

Krowe of bowlegs
presents

Year ☆
of the ★
Pirate ☼

or
Willy Wowlegs
in Flobiddon
City



June 10, 1972
Ft. Walton Beach High
Auditorium



pirate captain Billy Bowlegs

The Billy Bowlegs Festival has William Augustus Bowles, a notorious old boy, as its patron pirate. He arrived in what was to become Florida's Playground Area in 1778 when the Spanish, English and Americans were maneuvering for control of the Gulf shores and its shipping lanes. Believing himself destined to command instead of obeying, Captain Billy Bowlegs gathered a force of a "couple hundred plundering Indians, relics from the American Army and White Banditti," a rollicking piratical crew which grew to be the concern of all three of the power-hungry countries. Captain Bowlegs (Bowles) created his own throne and the three nations considered everything from murder to a general's commission to get him on the right side. Financed by loot from a Spanish ship and surrounded by a handful of Indians, Captain Billy invaded English society for support. He was rewarded with a flag of English and Indian colors mixed, a silver pipe, tomahawk, a Chain of Friendship and trade supplies, with which he formed the State of Muskogee. The Spanish enticed him to New Orleans and grabbed the head of the State of Muskogee. He was shipped out to Madrid and then to the Philippines, but he jumped ship and returned to his 'state' and greater deeds of piracy. He raided on the Gulf and on shore. His schooners flew his pirate flag, except when they switched to the British flag to claim their 'salvaged' loot at international ports. But all good pirates must have an end, and Captain Bowlegs' came after he was seized when he was lured to peace talks in the presence of Spanish, American and English agents. The Spanish paid his disenchanted Indians a reward and took poor old Captain Bowlegs to Morro Castle, where he starved himself to death in 1803 rather than 'sink so low as to speak to the Cuban general.'



the history of bowlegs' festival

Back in 1953, a ski show was sponsored by the Fort Walton Beach City Recreation Department to give the local residents and tourists something to enjoy over the Labor Day weekend. It was a crowd pleaser, but the City decided it was too large for them to handle so they asked the Jaycees, then in its first year as an organization, to take it over.

The event became so popular that the following year the Jaycees decided to follow a pirate theme and name it after the infamous pirate, Billy Bowlegs, whose base of operations was the area waters. Each successive year the growing popularity of the festival reflects a co-operative community spirit and many man hours and dollars contributed to the success of an idea.

The Festival finally grew to a week-long affair and was moved to "open" the beginning of the summer tourist season. The Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce's Attractions Committee was asked to assume the responsibility of planning the events. Steady growth finally dictated an entirely separate Committee under the Chamber to operate the event. This active Committee is the Bowlegs' Festival Committee: Jorge Ramirez, Chairman; Kate Bagley, Dutch Van Buskirk, G.V. Pardue, Robert McNamara, Chuck Widaman, Ann O'Connor, Major Robert Rapp, Lt. Bill Lee, Cliff Long, Dr. M.C. Crotzer; Nell Hutchins, Coordinator and Iris Baughman, Executive Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

This Committee is grateful to the City of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, for their continuing support and assistance.

A Krewe is born...

Although the Krewe of Bowlegs in actuality is a fledging mystic order, under charter rules and regulations there is nothing occult in the minds of Miracle Strip residents and participants concerning its value as a lofty, social contribution and an invaluable publicity target.

The Krewe, currently active in its fifteenth year, is a direct and brilliantly promising multiple of the Billy Bowleg's Festival. The overwhelming acceptance and ensuing success of the early initial celebrations sparked vigorous local interest and resulted in some extremely gratifying publicity beyond its intended boundaries.

Cognisant of other Gulf Coast events such as Mardi Gras and its Krewe organizations, the Krewe of Bowlegs was conceived and born of a small group of area civic leaders. The Krewe's active membership consists of 160 and is governed by a President (the Captain Billy), Vice President and Board of Directors who meet at regular meetings to discuss policies, procedures and the general welfare of the group.

The Krewe is composed of prominent citizens and civic leaders whose business help form the foundation of the City and County's economical stabilization and are, therefore, invaluable as Festival supporters.

