

GULF DIVISION – LOUISE JONES AND BO WILCOX

The 2008 meeting was held in Nacogdoches, Texas on April 25 and 26. Friday evening there was a lot of talking and catching up to do. Dinner was wonderful and was followed by a video presentation by **Jerry Horowitz** on some of Western Union's history and personalities with audience participation. This was entertaining and interesting. The gathering broke up around 9PM with some going to their rooms and others continuing their catching up with fellow former co-workers.

On Saturday, **Archie Lavergne** opened the meeting with a prayer and then the Pledge of Allegiance. After lunch, **Tommy Heard** was the MC. Members or friends who were too ill to be there were discussed including **Homer Baker, Grady King, Dovie Jacoby, Paul Lameur, Gordon Chambers and Ann Carver**. They were all missed and all wished them a quick recovery. **Jerry Reed** had a note from **Gladys Henson** reporting "she would love to come, but she is 96 and her children won't let her drive out of town".

There were many door prizes distributed as well as the Ditty Bags. Door prizes were donated by many people and included two of the books *The Western Union Story* donated by Western Union and a clock made by **Willis McKinney** that was raffled off as a money raiser. Guest of Honor, **Jerry Horowitz**, made another presentation about Western Union that contained many interesting details about historical facts and personalities associated with the company's history.

Mention was made of **Martha Wilcox** who does portraits of fallen soldiers and gives them to the families of those who have fallen.

Attendees were: **Betty Bedwell, Dave & Johnnie Behal, Alta Bracewell, Patricia Nunez, Rita Forbes, Tommy Heard, Ken & Ann Hobbble, Martha Holland, Kyra West, Joe & Jean Homelson, Jerry Horowitz, Elza Hudkins, Louise Jones, Leo & Alice Whelan, Wilbrun Skinner, Dorothy & Warren King, Gene Laster, Bill Laurents, Archie & Carrie Lavergne, Derrell Matthews, Brenda Ny Meyers, Willis & Helen McKinney, Al Metz, Betty Mason, Yogi Myers, Sachi Tillman, John Williams, Larry Monroe, Ray & Louise Pasco, James & Noretta Parker, Hugh & Norma Powell, Don Seals, Leon & Patty Slocumb, Bruce & Julie Richards, Jerry & Fredia Reed, Bo & Martha Wilcox and Venessa Callaway.**

This year's reunion was hosted by Houston, with help from **Jerry Reed**, Treasurer, and **Tommy Heard**, MC. Great Job! The reunion for 2009 will be hosted by **Archie Lavergne, Bo Wilcox, Jerry Reed, and Tommy Heard**. More to come later.

