

Hattiesburg Area Historical Society

HAHS MUSEUM
HATTIESBURG CULTURAL CENTER
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SOCIETY NEWS: MOVING ON....

As the summer comes to a close HAHS is on the move again. Our military exhibit has been moved out and a new exhibit featuring the 90 years of Girl Scouting in the United States and our local Gulf Pines Council has moved in to replace it. Three of the Soapbox Derby cars have gone home with their owner, Fred Saul, for overhauls and storage; a tent now stands in their place.

In 1984 the HAHS rescued thousands of photos and negatives from the photography studio above the old Donovan-Lane Men's Wear store in the T. J. Jackson building on Main Street. Chris West moved them to his garage. During months of organizing, family and individual prints and negatives were made available to the public for donations. Afterwards, Jack Riley graciously offered storage space in his building as HAHS moved on to other projects.

When the *Hattiesburg American* decided that bound newspapers took up too much space and were hard to handle, USM put the collection on microfilm. A copy went to the Hattiesburg Public Library, and USM kept a copy. The question then was, "What should be done with the bound copies?" After the library and USM both refused custody, the HAHS moved them into Jack Riley's building. This was no small task; every existing bound copy of the newspaper from its beginning in May 1928 was moved up the stairs.

As time went by extra equipment, tables, cabinets, and supplies joined the photos, negatives, and newspapers. Large framed photographs of a men's organization (come by and help us identify this group) moved into the hallway. Lonnie

King's photography files were the last items added before our move to Kamper Park and then to the Cultural Center.

With all the moving from place to place volunteers have worked faithfully to try to sort and reorganize our collections. No one forgot about the papers and photos, but we didn't have time or space to deal with moving them. At the beginning of July we were told that the building had been sold, so we have temporarily moved the collection to a storage shed.

Now the question again is, "What should be done with the bound copies? We have pulled out the one month that is missing from the library microfilm collection so that it can be copied. People interested in genealogy tell us that sometimes words near the edges of a page are missing from the microfilm. They think the copies should be saved. The first book opened by one of the movers had headlines about Machinegun Kelly. The actual books are much more interesting than the film.

Due to our space limitations and the deteriorating condition of the books, the Board of Directors has decided that a few selected books should be kept by

HAHS. The other pages of Hattiesburg's history will be made available to the public for a donation to the HAHS. The books contain two or three months of newspapers. Not all months or years are available. Some of the books suffered water damage before being moved from the *Hattiesburg American* offices. If you are interested, please contact Laurie Crowson or Ursula Jones at the HAHS Museum.



HAHS Appreciates These Recent Monetary Contributions

April 1, 2002 - August 19, 2002

Donors:

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Betty Ruth Scott
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HHS Class of 1957
W. Lorraine White

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Johnsie Kirkland
Ed & Tommy Tomaszek
Hunter Boul
David Forrester
William T. & Joan Myers

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Bufkin McSwain
Dr. David Miller
Patricia Messer Buffington
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Mrs. Ellen Gonzales
Jo Ann Kerley
Jacq Jones
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New Life Members

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KEEL BOAT UPDATE...

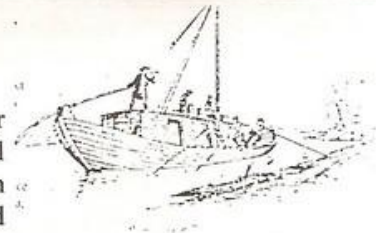
My latest communication with Dr. Corbin gives me great hope for our boat. She has discovered that this past year a portion of a steamer hull removed from Lake Michigan in the 1970s began a simple conservation process that she thinks would work quite well for us. The hull section had limited treatment over the years and was housed outside like ours. The vessel was cleaned (vacuumed thoroughly) and then sprayed at set intervals with a wood sealer mixed with an insecticide. Thus far it has worked allowing the vessel to maintain its shape, and to some degree has even corrected some of the cracking and checking. This process can be easily monitored by her from North Carolina, by emailing digital photos of the vessel at periodic intervals.

