
Community Archives – Ray City Community Library Collection

CA-014-01-01-002

1991, January - March

Ray City Community News

Vol. 1 No. 4

For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/7437>

UUID: C4693077-E876-6FB1-4EA0-1901FC0EDE74

Recommended Citation:

Ray City Community News. Vol. 1, No. 4 (January – March 1991). Ray City Community Development Council. CA014-001: Ray City Community Library, 1952–1994 Series. Ray City Community Library Collection. Community Archives Project. Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. <https://hdl.handle.net/10428/7451>

This item is part of the Community Archives - Ray City Community Library Collection at Odum Library Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. All rights reserved by the Ray City Community Library. If you have any questions or concerns contact archives@valdosta.edu

Ray City Community News



Vol. 1 No. 4

January February March
Published by Ray City Community Development Council

Quarterly

Community Landscape Work Day

Environmentalists tell us that every time we plant a tree, we help to undo much of the damage we have thoughtlessly inflicted on our planet. The Ray City Community Development Council plans to go far beyond the planting of one tree. On Saturday, February 16th, the council, with the help of the community, is going to plant a street of trees. The day has been declared a Community Landscape Work Day, and community volunteers will join forces with the CDC to dig the holes, pour in the mulch and water and set crepe myrtle saplings in place all along the main sections of town.

When citizens of the community organized the Community Development Council, they placed municipal beautification high on their list of priorities. One of the first things they did was to apply for a landscape grant. The grant was approved early in the summer of 1990. Since that time, the preliminary work on the project has moved forward. Landscape plans have been prepared and have been on display at City Hall for several weeks. February was selected as the best

time of year for setting out trees, so a February date was chosen to do the work.

At a recent CDC meeting, members worked out many of the details of the project. They formed committees for each step of the project; committees to dig holes, to supply water, to set the trees in place. Community volunteers have agreed to serve on the committees and each committee chair-person is responsible for recruiting the extra help that will be needed. George Skinner, Ray Register and Hershell Boyd will serve as a coordinating committee.

The day will begin with a breakfast at the Senior Citizens Center. Women of the community will cook the food and serve the coffee to the industrious volunteers. After breakfast, the actual work will begin and by Saturday evening, Ray City should have a different look.

Landscaping is just one part of the overall plan. The grant also supplies monies to put into place park benches and much needed litter containers. The parking lot beside the Swindle building will also

be upgraded, which will result in better traffic flow on Paralled Street, and will vastly improve the appearance of the area.

Looking Back

Once upon a time, before the proliferation of the written word, the history of a people was an oral history--passed down from parent to child from generation to generation. Once, the storyteller was held in high regard--an entertainer, an historian, a source of knowledge. In another time, elders of the family were revered.

In today's world, too few people take the time to listen. For most, the facts of history are contained in books. The making of history is viewed on television. The understanding of the humanity of history is lost.

Ray City has many older citizens who have much to relate. Remer Wood is such a person. His life span has covered more than three quarters of the twentieth century. Through his eyes, we can see the industrial age readjusting to the

space age; the metamorphosis of farming from mule-drawn plows to mechanical marvels. Books cannot convey how people felt as they experienced their lives changing--and then changing yet again.

Remer is south Georgia born and raised. Now 81 years old, he has been a farmer, a merchant, a soldier, a store clerk and a government employee. In 1909, he was born into a world that no longer exists. Remer says, "It was rough growing up on a farm then. You had too much work to do. You didn't have time for playing. When we were big enough to walk, we were big enough to work, even if it was just carrying water to the fellers in the field."

Schooling was secondary to farm work. "We went to school after the cotton was picked. Back then, all the cotton was picked by hand." He went to a one room country school until the family moved to a farm near Ray City.

Remer remembers getting his first car when he was a young man. He bought his grandfather's eight year old Model T for \$20.00. It had cost \$400.00 new.

He vividly remembers the depression. He was fortunate enough to have work during most of those dark years. His usual wage was \$1.00 a day.

During the second world war, Remer served in France. It was the longest period he ever spent away from South Georgia. He was so glad to get home, he has never had the desire to live anyplace else. After the war, he came back to Ray City and found employment at Moody, where he worked until he retired. Now in his sunset years, he remembers the way it was: Courting--You

did your courting on weekends after the work was done. You walked to her house and sat with her where her parents could watch you. Entertainment--We used to have country frolics. You danced to the music of a fiddle, guitar and banjo. Christmas--We got an apple, orange and stick of candy. We'd break little pieces off that stick to eat and make it last as long as possible.



