

Covert County Reporter

"Fifty-Third Year of Community Service"

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No. 24

Loxley Man Who Served on USS Alabama, Visits Her

"The old girl looks like she's ready to hoist anchor and join the Pacific task forces again."

Aubrey F. Lomax, of 944 Harden Road, Hayward, California, was speaking of the USS Alabama brought home by public subscription and now a shrine off Highway 90 at Mobile.

Lomax was walking the decks of the battleship again. He had more than a tourist's viewpoint: he had served aboard the ALABAMA in each of the nine actions that earned battle stars in the Pacific.

"I went aboard as a seaman before she was commissioned in August, 1942, and I left her over four years later when she went into mobile bays at Seattle after the war," Lomax said.

In between boarding the 35,000-ton battleship as a seaman and leaving her as a chief petty officer in charge of a 16-inch gun turret, Lomax came to know history-making names: Okawara, Hollandia, Luzon, Saipan, Okinawa, Tokyo Bay.

While pointing out features of the ship to his wife, Sara, and daughters Audrey, 16; Elizabeth, 14; and Beverly, 10, the former turret captain recalled icy days in the North Atlantic, at Scapa Flow with the British Home Fleet, and escort duty on the dreadnought to Marmansk, Russia.

He had a pleasant surprise. He saw himself in one of the many photographs of shipboard activity, enlarged and hung in the captain's cabin for visitors to see.

"That was a long, long time ago," he mused, studying a younger Lomax loading a 16-inch projectile into the gun's breech. "But I'll never forget a minute I spent on the Alabama."

He showed his family the forward turret, and spoke of the thundering bombardments in the Navy's leapfrogging advance across the Pacific to Japan itself.

"It was noisy when the big guns fired, but I imagine the noise had a special sound to the Japanese," he said.

Lomax had returned to his native Loxley, Alabama to attend his parents' 50th wedding anniversary.

"I couldn't get a plane to fly to Alabama without making a special effort to go aboard again," he said.

Lomax is still with the Navy. He is a civil service employee at the Alameda Naval Air Station.

Change In Financing Is Coming

Montgomery, Alabama — "Change in the American financial community is coming. Currents which will bring this change are in a main stream headed by deadly accuracy toward socialism."

Howard J. Morris, Jr., executive vice president of the Alabama Bankers Association, thus addressed over 350 members attending the 72nd annual convention of AlaBA here this weekend, April 22.

Morris said, "The large current seems certain to push a change in regulatory structure closer toward federalized banking." But he said his thesis had nothing to do with whether the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., or Controller of the Currency should be restructured.

Though Britain and some major European nations have not gone the full route to a total government dominated banking system, they are still a "long way down the road," according to Morris.

"What could happen to our banking system in this Congress could be a stepping stone in that direction," he noted.

Because the change is yet to be made, bankers have the potential to "at least divert the flow affecting our industry from its direction toward federalization."

Colbert County Humane Society Needs \$2,800

The Colbert County Humane Society needs \$2,800 additional in public support in order to carry out plans for establishing an animal shelter in the county.

In September, the society obligated itself for \$5,000 to match local municipal and county funds. Some \$2,200 of that amount has been raised and the shelter site has been purchased. The society hopes to erect the shelter this summer.

Mrs. Norene Hyde, president of the society said: "We believe that the civic and progressive minded people of Colbert County will back this final effort to raise the funds for which we have obligated ourselves. We appreciate the contributions we have received and are still receiving, though we cannot personally acknowledge all of them."

Donations to the society are tax deductible. They may be sent to P. O. Box 181, Tusculumbia, Ala.

Letter To Editor

Editor,
As a native of Alabama, I am deeply concerned over the public image of our state and our proud people. However unjustly this image has been created by prejudicial public communications, we cannot ignore its seriousness.

It is my understanding that there are many highly skilled public relations agencies in major cities of the nation who are well qualified to get the facts through research; and who could get the truth of Alabama's racial relations told to the national public in an objective publicity program. It seems high time that such an agency be employed by the Alabama Chamber of Commerce or some other State organization, to counteract the diabolical publicity programs of the organized agitators.

I realize that the services of such an agency do not come cheap. Neither do the services of a skilled physician or surgeon. On the other hand, I feel that a well planned campaign of publicity and promotion by the newspapers, radio and television stations of Alabama could soon raise several hundred thousand dollars from small individual contributions.

Certainly now is the time to do it, when the thoughts and citizens of Alabama are aroused and concerned over the problem.

"In my opinion, a statewide public fund would show united effort, and be far more effective than a state or business financed program. I also feel that a public relations agency from New York would be more objective in the approach and have better access to the Press and TV networks."

