JOGGING/BIKE TRAIL
STATUS REPORT
-Adm. William Stewart, Chair of Board, DI Foundation

The nearly two miles of the Island's Jogging/Bike Trail has been completed to date and has been a tremendous success. Nearly any time of the day, one can see adults and young people going one direction or the other walking, riding, or skating.

Planning is going forward to complete Phase 1 construction of the Trail from Audubon St. to its original Eastern terminus at F. Gaines. All of the architectural and engineering work was completed and is on file with the Town from the Fort to Salt Creek.

The Town has been notified of the awarding of a $188,700.00 grant from the Alabama Department of Transportation for further construction of the Trail. Your Dauphin Island Foundation is Continued on pg 3

SEA LAB ESTUARIUM TO OPEN

-By Lisa Young, Public Relations Officer, Dauphin Island Sea Lab

1998 will herald the opening of an exciting educational attraction on Dauphin Island — The Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. This beautiful facility, nestled on the East End of Dauphin Island, includes the 10,000 square foot Exhibit Hall, the Living Marsh Boardwalk, the Miss May May, an interactive boat exhibit; and the Gift Shop featuring exclusive and fun gift items. Devoted solely to the diverse floral and faunal life found in our native estuary system, the Estuarium seeks to educate both school groups and the general public about the four primary ecosystems of our area: the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta, Mobile Bay, the Barrier Islands and the near-shore Gulf of Mexico. And just as these ecosystems are unique in their beauty, so too is the Estuarium unique in its educational mission. Continued on pg 8

ISLAND BEACH EROSION
WHAT'S HAPPENING!

-Jim Hall, DIEN Staff and Dr. John Porter, Audubon Bird Sanctuary

"...Golden is the sand," a line taken from a Robert Louis Stevenson work and quoted by Dr. Scott L. Douglass, USA, in a study of his concerning the beaches of Alabama.

For those who live on the coast, the value of the beaches is a high priority. For the tourists who visit, their priority is evident with their investments and vacation spending. For the policy makers, both on the State level and the Federal level, there may be problem.

Early this year, Mrs. Lynn Wickman, of Dauphin Island, wrote a letter to Governor Fob James. In the letter she reminded the Governor that he made a campaign promise to voters on the Island, to check into the beach erosion problem. A few weeks later, Mrs. Wickman got a call that the Governor was on his way and would like to visit with her. Along with one staff member, one Sunday morning, she showed the Governor three beach areas on the Island which had a severe erosion problem.

Mrs. Wickman, "I don't believe any other Governor of the State of Alabama has ever personally looked at the erosion on Dauphin Island. I was pleased and hopeful. He appeared interested and he did take notes. However, since that visit, we haven't heard a word out of Montgomery!"

Mrs Wickman continued, "I believe the Governor came down to check on erosion and decided to let it erode. I guess we are not big enough or important enough to get any attention. May be we just don't have the voter base to justify any serious action." She concluded, "It isn't my intention to make the Governor look bad. I just wanted to do something for the Island. I have Continued on pg 6

DONATORES WANTED

Own a piece of the Trail. Get recognition for it. Donation toward the completion of the Trail may be made to the DI Foundation. Call 861-3800.

ISLAND'S BEACH EROSION SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCED

-Jim Hall, DIEN Staff

Four groups have organized an impressive program in February, open to the community and the public, addressing the beach erosion problem on Dauphin Island. The 1st Annual Coastal Issues Symposium: Beach Erosion will be held Friday, February 20, 1998, in the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce Bldg. from 8:30am until 3:00pm.

Orrin Pilkey, PhD, a nationally known author and specialist on coastal processes, has been announced as the keynote speaker. Dr. Pilkey has included the Alabama coast, and specifically Dauphin Island, in one of his books on beach dynamics.

Also speaking will be Keith Blackwell, PhD, a Meteorologist from Univ. of South Alabama, discussing weather patterns' effects on erosion; Scott Douglass, PhD., Dept. of Civil
Continued on pg 6
Explore Dauphin Island by MOUSE!
Dauphin Island is on the Internet - so, use Your PC and explore!
www.gulfinfo.com/ditown
Hosted by: gulfinfo.com

TOWN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK ACTIVE
-Jimmy Morris, Town Development Network director
Interest in Dauphin Island as a vacation resort, and as a place of retirement, has picked up considerably, based on a large increase in the number of responses to inquirers the past fiscal year, over those received the previous year.

This director has processed 2,560 pieces of mail, an increase of 837. Fifty percent of this increase is attributable to the Town’s World Wide Web Home Page, as 455 responses were made to those sending interest forms from the Internet.

As of the end of September, 5,501 people had visited the page directly, and 1,438 had visited by way of Jim Hall’s and Billy Dunn’s gulfinfo.com, for a total of 6,939 page visitors.

To increase the retail tax base, a mail promotion has been launched in an effort to increase day visits by wholesale tour groups for dining, crafts, souvenir, and attire shopping, and to call attention to the new Estuarium as an attraction when it is completed, and more tours of Fort Gaines.

VOLUNTEERS WORK ON TOWN HALL PROPERTY
The Beautification Committee has finished the irrigation system at the Town Hall.

New members, Angie Holland and Joanne Milligan were hard at work raking, cleaning and being the "goffs" while the men dug trenches, laid pipe and put in sprinklers. Now we can plant shrubs and make them live even in a drought like we have had this past Summer. This was a joint venture with the Town of Dauphin Island Street Department and we want to thank Jeff Hamilton for all his help and a special thank you to Angie Holland’s husband, Buddy.

Very soon you will see the flower bed at the water tower being planted. The Water department, volunteers from the Woman’s Club and the Beautification Committee will all be a part of the project.

We want to thank our Mayor, Billy Patronas, the Town Council, and especially Councilman Jeff Collier for their continued support of this committee.

Members of the Beautification Committee are: Dee Gordon, Chairman, Joanne Milligan, Secretary, Angie Holland, Treasurer, Don Bland, Albert Smith, and John Noel.

LIGHT UP DAUPHIN ISLAND VOLUNTEERS & WORKERS
-Jim Hall, DICN Staff

All the Christmas and Holiday decorations which can be seen on the Town right-of-way, up and down Lemoyne and Bienvenue Blvd, and in the Water Tower area takes alot of work and planning.

Leading the group of volunteers are Mary Thompson, and Ken and Julene Taylor. Among those who put forth effort are: Nancy and Albert Smith, Mary and Bruce Thompson, Frances and John Young, Barbara and Tom Williams, Doris Anderson, Mary Lou and Billy Turner, Maureen and Fred Lieder, Jo and George Eisel, Joyce and Joe Harper, Men and Bob Thomas, Eileen and Ed Johnson, Charlene and Herb Spencer, Bobbie and Jim Meade, Jimmy Morris, Martha and Jeff Caldwell, Vera Munday, Mabel Boone, Janice Sweexter, Patty Borman, and Kenny Daves.

From the Town, Superintendent, Jeff Hamilton, and in the Street Dept., Frank Simodel, Wayne Chimielewski, Phil Sterling and Sammy Graves.

Dauphin Island
New Year’s Eve Party
At the Chamber of Commerce Building
Starts at 8:30PM until ??
“Live Music”
-BYOB -Set-ups
-Party Favors provided
-Limited to first 200 people
Ring out the old year!
Bring in the New Year!
Price: $25 per couple
$15 per person at the door

Frank Chliszczyk 861-7202
Larry Bridges 861-8900
Linda Barrouse 861-5525

Lighthouse Bakery
918 Bienvenue Blvd
Dauphin Island, AL
861-BAKE

- Pecan rolls, Cinnamon rolls, Rumbuns.
- Offering gourmet coffees and teas
- Luncheon Sandwiches
- Cakes and Pies by the slice
- Balloons for your special person
- Place your orders today for the Holidays

Located at the Light House
East of the Water Tower

Open: 6:00am. - 6:00pm Mon-Thurs
6:00am-8:00pm Fri Sat Sun

Island Stuff
Fresh Cut Christmas Trees ARE HERE
Our 5th year of serving Dauphin Island’s tree needs
Free delivery on Island
Island’s Most Unique Gift Shop
Carved Pelicans & Tiki’s Driftwood & Shells Clothes and More Across From Fishing Pier
861-2059
working on obtaining the appropriate matching funds from a number of sources.
There are plans, subject to the approval of the Mayor and the Town Council, to complete Phase II from Narvaez St. to Orleans with privately donated funds. This will include a wooden bridge approximately 165 feet in length across Salt Creek with about the same vertical clearance as the existing Bienville Blvd. bridge. Both Alabama Department of Environmental Management and US Corps of Engineers permits will be required because Salt Creek is "tidal water."

Phase III from the West side of Orleans Dr. to Westward Ho (the last public street on the West end) must have architectural and engineering work and State review of plans and environmental impact, as in the case of Phase I. Once started, Phase III should be less expensive and proceed more quickly than Phase I because the right of way along the South side of Bienville Blvd. has less trees and utility infrastructure and is much straighter.

