

BB32: The USS Wyoming

The Battleship USS Wyoming, BB-32
The third Wyoming Battleship was laid down February 1910 at Philadelphia, PA, and launched May 25, 1911.

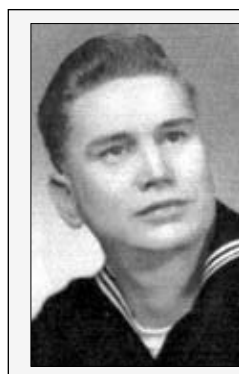
Displacement: 27,243 tons

Length: 562 ft.
Beam: 93 ft., 2-1/2"
Draft: 28 ft., 6"
Speed: 21 knots
Men: 1,063

Armament: Twelve 12" guns, 21 5" guns, two 3" guns, two 21" torpedo tubes.

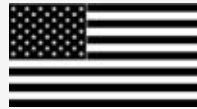
Class: Wyoming
Leaving Philadelphia for New York Navy Yard, for fitting out before she joined the fleet in Hampton Roads, VA. She was the Flag Ship for Rear Admiral Charles J. Badger, Commander Atlantic Fleet. Sailing January 6, 1913 the new battleship visited the soon to be completed Panama Canal under went winter fleet training in Cuba before returning to the States.

After much training



Our Veterans

By SFC Richard M. 'Pete' Allen (Ret.)



and repairs, she conducted routine maneuvers in Guantanamo Bay. She departed on March 27, 1917 and was off to Yorktown, VA., when the United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917.

November 13, 1917 four battleships left for the British Isles; They were the USS New York BB-34 Flag Ship, USS Wyoming BB-32, USS Delaware BB-28 and USS Florida BB-30.

November 21, 1918, 10 days after the war was over the following ships escorted the German

High Seas Fleet into the firth of forth to be interned following the cessation of hostilities. These ships were Wyoming, New York, Texas, and USS Arkansas.

After September 1930 Wyoming was placed in reduced commission at Philadelphia Navy Yard on January 1, 1931 for demilitarization and conversion to a training ship in accordance with the 1930 London Treaty for the limitation and reduction of naval armaments.

Wyoming lost her blisters, side armor, and removal

of guns and turret from three of her six main battery turrets.

November 1941, Wyoming embarked on yet another phase of her career, that of a Gunnery Training Ship. Gunnery Training out of Newport, R.I. and was off Platt's Bank when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941.

On July 11, 1947, USS Wyoming BB-32 entered the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and was decommissioned on August 1, 1947. Her men and material were transferred to USS Mississippi AG-128, (EXBB-41).

USS Wyoming's name was struck from the Navy list on September 16, 1947, and her bulk was sold for scrapping on October 30, 1947.

On board the USS Wyoming BB-32, from Choctaw County was Jollie M. Everett WW-2.

(NOTE: Readers may contact Pete by email at allwis64@yahoo.com.)

Twin Rivers EDP picking up support

BUTLER — Twin Rivers Economic Development Partnership Chairman Chip Harrigan said this week that the group's efforts are gaining momentum.

"The Board of Directors unanimously agreed to pursue a five-year strategic plan for marketing to position Clarke and Choctaw Counties for new jobs and investment," Harrigan said.

TREDP conducted a leadership consensus-building effort to seek input among a broad group of leaders, both public and private, in Clarke and Choctaw counties to determine the key elements needed for developing a successful five-year strategy for the organization.

In November 2006, Tom Mucks, of the Austin, Texas-based Funding Solutions, presented his findings and recommendations to the

TREDP Board of Directors. Following a lengthy discussion, the board voted unanimously to pursue the development of a new plan and strategy for the group.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to partner with Clarke County to pursue new jobs for our region," said Earlae Nealey, a board member from Gilbertown.

"We have been watching too many of our sons and daughters move away because of limited job opportunities...this is a chance to change that," said Buddy Bedwell, a board member from Thomasville.

"We had an overwhelming response among community leaders in both counties to help us in this effort, and we are blessed with a great leadership team," Harrigan said.

In addition to Nealey, other

board members from Choctaw County include Nancy Gibson and Kelvin Hill.

Members of the Leadership Team from Choctaw County include Danny D'Andrea, Georgia Dozier, Gilbertown Mayor Bobby Graham, Jennifer James, Lee McPhearson, Cecil "Bud" Martin, Probate Judge D'Wayne May, Shirley Perry, Mitchell Presley, Butler Mayor Ben Smith, William Utsey, Angie Williams, and Beth Whitehead.

The Partnership is seeking funding of \$1.5 million over five years to fulfill its five-year strategy, with an overall goal of seeking new industry for the region and improve the quality of life for all citizens in Clarke and Choctaw counties.

Offices for the Partnership will be located in Butler and Grove Hill by mid-2007.

■ McCarty's

From page 1-A

Commissioners again discussed setting up a Personnel Policy Committee to work on coming up with a comprehensive policy manual.

"I have talked to some citizens who are interested in serving," Judge May said. Attorney McP-

hearsen has suggested finding a comparable county and looking at their policies to see how they operate.

Neighboring Clarke County was mentioned as a possibility.

May said that if a quorum of the commissioners participate in the meetings, the board will have to comply with the state's Open Meetings Act by posting or advertising

the dates and times for such meetings so that the public can also attend.

May said he will submit a list of proposed names to the Commission as soon as possible and as well as come up with a list of meeting dates so that the committee can begin working.

But, he noted, once the county adopts the poli-

cies, it must abide by them.

In an unrelated matter, Commissioner Lovette said he has received several complaints from new customers of the solid waste program who say they have been told by Waste Management that it will take from four to six weeks to deliver a garbage can to their residence.

