

# The World and News

**Okaloosa  
Historical  
Quarterly**

*North Okaloosa Historical  
Association, Inc.*

**The Shasta-Cascade Wonderland**

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, MONDAY, MAY 7, 1945

Number 10459

# BLAST KILLS 6

## The Day's News

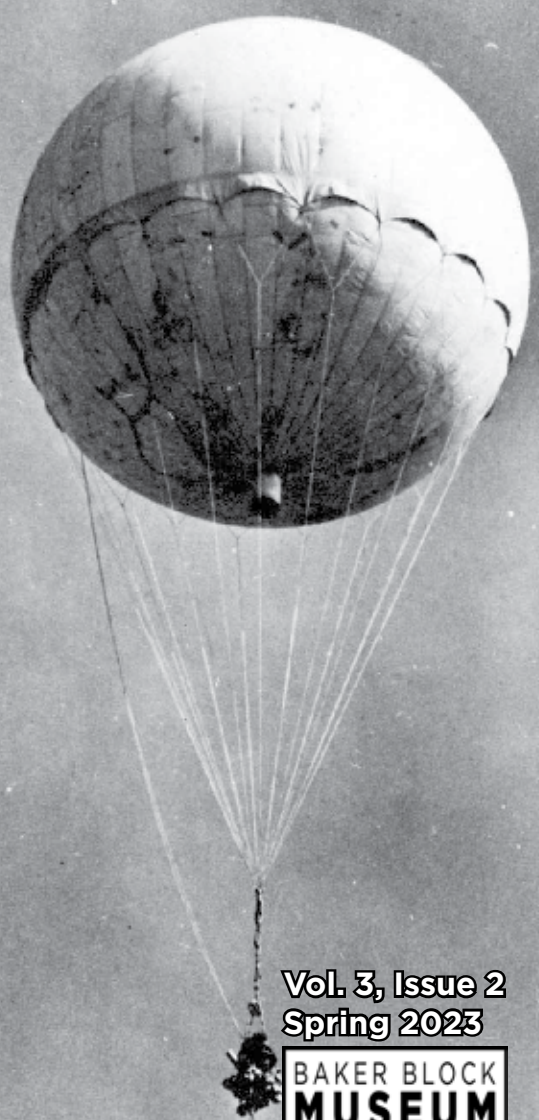
By FRANK JENKINS  
The news is rather badly  
scrambled as these words  
written, but this seems to  
about what happened:  
The Germans finally got to-  
er some kind of central  
ority (the names mentioned  
new to most of us). These  
ch-bitters (a Colonel General  
and a General Admiral  
sburg) called off the  
eral Eisenh...

## FIVE CHILDREN, PASTOR'S WIFE IN EXPLOSION

Fishing Jour...

## Balloon Bomb Caused Death Of 6 Near Bly

Government censorship was lifted today to disclose what was  
already widely known here—that the blast which killed six Bly  
people May 5 was caused by a Japanese balloon-carried bomb.  
Thus it was officially revealed that the Klamath county won-  
an and five children who perished on that day were, the fir-  
recorded deaths of World War II in continental United States  
caused by enemy action.  
It was a chance discovery on a fishing trip into the area r-  
Bly on the Bly-Dairy Creek road that led to the tragedy, w-  
until today had been officially announced as the result of a  
of "unannounced cause."  
In the party were Rev. and Mrs. Archie Mitchell; Jay  
Sherman Shoemaker, 11.  
They had driven in the Mitchell car to Salt springs, a  
mile inside Lake county on the forest road. Mrs. Mitch-  
Rev. Mitchell walked for some distance in the wood-  
picnic lunch.  
The Bly-Dairy creek road.  
Find Object



Vol. 3, Issue 2  
Spring 2023



Discover. Experience. Connect.

Surr  
Ca



A monument sits in an Oregon forest dedicated to the only six American who were killed by enemy action on the continental United States during World War II. (Photo by Michael McCollough, Klamath Falls, Ore.)

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U.S. Office of Censorship

**On the cover:** Headlines in 1945 shout about the deaths of six people who died when a downed Japanese balloon bomb exploded in Oregon.



**Spring 2023, Vol. 3, Issue 2**

**North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., Mission**

The mission of the North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., is to collect, preserve and promote the history of Okaloosa County, the northwest Florida panhandle and the surrounding communities.

**CONTACT**

Phone: 850-537-5714

Mail: P.O. Box 186  
Baker, FL 32531

Email: bakermuseum@aol.com

Location:  
1307 Georgia Ave.  
Corner of State Road 4 and  
Highway 189 in Baker

bakerblockmuseum.org

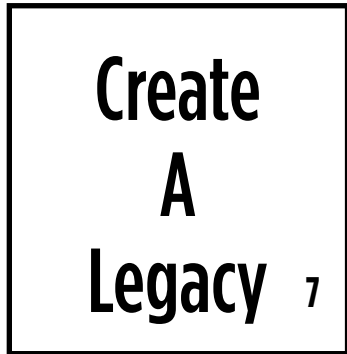
The Baker Block Museum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of the North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., and is managed by its Board of Directors.

The *Okaloosa Historical Quarterly* is published by the North Okaloosa Historical Society, Inc., and is an authorized publication for distribution to Museum members and visitors. Contents of the *OHQ* is copyrighted, all rights reserved.

Items to be considered for the *OHQ* may be submitted to the Museum at P.O. Box 186, Baker, FL 32531 or emailed to bakermuseumnewsletter@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is March 15, June 15, Sept. 15, and Dec. 15 for consideration in the next quarterly issue. Articles received after the deadline will be considered for future use. All submissions will be edited for accuracy, clarity, brevity, and conformance with *OHQ* guidelines.

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**FOLLOW ON**  
bakerblockmuseum.org



April is National Volunteer Month

# Be a volunteer!



**The Baker Block Museum is looking for people who:**

**Like history  
Like interacting with Museum visitors  
Can do light computer work  
Can organize files**

**Flexible hours**

**See Museum Director Ann Spann  
850-537-5714 or email [bakermuseum@aol.com](mailto:bakermuseum@aol.com)**

# President's message

It's hard to believe that it's already April. This month is known as National Volunteer Month. I know many of you may wonder, "what can I do to give back to the community?" Well, how about volunteering at the Baker Block Museum?

Everybody's good at something, that one special gift that they're exceptionally good at doing. Maybe you're a whiz on the computer. Or

maybe you're exceptionally well organized. Some people are great at meeting and talking to complete strangers and making them feel at ease. Are you handy with tools?

Any of these and other special gifts can be put to great use as a Baker Block Museum volunteer. Stop by and see what you can do to help make the Museum experience even better for others.

*Brenda Russell*

## Director's Notes

We have lots to share this issue. Looking back at last quarter, the North Okaloosa Historical Association was recently blessed with a legacy gift from the trust of Margarete Allen Shelby. Mrs. Shelby was born in 1922 to Charlie and Josie Allen, a family with deep roots in the town of Baker. She was very proud of her hometown and the Baker Block Museum. Her gift of \$2,711 will help further our mission to preserve local history. We are very grateful for Ms. Shelby's generosity and to her family members who helped to carry out her wishes.

The museum building and grounds are getting a

facelift thanks to several members of the NOHA board of directors. Fresh paint, new signs, and needed repairs definitely go a long way toward a new look and positive environment.

Looking forward to upcoming events, the museum is open on the third Saturday of each month and is also the day we schedule special events. We will hold our Wall of Honor ceremony May 20 where we honor local citizens who have made contributions to their community. In June, a representative from the Florida Public Archaeology Network will present a lecture, "Native Plants and Native People."

Check the calendar in the back of the magazine for dates and time and watch website, Facebook, and Instagram for more lecture information on interesting topics throughout the coming year.

Finally, we are working hard to add two books to our series on local history topics by the end of the year. Look for a history on the Milligan community coming soon, to be followed by a pictorial history on Okaloosa County. So far we have had a great response on this series loaded with old photos, newspaper articles, maps, and historical tidbits, and these next two will not disappoint.

*Ann Spann*

# MUSEUM NEWS

## Museum receives legacy gift



Margarete Allen Shelby



The Allen children of Baker in 1936 with a cart built by their father pulled by their goat, "Billy." From left: Twins Jean and Jack, Margarete, Mack, and Juanita.

The North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., Received a legacy gift of \$2,711 from the estate of Margarete Allen Shelby in January. She passed away July 12, 2022, in Spanish Fort, Alabama, at age 99.

Mrs. Shelby was born in Baker December 7, 1922, to Charlie and Josephine (Josie) Allen. The middle child, she had an older sister, Juanita, and brother, Mack; and two younger siblings, twins Jean and Jack.