In parts of Australia it was believed thunder caused turtles to come out of the water.

Soon To Be

As you drive down Main Street in Ray City, you cannot help but notice the caboose sitting on rails adjacent to the Norfolk and Southern railroad. The caboose is a gift to the city from the railroad company. City officials and the Community Development Council plan to turn it into an eye-catching visitor/community center.

During the summer of 1990, the CDC applied for a state grant to refurbish the caboose. A two-fold grant of \$9,360 was approved in December. \$8,300 of the grant will

compliments of

GEORGIA CABINET COMPANY

Please support
Community Development Council
Community Landscape Work Day
February 16, 1991

455-5800

Hwy. 37 West -- Ray City, Georgia

RAY'S MILL POND CAFE

Serving Fresh Fish & Seafood
Open Wednesday through Saturday 5-10 p.m.
for your dining pleasure.



912-455-4075



Located 1 mile east of Ray City

be used for caboose restoration funding. The remaining \$760 will be used to help defray the costs of producing this newsletter.

The CDC has appointed a Restoration Plans Committee consisting of Bobby Wood, Wayne Peters and George Skinner. Committee members will visit other towns with such caboose displays in order to see how best to utilize the one in Ray City.

When the project is completed, the caboose should be a distinctive landmark for Ray City. It will also serve as a meeting place for local organizations and as a visitor's welcoming center.

School Days

When a settlement builds a church and a school, it becomes a community. This is how the settlement of Ray's Mill became the town of Ray City in the early 1900's. According to Johnson's "History of Ray City", the first school was a three roomed wood building with a porch across the front. The brick structure presently housing the school was erected in 1922.

A town which has supported a school for nearly a century has seen many teachers come and go. One teacher came and stayed for thirty seven years. Her name is Eloise Johnson nee Williams. Eloise is a soft spoken southern lady whose youthful looks belie her age. Although she retired from teaching a number of years ago, she has not retired from life and is still a dynamic member of the community.

In 1934, young Eloise was not thinking of a long teaching career. For her, the highlight of that year was the day she was selected Queen

of Berrien County Fair. She still remembers her excitement when she sat on the queen's float in the fair parade. Her attendants were the county and the state superintendents of school.

It was shortly after that, in 1935, that she attained her first teaching position. She says in those days teachers were paid \$60.00 a month, out of which they bought their own supplies. She taught for three years. Then she married Bernard Johnson and says she "decided I wouldn't teach anymore." A year after her marriage, she became a mother, which gave her added reason to

stay home. Yet the lure of the classroom remained and she soon returned to teaching. This time she continued until her retirement in 1973.

Throughout the years, she taught every grade in the school, from first to twelfth. At one time or another, she has taught most of the illustrious graduates of Ray City schools. Almost all of the older families in town have had children taught by Eloise. She says those children were like an extended family to her and she still loves to see them and their children, and sometimes their children's children.

A Family Business
**MOLISEE
HARDWARE**

Here To Serve You!

**Supplying
General
Hardware
Needs For
Home, Farm
and Business**

**Hours
8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday**

455-2129

**compliments of
The Ray City Branch
of the Citizens Bank
455-2111**

Member F.D.I.C.

Teaching has changed tremendously since Eloise began her career in 1935. She feels that many of the modern teaching methods are inferior to the old fashioned teaching of the basics. Recent S.A.T. scores seem to prove her right.

Eloise was saddened when Ray City High School was abolished in the 1950's in favor of a consolidated high school. She is even more saddened that plans are now in the works to close the Elementary School. It has been a part of the community for almost as long as the community has been here. It is the scene of much of Ray City's history. For Eloise, it is like closing a book on the past.

Teachers like Eloise are remembered fondly by their former students. Such teachers make a positive impact on those students, not just by teaching them the three R's, but by believing in them. None of us really know what imprint we leave on the sands of time, but good teachers leave footprints that are easy to follow.

