

Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

HAHS MUSEUM
HATTIESBURG
CULTURAL CENTER
723 MAIN STREET
P O BOX 1573
HATTIESBURG MS
39403-1573
601 582-5460

SOME TREASURES TAKE YEARS TO ENLIGHTEN US

Finding a buried treasure is such a deep desire in most of us that multiple TV shows follow those who dig for treasure in the soil; explore the bottom of lakes, rivers, and seas; scrutinize ancient manuscripts; and envision landing on other planets. Sometimes treasures are just dumped out of windows above you. This was what happened in 1984 to then HAHS President Jacq Jones.



Circa 1950

Intersection Pine/Hardy @ Farrior Motor Co.

One evening, as she left the HAHS Museum (at the time located in the Saenger Building) she heard crashing noises in the alley behind the T. J. Jackson building.

She looked down the alley to see thousands of negatives being thrown into the alley from the windows above. The former Hyland Studio (later Hyland-Dykes and Gaston-Dykes) was being cleared and remodeled for a new occupant. After insisting that this destruction of historical photographs be stopped, she was given a key to the building and until 8 A.M. the next morning to remove any photos and negatives she wanted for the HAHS.

Jacq called for help. In the 1986 HAHS calendar, she wrote about the 14 hours that followed that call: "On a hot summer night several years ago Ursula Jones, Chris West and daughter Britton, and Carl V. Kepper sweated up stairs, through plaster dust, photographic paraphernalia, and construction trash by flashlight to rescue pictorial records. Pictures and negatives were gathered from the floor, the walls, and even the alley. Before the night was over they had temporarily boxed and stored several pickup loads for the Historical Society."

"Much later and with much volunteer effort" she continued, "individual, wedding, family, group, school, and business pictures and negatives were cleaned and organized and made available to the public."

But that is not the complete story. The negatives were placed in Chris West's garage until they could be partially sorted. Then Jack Riley graciously offered storage space upstairs in his building on Front Street. Next the HAHS Museum was moved to Kamper Park. The photos and negatives were not forgotten, but there was no time to deal with them.

When Jack Riley's building sold the negatives were moved into a storage shed. After several break-ins, Charles Struggs suggested storing them in the old jail at Sumrall while the courtroom upstairs was restored. There the negatives spent time in the ground floor cells and rode-out Hurricane Katrina.



Circa 1950

On Main Street - Merchants Café,
American Beauty Salon, Hyland
Studio, and Donovan Lane

When HAHS moved to the Cultural Center in 2001, items and files were quickly packed in boxes, but before they could all be opened several of the volunteers who knew of their contents passed away. (As 2020 approaches, many boxes are still unopened and “buried” in storage with treasures yet to be rediscovered.)

In 2009, USM history instructor Andrew Haley, seeking a classroom project, tried to help identify some of the negatives with the help of his students. Holding negatives to the light they sorted, numbered, and listed the information available on enough usable negatives to fill six shoe boxes.

Meanwhile in Sumrall, Charles Struggs was ready to start restoration on the jail cells. He called Tom Phillips III and Ursula to come and get the negatives. With two trucks and trailers they moved them to Ursula’s Rawls Springs property where they sat until 2019, when Lee Terrio took on the monumental task of scanning them into the computer using equipment HAHS had purchased for that purpose in 2002. He started with the boxes that the USM students had sorted and then moved on to the eight shelving units of six shelves each that held over 200 shoeboxes of crumbling negatives!

As of today, Lee has digitized all of the thousands of negatives that have been located. Of course, there may be more in some of the museum’s unopened boxes, but for now the HAHS knows that people in Hattiesburg are beginning to enjoy these old treasures.

Diane Shepherd of Main Street Books is one of those people. She remembered the Tree of Hope Reverend Garland McInnis placed in front of the Helping Hand Mission on South Main Street each December. Every \$5 donation for the needy lit a bulb on his tree. Diane wanted to do a similar tree in 2018 to raise funds for books to give to needy children at Christmas. Did HAHS have a photo?