Margarete graduated from Baker High School in 1940 and from Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University) in 1944 with a bachelor of

science degree in home economics.

In 1949, Margarete married Bruce Gene Shelby. They were married for 24 years before he died in an automobile accident in the early 1970s.

Margarete loved to travel. She moved from Florida to California with a U-Haul at age 82. She eventually returned to the "local" area, settling in Spanish Fort, Alabama, in 2002.

Margarete Allen Shelby will be honored May 20 when she is Inducted into the Family Heritage Wall of Honor at the Baker Block Museum.

### Family Heritage Wall of Honor Induction Ceremony

May 20, 1:30 p.m.

**Baker Block Museum Genealogy/Research Library**





# Create a Legacy

## Make a legacy gift to the Baker Block Museum



### How would you like to be remembered?

Legacy gifts are one of the most significant demonstrations of commitment to the community an individual can make. A legacy gift, deferred gift, or planned gift is one you decide upon now and that provides for your favorite nonprofit program later.

You can leave a wonderful legacy to the Baker Block Museum by including the North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., in your estate planning. There are many tax advantages when you make a planned gift. We encourage you to consult with your attorney or financial planner for your specific circumstance.

### Bequests

While there are a number of ways to build a legacy contribution, a charitable bequest is one of the easiest and most popular ways to leave a lasting impact on the Museum.

You may designate our organization as the beneficiary of your assets by will, trust, or other instrument. Simply specify an amount, a percentage of your estate, or what remains of your estate to the North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., after you have provided for your children or other beneficiaries.

For more information on legacy gifts, contact the Baker Block Museum at 850-537-5714.

*The North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible.*

# Baker Arts Festival

The Museum held its second Arts Festival March 18. Although the morning started out a tad chilly, especially with a slight breeze, the day warmed up as people began checking out the arts and crafts throughout the Heritage Park.

In addition to the crafts for sale, there was music on the cabin porch and hot chili for sale.

The Baker Block Museum is proud to host the only arts event in North Okaloosa County.



**3rd**  
**Saturday**



BAKER BLOCK  
MUSEUM  
OKALOOSA CO. FLORIDA



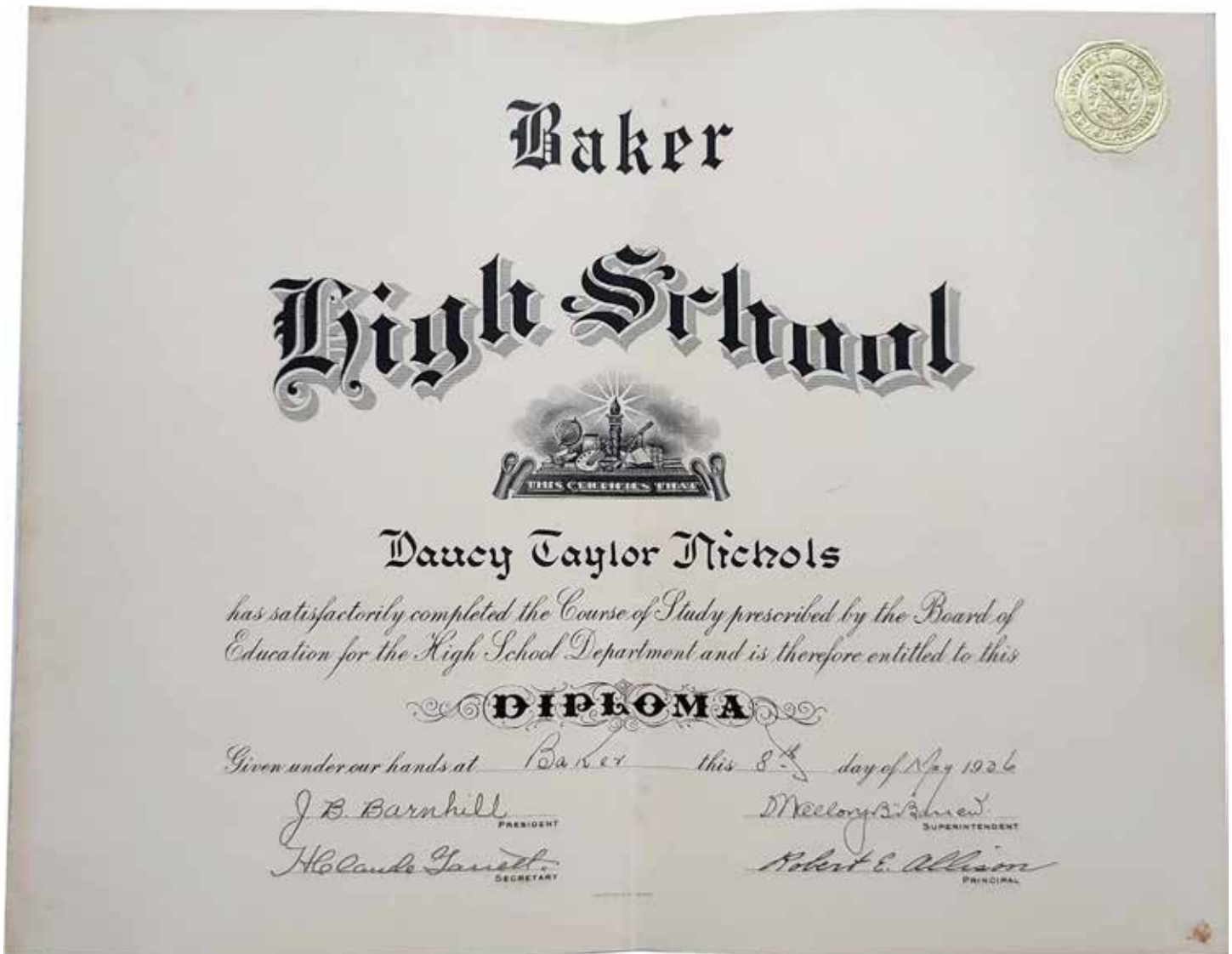


# GROWING THE COLLECTION

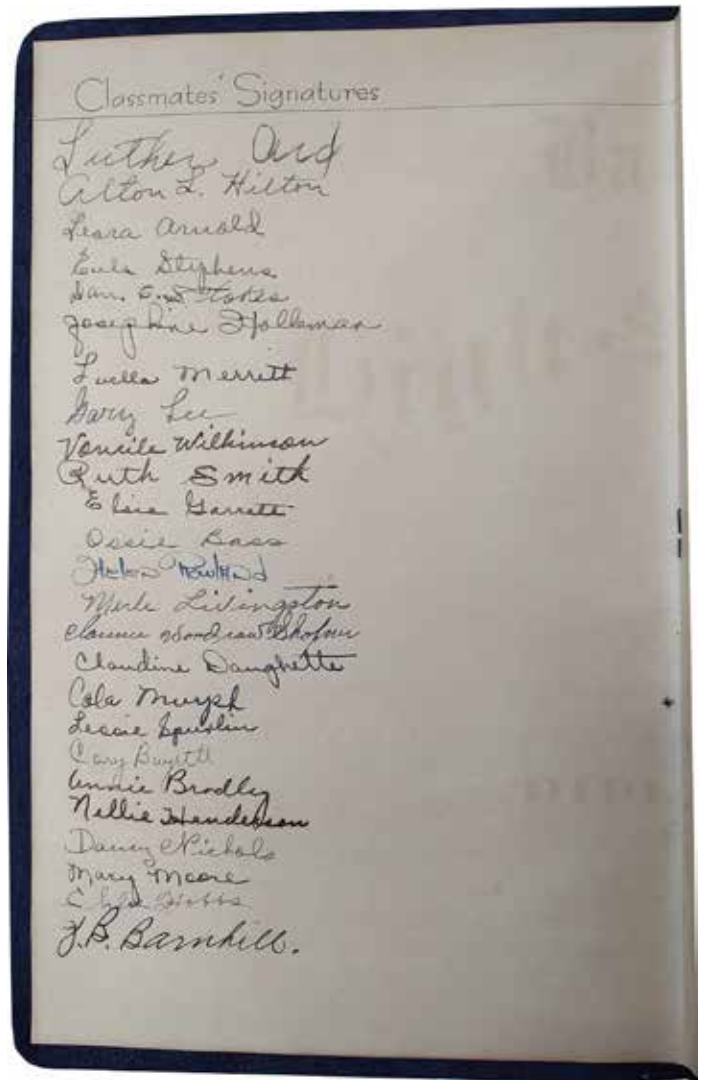
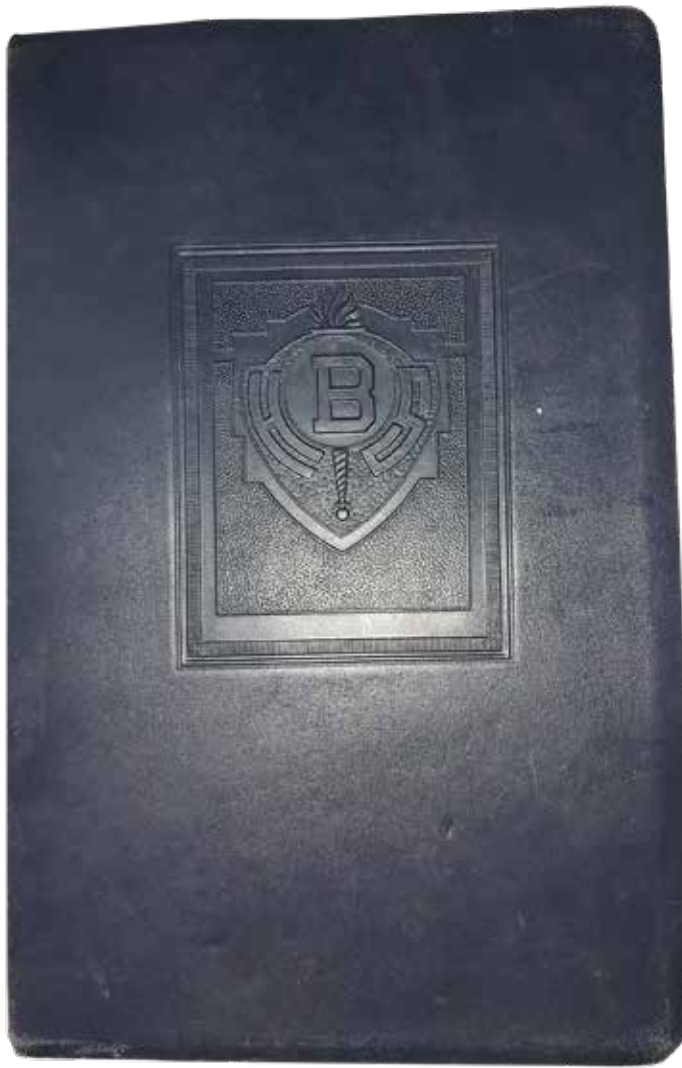