On behalf of the Foundation Board, I wish to thank all of you who have contributed or who have committed to contribute funds for this project. We are continuing to accept tax deductible contributions for Phase II and are planning to erect a plaque on the bridge honoring all those who have made donations. More funds are needed. Additional contributions may be made to the Dauphin Island Foundation, P.O. Box 946, Dauphin Island, AL 36528. Checks must be earmarked "Bike Trail." The Jogging/Bike Trail has and will continue to enhance our enjoyment of Dauphin Island and has contributed much to public safety.

Your continued financial support of this project and your Foundation is greatly needed. Please help MAKE IT HAPPEN!

---

He moved,
He changed names,
He now has a bar!

But the finest seafood and dining on Dauphin Island is still at Barnacle Bill’s.

Barnacle Bill, the old salty-dog himself, is pleased to announce the grand opening of Barnacle Bill’s Isle of Dauphine (formally The Dauphin Island Country Club) at its new location, 100 Orleans Drive on December 26. He will continue serving the best food on the Island in the main clubhouse each evening starting at 4 p.m. And, for those who care to recharge their batteries, Barnacle Bill’s Down The Hatch Lounge is located just downstairs where the big screen, satellite TV guarantees plenty of sporting entertainment, and the daily 4 to 6 Happy Hour means Free Food and $1.00 Domestic Long-Necks.

In honor of the grand opening, Barnacle Bill’s Wheelroom will feature live music New Year’s Eve, and a $9.95 Brunch New Year’s Day. And, as if that isn’t enough, Prime Rib Dinners Are Only $9.95 Every Night until January 25th.

Stop by Barnacle Bill’s Wheelroom, or slide on into Barnacle Bill’s Down The Hatch. It’s still your favorite spot on the Island, and it only goes to show: the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Barnacle Bill’s

ISLE OF DAUPHINE

Barnacle Bill’s

DOWN THE HATCH

Barnacle Bill’s

GRILLE

(OPEN DAILY 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.)

LOCATED WEST OF THE WATER TOWER ON BIENVILLE BLVD.
THEN SOUTH ON ORLEANS TO THE GULF COAST.
NEWS FROM THE DAUPHIN ISLAND PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

If my memory serves me correct, the last message from the Dauphin Island Property Owners Association was contained in the June, 1997 newsletter. Unfortunately, one month later came Hurricane Danny with all of its “Category One Fury.” As president of the Property Owners Association of my duties is to secure the Dauphin Island Property Owners’ property, including but not limited to the Isle Dauphine Club, our offices, the golf course and dedicated lands during disasters such as a hurricane. While making the proper security provisions for Hurricane Danny on behalf of the Property Owners Association, I was negligent in protecting my own property. I received more damage to my home place during Danny than I did during Hurricane Frederick. I have always known that a “category three or four” hurricane carries a knock-out punch which has the potential to cause substantial damage to property. However, sometimes a knock-out punch misses you if you are lucky. Considering Danny was a “category one”, you would think damage would be minimal, but no one expected Danny to remain for 23 hours and produce forty-three inches of rain. Not only did Hurricane Danny cause damage to many houses, I fell from the roof while making hurricane repairs as a result of the ladder slipping out from under me. After falling ten feet to a hardwood deck, suffering a head concussion and leg injuries, I was transported by ambulance by the Dauphin Island Fire and Rescue to the Mobile Infirmary for treatment. A sincere thanks to all of those volunteers who helped assist me and my family during that somewhat painful trip. When asked if I fell off the roof my ego dictated that I respond accordingly “No I did not fall off the roof nor the ladder”. When I got through making roof repairs, I stepped on the ladder and it fell out from under me. My wood deck was dry when I began the repair work. Halfway through my project it began to rain. The wood deck became wet and the ladder slipped. Someone said you might have some legal recourse against the ladder company and I responded by saying our law firm has never lost a ladder case. Some of our clients are defense insurance companies who insure manufacturers of ladders and as a result we have had to defend ladder-accident cases on the theory that the ladder was defective. I told the person we’ve never lost a ladder case because we always prove three things: 1. The ladder is usually a borrowed ladder (which it was), 2. the ladder is usually old (which it was); and 3. the man on the ladder wasn’t very bright (which I wasn’t). Therefore, I had no case against the ladder company. Be that as it may, us Islanders must take the bad with the good and move forward.

I am happy to say that we have repaired all of the hurricane damage to the clubhouse, the grill, the offices and to the golf course. In addition, we have repaired an existing water well at the golf course to give better water coverage. Further, we have installed a new well to assist in water coverage and have purchased a new greens mower to assist in the maintenance of our beautiful golf course. As usual, we have made many decisions granting variances and sometimes denying same involving construction projects, wharfs, boat lifts and other land developments. Doc Moore has done an outstanding job as chairman of the Architectural Review Committee and the Board has continued its outstanding work in an effort to protect the interests of the Association and to promote the betterment of Dauphin Island by balancing the interests of future development and conservation.

I am writing this message on November 13, 1997. Our next meeting will be held on November 19 at which time we will consider a proposal for full time food and service throughout the entire Isle Dauphine facilities. For sometime I have been waiting for the opportunity to provide this badly needed service on a full time basis for property owners, guests and to the general public. If this lease agreement is approved and the terms are reasonable and in the best interest of the POA we can finally look forward to full time food and beverage service throughout the entire facility. Rather than having the main clubhouse and restaurant available only for catering and special events, it will be open full time with a downstairs bar. In addition, the grill will be operating full time with a full menu serving the golfers and other guests utilizing the facilities such as the pool, tennis court and beach area. When I was elected to this Board three years ago, one of the primary goals was to finally obtain full time service as was the case years ago. Many hurricanes and financial problems adversely affected the ability to obtain full time quality food and service. Hopefully, by the time you read this message we will begin a new era of quality service on a full time basis which will greatly enhance the utilization of our facility and golf course. In the meantime, the Board will continue its responsibilities in exercising its authority over the Association’s assets in the best interests of its members. Any suggestions or questions that any of the members may have concerning the future direction of the POA will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to call the office anytime between the hours of 9 and 3 Monday through Friday. Eula and Jamie will be more than happy to assist you and forward any and all requests, suggestions or comments to the Board for its consideration.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. CAMPBELL, III
President, Dauphin Island
Property Owners Association

Martie's
of
Dauphin Island

1606 Bienville Blvd
Invites you to visit our beautiful
New Apparel and Gift Shoppe
Where you can find something
for the Entire Family.
Open seven days a week
(334) 861-8772
ISLE DAUPHINE GOLF CLUB NEWS

After a summer filled with extremely high temps, a visit from Hurricane Danny and a three-month drought, fall is a most welcomed sight. In mid-July Hurricane Danny "parked" in Mobile Bay and battered the course with its 100 mph winds and some 40+ inches of rain. While the course avoided any serious damage it took several weeks to clean-up the tree limbs and other debris which littered the area. High flood waters hampered the reopening of the course as most of the fairways were underwater.

The beach sustained some additional erosion along holes 2, 3, and 9, but this time it was a result of the heavy rains and not the pounding surf. And just when you thought "Mother Nature" had played her trump card, she deals us a near three-month drought. For the next 90 days after Hurricane Danny the course would receive little, if any, rainfall. The summer of 1997 is one that ended none too soon.

As we move into fall the temps have moderated, hurricanes are but a distant thought and even the gentle rains have found their way back to our links. Soon the winter rye will be sown, and shortly, strands of emerald green will be reaching toward the blue autumn sky. During this annual overseeding process some of the holes will be temporarily closed to allow the seeds to germinate. We suggest that you call the golf shop (now through mid-November) for daily course conditions.

The 1997 Junior Golf Program once again proved to be a rewarding and exciting event for our areas youth. This year's event offered twelve play days and three clinics to the 40 youngsters who participated in the program. An awards banquet was held at the conclusion of the schedule and Trophies were presented to those whose excelled in their respective age divisions. The results were as follows:

Age 7 & under:
Most improved girl: N/A
Most improved boy: George Alex
Lowest score girl: Jackie Hawkins
Lowest score boy: Joseph Henderson

Age 8-10:
Most improved girl: Sylvia Pinegar
Most improved boy: Mike Tafra
Lowest score girl: Ashley Alex
Lowest score boy: Hugh Malone

Age 11-12:
Most improved girl: N/A
Most improved boy: A.J. Ladnier
Lowest score girl: N/A
Lowest score boy: Trey Crigler

Age 13-14:
Most improved girl: Mistie Collier
Most improved boy: Josh Dinga
Lowest score girl: Stehpn Aurelli
Lowest score boy: Chris Malone

Each of the participants were given a nice medal for taking part in the program. Congratulations to you all! A special "thank you" goes out to those parents who assisted the kids during this time.

