I think its fine and I plan to find out more about it from the Auburn extension service."

The vegetable grows on a vine, and is light green and pear shaped. In Mobile stores it is called a vegetable pear, but has other names in other places, according to Mrs. Sells. Some people think it resembles a squash, but it is a much finer vegetable than squash, because it is solid, having one tender edible seed in the center, instead numerous seeds throughout as the squash does. It keeps much longer and better than the squash. It keeps more like a potato.

Mrs. Sells believes it will be of great benefit to Alabama agriculture.

Bibliography;

Notes from Press Register. Mobile, Ala.

November 27, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

December 8, 1939.

INFORMATION REQUESTED BY MISS MILES.

I----How many visitors attended the 1939 Azalea Trail? How many states (outside of Alabama) were represented?

There were approximately 75,000 out of town visitors on the 1939 azalea trail, and every state in the Union was represented as well as visitors from England, France, the Philipines and Australia.

Bibliography: Mr. Barney Sheridan, Chamber of Commerce, Mobile, Ala. who said that an exact check could not be made, but the cars from out of town were checked, an approximate number of visitors was reached from this.

II---Does the Southern Transcontinental Aeroplane Route stop at Mobile? What other Aeroplane Passenger service does Mobile have?

The Southern Transcontinental Aeroplane Route does not stop at Mobile. The Eastern Air Lines provide daily service between New York and Houston, Texas, with connections for cities east, west and north of Mobile; the National Air Lines provide daily service from Mobile to New Orleans on the west and Jacksonville on the east, with connections for the West Indies, Central and South America.

Bibliography: Information from manager at Bates Field, Mobile, Ala.

III--What is the name of the oldest Yacht Club in Mobile? Is the Mobile Yacht Club the oldest? When was it organized? Tell a few facts about its history, its number of members and some of its activities.

The oldest Yacht Club in Mobile, is the Mobile Yacht Club, that was organized in 1880 with Mr. Harry Pillans first Commodore. The

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

first club was built across the river, was there many years and later moved to Monroe Park, but in 1916 the tropical storm that did so much damage, completely destroyed the club building. A short while later the Eastern Shore Yacht Club was organized by a group of twenty five boys. They had their club house on the Eastern shore at Magnolia Beach, but later conceived the idea of having a club on the Western shore where it would be more convenient. They then moved the club over on the west side, to Barretts Beach which is twelve miles below Mobile.

They took the name of the Mobile Yacht Club, and are still located at Barrett's Beach. There is a membership of fifty who actively participate in the Lipton races. The Mobile Yacht Club members are planning to build a new club house on Dog River, on the Bay side, in the near future.

Bibliography: Personal interview with Mr. Blake McNeely, and notes taken from Mr. Telfair Hodgson's article in the 1936 Buccaneer Breeze. Mr. Hodgson is one of the oldest members of the old Mobile Yacht Club. Information from Mr. Frank Hollinger.

IV.---How old is the Buccaneer Yacht Club? Tell some facts about it.

The Buccaneer Yacht Club was organized in the late spring of 1928, with seven charter members. The present membership is two hundred and fifty. The Junior members ages range between sixteen and twenty four.

When the Buccaneer Yacht Club was first organized, they leased a building on Barrett's Beach for three years, then in 1932 they bought the "Resolute" a four mast schooner for a club house, and had it

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

anchored at Arlington Pier. Many changes have been made in the "Resolute" even in the Past Year the ship was covered so that it could be used as a year around club house with a large dance floor. A modern bar was installed, and many types of recreation was added to the club rooms.

The "Resolute" or Buccaneer Yacht Club House was first thrown open to the public in 1932, and 1935 the Buccaneers won the Sir Thomas Lipton trophy. There was a fire in 1936 which was really a blessing in disguise, because the entire main deck was housed over and glassed in with French windows. A club kitchen was added and the entire club made more comfortable.

Bibliography: Personal interview with Mr. Blake McNeely. St. Michael street, Mobile, Ala. member of the Buccaneers Yacht Club and editor of the "Buccaneer Breeze" their year book.

V----The Point Clear library is claimed to be the smallest public institution of its kind in the world. The building is 10x11 feet in size not counting the piazza, but it houses over 3000books and hundreds of magazines. It is located on a country paved highway by traveling State Highway No. 16 or Highway No. 3. to Point Clear. The little library is on the right side of the road towards the beach, just as you come to Point Clear.

Bibliography: Personal interview with Miss Leila Aunspough, Mobile, Ala; and notes taken from an article in the Mobile Press May 13, 1937.

VI---Please advise whether the Orange Grove Homes are a government or city project and about how near completed are they?

The Orange Grove Homes is a Federal project under the United States Housing Administration sponsored by the Mobile Housing Board,

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

composed of a group of Mobile men. The homes are in the early stage of construction, some few have a little work started on the walls but as a whole, the entire group have practically nothing more than the foundations complete.

Bibliography: Personal interview with Mr. Hiden Engineer for the Mobile Housing Board, and Personal observation.

VII--Please advise whether the Chickasaw Shipbuilding Yards are in business or if, as we have heard, they have been out of business since the World War?

The Chickasaw Shipbuilding Yards have been closed since the World War, and the past year they were sold to the Gulf Shipbuilding Company. This company was organized by a group of Mobile business men, with a capital of \$700,000, but have not begun operation yet.

The Ingall Iron Works rented from the Chickasaw Shipbuilding Yards, but only remained for a year then moved to Pascagoula. While they were located at Chickasaw they built a few barges.

Bibliography: Information from personal interview with Mr. W. C. Myles Local Manager of the Chickasaw Land Company office.

VIII--Are the State Docks used for ship building or for repairs only?

The State Docks are not used for shipbuilding or repair work either. It is used primarily of loading and unloading heavy cargo. The facilities of the Docks that were built at the cost of more than \$12,000,000 have the most modern arrangement of piers, warehouses and switch tracks. There is also a large cold storage plant and fruit terminal, as well as a bulk material handling plant and special equip-

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

ment for handling heavy cargo. The Alabama State Docks Commission operates its own terminal switching railroad and handles cars between shipside and the five rail lines entering Mobile. Since the initial construction of the State Docks, there have been added port facilities, four cotton compresses, and numerous other cotton warehouses, a new and modern Quarantine Station, a new depot for the U. S. Lighthouse Service, improvements to the U. S. Marine Hospital and many other aids to shippers and steamship operators.

Bibliography: Notes from Port of Mobile News and Shippers guide Published Monthly by authority of Alabama State Docks Commission, Mobile, Ala.

(1)

DEC 11 1939

Dec 8, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

A CENTURY OLD MOBILE INSTITUTION.

On December 2, 1939, a century mark was reached by the Protestant Orphanage at #911 Dauphin Way, Mobile, Ala.

This Institution is the outgrowth of the Protestant Orphan Asylum Association, whose original purpose was to care for orphan boys and girls up to ten years of age, of all denominations. The forming of the Association was brought about by two disastrous fires of 1839 and the yellow fever epidemic which killed about four hundred and fifty people, leaving many children without parents or homes.