NEAL D. KELLEY
682 Hillside,
Glen Elynn, Ill.

BUSINESSMEN OPPOSE RIGHTS BILL

Be it hereby resolved that we, the members of The Business and Professional Men's Association of Birmingham are strongly opposed to The Federal Administration Voting Rights Act of 1965 numbered H. R. 6400 — S. 1584 for the following reasons to-wit:

1. It is unconstitutional
2. It is an infringement on States Rights
3. It is an Ex Post Facto Law by design
4. It is punitive and disciplinary by intent
5. It is a summarized surrender to threats of violence and mob rule
6. It is a concession to illiteracy
7. It is discriminatory toward Alabama, Alaska, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Louisiana, Virginia and parts of North Carolina, Maine, Arizona and Idaho
8. It is an arbitrary prejudiced formula without rational basis
9. It is based on precipitated impulse, lacking serious
10. It is divisive in effect

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to all Senators and Representatives of the United States Congress at their offices in Washington, D. C.

This resolution was read before the members of The Business and Professional Men's Association of Birmingham, Alabama on April 6, 1965 and unanimously approved.

Business and Professional Men's Association
Signed: Olvin Holcombe,
President

EDITORIAL GRIST

WALLACE STRATEGY WORKS

The record is abundantly clear that Gov. Wallace has fared as well as any governor in getting what he wanted from the legislature.

Only infrequently has the legislature bowed its collective back and said no. But it must be said in all candor that the success of the administration has been based on factors other than a well-oiled legislative organization.

Having had prior legislative experience himself, it had been forecast that Wallace would run a tight ship in this area. Instead, the administration's approach has been haphazard at best. Seldom was there any evidence of advance planning, seldom if ever did Wallace or his people make a head count in advance to determine how they stood on a particular question.

Instead, the governor would dispatch proposed bills to his leaders in the respective chambers, confident that their talents and his considerable public support would be sufficient. More often than not, it has been.

A classic example referred to on another occasion was the free textbook bill. The measure prepared by the Wallace people and introduced in the legislature was an unworkable monstrosity. And that is being gentle. The bill that finally passed was unrecognizable compared with the original bill, a most fortunate dissimilarity.

Still another example popped to the surface this past week in the form of a \$2,600,000 bond issue to finance site improvements for new industries.

That bill set some sort of record. It passed the Senate three times. The first time around it was passed after being amended on the floor. Later it went to a conference committee, returned, and was passed a second time. Finally, Wallace returned the bill with an executive amendment, necessitating a third vote.

A properly drawn bill of the outset would have eliminated such a farce.

But Wallace has an obvious reply: who can argue with success? — The Montgomery Advertiser

BANNED AND BEATIFIED

The boycott snuffed of the Nobillian Martin King evidently did not rise and he has indicated that he would abandon the project because of "hazy signs" of Southern redemption. Last week again leading a demonstration in Boston against school segregation and poor housing.

He was received by Gov. John Volpe and invited to address the Massachusetts legislature.

But there were other aspects of the expedition that did not harmonize with this hospitality. The fact is that there is a high degree of school segregation in Boston due to neighborhood and that Bostonians have expressed themselves decisively at the polls as being opposed to scrambling by busing.

Then there was the statement of Mayor John Collins that he would not allow demonstrations in front of city hall. King's local colleagues bridled, saying that the demonstrations were just as legal in Boston as in Selma and they would hit city hall "if we choose to do it."

It was also announced that 350 detectives and patrolmen were assigned to protect the person of King.

Through its employment service, the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations places more than 10,000 workers per month in employment throughout the State, according to Gov. George C. Wallace.

To meet protein requirements in beef cattle protein supplement make up at least eight per cent of the ration. If the protein level drops below five per cent, a protein supplement is needed.

Main items in the increased tonnage were a growing movement of stone by barge from Kentucky Dam to the lower Mississippi River, and larger coal traffic. Coal movements increased to TVA steam plants and to midwestern power plants. There was a new coal movement to Alabama.

second and Julia Rose, Highland Park, third, Junior High Division — Carolyn Lindsey, Colbert Heights, first; Joyce Smith, Colbert Heights, second and Nancy Chipolet, Colbert County High and Judy Thorn, Cherokee Vocational High, tied for third, Senior Division — Dianne Sneed, Colbert County High, first; Jackie Chipolet, Colbert County High, second and Jan Reid, Cherokee Vocational High, third.

DRESSSES — Elementary Division — Mae Beth Rutland, Cherokee, first and Jan Reid, Cherokee Vocational High, second and Jan Reid, Cherokee Vocational High, third.

