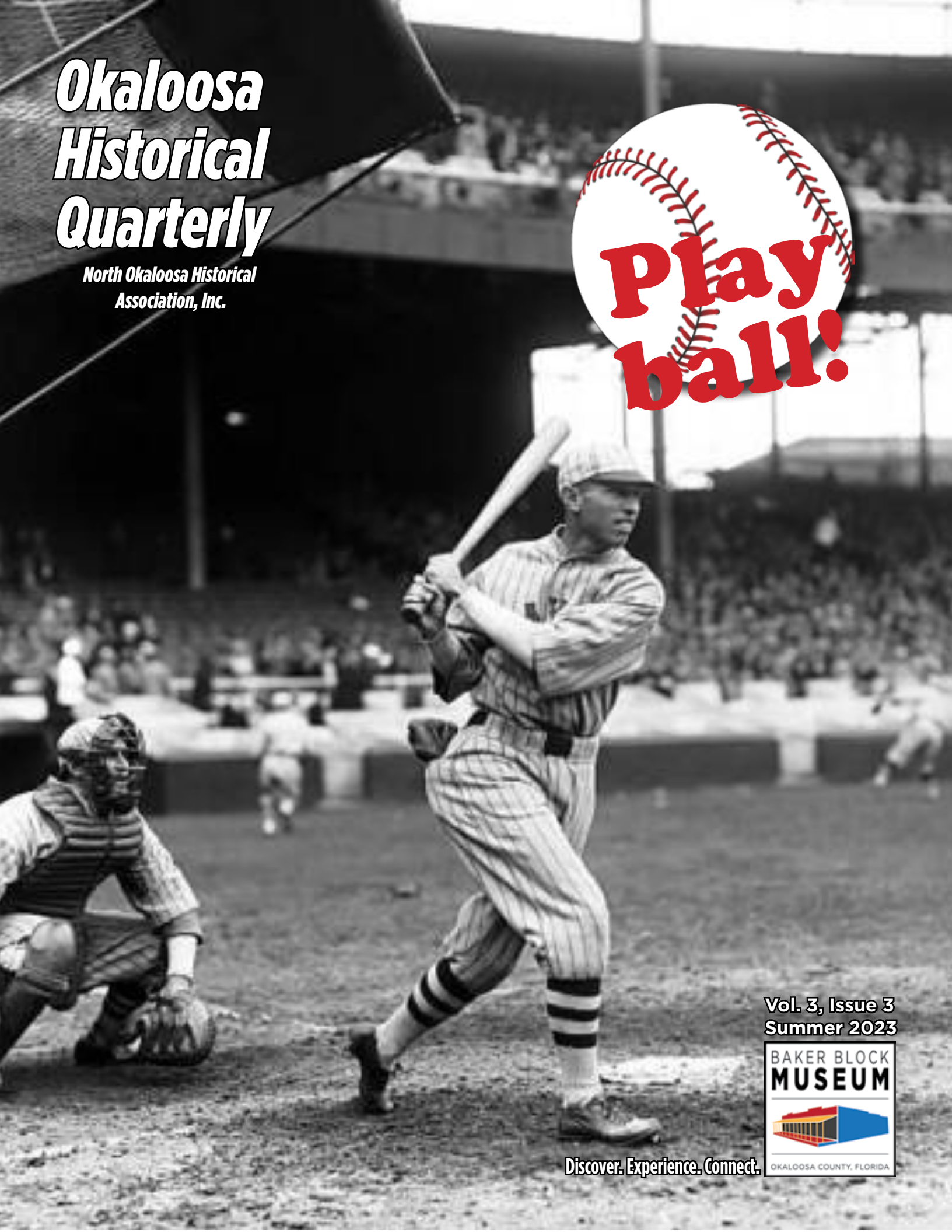


Okaloosa Historical Quarterly

*North Okaloosa Historical
Association, Inc.*



Vol. 3, Issue 3
Summer 2023



Discover. Experience. Connect.



This baseball glove belonged to Mobile Sea Gulls right fielder Jules Cleveland Watson. He used it during a 1910 minor league baseball game that set the record for the fastest professional game ever played up to that time. The nine-inning game was completed in 32 minutes.

Features

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Lightning strike kills Baker baseball players in 1947

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Fastest professional baseball game in history



Summer 2023, Vol. 3, Issue 3

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.

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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.

On the cover: Boston Braves Lance Richbourg, born in DeFuniak Springs, played for Walton High School and the University of Florida before joining major league baseball. After retiring, he returned to Okaloosa County and was superintendent of the county school system.

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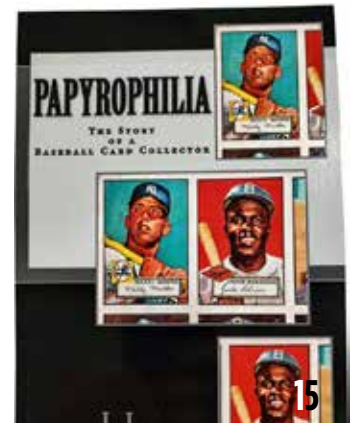
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FOLLOW ON
bakerblockmuseum.org



**3rd
Saturday**



Beginning Beekeeping

*Saturday, July 15, 1 p.m.
Museum Library*



Presented by Bill Hagan, president of the Tri-County Beekeepers, Association

Director's Notes



We're calling this issue of the Okaloosa Historical Quarterly magazine "the baseball issue." We've packed a number of Okaloosa County's baseball-related stories inside. Hope you enjoy reading them.

