

WE ALL Thank CAPT Enzor

Okaloosa Historical Quarterly

North Okaloosa Historical
Association, Inc.



赤心

We thank for
your kind medical
treatment at the
1st Field Finch
Habor Hospital.

May 29 1944

昭和十九年五月二十九日

第一野
手厚
感謝

佐藤	陳奈	盧幼	張新	池沢	壽可	岡田	野日	花谷	大仲	箱崎	久松	太田	中西	井上	川田	楊秋	川保	田中	莊司	森元	出川	平政	吉源	黒長	阪井	山下	山崎	上野	
傳	春	幼	清	平	平	吉	二	雄	嘉	武	吉	吉	佐	雄	煌	義	清	一	男	元	繁	男	三	朗	三	郎	郎	郎	雄



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Discover. Experience. Connect.

OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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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.

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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.

Director's Notes

We were honored with the number of community leaders, current and former museum members, and associates who turned out to help celebrate the museum's 25th anniversary in July. Two of the North Okaloosa Historical Association's founding board members were present. Jeanette Henderson and James Griffith played a huge role in building the organization from conception to building renovation and years of operation. It was an honor to have them with us on such a special night.

State Representative Patt Maney was our guest speaker. He is a local history enthusiast and great supporter of museums in Okaloosa County. We are pleased to announce that we will sponsor a state historical marker along with Representative Maney to mark the site of Fort Kirkland near Laurel Hill. The fort, named for Caleb Kirkland, was attacked and burned in 1837 during the Second Seminole War.

Members of the Baker Lions Club surprised us with a \$2,500 donation to the museum during the night's festivities. Joyce Blaylock Cosson presented the check on behalf of the club, and we were delighted to have her and her fellow club members present.

Joyce Arnett, a member of the NOHA board of directors was responsible for a very successful inaugural cake baking contest during our

President's Message

I think we can all agree that the last two years have been difficult ones. At this time last year, we were all thinking that things would surely be back to normal in 2021. It hasn't quite worked out that way.

At the September board meeting, we made the difficult decision to cancel our Heritage Day celebration again this year. This has always been a time to gather as a community, learn about the past, and celebrate our heritage. We certainly hope to be back next year better than ever. But, please, don't wait another year to visit the museum. May I offer some suggestions for fun things to do at the Baker Block Museum:

- Have a picnic lunch in our Heritage Park and relax for a while on the porch of our log cabin.
- Take some time to browse through our museum store. We have books on local history, nostalgic children's toys, antiques, and other unique items. It's not too early to begin Christmas shopping!
- Research your family tree in our extensive genealogy library. We offer free access to the online sites ancestry.com, newspapers.com, and fold3.com.
- Spend some time browsing through our collection of local school yearbooks. Whether reliving your glory days or laughing at regrettable fashion choices, they are sure to bring a smile.

Young or old, native or newcomer, there is something here for everybody. However you choose to spend your time with us, you will be warmly welcomed.

Tracy Curenton

3rd Saturday anniversary event. Our judge for the contest, Kimberly Howard of Back Home Bakery Café, had the difficult job of deciding the winners. Everyone enjoyed the delicious cakes and ice cream after the judging. We are grateful for the sponsors of our contest who provided prizes: the Hotel DeFuniak, Back Home Bakery Café, Salon Nirvana, Body-B-Healthy, and

Pic-N-Sav of Baker.

We have made the difficult decision to cancel Heritage Day for the second year due to safety concerns in our community during the Covid 19 pandemic. We sincerely hope that next year will mark a change and we will be able to continue this annual event honoring our local heritage.

Ann Spann

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 bakermuseum@aol.com**

25th Anniversary Sponsors

Thanks to our 25th Anniversary sponsors. Your support made our celebration even better!



Special thanks to Kimberly Howard, part-owner of the Back Home Bakery Café, for not only judging the Cake Bake-off, but for providing one of the prizes during the contest.



HOTEL DE FUNIAK

A big thank you to Hotel DeFuniak for their generous offer of an overnight getaway at their historic hotel as the grand prize of the Cake Bake-off.



Thanks to Salon Nirvana and Body-B-Healthy for providing gift certificates as prizes for the Cake Bake-off.



And last, but not least, thanks as always to Pic-N-Sav for providing the ice cream to go with the wonderful cakes cooked by the bake-off contestants.