The Fourth of July three-person scramble drew some 57 players and the winners were as follows:

FIRST FLIGHT:
1ST Byrom Davis, Tom Wheeler, Doug Hartley (61)
2ND Sky Taylor, Randy Betch, Billy Givens (62)
3RD Ken Morris, Pat Carrigan, Dave Kowalski (64)
4TH Walt Lucas, Burley Shedd, Chuck Phillips (65)

SECOND FLIGHT:
1ST Skip Bailey, Garland Hickman, Ben Colten (70)
2ND Mark Collier, Eddie Seaman, Steve Strader (70)
3RD Greg Collins, Sandra Gillespie, Josh Collins (70)
4TH Jack Bryan Jr., Marty Irvin, Bobby Mitchell (71)

CLOSEST TO THE PIN WINNER: Sky Taylor. Congratulations!

The 1997 Mens' invitational was held on July 5-6 and the results were:
CHAMPION: David Barnett (76/74), RUNNER UP: Butch Seales (76/81), THIRD PLACE: David Harris (78/80), FOURTH PLACE: Al Hayes (76/86)

CLOSEST TO THE PIN WINNERS were David Harris and David Brown. Congratulations!

ISLE DAUPHINE GOLF CLUB DAILY FEES

(Prices are on a per person basis)

Cart Fees:
18 holes $11.50
9 holes $7.00

Green Fees:
(Tue-Fri) 18 holes $12.50
9 holes $7.00
(Weekend) 18 holes $13.50
9 holes $8.00

Pool Fees: All Day
Age 10 & under $1.25
11-19 $3.50
20 & up $5.00

Tennis Fees:
2 or 4 Players $5 * Per court per day
*Fee is $1.00 less for Dauphin Island Property Owners.

In addition to these daily rates we also offer an "afternoon special" which includes an 18 hole cart & green fee for $15.00 plus tax! So play late and take advantage of some great savings! Please call for tee times.

If you would like information regarding any of these topics or for membership information please contact the golf shop at: (334) 861-2433 or (334) 861-4563.

Isle Dauphine will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Wednesday & Thursday, December 24 & 25 and on New Year's Day, Thursday January 1, 1998. The entire staff here at Isle Dauphine wishes you all the best in the upcoming holiday season! Happy Golfing!

POA ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship worth $500 per year for four successive years and funded by the Dauphin Island Property Owners Association Scholarship Trust Fund will be awarded to a high school student/child of a Dauphin Island property owner to be selected by the Scholarship Committee and nominated by the Trustees of the Scholarship Fund to the Board of Directors of the Dauphin Island Property Owners Association for confirmation.

The scholarship award must be used for tuition, room and board, books and fees, in a four-year academic degree program which can be begun in either a 2-year or 4-year institution of higher learning located in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Tennessee.

CRITERIA for application and selection will include a minimum 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale through the first three years of high school and test scores of 19 minimum on the American College Test (ACT) or the equivalent on the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT). Character, leadership and activities will also enter into and influence the selection.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
An official transcript reflecting the first three years of high school, ACT or SAT test report, and a minimum of three letters of recommendation, at least one of which must come from the school, (principal, guidance counselor or teacher.)

RETENTION REQUIREMENTS:
The student must be enrolled full-time (minimum of 12 hours, either quarter or semester) and must continue for four successive years. If the student drops out of school the scholarship is lost.

DEADLINE for applying will be December 15, 1997, of the senior year of high school. Application forms may be obtained at the DIPOA office in the Isle Dauphine Club complex, 100 Orleans Drive, or by writing to DIPOA: P.O. Box 366, Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528.

THE AWARD WILL BE ANNOUNCED in March 1998, and the award check will be sent to the college chosen for the student to use as specified.

The recipient of the award last year, Jennifer Caldwell, is currently attending The University of Mobile.
Registration Form for Coastal Issues Symposium
February 20, 1998

Name: ____________________________
Group/Organization: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State ________ Zip Code: ____________________________
Telephone: (_________)

If registering more than 1 person, please include all names below:

Symposium Fee (write number in brackets of how many needed):

( ) $5.00 - Symposium Only
( ) $10.00 - Symposium and Lunch

Please make your check payable to Dauphin Island Foundation and mail to:
Coastal Issues Symposium
P. O. Box 946
Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Call 861-3800 or 861-5296 with any questions. Remember, seating is limited to first 150 registrants.

Erosion Symposium
Continued from pg 1

Engineering, USA, and his studies on ship channel dredging and sand placement; Richard Hummel, Sedimentologist, of the Alabama Geological Society, on beach nourishment; and a Corps of Engineers representative, on ship channel dredging and sand placement.

Sponsoring groups are: Alabama Dept. of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), the Dauphin Island Foundation, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and the Alabama Coastal Foundation. The symposium has been organized for the benefit of the citizens and property owners of Dauphin Island and the general public is invited. Seating will be limited to the first 150 registrants, so advance registration is recommended. A fee of $5 per person for the symposium and an additional charge of $5 per person for lunch if desired. Lunch will be available in the Chamber building.

A registration form is available on this page of the DICN. Call 861-3800, or 861-5296 with any questions or information.

Beach Erosion
Continued from pg 1

really never told anyone about the Governor's visit until now.
Mary Scarffiff, who lives with her family on Hitchcock Pl. and is a volunteer member of the Island Fire and Rescue Squad likes to walk on the beach just West of the Fort, behind the Coast Guard Rec property and along the Audubon Bird Sanctuary. She said, "When my husband Dainel, the children and I moved to the Island in 1985 there was lots of sandy beach to enjoy on the East end. Now, we can only walk up along the tree line because the erosion has advanced that far. Some pine trees are falling into the surf," she said.

Mike Henderson, Exec Director of the Park and Beach Board, feels that in two areas where some attention has been addressed to erosion problems - that being on the East end at Fort Gaines and the beach at the public fishing pier - there are small signs of improvement. He said, "To the casual observer, the 1994 rock project to save the fishing pier has prevented further loss of sand to the public beach facilities." The Point is, he continued, "where the Corps of Engineers has given us some assistance, the erosion has slowed, or maybe stopped." Mr. Henderson added, "We got a lot of beach area on the Island which is simply gone. Two small locations which show some promise certainly doesn't fix the Island's problem."

MORE ON BEACH EROSION

Beach erosion on Dauphin Island is a serious problem. The ever threatening forces of the Gulf are eating away at our shoreline. We are losing 20-30 feet a year in the Audubon Sanctuary, after our 2000 foot frontage that amounts to about an acre and a half a year. Some home owners on the shoreline face an imminent threat. While recognizing that we live on a barrier island and that such islands are dynamic, tending to migrate over long periods of time, we believe that the agressive dredging program of the US Army Corps of Engineers has exacerbated the natural processes and that correct action can and should be taken. For the sake of those readers who may have missed the first few years of this continuing saga we will review events covered in earlier issues of this paper.

Under normal circumstances there is a littoral current flowing from east to west along the Gulf coastline. This current carries a vital supply of sand which normally would nourish the beaches along the coast including Dauphin Island. The dredging of the Bar Channel with disposal offshore in deep water disrupts this flow of sand and deprives the Island of the natural nourishment. Those concerned about the erosion of Dauphin Island have long pressed for the placement of the sand on the beaches or other location that would provide nourishment to the beaches rather than continued deep water disposal.

The Corps of Engineers and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) issued Public Notice No. FP95-MH07-2, June 13, 1995 relating to Continued Maintenance Dredging and Dredged Material Placement Activities Associated with the Mobile Harbor Navigation Project. In order to dispose of dredge spoil in the waters of the United States the requirements of the Clean Water Act require the Corps to receive Water Quality Certification from ADEM every five years through this process. In the notice the Corps proposed to continue the past practices maintaining the Mobile Harbor Navigation Channel, including disposal of the sand dredged from the Bar Channel in the deep water Gulf Disposal Area.

The Public Notice prompted a storm of protest from the Island and other interested parties, to such a degree that the Corps and ADEM held a hearing/workshop on the Island in October of 1995. The normal schedule for action on a Public Notice is that thirty days are given for responses and then thirty days for the staff to determine their findings. The Corps took an additional thirty days to more thoroughly study the problems but still found no reason to change the planned course of action which was deemed to be the most economical and efficient alternative available. ADEM granted an extension to the previous Water Quality Certification while continuing to evaluate all aspects of the situation, thus allowing the Corps to continue the routine maintenance of the Channel in the interim.

In March of 1997 the Corps and ADEM jointly issued Public Notice No. FP97-MH108-02, Maintenance Dredging and Placement Activities, Mobile Harbor Navigation Project, Mobile County, Alabama, Sand Island Beneficial Use Area Designation. This notice extended the previous notice to include the possibility of placing of dredge material in an area designated as the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area, located between Sand Island and Dauphin Island, west of the 30ft. contour of the Mobile Ship Channel. The proposal included the placement of material classified as sand and silty sand. The intent of the project is to place the sand back into the littoral processes providing nourishment to the Dauphin Island beaches. The proposal is a natural follow-up to an experimental feeder berm placed just south of Sand Island in 1987 and observed to move in a shoreward direction over the next several years. At last there was a glimmer of hope for our threatened beaches.

The Corps expected initial placement of sand to begin by late 1997, but this turned out to be an overly ambitious schedule.