There's lots going on at the Museum in the upcoming months. Our 3rd Saturday events through the end of the year prove to be exciting, informative, and fun. In July, Bill Hagan, president of the Tri-County Beekeepers Association will present a beginners beekeeping presentation for those thinking about starting a hive. In August, Mark Curenton will talk about the town of Falco, Alabama. These will be held in the Museum library. Then in September, we have a doubleheader planned. The Florida Public Archeology Network will give a presentation on Native Plants, Native People in the library. Then, beginning at 5 p.m., Copper Saddle Western Wear is partnering with the Museum to host an end-of-summer festival in the Heritage Park. There will be food, music, and vendors, and fireworks to cap off the night.

In October, we're planning to bring back our Creepy Cabins with an expanded experience for kids of all ages. We'll have more details as we get closer to the Fall. And don't forget our annual Baker Heritage Day in November. Vendor and demonstrator forms are included in this issue of the magazine. Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or want to reserve a booth space for November.

Hope you enjoy this month's issue of the Okaloosa Historical Quarterly magazine.

Ann Spann

MUSEUM NEWS



**Margarete Allen Shelby
1922-2022**



Margarete Allen Shelby was posthumously inducted into the Family Heritage Wall of Honor May 20. Her twin brother and sister, Jack and Jean, (above left) receive a certificate of induction presented by North Okaloosa Historical Association President Brenda Russell during the ceremony. The twins are pictured as children (left) in this 1936 photo taken in Baker with older sister Margarete, brother Mack, and sister Juanita, in a cart built by their father and pulled by their goat, "Billy."



Charles and Jeanette Henderson relax on the porch of one of the log cabins in the Heritage Park.



Charles and Jeanette Henderson
 founding members of
 the North Okaloosa
 Historical Association,
 Inc., and the Baker
 Block Museum

Charles and Jeanette Henderson grew up in Baker and gave a lifetime of service to the community they loved. Charles graduated from Baker High School in the class of 1947 and Jeanette Courtney Henderson was a member of the class of 1949. The couple married June 11, 1949, and made their home in Baker, where they raised their children, Dale, Rebecca, and Jim.

They owned and operated Henderson Grocery Store in Baker for many years. Charles later retired as a rural letter carrier with the United States Postal Service.

Jeanette retired from Baker School in 1988 after 32 years as the school's secretary and bookkeeper. She was active with the Courtney Family Singers for many years with her mother and brothers. The group started as the Good Hope Quartet at their church, Good Hope Congregational Church, west of Baker. The Courtneys along with friends and fellow church

members, were very active at many local sings, celebrations, and had their own radio show at Crestview's WCNU radio station.

The Henderson's were active in their church and a number of civic organizations in Baker. They were founding members of the Baker Recreation Association, the Baker Lions Club, the Baker Water Board, the North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc., and the Baker Block Museum.

They volunteered for more than 20 years as curator and caretaker at the Baker Block Museum, which was a labor of love for the couple with such deep roots in the community and a love for history and genealogy. The museum's park, "The Jeanette and Charles Henderson Heritage Park" is named in their honor. In February 2007, Representative Jeff Miller read a recognition for the Hendersons into the Congressional Record of the Proceedings and Debate of the 110th Congress.

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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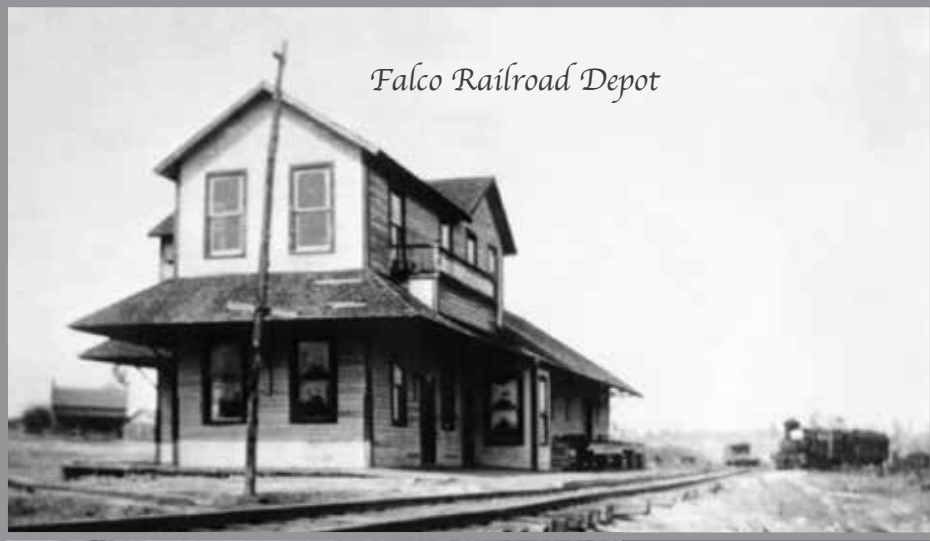
The Restroom

BAKER AUTO PARTS

CRESTVIEW PLUMBING & HARDWARE CO.



