

COBB COUNTY RETIRED EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

April 20, 2009

The monthly meeting of the Cobb County Retired Employees Association was held on Monday, April 20, 2009 at the West Cobb Senior Center with 42 members in attendance. Co-President Roswell Story called the meeting to order at 10:38 A.M.

Invocation was given by Catherine Lambert followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

New members Karen Johnson and Bob York were welcomed.

Those who are having health problems are Harry Ingram, L. D. Patterson and Jim Lynch.

PROGRAM: Joe Kirby, *Marietta Daily Journal* Editor, was guest speaker. He recently published his book *The Bell Bomber Plant*. Mr. Kirby described the history of the Bell Bomber Plant from its inception. It was the largest plant building south of the Mason Dixon Line. In his book Mr. Kirby describes the important roles played by those responsible for starting the plant. The plant was named for Larry Bell, head of the Bell Aircraft Co. in New York. Major Lucius Clay was stationed at the Pentagon as head of Roosevelt's plan to build airports across the country and was instrumental in getting the plant located in Marietta. The land cost \$125 per acre and it cost \$72 mil to build the plant. B29s were built in the first plant. It was the biggest, most technologically advanced aircraft at that time. We were at war when construction began on the building. The first plane rolled out in October, 1943. A total 668 B29s were built at Bell Bomber Plant.

Vocational schools were set up to train workers. 37% of employees were female. As a result of the Bell Bomber Plant the population of the community almost doubled.

Following the end of the war it was a matter of weeks and the plant shut down. It was used as a storage facility for 5 years. When the Korean War began B29s were brought back to be reconditioned. By the end of that war the jet engine was being built and the B29 was obsolete.

Mr. Kirby has two books on the market – *Marietta Then and Now* and his latest *The Bell Bomber Plant*.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Ruby Lowry reported a balance of \$3095.34 in the treasury. Motion was made by Judy Clark with a second to accept the report. Motion carried.

MINUTES: Motion was made by David Stone with a second to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2009 meeting as printed. Motion carried.

NAME BADGES: Everyone was reminded to please be sure to sign the sheet if they want to purchase a name badge.

NEXT MEETING: May 18, 2009 is our annual cookout at 11:00 A.M. Everyone needs a reservation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 A.M.

Martha Watson, Secretary