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People

August 3, 2006

'Where everything is made for love'

Double Gates hunting lodge has seen many well-known faces
By Evan Carden



The three-story house, which serves as the home base for the Boykin Lodge, looks much as it did when it was purchased and renovated by Congressman Frank Boykin in 1919, with the exception of a newer edition adjacent to the dining room, which serves as a den. The upstairs portion of the home is where many of the bedrooms are located. (SA photo by Evan Carden)

Imagine some of the state's and country's best-known political figures walking through the woods of Washington County. You might be surprised to know that it is true.

For years many well-known local, state and national politicians have visited the hunting lodge founded by 14-term U.S. Congressman the late Frank Boykin to experience hunting at its finest.

The three-story house that serves as the Boykin Lodge was built around the turn of the 20th century. It was purchased by Rep. Boykin in 1919, renovated and has served as a hunting lodge and retreat for politicians and other famous figures ever since.

Many Alabama governors from Big Jim Folsom to George C. Wallace and Don Siegelman have graced the halls of the house and walked through the acres of woodlands surrounding it armed with hunting rifles and shotguns in search of wild game. Others who have visited include Alabama's most famous head football coach Bear Bryant, the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Nathan Farragut Twining, who served under President Dwight D. Eisenhower, as well as Evangelist Billy Graham, Gen. Fred Dent head of Brookley Field and Gen. Douglas McArthur.

All of these men were invited to the lodge by Congressman Boykin to get away from their routines and enjoy some fine hunting and good fellowship. There are several signs erected on the property, beginning with the gate on U.S. Highway 43 in Double Gates, that reads "Everything is Made For Love." The saying gives the impression that good times are meant to be had by all who enter therein.

Frank Boykin's son, J.R. "Bob" Boykin, lives on the property that surrounds the lodge, which is owned and operated by the Tensaw Land and Timber Company. "You'd never know that some of our state's and nation's best-known politicians have enjoyed relaxing right here in Washington County," said Boykin, who still enjoys a good hunt, even at the age of 85. "My father knew how to get things done, and he knew that getting the decision makers to relax was the way to do it."



This is the gate to the Boykin Lodge located in Double Gates just north of McIntosh. The lodge has hosted many well-known politicians over the years. (SA photo by Evan Carden)

Congressman Boykin's efforts paid off. He used his getaway to later call in favors from those who had enjoyed it, many of which benefited his district. Evidence of his generosity is reflected in the naming of the elementary school in McIntosh in his honor and a number of scholarships that are given to

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SPECIAL REPORT

PRESS-REGISTER

Everything's made for love
A retrospective look at the storied life of
Frank W. Boykin



For 28 years, one highly unusual man represented Mobile and rural southwest Alabama in Congress. His Name was Frank W. Boykin and his saying was "Everything's made for love."

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Frank W. Boykin, 1885-1969

I know it is a great honor to be in Congress, but the trouble is that I can't keep from working 'most too hard. When you think that you are one of 435 making the laws that will govern 126,000,000 people, it certainly makes you think of responsibility. I haven't been in anything that I didn't always want to do my part, and even if I didn't have but 5% interest in a company, I always worked just like the whole thing belonged to me. Well, that is the way I have been trying to do the job here. I am trying to handle my part of it just like I owned all of it. That is the way you have to do in anything in which you are interested. If you can't do it that way, I think you ought to get out

Frank W. Boykin
Letter to his wife and children
25 August 1937

Frank William Boykin was born on February 21, 1885, the fourth of ten children. His parents, James and Glo Boykin, were sharecroppers in Bladon Springs, Alabama, a small community in Choctaw County. In 1893 the family moved to southeastern Washington County, where James ran a store that serviced