Falco Railroad Depot



3rd
Saturday
At the Baker Block Museum

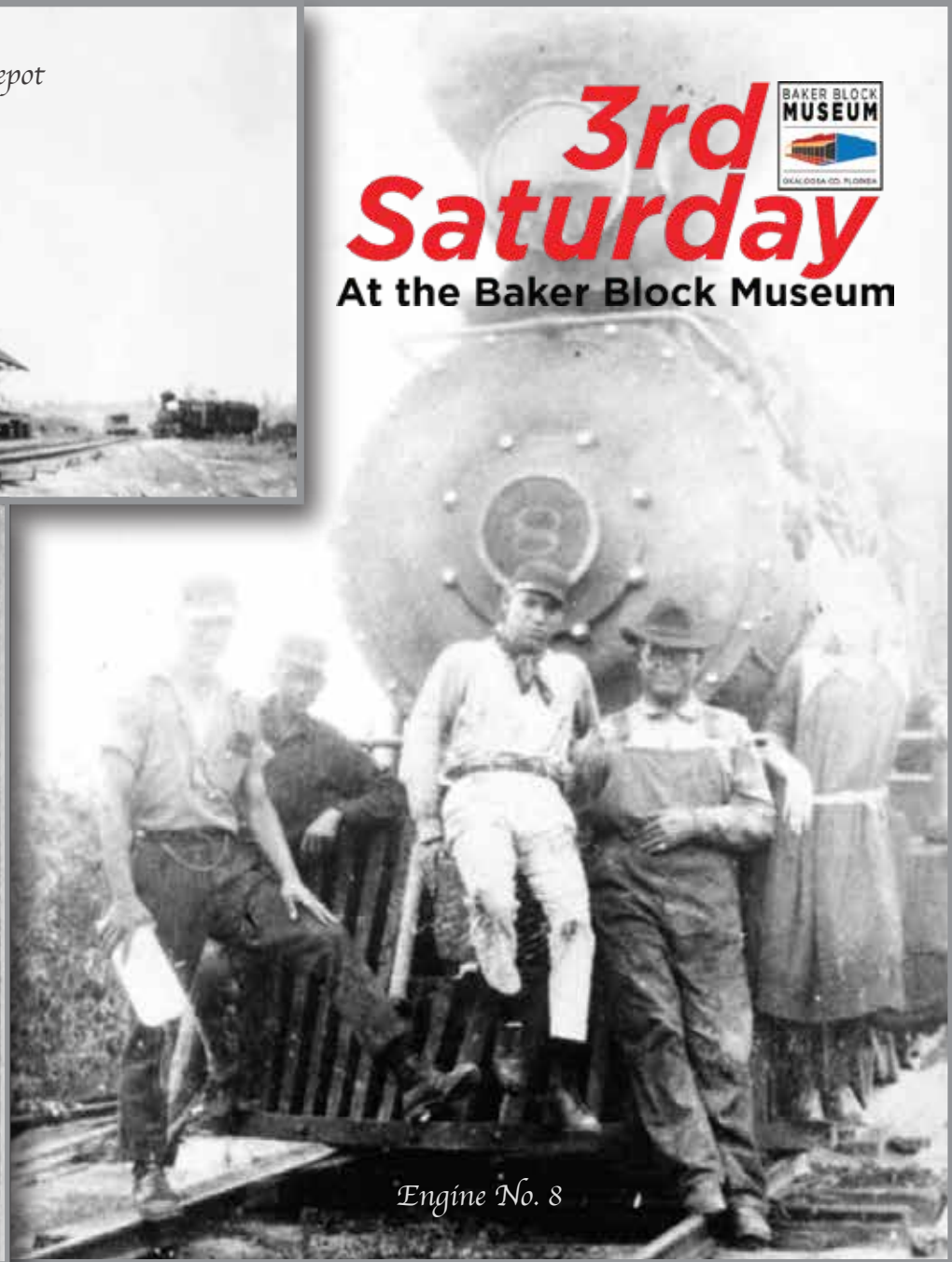


Yellow River Railroad Time Table,

No. 23—Taking effect at 9:00 a. m.
Sep. 16, 1901.

North Bound.
Daily except Sunday.
Between Crestview, Fla.
and State Line.
South Bound.
Daily except Sunday.

A. M.	STATIONS	P. M.
9 00	Lv....Crestview....Ar.	7 30
9 15	.....Junction.....	7 15
9 36	.....Campton.....	6 54
9 50	.....Pineway.....	6 40
9 57	.....Williamson.....	6 33
10 00	Ar...Laurel Hill...Lv	6 30
	Lv. Ar.	6 15
10 16	.....Cowan.....	5 54
10 20	.....Svea.....	5 50
10 35	.....Woods.....	5 35
10 40	.....State Line.....	5 50



Engine No. 8

History of Falco, Alabama

Saturday, August 19, 1 p.m.
Genealogy Research Library

Presented by
Mark Curenton

FROM THE COLLECTION



Members of the Baker Independent semiprofessional baseball team that took third place in the Northwest Florida League in 1946. Standing from left: Neal Cobb; Cleve Walker; unknown player; Clint Hart; unknown player; C.W. McDonald, Jr.; and Jimmie Joyner. Second row from left: Allen "Junior" Joiner, Grady Barber, and Mascal Moore. Third row: Unknown player; Harry Moore; James Lee, manager; and T.J. Walker. Bat boy is Bobby Jackson.

The baseball and glove are part of the Museum's collection. The baseball is from the 1946 Baker Independent baseball team that took third place in the Northwest Florida League.