Homecoming Committee Report

The 1990 Homecoming Committee has completed its work and has a final financial statement on file at City Hall. This file is open to the public. The statement shows that the Committee had a beginning balance of \$638.33. Committee-sponsored events earned \$6,655.06, which, added to the beginning balance, made a total of \$7,293.39. Expenses incurred totalled \$5,484.36. This left a net total of

\$1,809.03

Committee Chairman Pierce Hannah said the Committee has agreed to buy \$500.00 worth of new equipment for the fire department and to donate \$500.00 to the recreation department for the municipal ball field. This leaves a total of \$809.03 to be left as a beginning balance for the 1991 Committee.

The Committee sponsored four large events during 1990: the July 4th celebration, the Womanless Wedding, the Fall Festival and a gospel sing.

To The People Of Ray City...

This newsletter is to you, for you and about you. The Community Development Council publishes it as a local medium by which we can communicate with one another. We welcome your input. If you have an idea for an article, or if you wish to submit a written article or comment on the articles that appear, please feel free to do so. Address your comments to: Newsletter Editor, P.O. Box 261, Ray City, or call 455-2181.

THE HAIR PLACE



owned by Janice Roberts



specializes in Redkin Skin Care & Makeup
& Matrix Hair Products
*Tanning Bed Available

407 Patten Avenue
Ray City, Georgia



455-2021

Jim & Pat Wiggins
welcome you to

SMOKE HOUSE BARBEQUE

Now Serving:
Real Smoked Barbeque
All-Beef Burgers
Chicken Dinners & More

OPEN: Mon-Sat--7:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.

455-2158

Nashville Hwy. -- Ray City, Georgia

Did You Know?

By: Bettye Shearl

Did you know that Dr. Charles X. Jones built the first dwelling house in Ray City? And was the city's first mayor?

That, in 1911, Mr. W.H.E. Terry came to Ray City from Pinetta, Fla. and built the first brick building? This building was torn down in the early 1950's.

That on the corner of Main and Paralled Streets, the site of Wood's Soda Shop was a wooden building which housed a hotel? This hotel was destroyed by fire in 1913. The brick structure which now houses Wood's Soda Shop & Becky's Clay Cottage was erected in 1915.

That the first gas station was built in 1925 and this building now houses the Ray City Police Dept.

That in 1914 a recreation area known as Mayhaw Lake, was built off the end of Pack St. which had a swimming pool, skating rink, dance hall and a lunch stand? This was "The Place" in the community and people arriving by train, yes by train, as many as 6 passenger trains a day would be shuttled to the lake by

horse and buggy or mule and wagon.

That Ray City School was opened in 1922 and held their first high school graduation in 1936 with 9 graduates? The last high school graduating class was in 1954.

That there are 7 churches within the city limits of Ray City?

That Ray City was incorporated in 1909 and had its first electricity in 1923. The lights were turned on at 6:00 each evening and turned off at 10:30 each evening.

That one of the last major Indian uprising with the Creek Indians was fought near the settlement of Bucky Creek in this area in the year 1836?

That the Bank of Ray City was organized in 1908 and changed in the year 1909 to the Citizens Bank of Ray City.? Then in 1973 the bank was acquired by the Citizens Bank of Nashville, Ga. and is now the Ray City office of that bank

That the Luckie Lumber Co. was a huge operation in 1909 and employed hundreds of people? This lumber company subsequently burned in 1926.

That there was a Mrs. Grambling's Millinery Shop where ladies could purchase hats of their choice and

there were many other businesses in the early 1900's including, a blacksmith, a druggist, a garage, hardware and furniture store, meat market, pecan dealer and a livery stable, four doctors and a dentist?

That the Chief of Police rode a horse on his tour of duty?

That in 1918 tobacco was first grown in this area after cotton gave way to the bowl weevil?



Hummingbirds, the smallest birds in the world, are native only to the Western Hemisphere.



P.O. BOX 261
Ray City, Georgia 31645
(912) 455-2181
Delores Respass, Editor
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

HOTSY OF SOUTH GEORGIA

**Hot or Cold Water Pressure Washers
Sales, Service, Parts and Chemicals
Service on all makes and models.**

**Does your house or farm equipment need cleaning?
Rent a pressure washer to do the job.**

**203 Johnson Street
Ray City, Ga. 31645**

(912) 455-6446 or 455-3341

Community
Development
Council