■ Gas tax

From page 1-A

"road safety issues" in each of the state's counties.

Rhone said that about one-third — or more than 325 people — of the state's traffic fatalities happen on deteriorating, inadequately-maintained county roads and bridges.

"It is important that we take a new approach to providing funding to ensure the safety of Alabama motorists, our children who ride school buses, and those who are hauling commodities that are essential to our state's economic growth," he said. If approved, the legis-

lation would give each county commission the option of levying a local gasoline and motor fuel tax that would be retained in the county for use only on county-maintained roads and bridges.

The money could be used for construction or maintenance work only and could not be used for the purchase of equipment or for the payment of salaries of county employees.

The legislation would, however, authorize the commission to utilize the additional local revenue to enhance public transportation "in those areas with significant safety issues."

According to Rhone,

statistics show that many of the traffic accidents that occur on county-maintained roads happen because of the need for widening or resurfacing the pavement, missing or worn-off traffic striping, and inadequate signs and guard rails.

Many of the fatal accidents that occurred on the more than 6,300 miles of paved, county-maintained roads in Alabama happened on roads that do not qualify for state funds.

In Choctaw County, several roads that do qualify for federal funds have failed state inspections on several occasions and if those roads are not brought up to state/federal standards by the next

inspection, the county stands to lose some of its own share of the federal "highway dollars pie," local officials have said.

"Many of these roads were constructed more than 50 years ago as part of the Folsom 'Farm-to-Market Road Program', and have not undergone significant reconstruction since that time," Rhone said.

The Legislature's regular session began Tuesday and will run through mid-June.

The current state gasoline tax is 18 cents per gallon, while several counties, including Choctaw, already have some form of "local" gasoline tax.

■ Grand Jury

From page 1-A

The Sheriff's Department has no

heating and the Jail needs several window screens replaced.

Jurors also heard from Probate Judge

D'Wayne May regarding the efforts of the County Commission in seeking funds with which to replace the hurricane-damaged roof on the cen-

tury-old Courthouse.

Jurors recommended that a metal roof be installed as soon as funds are available.

SoundOff

That new business license schedules here in Pennington are flat-out highway robbery. I have a business in Pennington but its days are numbered. I have talked it over with my people and I am thinking about moving it to Butler. And when the people of Pennington ask me why I am leaving, I will give them the home phone numbers of the mayor and council members.

Thank you for giving Butler's new Factory Connection store such GREAT front page coverage!

I think the Pennington Town Council has done a great job for what they were elected to do. The people need to get their facts straight before cutting them down. It doesn't matter if they passed the new ordinance early or not, it still would have been passed. It is the law!

I would like to extend a challenge to those responsible for the scheduling baseball league games across Choctaw County, to keep May 3rd open and free as this is the National Day of Prayer. This challenge can also be extended to public and private school personnel responsible for scheduling school activities. Then the challenge is extended to all pastors and Christians to prioritize their schedules to include participation in this event. America needs prayer. Mark your calendar and plan to PRAY FOR AMERICA on Thursday, May 3rd, the 56th Annual National Day of Prayer!

To whoever wrote that every high school graduate should have to go into the military service, it is my life and I want to stay in America. If my country needed me I would go, but just because somebody thinks I need some discipline that's not a good enough reason. I am in the 11th grade and have already started to plan my future and the military is not in it.

What is wrong with the North Choctaw Water Department? If you use your own pump (as the water is better, no chemicals) you are still charged \$14 or more a month. The NCWA water is used only in an emergency. When you need anything from them, it is not done. A part was ordered prior to Katrina and it is now 18 months later and the part has never been received. I think an investigation should be done. I am told that a lot of people are not paying their bills. It should be like the garbage program. A list of people not paying their share should be printed in the paper. There was to be no exceptions on the sewer service. Is this why members of the water board are asking the Commission to pay for repairs to a water line? For two years we paid to the water board, prior even installing the lines. There should be an abundance of money, at least to buy parts with.

I am a young, single mother working my behind off because my little boy's daddy doesn't pay his child support. Thank God for my mother who helps me with babysitting because child-care is too expensive. I could probably afford it, IF I received child support. The bad part about my situation is the fact that my little boy's father was in jail for non-payment of child support and one of DHR's attorneys told the judge to release him because he was a "good ole boy" and if he wasn't in jail he would pay the child support he owed. Well guess what? My little boy has yet to receive a dime! Thank you, Mr. Tommy, for printing our comments. Hopefully someone will read them who can help us, because all we want is to ensure that our children are taken care of.

In response to the teachers of Washington County who suggested that the parents against school uniforms read the dress policy in the county student handbook .. we HAVE read it, and in fact, our petition to ABOLISH the mandatory school uniform policystates clearly that we believe the interests of the school board are sufficiently served by this dress code and grooming guidelines without the additional requirement of school uniforms. We are not asking for our children to be allowed to wear tank tops, halter tops, and see-through garments. We welcome reasonable enforcement of a dress code that requires students to dress modestly. However, we are going to fight for our rights as parents to decide whether or not to send our children to school in light jackets or heavy jackets. We are going to fight for those families who are struggling just to put food on the table yet our schools are threatening to deny their children the right to a public school education unless they purchase certain clothing. We are going to fight for the child who sat in school an entire day with her jacket on because she was afraid her dingy shirt was "not white enough". Above all, we are going to defend our civil liberties and fight as long as it takes to ensure students a right to a public education as guaranteed to them by the constitution of the state of Alabama.

Swish, swish ... what's that sound? It is the sound of the broom that cleaned out the courthouse heading for Pennington Town Hall.

I just want to thank the Lord for churches in our community for having somewhere for our youth to go. Youth Pastor Jimmy Watson at First Assembly of God is awesome with the youth.

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