Today's policies are broadened and the age limit has been extended to eighteen years of age. The present supervisor of the home, Mrs. Caroline Maclay, tries to dispel the idea of the home being an orphanage. She says "it is not an orphanage, but a home for dependent children," many of them from poverty-stricken homes where the parents are unable to provide for them. Sometimes the children are sent from the Juvenile Court, when the parents are arrested.

Mrs. Maclay has made the home a happy, clean place, where the children are physically helped, and morally and spiritually trained. The very atmosphere radiates "hominess!" The long living room on the right of the hall, is furnished with beautiful old antique furniture, some of it being almost priceless. The hall has many lovely pieces in it but the dining-room and butlers pantry, and kitchen bespeaks the home like atmosphere more than any part of the ninety four year old building. The dining-room is furnished with small tables and chairs,

Dec 8, 1939.

DEC 11 1939

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

seating six at each table, they always try to arrange to seat the children from one family together. The place is spotlessly clean, and equipped with the most modern kitchen equipment.

Mrs. Maclay has not only made the home physically clean, but is instilling into the children of the home the right way of living. At Thanksgiving time, each child was given fruit to take to school to be given to the underprivileged children, through the Parent Teachers Association. When they leave the home, they are better children for having been in the home.

The Protestant Orphan Asylum Association, was formed one hundred years ago by a few faithful Protestant women and has been on this exact location for ninety four years, as the present building was constructed in 1845. There are spacious grounds surrounding the home, where the children have ample place to play. In the front yard is an immense oak tree that covers nearly half of the yard. In the center of the front yard there is a flower bed that is laid off in the shape of a heart. The entrance to the grounds is through a small gate, directly in front of this heart and the old fashioned brick walks bordering each side, lead to the front door.

The century old institution, celebrated its progress on the third of December, 1939 by open house for its friends. The entire floor was tastefully decorated with gift flowers. The children of the home acted as hosts and hostesses and carried their guests through the entire building.

The only place in the entire home that would remind one

Dec. 8, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

that it is an orphan's home is in the dormitories with the rows of white beds neatly made. There are recreation rooms as well as a study hall. In each of them are loud speakers, where the children enjoy the radio that is controlled from the supervisor's room. On all three floors are book cases filled with reference books and reading material, as well as there is a well stocked book room for their use.

Mobile was happy to share with the board of managers and the supervisor in the celebration of their hundreth anniversary. The home is supported through the Community Chest of Mobile.

Bibliography:

Personal observation, and interview with
Mrs. Caroline Maclay, #911 Dauphin Street.

December 1, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

ORANGE GROVE HOMES.

The Orange Grove homes are sponsored by the Mobile Housing Board, and are a Slum Clearance Project. The homes are located between Conception street on the east and Jackson street on the west, Bloodgood on the south and Morgan street on the north.

There are to be forty two brick buildings with two hundred and ninety eight units, providing for that number of families.

There are to be one hundred, thirty four three room units, and one hundred, sixty four, four room and one half units. In all the units there are 1140 rooms.

Each unit will be furnished with sanitary equipment, including tubs.

In the Orange Grove homes, there will be two parking areas, as well as a central play-ground. The playground will be located in the middle of area on Conception street, extending west to Joachim street.

At the rear of each building there is to be a back yard, enclosed by a fence.

The present prospects are to have each unit furnished for gas for everything except for lighting purposes.

The units are not to be overcrowded, and are built primarily for families who are unable to pay high rent, but still are able to assure a regular amount.

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

The plans are to secure shelter, rent, which ordinarily is about \$2.50 a room, or just charge statutory rent.

The contractor for the homes is Algernon C. Blair, of Montgomery, Alabama., with Harry Inge Johnstone, Chief Architect, and C. L. Hutchisson, Wm H. March and Thomas Cooper Van Antwerp architects.

Bibliography: Personal interview with Mr. Hiden, Engineer for the Mobile Housing Board, Van Antwerp building, Mobile, Ala.

December 1, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

File (B)

MOBILE'S NEW RADIO STATION.

WMOB, Mobile's newest radio station, built by S. B. Quigley at his building on St. Louis Street, between Warren and Dearborn went on the air Friday November 24, 1939.

Mr. Quigley applied to the F. C. C. for a radio license in November of 1937. A few months later he went to Washington for a hearing on his application and, after considerable more time, the commission reported favorably.

Construction on the station was started last June, and WMOB would have gone on the air earlier except that equipment delivery was held up until manufacturers brought out a new type transmitter.

Mr. Quigley, says it was worth waiting for because the new transmitter installed is the first of its type and the most modern in the country.

The station is located in a three room air-conditioned studio, lined with 1½ inches of acoustic plaster put on in five layers. One room houses the transmitter and controls, another is for the broadcasting itself, and houses the record library, transcription equipment, microphones a piano and accessories, and the third room is for spectators, who can watch the broadcasts through a window. Although WMOB is not affiliated with a broadcasting chain yet, Mr. Quigley is ready with ten telephone loops installed to take care of such broadcasts, along with remote control hookups for baseball and football games and

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

December 2, 1939
Ila B. Prine
City Hall Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

the like.

WMOB has secured the World Broadcasting System's service which has provided the station with a library of 4,000 transcriptions. New Musical numbers will be added as they appear. Aside from the transcribed programs, Mr. Quigley plans to use local talent, as well as broadcast news programs at least three times daily.

A single-pole aerial has been put on top the Quigley building, rising 150 feet from the top of the station. The pole painted red and white, and red-lighted every fifty feet for nights so low-flying airplanes will not run into it, is supported by a porcelain insulator, and has a special wind-resistant construction out of respect to Mobile's infrequent hurricanes.

The Personnel of WMOB includes, aside from Mr. Quigley the owner and general manager: Ross Smitherman and Byron Jenkins, announcers: T. L. Greenwood, chief engineer, Elizabeth Jenkins, pianist; Richard Kingston, commercial manager, and Elmer Busby, commercial assistant.

Bibliography: Mobile Press Register, November 24, 1939.

The Standard Oil Company has promised the station a supply of building on it sometime in the future.

Interview with Mr. Quigley of the Standard Oil Company, Mobile, Ala.

Mobile (15) 2

December 1, 1939
Ila B. Prine
City Hall Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

Mobile's Progress Destroys Old Landmarks

Many old landmarks have felt the touch of Mobile's progress. Among the old landmarks to be torn down is the Shrine Home, on the Southwest corner of Government and Joachim streets, for the early construction of a new hotel.

On Wednesday November 22, 1939

Marion Vickers, attorney for the Gulf Hotel Corporation, asked the City of Mobile for temporary permission to begin excavation and ground work for the building. At the same time Vickers filed with the office of Cliff Adams, City building inspector, plans for the twelve story structure. There are to be 250 air-conditioned rooms, along with a modern drug store, barber shop, several ground-floor stores, restaurant and dining room, besides the lobby.

The entrances to the hotel will be arched with wrought iron balconies for which antique Mobile wrought iron grill work will be used. Part of this was removed from the old Shrine Home.