Yes, in early 2019 it was found among the negatives! Beth Bunch told the story and included the photo in the November 7th edition of the *Pine Belt News*. This Christmas, Main Street Books’ Tree of Hope is again lighting up--\$5 per bulb.



What brought so many people downtown in 1950?

People lined the streets waiting for the Circus Parade.

Buildings - to the left Hattiesburg Clearing House (look in the top floor windows), 1st National Bank of Commerce, and Eisman’s, LTD.



As you can see in the picture to the left, both sides of the street were covered in spectators waiting for the elephants!



Gifts to the Society
 September 7, 2019 – December 1, 2019

- **Alvin Schaut:** Color Post Card Mississippi Southern College Gate House
 Postmarked: Camp Shelby May 9, 1941
- **Joe Meador:** Piece of grooved trolley rail from the Hattiesburg 1913-1925 Main Street line
- **Gene Flanders:** Lumber and materials for a panel display unit
- **Suzette Hargroder:** Materials for panel display unit, Pic Mosquito Coils from Beverly Drive-In stock
- **Susan Carter:** 60th Reunion Album for the HHS Class of 1959
- **Barbara Ann Ross:** Local ephemera including photographs, pamphlets, programs, magazines, obituaries, newsletters, newspaper articles, maps, and other notes documenting the history of churches, hospitals, places, and people of early Hattiesburg
- **Sherry Hocutt:** February 1, 1982, Hattiesburg Centennial Celebration Kick-Off Day program and script for Camp School's 3rd Grade Presentation: "Boys and Girls of '82 View Hattiesburg's Past, Present, and Future" written by Earline Roseberry, illustrated by Janet White, with Brian Hocutt as W.S. Gordon
- **David Byrd:** Color photo of Hattiesburg Motorcycle Police circa 1970, HPD short sleeve shirts circa 1960 and 1970, HPD long sleeve jacket circa 1970
- **Patricia Lewis Hughes:** Program from 1948 Junior Class presentation of "The Imaginary Invalid" in which she was a cast member

Cash Donations

Lynn & Joe Meador
 Frank Allen
 Ursula Jones
 Cindy Cochran
 Betty Ruth Scott
 Anita Price
 Edgar Burkett

Life Members

Frank Allen

Memorials

Marty Tatum Lopez
 Frances Gale Saenz
 Betty Ross Thompson
 Dudley Grantham
 Dr. Charles J. Caruso

Thank you!



As advertised on the window a 1960 Chevy Covair

Other 1960 Chevys





HAHS MUSEUM
 Post Office Box 1573
 Hattiesburg, MS
 39403-1573

Museum Hours
 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
 Or by appointment
 Call 601-582-5460

Located in the
 Hattiesburg Cultural Center
 723 Main Street
 Downtown
 Hattiesburg, MS

Website:
www.hahsmuseum.org

Email:
hahsmuseum@mail.com



Officers

- President**
Russell Archer
- 1st Vice President**
Lynn Helwig
- 2nd Vice President**
Ursula Jones
- Secretary**
Hattie Phalen
- Treasurer**
Barbara Curry



**Hardy Street
 circa 1950**

Behind the Furniture Market you can see the smoke stack of Phoenix Laundry. The building to the left is the laundry building. On the right side is Emil's. The laundry building was where the Hattiesburg Library is now. The Emil's building is currently occupied by HSF Recovery, Inc., SCS and Culpepper Testing.

**Broadway Drive
 circa 1960**

At the time Jim Bomboy's sold electric appliances and GMC cars and trucks.

To the left of this building you can see the Broadway Mart shopping center.

This building is currently occupied by MS Title Loans



If you have any additional information to share on these pictures, please let us know. Also if you are interested in looking through the scanned negatives come to HAHS during hours of operation and you can actually look at them on the computer.

Make sure to check your address label. There will be a date which your dues are paid through or an L for life members. If you have questions call the society office.

Also of note, our email address has changed, the new one is in the information to the left.

From your Board of Directors