25th Anniversary Celebration

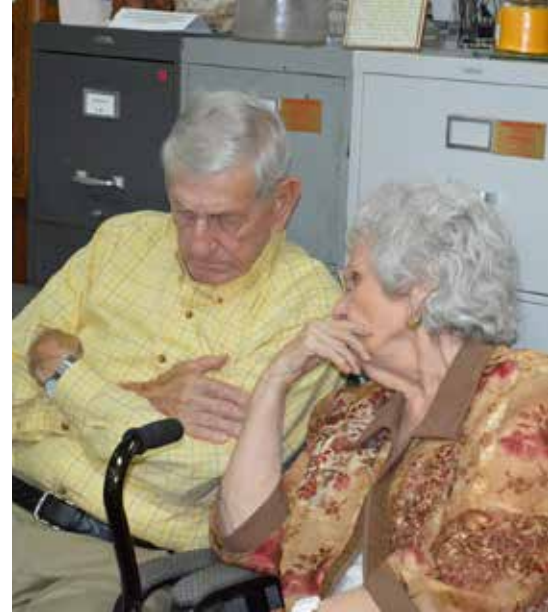
Reception



Guest speaker and guest of honor, Florida State Representative Patt Maney, talks about the Museum and local history during the 25th Anniversary Reception July 16.



North Okaloosa Historical Association members, volunteers, and friends of the Baker Block Museum attended a reception the evening of July 16.



North Okaloosa Historical Association founding board members, James Griffith and Jeanette Henderson, were honored guests during the Baker Block Museum's 25th anniversary celebration July 16.



Joyce Blaylock Cosson presented a \$2,500 check from the Baker Lions Club to the Baker Block Museum during the museum's 25th anniversary celebration July 16.



Representative Patt Maney shows the initials in a judicial robe that once belonged to Okaloosa County Judge Jack Courtney.

State Representative Patt Maney:

Congratulations to the Baker Block Museum for 25 years of preserving history and enlightening the future. It was an honor to join the volunteers, supporters, board of directors, and two of the original founders when they celebrated 25 years chronicling the history of North Okaloosa County.

I was honored to present Jeanette Henderson, a founder and driving force of the Museum, with the judicial robe of her late brother, Okaloosa County Judge Jack Courtney. The Museum hosts a display of artifacts related to Judge Courtney.

Several attendees are descendants of the namesake of territorial militia Fort Kirkland in north Okaloosa County. Names of the original militia members in 1837 are still prominent in Okaloosa County. I was pleased to learn of local plans to mark the site of Fort Kirkland and of the World War II-era national service camp in Crestview.

The artifacts and historic resources of the Baker Block Museum are well worth a visit to Baker.



Representative Patt Maney presents a judicial robe that belonged to Judge Jack Courtney to his sister, Jeanette Henderson, a founding member of the North Okaloosa Historical Association and driving force behind the creation of the Baker Block Museum.



Judge Jack Courtney

Cake Bake-off



Kimberly Howard, part-owner of Crestview's Back Home Bakery Café, was the judge for the Baker Block Museum's 25th Anniversary Cake Bake-off contest. There were 10 entries, so choosing the top four wasn't easy. Special thanks to Kimberly and to North Okaloosa Historical Association board member Joyce Arnett (above right) who tirelessly worked to organize the contest, including wrangling the outstanding prizes.





And the winner is...

Congratulations to grand prize winner Kylie Mossart for her brown sugar layer cake with peach filling (left).

Grand prize was an overnight getaway at the Hotel DeFuniak.

First place: Alexia Nusom, raspberry and lemon cake

Second place: Anna Ward, red velvet cake

Third place: Jessie Casey, carrot cake

Prizes for first, second, and third place included gift certificates for Body-B-Healthy, Salon Nirvana, and Back Home Bakery Café.

Congratulations to all the winners!



Grand prize: Kylie Mossart



First: Alexia Nusom



Second: Anna Ward





Dr. Allen Austin Enzor, Jr.

Veterans Day Salute

Major Allen A. Enzor, Jr.
World War II U.S. Army Medical Corps surgeon
and
Captain Claire Whalen Enzor
World War II U.S. Army Medical Corps nurse

They came from different cultural backgrounds—one southern, one northern. He was from Florida. She from Massachusetts. They met under extenuating circumstances—the heat of battle during World War II. They fell in love and married while serving duty in the Philippines.

