



# THE CUTHBERT Southern Tribune



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## B Local RIEFS

### Town Hall Meeting

To All Citizens of Fort Gaines: There will be a Town Hall Meeting Thursday, September 11, 2014 on the Dangers of Natural Gas, for Users and Non-Users, at 6:00 PM at the Elementary School. It is imperative you attend. Federal law requires that all citizens, users & non-users, of Fort Gaines be educated on natural gas. FMI call 229-768-2874 Terina Kenyon, Mayor, City of Fort Gaines.

Free  
Nutrition  
Workshop

# Bradley dazzles with Civil War Era Diorama

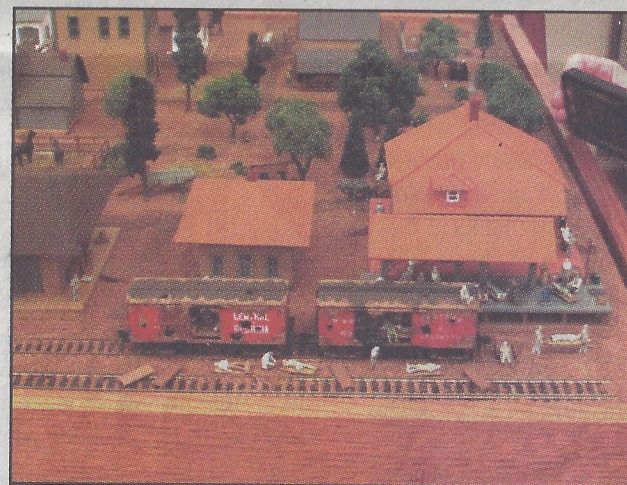


Pictured above standing with the Civil War Era Diorama are (from left) Mike Bunn, HCC; Jim Bradley; Sherri Johnson and Yolanda Hayes, Catz-Paw Innovations; and Jimmy Bradley.

By CINDY MILLARD

Jimmy Bradley was guest speaker at Monday night's meeting of the Randolph Historical Society,

on the board. All of the figures and buildings are to scale; but of course, the distance between the buildings is not to scale. Bradley was



history uncovered was amazing, and viewing the diorama itself made one feel that you were, indeed, back in September of 1864 (after Atlanta had surrendered to

Union forces on August 25), instead of September 2014, 150 years later.

"Railroad lines in Atlanta had been blown up during the Battle of At-

lanta," explained Bradley, "as had rail lines to the east," as Sherman's army made their March to the Sea. "So, they went west and southwest and that's how they ended up here. Wounded soldiers were transported from battles in Georgia, by rail to Cuthbert; they were then transported in a black carriage (horse and buggy) to one of the hospitals. That black carriage still exists," he said. There were 700 beds in the three hospitals: Hill, Hood and Lumpkin. Andrew College was utilized as Hood Hospital. The Baptist College was Hill.

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held at the Cuthbert United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. On display and the subject of Bradley's presentation was a Diorama of Cuthbert during the later part of the Civil War, late 1864 and early 1865.

The Diorama, a miniature model representing a scene with three-dimensional (3-D) figures, depicts life in Cuthbert focusing on the train depot and three hospitals, where the wounded from the Civil War were transported for treatment. Bradley's presentation combined details of the construction and the history which he uncovered in order to reconstruct the time period realistically. Bradley said he spent a lot of time with Karan Pittman, who is in charge of Archives at Andrew College and is well known as Randolph County historian.

There are over 300 figures of people and animals

able to locate a company, CatzPaw Innovations, who could produce the 3-D figures. Owners Sherri Johnson and Yolanda Hayes were present at the presentation. This is the first time they have seen these figures after they were painted and in place on the diorama.

Bradley, his son Jim Bradley and grandson Matt Bradley constructed the buildings and trees, as well as the painting and placement of the figures, buildings, cemeteries and railroad. Jim constructed the case in which the diorama is housed from a white oak that was cut years ago on the Old Springvale Road. The base table which will eventually hold the diorama in the Historic Courthouse will be built from heart pine beams which had to be removed during its current renovation.

The construction techniques were intriguing, the

## DIORAMA

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The exact location of the third hospital is believed to be at the corner of Lumpkin and College Street.

“There were many fatalities,” Bradley said, “but mostly from disease rather than from war wounds.” The soldiers also had poor diets. Greenwood Cemetery is where many were buried. There are 24 marked Civil War graves. However, Bradley brought to everyone’s attention that the large green space in that cemetery is because there was a large mass grave, where possibly 350 are buried. Due to disease, lack of embalming and the heat, it was necessary to bury people as quickly as possible. A Historical Society member stated that the Sons of the Confederacy are planning to pay for forensic work to try to determine the number buried.

The construction and funding for the Diorama was made possible because of a grant from the Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC). The grant was a matching grant, and because of the numerous hours donated as “in kind” by the Bradley’s, “We have far exceeded our part,” said Patricia Goodman, Randolph Chamber President. Mike Bunn, HCC Executive Director, said, “This far exceeds anything we could have originally hoped for” in a Civil War era diorama.

Bradley stated that the railroad’s part in transporting the wounded soldiers to Cuthbert shows a link to transportation for this exhibit, as the old courthouse will now be known as “The Welcome Center in the Historic Courthouse”. Windows and brickwork in the historic 1885 structure were replaced with state transportation money and it is important that the usage of the building and displays in the building relate to transportation.