

# Okaloosa County News Release

8/22/2007

Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, [knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us](mailto:knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us)

Heritage Museum, Michelle Severino, 678.2615

PO7-175

## Heritage Museum to Host Private Collection and Lecture on Historic Panhandle Industry

“Ray Melvin has the finest and most extensive collection of NW Florida, 1800-1900’s lumber/turpentine artifacts I have ever seen.

The man himself is an articulate historical expert on the artifacts and the lumber industry of those long ago times.”

– Clay McCutchan, Historian, Air Armament Center, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

On **Thursday, September 6 at 12:00 p.m.** the Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida will host **Mr. Raymon Melvin** of Holley, a fourth generation Panhandle resident. Melvin will lead an informal discussion on his family’s experience in the lumber and turpentine industry. Melvin will display 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century tools of the trade from his vast collection as well as his scale turpentine still model.

Melvin has been collecting the remnants of this once thriving industry for over 40 years and has amassed a collection of the industry tools and their patents. He will share his extensive knowledge of how these obsolete tools were made and used in the pine forests in Northwest Florida. Listeners will be intrigued by his descriptions and observers will wonder at the ingenuity of the men who invented, made and used these larger than life tools.

“Mr. Melvin’s historic collection is extremely valuable in terms of its scope and detail.” says Heritage Museum Director Michelle Severino. “The collection he has amassed, combined with his extensive knowledge, puts us in touch with the industry that dominated our area’s economy a century ago.”

Relive history on your lunch hour, experience some “local color”, and go back to the time when pine was the cash crop of Northwest Florida as Mr. Melvin brings the turpentine industry to life with accounts of **tools, toil and turpentine!**

# Okaloosa County News Release

8/22/2007

Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, [knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us](mailto:knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us)

Heritage Museum, Michelle Severino, 678.2615  
PO7-175

Brown bag lunches are encouraged. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required. Call (850) 678-2615 to reserve a space or for more information.

The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida is located at 115 Westview Avenue in historic Valparaiso. The Heritage Museum has been preserving and promoting the rich history of the Panhandle for over 35 years. For information on this and other history education programs go to [www.heritage-museum.org](http://www.heritage-museum.org)

###

**Sat., Aug. 25, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Traditional Basket Weaving**, Instructor Lou Holt  
*Pre-registration & some supplies required. \$35, \$30 HMNF members.*

**Wed., Sept. 12, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Humanities Grant Writing Workshop**, Florida Humanities Council (FHC) Grants Director Susan Lockwood; Reservations recommended, (727)873-2011, [slockwood@flahum.org](mailto:slockwood@flahum.org)

*The workshop is free and open to members of all non-profit organizations interested in having a public humanities program.*

**Sat. Sept. 15 & 22, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Chair Caning**  
*Cost: \$45, \$40 for HMNF members, Caning kit is included in cost.*

end