The Okaloosa Mercantile coin to the left was donated in memory of Ray Cawthon. The coin was found in the backwoods behind Cawthon's barber shop in Holt.

The Baker High School usher pin was donated by Bobby Miles of Laurel Hill.



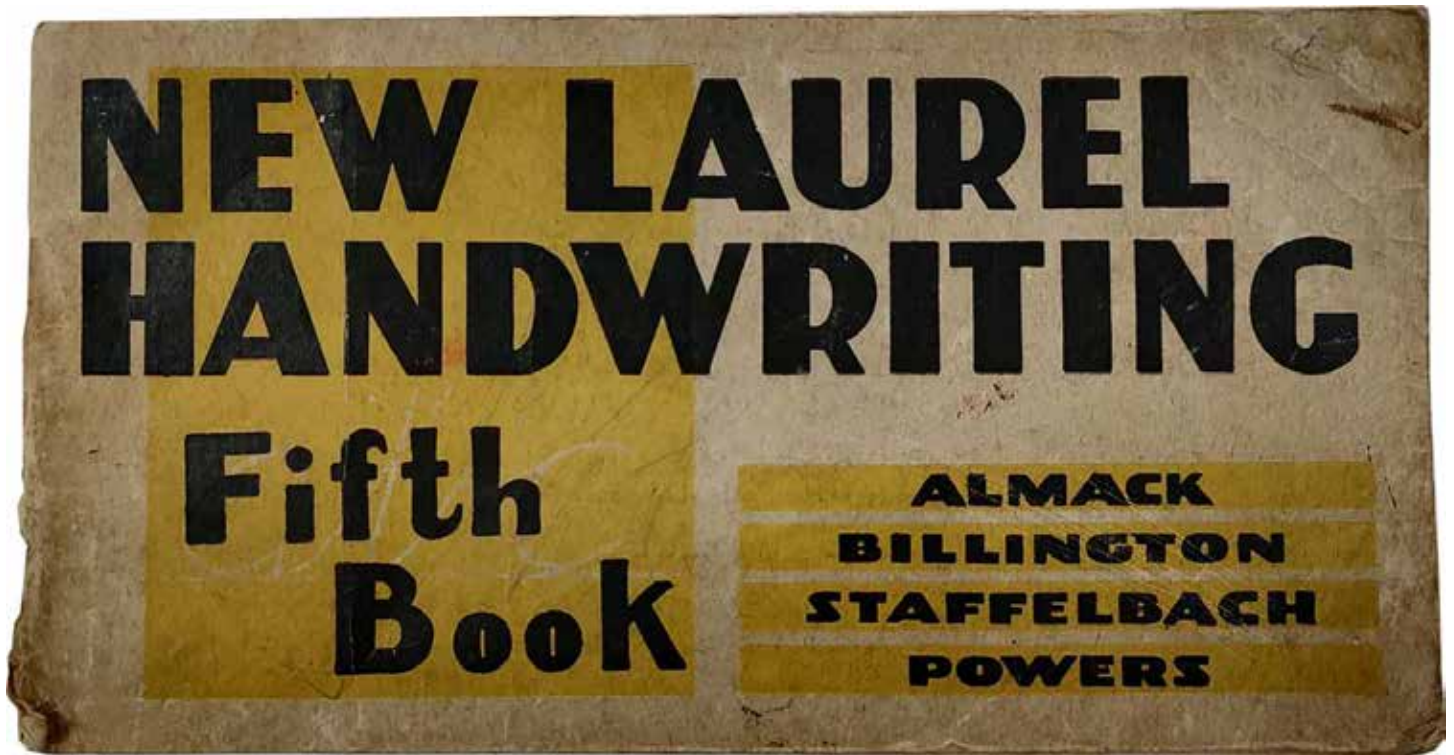
This Baker high school diploma was donated by Bobby Miles from Laurel Hill. Daucy Taylor Nichols graduated in 1936.



Within the leather diploma folder (above) were signatures of Daucy Taylor Nichols' classmates, among other notable class information.



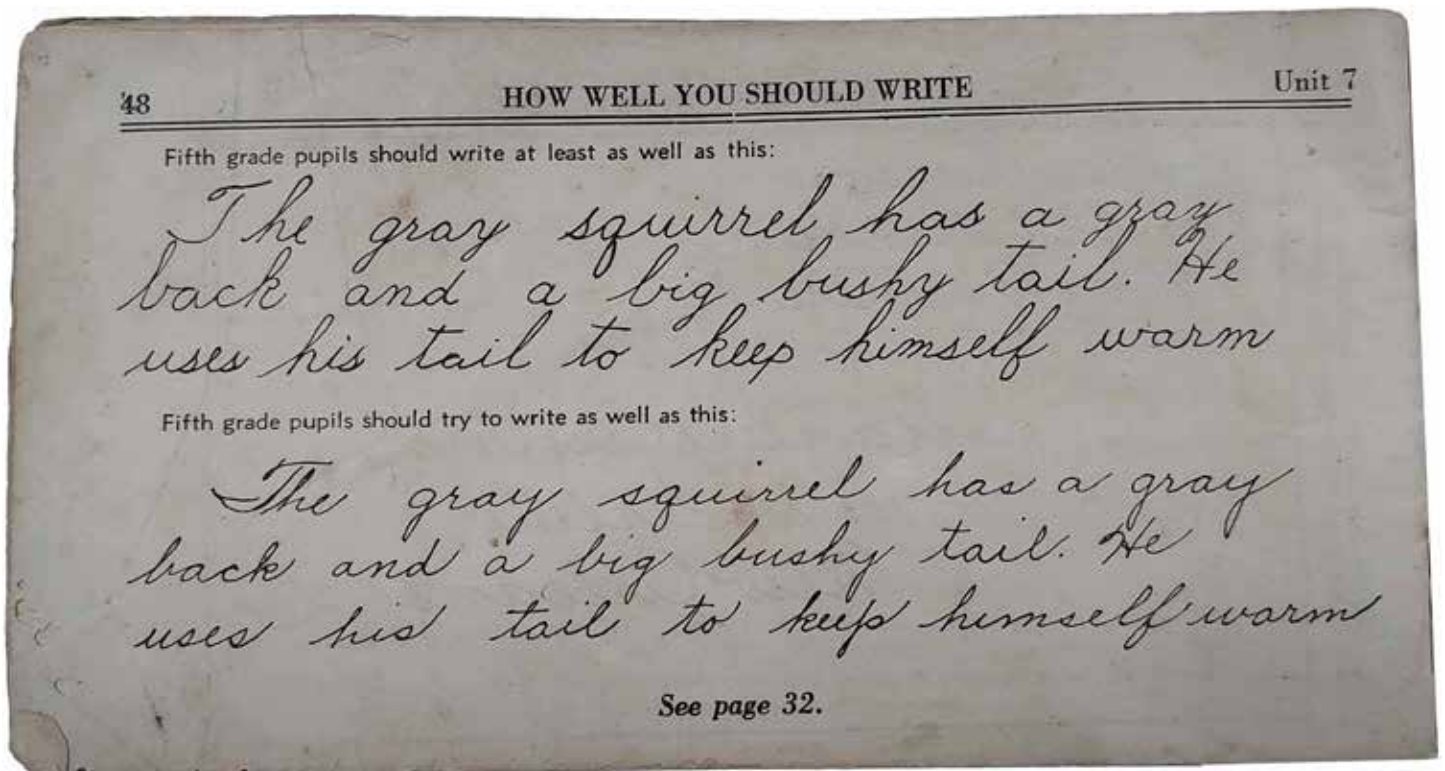
Several issues of the Vitro Services Scope newsletter covering company events at Eglin Air Force Base from the late 1970s to the early 1980s were donated to the Museum by Linda and Bobby Henderson of Holt. These newsletters are packed with names and information to aid a family researcher or genealogist.