Another old home that is being razed is the Waring House 351 Government street at Claiborne. This old home was built in 1846 by Judge Edmund S. Dargan, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama. Moses Waring bought the house, in 1851 from Judge Dargan. His grand-children and great-grand-children are the present owners.

The Standard Oil Company has leased the property with the view of building on it sometime in the future.

Bibliography

- Personal observation,
- Interview with Mr. Jones, of the Standard Oil Company, Mobile, Ala.

Nov. 22, 1939

Ila B. Prine,
City Hall Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

Mobile's Newest Developments

The past year was one of the most important periods in the economic history of the city. Some of the larger projects which were completed, under construction or announced during the year are listed as follows:

1st. National Gypsum Company began operation in new \$2,000,000 insulation board mill.

2nd., Aluminum Ore Company started the production of alumina in it's new \$4,000,000 plant

3rd., American Cynamid Company completed its new \$250,000 plant for the manufacture of alum.

4th., Gulfport Creosoting Company built a wood treating plant representing an investment of \$75,000.

5th., Southern Kraft Corporation announced plans for a \$200,000 addition to its \$7,000,000 paper and bag mill.

6th., Hollingsworth & Whitney Company announced plans for the immediate construction of \$5,000,000 mill to manufacture white paper.

7th., The First National Bank is investing approximately \$65,000 to complete its \$200,000 installation of facilities for winter & summer air conditioning in its office building and banking quarters.

8th., Alabama State Docks started the construction of \$760,000 pier and ship-side ware-house & is also building a \$300,000 bulk material ware-house.

Ila B. Prine

- 9th., The Public Works Administration and the Re-Construction Finance Corporation approved plans of the City of Mobile to build a \$4,000,000 vehicular tunnel under Mobile River, the first project of its kind to be undertaken in the South.
- 10th., The United States Treasury Department announced the early construction of a \$300,000 addition to the Federal Building in Mobile.
- 11th., The State Highway Department is building a \$90,000 viaduct on the approach to Cochrane Bridge and is preparing for the early construction of a \$150,000 viaduct on St. Joseph Street.
- 12th., The Summerville Apartments, representing an investment of \$300,000 have just been completed.
- 13th., The Merchants Bank invested approximately \$300,000 in the enlargement of its banking quarters, and facilities for winter & summer air conditioning in its office building and banking quarters.
- 14th., The Board of School Commissioners has under construction, new school buildings representing an investment of \$230,000.
- 15th., The Alabama Power Company completed its new \$1500,000 high voltage transmission line into Mobile, increasing its electric power capacity to 100,000 horsepower.
- 16th., The Southern Bell Telephone Co. announced immediate extension and improvement of its Mobile Facilities at a cost of \$150,000.
- 17th., The Gulf Shipbuilding Corporation has been organized with a capital of \$70,000 & is preparing to build a large cargo boats here.
- 18th., The National Air Lines inaugurated mail & passenger service between Mobile & the South Atlantic coast.
- 19th., The Southern Iron & Metal Co. has established a plant in Mobile for the recovery of scrap iron and expect to spend approximately \$50,000 per year for waste materials and labor.

Ila B. Pride

20th., The Choctaw Boat Company is building a plant to manufacture and repair light motor and sailing craft and will employ twenty people.

21st., The Standard Oil Company completed its new \$360,000 bulk material oil plant.

22nd., The United States Engineers spent approximately \$75,000 in widening the ship channel to 500 feet between the Alabama State Docks and the Cochrane Bridge.

23rd., The Alabama Naval Stores Company is now starting operations in its new \$150,000 plant at Choctaw Point for the production of pine oil, rosin, turpentine, and related products.

24th., The Pan-American Shell Corporation

25th., The Southern Army Air Depot.

Burch
11/21/39

Henry de Tonty
HENRY de TONTY

Henry de Tonty a French soldier whom La Salle brought to America on the recommendation of his patron Prince de Conti and in whom he had an assistant who was to do more for him than Court and Governor together. In the early spring of 1682 La Salle floated down the Mississippi to its Mouth. The Gulf of Mexico spread before them. La Salle had made his name immortal. With fitting ceremonies Apr. 2, 1682 on a dry place near the sea, he took possession of the valley of the Mississippi and its tributaries and named it Louisiana for Louis XIV, King of France and Navarre. A Notary recorded the facts and among the witnesses we find Tonty and Nicolas La Salle, the explorer's nephew.

La Salle left Tonty as his deputy in America and returned to France. He was proclaimed the hero of the day. Upon his return to America due to the many misfortunes suffered by La Salle through treachery of his leaders, the Colony was rendered helpless by loss of vessels and stores and La Salle saw nothing to do but go overland to Canada. Could he even reach Tonty in his Fort St. Louis, on Starved Rock, among the Illinois, all might be well. But some of his followers were desperate characters, and he died near Trinity River by the assassin's bullet. His brother and Joutel finally escaped to Tonty, and it is a satisfaction to record that his murderers perished.

His Colony perished, too, and his plans died with him. Tonty had descended the river to meet him and left a letter with some Indians, but, learning of La Salle's death, Tonty confined himself to the Illinois region. There in 1690 he was granted an interest in that rock fort by the government. He then engaged in trade with the upper Mississippi.

After the building of Fort Louis on 27-mile bluff, near Mobile, Iberville sent word to Mobile to Bienville to let Tonty have 10 picked men to go to the Choctaws and Chickasaws. Tonty was to make peace between them and by presents bring them to the new establishment to conclude treaties with the French. The peace talk was satisfactory and general peace was arranged.

Thus Fort Louis, the first Mobile, was founded. It was to guard the Mississippi entrance, be capital of vast Louisiana, the meeting place for Indian tribes south of the Great Lakes and the point which English influence, not only in the Alabama Regions, but in all the Mississippi and Ohio valleys was to be overthrown.

HUNTSVILLE CANAL

Burch
11/20/39

The first positive action toward a canal was taken on Dec. 21, 1820 when it was decided that by a series of locks and dams the Big Spring branch or creek would be rendered navigable to its confluence with Price's Fork of Indian Creek and the latter stream, from that point to where it flows into the Tenn. River at Triana.

Five years later in 1827 though not perfected, freight was being transported through this Canal. The following advertisement in the (Huntsville) Southern Advocate of Jan. 27, 1827: "The Indian Creek Navigation Company is prepared to ship cotton, to the Tenn. River. It is not completely finished, but will admit the passage of boats."

The Canal became known as "Fearn's Canal" and the work was continued at slow stage until its completion in 1831.

On the 5th of April 1831 intense excitement prevailed throughout the community. There was a picturesque exhibition of two Keel Boats gliding up the Canal and landing at the wharfs by the head of the Big Spring where the Cargo of supplies was discharged from one of them which had come from the river. These boats had a capacity of 80 to 100 bales of cotton and 50 passengers. Loaded to "the guards" one of these pioneers proceeded on its return trip to the Tenn. passing all locks, both coming and going safely.

The progress of this Canal warrade between the years of 1837 and 1844 for after that date no further mention of it is made in papers etc.