Comments in response to the Notice identified two problem areas that delayed the initial placement. (1) the need for a survey of cultural resources in the disposal area (historical artifacts from the Battle of Mobile Bay), and (2) the effort of using silty sands in the Beneficial Use Area rather than limiting the disposal to beach quality sands.

By September the Corps had completed an initial cultural resource literature survey identifying a number of "targets" within the proposed beneficial use area. They then began, with ADEM, to further refine the actual area for placement in order to proceed with the actual underwater survey, expected to be done in early 1998.

With regard to the use of silty sands, there is the general belief that the fines or small organic or other material mixed with the sand size grains in "silty sand" are carried away by the tides and currents leaving the clean, beach quality sand behind. The Mobile District of the Corps held discussions with the Corps Waterways Experiment Laboratory (CWEES) in Mississippi to determine the extent that this belief is true. Since the Corps has many dredging projects across the country, producing large quantities of "silty sand" they have a great interest in knowing if that material can be used for nourishment purposes. This joint effort should produce the results necessary to relieve the concerns of those who responded to the Public Notice with the request that only 100% beach quality sand be used in the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area.

The initial placement of dredge material in the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area will mark the first positive step we have seen in combating the erosion of our Island and we applaud the Corps for taking this first step.
Inquisitive Minds and Caring Hearts: Docents at the Dauphin Island Sea

- Lisa Young Public Relations Director

For the child who's only ever seen a fish on their plate for supper, they teach them about the biology and feeding habits of a croaker.

For the butterflies who land exhaustedly on Dauphin Island during their migration, they've created beautiful and restful gardens on campus, for butterflies and humans alike.

For the visitor who's never seen the coast of Alabama, they enthusiastically educate them about the beauties and wonders of our marine ecosystem. Who are these dedicated and diverse individuals who use their inquisitive minds and caring hearts to educate others? They are the docents of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

This troop of eager volunteers give of their time and of themselves to provide an invaluable service to the Sea Lab -- to help in our mission to be Alabama's marine education and research center. Why do we use the word "docent" instead of "volunteer"? Docents ARE volunteers, and with a very specific focus. The word "docent" derives from the Latin verb "docere," to teach. It is the educational nature of their work that earns them the title "docent."

Evidence of their dedication is immediately visible on the grounds of the Sea Lab. Beautiful butterfly gardens, consisting entirely of native plants and cultivated by natural means, dot the once barren landscape of the campus. After taking Master Gardening classes, our landscaping docents went to work with a will, putting in lovely, hardy perennials that are a delight to the senses. These docents insist that they gained enjoyment not only by teaching others about native plants, but also by their own learning process. And judging by the latest success of their Native Plant Sale, held in conjunction with the Dauphin Island Arts and Crafts Guild's Art Show, their enthusiasm for native gardening is catching on wildly.

And now, with the anticipated opening of the new Estuarium in January 1998, both newcomers and long-standing docents are participating in an exciting training program that will provide them with the knowledge to help educate the many visitors that are expected to visit the new facility. Led by the Discovery Hall Program's marine educators, training classes will cover everything from the history of Dauphin Island to the impact of humans on the ecology of Mobile Bay. They will become familiar with the many tanks and exhibits housed in the Exhibit Hall of the Estuarium so that they may provide real and informed assistance to our visiting school groups.

And one of the added benefits of becoming a docent is meeting a wonderful group of dedicated people -- their fellow docents. Since the beginning of our five-session training program, a real camaraderie has already formed among these whole-hearted individuals.

One of the marks of a great volunteer is a delight in meeting a diverse group of visitors. Whether they are kindergartners from Mobile or senior citizens from Germany, all visitors will bring with them a curiosity about our estuary system, and our docents will be fully trained to answer their questions.

It doesn't take a background in marine science to become a good docent. All it takes is a love for the environment and an enthusiasm for sharing that love -- inquisitive minds and caring hearts.

Are you interested in becoming a docent? Please call Denise Keaton at (334) 861-7515.

Looking for History: A Call for Old Photographs and Memories

As the mid-January opening of the Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab is heralding a bright future, we are very conscious of presenting Dauphin Island's past. Do you have any old photographs or stories about the Island? Any family mementos you'd like to share (even temporarily) with our community and visitors? If so, please call Robert Dixon at (334) 861-7550. We'd love to have your input.

All photographs will be safely returned to the contributor.

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ESTUARIUM OPENING

(Bold text starting with the word "Continued from pg 1")

When we open our doors to the public, a journey of exploration and education awaits our visitors. Whether they come on foot from the ferry or by car or bus, our first exhibit will lay under their feet -- our environmentally-friendly parking lot. Specially designed to filter out polluting hydrocarbons, this parking lot will have its own descriptive panel, as well as monitoring stations located on its perimeters.

From there they'll be able to board the land-locked Miss May May, or enjoy the bountiful bird life seen from the Living Marsh Boardwalk. They can wander into our Exhibit Hall and meet our friendly and informed staff of educators and docents, all eager to share their love of the environment with both visitors from distant countries, or neighbors from down the street.

After viewing an informative and engaging video in our entrance theater, our visitor will then travel as does a drop of water flowing through the estuary system, beginning in the swamps of the Delta. From there, the visitor can travel the whole estuary system, down to the Gulf of Mexico, seeing clearly what lies underneath the brown waters of the estuary. With twenty-three tanks in the Exhibit Hall, ranging from 140 to 16,000 gallons, the Estuarium will provide a wonderful way to view the teeming diversity of life in our area.

And for the little kids, our "Billy Goat Hole" will open their eyes with activities including colorful hand puppets and touch exhibits, all designed with the theory "touch... and ask lots of questions!" in mind.

At the end of their journey, visitors will be able to browse through our fine and diverse selection of items in our Estuarium Gift Shop, to purchase a memento to remind them of their Dauphin Island experience.

With exciting visual displays and engaging interactive exhibits, the Estuarium wants our visitor to be an active partner in making their stay an exciting experience -- one that makes learning a joy.

The Estuarium is expected to open in mid-January 1998.

Winter hours: Tuesday - Sunday 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
Summer hours: Tuesday - Sunday 11:00 am to 6:00 pm

The Estuarium will be opened in the mornings for school groups. The facility will also be available for functions and special events in the evenings.

Admission: $6.00 Adults
$3.00 Children 5-16
Children 4 and under - free
Senior/student/group rates are available

For more information about the Estuarium or the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, please call (334) 861-2141.

---

A view of the Living Marsh boardwalk looking out into Mobile

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The Estuarium's Exhibit Hall and it's eco-friendly Parking lot
Pirates Raid Island
Ransack Village
-George Shuter, Center for Archaeological Studies, USA

On a warm day in September 1710, the inhabitants of the little village of Massacre Island were excited by the sounds of two cannon shots fired by the ship which appeared off the outer bar. This signaled that the crew needed assistance. Entering into the harbor was a tricky affair. Ships had to approach along the west side of Spanish Island (the remnants now form Sand and Pelican Islands) and squeeze through a narrow pass into the safety of the harbor. Once in the roadstead, small boats could move easily into the little "rowboat lagoon" in front of the village.

Immediately the villagers dispatched a small boat manned by two prominent citizens. After all, why should there be any concern? The corsair flew a French flag, and even if it had not, the inhabitants of Massacre were always anxious for an opportunity to profit through trade with any passing ship. That was the advantage of living on the island, remote and separated as it was from the main town upriver, Mobile. However, in this isolation lay the island's weakness. Only a small military garrison was stationed at Massacre and no fortification was in place. In any event, these defenses would probably have been unable to resolve the dilemma which soon developed.

When the warehouse keeper, Derbanne, and Ensign Philippe Blondel arrived at the ship they were immediately taken hostage by her captain, a "fanatic" (a term used by the French who were Catholic to describe a Protestant), and 35-40 English privateers from Jamaica. Disorganized and confused, the villagers had no choice but to cooperate. They were locked into three houses on the north side of the island while the pirates ransacked the village taking everything of value from the residents homes and from the warehouses which were filled with merchandise. The cargoes of three ships were stored as well as 9,000 deer skins and more than 15,000 small pelts. The plunder also included 71 barrels of flour. Even the rigging and sails from the few ships present in the harbor was taken. The looting continued for an entire day and into the next. Convinced that the islanders had hidden money, the pirates began torturing those suspected of withholding information. Dissatisfied with what they learned, the pirates began setting fire to all the buildings in the village.

A Canadian voyageur, returning from a hunting trip, arrived at the scene of all this chaos to find one lingering pirate near the warehouses. With one shot the looter was killed in his tracks. The remaining pirates, fearing that reinforcements from Mobile had arrived, retreated to their ship. The islanders were released. They hoped that the pirates would leave them to recoup their losses, which were enormous, estimated at 80,000 silver piastres from the warehouses alone.