Batted: Left
Threw: Right
Batting average: .308
Hits: 806
Runs Scored: 378
Runs Batted In: 247
Home Runs: 13



1927 Banty Red Tobacco
& Ale Company trading
card

Lance Richbourg

Born: December 18, 1897, DeFuniak Springs

Died: September 10, 1975, Crestview
High School: Walton County High School

College: University of Florida, 1922,
bachelor of science in
agriculture



Magdalena and Dean Bradley of Crestview donated a bat used by Lance Richbourg in July 2017. The bat, on display in the Museum, is a Louisville Slugger made by Hillerich & Bradsby Company.

By Ann Spann

Lance Clayton Richbourg was born in 1897 at the family farm north of Crestview. He attended school in Crestview during his early years and went to boarding school at Walton High School in DeFuniak Springs at the age of 14 or 15 where he played baseball.

In 1916, he began his baseball career in the minor Dixie League at Dothan, Alabama. He played 48 games for Newport News in the Virginia League in 1918. After serving in the U.S. Navy, Richbourg enrolled in the University of Florida where he lettered in baseball in 1919. (He later earned a bachelor of science degree in agriculture from the University of Florida in 1922.) It was while playing an exhibition game between Florida and the New York Giants in 1919 that Richbourg caught the eye of John McGraw, then-Giants manager, who signed young Richbourg that same year for \$250 a month. He did not play in a game for the Giants and was traded to the Philadelphia Phillies the following year. Richbourg, who was a right fielder and left-handed batter, went on to play for the Washington Senators, Boston Braves, and Chicago Cubs, as well as the minor league teams Milwaukee Brewers and Nashville Vols.

By the early 1940s, Richbourg had returned to Crestview where he taught vocational agriculture and managed the Farm Security Administration's Escambia Farms Project. The project was located north of Baker in what is now known as the

Escambia Farms community. The program was designed to help rural farms recover from poverty after the Great Depression.

In the mid 1940s, Richbourg organized a semi-pro team in Crestview to play in the Interstate League. Games were first played on the east side of the block of Northwood Elementary School at Alabama Avenue and Fourth Street in Crestview. In 1947 when Richbourg Stadium, named in Lance's honor, was built on North Street, the team played in the new stadium.

The team would later become a professional Class D minor league team in the Florida-Alabama League. It was in this league that fellow teammate, Neal Cobb, would go on to win the National Minor League Batting Championship in 1954 with a batting average of .432.

Richbourg was elected Okaloosa County Superintendent of Education in 1948. During his administration a total of 17 new schools were constructed in the county, before his retirement in 1964. Richbourg Stadium and the Lance C. Richbourg High School in Crestview were named in his honor.

After his retirement Richbourg returned to his family farm and cattle ranching. It was a family tradition he learned from his father and grandfather. On September 10, 1975, after loading a truck with cattle for market, he sat down by the cattle chute and died. He was 77 years old.



Morgan Reeves, a spectator who was slightly injured by the lightning strike in 1949, stands next to the gash in the ball field where the strike traveled from the infield to the players' bench and refreshment stand seen in the upper left-hand corner behind the bench. (*Okaloosa News Journal* photo)

One strike kills three ballplayers in 1949

It was a supposed to be a Sunday afternoon watching the boys of summer participating in America's favorite pastime in Baker. But the day turned as dark as the sky. In a flash, three players were down, two killed. A third player died the next day having never regained consciousness.

By Stephanie Holcombe

It was July 31, 1949, during a double-header baseball game between Baker and Munson when a blinding flash of lightning hit the field just as the men were completing their warm-up. The sky was heavy with low-hanging clouds.

Although it was 74 years ago, 90-year-old longtime Baker resident Carlis Jackson remembers it like yesterday. At 17, he was a ballplayer the day of the lightning strike. "It looked like you could reach up and touch the clouds, it's that low," he said. "No lightnin', no nothin'."

Swimming in the Blackwater River and late to show up, he missed the infield warm-up, but arrived just before the game. He was sitting on the running board of his truck, having just put on one cleated shoe, when lightning hit the field.

"I was in the process of puttin' the other [shoe] on," he said. "All of a sudden, everything was nothin' but dirt—it was flyin' everywhere," said Jackson. "And dark. It was pitch dark. For seconds. It wasn't long." A number of eyewitnesses to the event spoke about everything "going black" after the flash of lightning. They likely experienced what is known as "flash blindness," a phenomena that occurs when the retinas of the eyes are overwhelmed by bright light, especially from a lightning strike in close proximity.

The point of contact was a point at third base. From there, electricity traveled the baseline from third to second to first, and from third toward home plate before it turned toward the refreshment stand and the visiting team's bench just inside the backstop. The bolt dug a trench on the left-field line more than a foot deep and more than 18 inches wide toward the players and spectators. It followed the backstop and the players' bench about 25 feet away and threw players and spectators to the ground.

"It went right at the backstop and the visiting team was sittin' on the their bench," Jackson said. "It knocked 'em all down. Didn't hurt 'em."

The bolt traveled under the grass about 12 feet, then jumped to a telephone pole about 25 feet away and followed the line almost a block to the high school where it tore a hole in a brick wall before it dissipated.

The lightning kicked up a huge cloud of dirt as the strike traveled around the infield. "Within seconds, it cleared off where you could see. I was sittin' at such an angle where I could see Junior on third base out there easy. And I knew somethin' was wrong," he said about third baseman Allen Luther Joiner, Junior.