U. S. Army Major Allen Austin Enzor, Jr., was chief surgeon at the 1st Field Hospital—also known as a mobile Army surgical hospital, or MASH—on Leyte Island in the Philippines during World War II. Army Captain Claire Elizabeth Whalen was chief nurse. He fell in love with the blond captain. She tried to set the dashing surgeon up with southern nurses, but he would have none of it.

Enzor requested permission from the commander to marry Whalen in May of 1945. They were married June 15, 1945, in a military ceremony by Father Smith of the 76th Station Hospital in the 118th General Hospital Chapel. The bride wore “a stiffly starched suntan shirt and quartermaster-styled slacks with matching accessories—a suntan stitched fatigue hat, white hand-knitted sox [sic] and brown oxfords,” according to the “Leyte Gazette” newsletter. The groom wore “conventional

suntan.” In other words, they were married in uniform.

Born in December 1914, in Munson, Florida, Enzor attended the university of Florida before obtaining his medical degree from Tulane University School of Medicine July 10, 1941. He interned at the Charity Hospital of Louisiana from July 1941 to



The officers' mess tent for the 1st Field Hospital in New Milne Bay, New Guinea, during World War II in 1943.



Captain Claire Elizabeth Whalen

January 1942. He applied to the state of Florida for a medical license prior to serving in the U.S. Army during World War II.

With a direct commissioning to officer, usually given to doctors, lawyers, chaplains, and intelligence experts during World War II, Enzor entered Army service at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, and served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1942 to 1946 in the Pacific theater of



This Japanese flag, signed by prisoners of war who were treated by Major Allen Enzor while surviving in the Philippines during World War II, is on permanent display in the Baker Block Museum.

operations in Paupan, New Guinea, and the Philippine campaigns with General Douglas MacArthur's Southwest Pacific Force. While there he treated a number of Japanese prisoners of war. In gratitude for his service and compassion, they signed a Japanese flag as a thank you to him.*



The nurses' quarters for the 118th General Hospital unit on Leyte Island in the Philippines in 1945.

Whalen was born in June 1911 in Attleboro, Massachusetts. She earned her registered nursing degree at Massachusetts General Hospital and volunteered for the Army during World War II.

Once married, she was placed on detached service to the 76th Station Hospital while Enzor continued surgical duties at the 1st Field Hospital.

Enzor contracted tuberculosis and suffered a collapsed lung in 1945 while serving in the



Major Allen Enzor in the Philippines.

Philippines. When the lung didn't recover, he received orders dated June 25, 1945, to be shipped back to the United States to Santa Fe, New Mexico, as a patient to recover. Three days later, Whalen formally requested to return stateside to be with her husband and finally joined him there.

According to U.S. Army records, Major Enzor was retired August 4, 1946, due to a permanent disability. He was medically retired from the Army Sept. 4, 1946.

Allen Enzor's awards and decorations for military service include the Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal, American Theater Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal with a bronze star, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Claire Enzor received the Bronze Star, Philippine Liberation Medal with one star, the Asiatic Pacific Medal with two battle stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Both Major Enzor and Captain Whalen received the Bronze Star Medal for their service during World War II when their hospital unit went into Leyte eight days after invasion day in 1944, and set up a hospital in the Polo Cathedral where they performed emergency medical care of battle casualties under extreme circumstances.

In 1947, Enzor began practicing medicine alongside his uncles when he joined the staff at Enzor Brothers Hospital in Crestview. The hospital was founded and operated by his uncle, Dr. Olin O. Enzor. Dr. Olin, as he was called, put his nephew through medical school with the promise Allen would join him at his hospital after his Army service.

Claire gave up nursing to take care of the home. She passed away January 3, 1978, and was buried with military honors at Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola.

Dr. Enzor passed away Feb. 21, 1985, and was also buried at Barrancas National Cemetery with military honors.

*The flag is on permanent display in the Baker Block Museum.



Major Allen Enzor in the Philippines.

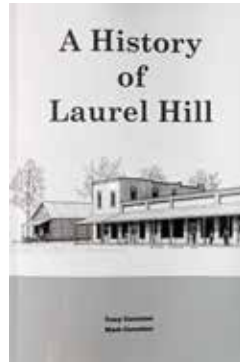
Photos of Captain Whalen on the cover and page 11, and Major Enzor on page 12, are courtesy of their daughter, Celeste Enzor Folga.

