J.A. Ballentine-Seabrook's Oldest Residing Native

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SEABROOK — During the past 84 years, the name Jack A. Ballentine has meant a lot of different things to the city of Seabrook.

And all of them have been pleasant.

"Grampy Jack," as the children call him, is the oldest living native of Seabrook still residing in the historic, waterfront town. He was born in what is now Timber Cove.

But, that's not the only record that Jack holds a claim to. During the 22 years he was employed in Seabrook schools, Ballentine went 11 straight years without missing a day on the job - a record that isn't likely to be tampered with any time soon.

He worked as a school bus driver the first half of that term, and as a custodian the last 11 years. During that time, the name Jack Ballentine almost became synomous with that of Seabrook Schools.

Ballentine was the kind of employe who went above and beyond the call of duty without uttering a sigh of hesitation. It wouldn't be easy to count the number of after-school bus trips on which he and wife Ruth, took students. If it had to do with "learning," Jack was all for it. He still possesses an "old fashioned" kind of desire to see young people get the kind of education they need.

Talking to Seabrook residents who graduated while Ballentine was still around, one gets the impression that they learned as much from him as they did the teachers.

"I can remember when Seabrook and Kemah both had one school bus apiece, and Webster didn't have but two." said the

JACK BALLENTINE