Clark

Burch
11/18/39

In 1819, when Alabama was about to be admitted to statehood, Madison was its most populous County and Huntsville its most logical town for a state Capital. It was at Huntsville that the state convention assembled on July 5, 1819, to perform the first functions of statehood.

In 1830 Madison was the only county in the state with a population of more than 15,000. The Madison Gazette, Alabama's first newspaper, established at Huntsville in 1812.

First settlers Stephen McBroom and Brother Criner in 1804. In the same year came John Hunt in search of the huge spring that supplies all homes and plants of Huntsville today with its water supply. Originally called "Twickenham" but in 1811 the settlement which grew about the "big spring" was given the name of Huntsville in honor of John Hunt, 3 years earlier on Dec. 13, 1808 Madison County had been created by proclamation of Robert Williams, governor of the Miss Territory and had become, with Washington County one of the two original political subdivisions in the present State of Alabama.

The meetings were held in an assembly hall, now long since removed, which occupied the northwest corner at the intersection of Franklin and Gates Streets; the spot being now marked by a handsome bronze tablet erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Later, after its admission to the Union the first session of the Legislature of the State of Alabama was held in that same building.

The business of the convention having been transacted in due course, Ala. was admitted into the sisterhood of states. On Aug. 2, 1819 a proclamation accepting on behalf of the people of Alabama the obligation of statehood, was promulgated by J. W. Walker, as president of the convention.

The executive office was first occupied by William Bibb, Governor Bibb was inaugurated at Huntsville Nov. 9, 1819. Huntsville was then temporary capital of the State. Later the seat of government was removed to Cahaba, on account of its more central geographic position. Legislature met again Dec. 3, 1819 and beginning in 1820 all sessions of Legislature were held in Cahaba.

Burch
11/18/39

POINT CLEAR LIBRARY

Point Clear Library, smallest in Alabama. The building is 8 x 15 feet, is located at the forks of two roads at Zundell's Store, across the street from Post Office at Point Clear. A sign on the front of the store reads "Library open Saturday".

In Baldwin County on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay, Its reading room is the piazza or the great out-of-doors. Contains 3,000 books and hundreds of magazines. Is said to be the smallest public library in the world.

Taken from Official Highway

On Feb. 18, 1939 all of the east Gulf ports, from Apalachicola to New Orleans will join Pensacola Monday in celebrating the official opening of that section of the gulf coastal canal which connects Mobile Bay and Pensacola Bay. This celebration makes it inclusive of the entire east gulf coastal region which is connected by a continuous protected waterway of which the Mobile Pensacola sector is a pivotal portion. The completion of the canal connecting Mobile Bay and Pensacola Bay has been under consideration since 1828 when the project was first brought to public attention. Later in 1837, it was urged as a coast defence measure and at still later periods it was advocated as a means of obtaining cheaper freight rates by reason of water competition. The Mobile Bay ship canal is 300 feet wide but the new canal between Mobile and Pensacola Bay is 500 feet wide.

Specifications call for a nine foot canal at sea level with no locks, to connect the Coosa Alabama waterway and the Warrior River, affording an outlet to Pensacola thereby connecting Pensacola Bay with Mobile Bay a distance of 74 miles.

Tonty

TONTY (Continued)

Mobile - 2 -

Burch
11/21/39

Henry de Tonty was of Italian extraction. His father, for political reasons, had moved to France and there had invented the Tontine system, now so familiar in life insurance. Henri had lost a hand in the Sicilian wars of France by the explosion of a grenade, but the iron substitute was found perhaps, equally useful after he came to America with La Salle and gained him among the savages, the name of Iron Hand. We have seen him at the discovery of the Mississippi and cannot but admire his faithfulness during the long years at Fort St. Louis, the rock of Illinois. We know his descents of the great river, always waiting and watching for the La Salle who was dead in a Texan forest. When granted an interest in Fort St. Louis and the fur trade, he still watched the river he had helped discover, and as soon as he heard of Iberville's expedition, descended to meet La Salle's successor. He visited Bienville at the fort near the Mississippi Mouth, came also to Biloxi to see Iberville as we have seen, induced Indian chiefs to go to the first congress held by that Frenchman at Mobile, and now, on the abolishment of the Illinois post he moved to Mobile himself. He had hoped to find Iberville again but, missing him, took up his abode at the new fort in order to aide the younger brother.

In Sept. 1704 the Pelican touched at St. Domingo and brought also Yellow Fever. What a visitation that, for the little Colony. Worst loss of all was Henri de Tonty. In an unknown grave near the Mobile river they laid the remains of Tonty, one of America's great men.

Taken from Hamilton's Colonial Mobile.

11
Ila B. Prine (1)
Federal Writers Program
City Hall, Mobile.
November 17, 1939.

SEA ISLAND COTTON SOLD IN MOBILE

Through the efforts of County Farm Agent Charles J. Brockway, Mobile, who with the co-operation of several neighboring agents, induced the extension division at Auburn to set up a Sea Island cotton gin at St. Elmo, Ala.

The gin was placed on Ben Deakle's farm and on the morning of December 6, 1938 the public was invited to see it in operation. There were a number of prominent officials present, among them were Congressman Frank Boykin, A. A. A. committeeman and State officials.

J. S. Townsend of the United States department of agriculture, Washington, D. C. and one of the few men in America familiar with this type of gin, came to mobile to supervise the setting up of the gin. He said "if it can be proved that this premium type of cotton can be successfully grown here, wealth is in store for many Alabamians, for no where near enough of this type of cotton is grown to supply the demand."

During the year of 1938 there were about twenty five bales grown in several counties including Mobile.

On Wednesday November 15, 1939, a sale of Sea Island cotton was conducted by County Farm Agent Charles J. Brockway of Mobile and E. E. Hale of Bay Minette, at the State Docks.

Agents for a Boston firm bought twenty seven bales. The cotton averaged thirty three cents per pound. The better grades brought thirty six cents per pound with prices for other grades running down between that figure and twenty nine cents. This year's yield was low due to excessive rains, but in normal times the yield will average one third of a bale to an acre.

Ila B. Prine (2)
Federal Writers Program
City Hall, Mobile.
November 17, 1939.

J. Pierce Smith, who purchased the cotton, said this section can grow Sea Island cotton as well as any in the United States through use of pure planting seed, early planting and boll weevil poisoning.

Bibliography: Notes from the Mobile Times of December 5th and 6th 1938, and interview with Mr. Deavours. Assistant County Agent. Mobile, Ala.
Notes from Mobile Press Register, November 16, 1939.

December 22, 1939.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall
Council Chamber
Mobile, Ala.

File
B

ORIGIN OF TOWNS IN MOBILE COUNTY ALABAMA.

The most generally accepted source of the word Mobile is the Choctaw word meaning "paddling." La Mobile was the name generally applied to Iberville's first colony, located in 1702 at twenty-seven mile Bluff, and which was left in charge of Bienville to build and establish, and was first given the name of Fort Louis de la Louisiana, but referred to generally and in many instances in the early French records as Fort Louis de la Mobile. On Bienville moving the settlement to the new or present site in 1710, because of high tide of the river, following 1711 (the official year as the founding of the second Mobile) the new site also still held the old title and inertia of Fort Louis de la Mobile; until by order of the Western Company of the great Scotch gambler John Law in October, 1720 the fort was renamed Fort Conde de la Mobile.