But one more valuable item remained, a bull. Two of the richest men in the colony, Graveline and Renaud, had over 300 cattle on the island, and of course the bull made this enterprise possible. The islanders set about organizing their remaining resources which included five guns. With these they prepared to defend themselves as help from Mobile was at least two days distant. The next day a small group of pirates attempted to land near Point Guillory at the eastern tip of the island. The villagers opened fire. Fearing that a relief party had arrived, the pirates retreated, weighed anchor, and headed for the open sea.

Devastated but not beaten, the islanders began to rebuild. Within the year the village had been restored, better than before. The warehouses were rebuilt, and a small church was added to the little village so that even sailors on their ships in the roadstead could hear mass. A small stockade was constructed and water batteries were placed to defend the harbor and village. And as if to add a final gesture to their resolve to prevail over their hardships, officials changed the name of the island to Isle Dauphine and the village to Port Dauphin. The next few years would be the most active and prosperous for Dauphin Island as it continued to play an important role in the French colony on Mobile Bay.
NEWS FROM PARK AND BEACH

FORT GAINES PARTICIPATES IN TOURISM MEETING

-Mike Henderson, Executive Director

Fort Gaines has just completed a 2-day conference designed to coordinate the promotional activities of local historic sites related to the Battle of Mobile Bay and the final campaign of the war.

The Blue & Grey Education Society headquartered in Virginia, is sponsoring this goal under a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program. Besides Alabama’s participants (Fort Gaines, Fort Morgan, & Blakely), it also includes the Civil War structures located along the National Seashores of Mississippi and Florida.

The conference was attended by a wide range of interests, including the pure historian, federal agencies, and representatives of the Convention and Tourism organizations of Mobile and Gulf Shores. All agreed that the individual interpretation of each site limited both the public’s understanding of the overall picture and the potential of tourism income. Among other conclusions, was an agreement to work on a three-state promotional tour that linked the sites together into one destination.

Documentation presented profiled the “historic traveler” as an almost ideal tourist. They are normally of a higher income and have the leisure time for longer stays. Traditionally though, our area has been handicapped for this type of tour because each individual site tends to advertise as its own separate destination. As Richard McMurray, the nationally known scholar and tour leader pointed out, rarely will the history buff drive a thousand miles to see Fort Gaines or Fort Morgan. It could be a different story though if his visit was directed to an interconnected interpretive tour of this famous segment of the Civil War.

Special thanks go to Len Riedel, Executive Director of B&GES, for spearheading this project. As simple as the goals sound, participants acknowledged that multi-state cooperation in tourism promotion is almost unheard of. Developing unified interpretative devices and brochures will require hard work from all involved.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE FORT RECEIVE PRAISE

Fort Gaines continues to receive praise for its portrayal of "living history" and hosting a wide variety of special event weekends. Recently at a conference funded by the American Battlefield Protection program, the nationally known scholar, Richard McMurray was asked the importance of living history demonstrations. He immediately related his experience while leading a tour group of history lovers to various sites including Fort Gaines. He noted that all the sites had much of interest, but when Melinda Jonsson, Fort Gaines Manager, met the tour bus dressed in civil war clothing it had an immediate effect. This was followed by the guests being provided Civil War food and drinks prepared in the fort's original kitchens. From their comments a year later, it is obvious that Fort Gaines still stands out due to this unique presentation.

The public is warmly invited to experience these windows on the past, by attending our 13th Annual Christmas at the Fort December 6-7. This particular event is based on a letter sent in 1861 from a soldier at Fort Gaines to his family. He explains how much he misses being home for Christmas, but then goes on to describe the Fort’s celebration including their holiday dinner.

Other staff involved with living history demonstrations are Ursula Prince, assistant manager and David Havard our resident blacksmith. Together with a wonderful group of volunteer reenactors, they do a fantastic job of recreating this first Civil War Christmas. Aside from its dramatic historical background, it is also an opportunity for the public to enjoy the season in a relaxed simple atmosphere without the commercialized noise and flash so common today.

The last weekend in January we will be hosting a new event dedicated to World War II. Sammy and James Brighting have been active in Fort re-enactments for some time, and have even cleaned and prepared our cannons for living history use. A World War II event has been a goal of theirs for years, and we are delighted to support this action. Visitors will see soldiers in authentic uniforms reliving this great struggle. The re-enactment will also include mock battles.

Also in January will be our Civil War Infantry Camp of Instruction. This event concentrates on demonstrating attack and defense tactics, but will also include a re-enactment of the seizure of Fort Gaines by the independent Republic of Alabama at the beginning of the "War between the States".

In February we will have our most famous event, the 15th Annual Battle of Mobile Bay. To add to the festivities, the Fort City pacers will again stage a 5K Race.

Spring will kick off with two of our most colorful event weekends. In March we will stage the 8th Annual Taste of the Colony. This recreates the island's amazing colonial period. The "Buck Skinners" are always a crowd favorite and are joined by a number of other participants of this time period. The same month guests can experience the Medieval Hit List, a renaissance event sponsored by the world famous Society of Creative Anachronism. The civil war returns May 16-17 with our 12th Annual Federal Fort Gaines. This weekend illustrates how the captured Fort Gaines was used by the Union to stage their attack on Mobile. Battles will be held both days. At this and several of the other events we also have a candlelight tour and theater that provides visitors with a completely different atmosphere for discovering this unique structure.

For more information and details please contact the Fort at 861-6992 or write for the upcoming years fall schedule.

NEW ROADSIDE PARK PLANNED

The Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board is pleased to announce their intention of establishing a "pedestrian only" rest stop across the street from the Dauphin Island Campground. This section of land lies between the ferry landing and the Coast Guard/Sealab area.

For years we have watched visitors leave the ferry and walk or ride bikes down to Sealab and Fort Gaines. The traffic is dodging cars while negotiating driveways and parking lots. Although a fairly short distance to the Island's eastern tip, the summer heat can take its toll on guests, especially after having to stand for most of the ferry ride. Anyone who has seen a young family, red-faced and tired, walking back to catch the ferry, understands why a facility of this nature is so needed.

Residents and guests already on the island will also benefit by this stop over as they ride bikes to the East End's attractions. With the completion of this section of the Island's Bike Trail, the park's popularity will undoubtedly increase tremendously.

Although the property does not extend to the water, it is a beautiful spot shaded by magnolias and live oak trees. We plan a minimum of disturbance by only removing the underbrush and the smaller undesirable trees. Picnic tables will be installed on framed pads filled with wood chips. Benches and trash facilities will also be placed in convenient locations. Vehicle access will be prohibited so as to preserve a more peaceful atmosphere.
THE BIRD SANCTUARY AND THE CAMPGROUND
-Mike Henderson, Executive Director

Recently there has been a lot of discussion concerning policy changes to the Dauphin Island Campground and a feasibility study with survey related to the option of expanding some campsites into the eastern border of the Sanctuary. The purpose of this article is not to criticize any individual who opposes these actions, but to explain some of the background involved.

1.) Campground Policy- it has always been against the rules to use the campground as a person’s sole residence. We have had situations though when a guest tells us he has a residence somewhere else, but for all intents seems to be living here. We do not receive tax dollars for operating costs, and therefore have to operate as a business. In the past, we allowed campers to leave their units in the same site so as to continue receiving fee payments in the winter when otherwise they would have been empty. In business terms it was a sound decision providing income from a campsite that was rarely visited and therefore low overhead such as utility costs. Thanks to great staff and site improvements, we reached a point where the demand for sites by new campers forced us to review this policy. Last May, all campers were advised a 6-month maximum length of stay would go into effect in July. We cannot make exceptions as some suggest due to the threat of legal action from those having to leave.

2.) The Bird Sanctuary- Years before it was associated with Audubon, the Park and Beach Board provided the land and organization to create this wildlife refuge. With its Gulf beaches, fresh water lake and beautiful woods, it is probably the most valuable property on the island. For 25 years we leased it to National Audubon for a very nominal fee. During that time, at our expense, we kept the trail system in beautiful condition, built a boardwalk and observation tower in the swamp, installed benches throughout, etc. The lease payment has risen only slightly per year and at the request of the organization which now represents Audubon, we no longer provide site maintenance and improvements. Our interest has continued though and for example we are co-sponsoring a matching grant to build a handicapped access board walk. The point is, the Park and Beach Board has the record to prove we share the same basic goals and philosophy of many who are now criticizing us. Recently it was suggested that the Sanctuary would be better protected, if it, like the Shell Mounds, was given to the Conservation Department. It is interesting to note the Park and Beach Board did own the Shell Mounds property and was persuaded for the public benefit to deed it over to Conservation. Although they have done an excellent job maintaining areas of this property as a park, much of it was also cleared to construct the buildings/support area used by the State and Federal Marine facilities now located there. In the same time period not a foot of the Sanctuary has been lost and we have even extended the trail system by using campground land never under a lease to Audubon.