This New Laurel Handwriting book was copyrighted in 1937 and was published in 1945 and instructed students in how to write cursive, a skill that is no longer taught

in the public school systems throughout the United States.

The book was donated in March by Lois Alexander who lives in Panama City.





## Facelift

The Museum is getting some much-needed refurbishment, thanks to Brenda and Raymond Russell.

In 2021, a driver parked his burning RV in front of the Museum. The heat from the fire caused a bit of superficial damage to the front of the Museum, including cracking windows and warping the Baker Mercantile Gift Shop door (see story in Summer 2021 issue).

For the past month, the Russells have been re-caulking windows and painting walls and doors and generally spritzing up the front.



## New signs

There's a new sign at the intersection of state roads 4 and 189 next to the museum. The original sign was faded and weather worn. This one sports the Museum logo designed in 2019.

The sponsor sign in the Heritage Park was also replaced with the Museum's current sponsors.

Finally, the three Museum signs leading into Baker on State Road 4 just north of Galliver Cutoff, State Road 189 north of the traffic light, and Georgia Avenue west of the Museum will be replaced as well.

The Museum is excited to announce two new books scheduled to be published later this year. The first will be a history of Milligan. The second will be a pictorial history of Okaloosa County.



# FamilySearch

**Where families live forever**

**Make a discovery.**

**Share a memory.**

Learn how to preserve family pictures, documents, stories (both written and audio), and connect and share with other family members.

Elder and Sister Riser, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will be on hand each Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Genealogy and Research Library to assist researchers with FamilySearch.

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## **Western wear for men and women**

**Cinch, Roper, Ely Cattleman, Red Dirt Hat Co., Old South Apparel, Tanner Mark, and more!**

**1307 Georgia Avenue, Baker**

**850-865-7060**

**Open Tuesday-Sunday**

# SPONSORS



The North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support of the Baker Block Museum.

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TheRestroom



CRESTVIEW PLUMBING & HARDWARE CO.

# Herald and News

In The Shasta-Cascade Wonderland

FIVE CENTS

KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, MONDAY, MAY 7, 1945

Number 10459

## BLAST KILLS 6

The  
Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

The news is rather badly crumbled as these words written, but this seems to about what happened: The Germans finally got together some kind of central authority (the names mentioned new to most of us). These blitters (a Colonel General and a General Admiral) called off the war at general Eisenhower's headquarters at a little red schoolhouse at

### FIVE CHILDREN, PASTOR'S WIFE IN EXPLOSION

Fishing Jaunt Proves  
Fatal To Bly  
Residents

Page 1, November 11, 1918



## How Japan bombed the continental United States...using balloons

By Stephanie Holcombe

*For six months during World War II, Japan sent balloon bombs to the United States in hopes of causing as much terror and damage as possible from explosions and ensuing forest fires in the Pacific Northwest. Only one bomb succeeded, killing six in Oregon in 1945.*

It was a beautiful late spring day on southeastern Oregon's Gearhart mountain in the Freemont National Forest. On May 5, 1945, a group of picnickers set out to enjoy a Saturday of fishing on the Leonard Creek among the whispering ponderosa pines. While the Reverend Archie Mitchell of the Christian Alliance church in Bly, Oregon, parked the car, his pregnant wife, Elsie, and five children from the Sunday school where he preached were exploring the surrounding area when they came upon an unusual object. Elsie hailed her husband to come see what



they had found. As he moved toward the group to tell them to not touch whatever it was, the object exploded, instantly killing five children. His wife died moments later in his arms.

What the group stumbled upon was a downed Japanese FuGo balloon bomb that had drifted from Japan. The resulting deaths marked the first and only time Americans have been killed during war by enemy action on the continental United States. Killed were Elsie (or Elsy) Mitchell, 26; Eddie Engen, 13; Jay Gifford, 13; Sherman Shoemaker, 11; Dick Patzke, 14; and his younger sister, Joan "Sis" Patzke, 13.

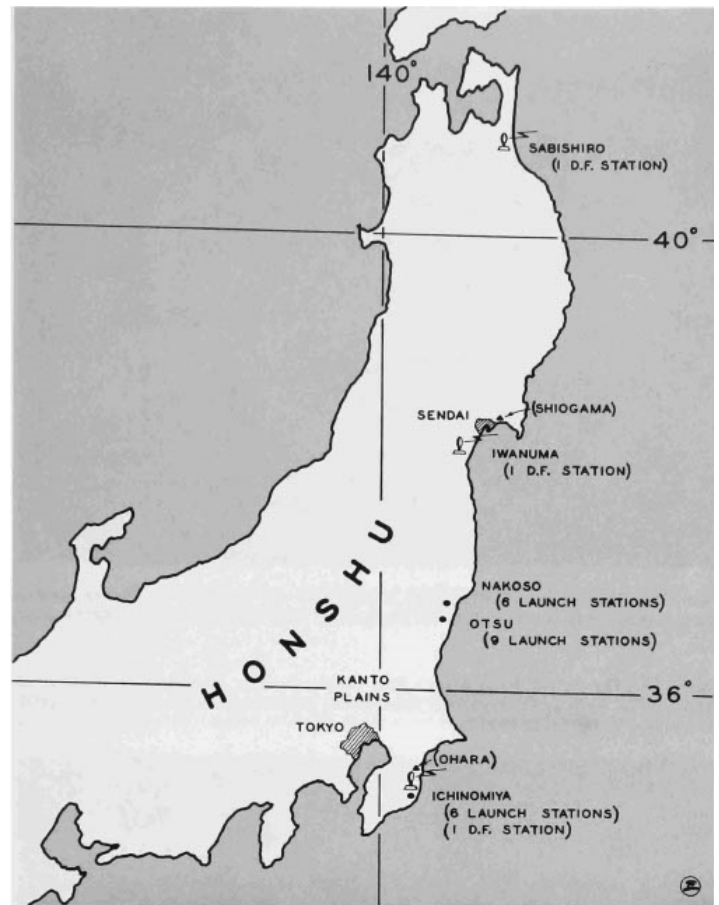
A couple of forest service men working a road grader nearby heard the explosion and came to help. Reverend Mitchell had heard stories about balloon bombs, and when his wife called out, he feared what they found might, indeed, be a bomb. He was about forty feet away when the bomb exploded. It created a shallow crater of just one foot deep and three feet wide. The blast sent bomb fragments 400 feet from the center of the explosion.

According to a Klamath Falls *News and Herald* newspaper article dated May 31, 1945, the bodies of the victims "were badly mangled from the hips down. One of the boys had taken the force of the explosion in the head, indicating he may have been leaning over the object when it exploded." Reverend Mitchell found a piece of burning material on his wife's body.

A mass funeral service was held May 9, 1945, in Bly for the Patzke children, Eddie Engen and Sherman Shoemaker. Elsie Mitchell's funeral was held in Port Angeles, Washington.