But as a summary, we readily see that the word Mobile comes from the Indians prevalent in the vicinity of Twenty-Seven Mile Bluff on the arrival of Iberville to establish his colony there.

The altitude of Mobile is six feet above sea level. The population is 68,202 according to the 1930 census. In 1814 an act was passed providing for the incorporation of Mobile, and in 1819 it was incorporated as a city.

Bibliography: Peter Joseph Hamilton's Colonial Mobile, Boston and New York, Houghton, Mifflin and Co. Publishers. 1897.

The small town or community of Toulminville is located in

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

what was known as the St. Louis tract and was a grant to the heirs of Joseph Gostang from John Baptiste Lorending, dated August 25, 1807, who in turn claimed under the various conveyances commencing with a grant from Monsieur Bienville. After many conveyances a portion of the St. Louis tract was sold to Theophilus L. Toulmin on June 6, 1828, and he was the first settler and established the community, that is named for the Toulmin family. Toulminville is not incorporated. The altitude is 30 feet and the population is 3,213 according to the 1930 census.

Bibliography: Brewers History of Alabama, and Records from County Court House, Mobile, Ala.

Prichard is a small incorporated suburban town located about three miles from Mobile, with a population of 4,580. The town is located on part of the St. Louis tract, and was first started by Cleveland Prichard who came into possession of the land in 1879, when there was only a small ten foot by twelve foot yellow station house on the east side of the Mobile and Ohio R. R. He encouraged farmers to engage in truck farming, and it was through his efforts that Prichard grew to be one of the largest shipping points for early vegetables.

The town is built on what was a circular mile race track where some of the finest and fastest horses in the United States and several from England wintered and trained. Today Prichard is an industrial center. It was incorporated in 1925, and the altitude is thirty five feet.

Bibliography: Personal interview with Mr. Thomas Allman Whistler, Ala. Mayor Thomas W. Wilkins, Prichard and Mrs. Leila Prichard, McDonald. St.

What Highway? Red Highway on what Highway?

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

Stephens Road Toulminville.

1930 Federal Census.

What Highway

In 1853, The Mobile and Ohio Railroad bought about 150 acres from Jacob Magee and wife, described in the deed as "situated in the vil- lage of Whistler." On this acreage was established shops which they planned to make the largest and the best equipped of their kind in the South. The shops were burned by the Federal raiders during the Civil War, but by 1867 they were fully restored and again holding high rank in their class. At one time they were fully equipped and employed 1500 persons. Later the shops were stripped of the best machinery and with the most skilful men were moved to Jackson, Tennessee. The village of Whistler was named because an engineer going through at the same time every day would blow the whistle constantly. The altitude of Whistler is 41 feet, and the population is appoximately 4.000. It is not incor- porated.

Bibliography: Personal interview with Mr. Thomas Allman, Whistler, Ala. and with Mrs. Peter Peterson, Whistler, Ala.

December 29, 1939.

Ile B. Prine
Federal Writers' Program
City Hall
Council Chamber
mobile, Ala.

ORIGIN OF TOWNS IN MOBILE COUNTY ALABAMA.

Located on St. Stephens Road on Highway No. 45. is the small town of Oak Grove Ala. This small town is approximately eighteen miles from Mobile, and was built by Matthew Davis's grand-father who was a merchant of New York City, and who is buried under the porch of Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York City. Mr. Davis built a large two story house on top of the hill, with the approach to it lined with magnificent live oak and magnolia trees.

Mr. Matthew Lane Davis and his brother B. C. Davis built a saw mill, that at one time was one of the largest privately owned mills in the South. A private railroad for hauling logs was built to Mississippi, a huge dam was constructed, to hold these logs, by daming up Williams Creek. The Mobile and Ohio Railroad runs through the town.

M. L. Davis is dead and the mill has been closed until recently, when it was re-opened by R. D. Walker.

The town was given the name of Oak Grove because of so many beautiful Oak trees.

The altitude is 226 feet and the population according to the Federal Census of 1930, is 536.

Bibliography: Personal knowledge and the Federal Census 1930.

Chunchula Alabama, is located on U. S. Highway No. 45. and has a population of 561. The altitude is 78 feet. It is on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad nineteen miles from Mobile, and near Chickasaw Creek. The name Chunchula is a corruption of the Choctaw word Hachunachola, ,

meaning "Alligator." The constant use of the word doubtless wore away its first syllable.

Many years ago it was the winter home of several wealthy families from the north, as the climate was mild and water pure, which made it an ideal location for people of the north to winter.

Among the families who owned homes were a Mrs. Denny from Minneapolis, whose husband was owner of a large saw mill, known as the Denny Lumber Company. Mr. Frank Smith and Mr. George McClelland, the Gallacsh family from Milwaukee. There were many Mobile families who had summer homes there, among them were the Starke Olivers. Joel Jones, General Withers. The Manning Family. The Dumee Family, and Judge Alec McKinstry.

Bibliography: Notes from Thomas McAdory Owen's History of Alabama, and the Federal Census 1930.

The present community of Gulf Crest Alabama was formerly known as Beavour Meadows, and is on U. S. Highway No. 45.

Beavour Meadows or Gulf Crest was known for its healthful surroundings and its high altitude.

The Willis G. Clark Family, Writer of the History of Education of Alabama lived there.

The population is 505 and the altitude is 136 feet.

Bibliography: Personal knowledge of old families and Federal Census of 1930.

The town of Citronelle on U. S. Highway No. 45. and the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, is a health resort and is located on a high hill. The altitude is 331feet.

Ila B. Prine
Mobile, Ala.

The population is 2,336.

The name and fame of Citronelle as a health resort began long years before the modern winter tourist ever thought of wending his way to the pretty little town standing on the summit of the pine clad hills of South Alabama. There is an old Indian legend which tells how the dusky red men roamed far and wide through the Gulf Coast Country and would not stop until guided by unerring instinct, they reached a summit crowned with tall trees, beautiful flowers, and life giving plants, and where springs bubbled forth, flowing water as sparkling as the mountain dew and as pure as the nectar of the gods. Here they reared their wigwams and dwelt in peaceful, happy life, bringing the sick from other tribes with naught but pure air, fine water and the healing virtues of shrubs and herbs, nursing them back to life and health again; and here they would have dwelt until the present day, had not fate and the decree of the paleface wrested their heritage from them.

They went in sadness but left, the name "Citronella" (which in their language means I heal,) as a tribute to the memory of blessings so freely bestowed, and which were once their own.

Bibliography: Mobile of the Five Flags, by Peter J. Hamilton 1913; Gill Printing Company, Mobile, Ala. A leaflet published by the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

VSBA

Information about Barton Academy.

What grades are at present taught at Barton Academy? The seventh grades of all city schools in Mobile.

Is this school used for primary grades only? No, it is not used for primary grades at all.

