



A group portrait of the "Pork Chop Gang" during the 1956 special session of the Senate featured: (back row, left to right) James E. "Nick" Connor, Brooksville; L.K. Edwards Jr., Irvine; Irlo O. Bronson Sr., Kissimmee; W.E. Bishop, Lake City; H.B. Douglas, Bonifay; William A. Shands, Gainesville; W. Randolph Hodges, Cedar Key; and Charley E. Johns, Starke; and (front row, left to right) John S. Rawls, Marianna; Philip D. Beall Jr., Pensacola; Harry O. Stratton, Callahan; F. Wilson Carraway, Tallahassee; W. Turner Davis, Madison; Scott Dilworth Clarke, Monticello; Dewey M. Johnson, Quincy; J. Edwin Baker, Umatilla; Edwin G. Fraser, Macclenny; Basil Charles "Bill" Pearce, East Palatka; Woodrow M. Melvin, Milton; J. Braham Black, Jasper; and J.C. Getzen Jr., Bushnell. (Photo courtesy of the Florida State Archives)

Poker & politics on the Aucilla

FLORIDA MEMORY

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engaged in what was called the "social lobby." This was the practice of treating legislators to meals, parties and other favors to create opportunities to promote a political position.

While some lobbyists kept their activities centered in Tallahassee, Horne preferred to invite legislators to his comparatively quiet and private fish camp on the Aucilla, where they could fish, play poker and discuss strategy out from under the intense gaze of the public eye.

Horne's fish camp became famous for its gatherings of Pork Choppers just before important decisions had to be made in the Florida Legislature.

The group reportedly assembled there in September 1957 ahead of a vote to determine how the public would vote on a bill to redraw the legislative districts of the state.

Malcolm B. Johnson, executive editor of the Tallahassee Democrat half-seriously suggested that the people of Florida might soon be expected to pay for the legislators to have their own tax-supported hunting and

fishing lodge so they would not have need to hold caucuses on property owned by lobbyists.

The Nutall Rise retreat of the Pork Chop Gang faded away in the 1960s, owing to several events.

In 1962, the United States Supreme Court found in the case of Baker v. Carr that misrepresentation in state legislatures due to outdated district boundaries was a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause.

Like it or not, the Pork Choppers would have to consent to reapportionment, or else the federal government would do it for them.

Over the next decade, Florida's legislative districts were rearranged several times, breaking the Pork Chop Gang's power. As for Raeburn Horne, he passed away in 1962, just after the Supreme Court rendered its decision in Baker v. Carr.

A lot of water has flowed down the Aucilla past the old Horne property since those days when legislators would gather there for poker and politics.

The old place might lack the political clout it once had, but locals tell us you can still catch a good-sized catfish just about anytime.

Grubbs family hosts reunion

The Grubbs Family Reunion will be held Saturday, March 26, starting at noon at Forest Capital Park.

Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share, along with a lawn chair for seating and "a story to share."

Organizers said all family members are encouraged to attend. "We are overdue to a get-together," they said.

'Preparing Our Youth for Greatness'

Free event for local youth at Loughridge Park on Saturday

"Preparing Our Youth for Greatness" will be the theme of a celebration planned this Saturday, March 26, at Loughridge Park from noon to 5 p.m.

The free event, which will include games, food, prizes and face painting, is being sponsored by the Raymond

Cromartie Jr. UD #128, an entity of the Jerusalem Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star.

Youth and mentor speakers will also be featured.

Everyone is welcome. The park is located at 1100 West Hampton Springs Ave.

Sunshine law violations, meeting absenteeism concerns are raised

BOARD MEMBERS

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March 3 meeting, much of the 75-minute session was devoted to discussion of the issues of code of conduct and absenteeism.

Hathcock raised the issue of Rich's conduct following the conclusion of the board's February meeting, which Rich did not attend, but arrived just as it was ending.

Rich had raised concerns over the installation of a new "neighborhood" water meter at Cedar Island, specifically about disinfectant procedures, but his alleged conduct with staff during the encounter, along with his concerns over the meters, resulted in a special meeting being called for March 3.