## Retaliation

Following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, the United States answered by sending sixteen North American B-25 Mitchell bombers on a one-way mission to Tokyo and other key Japanese cities in the first aerial attack of the island nation by U.S. bombers in World War II. Led by Lieutenant Colonel James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, the historical event became known as the Doolittle Raid. Training for the secret mission took place at Eglin Field in March 1942. After the Tokyo attack on April 18, 1942, the Japanese



Balloons launch sites sat on Japan's secluded eastern coast. (*Smithsonian Institution Press*)

began looking for a way to retaliate against the United States.

Long aware of the high-altitude easterly blowing rivers of fast-moving air now known as the jet stream, the Japanese Imperial Army designed a bomb-carrying balloon that could make the 6,200 mile trek across the Pacific Ocean to the west coast of the United States and Canada. Once over land, the balloons would descend and drop incendiary bombs into the forested areas of Oregon and Washington, igniting forest fires. The bombs also carried anti-personnel bombs. The objective was to strike fear in the hearts of Americans seemingly under attack.

The balloons measured 33 feet in diameter and were filled with 19,000 cubic feet of hydrogen. They carried a payload of four eleven-pound incendiary devices and either one thirty-three pound antipersonnel bomb or one twenty-five pound incendiary bomb. The balloon envelopes were made of layers of panels made from mulberry tree paper glued together



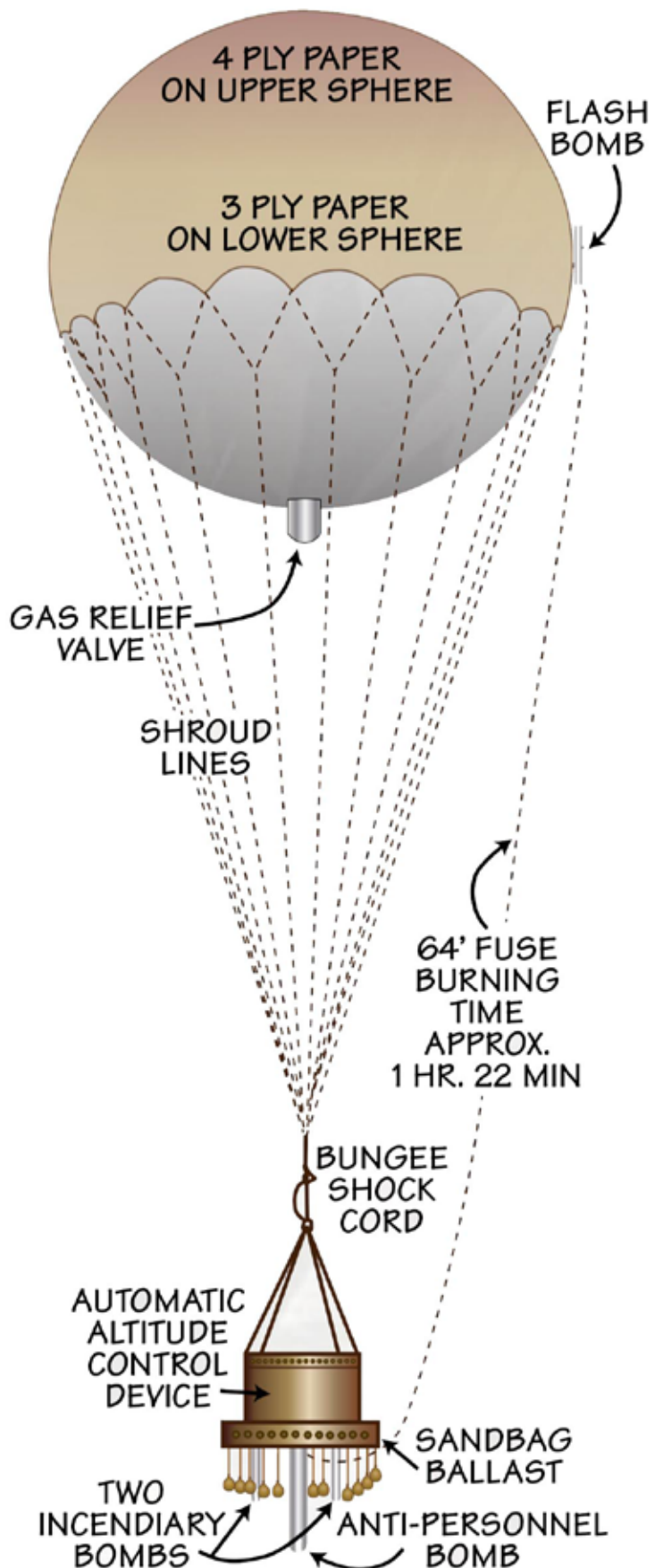
Each balloon carried sandbag ballasts, two incendiary bombs and an anti-personnel bomb.

with a potato-like paste. Conscripted Japanese school girls spent hours pasting and stitching the envelopes together. Hanging under the balloon was a gondola consisting of an automatic altitude control device, sandbag ballast, and the bombs.

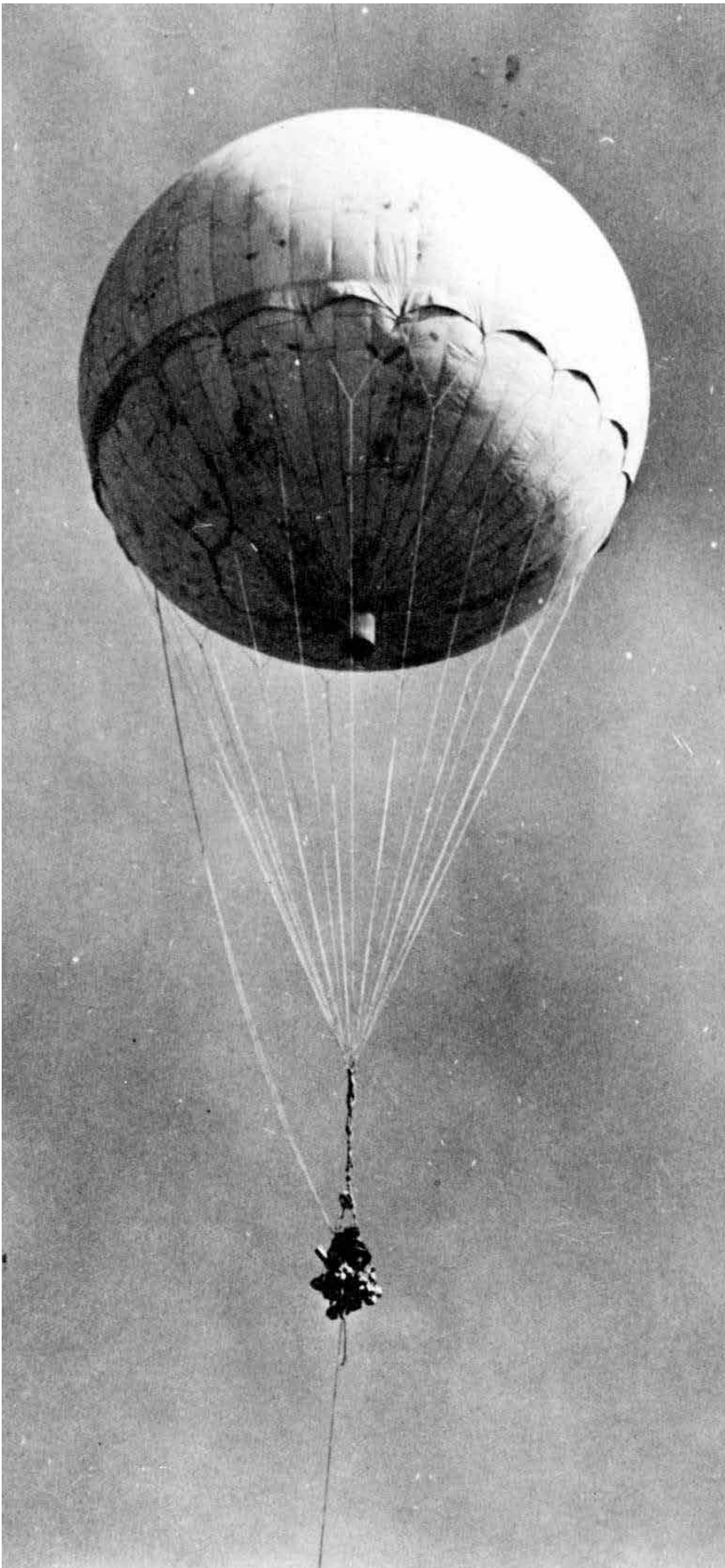
Once a balloon was launched, it rose to an altitude of 30,000 to 40,000 feet until it reached the jet stream where winds raced across the sky at more than 275 miles per hour. The jet stream is strongest beginning in October, reaching maximum velocity from November through March, so the first balloon launch was scheduled in mid-Fall. Balloons were released from three coastal launching posts of Honshu, the largest of the Japanese islands, also known as the mainland. The air assault officially began with the first launch November 3, 1944, the birthday of former ruler, Emperor Meiji.