Having just completed infield warm-up, Baker players T.J. Walker was on second base, Joe Blue Taylor was on 2nd base and Joiner, also known as "Junior," was on third. John



The ballplayers killed in 1949 are, from left, Allen L. Joiner, Jr.; John Harry Moore; and Joe Blue Taylor. Joiner and Moore were killed instantly; Taylor died the next day. (*Okaloosa News Journal* photographs)



T.J. Walker, also injured, recovered from the lightning strike.

Henry Moore was at shortstop. Joiner and Moore were killed instantly. Taylor was rushed to the Enzor Hospital in Crestview where he died the next day. Walker was hospitalized, but eventually recovered.

The strike was so powerful, it blew the clothes entirely off Joiner, according to Jackson. “We had regular uniforms on. It blowed that uniform completely off him—nekkid as a jaybird. And the only thing we could find on him was a little red spot,” he said, pointing to the back of his head. “Did not break his skin nowhere.”

Joiner’s younger brother Jimmy who was down the road and saw the flash, ran to the field and past his brother laying there. Seeing him nude, he placed his ball glove over his brother’s crotch area. Joiner’s brother Jimmy was in right field when the lightning hit. He ran in to where his brother had fallen. Someone was working on him, according to Jackson. “He said he [Jimmy] took over and said, ‘when I went down, I felt like I could run

all the way through him.’ He was crushed. All the way through.”

Aftermath

For many of the surviving ballplayers, the event embedded some post-traumatic stress—many didn’t play ball again for a long time. For some it was never.

“That killed my baseball playin’ for a while on the weekends,” said Jackson. He said Allen Joiner’s younger brother, Jimmy, who was 21 at the time of the lightning strike, refused to play baseball or softball for years. “He went to work at Monsanto with me. The shift he was workin’ on tried and tried and tried to get him to play ball—baseball, softball—and they couldn’t get him to come out. He wouldn’t do it.”

According to Jackson, it took Jimmy Joiner who saw his brother laying on the field awhile before he decided to play baseball again. Jimmy, who passed away in March 2022 at age 94, played semi-pro ball with Monsanto and Crestview interstate teams as well as the Baker team.

“I’m deathly scared of it,” said Jackson about lightning. Just two weeks after graduating from Baker High School in 1950, he found himself in the Army. “They put me in armor, out there ridin’ a tank in all kinds of weather. And you talk about a 48-ton tank ridin’ and it thunderin’ and lightnin’—you talk about a scared rascal!”

Remembering that afternoon, Jackson thought about playing baseball on a Sunday.

“Everybody’s blaming us for playing baseball on Sunday in a churchyard. So we kill our baseball players on the weekend,” he said. “Within the next few weeks, we heard that there was several more fields throughout the United States that got hit that same day.”

The event made national news and was picked up in papers from Maine to California and locations in between.

“It was just,” he paused, “...one of those things. It was somethin’ else,” said Jackson.



The funeral for Joe Blue Taylor and John Harry Moore was held August 2, 1949. Allen Luther Joiner, Junior, was held August 5, 1949.



Available in the Baker Mercantile Gift Shop

Papyrophilia: The Story of a Baseball Card Collector
by J.J. McDaniel.

\$5, limited autographed copies

Opening with a forward by Bobby Richardson of the New York Yankees (1955-1966), this publication is a tribute to the passion of baseball card collecting, highlighting the unique history of card collecting.



Talking Baseball

A 1947 photograph of Okaloosa County's semipro baseball players. From left, standing is Ivey Griffin; Lance Richbourg, who organized the team; and Harry Booth. Joe Patraglie is seated on the fence.

Sitting on the ground, from left is Walter Coleman, Pete Hammer, two unknown players, Bill Lewe in the white shirt, an unknown player in pinstripes, Neal Cobb, and another unidentified player.

Second row, starting at the baseball held by Richbourg is Doug Atkins, Johnson in white cap, Morris Rogers seated in front of Johnson, J.T. Garrett looking into the camera, Joe Blue Taylor in the white shirt, Earl Childers directly behind Taylor, and Pug Urguhart.

Standing, starting with Marion Austin in the Baker uniform, an unknown player wearing number 3, Joe Sommese, Orin Davis in the uniform with a "B," Eddie Mechow directly behind Davis, McCloud, Allen "Junior" Joyner, and another McCloud.

Four of the men in the photograph were signed to play professional baseball: Neal Cobb, Joe Blue Taylor, Pete Hammer, and Bill Lewe. Two pictured—Joe Blue Taylor and Junior Joiner—died after lightning struck the baseball field in Baker in 1949.

Neal Cornelius Cobb

Teams played for

1948 Geneva Red Birds
1949 Geneva Red Birds
1950 Dothan Browns
1952 Eufaula Millers
1953 Fort Walton Beach Jets
1954 Crestview Braves
1955 Crestview Braves
1956 Fort Walton Beach Jets
1957 Fort Walton Beach Jets

Neal Cornelius Cobb was born in Baker, Florida, September 29, 1925, and lived his entire life there. He graduated from Baker High School. Baseball and boxing were popular sports at Baker School and Cobb participated in both. In 1942, at age 17, he won the Pensacola Boxing Championship. Cobb served in the United States Navy during World War II in the Pacific theater of operations.

Cobb played semi-professional baseball in both the Alabama State League and the Alabama-Florida League beginning with the 1948 season and last took the field during the 1957 campaign. His career included a total of 736 games with the Geneva Red Birds, Dothan Browns, Eufaula Millers, Fort Walton Beach Jets, and Crestview Braves.

