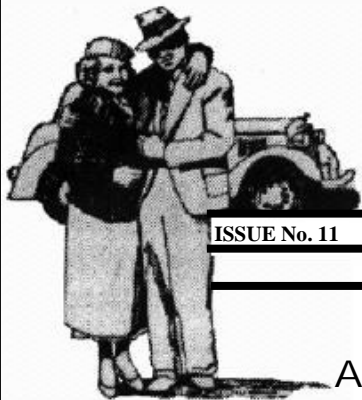


# On The Road To Gibsland

**BARROW-PARKER NEWSLETTER**P.O. BOX 225803, DALLAS, TEXAS 75222  
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## GIBSLAND WELCOMES YOU BACK TO THE 72<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMBUSH OF BONNIE AND CLYDE

### HISTORIANS MEETING 2006

**BY KEN M. HOLMES, JR.**

Planning a meeting that is only once a year and can only last 4 hours is not easy to do. You want to cover everything but that's not going to happen. So, this year we will talk more on Blanche Barrow and her stories and about Henderson Jordan's (Sheriff of Bienville Parish on May 23, 1934) account of the ambush. This is going to be a meeting you will not want to miss. Jordan will dot some "i's" and cross some "t's" about the ambush.

We will start at 6:00 PM at the Gibsland Grill in the meeting room. Dinner will be served from 6:00 till 7:00 PM. There will be a \$6.00 charge that will include dinner and the meeting. All proceeds will go to the Bonnie & Clyde Festival Committee to cover food and Festival expenses. All speakers, including myself, will volunteer our time to make this the best meeting ever. We are expecting over 100 people at this year's annual "LORRAINE JOYNER MEMORIAL HISTORIANS MEETING?"

If you would like to call me, you may do so at 214-747-2362. If you have any stories to tell, something to show, items to sell or questions to ask, we will have time set just for that at the meeting.

Some of the speakers will be: John Neal Phillips (author), Buddy Barrow (nephew of Clyde), Lorraine Wisner, Blanche Family members, Rhea Leen Linder aka Bonnie Ray Parker (niece of Bonnie), Jim Knight (author), Boots Hinton (son of Ted) and possibly some special last minute guests as well.

Thank you all for your continued support over the years in making our annual meeting a wonderful experience!

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

**BY JIM KNIGHT**

Blanche and Buck Barrow

Those of you who have read Blanche Barrow's memoirs which were published a little over a year ago (*My Life With Bonnie and Clyde* edited by John Neal Phillips) will be glad to know that Mrs. Ester L. Weiser will be at the Festival this year. Mrs. Weiser was Blanche Barrow's friend and the executrix of her estate. She supplied the manuscript from which the book was prepared, as well as writing her memories of Blanche in the book's foreword.

Mrs. Weiser will be available to meet you and sign copies of the book, but what's really exciting is that she will

also be bringing a group of pictures, letters, and other artifacts from Blanche Barrow's collection and scrapbooks which will be offered for sale. For those of you who have wished you could own a genuine piece of Bonnie and Clyde history - direct from a family member - this may be the chance of a lifetime. Be sure to plan to meet Mrs. Weiser and to bring a little extra "Mad Money" to this year's Festival. When you see some of the things Blanche kept in her scrapbooks, you're sure to be tempted.

### E-Mail is here!

If you would like to receive news articles, upcoming activities or just be on our preferred email list, then send us an email at [swhistorical@yahoo.com](mailto:swhistorical@yahoo.com)

### The Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Festival 2006 Gibsland, Louisiana



The I-20 Tourist Information Center on the east bound entrance to Louisiana has a new exhibit that tells the story of Bonnie & Clyde and Gibsland.

The Town of Gibsland, created in 1883 with the coming of the railroad, recaptures the 1930's with events for the Bonnie and Clyde Festival that remind one of a long-ago day when it was a thriving village of several thousand inhabitants who were there and saw the passing of Bonnie and Clyde, who killed and robbed during the early 1930's.