3.) Campground Expansion- this subject has been discussed since at least 1980 with the public-funded Development Plan for Dauphin Island. Our Board of Directors is fulfilling their responsibility by evaluating various options which might be used to provide more campsites. These include the boat trailer parking N/E of the site, Sealab land, the wooded area campers use for beach access, a “green belt” in the campground, and the area to the west, which involves a small section of the Sanctuary. It should be noted that one reason for the survey which has caused so much attention, is to determine the exact boundary line of land leased to Audubon. Most do not realize this property line does not run a true north and south and a fair amount of campground land is incorrectly thought to be part of the Sanctuary. Most important, the public should be aware, no decision has been made to increase campsites. The survey is part of a feasibility study required to provide a better understanding of how much site expansion might cost. Obviously, a decision to expand cannot even be contemplated without this information.
Dauphin Island Archaeology Update

-George Shorter, Center for Archaeological Studies, USA

Dauphin Island Archaeological Survey: This fall archaeologists from the University of South Alabama will begin a long-term survey project. Its goal is to locate and identify archaeological sites on the island. Small shovel tests will be placed on public property and on private land with the permission of the owners. The testing will help identify the presence, nature, and extent of each site. This data will yield important information about the settlement patterns on the island during different periods, and will ultimately assist in determining priorities for the focus of additional research.

Volunteers will be needed to help with this project. Also, if you have property on the island we need your permission to conduct these tests. Finally, we need your financial support or that of your company. If you can help in any of these ways please call (insert phone #) or send your donations to the Dauphin Island Foundation (address). Please mark your checks for the D.I. Archaeological Survey. Donations will be used to match grants from the Alabama Historical Commission.

Excavation at Port Dauphin: In early June, when the first 15 inches of rain fell, excavations in the 1702 French village were within a few weeks of being completed. Excavations at Port Dauphin have revealed a complex series of buildings along with numerous artifacts. Over the decades sand covered the site to a depth of about four feet, effectively sealing it from disturbance. However, when the water table rises on Dauphin Island, archaeology stops. Continual rain kept the work at a standstill through June and July, and hurricane Danny dealt a final blow. For most of the summer the site would be best classified as a lake, and since we are not properly trained as "underwater" archaeologists, excavations had to be postponed. Fortunately, we were able to resume work after Labor Day, and the excavation was completed in late October.

Although the analysis phase of this research has just begun we are very excited about our findings. A public presentation to report on this work will be scheduled in the spring, so look for the exact time and place in the winter edition of the Dauphin Island Community News.

Archaeology Day: Archaeologists from the University of South Alabama welcomed about 50 visitors at this first event of its kind in Cadillac Square in July. Artifacts from the island were displayed along with historic maps and photographs. Several islanders brought artifacts for identification.

Dauphin Island Historical Society: One of the most exciting aspects about Dauphin Island is that most "islanders," both old and new, are keenly interested in the island's rich history. And as the oldest continuously occupied European settlement along the Gulf coast, over 20 years older than New Orleans, you have a right to be so. Perhaps you would be interested in helping to found a Dauphin Island Historical Society. For information concerning the establishment society call the Dauphin Island Foundation at 861-3800.

The Dauphin Island Community News is a non profit project of the Dauphin Island Foundation in cooperation with the Town of Dauphin Island, The Dauphin Island Property Owners' Assoc., the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board, the Dauphin Island Water and Sewer Authority, the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce and other organizations on the Island. The News distributed free of charge, is circulated by mail, and is available at Island retail and service businesses. The News will not take editorial positions, nor will it accept articles or advertising on political or controversial issues. All rights reserved. The appearance of advertising, articles or features in The DI Community News does not constitute endorsement of any product, service or activity by the Dauphin Island Foundation, the Town of Dauphin Island, the Dauphin Island Property Owners' Assoc., the Dauphin Island Water and Sewer Authority, the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce, or the Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board, including their respective Boards of Directors, employees or supporting members. No liability is accepted, expressed or implied for errors or omissions due to typsetting and layout in any part of the publishing process.

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Dauphin Island Foundation
210 LeMoyne Dr.
P.O. Box 946, Dauphin Island, AL 36528.
(334)861-3800
DIF@gulfinfo.com.
LEAD IN OUR WATER??

Jeff Caldwell, Dir Water and Sewer Manager

For the past four years the Dauphin Island Water and Sewer Authority has participated in a national study of lead contamination in drinking water. Mandatory regulations set down by the Environmental Protection Agency and enforced in our area by ADEM (Alabama Dept. of Environmental Management) required the Dauphin Island system to test for lead in 20 homes with copper plumbing. Six samples out of twenty in the first tests were above the “action level” of 15 ppb (part per billion) recommended by ADEM. The water was tested at each well and at the water plant and NO LEAD was detected. Even though the water pH was maintained at a level around 7.5 the water was corrosive enough to leach the lead from solder used to hold copper fittings together in house plumbing.

Plant operator vaile Feemster raised the pH on the water to 8.5 and in six months the same 20 samples were tested again. The results were much the same with seven samples out of twenty being above the recommended action level of 15 ppb. In order to pass the lead testing requirements of ADEM at least 90% of the samples must be less than 15 ppb, which for Dauphin Island would mean 18 samples. With only 13 samples under the 15 ppb recommended action level for the second testing period the authority was required to begin a corrosion control program. Under the direction of Mrs. Lillian Tisdale, Head of the Lead and Copper Compliance Division at ADEM, the Authority began a corrosion control study. As a result of the study Zinc orthophosphate, a corrosion inhibitor, was fed into the finished water at a rate of 1 ppm. The same 20 samples were tested again after the zinc orthophosphate had been fed into the system for at least three months. The results were much better with 19 samples testing less than the 15 ppb and the only sample that was over 15 ppb was greatly improved.

What does “action level” mean and what is a ppb?

Action level is a limit set by ADEM which means that if 10% of samples taken, 2 in our case, test higher than 15 ppb of lead then that water system must take action to correct the problem. Our solution was to feed a corrosion inhibitor.

ppb stands for part per billion. For example: The world population is about 5 billion people. The next time you are walking down the street, say “Hi” to five people. That’s 1 ppb.

Your rich uncle passes away and leaves you $10 million. However, in counting your inheritance, you discover that 1 cent is missing. That’s 1 ppb.

If you are 32 years old, you have lived about 1 billion seconds. Close your eyes for 1 second. That’s 1 ppb.

If you take the big brown water storage tank, located southeast of the 3 way stop on the Island, line up 1000 tanks identical to it and fill them with water and then take a 1 gallon milk jug and fill it with water. That’s 1 ppb.

These are very minute amounts of lead that are being detected in the water. Instruments used to detect these amounts are very sensitive and most cannot detect amounts below 5 ppb. However studies have shown that if enough lead accumulates in the body serious health problems can occur. The Authority is working hard to insure that the residents of Dauphin Island will always be supplied with safe drinking water. New regulations passed down from the EPA, cost increases, and continued growth will make the coming years a great challenge. Through diligence and wise decisions from its directors the Dauphin Island Water and Sewer Authority has met tough challenges in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

AVERAGE LOSS OF WATER FROM LEAKING FAUCETS OVER A PERIOD OF ONE MONTH

Leaking faucets and toilets can cause high water bills. As seen in the illustration above even small leaks can add up to big dollars lost over a period of one month. Seeping toilet flappers can use up to 3,000 gallons or more in one month. 3,000 gallons used would add up to an additional $12.45 on your water bill. A simple way to check your toilet is to raise the cover off the toilet tank and add food coloring. Wait for about 30 minutes without flushing and check the water in the toilet bowl. If the food coloring shows up in the bowl then the flapper is leaking.

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Dauphin Island
Woman's Club
-Sylvia Murphy, President

As the year draws to a close we look back at all the things we enjoyed this past year.

January saw us at the Sea House. Thanks gang, for accommodating us.

Our February 1997 meeting was held at the Little Red School House where we were guests of the faculty and students. Club members "brown-bagged" but dessert and beverages were provided by the faculty. The multi-purpose room was decorated with students' work and each club member received a cook book compiled by the students. These have become treasured keepsakes. Thanks again to all involved for giving us a warm memory of our visit.

In March we were privileged to visit the Sea Lab where we enjoyed lunch in their cafeteria and a tour by Dr. Crozier. We all learned a great deal and some of our members are now training to be Docents when the new Estuarium opens in Jan of 1998.

Thank you Lynn Bridges for assisting me in scheduling this event.

April saw our annual luncheon and fashion show held at the Country Club in the beautiful Wheel Room overlooking the Gulf. Fashions and narration were by Marti Harding of Marti's Island Shoppe. Thanks again Marti for a job well done.

Catering was done by Bill Linley of Barnacle Bill's on Bienville Blvd. Thank you Bill and Anne for a splendid luncheon and excellent service.

May saw us enjoying a "Hat Party" at the home of Frances and Eugene Dees in Sea Point. Members enjoyed a covered dish buffet and a clever skit by Joanne Sprinkle. Thanks, all.

Summer break saw us sweeping sand, doing laundry and cooking for our summer guests.

September found us busily planning our Annual Christmas Tour of Homes. Co-Chaired by Nancy Smith and Anita Dickinson, the tour will certainly be a big success. Thank you all, ladies.

October was our annual meeting, strictly business.