Okaloosa County History Series

Available for sale in the Baker Mercantile, on eBay, by email at bakermuseum@aol.com or by calling the Museum at 850-537-5714. **\$20 each.**



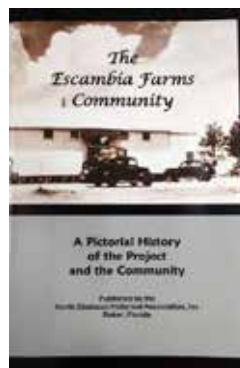
Give me the Grace to Shout and Shine, the newest book in the history series, focuses on the three most prominent gospel singing methods in the northwest Florida panhandle throughout the years: Sacred Harp, also known as fasola, five- or seven-shape note convention singing, and later, the gospel quartet.



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.



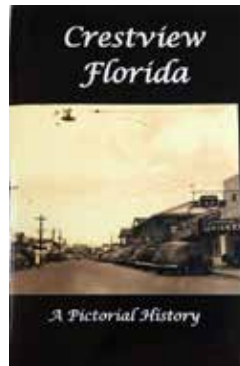
Turpentine in the Florida Panhandle casts turpentine as a significant element impacting the way of life in the Northwest Florida panhandle. It describes an integrated experience—culture, industry, and human condition—in the lives of those who lived it.



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

Fine dining comes to Destin in the '60s



From the late 1960s to the early 1990s, driving directions from Fort Walton Beach to a location in Destin usually included the phrase, “If you pass the Green Knight, you went too far,” or “Turn left at the Green Knight.” Located at what was the east end of town at the time, there wasn’t much past Main Street and the Green Knight.

Back when U.S. Highway 98 was two lanes and civilization ended less than two miles east of the Destin East Pass bridge, three couples launched a business venture to elevate the taste pallet in the land of oyster bars and seafood platters.

In 1968, Joyce and Vernon “Bud” LaFountain, Mame and Charles Harmon, and Miriam and Paul Seier opened the Green Knight

steakhouse and cocktail lounge on the northwest corner of U.S. Highway 98 and Main Street. In a 1969 *Pensacola Journal* article, Seier stated the goal was to combine atmosphere, good service, and a good steakhouse to create the “finest eating place on the coast.”

Touted as fine dining in a small fishing village with no street lights, no city lights, no street signs, and city water service that ended

Destin Welcomes The Green Knight



CONGRATULATIONS

To The
**GREEN
KNIGHT**
On Your
Grand
Opening

ON FLORIDA'S FAMED MIRACLE STRIP AT DESTIN

We Are Proud To Have
Played A Part By Supplying
Quality Fixtures

Joe Stubblefield Norman Bridger
UNITED FIXTURE CO.
Montgomery, Alabama



ON FLORIDA'S FAMED MIRACLE STRIP AT DESTIN

SUPERB STEAKS

Expertly
Cooked
On
Food
Preparation
Equipment

By

The
HELburn CO.

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Our Best Wishes On Your

GRAND OPENING



Congratulations
And
Best Wishes
On Your
Grand
Opening.

TEMPMASTER
Heating
Air Conditioning
Electrical Installation

By
OK ELECTRIC

Fort Walton Beach
Florida



ON FLORIDA'S FAMED MIRACLE STRIP AT DESTIN

Our Sincere
Best Wishes
On Your
**Grand
Opening**

The Home Of The
Green Knight
Constructed By
G.L. KELLY

GRAND OPENING

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

JULY 19-20-21 1968



We Serve Only The Finest
Steaks. . . Shipped Direct From
Chicago's Most Prestige Meat Packer.
Each Aged And Sixed Exactly To
Our Specifications.

SERVED WITH SALAD
BAKED OR AU GRATIN
POTATOES, COFFEE
OR TEA

SUPERB STEAKS

9 Oz. Choice Gourmet
RIB-EYE STEAK

12 Oz. Prime Strip
SIRLOIN STEAK

18 Oz. Prime Porterhouse
T-BONE STEAK

8 Oz. Choice
FILET MIGNON

8 Oz. Ladies Petite Strip
SIRLOIN STEAK

8 Oz. Prime Chopped
SIRLOIN STEAK

Direct From Milan
SALLY BAILY
At The Piano Bar

Visit Our Cocktail Lounge.
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
Hers D'Oeuves Served
During Happy Hour.
4:30 To 6:00 P.M.