Mark your calendars, friends! Plan to spend the day with us during the afternoon May 19, 2006 & all day on May 20, 2006 for the Bonnie and Clyde Festival. We plan to take you back to 1934 where you will witness mock bank robberies and shootouts in the streets. You will see factual reenactment of events surrounding the demise of the infamous outlaws, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. If you've never been to this festival you have missed a unique experience. If you have been before we know you will want to return!!

On May 23, 1934, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow purchased their last meal at Ma Canfield's Cafe in Gibsland and headed to their hide-out. At 9:15 am nine miles southwest of Gibsland on Highway 154, Bonnie and Clyde were blasted into history as Bonnie still held her half-eaten sandwich. Bullets pounded into Clyde's stolen V-8 Ford and Bonnie screamed like a panther as the two met their death! Hidden in the brush on top of a hill, six officers-four of them from Texas and two from Louisiana- pumped over a hundred bullets into their car before Bonnie or Clyde could raise a hand, or a gun, in self-defense. They blasted Clyde's Ford because they were afraid he was about to shoot his way out of the trap set for them. The ambush made headlines around the globe and gave birth to a legend that has long out-lived the officers who ambushed them. The festival aims to show that crime does not pay and aims to honor the four Texas officers and the Bienville Parish Sheriff and Chief Deputy who put their life on the line to end the career of the notorious outlaws. The festival also aims to honor the law officers today who put their lives on the line for us everyday.

The Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Festival will begin on Friday with booths setting up after 1:00 p.m. These booths will be selling many delicious foods, arts and crafts on Friday afternoon and all day long Saturday!

On Friday night a gathering of historians and crime buffs will meet at the Lorraine Joyner Historical Meeting held in the Gibsland Grill at 6:00 p.m. Admission to the meeting is \$6.00 and this includes a delicious meal of gumbo, salad and dessert. Ken Holmes, a Dallas historian who is co-owner of the Ambush Museum, will preside over

(Continued from Front page.)

the meeting and has lined up several speakers for the much-anticipated event. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting so please come and join us for an interesting and informative night. This will be one of the highlights of the festival that you will not want to miss!



**Old Gibsland Town Jail - Will soon be open to the Public (Circa 1920) Clyde and Bonnie would have made note of this as they passed by it on several occasions.**

Saturday morning will begin with a pancake breakfast at the Lions Club building from 8:00-10:00 a.m. for \$5.00 per plate. Live entertainment will begin at 9:00 and our stage will feature continuous entertainment with various types of music. At 12:00(noon) there will be a parade with many antique cars, floats, motorcycles, etc. to thrill the viewers. Please bring your children to the parade for a spectacular time!

The streets will come to life Saturday with the sound of guns firing blanks. The gangster group "Public Enemy" puts the "authentic" in "The Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Festival" by reenacting the shoot-outs with actors, dressed in clothing of that time period, portraying Bonnie and Clyde and their gang. They will be driving antique automobiles and armed with blank-firing submachine guns bringing this period of history alive to visitors and hometown folks. Two shoot-outs will be held downtown and late in the afternoon gun smoke will billow from the trees as the Bonnie and Clyde ambush is recreated at the spot where the infamous outlaws died. The automobile will come to rest in a ditch, just as the real death car did 72 years ago!

The Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Museum will be open Friday and Saturday all day with free admission. The official festival t-shirts will be sold in the museum for \$10.00 each (\$12.00 for sizes XXL and larger) along with various other souvenirs. Gibsland Bank and Trust's booth will also be selling the official festival shirts. Proceeds from these official festival shirts and souvenirs are what provide this wonderful festival for everyone to attend, so please be sure and purchase your souvenir items to help with expenses for our festival!! Read about Bonnie and Clyde in historical newspaper articles and see a large exhibit of photographs and memorabilia of the couple at the "Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Museum". The museum also has historical pictures of the town and local artifacts. Plan to take a part of Bonnie and Clyde history home with you by purchasing Bonnie and Clyde souvenirs, ranging from newsprint history or a book with copies of historical newspaper articles to postcards with pictures of the couple. The museum will be something you will not want to miss!