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BUCKLE UP — Staff Sergeant Donald E. Tucker (Barber, N.P.C.) is adjusting field equipment for a recruit who is preparing to make his first road march at Fort Jackson, S.C. Sergeant Tucker is one of the new Army Drill Sergeants specially trained to instruct soldiers during basic combat training.

80 Million Dollar Plants Located Along TVA

Private industry began construction of new plants and terminals representing an \$80,019,000 investment along the Tennessee River waterway in 1964, the Tennessee Valley Authority reported.

This makes a total of well over a billion dollars in waterfront industrial growth since 1945, when TVA completed the chain of main stream lakes that provide a year-around channel for modern river barges from Knoxville, Tenn., to Paducah, Ky.

The use of the waterway in 1964 is estimated by TVA to have made possible \$26,200,000 in shipper savings. That was the eighth consecutive year the benefits from the improved waterway have been above \$20 million.

These navigation benefits represent the further transportation expense that would have been added to the costs of the products shipped on this waterway if the improved channel had not been built. Shipper costs for these movements are compared with the higher costs that would have resulted if the same freight had to be shipped by other means, and if the rates of other transport modes had not been reduced to meet barge competition.

The estimated 1964 waterway benefits of \$26.2 million are almost 4 1/2 times as much as the total waterway operating costs of \$6 million for the year. That figure includes all depreciation and operation costs of TVA, the Corps of Engineers and the U. S. Coast Guard for this waterway.

Since 1933 total Federal costs for operating navigation facilities on the Tennessee, including depreciation on the waterway, investment, have amounted to about \$97 1/2 million. Accumulated savings over the same period in the cost of transporting commodities total \$311 million.

Most of the 1964 savings were on barge shipments between the Tennessee Valley and other regions. These interregional shipments made up about three-fourths of the 1964 traffic on the Tennessee River, while shipments between points within the Valley made up one-fourth.

According to preliminary estimates the Tennessee River waterway carried a record 15,300,000 tons of commercial freight in 1964, about 900,000 tons more than the previous record of 1953. This 1964 traffic moved an estimated 10 billion tons-miles, down from 2.2 billion the previous year as shipping patterns adjusted to lower all-rail rates on grain. This resulted in a lower proportion of long-haul barge traffic.

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Plans For Alabama Farm Day Set For May 11

MONTGOMERY—Governor George C. Wallace met last week with Alabama agricultural leaders to lay plans for Alabama Farm Day May 11.

The meeting, chaired by Dr. Fred R. Robertson, Director of the Auburn University Extension Service, included 18 representatives of the farm industry.

Governor Wallace signed a proclamation setting May 11 as Alabama Farm Day. In the proclamation he said, "Alabama's vast resources provide a basis for continued agricultural and industrial development that will benefit all its citizens by improving their opportunities for income, both in rural and urban areas."

The Governor requested "leaders from all segments of our economy to give thought and support to means that will further enhance Alabama's opportunities through improving its agriculture."

The committee discussed plans for a meeting on May 11 at Garrett Coliseum in Montgomery. The meeting will include agricultural leaders and members of various farm organizations from throughout the State.

Attending the Governor's planning session were: Jack Bridges, Head, Chairman of the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Committee; O. C. Medlock, Auburn; State Conservationist of the Soil Conservation Service; R. C. Bamberg, Montgomery, State Director, Farmers Home Administration.

A. W. Todd, Commissioner of Agriculture; T. L. Faulkner, Montgomery, State Supervisor, Vocational Agricultural Education; Dr. E. V. Smith, Dean and Director, Auburn University School of Agriculture and Agricultural Experiment Station.

E. Wilson Montgomery, Executive Vice President, Alabama Cattlemen's Association; W. I. Walsh, Montgomery, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Alabama Poultry Industry Association; John Mathews, Decatur, President, Alabama Council of Farmer Cooperatives; Richard Beard, Greenville, President, Alabama Cattlemen's Association; Phillip Martin, Enterprise, President, American Dairy Association; Joe W. Graham, Montgomery, Executive Vice President, Alabama Forest Products Association; Robert Gish, Athens, President, Alabama Meat Packers Association; Richard Arrington, Ramer, Agricultural Representative, Southern Railway Systems; James Earl Mobley, Abbeville, President, Alabama Peanut Producers Association; John Dorrell, Assistant to the President, Alabama Farm Bureau Federation; and Ralph Jones, Auburn Extension Service.

Bill Jones, Press Secretary to Governor Wallace, is handling the details of the meeting for the Governor's Office.

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