Is it for grammar grades? No.

Is it used for seventh grade pupils only? Yes, it is used for all seventh grades in the city of Mobile.

Dauphin Island, a long narrow island in the Gulf of Mexico, directly south of Point Le Barron and Cedar Point on the extreme south line of Mobile County, lying 30 miles south of Mobile (Lat. North 30 degrees, 10 minutes, Longitude west 88 degrees, 5 minutes.) Dauphin is approximately 300 acres. It is the eastern island of the group, including in order Petitbois, Horn and Ship Island. It is west of the entrance into or the main channel of Mobile Bay. Between the island and the main land are Little Dauphin Island, and to the west are Cat and Grass Islands, and Isle Aux Herbes. Its surface is flat and only a few feet above high tide. The soil is coastal beach, with the exception of a narrow strip on the North shore. This type soil consists of a medium of coarse white beach sand, containing a number of small shell fragments.. On the eastern point Fort Gaines is located, on which a small garrison of troops is maintained. Fort Morgan is just opposite on Mobile Point.

There are three churches now on the Island, Catholic, Methodist and Baptist. A neat Public School both elementary and High.

James Saxon Childers says that Americus Vesputius discovered the American continent on the 4th day of July 1497 and Dauphin Island in the same year. His map was recorded in 1501 in which Dauphin Island is located.

In Nov. 5, 1528 the Spaniards set foot on Dauphin Island when Capt. Andreas Dorantes and 30 Spaniards were ship-wrecked on the shores of that Island. They took possession in the name of his Catholic Caesarian Majesty, Don Carlos, 5th, King of Spain.

Jan. 31, 1699 Iverbille and Bienville of France took possession in the name of King of France, and called it Massacre Island from a number of skulls and bones found at its southwestern extremity.

In 1707 several families then residing at Fort Louis secured permission from Bienville to settle on the Island. They carried with them their cattle and poultry and began the cultivation of small gardens. This appears to be the beginning of farming or agriculture by white people in the bounds of what is now Ala.

In 1717 L'Epinau reached Dauphin Island as a successor of Cadillac. On news of his arrival reaching the Indians, the Chiefs of 24 nations representing nearly all of the Southern Tribes came to welcome him. The smoking of the Calumet, with accompanying songs and dances lasted over 2 months. All were well received by Gov. L'Epinau who sent them away with presents. This was the first great assembly or conference of Indians in the South.

(History of Alabama - Dictionary of Alabama
Biography - By Thomas McAdory Owen.
Vol. I. - Pages 454 and 456.) 1921.

Period I - The Spaniards - 1519 - 1670 Page 3 to 28.
Period II - A French Capital - 1699 - 1717 Page 35 - 86

Period III - A French Trade Center - 1717 - 1763. Page 93 to 120
Period IV - A British Metropolis - 1763 - 1780. Page 133 to 155
Period V - Old Spanish Town - 1780 - 1813 Page 161 to 172.

(Mobile of the Five Flags - By Peter Joseph Hamilton
1913.)

- 1 - De Soto prior to the coming of the French 1528 - 1697.
- 2 - The French Period of Colonization - 1697 - 1763.
- 3 - British Occupation and Final cession to the U.S. - 1763 - 1798
- 4 - The Territorial Era - 1798 - 1819.
- 5 - The State of Alabama - 1819 - 1861.
- 6 - One of the Confederate States - 1861 - 1865.
- 7 - Days of Reconstruction - 1865 - 1874.
- 8 - Our Own Times - 1874.

(History of Alabama By Thomas M. Owen, Vol. I.
Page 287.)

Many stories and legends of Dauphine Island are told. Capt. Kidd is said to have hidden vast treasures on the island. Other pirates visited the beautiful spot, fought bitter battles there and left their bones on the white sands that the Northern people call "Southern Snow."

This Island is but an 8-hour car drive from B'ham, 5 hours from Montgomery. Only 6 miles from Bellingrath Gardens, which attract so many visitors from all parts of the world annually, the island has a beach 7 miles long with sands stretching for a width of more than 1,000 feet gradually into the sea.

Heavily wooded with virgin forest pine and oak planted by the French several hundred years ago. Artesian wells are another attraction. Legend has it that during one of the conflicts between the French and Spanish a huge golden cross from a Catholic Church was thrown into a nearby well and is still there.

Fishing and hunting are splendid here.

(History of Ala. by William Garrott Brown. 1900.
Page 33 to 49.)

In 1708 there were 279 souls on the Island of which 80 were Indian slaves. (By Brown)

Ila B. Prine
Mary Pride Jones
Elizabeth Engs

Mobile County
April 5, 1940

MOBILE SPRING HILL SECTION

At Spring Hill are reservoirs that supply the City's water, Spring Hill College, and many old residences where gardens are planted in azaleas, wistaria, and many flowers of riotous colors.

45- SPRING HILL COLLEGE; leave Royal and Government Streets, drive west on Government one and seven tenths miles to the intersection of Ann Street, turn right on Ann and drive north one half mile to the intersection of Old Shell Road, turn left on Old Shell Road and drive west four and eight tenths miles to Spring Hill College, which is on the left or south side of the Old Shell Road.

Spring Hill College is a Jesuit College, established in 1830 by Bishop Portier first bishop of the diocese of Mobile. Chartered by the Alabama Legislature in 1836, it was placed under the Jesuit Order in 1847. The College was maintained with difficulty during the war between the states, and sustained a heavy loss by fire in 1869. The institution offers A.B., B.S.C., and B.S. degrees, and preparatory courses in law, medicine, dentistry, and engineering.

Spring Hill College is approached through the northeast brick entrance or kiosk, with a glazed brick lane leading to the College Chapel, a beautiful edifice of Gothic architecture, 145 feet in length, fifty feet wide and seventy five feet in transept and was constructed in 1910.

Directly in the rear of the Chapel and facing what is known as the Quadrangle, is the Administration Building, Tuscan in design and erected partly in 1869, partly in 1909, to replace the damage caused by the historic fires. It stands on the site of the first building which Bishop Portier built for his pioneer college. It is a brick structure, stuccoed, several hundred feet in length, and three stories high.

Ila B. Prine,
Mary Pride Jones,
Elizabeth Engs

Mobile County
April 5, 1940

-2-

The building is occupied by the faculty, the administration offices and the Cloister is on the second and third floors. Class rooms are also located in this building. East of the Quadrangle is the Infirmary, the only building which is now in use which ante-dates the fire of 1869. To the northwest is a modern structure known as the Refectory, which contains the students' and faculty dining room and the kitchen. Covered Spanish colonades join the Administration Building, Infirmary, and dining halls. Directly west of the Administration Building is Quinlan Hall, a long corridor of rooms built over the Gymnasium-Auditorium Building in 1916, and named in honor of Spring Hill's second founder Bishop Quinlan. Northwesterly from the Refectory is Yenni Hall, the Science Building in which is housed the Seismographic Station. This building was erected in 1905 and named in memory of Father Dominic Yenni, S.J. Professor of Latin and Greek at Spring Hill for over fifty years, and author of Yenni's Latin and Greek Grammars. Directly north, in the center of the burial place for the priests, is the Mortuary Chapel, a Gothic type structure of stone, approximately twenty five feet square. Continuing northward on a paved walk to Mobile Hall, the students' residence and class-room building, colonial in style, and erected in 1927, this building is the first unit of Greater Spring Hill. Directly west of Mobile Hall is the College Inn, a T shaped, white frame building which is the recreation center, containing a dance hall, billiard room, fraternity meeting rooms, and dressing rooms. Directly north of College Inn is the Thomas Byrne Memorial Library, built in 1931 and also of colonial architecture. On the grounds are two Shrines, one to Saint Joseph, the Patron Saint, and the other to the Lady of Lourdes, which is an exact replica of the original. Looking towards Old Shell Road, to the north is the new entrance, a beautiful and imposing gateway of Romanesque design.