At the March 3 meeting, Hunter stated that the district's licensed water operator and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection confirmed the meter installation process had been done correctly.

He then made a motion that the matter receive no further consideration. Hathcock seconded. After further discussion, the motion passed 4-1 with Rich voting against. (As chairman, Dall did not vote on matters unless to break a tie, while Lynn was not present at the meeting.)

The board then moved onto discussion of commissioner conduct.

"When we got to that meeting the other night, we've had a whole bunch of things going sideways," Hathcock said, according to the official recording of the meeting. "We're trying to get a handle on trying to fix them, and it seems we take two steps forward, three or four steps backward."

He also referred to e-mails sent between Dall and Rich, which he said might have violated Sunshine laws.

"This conduct you had the other night, it's just unacceptable," Hathcock said to Rich. "I feel like you've come in and created a real problem, and I just don't feel this problem is going to be able to be fixed. We add in the absenteeism you've had, and you can be removed by the county commission."

Citing what he called a

broken relationship between Rich and the district staff over his conduct, Hathcock said, "What I would recommend we do is allow you to take a leave of absence...and just resign your position," Hathcock said. "If not, we just send a letter to the county and ask them to remove you, because I don't feel we can rectify where you've left yourself."

"Let's get these facts straight," Rich responded. "The first three meetings I was in New York, and I wasn't even notified that I was a board member. And, yes, I did miss two after that."

"The other thing is, me and Mr. Dall do not e-mail back and forth," Rich said.

Hathcock noted they had e-mails from Dall to Rich.

Dall responded that he, along with two residents, had concerns over the sanitation procedures of the meter installations. Dall further stated Rich spoke to him about his concerns, and Dall said he asked him to e-mail staff. Dall said he then sent an email to TCWSD Manager Lynette Senter and copied Rich.

During the ensuing discussion, other e-mails were shown to Senter with either Rich or Dall copied in.

TCWSD Board Attorney J.D. Durant then explained that e-mails or in-person discussions between two board members about board business would be a violation of Sunshine Laws. Following a lengthy discussion about Sunshine laws, Hathcock made a motion to ask Rich to resign.

"I just think the damage is done, and we can't clean it up," he said. "He's got everybody here stirred up, and it's a mess."

Hunter seconded that motion, and Dall asked for discussion.

Dall said he felt Rich had provided "invaluable service" to the board.

"If I were in your shoes, I would require the county commission to remove you," Dall said to Rich. "I would not run from the fight."

Rich responded he did not plan to resign.

"I didn't think so," Dall said. "It's good to be a man."

Hathcock then made a motion to send a letter to the county commission asking them to remove Rich from the board, although there was still the earlier motion on the floor. After further discussion, Hathcock recalled his earlier motion and again made a motion to send a letter to the commission. The motion passed 4-1, with Dall voting against.

The board then discussed board attendance issues, which again centered mostly around Rich and Dall.

Referring to the county commission, Dall said they were aware of the issues with the board and would be able to handle it in the near future.

"Once that is over, we need to get down to the business of the board and address the issues at hand," Dall said.

"It's very hard to do that, Mr. Dall, because we feel like every time we move forward, you have been really aggressive with Lynette," Hathcock said. "Right now, our water department is almost in shambles. We've got people willing to start suing and quitting and leaving. Things are getting out of control, and we've got to figure out a way to get them back under control. A lot of that is you and Mr. Rich."

"When we were appointed to this board it wasn't, in my opinion, to make this wheel a new wheel, it was to keep it moving forward," Hathcock said. "It was running really well, we just needed to tweak a few things. We have had problems with you and Ms. Lynette, where I don't blame her for not meeting with either of you. I wouldn't meet with you. She has no reason to meet with you. You have intimidated her way past... We should have put a stop to that back when I asked for your resignation a few months ago. We should have gone ahead and followed that through."

Hathcock said he felt the board should at least remove Dall from his chairman's position.

"If you feel that is constructive action, take your best shot," Dall said.