November 20th well be our Thanksgiving luncheon and installation of new officers for 1998-1999.

The new slate is as follows:
President - Kay Breitenfeld
1st Vice President - Nancy Smith
2nd Vice President - Anita Dickinson
Secretary - Janelle Angel
Treasurer - Clydene Myer

I wish them continued success and look forward to working with them.

My thanks to all members for letting me serve as President for 1997-1998. It has been a year of friendship and of fellowship and I thank you Ladies of Dauphin Island Woman's Club for sharing it with me.

Projects supported by this activity are Dauphin Island beautification Committee and the Dauphin Island Bike trail.

Advance Tickets are $10.00, all other tickets $12.00.
For Tickets call 861-2111 or 861-2138 or 660-9934.
DAUPHIN ISLAND
SCHOOL NEWS

-Coach Mike Plumb

It has been a very busy and exciting year so far this fall. School opened up in September with some new faces on the school faculty, Debra Smith was named the new school principal for this year. Debra was a school system attendance officer last year for the Mobile County Public School System. Also joining the staff was Mike Plumb. "Coach Mike" as the children refer to him, will serve as the physical education teacher, the media specialist and the technology coordinator. Mike taught physical education at Palmer Pillans Middle School last year. To some, Mike is already familiar on the Island as he has won the Dauphin Island Hurricane run many times and is regarded as one of Mobile's best distance runners ever. Returning this year to the classrooms of Dauphin Island is Marla Wilson teaching Kindergarten, Tammy Dolbare with the 1st and 2nd graders, Arta Musial teaching the 3rd and 4th grades, and Jan Tanner teaching 5th and 6th grade. Joining the teaching staff is Belinda Bates as school custodian, Anne Waller is the school secretary, and Joyce Hovell is our teacher's aide. We also have some special purpose teachers this year. Teaching music class is Carol Blankenship, our PACE teacher is Margo Glenos, teaching the special education classes is Laura Busby, and our speech teacher is Caron Olney. Although the school year is still quite young, we have already participated in some very interesting programs. Ms. Tanner's class is communicating with Dr. Aronson from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab via the Internet. Dr. Aronson is participating on an expedition to Antarctica. In mid-November, the whole school saw a presentation by the Save the Eagle Foundation. The children saw up close and personal, owls, vultures, hawks and eagles. One of the birds that came to the school, a Great Horned Owl was featured in the movie Wild America. On November 18th the school had their quarterly awards ceremony in conjunction with the monthly PTO meeting. Students were honored for perfect attendance for the first quarter. Those receiving recognition were: Kindergarten Cody Crumbley, Adrian Delcomb, Diana Denmark, Jacob Dollar, Hope Johnson, Travis Wages, Mathew Steiner, Mitchell Tafra, Zackary Tanner and Ashley Toddwell.

First Grade Amber Davis, Israel Navarrette, Savannah Phillips, James Pose and Brandon Wittner. Second Grade George Alex, Joel Delcombe, Joseph Henderson, Alana Nash and Rebecca Smith. Third Grade Chaze Cain, Erin Catlin, Aaron Delcombe, Gabriel Denton, Andy Mallon, Cassandra Navarrette, Natasha Williams, Kendra Wilson and Britney Wittner. Fourth Grade Savannah Callier, Klahzia Longmecker, Ronald Navarrette, Jessica Pose and Christine Sweetser. Fifth Grade Brandon Delcombe, Nicholas Denton, Jessica Layne and Andrew Wallace. Sixth Grade Ashley Alex, David Alex, Joleen Bosarge, Heather Delcombe and Brandon Hancock. Congratulations to all of these students for not missing a day of school the first quarter.

Through the combined efforts of Coach Mike and Mr. Billy Dunn, the school has started a program that gives Island residents access to the schools computer lab and the internet. This program is on Monday and Thursday from 3:00pm till 6:00pm for children, and Wednesdays at the same time for adults. If you have something to type, want to explore the internet, or just want to play games on the computer, come on by. Mr. Dunn is on hand during the times to offer assistance to those that are computer shy. There are eight computers available, with six of them having access to the internet. More computers are on order, and will hopefully be arriving shortly after Christmas. Plans are also under way to install two computers in each classroom by that time as well. These classroom computers will also have access to the internet. Some of the funding for this computer expansion came from the generous support of our state representative, Phil Criiger. As you can see this has been a busy school year so far, and many great big strides have been taken to keep the school in a position to be able to prepare your children for the future. Feel free to drop by the school anytime.
DAUPHIN ISLAND
STREET NAMES
-Jim Hall, DICN Staff
In the early 1950's a Committee on Nomenclature
selected names which were significant in the long, romantic and colorful history of the Island. A few examples:

Audubon Street - named for the artist John James Audubon, who is said to have painted the hummingbird in his famous Birds of America while visiting the Mobile.

Bienville Boulevard - named for Jean Baptiste LeMoyne, Sieur de Bienville, the founder of Mobile, who spent much of his time at Dauphin headquarters, Dauphin Island being the port of entry from France to the New World. Bienville is said to have had extraordinary charm and real genius for diplomatic relations with the Indian nations.

Cadillac Avenue - named for Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, appointed by the French government to succeed Bienville as the second Governor of Louisiana (for which Dauphin Island was the capital).

Pelican Street - named for both the great fishing bird of the Gulf area and the ship "Pelican" which brought 23 carefully selected young ladies to Mobile to marry men in the colony who had no homes of their own.

Iberville Drive - named for Pierre Lemoyne, Sieur d'Iberville, chosen by the French king to carry out LeSalle's dream of establishing a French colony on the Gulf coast. He persuaded the French king to let him establish his colony on Mobile Bay at Isle Dauphine and on Mobile River at Twenty-seven Mile Bluff. As French commander for the New World, he sent his young, 21 year old brother, Bienville, to establish the Fort at Mobile and the base at Dauphin Island.

The above information is derived from "History of Dauphin Island" published by Mobile Chamber of Commerce and the Dauphin Island Land Sales Corp. in the 1950's.

Dauphin Island
Fire and Rescue
-Brad Cox, assistant Fire Chief

The wintertime is traditionally the slower time of the year. Even though there are fewer emergencies we are very busy with DIFR's growth and development. We have several big items on the front burner.

First, we are expecting to take delivery of our new ambulance after the first of the year. Through the generosity of the Mayor and Town Council we will be able to retire our 1978 back up ambulance when the new truck goes into service.

Second, we are still seeking funds to purchase a twelve-lead ECG machine that will place us in the forefront of emergency cardiac care. The piece of equipment costing nearly $17,000 will increase the chances of survival for a person suffering from a heart attack. We hope to be able to purchase this device within the next six months.

Third, we are always looking for new members. There are no prerequisites and we provide all of your equipment and training. If you are a person who cares deeply for the health and safety of our fellow Islanders and guests, DIFR may be for you. If you have any questions please stop by the Police Station and leave a message or contact me at Boardwalk Realty (861-3992).

Your friends at DIFR wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season.

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DI Chamber
Of Commerce
-Frank Chlissczcyk, President

Who are we? Formerly known as the Dauphin Island Businessmen’s Association, we are presently composed of over 60 members who live and/or own businesses on Dauphin Island or in the Mobile area. The Board of Directors for 1997/1998 consists of

Frank Chlissczcyk: 861-7202
Larry Bridges: 861-8900
Linda Barousse: 861-4227
Bill Meredith: 824-2831 and Shirley Westfall: 861-4201

What is our purpose? “...to advance the educational, civic, social, commercial and economic interests of the community of Dauphin Island...to promote integrity and good faith, just and equitable principals in business and professional activity, and uniformity in commercial usages...to discover and correct abuses, to prevent or adjust controversies, to have a part in representing our community in the consideration and decision of public policy in municipal, county, state, and national affairs.”

The 1997 new Board of Directors has chosen a theme to: “Unify and Promote” during the forthcoming year. We want to further unite the Chamber and Dauphin Island and promote a healthy, controlled business growth on the Island.

What did we do last year?
For the community we:
-Responded by mail to hundreds of outside inquiries requesting information on the Island;
-Advertised in one of the country’s most popular tourist periodicals, “The Alabama Magazine”;
-Hosted a reception for several visiting Alabama congressional members;
-Provided for the community beach cleanup, flu shots, and blood drives;
-Conducted a number of regular and special meetings to discuss issues facing Dauphin Island and the Chamber;
-Spearheaded five events for the Spring Festival: (1) a Tasting, (2) a Golf Tournament, (3) an Air Show, (4) a Wheel of Fortune, and (5) a Sports Raffle that went on for four months. Furthermore, we conducted a “Fish Fry” for visiting Sailboat Regatta competitors and a Christmas Boat Parade.
-Donated money to the 4th of July celebration and the March of Dimes walkathon; likewise, donated plaques for the light up Dauphin Island contest; and
-Moderated the “Meet the Candidates Program” for the Property Owners Association.

