

PROUD DESCENDANTS OF:
JESSE & NANCY COBB LEWIS
EARLY SETTLERS OF
BAGDAD, FLORIDA

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

5924 STARLITE LN, MILTON, FL 32570
TELE: (904) 623-0572 FAX: (904) 626-2126

VOLUME 3

JULY 1996

Greetings to you from Milton on a hot, humid, summer day. Typical of our weather here. Please do not be discouraged, though, because the warm welcome you receive when you **COME HOME TO SANTA ROSA COUNTY** will more than make up for any warm weather we may have.

The plans for our reunion are going great guns. Our Historical Tour of Santa Rosa County is being planned. In fact we had a meeting just last night, July 2, and discussed the route and what we wanted to see.

On Friday July 26 we will be leaving from the **PARKING LOT OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, U.S. 90 AND CANAL STREET** at **NINE o'clock sharp** for a pleasant drive to the Ostrich Ranch north of Milton in the Coldwater Creek area. As you may know Ostrich ranching is a new approach to use of farm land and our area has one of the few Ostrich ranches in the country. Following our visit to the Ostrich ranch we will be on our way to visit the Blackwater State Forest in Munson. We will visit a working grist mill. Some old timers may recall when most towns with any streams at all had a grist mill where the local farmers brought their corn and had it ground into cornmeal. While in the Forest we will visit some of the lakes where you may want to dip your toes in the refreshing stream or just relax in the shade. Blackwater Forest is the largest State Forest in Florida and contains approximately 185,000 square acres of both soft and hard wood trees.

Following our visit to the Forest we will travel

through some of the most productive farm land in the State. We will be traveling on the Old Spanish Trail which is probably the oldest public highway in the State. We will make a stop at the recreation center on Coldwater Creek for lunch which will be provided and maybe a wade in the creek.

After a restful lunch break we will again board the bus for a drive through the Northern most reaches of Santa Rosa County, visiting the Oil Capital of Florida the town of Jay. Many farmers made millions for the oil but Jay remains the same as before the boom. From there we will visit the community of Chumuckla where I remember as a boy owning my first bicycle and my Daddy worked for the WPA. Maybe we can get some of the older members to reminisce about those days.

After Chumuckla we will visit an Antique Farm and Industrial Equipment which is an attraction sponsored by one of our local farmers.

If time permits we may even be able to stop by a watermelon farm and pick one for ourselves.

The tour will return to Milton about 3:30 PM.

REMEMBER WE WILL HAVE OUR LOCAL HISTORIAN WARREN WEEKES AS OUR TOUR DIRECTOR. Those of you who attended last years dinner will recall what an informative presentation he made.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE TOUR!!

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MAKE RESERVATIONS TODAY!!

At 5:30 o'clock on Friday July 26 we will begin assembling at the Locklin Educational Building on the grounds of the Santa Rosa Medical Center for our next event of the day

OUR CATERED BUFFET DINNER!!

At 6 PM we will have a catered two entree buffet with veggies, dessert, and beverage for only \$10 per adult and \$5 for children ages 5 - 10. Those under age 5 eat free. The same caterer from last year will again be handling our dinner. You will remember we had an outstanding meal and we can expect the same this time around.

The entertainment Committee Chairman, Betty Wolfe, has Elvis who will be singing some of our favorite songs of the fifties & sixties. **YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE YOUNG AND CRAZY KIDS!** She tells me we have a comedian **PAR EXCELLENCE** who will regale us with his family style humor and maybe even a visit from Randy Travis. Since Warren Weekes has spent the day with us on the tour and he is already warmed up, maybe we can talk him into giving us another bit of Santa Rosa History. Knowing Warren I believe all we have to do is ask. He may even have one of his fellow historians with him who will join in on the history session. **WE WILL WORK ON IT!**

WE WANT YOU AT THE DINNER!

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!

On Saturday July 27 at about 10:30 we will again gather as a family. This time it will be at beautiful Carpenter's Park on Blackwater River in Milton. We will have a covered dish dinner. All you are asked to bring is a covered dish and your favorite beverage. All paper products, utensils, ice, etc. will be provided.

We look forward to this special day each year when we gather around the family table one more time.

We are grateful for all of you who attend and we sure do miss those of you who for some reason or the other can not be with us.