Than two days later (accounting for crossing the International Date Line), the first balloon was sighted November 4, 1944, floating in the water 66 miles off the coast of San Pedro, California, by a

## DIAGRAM OF JAPANESE FUGOS



U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service diagram.



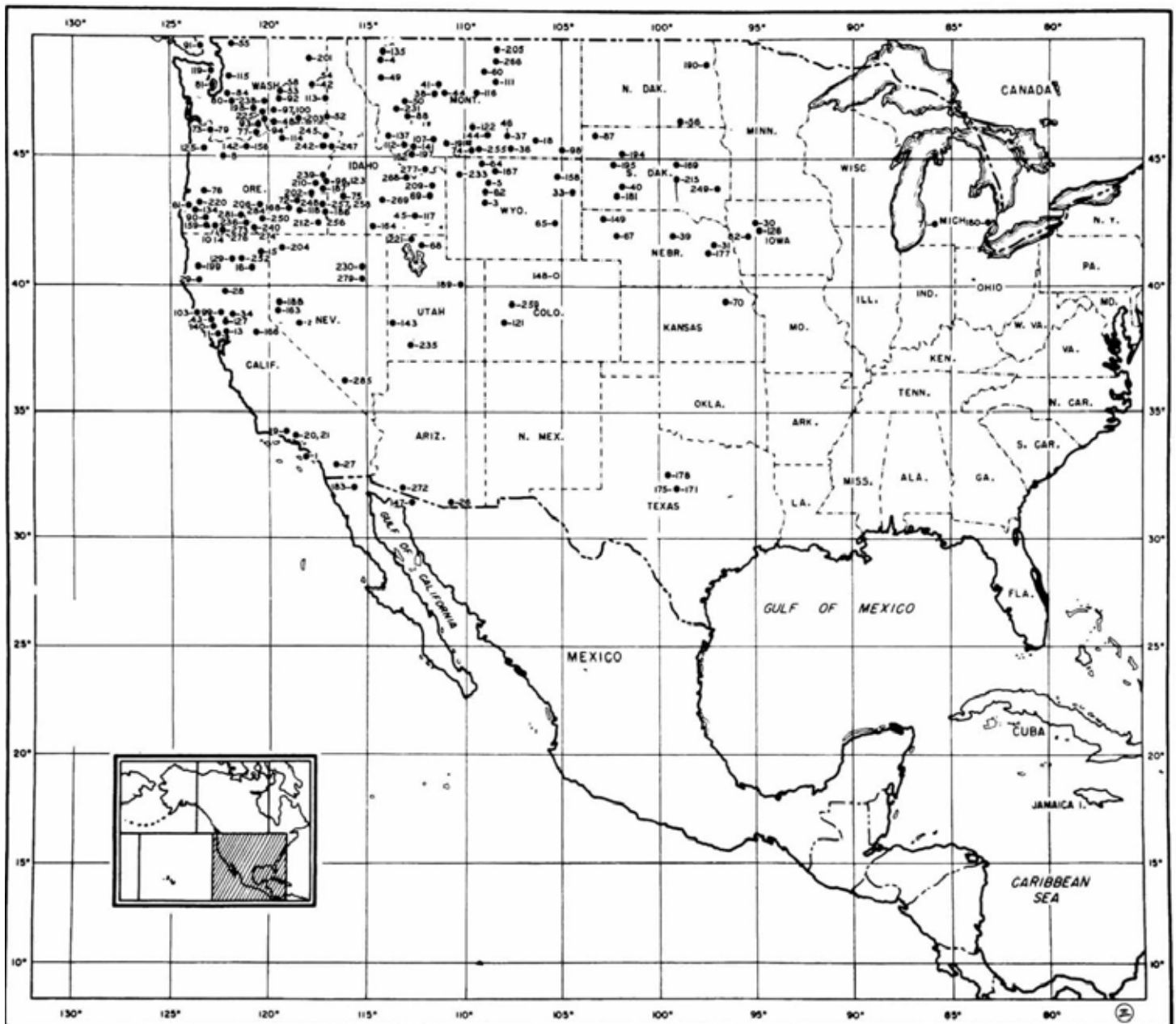
Inflated FuGo Japanese balloon bombs were held aloft by hydrogen gas. (U.S. Air Force photo)

U.S. Navy patrol boat. The balloon, rigging, and some apparatus were recovered. No one knew at the time what it was, who it was from, or why it was sent. The first balloon bomb to land in the United States occurred about 15 miles northwest of Thermopolis, Wyoming, December 6. People reported seeing a parachute, heard explosions and “saw a fire on a mountain,” according to news reports. At first, it was believed to have been a plane crash from the nearby Casper Army Air Field, Wyoming.

By the time a third balloon was found near Kalispell, Montana, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was called in. The local sheriff recovered the balloon and stored it in his garage until the FBI arrived. Although “about 500 townspeople” saw it after it was brought to town, they kept “mum.” It was, after all, still wartime and as the editor of the Kalispell *Interlake* newspaper said, “There are too many of these people with sons and husbands in the service to take a chance on perhaps giving out valuable information to the enemy.”

The Imperial Japanese Army launched more than nine thousand balloons between November 1944 and April 1945. However, only 285 balloon incidents were reported between November 1944 to August 1945. Some balloons were found as far east as Michigan, as far north as Alaska and Canada, and as far south as Sonora, Mexico.

Balloons continued to be discovered well past the end of World War II. Balloon bombs continue to turn up even now. One of the latest was discovered in 2019 in the mountainous region of British Columbia, Canada. Its incendiaries were partially buried in the side of a mountain. It is speculated



Balloon bombs launched from Japan drifted as far east as Michigan in the United States and Manitoba in Canada, as far north as Alaska and the Northwest Territories in Canada, and as far south as Sonoyta in Sonora, Mexico, just south of Arizona. Most landed in the Pacific Northwest.

that many more balloon bombs have yet to be discovered.

### Unreached expectations

The Japanese Fu-Go balloon bomb is considered the first weapon in history to reach intercontinental range. However, hopes that the mysterious balloons raining fire throughout the Pacific Northwest would terrorize Americans, and thus give the Japanese people a morale boost, never materialized. Due to the successfulness of American media self-censorship during World War II, there was very little news of the bombs as they were found.

Shortly after the deadly explosion in Oregon, the military acknowledged the existence of the balloon bombs and started a public educational safety campaign in cooperation with schools and civic organization; however, they asked the public to “refrain from spreading news of any specific balloon incident,” according to a joint statement issued by the War and Navy departments.

When headlines of panicking Americans didn’t appear in U.S. newspapers, the Japanese considered the project a bust. The program was ended in April 1945, just days before the tragic explosion in the Oregon mountains that

killed the six Americans and five months before Japan surrendered to the United States in September 1945.

### Remembrance

In 1950, the small picnic area where a bomb killed the six Americans in Oregon was dedicated as the Mitchell Recreation Area in honor of Archie and Elyse Mitchell. Accessible to the public, a monument stands at Salt Springs, a mile east of the Klamath-Lake County line, at the spot where the bomb was found. A bronze plaque on a native stone monument bears the names of the six who were killed by the explosion. It commemorates “the only place on the American continent where death resulted from enemy action during World War II.” Standing behind the monument is a 150-year-old, 125-foot tall ponderosa pine tree that bears shrapnel scars from the explosion and efforts to remove the fragments.

A footnote to the story: Reverend Archie Mitchell married the eldest sister of Dick and Joan Patzke. He and his wife, Betty, became missionaries in Vietnam where he was taken captive and was never heard from again.

## Balloons launched from Japan

Date	Approximate number launched
<b>1944</b>	
November	700
December	1,200
<b>1945</b>	
January 1945	2,000
February	2,500
March	2,500
April	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,300</b>



## Balloons in recent news

Shortly after the president ordered to shoot down what appeared to be a Chinese surveillance balloon that had drifted across the United States February 4, Eglin Air Force Base announced a series of weather balloon releases by the 96th Operations Group. Unlike the Chinese balloon, these distinctly smaller balloons were designed to collect weather data for a Naval Post Graduate School research project.