Visitors to and citizens of the area are annually in for many days of unprecedented fun and frolic during the celebration with the spotlight of pompous ceremony focused on the Krewe's participation. Hours of volunteered time and sizable sums of money are expended each year on colorful floats, impressive decorations and gaily colored costumes used by the Krewe during the Grand Torch-Light Parade and at the Coronation and Balls. The beautiful floats carrying out a "theme" which the masked Krewe ride allow the members to throw showers of souvenir trinkets and candies to the thousands lining the parade route.

The last evening of each Festival week a Coronation Ceremony discloses with the unmasking a new succeeding Captain Billy Bowlegs, his Queen, First Mate and the new Honor Guard. The Captain is selected by a secret committee and he in turn chooses his entire court.

The Krewe wishes you, one and all a very wonderful evening and ask that You be on board next year when they once again can be your host for the pageantry of the "Billy Bowlegs' Festival".



Pirates of The Blackhawk

The ghostly ship set sail to stay
Upon the sea in search of prey.
With scarfaced men and flashing blades
It scourged the sea with bloody raids.

The pirate chief who ruled this crew
Was cunning, bold and brave
And feared was he by all aboard
From shipmate down to slave.

With the sighting of the Black Hawk
The wenches were enraptured
But just one glance at Billy's crew
And Fort Walton Beach was captured.

When the battles were over
And the merry-making done
They surveyed all the treasure
To see what was won.

Then off they would sail
Their loot stashed in kegs
And this is the legend
Of the pirate, Bowlegs!

Susan Johnson

Krewe of Bowlegs 1971 Court

CAPTAIN BILLY BOWLEGS

QUEEN

FIRST MATE & WIFE

HONOR GUARD & WIVES

Clifford H. Long

Mrs. James F. (Dot) Buchanan

Bob & Sarah Morrison

Bill & Bunny Alford

Bob & Dot Blizzard

Paul & Bettye Eyrich

Joe & Zelena Guidry

Gus & Pat Hatch

Paul & Anne Petrey

Walt & Wava Ruckel

Bob & Joyce Saxer

Bowman & Gladys Thomas

Alex & Donna Trum

CHILDREN-OF-THE-COURT

Sword Bearer

Crown Bearer

Queen's Hand Maiden

Bowlegs' Medallion Bearer

Queen's Medallion Bearer

Flower Girl

Cabin Boys-

William Jeremiah Tolton, III

Margaret Lanier Buchanan

Lisa Jean Long

Eric Rigggenbach

Gigi Smith

Mary Kathleen Laughlin

Patrick Terrell

David Emory Fleet

Pages-

Jan Bodenhamer

Ushers-

Mark Fortune

Tim Hudson

Dale Hamrick

Charles W. Rigdon

William Randall Spain

David Hailey Buchanan

Dawn Renea Ramirez

H. French Brown, III

Carey Ricks

Patrick Kearney Crotzer

Charles Benson Mathews, Jr.

1971 Krewe Executive Board

PRESIDENT

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURER

SECRETARY

GENERAL BOARD

EX OFFICIO

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Clifford H. Long

G.V. Pardue

Robert Blizzard

Chris Johnson

Erwin Fleet

Jim Buchanan, Charles A. Born,

William Spain

Jim Kendrick

Ann O'Connor

Coronation Pageant

Presentation of The Colors & National Anthem
Fort Walton Beach High School
A.F.J.R.O.T.C. Cadets

Voices of Valhalla - Don Hicks, Director

Overture Music from the Orient

"One year ago Ol' Capn' Billy sailed from his favorite Home Port for another adventure on the Briny Deep. After rounding Cape Horn and sailing due West, he came upon a Mysterious Island and learned of a fabulous Oriental Kingdom"

THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND

Bloody Mary Julie O'Rurke
Polynesian Maiden Linda Humbert
Pirate Lewis Bencivenja

John Hutchcroft Trio

Piano Hutchcroft
Drums Lamar Smith
Bass John Boston

ORIENTAL KINGDOM

Capn' Billy and his retinue are entertained by -

Oriental Maidens

Courtesy of Fort Walton Beach Ballet Association -
Bernadette Clements, Director

Debbie Williams
Sande Hall
Karyn Russell

Karen Dearborn
Jenny Cox
Kay Williams

Presentation of Princesses

Beverly Ann Brener

Presented by Colonel George P. Brener, USAF Ret.

Jane Neane Fisher

Presented by Colonel Franklin L. Fisher, USAF Ret.