Dall also stated that there had been an issue

between himself and Senter concerning Dall's property dating back to when the previous board was removed.

After further discussion, Dall said, "The only reason I'm on this board to begin with is because this group of people abused the heck out of my wife and our property that we owned down here to the point I said, 'You ain't going to do this.' And, I dug into it, they screwed up my water, they screwed up my electricity."

Hathcock interrupted to ask if Dall was being "vindictive." He then said he wanted to make a motion.

"You're not going to make an accusation," Dall said.

"I want to make a motion," Hathcock said.

"You can make a motion, but you cannot call me vindictive," Dall said.

"There is a ton of work that needs to be done," Dall said. "Look at these operating plans. We have none."

"You said enough for me when you said you were here because your wife got abused," Hathcock said. "I'm done with that conversation, so if you want to continue with this, go ahead, but I'm done."

Hathcock made a motion to send a letter to the county commission asking that Dall be removed from the board. Hunter seconded. The motion passed 3-1, with Rich voting against and Kicklighter abstaining.

According to County Administrator LaWanda Pemberton, TCWSD will now advertise the two vacant positions.

Applications for the TCWSD board can be found online at: <https://tcwسد.org/board-application-pdf/>.

According to the county ordinance governing the TCWSD, board members must own property within the district and be a registered voter in Taylor County.

Writer at library

The Friends of the Taylor County Public welcomes author David J. Mather Monday, March 28.

The 5:30 p.m. program will be held at the library and will also be live-streamed on the Friends' Facebook page.

LEGALS

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CREDITORS, TRUSTEES AND ALL OTHERS WHO MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST IN THE ESTATE OF ROBERT P. HERBST, SR., DECEASED, whose residence is unknown if he/she/they be living; and if he/she/they be dead, the unknown defendants who may be spouses, heirs, devisees, grantees, assignees, lienors, creditors, trustees, and all parties claiming an interest by, through, under or against the Defendants, who are not known to be dead or alive, and all parties having or claiming to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the mortgage being foreclosed herein. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that an action to foreclose a mortgage on the following property: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 24 OF BLOCK 1 OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN OF PERRY, FLORIDA AS RECORDED IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA AND RUN WEST 62.3 FEET; THENCE NORTH 25.7 FEET; THENCE EAST 62.3 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE EAST BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 24; THENCE SOUTH 25.7 FEET BACK TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS,

EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, OIL, GAS OR MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD, IF ANY. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY, WHICH BY DEED DATED AUGUST 13, 2002 AND RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF TAYLOR COUNTY ON AUGUST 23, 2002, IN BOOK 486, PAGE 484 WAS GRANTED AND CONVEYED BY PERRY OFFICE SUPPLY, INC. UNTO ROBERT P. HERBST, SR has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on counsel for Plaintiff, whose address is 6409 Congress Avenue, Suite 100, Boca Raton, Florida 33487 on or before (30 days from Date of First Publication of this Notice) and file the original with the clerk of this court either before service on Plaintiff's attorney or immediately thereafter; otherwise a default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint or petition filed herein. WITNESS my hand and the seal of this Court at Taylor County, Florida, this 15th day of March, 2022. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Gary Knowles

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION File No. _2022-107-CP

IN RE: ESTATE OF DONNA JEAN HURST CANNON, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS The administration of the estate of DONNA JEAN HURST CANNON, whose date of death was February 4, 2022; File Number 2022-107-CP is pending in the Circuit Court for TAYLOR County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 108 N Jefferson Street, Perry, Florida 32347. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below. All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate, on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM. All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE

FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED. NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIOD SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED. The date of first publication of this

notice is: TAMARA CANNON LEE Personal Representative 11166 150th Street McAlpin, Florida 32062 Adam L. Morrison Attorney for Personal Representative Florida Bar No. 0028163

Sellers, Taylor & Morrison, P.A. 108 Howard Street West Live Oak, Florida, 32064 Telephone: 386-208-1080 Facsimile: 386-208-1090 E-mail: adam.morrison@susanneelawyers.com Secondary: Teresa.kent@susanneelawyers.com

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