Ila B Prine
Mary Pride Jones
Elizabeth Engs

Mobile County
April 5, 1940

The Cloister While the Jesuit Order is not a cloistered order, the second and third floors of the Administration Building are the Cloister where no female is permitted, laymen are sometimes given the privilege of entering. Ascending an enclosed winding stair one enters a large rotunda extending through the third floor to the roof. On the third floor a balcony surrounds the well of the rotunda. The priests recreation rooms and private quarters are located on these two floors. The rotunda has a museum appearance with many cases containing mementoes, relics, and specimens of interest or value.

Athletics: Spring Hill College is a member of the Dixie Conference and has a competent staff of football coaches. Maxon Field a long needed stadium was built in 1935. It will accommodate 4,000 spectators and is equipped with floodlights for night games, fees variable.

A golf course 3,126 yards in length with a professional instructor in charge is open to the public; greens fees 50¢ for 18 holes, 35¢ for 9 holes; caddy fees 60¢ for 18 holes, and 30¢ for 9 holes. Student rate \$5.00 per semester.

A fresh water lake covering approximately an acre provides out door swimming. There are also complete facilities for basket ball, tennis, baseball and volley ball.

Stewartfield: (private) on Spring Hill College Campus,. The entrance on the south side of Old Shell Road is $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Royal and Government Sts. Mobile. The house at the end of an oak lined avenue, three tenths of a mile long is a white frame cottage with a wing at the east and west sides. A wide porch with 6 white columns extends across the front. "Stewartfield" was built by Roger Stewart in 1845 and named for his ancestral home in Scotland. Originally a 6 room house with an immense hall through the center and an oval shaped

Ila B. Prine
Mary Pride Jones
Elizabeth Engs

- 4 -

Mobile County
April 5, 1940

ball room across the entire back of the house. The ball room is a double floor, without joists, and the space filled with caulking which gives the floor a "springy" motion. The house has had modern improvements made but has not any of its original beauty.

Yesterhouse (private) One of the most notable old homes in Spring Hill is Yesterhouse, which was built by William Dawson in 1840 at a cost of \$50,000. He was a wealthy cotton merchant, one of two brothers who settled at Spring Hill, built a home deep in the woods, made a sunken garden and planted various shrubs and trees. The house is a two story, plantation type, painted white and into it went heart pine timber Carolina marble and plaster from Italy. The main house has verandahs with four Corinthian columns with two pilasters on either side, both at the front and at the back of the house and two wings with the Corinthian columns and pilasters, on the right and left of the building. The foundation is of solid brick about eight feet high and in the basement or ground floor is the kitchen. Here the old dumbwaiter is still in use serving food to the dining room just above. To the rear of the house is a brick courtyard in which plays a fountain which was formerly supplied by water pumped by the slaves. An avenue of stately old oak trees leads up to the front entrance gates which are set in plastered walls and on each is a great iron eagle sentinel. The house wonderfully restored by the present owners who gave it the name of Yesterhouse, contains gorgeous mirrors, rare works of art, glass china, furnishings, and silver, is one of the show places of the South. The house was at one time a part of Spring Hill College and was used as a school for younger boys. A story goes that on the estate the famed old Copeland Gang buried their booty.

Yesterhouse is seven miles from Government and Royal Streets. Leave

Ila B. Prine
Mary Pride Jones
Elizabeth Engs

April 5, 1940
Mobile County.

Stewartfield entrance, go west to McGregor Ave., turn left and go south seven tenths miles to far entrance, turn left to house. Both homes are on the Historic Homes Tour.

In business district.

Page 13

Item 6. Jonathan Kirkebride House (private) 104 Theatre Street, is on the lot next to the site of Mobile's first theater, which was also a part of the French Fort Conde. It is a two story brick building ,covered with smooth stucco and painted white . There is a porch across the front of the building ,with four large Roman Tuscan Columns on the first floor while there are four Roman Composite columns supporting the roof. It is on the north side of Theater Street ,the house with large porch columns and high walls on each ,was apart of Mobile's first court-house and jail. It was bought by Jonathan Kirkbride and converted into an imposing residence in 1885 and is now vacant.

Page 14

Item 7. In business district.

City Hall ; N.E. corner of Royal and Church Sts., was built in 1855. It is a two story white building ,built of brick and smooth stuccoed, covering half a city block, is of pleasing proportions. Wrought iron work in arched openings , brackets under wide eaves and of the pediment and the cupola are attractive features. Its primary purpose was to be a market for meats, fish, and vegetables as "The Southern Market" its name implies. When it was first used as a market live fish in cypress ^{banks} were displayed for sale. Most of the ground floor space was so used and served by two driveways extending from Royal to Water Street. It has been remodeled twice but the structure has not been materially changed ,It is Mediterranean type architecture with classic influence in ornament and design . An armory on the second story at the south end served as headquarters for the local state militia until the completion of the Fort Whiting Armory in 1939 .

The City Hall is on the East side of Royal Street.

Admiral Semmes Monument that is ⁱⁿ the corridor is placed or stored there temporarily until the completion of Bankhead Tunnel.

Page 15

Item 12 In business district.

The Oldest Building. (private) 109 St. Anthony Street, built about 1795. is a small creole style house of brick and covered with stucco. Characteristic of the houses of this style it stands on a high basement . John B. Toulmin claimed the property under Spanish Grants and finally obtained undisputed possession .

It is built in an ell shape with porches on the north and west sides , with eight slender columns supporting the roof. The house is grey ,but very dingy and dirty and delapidated. It is on the south side of the Street.

Page 17

Item 15 The Jonathan Emanuel House has been torn down.

Page 18

Item 16 In business district.

The House of Two Cities, (private) 8-10 N Jackson Street, was built in 1820 by C. Reingard at old Blakley in Baldwin County across Mobile River. In 1829 the house French Colonial in design was moved piece by piece by slaves in rowboats and erected on its present site. This laborious procedure required over a year and the reassembly took much longer a period . It is a two story brick house with grey stucco ,smooth finish. It is a double house with driveway through the center of the first floor. The second story cast iron gallery extends entirely across the front , the first floor gallery being interrupted by the double iron gates of the carriage drive.. There are eight slender iron columns on both the upper and lower galleries. The house is on the East side of the Street.