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DISCOUNT
ALL OUR
PACKAGE
LIQUORS**



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**COCKTAIL
LOUNGE**

OPEN DAILY AT 10 A.M.
HAPPY HOUR 4:30 - 6:00 P.M.

**SUPERB
STEAKS**

DINING HOURS:
6:00 P.M. TILL MIDNIGHT

**DISCOUNT
LIQUORS**

OPEN DAILY
AT 10:00 A.M.

HIGHWAY 98 AT AIRPORT ROAD

DESTIN, FLORIDA

THE GREEN KNIGHT

For The Epitome in

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- Service
- Prestige

Featuring The

STEAK ROOM AND THE COCKTAIL LOUNGE

The Green Knight is known throughout the area for its top quality, scientifically selected, grain fed beef steaks. They are control aged for tenderness and flavor. Our customers rave about it. . . We specialize in it!



ON FLORIDA'S FAMED MIRACLE STRIP AT DESTIN

Reveling in the Heart of the Miracle Strip on Hwy. 98 E

at Main Street, the Green Knight opened for business July 19 to much fanfare. The grand opening featured free champagne served in silver ice buckets. The *Playground Daily News* gave the opening a page-and-a-half with the left-hand page filled with congratulations on the opening from contractors who provided the lighting, fixtures, and other restaurant equipment (see page 15).

A night on the town in Destin now had a ritzy dining venue that overlooked the Gulf of Mexico for those special occasions. Diners seated at tables set on wall-to-wall carpeting with linen tablecloths were served by tuxedoed waiters. The plush steakhouse sported old English décor with gas lights, paneled walls and green flecked wallpaper, medieval decorations, old English-style gas lights above the bar and around the cocktail lounge, and a 50-foot S-shaped bar that manager Ozzie Girard likened to Marilyn Monroe because it was “full of curves.”

Rather than fried fish, shrimp, and oysters,

the upscale menu offered appetizers such as oyster or shrimp cocktail, turtle soup, vichyssoise, and Caesar salad prepared tableside. Entrees included “gourmet steaks” such as filet mignon, steak Diana, chateaubriand, as well as seafood such as lobster Newbury and lobster thermidor made from fresh Maine lobsters waiting in a glass, water-filled tank to become the next meal. Prices ranged from 95 cents for turtle soup, to \$10.95 for one-and-a-half-pounds of broiled Maine lobster stuffed with crab meat, to \$16.96 for the chateaubriand.

In addition to the restaurant and lounge, the Green Knight also owned and operated a package store that was adjoined to the building.

The steakhouse operated daily from 6 pm. to midnight, while the lounge was open from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. every day except Sundays.

Standing guard

What made the Green Knight stand out wasn't necessarily the fancy cuisine, although it was different for Destin. It was the 30-foot-tall statue of a green knight, complete with lance, standing guard along U.S. Highway 98 and Main Street in Destin, where CVS Pharmacy is now.*

Designed by Seier and built by C.L. Kelly in Montgomery, Alabama, the steel structure was encased in concrete and painted...well, green. Once completed, he traveled along U.S. Highway 331 on his back with his arms in the air, and was delivered to Destin with a police escort. According to a *Playground Daily News* article, he knocked over a telephone pole during his journey.

The green knight stood holding his lance with his right arm while his left hand rested protectively on the restaurant sign that publicized “cocktails” and “steaks.” Through the years, the statue sustained indignities such as being diapered, having his lance stolen, being urinated on regularly, and even having genitals painted on, according to some willing to share that fact on Facebook. In 1985, he lost his outstretched arms at the elbows when Hurricane Elena, packing 125 mph winds,



In 1985, Hurricane Elena left the Green Knight with no hand and demolished the sign he guarded. (Photo used by permission from Carrie, Facebook)

passed by only 60 miles offshore. Community supporters funded replacements for the iconic statue. Later, after the restaurant closed and the bar became the focal point of the business, the sign being guarded by the knight was changed to “lounge” and “liquors,” and advertised the house band: the Trashy White Band.

