

# LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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## PROUD DESCENDANTS OF JESSE AND NANCY COBB LEWIS

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Thanksgiving is tomorrow so it is time to begin the December Newsletter to our large Lewis Family.

First we wish each of you a very happy Thanksgiving, a blessed Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

We all look forward to a great year and are anxiously awaiting the coming of July when we will all be together again for the 8<sup>th</sup> Lewis Family Reunion.

### A NEWLY LEARNED LESSON

Our summer went exceptionally well and we hope yours did likewise. I guess the most traumatic thing that happened to us was in October. On our return trip from the Florida Republican Convention in Orlando I was the victim of a strong-arm robbery. We had stopped at a rest stop on I-10 West of Tallahassee about 2PM on Sunday afternoon. Since there were about 25 cars we thought nothing of stopping. I went to the men's room and when I was washing my hands and face a HUGE black man grabbed me, put a choke-hold on me until I lost consciousness. He must have slammed me to the floor because I suffered minor head, right knee, and back injuries. When I regained consciousness and checked myself over I realized my wallet was gone. I went outside, found Ann and while telling her what had happened another man said he,

too, had just been robbed in the restroom. What happened was two black men followed us in or were in the stalls in the restroom, they robbed both of us, walked out, got in a "small white car", and drove off. We called 911 and the Leon County Sheriff's office responded. They took a report, found we were not seriously injured, and we continued on our way to Milton, \$200 lighter but thankful neither me nor the other man, who was about \$350 lighter, were seriously injured. I tell you this story to let you know BE CAREFUL. From now on we will get off the interstate and visit a McDonalds, Hardee's or some other place that has an INSIDE RESTROOM. I have had some people tell me "Being a Republican can be harmful to your health" but my response was "The robber must have been a yellow dog Democrat who believes in the redistribution of wealth".

### A NEWLY FOUND COUSIN

A few weeks ago we had a pleasant visit from Eva Mae Lewis McDuff, my first cousin whom I did not remember having met, of Lake Worth, FL. Eva Mae is the daughter of Frank Lewis (1882-1966) who was the son of William Sherwood "Coot" Lewis, youngest child of Jesse Lewis. Eva Mae was in the area visiting friends and family. We, Eva Mae and Edna Rollo, another family member, spent an enjoyable afternoon discussing family and

remembrances of 50 to 60 years ago. Experiences like this are part of the pleasure of writing this newsletter. We get to know some of our relatives and learn a bit more about our heritage.

## A NEW INVENTION

In a we received a note from Lucille Fraas in October that included an article from the Daily Journal of Commerce, Seattle Washington that told of an invention by her son, Lewis Fraas and his wife, Jany. They have invented, perfected, and are selling a device that burns natural gas for heat while producing 100 watts of electricity. The heater called Midnight Sun is being sold for use in cabins, boats, recreational vehicles or anything not connected to a utility grid. Lewis & Jany are working toward marketing a much larger unit 1-kilowatt unit for home power and heating. Their patented device can capture 90% of the energy available in the fuel. That compares to power-industry average of 30% efficiency for a coal-fired generating plant. That is quite some savings in fuel efficiency which is something the country can use. So, remember when in the future your home is heated by a "thermophothovoltaic" or TPV cell, it was invented by our cousin, and that you read about it here first. We wish Lewis & Jany the best in their venture.

## A NEW BOOK

Mr. Warren Weekes has written a new book **"CORNBREAD, FATBACK, AND SYRUP - Lectures on the History and Folklore of Santa Rosa County"**

For years numerous citizens have taken the one-of-a-kind courses on local history

offered by Mr. Warren Weekes, Santa Rosa County Historian. Now available for the first time ever is a printed collection of his lectures which describe the history, folklore, lifestyles, and accounts of people, places, and events that affected Santa Rosa County. Profusely illustrated with photos and maps, this new book contains stories about the Indians, the lumber industry, pioneer life, Arcadia, Bagdad, Rube Burrow, Cracker Culture, the CCC, and various communities and the people who were involved in making them.

The book was compiled and edited by our cousin Joyce Nelson

Warren is a true friend of the Lewis Family and is known in Northwest Florida as a great Historian. Those of you who have attended our reunions will remember his very informative and interesting lectures on the history of Santa Rosa County. He also served as our tour guide around Santa Rosa County during our 1996 Lewis Reunion. Ann and I have enjoyed attending two different lecture series presented by Warren dating back to 1975.

This book is your opportunity to learn more about the life styles of your ancestors here in Santa Rosa County. You will enjoy reading it and it will be a treasure in your library. To purchase a copy of Warren & Joyce's new book. Contact Warren at 5709 Mill Pond Lane, Milton, FL 32583. The price is only \$14.95

### *THINK ABOUT IT*

*The greatest thing in family life is to take a hint when a hint is intended - and not to take a hint when a hint isn't intended.*  
*Robert Frost*

## CEMETERY REPORT

Ann and I were down at the RPC yesterday afternoon, Nov. 27 at which time we planted three (3) Arbor Vitae plants around the Brass Plaque. The plants are evergreens and now stand about 2 feet. With proper care and good luck we will have something else to be proud of in the Cemetery. The grounds look good. Mike Pendleton continues to provide adequate maintenance. I will get him to trim the Azaleas and Red Tops along the drive leading into the Cemetery.

Again, I would to say how fortunate we are to have had "Coot Lewis" be far sighted enough to have set aside ¼ acre as a "graveyard for use by the public forever". This site is now known as Robinson Point Cemetery and is one of the most beautiful and serene places on the shores of Blackwater Bay. It is our responsibility to maintain the site so our children and their children will always have a place to visit and remember "from whence they came".

## FINANCIAL REPORT

On August 19 one of our CDs in the amount of \$547.86 matured. Dr. Smith, Chairman, RPC Trustees and I renewed the CD and increased its face value to \$700 by using \$152.14 from RPC Savings Account. We now have six (6) CDs valued at \$8010.00 and paying 5% interest and a Savings Account of \$163.40 paying about 2%. We have \$244.19 in the Checking Account. Since August when we purchased our largest CD in the amount of \$4010 we have earned \$93.28 in interest. With our current bank balance and future interest we PROBABLY will have sufficient funds to meet maintenance costs, newsletter printing & postage, and reunion expenses. If we are

having a shortfall you will hear a mighty call for financial support in our next couple of newsletters.

Just because we are financially sound is no reason not to work toward purchasing additional CDs in order to provide for future needs.

We will keep you updated.

## REUNION 2000 PLANS

We continue to ponder what type of entertainment to provide during our year 2000 reunion. I asked if any of you had and ideas, but have not gotten any response. Guess that means you all are willing to leave all the planning to some of us here in Milton and take what you get.

One of the things we are thinking about is a visit to Henry Botts' Country Music Museum in Milton. Henry is an old time fiddle player who worked with Hank Williams and others of that era. I have not visited his museum but have heard it is very interesting. I will check it out and we may plan a visit for Friday July 28 following breakfast at Reggie's.

We will have Friday dinner at the Milton Garden Club beginning about 5:30 PM, complete with entertainment.

We will then have our annual picnic Saturday at Navarre Park.

## SPECIAL REQUEST

Please send me your TELEPHONE NUMBER, FAX NUMBER, AND E-MAIL ADDRESS.

**THE REUNION IS JULY 28 & 29  
2000**

Til next time