

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 4

OCTOBER 1996

Hi Y'all!! Here it is the 29th of September and I am just beginning the Lewis Newsletter. I would apologize but have been enjoying what has kept me from writing. You see right after our reunion we got real busy in politics, both local and national, and believe me when we say we have been "as busy as a long tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs". We have worked with our local candidates in the first primary and the second primary is to be held on the 1st of October, we have opened a local GOP headquarters, furnished, staffed it, and just kept running all the time. Anyway things will change in a few weeks when we get a new administration and keep our congress. Please remember to vote!

Ω (just found this little mark and thought it would look cute at the beginning of a paragraph).

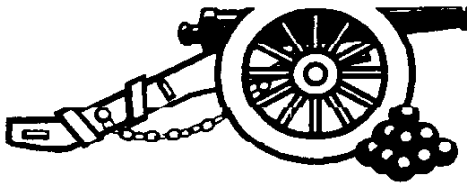
Ω JULY 27, 1996: OUR LEWIS TWO DAY REUNION CAME TO A CLOSE THIS PM. AT ABOUT 3 O'CLOCK. WHAT A DELIGHTFUL TIME WE HAD. HAD ABOUT 28 ON THE TOUR ON THE 26TH. A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL. THE OSTRICH FARM WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY. THESE ANIMALS ARE A PLEASURE TO SEE AND LEARN ABOUT. THE OWNERS JAMES & BARBARA FURMAN WERE GRACIOUS HOSTS AND GAVE US A THOROUGH HISTORY OF OSTRICH FARMING. EVERYONE WAS JUST FASCINATED. THEN CAME THE GOOD PART--WE WERE SERVED OSTRICH SAUSAGE, GROUND MEAT LIKE HAMBURGER, AND FAJITA (MARINATED & STIR FRIED STRIPS). THE MEAT IS TENDER AND VERY TASTY. THIS MUST BE ONE OF THE BEST KEPT SECRETS IN SANTA ROSA COUNTY. WE THANK THEM FOR ALLOWING US TO VISIT THEIR HOME AND FARM.

THE VISIT TO BLACKWATER FOREST WAS GREAT. ALL WHO WANTED TO GOT A

CHANCE TO SWIM IN COLDWATER CREEK AND SPRING FED KRUL LAKE. WE HAD SNACKS AND RELAXED ABOUT 30 MINUTES. WE THEN WENT CROSS COUNTRY ON THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL TO THE "HORSE STABLES" WHICH IS ANOTHER RECREATION AREA IN THE PARK. THE SPANISH TRAIL WAS A BLAST. IT RAINED THE NIGHT BEFORE WE WERE THERE AND THE CLAY ROAD WAS AN EXPERIENCE TO MOST OF OUR OUT OF TOWN FOLK. SLIPPING AND SLIDING ALL OVER THE PLACE. MILTON'S NEAREST THING TO DRIVING IN SNOW. UPON ARRIVAL AT THE HORSE STABLES AFTER MUCH WHOOPING AND CARRYING ON ABOUT THE ROAD WE HAD A DELICIOUS LUNCH. WE ALL GOT A TASTE OF COUNTRY LIVING WHEN THE FLIES DISCOVERED WE WERE THERE. SOME OF OUR CITY FOLK FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO EAT AND SWAT FLIES AT THE SAME TIME.

FOLLOWING LUNCH WE JOURNEYED ACROSS NORTHERN SANTA ROSA COUNTY TO THE THRIVING COMMUNITY OF CHUMUCKLA (I'M NOT KIDDING). CHUMUCKLA IS IN THE MIDST OF A GREAT FARMING BELT. WE SAW CORN, COTTON, SOY BEANS, PEANUT FIELDS, AND SOME OF THE BEST FARMLAND IN THE STATE. WE ARRIVED AT MR. HOWELL'S PRIVATE MUSEUM AT ABOUT 2 PM. WHAT AN EXPERIENCE. THIS GENTLEMAN HAS AMASSED A GREAT COLLECTION OF EVERY THING. I CANNOT BEGIN TO TELL YOU WHAT HE HAS IN THIS PLACE. I CAN ONLY SAY YOU WOULD NEED TO SPEND DAYS EXAMINING HIS COLLECTION, MOST OF WHICH IS SO OLD THAT THE AVERAGE PERSON HAS NEVER EVEN SEEN THEM OR KNOW WHAT THEY ARE.

AFTER APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES WE DEPARTED MR. HOWELL'S AND



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CONTINUED OUR TRIP BACK TO MILTON. THE RENTED VAN WAS RETURNED TO THE FORD DEALER, EVERYONE WENT HOME (THOSE OF US WHO DROVE OUR PRIVATE VEHICLES WILL HAVE THE CLAY REMOVED TOMORROW) FOR A QUICK SHOWER AND THEN ON TO THE 5:30 PM DINNER AT THE SANTA ROSA MEDICAL CENTER EDUCATIONAL BUILDING.

9/29/96: We are still talking about the reunion and what fun we had on the tour. We hope you thought the tour was worth the cost. It's not every day when we can have lunch in the Horse Stables but we sure did and everyone seemed to enjoy. The swim in the Coldwater Creek and Kurl Lake made the day for the younger folks. We are sure glad they attended. Hope to have more next year.