Liquor store crimes

In September 1969, three Destin businesses were all robbed on the same night: The Jitney Jungle Store, the American Legion Club, and the Green Knight liquor store. The rear door of the liquor store was jimmyed open and four cases of whiskey and four cases of vodka were stolen. The store and restaurant were ransacked.

A second break-in occurred in November. According to a *Playground Daily News* article, Eglin airman Will Wilbur Oats, Jr., 23, was arrested for the November breaking and entering crime. He was placed under pre-sentence investigation and was eventually given two years probation for the breaking and entering charge.

On Christmas Eve that same year, someone broke the liquor store display window and swiped merchandise just inside. Auburn Earl Hampton, 52, pleaded guilty to smashing the window and was sentenced to two years in Florida’s Raiford State Prison for the crime and

for parole violation.

Then, in January 1970, the store was hit again. This time, the same plate-glass window was “blown out” sometime before daybreak. An undetermined amount of liquor and 25 cases of beer were stolen. It was determined the burglars used some kind of fireworks to break the window, for some reason, when a rock would have accomplished the same effect with less noise. Law enforcement arrested four Destin teenagers for the crime: Gergory Allen Compton, 17; Steve Gilbert, 19; Steve Litts, 17; and David Spence, 17.

Probably the most noteworthy crime occurred in June 1974 when the store was robbed around 1:25 a.m. one Saturday morning before closing. A man came in, picked up two six-packs of beer, pointed a revolver at the clerk, and demanded all the cash from the register. The clerk screamed, startling the robber who dropped the beer and fled. Regaining her composure, the clerk chased the robber down the street until the man threatened to kill her. He fled in an older model Pontiac Tempest with another man driving. Destin resident Lee C. Paschall, Jr., 23, was arrested a few days later for the crime after being spotted driving a stolen car.

The Knight changes hands

The original founders eventually sold the restaurant around 1974. According to a *Playground Daily News* article from that year, Haltrande Ivey, a restaurateur with 12 years’ experience in Europe, purchased the restaurant and package store. The restaurant continued its high-end menu and still boasted of the very best steaks, Maine lobster, and local seafood, and imported a French chef from Paris to add a little more finesse to the menu. Closed on Tuesdays, the restaurant was open from 6 p.m. to midnight weekdays, and from 5 to 11 p.m. on Sundays.

However, the restaurant continued to lose money. So, it closed. As the only money-making



An undated photo of the Green Knight after the restaurant closed.

part of the business, the lounge and package store remained open, but with an expanded lounge and package store complete with a drive-through window where 60 cents could buy a screwdriver (just be sure to remind them to include orange juice with the alcohol). Managed by one of the Green Knight's former cocktail waitress, Norma Calhoun, the elegant fine dining restaurant became one of Destin's fondly remembered honky-tonks.

A trashy house band

The house band was the Trashy White Band, with Norma's husband, Phil Calhoun, as lead singer. A trim carpenter by trade, Phil and his band played the Green Knight lounge five to seven nights a week. Upon occasion, Jeff Cook, guitarist with southern rock music's "Alabama," jammed with the band.

In September 1981, the Trashy White Band recorded a Calhoun-penned tune at Playground Recording Studio in Niceville titled "She Ran Off." The parenthetical rest of the non-

politically correct title was "with a N-----." The song told the sad tale of a white man whose black wife left him for a black man. For a \$1,500 recording fee, the band received 1,000 copies of the 45 rpm record which it sold for \$5 each. The records sold out at the Green Knight within two months, so Calhoun ordered 2,000 more copies. The song was a permanent part of the band's evening repertoire, but usually only after 11 p.m.

Earlier in the year, before the band recorded "She Ran Off," an Okaloosa County deputy sheriff circulated a racist pamphlet that threatened to ignite racial tensions. The pamphlet was a "guide for hunting blacks due to a shortage of big game animals," according to a November 1981 *Pensacola Journal* editorial. That, coupled with the song lyrics, caused the state Human Relations Commission to intervene and asked Okaloosa County to establish a similar commission at the county level to look into the song. The commission decided to wait for a formal complaint before taking action. None came, which was a good thing, because members of the commission were not sure they had the authority to take action against what was bound to become a First Amendment issue. While some bar owners added "She Ran Off" to their jukeboxes, Glenn Wilmer, a black manager of the Silver Inn Bar on Hollywood Boulevard in Fort Walton Beach didn't add the song to his jukebox. He didn't think the song would make much of a stir among his clientele, according to a 1982 *Pensacola Journal* article.