Cobb was a big man at 6 feet, 3 inches tall, whose primary position was first base. He also played outfield and third base, batted left-handed and threw right.

Of his nine-year professional career in the minor leagues, Cobb's outstanding year was 1954. At age 28, playing for the Crestview Braves, he was a powerhouse at the bat. In 535 plate appearance, he had 188 hits, scored 108 runs, knocked in 124 runs, hit 27 doubles, eight triples and slugged five home runs in 115 games that season. As a result, he won the National Minor League Batting Title with a .432 batting average, the highest post-World



Brooklyn Dodger pitcher, Dizzy Vance, presents the 1954 National Minor League Batting Title to Neal Cobb for having the highest batting average that year: .432.

Batted: Left
Threw: Right
Batting average: .329
Hits: 873
Runs Scored: 96
Runs Batted In: 87
Home Runs: 23

War II average for Class D baseball. The Hillerich & Bradsby Company awarded each year's champion with a full size Louisville Slugger silver bat. Dazzy Vance, Brooklyn Dodger pitching great, presented

Cobb the silver bat trophy at home plate in Richbourg Stadium on what was declared "Neal Cobb Day" in Crestview.

Cobb served as Crestview's chief of police during the mid 1950s, including the year he won the batting title. He became Director of Transportation for the Okaloosa County School District in the 1960s, a position he held for 30 years until his retirement.

Cobb died on his family farm north of Baker December 7, 2011. It was the same land where he was born and where his family had settled generations before.



Quickest, shortest, fastest

Minor league baseball holds the record for the quickest professional baseball game

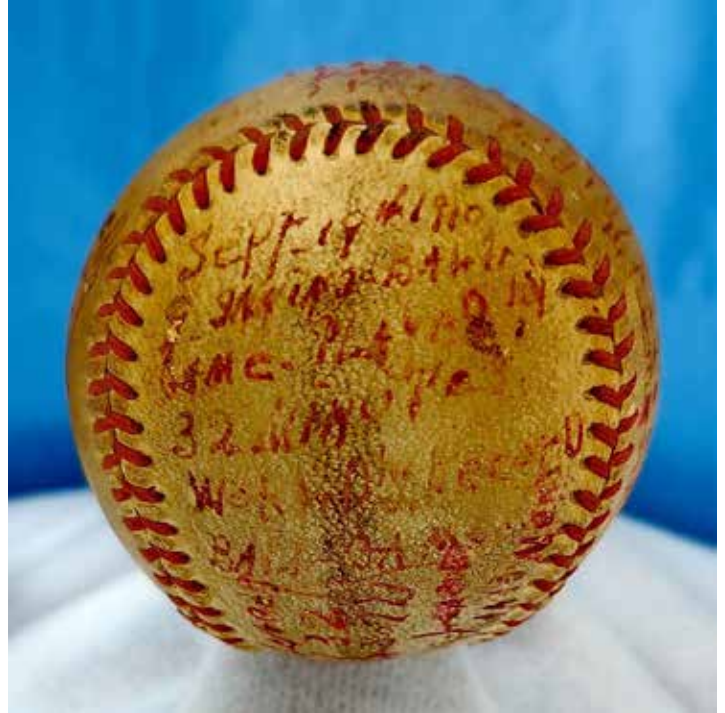
By Stephanie Holcombe

This baseball was used to help set the fastest baseball game on record in 1910. It was owned by right fielder Jules Watson. The Mobile Sea Gulls defeated the Atlanta Crackers 2-to-1 in a 32-minute game. The record stood until 1912 when the Winston-Salem Twins played the Asheville Tourists in 31 minutes.

Going to a Major League Baseball game is a commitment in both time and money. What used to take a couple of hours can take four-plus hours to get through nine (or more) innings. Until this year. Major League Baseball introduced new rules this season designed to shorten the game, including a pitch clock that starts ticking down from 15 or 20 seconds, depending on whether there's a man on base. The pitcher must throw the ball and batter must be set in the box before the clock reaches zero. This and other changes have shortened the game by around 30 minutes, increased base stealing attempts, and looks to increase batting averages.

But if their hair was on fire, just how quickly could two professional teams really get through a game? That was the question two minor league teams asked when they faced off September 19, 1910.

It was the end of the baseball season, the last game, after the Southern League pennant



teams had been decided, and the Mobile Sea Gulls and the Atlanta Crackers, neither in the race for the crown, agreed beforehand to make the game a quick one.

The game was played in Atlanta's Ponce de Leon Park. One of the more interesting features of the park was the presence of a magnolia tree in deep center field, 462 feet from home plate. Balls landing in the tree remained in play.

This game in 1910 was played in fast motion. Players ran on and off the field and to the batter's box, and typically swung at the first pitch. The game saw only one base-on-balls and one strike out. Offensively, there were four stolen bases and one sacrifice hit. Defensively, there was one triple- and one double-play, one wild pitch, and the aforementioned walk.

In the bottom of the first inning, Crackers standout center fielder Dick Bayless hit a double and advanced to third base on an infield out. After right fielder Patrick "Patsy" Flaherty



The record-setting baseball game took place at Atlanta's Ponce de Leon Park in 1910. The ball field was known for its magnolia tree in deep center field. Balls landing in the tree remained in play.

walked, Bayless stole home, putting Atlanta on top early in the game.