A week after the shutdown, an F-22 Raptor fighter shot down another object over the Arctic Ocean. Then again on February 11 over Canada and again on February 12 over Lake Huron. While not Chinese spy balloons, the objects posed a hazard as they drifted in airspace used by airliners and military aircraft.

On February 4, an F-22 from Langley Air Force Base’s 1st Fighter Wing in Virginia shot down the white Chinese surveillance balloon off the South Carolina coast that was almost the size of three school buses. It was first detected January 28 when it entered U.S. airspace near the Aleutian Islands. It had directional controls to allow Chinese operatives to control the balloon’s path.

By contrast, Eglin routinely releases smaller weather balloons. These are equipped with a radiosonde that collects information wind speed, temperature, and humidity. After about an hour, the balloon pops and falls back to earth.

# World War II's U.S. Office of Censorship



Employee pin of World War II U.S. War Service, Office of Censorship. The Latin words on the shield mean “silence speeds victory,” the office’s motto.



Byron Price, Director of the U.S. Office of Censorship, in 1941.

Established as an emergency wartime agency, the U.S. Office of Censorship was set up by presidential executive order December 19, 1941, less than two weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the event that thrust the United States into World War II. The newly established agency was designed to help control all information going out and coming into the United States and its territories, including the

Philippines.

Communications by mail, cable, radio, or other means of transmission between the United States and any foreign country were censored by sole discretion of the director of the Office of Censorship.

***“the Government has called upon a patriotic press and radio to abstain voluntarily from the dissemination of detailed information of certain kinds...The response has indicated a universal desire to cooperate.”***

***– Executive Order 8985, “Establishing the Office of Censorship”***

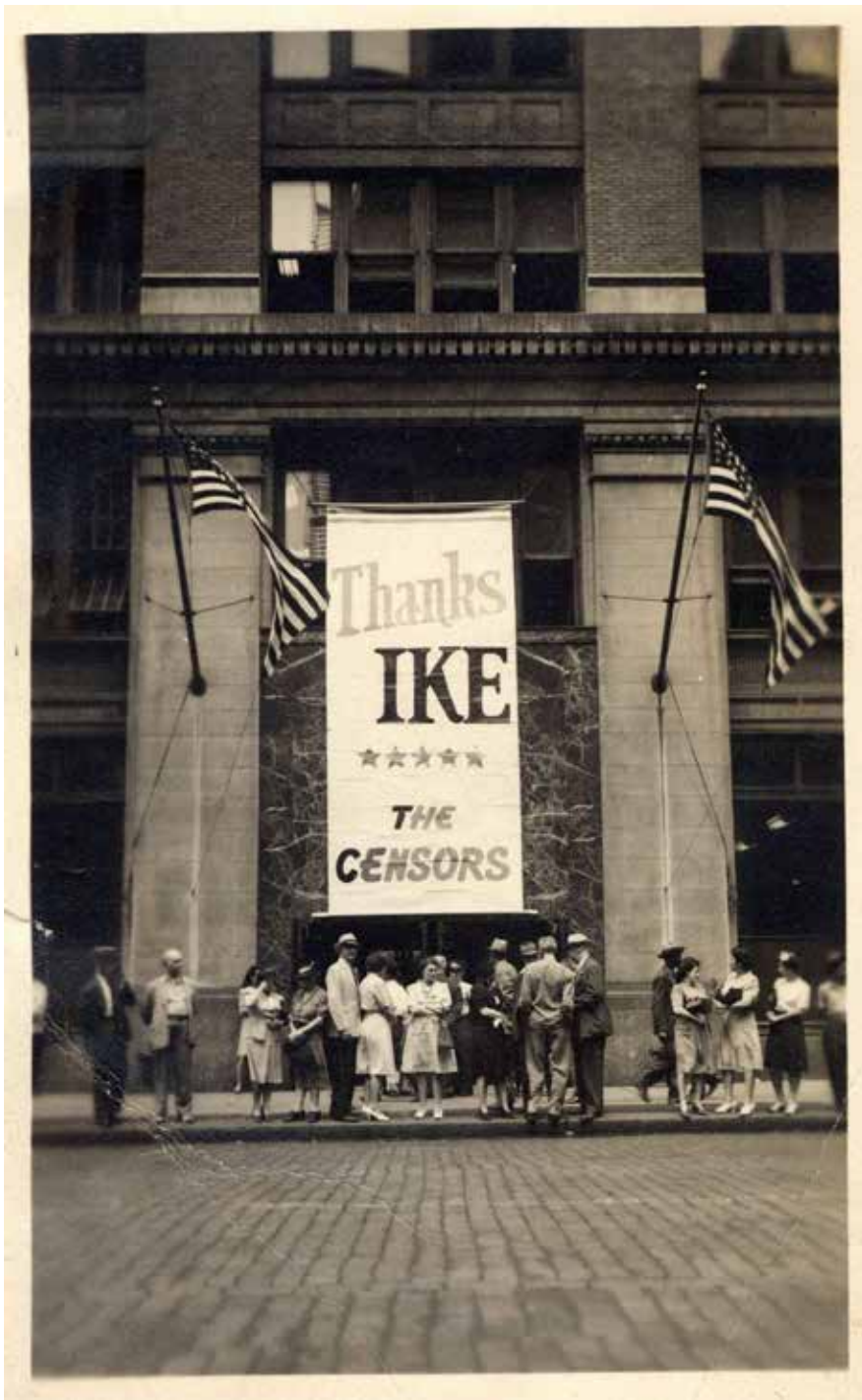
The director position was given to Associated Press executive news editor Byron

Price, who reported directly to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He convinced the president to continue pre-war voluntary censorship by the media verses government-mandated censorship, and appealed to journalists’ sense of patriotism and voluntary cooperation. Price feared that if the government mandated censorship, it would become permanent. He kept his office separate from the Office of War Information—“Loose lips might sink ships”—which not only censored war information,

but also participated in political propaganda campaigns.

The order gave the director absolute

discretionary power over censorship of international communications. It also



Manhattan Federal Building with Office of Censorship at 252 7th Avenue in 1945.

established a censorship policy board consisting of the vice president, treasury secretary, war secretary, attorney general, postmaster general, and the director of the Office of Facts and Figures. The postmaster general was appointed chairman of the board.

During its existence, the office monitored 350,000 overseas cables and telegrams, and 25,000 international telephone calls a week. However, rather than reviewing all news articles, columns, and radio broadcasts,

newspapers and radio stations voluntarily sought approval for anything deemed sensitive.

When Japanese balloon bombs began appearing in the United States, in November of 1945, the Office of Censorship requested newspaper editors and radio broadcasters to refrain from reporting on these balloon incidents. Following the explosion in Oregon that killed six Americans, the Censorship Office sent a note of praise to editors and broadcasters that stated: "Cooperation from the press and radio under this request has been excellent despite the fact that Japanese free balloons are reaching the United States, Canada, and Mexico in increasing numbers... There is no question that your refusal to publish or broadcast information about these balloons has baffled the Japanese, annoyed and hindered them, and has been an important contribution to security."

The Office of Censorship was permanently ended September 28, 1945, with Executive Order 9631. In a postwar memorandum, Price cautioned President Truman that "no one who does not dislike censorship should ever be permitted to exercise censorship," should the government find a need for censoring information in the future.

Price received a special Pulitzer Prize in 1944 for his "creation and administration of the newspaper and radio codes" during the war. President Harry S. Truman presented him with the Medal of Merit in 1946 for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services" as director. After the office closed in 1945, Price became the vice president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

# SHOP

All items are available in the **Baker Mercantile Gift Store**.



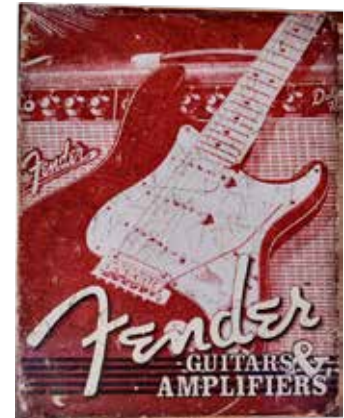
**Women's vintage-style handkerchiefs: \$2.95 each**

Mother's Day is just around the corner. Multiple designs to choose from.



**Crochet footbag kick sacks: \$2.50**

Fun for young and old alike. Multiple colors to choose from.



**13"x16" retro tin poster signs: \$11.95**

These tin signs would look great on any wall. Buy dad an early Father's Day gift. Many other themes available. 13"x16"



**Flags of Our Country cards: \$3.50**

Here's a fun way to learn about the flags of the United States. Great for homeschooling.



