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The Bemis Story

Where Industry and Friendliness Blend Into Progress

A publication of the Bemis Historical Society – www.bemishistory.org

Winter 2008

Chairman's Update

Here we are in a new year, 2008. Since the last newsletter we have had the Fish Fry fundraiser sponsored by the South Side Optimist Club. Roy Neal Mitchell and Troy Sullivan were the ramrods, but the whole bunch pitched in to help. It was delicious. I know Roy's secret but I'm not telling. Along with the Optimists, Society members did a lot of work too. Many gallons of white beans were cooked by different people. I sampled five or six and they were all good. Our ladies baked a bunch of cakes and they filled two long tables. No one left hungry. A few plates were delivered to folks who couldn't get out. We netted just over \$1,600 on the event.

We have once again applied for a \$40,000 Tennessee Historical Commission grant and hope to hear from the Commission in a few weeks. Our partners, Jackson Energy Authority, have paid their third \$13,000 installment on the sponsorship of the Technology and the Bemis Mill Exhibit for our museum. This will be the main exhibit in the museum, and rightly so.

We have been in contact with Scott Bemis of Minneapolis who has helped us with a lot of archived information about the Company and our village. Don Bemis has donated artifacts and provided us with a genealogical printout of the Bemis family. Most recently Damon Becker of Orinda, CA, has found us. He is the great, great grandson of Judson Moss Bemis. All of these Bemis people are excited about our Society and the future Bemis Mill Village Museum. I hope we

can make them proud. Another contact is Lee Droll, a former Director of Operations with Bemis in St. Louis. He is now in Naples, FL, and has the big bronze "Bemis Mill Office" sign which was on the front of the office for many years. He is donating it within the next few days. That will make a fine centerpiece for an exhibit. Bobbye Trammell of Bemiston, AL, found us and is interested in swapping Bemis information. She is in the process of writing a book on Bemiston.

Locally we have a good chance of getting historical street lights. Ones with the globe at the top, like those that were in New Town. For you folks out of town, I hate to tell you, but the floor is still unfinished. If the Tennessee Historical Commission grant comes through, the floors will be refinished. On Wednesday, Jan. 16th, the excess roof tiles left Bemis on two flatbed trucks - sold to a buyer in Rockford, IL. Maybe we can locate the buyer who gets them and give them their history.

Plan now to attend the Bemis Days Celebration, Friday night May 16th and Saturday the 17th. A number of Classes are planning reunions so a lot of folks will be here. If you are local, don't forget to mark your calendar for the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. for the monthly meeting of the Bemis Historical Society at the historic Bemis United Methodist Church. Hope to see you there!

Joel Jackson, Chairman

Dues are Due for 2008 in the amount of \$25 per family. Included with membership are quarterly Historical Society newsletters. Please forward dues to the Bemis Historical Society, P.O. Box 9266, Jackson, TN 38314-9266.

Donations

Thank you to the following supporters for their recent donations:

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In Memory of George Fisher

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Bemis Historical Society

In Memory of Omer & Rhonda Turner

Sula Turner Hillhouse

June Turner Holloway

In Memory of Inez Rogers

Mildred & Joseph W. Austin

Bemis Historical Society

Bemis Days Celebration Coming!

Mark your calendars for Friday & Saturday, May 16-17, 2008, for our annual Bemis Days Celebration! The Friday night event will be from 4:30-9PM and will

feature musical acts and bar-b-que sales. Festivities on Saturday run from 9:30AM-3PM, and will include plenty of music from local talent, art & photo exhibits and storytelling by some of your favorite "yarn spinners." More details will come your way in an early May Historical Society newsletter.

Artifact Donations

"Memories of Bemis" Print
"Historic Bemis TN" Print
Rosalee Gibbons
Fireplace Shovel
Joel Jackson
Traveler Box from Mill
Terry & Liz Taylor
CD of Bemis Days 2007
Nancy Phillips Stevens
16 Employee News
3 Bemis Story
"50 Years in the Life..."
1977/1979 Annual Report
Ray Rogers
Photo "Carl Perkins at Nugget"
Hershel Collins
Methodist Church plate
Pentecostal Church plate
11 Bemis Blotters
Roping Can
Equator Certificate
Service Record (Lymon Owens)
1950 Bemis License Plate
Watkins "Victory Talc"
Sam Stanfill
J.B. Young's Mill Equip. Book
"Director of Operations" sign
Jim Pruitt
Bemis 1977 Annual Report
Ester King
Yellow Stop Sign
Modern Woodmen Ax
1912 Dr. Smythe Receipt
2 War Ration Books
Carpenters Tin Drinking Cup
Ronnie McNatt

Photo 1947-48 Y Basketball Team
Charles "Racehorse" Canovan
Mrs. Raymond Jackson "Thank You"
Cynthia Wheat Gross
1978 City Directory
X2 Loom Photo/Weavers Poem
Perry Rolison
1950 Bemis "SUN"
Jo Ann Wilkins Inman
10 Year Cat Pin
Brenda Jackson
1906 Photo of Construction
1908 Photo Jackson Fibre Co.
1908 Mass Ave. Photo
A St. to B St. Photo
'Bemis Basketeers' Photo
Patsy Gaither Cole
1 Bemis Flour Sack
3 Bemis A Bags
Lee Droll

Join Us At Society Meetings!

The Bemis Historical Society meets every 3rd Tuesday at 7PM at the Bemis United Methodist Church. We always have interesting speakers in addition to Society business and updates on our many worthwhile projects. Join us at any of these meetings - and bring a friend!

Bemis United Methodist Church to Celebrate 100 Years

The Bemis United Methodist Church will celebrate 100 years in 2008. Members plan to celebrate with a community event, and we will have details and a date in our May newsletter. In the meantime, if you are interested in a commemorative plate of the church, or note cards, contact Fran Turner at 424-2784. We are grateful to this church for meeting both spiritual and community needs for 100 years.

***Preserve Our Past by Supporting our
Museum Project!***

Help preserve the history and heritage of Bemis, Tennessee, by supporting our Bemis Mill Village Museum project. For information about credit card donations, gifts of assets (stocks/bonds/real estate) or planned gifts (bequests/trusts/life insurance), contact our development consultant, Frank McMeen at 731-660-8770, or by e-mail at Frank.McMeen@wth.org. For information about direct contributions (cash/checks), Cotton Boll Remembrances (honorariums and memorials at the \$500 level of giving) and Named Gift Opportunities (museum/exhibits), contact Anita Roark at 731-427-2609 or anitaroark@yahoo.com. **The Bemis Historical Society is a 501(c)3 entity. Part or all of your contribution may be tax deductible.**

***The Bemis Historical Society
P. O. Box 9266
Jackson, TN 38314-9266***