**The six Officers of the Ambush**

Make sure you visit the Ambush Museum that occupies the exact historical location in Gibsland, La. of Ma Canfield's Café where Bonnie and Clyde dined for the last time. Here you will experience a trip back to 1934 when the most notorious outlaw couple of all

time met their bloody fate in a deadly ambush. You can also meet L. J. "Boots" Hinton who is the museum's spokesman. He is the son of Deputy Sheriff Ted Hinton who was a participant in the actual ambush. This museum will be something you will really want to see! Please make plans to be in Gibsland, La. on May 19 & 20, 2006 for excitement and great fun!!

## "More Family History"

By Buddy Barrow

I have been asked many times about Cumie Barrow being shot in the face. If it had anything about getting even with the Barrow Family. The answer to that is no. Although Henry Barrow was stabbed and Marie Barrow was cut by a family from West Dallas. This family was afraid the Barrows would tell the authorities that they aided Clyde and Bonnie. The harboring charges were being enforced at that time. This family thought by intimidating the Barrows was the way to handle the situation. Cumie told everyone in West Dallas that she nor her family would tell the authorities who helped her son.

In September 1938 my dad L. C. Barrow had been just released from prison. He served two years for harboring and three years of a five year sentence for an armed robbery he did not commit. My dad was never compensated or apologized to for serving the three years. The authorities just told him that they found out he had nothing to do with the robbery.

On September 4, 1938 my dad was being given a welcome home party at Curly's Tavern on Eagle Ford Road. All the Barrow siblings were there plus their spouses. At some point my dad went outside to wait for Norman Frances (Nell Barrow's husband) to arrive. While standing outside S. J. "Baldy" Whatley said something derogatory about the Barrow family through the window where my dad was standing. My dad went back inside and confronted Baldy. A fight broke out and Joe Francis hit Baldy with a pair of brass knuckles. Baldy left the Tavern swearing to get even with L. C..

Baldy Whatley was a gun runner who stole weapons from the U. S. Armories. When Clyde needed weapons he would purchase them from Whatley when he did not have time to steal them himself. When Clyde needed a B.A.R. in a hurry he knew where Baldy kept his weapons. They were usually under a house in West Dallas.

L. C. Barrow never cared for Whatley. He thought he was a loud mouth thug who was jealous of Clyde's notoriety. This was not the first run in they had. There were many more to follow until the Barrows moved out of West Dallas and Whatley was sentenced to prison.

After the party that night in September 1938 everyone had left and gone their separate ways. Marie and her husband Joe Francis and his brother Lewis Francis and his wife left in one car. They pulled in front of the Barrow Star Filling Station unaware Whatley lay in ambush across the street at another filling station. When Joe Francis got out of the car Baldy opened fire with ten or twelve rounds from an automatic shot gun. Cumie was asleep in the front room facing an open window. Henry Barrow was on a cot outside the station. Baldy thought Joe Francis was L. C. from that distance. The first shot missed Joe and hit Cumie through the window on the right side of her face and chest. Lewis Francis was shot in the leg. Marie ran inside and retrieved a 45 automatic and returned fire at Baldy. After the shoot out the only two hit were Cumie and Lewis Francis.



**Photo of Cumie Barrow (Clyde's Mother) in a chair being carried into the Dallas Courthouse for the Whatley attempted Murder Trial. (Not the harboring trial of 1935)**

Bill Decker, Dallas County Deputy Sheriff, picked up Whatley for attempted murder. Baldy told Decker that there was someone shooting at him with a 45. The only 45 that was found was under Henry Barrow's pillow which had not been fired.

Cumie Barrow like to have died from her wounds. She did lose her right eye. The photo of her in a chair being carried into the courthouse is the Whatley attempted murder trial not the harboring trial of 1935.

Baldy Whatley was tried and convicted of attempted murder and received twelve years for the crime. The authorities did realize after Whatley was in prison that the fire bombing and hostilities had stopped. West Dallas became quiet for a change.

### LORRAINE JOYNER MEMORIAL HISTORIANS MEETING

**Time** - 6:00P.M. - Gumbo Dinner - **Cost**: - \$ 6.00 Donation

**Location**: Meeting room of Gibsland Grill

**Program**: - Speakers and Discussions, Ends 10:30 P.M.

**For more information call Ken Holmes (214) 747-2362**