The bottom of the second inning saw a Sea Gulls 9-3-2 triple play. With Crackers Tom Lister on third and Scott Walker on first, John Berkel hit a right field fly caught by outfielder Jules Watson. His throw tagged Walker out on first for the second out. Gulls first baseman Harry "Swats" Swacina quickly fired off a throw to home where Lister was tagged out by catcher Owen Shannon, completing the triple.

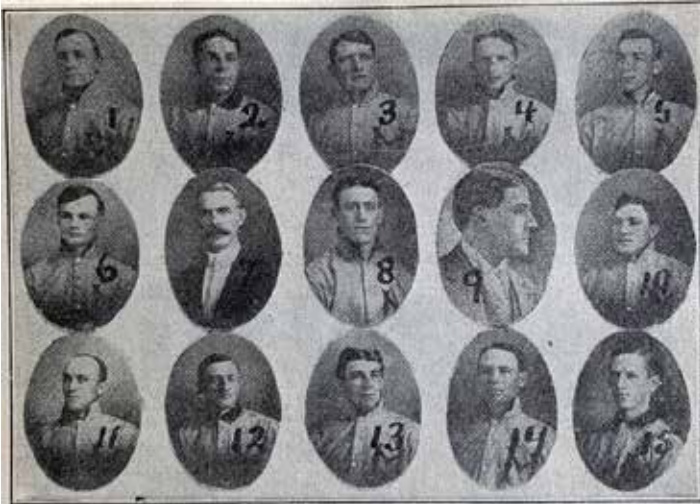
In the top of the sixth inning, Sea Gulls Charlie Seitz hit a triple, then scored on a wild pitch, tying the game. The game remained tied until the top of the ninth inning when Sea Gulls Howard Murphy hit a single. With one out, he stole second. Seitz made it home when Otto Wagner hit a fly to left field, putting

Mobile ahead by one. When the Crackers came up to bat, pitcher "Big Bill" Chappelle put them away, 1, 2, 3.

Crackers pitcher Hank "Pepper" Griffin delivered the only strikeout during the game. Gulls pitcher Chappelle threw the one walk.

When the dust settled, the Sea Gulls had six hits with two runs by Seitz and Murphy. The Crackers had five hits with one run by Bayless. Mobile's Sea Gulls defeated the Atlanta Crackers 2-to-1 in 32 minutes.

This was the fastest professional game on record...until the 1912 meet-up between the Asheville Tourists and the Winston-Salem Twins in Asheville, North Carolina. They clocked in their game at 31 minutes. The game was supposed to start at 2 p.m., but because the Twins had a 3 p.m. train to catch, both



The Mobile Sea Gulls minor league baseball team in 1910: 1. Joe Berger, shortstop; 2. Charlie Seitz, 2nd base; 3. Harry “Swats” Swacina, 1st base; 4. Howard Murphy, left field; 5. Otto Wagner, center field; 6. John “Scotty” Alcock, 3rd base; 7. Colsson, president; 8. Owen Shannon, catcher; 9. George Reed, manager; 10. Joe Dunn, catcher; 11. Jules Watson, right field; 12. Moxie Manuel, pitcher; 13. George Bittrolf, pitcher; 14. Bill Chapelle, pitcher; 15. John Fisher, infield/outfield.

teams agreed to begin 30 minutes early and speed up the play.

The game began as soon as the pitcher and batter were in place. It didn’t matter if the defense was set. The first pitch was lobbed over the plate and the batter swung, connected, and ran, and didn’t stop running until he was either tagged out or made it home.

One of the most unusual plays happened at the top of the third inning. Author Bill Ballew described it in his book, *A History of Professional Baseball in Asheville*:

“Asheville pitcher Doc Lowe delivered the ball before his catcher was behind the plate. The Winston-Salem batter signaled to center field and tried to advance to second base when the outfielder’s throw headed toward the visitors’ dugout. Frank Nesser, the Twins’ on-deck hitter, snagged the ball and threw out his teammate with a perfect peg to the keystone sack.”

By the time the umpires arrived, the game was already in the third inning. Any spectators or sports writers who thought they were arriving early barely got to see what was left of the game. The Tourists’ manager, who arrived after the game had ended, gave the two managers a tongue lashing and offered a



The Atlanta Crackers minor league baseball team: 1. Eddie Keiber, pitcher; 2. Hank Griffin, pitcher; 3. Tom Fisher, 1st base; 4. Harold Johns, infield; 5. Manager Otto “Dutch” Jordan; 6. Roy Moran, left field; 7. Patrick “Patsy” Flaherty, right field; 8. Harry Matthews, catcher; 9. Syd Smith, 3rd base; 10. Arista DeHaven, 2nd base; 11. Scott Walker, 3rd base; 12. John Berkle, shortstop; 13. Dick Bayless, center field.

refund to just-arriving ticket-holders.

The game pretty much ended before the scheduled start.

The fastest major league game on record occurred September 28, 1919, in a showdown between the New York Giants and the Philadelphia Phillies. That late-season game—51 outs in 51 minutes—holds the MLB record for fastest played. Like the two minor league games in 1910 and 1912, the teams decided beforehand to speed things up.