Sheryl Karen Fleet

Presented by Erwin Fleet

Cheryl Ann Holcombe

Presented by Frank M. Holcombe

Cynthia Anne McLaughlin

Presented by Maurice McLaughlin

Diane Elizabeth Nied

Presented by Lt Colonel George J. Nied USAF Ret.

Court of Revelry

Cast of Court of Revelry - Choctawhatchee High School
Entertainers

Sponsored by Choctawhatchee Cheerleaders
under direction of Mrs. Ross Hamilton,
Faculty Member & Cheerleader

ACT I

MAN-IN-THE-STREET

Announcer

W.C. Fields

Mae West

Andrews Sisters

Shirley Temple

Tourists

Nick Aumen

Ricky Hills

Vivian Smith

Dicorn Cox

Cindy Olsen & Lulu Wilson

Glenda Swails

Janet Lacy

Jill Leatherbee

Lola Ourso

Elaine Dudley

Annette James

Linda Fields

Nancy Barton

ACT II

LAUREL & HARDY

Danny Andre

Gary Atchey

Mike Brown

Ken Helmer

Sandee Watkins

ACT III

EDITH ANN OF LAUGH-IN

(Miss Choctawhatchee High) Dede Budden

ACT IV

BLACKOUTS

"Along Came John"

John Lee

Carla Buice

Blake Conklin

Andy Corbin

Judy Bosnake

ACT V

CHARLIE CHAPLIN REVIEW

(Wheelettes)

Debbie Farris

Susie Horton

Karen Coleman

Sandy Burns

Mary Beth Graydon

Madelyn Saxer



"REPORT FROM THE BATTLE"

Pirate

Bob Stone

"THE SURRENDER"

Honor Guard 1972

First Mate

Attendants-of-the-Court

Queen's Rikshaw

Queen's Coolie

Brad Giesen

Captain Billy Bowlegs XVII

Coronation

HONORABLE CHRONICLERS

Ching & Chang

*Zo Rowley
Dick Peterman*



Credits

MUSIC Fort Walton Beach High School Stage Band
Ernest Hebson, Director
Voices of Valhalla - Don Hicks, Director

LIGHTS & SOUND V.C. Clements, Jr

COSTUMES..... Jean Long
Florida Fabrics
Choctawhatchee
Students
Mary Stover

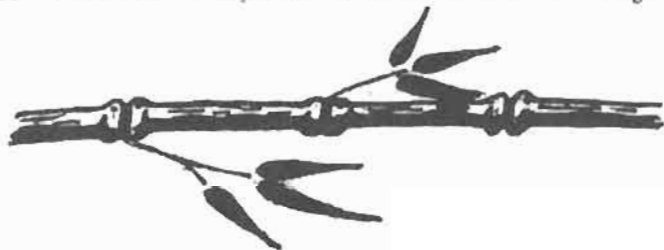
PROPS Ports-of-Asia

STAGE SET Jim Kendrick,
Krewé of Bowlegs
and
1971 Honor Guard

USHERS
Fort Walton Beach High School A.F.J.R.O.T.C.
Cadets & "Skydettes"

PROGRAM ARTWORK Mike Bates

PROGRAM Alyce Ankney



the society of bowlegs and society of queens

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| I. Nathan Fleet | • Dian Lloat |
| II. John Cox | • unknown "Captive" |
| III. Roger Clary | • Miss Northwest Florida |
| IV. Thomas Brooks | • Bettye Williams |
| V. Finley Duncan | • Alex Patton |
| VI. Docie Bass | • Katherine Tringas |
| VII. William Roberts | • Jean Song |
| VIII. Hilary Stewart | • Agnes Bass |
| IX. Wilson Minger | • Carol Duncan |
| X. Dr. H. C. White | • Ella Clary |
| XI. Winston Walker | • 'Sug' Brown |
| XII. Dr. Malcolm Crotzer | • 'Boota' Walker |
| XIII. H. French Brown, Jr. | • Carolyn Crotzer |
| XIV. Erwin Fleet | • 'Neen' Gill |
| XV. Maurice McLaughlin | • Mary Ellen Ricks |
| XVI. Jim Kendrick | • Lynne Mathews |



Coronation Guests are cordially invited to approach the new Captain Billy Bowlegs XVII and his Queen to extend congratulations following the ceremony and prior to the Coronation ball.