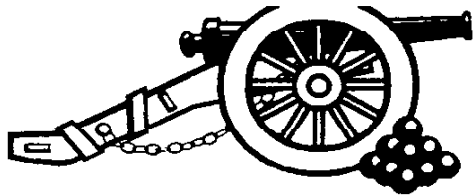
We can't say much for the dinner this year. We were disappointed with the caterer and we told them so. It was the same caterer we used the year before but they had recently changed their base of operation from the Medical Center to their own business. We were probably their first customer, which we informed them should have made no difference. Anyway all in all we enjoyed each other's company and guess we all have a bad meal once in a while. We have since been to one of their catered affairs and it was very good. We shall see. The entertainment at the dinner was worth the price and we all thoroughly enjoyed the singing and the comedy. These two gentlemen really do themselves and their community proud by their performances. We will have to go some next year to top what we had in 1996. If you were not there we missed you and hope to see you next time.

The Saturday picnic at Carpenter's Park turned out to be OK because we had a good crowd and great food. We all enjoyed each other and just being together. We missed you if you were not there. Again, we hope to see you next year. The day did not start off too well. There were roofers there retiling the pavilion in spite of direction to the

contrary. The place had not been swept and was generally untidy. We wrote to the City of Milton, Mayor, City Manager, and City Council and expressed our embarrassment on behalf of the City. We received a prompt reply of apology from the Mayor and City Council. We received a call from the City Manager who promised to refund our payment. That has not happened yet. I will follow-up when I go to make reservations for next year. Will get us a "free ride" for 1997. To sum up the events at this year's reunion we would have to say they were quite good. The thing we can be most appreciative of is that we have a very good friend in Mr. Warren Weekes who is our "official tour director and resident historian". Warren we cannot thank you enough for what you do for us. Neither will we try to pay you because any payment we made would be inadequate, so we can only say THANK YOU!!!

Ω We have received six video tapes of the 1996 reunion. Thanks go to Joyce Nelson who was generous enough to not only record the happenings but providing the edited tapes. All at no cost to us. We only have six copies so we will let them go to the first six who send us \$15 per tape. All proceeds will go toward next years expenses. The tapes are excellent and fun filled. You will have several hours of enjoyment from one of them. THANK YOU JOYCE!!! We love you.

Ω Now comes the sad part of putting together this newsletter. In August Mr. David Hudson the beloved husband of the late Ida Mae Hudson died following a lengthy illness and but a few short months after the death of his devoted wife Ida Mae. I pray it was a case of they had rather be together than be separated. I know in life you never saw one of them without the other and most of they time they were holding hands. Something some of us don't do often enough. We have received donations to the Robinson Point Cemetery Maintenance fund from Lucille Fraas and Lewis Fraas in David's memory. You may like to do



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likewise.

Cemetery Report

We hope you visited the Robinson Point Cemetery (RPC) during your stay at the reunion this year. The RPC looked well kept, which it is, but it had a brighter look thanks to Bud and Lana Allen of Bagdad. Lana is the daughter of Avis and Dot Lewis. Avis was a descendant of "Sease" Lewis one of Jesse & Nancy Lewis' sons. Lana has graciously agreed to serve as a Trustee of the RPC. Thanks Lana.

As you will recall at our reunion on Saturday we took up a collection and we voted to keep enough in the reunion account to cover costs of the newsletter and transfer the balance to the RPC maintenance account since the Cemetery is what holds us together as an extended family. **THAT IS IMPORTANT!**

We have as of today (9/29/96) a checking account balance of \$510.10. Of this amount we have \$317.33 in the Reunion Acc't and \$192.77 in the Maintenance Acc't. Therefore as of October 1, 1996 I will transfer \$100 from the Reunion Acc't to the Maintenance Acc't. which will leave us ample funds to publish the Newsletter and sufficient funds to continue the ROUTINE maintenance of RPC. Please note the emphasis on "routine" because that is exactly what we are providing. Again PLEASE let us stress that the RPC is an on-going project for us (LEWIS FAMILY MEMBERS). Without our financial support the RPC will become overgrown and someone will again attempt to build homes on our ancestral burial grounds!

While we are on the RPC we have another appointment to the RPC Trustees, namely Celia Turner of Perry, Florida. Celia is from the lineage of Henry Jackson Lewis. Thank you Celia for concern for our extended family.

Ω We have not started any plans for our 1997 reunion so if you have any ideas, suggestions, or desires please let us know. Without your suggestions we have to make all the plans ourselves and then if they fall short of expectations what can we say. One thing we know for sure is that the dinner will not be in the Medical Center Educational Building. They have discontinued use by other than Medical Center functions. We have seen the Berryhill School Board Administration building and they have a very nice meeting room which we probably will be able to obtain. Will keep you posted. Our Saturday picnic can again be held at Carpenter's Park in Milton or at the County Pavilion in Navarre which is about 20 miles south of Milton on U.S. 98 on Sound Bay. The cost is about the same as the pavilion in Milton but there is usually a good breeze from the gulf. Let us know what you prefer.

Ω Before we sign off on this letter we have a couple of items which were either left or found at the reunion.

First we have a Gold Bracelet with half a heart inscribed My Sister. This was found outside the hall where we had the Friday night dinner.

Next we have a green & white checked kitchen towel which was left at the Carpenter Park pavilion.

If either of these are yours please let us know.

Ω Received a call today (10/4) from the City of Milton informing us that check refunding payment for Carpenter's Park was to be mailed today. We always knew the wheels of government grind slowly. Anyway we thank them.

Til Next time.

Rodney & Ann