Page 19

Item 19 In business district.

Goldsby House(private) 452 Government Street, is a two story house with front wall of red brick and side walls of smooth yellow stucco. It is very unusual in design as the living room at the front of the house has porches on each side , east and west. The general character of this house is modified Gothic with high gables and steep roof. There is a brick wing on the north side of house. The house is on the north side of the Street.

Page 20

Item 21 In business district.

The Cathedral Of The Immaculate Conception, Claiborne St. between Conti and Dauphin Streets, is an imposing structure showing the Roman Influence in its design. Across the front facade are eight fluted Roman Doric columns. Red brick was used for the exterior , limestone and granite for the portico, base and cornice. The side and rear facades have massively graceful pilasters in keeping with the imposing entrance. The Cathedral is on the West side of Claiborne street between Dauphin a

and Conti Streets and extends west to Franklin Street.

Page 24

Item 32

In Residential District.

Mobile Public Library, (open week days 10 A. M. - 8 P. M.) 701 Government Street was erected in 1928. Designed by George Rogers, "the architectural motive in this building is based upon the classical principle of ancient Greek architecture; viz; the feeling of repose created by low horizontal treatment and simplicity. The building is brick covered with smooth stucco, painted white, It is a two story building, the center portion being flanked with wings at each end. The East wing houses the Federal Museum while the West wing has the Beatrice B. Bernheim Hall, an auditorium. The Library is on the South side of Government Street. The windows on the second floor have simple wrought iron balconies under them.

Page 25

Item 35

In Residential District.

Oakleigh (private) is at the head of Savannah Street and on Oakleigh Street. It is a Colonial type house with Greek Revival influences, Built in 1830's by James Roper it has a brick basement, first floor gallery and pillar supported roof. The house is frame, painted white with green trim. Wings have been added on the east and west of the house. The house stands at the head of Savannah Street and on the west side of Oakleigh Street.

Page 27

Item 41

In residential district.

McInnis and Dantzler Wagon Yard 913 Spring Hill Avenue is Correct. It is on the south side of Spring Hill Avenue.

Page 28

Item 43.

In Residential District.

General Bragg House (private) 1906 Spring Hill Avenue is a two story frame house painted white with green blinds. There are wings on the east and west sides with a porch extending across the entire front. There are sixteen slender French octagonal columns on the porch. There is a small balcony supported by wooden brackets, enclosed with cast iron balustrade at the window of the second floor. The house is on the north side of Spring Hill Avenue.

Page 28

Item 44 Augusta Evans Wilson Cottage is outside of city limits.

Corrections and Revision of Part of the Mobile Essay.

Page 1

Item 1

Railroads Stations; Terminal Station, Beauregard and St. Joseph Sts, for Mobile and Ohio R.R. and Southern RY. ; Government and Commerce Sts. for Louisville and Nashville R.R. ; U.S. 31 and Alabama State Docks for Alabama, Tennessee and Northern R. R. ; Station at intersection of South Royal and Charleston Sts. for Gulf, Mobile and Northern R. R. The Terminal Railway at Alabama State Docks.

Page 2

Item 2

Accommodations ~~Hotels~~, boarding houses, and inns; five leading hotels, three of which offer free parking space ; municipally owned but leased tourist camp with water and lights at Arlington, overlooking the bay, and privately owned camps along all principal highways entering the city.

Page 2

Item 7

Tennis: Lyons Park, for white people and playground at 1255 Davis Avenue for negroes. No Fee at either.

Page 3

Item 3

Annual Events; Are all correct.

Page 12.

Item 2 In business district.

Madame Le Vert House (private) S.W. corner St. Emanuel and Government Sts. once occupied by Madame Le Vert, was built in the French Colonial style with traces of Greek and Egyptian influences . It is a two story red brick house on the south side of Government Street. It has been remodelled and only a small building on the property, formerly Dr. Le Vert's office and still a Dr.'s office, retains its original design. Madame Le Vert its owner was a world traveler and prominent social and literary figure of ante bellum Mobile. Both house and office have stone trim. The original house was a box like structure, but when it was remodelled, turrets and parapets were added changing the entire structure.

Page 13. In business

Item 14. In business district.

Site of Mobile's First Jewish Synagogue. adjoins the Clitheral residence on the north . It is a vacant lot.

Ila B. Prine
City Hall,
Mobile, Ala.

Mar. 1, 1940
Mobile County.

MOBILE

RAILROAD STATIONS: Terminal Station, Beauregard and Saint Joseph Sts. for the Mobile & Ohio R.R. and Southern Ry. Government and Commerce sts. for the Louisville & Nashville R.R.: U.S. #31 and Ala. State Docks for Alabama, Tennessee and Northern R.R.: Station at intersection of So. Royal and Charleston sts. for the Gulf, Mobile and Northern R.R. and the Terminal Railway at Alabama State Docks.

Accommodations: Municipally owned but leased tourist camp, with lights and water furnished at Arlington, overlooking the Bay.

TENNIS Lyons Park, no fee. Davis Avenue Playground for Negroes has tennis court but outside city limits.

MADAME LEVERT HOUSE Is two stories, red brick on south side of the street. The office building is a one story red brick on south side of the street and both have stone trim.

12 The Oldest Building The house stands high above street level and grounds are terraced up from the street, with a brick retaining wall which has been stuccoed over. There are six stone steps up from the street to the walk. The house built in an ell shape, with porches on north and west sides, with eight slender columns on these porches. The walls are brick, stuccoed over and marked with faked stone joints.

W.P.A. Writers Program. ✓SBH
Mobile, Alabama.
City Hall Council Chamber,
March 8, 1940.

Miss Myrtle Miles, State Supervisor,
W.P.A. Writers Program
Powell School Building (Room 14)
2331- 6th. Avenue, North,
Birmingham, Alabama.

Dear Miss Miles ,

Your special delivery came this morning and I went immediately to see Mr. Leo Brown ,who was very gracious in trying to help us to get an interview with Mr. Rogers. He called his office and asked the secretary to try and get an appointment with Mr. Rogers for us . I also asked him if he would ~~could~~ help some evening with the historical facts about the old buildings, as he had said he was very busy in the day? He then said he had a little time to spare and looked over the manuscript while I was there and he said that it seemed to be complete. I then went over to Mr. Rogers office to see if was possible to see him ,at Mr. Brown's suggestion. The secretary had gotten in touch with his wife and she said that it would be impossible to assist us at this time as Mr. ^{Rogers} left much earlier than usual and reached home later because they were getting ready for the Azalea Trail. So Mr Brown suggested that we get Mr. Clarke as he had been the architect for so many of the recent buildings in Mobile. I spent several hours with Mr. Clarke going over the manuscript and I cannot get it in today's mail as it will have to be written. I am to get some more of the material tomorrow ,Saturday. I am not sending a report due to this fact, but will get it all in the mail Monday with the architectural description.

Yours Truly,

Ila B. Prine

Ila B. Prine,
W.P.A. Writers Project
City Hall Council Chamber,
Mobile, Alabama.