Controversy over the song flared again in 1989 when an NAACP complaint against the band's song was filed by Western Sizzlin, Inc. The Trashy White Band performed the song at Michele Lynn's Lounge in Destin, collocated with a Western Sizzlin steakhouse. The franchise headquarters alleged the song hurt the restaurant's reputation and damaged its trademark. It didn't help that the restaurant franchise and the lounge were both owned by Marion C. and Fran Crymes, or that drinks from the lounge were passed to the restaurant and food from the restaurant was passed to the lounge via a covered pass-through window

between the two establishments. Western Sizzlin, Inc., terminated the Crymes's restaurant franchise as a result.

The band eventually folded when the Green Knight closed its doors for good in 1992.

The knight fades

After 25 years in Destin, the Green Knight restaurant, lounge, and package store closed for good in 1992. The armored sentinel that stood in the same spot from 1968 to 1993 was to be retired from its longtime guard position. Many Destin residents wanted it to remain—after all, it was an icon and a landmark. Others found the knight gaudy and out of step with the upscale image many wanted to create for Destin. Besides that, property owner Howard Group of Sandestin planned to build a shopping center on the site, and it wasn't going to be called "green" or "knight." The shopping center, however, never materialized and a CVS pharmacy sits at Highway 98 and Main Street where the restaurant and lounge once stood.

In April 1993, the *Playground Daily News* ran an ad that the Green Knight liquor store and lounge were being liquidated. Included in the liquidation was the liquor license, \$40,000 worth of beverage inventory, equipment, fixtures, furniture, and the bar and stage. There was no mention of the knight itself.

A petition was started to keep the statue in Destin. With 200 names, it was delivered to City Hall. Suggestions for the knight to be relocated included placing him at a new park on Legion Drive.

Nothing swayed the decision makers and



FOR SALE
GREEN KNIGHT
Liquor Store and Lounge
797 Highway 98 East, Destin, FL
LIQUIDATION SALE

- * 4 COP liquor license
- * \$40,000 liquor inventory (retail)
- * 1 6-door Anthony walk-in coolers
- * 2 4-door reach-in coolers
- * 1 Superior beer cooler w/2 dispensers
- * 108' gondola shelving
- * 26' wooden wine rack
- * 2 cash registers
- * 41 tables
- * 140 lounge chairs
- * 18 bar stools
- * 1 Hoshizaki ice machine
- * 1 Hobart dishwasher
- * 1 24-light stage
- * 700 bar glasses
- * 50' S-shape bar

Inspection of inventory and fixtures on
Tuesday, April 27th, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
WRITTEN OFFERS ONLY
For more information contact: HOWARD GROUP
Destin, Florida
(904) 837-1886

the statue was relocated to Okaloosa Island in 1993 to stand outside Bernarr Kelly's Bernie B's Green Knight Inn at the foot of Brooks Bridge, north of Highway 98. However, the establishment was short-lived and closed the next year.

An attempt was made to move the green behemoth, but by the mid-90s, the steel structure under the concrete was weakened by rust and the statue broke apart. It was later crushed at a salvage yard. Had the knight remained standing, it's a good bet either Hurricane Erin or Hurricane Opal, both in 1995, would have finished the him off for good.

To many, the Green Knight elicits fond memories of a Destin that was. It was a landmark, an icon, a piece of Americana, and a symbol of a bygone era.

** The actual height of the statue was hard to determine from available sources. It ranged from 22 to 30 feet, depending on the source.*

Stephanie Holcombe is a North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., board member, the editor of the North Okaloosa Historical Quarterly, and the Baker Block Museum webmaster.

Accessions



Homemade wooden child's chair with rawhide seat

This chair belonged to Rhett Ewing "Lil' Rhett" Enzor, Jr., and was donated by his wife, Phyllis G. Enzor in July. Rhett Enzor was the son of Opal Hogg Enzor and Dr. Rhett Ewing Enzor, who helped establish Okaloosa County's first hospital in Crestview. A life-long resident of Okaloosa County, Enzor graduated from Crestview High School in 1966 and went on to become one of the county's top cattlemen and horse owners.