Mobile Sea Gulls

Mobile’s first professional baseball team organized in 1886 and played as the Swamp Angels in 1887. The team, renamed the Blackbirds, played from 1892-1899. In 1905, the name changed to the Sea Gulls and stayed that way until 1917. From 1918 to 1995, the team changed names to the Bears, Marines, Red Warriors, Shippers, A’s, White Sox, and Bay Sharks before becoming the Bay Bears in 1997 when the Port City Roosters from Wilmington, North Carolina, moved to Mobile. The Bay Bears were a farm team for the San Diego Padres until 2006. In 2017, it switched to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim (also known as the California Angels) before moving to Madison, Alabama, in 2019 where it was renamed the Rocket City Trash Pandas.



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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.



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.



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presents

Native Plants Native People

Saturday, September 16, 1 p.m.

Genealogy Research Library

3rd 
Saturday
At the Baker Block Museum

SHOP

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



Interesting Facts of the 50 States: \$1 each

Did you know that Florida's state bird is the mockingbird and that the state flower is the orange blossom? Find out more interesting facts about the 50 states.



Porcelain magnolia: 7.95

A beautiful porcelain magnolia that's suitable for display on a shelf or hung on the wall.



Flags of Our Country playing cards: \$3.50

A deck of standard-size cards (including jokers). This same deck costs between \$6 and \$7.50 online.



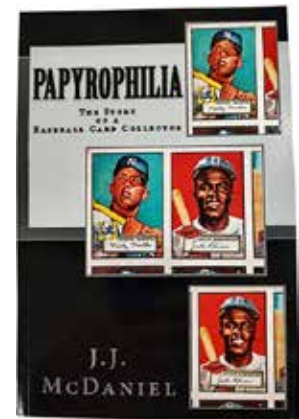
U.S. Military Academy at West Point ornament: \$7

This beautiful gold Christmas ornament of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point has been framed in the academy's colors of black and gold.



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

These tin signs would look great on any wall. Many other themes available. 13"x16"



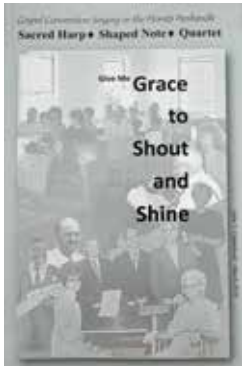
The Story of a Baseball Card Collector: \$5

Autographed copies of J.J. McDaniel's tribute to baseball card collecting. Limited supplies.

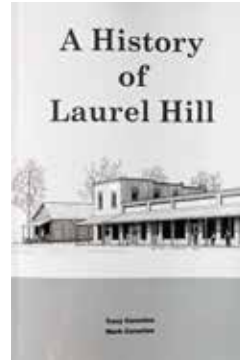
All this and much, much more is available in the **Baker Mercantile Gift Store.**

Okaloosa County History Series

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



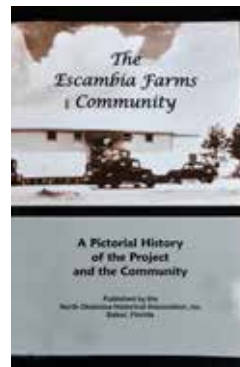
Give me the Grace to Shout and Shine, the newest book in the history series, focuses on the three most prominent gospel singing methods in the northwest Florida panhandle throughout the years: Sacred Harp, also known as fasola, five- or seven-shape note convention singing, and later, the gospel quartet.



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

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.org**



2023 Baker Heritage Day

Saturday, Nov. 18

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Heritage Park



Music



Demos



Fun!

16th Annual Baker Heritage Day Festival

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Vendor Application

\$40 per 10' x 10' space
\$50 per 10' x 10' space with electricity
Limit of 2 spaces per vendor

- Spaces are assigned by the date the application is received.
- Exhibitors must furnish tables, chairs, tents, covers and any other items required for their displays.
- Exhibitors must be set up and in place by 8:30 a.m. and stay until 3 p.m. the day of the event.
- The Museum handles all food other than baked goods, upon approval.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Description of art or craft:

Have you participated before? Y N

Do you require electricity? Y N

Complete the form and return it no later than Nov. 3 to:
Baker Block Museum
PO Box 186
Baker, FL 32531

For more information, please call the Baker Block Museum at 850-537-5714 or email at bakermuseum@aol.com.

Sponsored by the North Okaloosa Historical Association, Inc.

Baker Block Museum • 1307B Georgia Ave • Baker, Florida • 850-537-5715 • www.bakerblockmuseum.org

16th Annual Baker Heritage Day Festival

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Demonstration Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Demonstration description:

Have you participated before? Y N

Complete the form and return it no later than Nov. 3 to:
Baker Block Museum
PO Box 186
Baker, FL 32531

For more information, please call the Baker Block Museum at 850-537-5714 or email at bakermuseum@aol.com.

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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**

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

July

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					

August

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		

September

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

4 Fourth of July

15 3rd Saturday
Beginning Beekeeping, Genealogy Research Library, 1 p.m.
 Museum is open from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

20 North Okaloosa Historical Association Board meeting, 6 p.m.

10 First day of school in Okaloosa County

17 North Okaloosa Historical Association Board meeting, 6 p.m.

19 3rd Saturday
History of Falco, Genealogy Research Library, 1 p.m.
 Museum is open from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

4 Labor Day

16 North Okaloosa Historical Association Board meeting, 6 p.m.

21 3rd Saturday
Native Plants, Native People, Genealogy Research Library, 1 p.m.
 Museum is open from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Regular Museum hours:

Tuesday-Friday, every 3rd Saturday, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Little Free Library[®] in the Heritage Park

Take a Book. Share a Book.

Did you know the Museum has TWO Little Free Library[®] 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[®] system.