**Battle Strike army men: \$2.50**

Remember playing with green plastic army men as a kid? Build an army with these from the Mercantile Store.



**Engineer hat: \$6.95  
Train whistle: \$3**

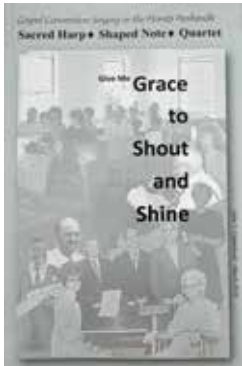
A train whistle and engineer hat is a must-have for any young train fan. Youth size only.

All this and much, much more is available in the **Baker Mercantile Gift Store**.

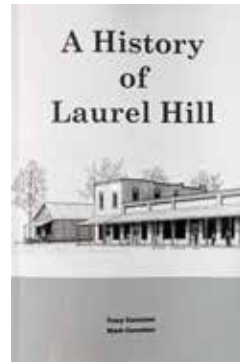


# Okaloosa County History Series

Available for sale in the **Baker Mercantile Gift Store**, on eBay, by email at [bakermuseum@aol.com](mailto:bakermuseum@aol.com) or by calling the Museum at 850-537-5714. **\$20 each.**



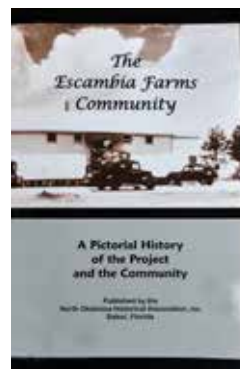
*Give me the Grace to Shout and Shine*, the newest book in the history series, focuses on the three most prominent gospel singing methods in the northwest Florida panhandle throughout the years: Sacred Harp, also known as fasola, five- or seven-shape note convention singing, and later, the gospel quartet.



Drawing from interviews, newspapers, public records and photographs, *A History of Laurel Hill* tells the story of this historic town. The book covers the early history of the area under Spanish rule through the Civil War, the coming of the railroad, the Great Depression and into the modern era.



*Turpentine in the Florida Panhandle* casts turpentine as a significant element impacting the way of life in the Northwest Florida panhandle. It describes an integrated experience—culture, industry, and human condition—in the lives of those who lived it.



Present Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal program included aid to American migrant workers and tenant farmers. The Resettlement Administration created a planned farming community in the northwest corner of Okaloosa County in 1936 known as Escambia Farms. By 1939, the community had grown to 72 families and included a school to educate the more than 220 children.



Okaloosa County has a rich military history. *Okaloosa Strong: The Homefront* is a sampling of the people, places, stories, and events during wartime in the county.



Officially founded in 1883, Crestview became a stop on the Pensacola & Atlantic Railroad. The geographic center of the county, the town became the seat of the newly established county in 1917. Crestview is situated on a rise between the Yellow River 4 miles to the west and the Shoal River 4 miles to the east. *A Pictorial History* shows in photos how Crestview changed into the largest city in the county.



## Okaloosa County Heritage Books

Volume I & II

**Limited Quantity**

Includes a history of Okaloosa County, pioneer families, industry, schools, churches, towns, family stories, and genealogies.

**\$53 each**

# SUPPORT

## North Okaloosa Historical Association

# Membership News

### NOHA Board Members

- **President - Brenda Russell**
- **Vice President - Lucile King**
- **Treasurer - Sharry Rustin**
- **Secretary - Stephanie Holcombe**

### Members:

**Nina Adams**  
**Joyce Arnett**  
**Mike Bush**  
**Tracy Curenton**  
**Doug Hibbing**

### Emeritus Members:

**Judy Cadenhead**  
**Phyllis Enzor**  
**Jeanette Henderson**

### 2022 Goals

- **Increase membership by 30%**
- **Complete the historical marker application**
- **Finish the pavilion with flooring, lighting, and a stage**
- **Purchase needed equipment for digitalization — purchased copy stand**

**Welcome new members: Vera Watkins, individual membership**  
**Sidney Dwyer, family membership**

## Why become a member of the North Okaloosa Historical Association?

Besides supporting the preservation of the history of Okaloosa County, membership in the NOHA has its benefits:

- » Membership card
- » *Okaloosa Historical Quarterly* magazine
- » 10% discount off books and calendars published by the NOHA
- » Email notification of special events
- » Invitation to the annual meeting in January

Lifetime members receive all of the above, PLUS:

- » 20% discount off books and calendars published by the NOHA
- » Recognition in the annual report
- » 10% off nomination for any Family Heritage Wall of Honor submission

# North Okaloosa Historical Association



## Membership Form

Membership in the North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., is open to anyone interested in preserving and documenting the history of Okaloosa County and its pioneering families. NOHA serves as the governing body for the Baker Block Museum. Member benefits include the *Okaloosa Historical Quarterly*, e-mail notification of special events, discounts in the Baker Mercantile store, and an invitation to the annual meeting in January.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one)

- Individual \$25 per year
- Family \$50 per year
- Student \$15 per year
- Lifetime \$250

\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer at the Baker Block Museum

\_\_\_\_ I have items I would like to donate to the Baker Block Museum

\_\_\_\_ I have photographs that I will allow to be scanned for the Museum's collection

Return this form with your contribution made payable to:

**North Okaloosa Historical Association**  
Membership  
P.O. Box 186  
Baker, FL 32531

The North Okaloosa Historical Association is a 501(c)(3) organization. Membership and any donations are tax deductible.

**Jeanette and Charles Henderson  
Heritage Park  
Pavilion Rental Agreement**



The pavilion at the Jeanette and Charles Henderson Heritage Park may be rented for half-day or whole-day events. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Pavilion Rules**

- The Park is open to the public at all times.
- A reservation gives the reserver the right to use the pavilion for the allotted time frame. If the pavilion is occupied upon arrival, the reservation receipt should be presented to those using the area.
- Please leave the park in good clean order upon completion of your rental.
- No drugs or alcohol are allowed on park premises at any time.
- No fires are allowed in the park.
- Motor vehicles are prohibited inside the fenced area of the park.
- Public toilets are not available. They may be rented at the expense of the reserver.

A **reservation fee**, applied to the rental cost, is required 30 days prior to any scheduled event to reserve the date.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 for half-day rental

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 for all day-rental

Rental fees must be received 10 days prior to rental date or the Baker Block Museum will consider the reservation canceled. **Cancellations made less than 5 days prior to the event will forfeit the reservation fee.**

A \$25 refundable clean-up deposit is required to rent the pavilion. If the pavilion is not returned to its original condition, the deposit will not be refunded.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 clean-up fee (refundable)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 half-day (approximately 4 hours)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$200 whole day (approximately 8 hours)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person / Event

\_\_\_\_\_  
Event Date / Time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

Approved by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# EVENTS

April							May							June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	26	30	
30																				

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>2 Palm Sunday</p> <p>7 Good Friday</p> <p>9 Easter</p> <p>18 Tax Day</p> <p><b>15 3rd Saturday</b><br/>Museum is open from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>20</b> North Okaloosa Historical Association Board meeting, 6 p.m.</p> | <p>4 National Day of Prayer</p> <p>14 Mother's Day</p> <p><b>18</b> North Okaloosa Historical Association Board meeting, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>20 3rd Saturday:</b><br/><b>Wall of Honor induction ceremony, 1:30 p.m.</b><br/>Museum is open from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</p> <p>29 Memorial Day</p> | <p>6 D-Day</p> <p>14 Flag Day</p> <p><b>15</b> North Okaloosa Historical Association Board meeting, 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>17 3rd Saturday:</b><br/><b>FPAN presentation: Native People and Native Plants, 1:30 p.m.</b><br/>Museum is open from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.</p> <p>18 Father's Day</p> <p>21 Spring Solstice</p> |
|--|--|---|

**Regular Museum hours:**  
Tues.-Friday, every 3rd Saturday, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Join us June 17 at 1:30 p.m.  
for Florida Public Archaeology Network presentation on  
**Native People and Native Plants**  
in the Genealogy/Research Library

Learn how plants have been used as medicine and food in Florida by prehistoric people and early settlers in Florida.



# Little Free Library<sup>®</sup> in the Heritage Park

Take a Book. Share a Book.

**Did you know the Museum has TWO Little Free Library<sup>®</sup> book exchanges in the Jeanette and Charles Henderson Heritage Park? The little red schoolhouse library near the day care center has children's books while the cabin library facing Georgia Avenue has reading material for grownups.**

**The libraries are near large oak trees with bench seating so readers can sit and enjoy their book selections.**

**Both libraries are registered with the Little Free Library<sup>®</sup> system.**