Homemade dresser

This handmade dresser was donated by Crestview native Donnie Senterfitt. It was handcrafted by his grandfather, Eugene Sanford, from Baker, in the 1930s and is typical of the type of furniture made in that timeframe.



Robert Blackwell gifts cup to unknown person

In September, Museum Director Ann Spann received a phone call from someone in the California Bay area who was going through her mother's possession after she passed away. According to Antonia Olfert, her mother enjoyed antique hunting at flea markets and antique stores.

Among her items was a small 3-inch porcelain cup with a painted rose and a large repaired chip. There are no manufacturer marks on the cup bottom. The cup itself isn't all that remarkable. However, tucked inside was a folded unsigned note. The note said the cup was gifted to the

note-writer by Bob Blackwell. A little online sleuthing led Antonia to the Baker Block Museum.

The note was written in July 1917, four months after Blackwell, his brother Will, and a third accomplice, Will Boyd, trekked from north Okaloosa to Wright and killed "Uncle Bud" and "Aunt Nancy" Davis in a botched robbery attempt. All were found guilty. Will died in prison, Bob was hanged in 1920, and Will Boyd was given a life sentence for cooperating with the prosecution.

There was no

explanation of why Blackwell gifted the cup. And there's no indication of who the receiver was.

Antonia believes her mother acquired the cup during one of her many "treasure hunts." As she said in her note to Ann, "I hope this small bit of history will add value and interest to the your museum collection."

Thank you to Antonia for reaching out to the Baker Block Museum.



Pensacola, Fla,
July, 29, 1917.
This little cup was given to me, on this date, by "Bob Blackwell" a man, with his brother, "Will Blackwell" was in the Escambia County Jail, Fla, and which both were convicted of the murder of an old man and his wife, by the name, of "Davis", in Okaloosa County, Fla. The murder was committed March, 21, 1917, and the two men were convicted in July, 1917, but at this time the sentence had not been passed on either

one of them². They both were from the state of Alabama. After the trial they were ~~had~~ brought to Escambia County Jail, Fla, for safe keeping, as the people in Okaloosa County, Fla, wanted to lynch them. Both pleaded Not Guilty, but after the trial, Bob Blackwell stated that it was his brother Will Blackwell, who did the shooting that killed, but he was with him.

North Okaloosa Historical Association

Membership News

NOHA Board Members

- **President – Tracy Curenton**
- **Vice President – Vacant**
- **Treasurer – Sharry Rustin**
- **Secretary – Stephanie Holcombe**

Members:

**Joyce Arnett
Mike Bush
Doug Hibbing**

Emeritus Members:

**Judy Cadenhead
Phyllis Enzor
Jeanette Henderson**

New Board Members:

**Brenda Russell
Larry Bulger
Lucille King**

2021 Goals

- **Increase membership by 30% – halfway there**
- **Apply for an historical marker for the museum building**
- **Redesign Baker Block Museum website – completed in March**
- **Accrue \$5,000 in sponsorships**
- **Begin to digitize the oral histories – completed in April**
- **Find a sponsor to purchase museum inventory software**

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

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.

Calendar of Events

October

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

31

- 11 Columbus Day
- 16 **3rd Saturday:**
Museum open from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- 21 North Okaloosa Historical Association Board meeting, 6 p.m.
- 31 Halloween



November

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

- 2 Election Day
- 7 Daylight Saving Time ends
- 11 Veterans Day
- 18 North Okaloosa Historical Association Board meeting, 6 p.m.
- 20 **3rd Saturday:**
Museum open from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- 25 **Thanksgiving**
Museum closed
- 26 **Museum closed**

December

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

- 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 16 North Okaloosa Historical Association Board meeting, 6 p.m.
- 24-31 **Museum is closed for the holidays**
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve

The Baker Block Museum will be **closed**:

- November 25 and 26 for Thanksgiving
- December 24 through January 1 for the holiday season

The Museum will reopen January 4 for regular hours.



This year's Annual Heritage Day festival has been canceled due to COVID-19

Thank You!

The North Okaloosa Historical Association would like to thank the following sponsors for their year-long support of the Baker Block Museum.



Okaloosa County Charities–Racetrack Bingo

Enzor Management

**BAKER AUTO
PARTS**

The Restroom



The Lions Club
of Baker