We hope you will take an hour or so some time during your visit to Milton and visit Robinson Point Cemetery. As you know the Robinson Point area in Bagdad is the main focal point of our ancestry. Our progenitors raised their families, worked, are buried there. We have the responsibility of maintaining the Cemetery on a year round basis. It costs us \$300 per year for basic maintenance of the Cemetery which is why we ask each family for a contribution of \$25 to the Maintenance Fund. Funds in excess of the \$300 go into a savings account to be used for future beautification and memorials in the Cemetery. We think this is a small price to ask for the family ties we have with one another.

We have approximately 100 family names on our Newsletter mailing list. If you would like a copy of this list for your own use please let me know.

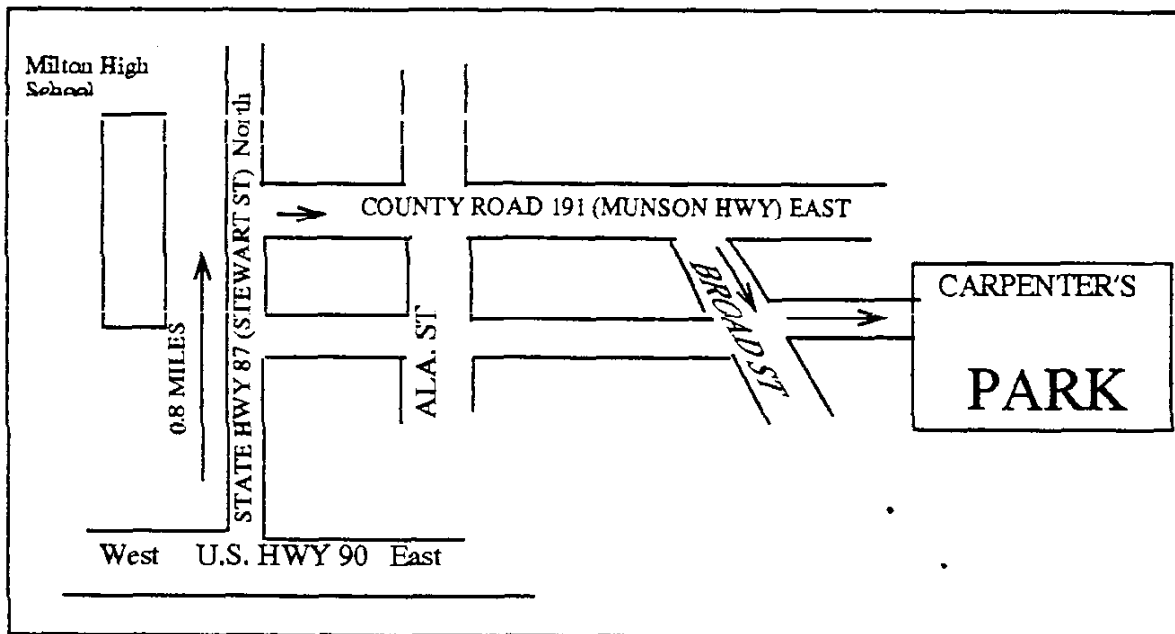
FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

WE HAVE 19 RESERVATIONS FOR THE TOUR AS OF JULY 4. This is more than we can carry on the van we have reserved.

Yesterday I called and reserved a 46 passenger charter bus. This will cost us \$350 which sounds like a lot **however** if 16 more of you will make reservations before JULY 15 we can charter the bus and still keep the cost at \$10 per person for the full day tour. Otherwise we will make do with what we have.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!!!

DIRECTIONS TO CARPENTER'S PARK
NOT TO SCALE



THIS IS URGENT

CLIP AND MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!!!

I/we plan on joining the Friday July 26, 1996 Historical Tour and agree to pay our pro rata share of the costs. There will be _____ in our party. I/we prefer to ride the bus_____. I/we prefer to car pool_____. Signed _____

I/we plan to attend the Friday July 26, 1996 Family Dinner for a cost of \$10 per adult, \$5 per child 5 - 10 years, and children under 5 eat free. There will be _____ adults, _____ children 5-10, and _____ children under 5.

Signed _____

MAKE CHECKS TO: LEWIS BELMONT 605A STADIUM BLVD MILITON LA 39550

DIRECTIONS TO SANTA ROSA MEDICAL CENTER
NOT TO SCALE