How do I join? Unlike most Chambers, you do not have to own a business to become a member. If you live on Dauphin Island, want to socialize or become more active in the community, you would like to support our purpose. “We urge you to come and join us.” You can become a full voting member for $80 a year and an associat member for $25 a year. Contact any of the Directors at their number above or our secretary, Ann Bridges at 861-8900, for details.

FOUNDATION OFFICE
BACK IN OPERATION
-Jim Hall, DICN Staff
The Dauphin Island Foundation Offices which were damaged by Hurricane Danny in July, are now reopened. Like other property on the Island, water caused most of the damage. Thanks to Howard Yeager, dry walls, painting and carpeting installation was completed in October. Foundation volunteers and Board members pitched in, cleaned, set up the office furniture and sorted the paper work. Active in the effort were: Pat and Bill Edwards, Adm. Bill Stewart, Doris Anderson, Billy Dunn, Caroline and Jim Hall, Dianne Wakeman and Patricia Kerr.

The offices are open daily, the computers are running, and usually the coffee is on. Stop by, use the back stairs to the second floor in the Island Realty Bldg.

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TRICENTENNIAL PLANNING

You are needed and wanted, to be a part of the planning of Dauphin Islands 1999 Tricentennial.

You are needed and wanted, to be a part of planning a meaningful year-round celebration of the landing of Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, and Jean Baptists Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, on Dauphin Island; their subsequent founding of this island French Colony as the anchor for the establishment of the French Colony of Fort Louis de la Lousiane (Mobile); and the island's importance to the early days of the Louisiana Territory.

THE 1999 TRICENTENNIAL - SHOULD BE A YEAR OF IMPROVED CULTURAL GROWTH - AND REFLECT A PROGRESSIVE ISLAND IMAGE

Monthly meetings are now being held, so please become a part of it by marking the areas you would be interested in assisting, and drop it off to Marti Harding, President, at Marti's Island Shoppe; or return it to Town Hall; or mail it to Jimmie Morris, Executive Director, P.O. Box 610, Dauphin Island, AL 36528.

DICN NEWSPAPER NOW ON INTERNET

Jim Hall, DICN Staff

This issue, number 5, and numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Dauphin Island Community News, DICN, are now on-line on the World Wide Web. The Home Page presents an image of the front page of all five issues which have been printed. Selecting a specific issue takes the viewer to a menu of the headlines of all stories contained in that issue. Selecting a headline then opens the story.

Also the Home Page contains a search engine with which the viewer may insert a few key words and be given a list of all articles in all of the five issues which contain those key words. The newspaper material was converted to HTML (the language of the Internet) by Billy Dunn. His company, Gulf Information Pages, hosts the Web Site at no cost. The DICN newspaper may be found on line at: http://gulfinfo.com - then select DI newspaper from the options list.

See Dauphin Island from the water!

Island Cruises

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DAUPHIN ISLAND
MEETINGS AND EVENTS
DEC '97-MAY '98

Saturday, December 6 - Episcopal Church Women’s Christmas Bazaar - 8 am-1 PM - Featuring Gumbo to Go by Wimerly Hory - Christmas Arts and Crafts - Christmas Treasures - Chicken Salad Sandwiches - Bake Sale - Casseroles - White Elephants - Complimentary Coffee

Saturday and Sunday, December 6-7 - 13th Annual Christmas at the Fort - Experience an 1861 Christmas with the Confederate Garrison - Enjoy the magic of Christmas with this living history weekend for the whole family - Guided Candlelight tour Saturday only - 7 PM - 861-6992 for admissions

Saturday, December 6 - Dauphin Island's Annual Santa Claus Parade - 11 AM - Contact: Wanda Sandagger - 861-5524 - Fax: 861-2154

Saturday, December 6 - Light Up Dauphin Island Committee display at Water Tower Plaza and Town of Dauphin Island Street Holiday Lights - at dusk

Saturday, December 6 - Christmas on Dauphin Island Boat Parade - sponsored by the DI Chamber of Commerce - Lighted Yachts sailing along the north shore from Billy Goat Hole to the Sea House Restaurant at dusk.

Thursday, December 13 - Christmas on Dauphin Island 1997 Tour of Homes sponsored by the DI Woman’s Club - Featuring the homes of Lawrence and Ivan Trotter - Janice Robinson - Jimmy and Jamie Varron - Jim McDonough - B.J. and Libba Lyon - Bill and Laura Block - Frank and Sally Milstead - Jim and Nancy Kelleher. Special exhibits at each home provided by members of the DI Art and Craft Guild - $10 per person before November 20 - $12 after the 20th - For tickets call 861-2111 - 861-2138 - 660-9934 - Contacts: Nancy Smith or Linda Gechjian

Sunday, December 14 - “Go Tell it on the Mountain” - Annual Christmas Musical - Dauphin Island Baptist Church - Free - 6 PM with a Reception afterwards - Contact: Melinda Smith - 861-5124 - Page: 492-1032

Mid-January - Opening of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Estuarium - Hours and admissions TBA - Contact: Lisa Young - 861-7506 - 861-4646

EMail: lyoung@jaguar.usouthal.edu

Saturday, January 24 - Krewe de la Dauphine Mardi Gras Parade - from the Sea Lab to the Public Beach - 2 PM Contact: Pat Edwards - 861-7412

Saturday-Sunday, January 24-25 - Infantry Camp Instructions - A living history weekend focusing on Infantry tactics - Surrender Ceremony on Sunday (When Alabama seceded from the Union on January 11, 1861 - Hosted by the 3rd Mississippi - 861-6992 for admissions)

Saturday, January 31 - Island Mystics Mardi Gras Parade - 1PM

Saturday-Sunday, February 14-15 - 15th Annual Battle of Mobile Bay Hosted by the 21st Alabama Infantry

3rd Annual 5K Race sponsored by the Port City Pacers P.O. Box 16907, Mobile, AL 36616 - Fort Gaines - 861-6992

Continued on back page

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patio, carport. Appointment only, please. $665,000 Call Grace

Dauphin Surf Club Condos - on the Gulf 2bd/2ba plus gulf room - Clubhouse, Pool, Beach - Only: $99,700. Call Jim

Polaris Lagoon - Large home w/ 3bd/4ba - New carpet, paint, pool & boatlift. Must see! Extras! $289,000 - Call Grace

Gulf View - 2 houses on 2 lots connected w/ large porch & deck. 4bd/3ba - relax and enjoy your friends or enjoy your privacy. $279,000 - Call Grace

Dauphin Island
Continued from pg 19

Friday, February 20 - 1st Annual Coastal Resources Symposium - Sea Lab - Sponsored by the Dauphin Island Foundation - DI Sea Lab - ADECA - Alabama Coastal Foundation - Speakers from COE - ADEM - USA - Alabama Geological Society - the Keynote Speaker will be Dr. Orrin Pilkey - Contact: DI Foundation 861-3800

March TBA - Medieval Hit List
March TBA - 8th Annual Taste of the Colony at Ft. Gaines.

Friday-Sunday, April 17-19 - Alabama Ornithological Society - Bird Migration Contact: Dr. John Porter - 861-2120

Friday-Sunday, May 1-3 - Dauphin Island Spring Migration Festival - Contact: Sharlene Moats - 861-3803

May 16-17 - 12th Annual Federal Fort Gaines Thunder on the Bay

Regularly scheduled meetings:
DI Art and Craft Guild - Last Monday of the month - Contact: Gary Murphy - 861-4027

Senior/Junior Net - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday - 3-6 PM - Dauphin Island Elementary School - Learn how to use a computer - Classes conducted by Billy Dunn, 861-4220 for reservations.

Town Council - 1st and 3rd Tuesday - Town Hall - 7 PM - 861-5525

Fire & Rescue - 3rd Monday - 7 pm - Fire House - Contact: Bill Hunter - 861-8517

Dauphin Island 300 Commission and Tricentennial Celebration Board - 2nd Thursday - 7 PM - Town Hall - The 1999 Tricentennial - a year of improved cultural growth - and to reflect a progressive island image - Contacts: Jimmie Morris, Executive Director - 861-5524 - Marti Harding, President - 861-8772

DI Planning Commission - 2nd Tuesday - 7 pm - Town Hall - 861-5525

DI Adjustment Board - On call

DI Veteran's Association - 2nd Saturday - 10 am - Contact: Jim Davidson - 861-2122

DI Municipal Court - 1st Monday (Arraignments) - 2nd Monday (Trial) except on holidays

DI Chamber of Commerce - 3rd Thursday - 7 pm - 861-8209

DI Park and Beach Board - 3rd Tuesday - 5 pm - 861-3607

DI Property Owners Association - 3rd Wednesday - 6:30 PM - 861-4228

DI Woman's Club - 4th Thursday - 10:30am - Contact: Kay Breitenfeld - 861-3004

Churches:
St. Francis' Episcopal Church
St. Edmund Catholic Church
DI Baptist Church
United Methodist Church

Prepared by Jimmie Morris, Director, Dauphin Island Development Network, with the cooperation of citizens and organizations. 861-5524 - Fax: 851-2154 - E-Mail: jmorris4@juno.com.

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