In terms of funding, I have written to the Corporate Community Relations at The Walt Disney Company. This project would be a nice fit for their foundation. They were reminded that ironically, Disney has an association with vessels of this kind. In the mid 1950s Walt Disney produced "Davy Crocket and the River Pirates." This film depicts the adventure of keel boat travel on the Mississippi River when the U.S. was still a young republic. We feel that Walt Disney could benefit from a well-publicized donation to our keel boat preservation fund. Any amount Disney would consider offering would be greatly appreciated. We thank Andrew English for researching this avenue for us.

I have also filled out information for the Gannett Foundation. They try to help communities where they have newspapers.

I am also diligently working on a home for our treasure. If you have any suggestions, please let me know. It will take the whole "team" to make this happen.

-Paula Harvey, President





Thank You HHS Class of 1957

After being misplaced for several years, the Hattiesburg High School Class of 1957 composite picture has found new life. Restoration of the composite has been completed and it is now part of the composite gallery at the Hattiesburg Cultural Center (The Old Public Library)

The Cultural Center houses the Hattiesburg Area Historical Society, the Historic Hattiesburg Downtown Association, and the Hattiesburg Arts Council. Hattiesburg High School class composite pictures from 1922 through 1959 hang in the ground floor gallery and belong to the Hattiesburg Area Historical Society.

Renovation of the HHS-1957 composite includes a new frame with Plexiglas protection, restoration of damaged lettering, the addition of two missing classmate's pictures, and a brass plaque to document the restoration date. The composite looks great and carries a very nice 45-year patina.

Generous contributions from members of the HHS-1957 class funded the restoration process. Class member James N. Yelverton coordinated the project with assistance and encouragement from HAHS volunteers. A special "thank you" goes to Jeanne Herring for her success in restoring the damaged composite lettering.

In addition to funding the composite restoration, the HHS Class of 1957 made a significant contribution to support the preservation work of the Hattiesburg Area Historical Society. The Society also appreciates the picture taken at the reunion. The public is invited to come see the gallery of graduates.

Two composites remain missing. We challenge the graduates of the classes of 1942 and 1954 to find their composite pictures so the gallery is complete.



Our current HAHS Museum exhibit features Girl Scouting during its 90th Anniversary year. After its founding in Savannah, GA in March of 1912, Girl Scouting spread across the United States. The earliest known troops in Hattiesburg were formed in 1934-35, along with

their various other activities, Scouts began working toward owning their own camp. Scouts shared YMCA Camp Dantzler on Black Creek as several efforts to establish their own camp failed. By 1960, the Forrest County Girl Scout Council merged with other Pine Belt and Gulf Coast counties to form the Gulf Pines Council. Finally, in 1963, land was purchased near Wiggins, MS, and Camp Iti Kana fulfilled the Scout's 30 year dream. Today's Scouts still utilize the most modern technology available, participate in community activities, develop national and international friendships, enjoy the arts, and explore the out-of-doors.

If you are or were a Girl Scout please come by the museum and fill out a biographical sketch. If you have memorabilia or information on area scouting that you want to share or have included in the display, please contact Ursula Jones at the museum.

REQUESTS: Dick Conville, USM, is doing a project on Mobile and Market Streets. If you have any old pictures, please contact HAHS. Also, there has been a request for an old picture of the Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.

NOTICE: We are trying to correct *The History of Forrest County, MS*, and would appreciate your help in sending in corrections to the stories in the book. Our original "corrections" book was misplaced in the move from Kamper Park..

HATTIESBURG AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HAHS MUSEUM

Post Office Box 1573
Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1573



MUSEUM HOURS

Mon., Tues., Thurs.
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Wed. 9 - 12 a.m.
By Appointment
Call 601-582-5460

Located in the Hattiesburg
Cultural Center 723 Main St.
Downtown Hattiesburg, MS

Email:

HAHS1573@juno.com

OFFICERS

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Vice President.....Ursula Jones
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.....Bobbie Cloy
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Return Service Requested

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NOTICE: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OCTOBER 17, 2002, at 5:30 p.m.
AT THE CULTURAL CENTER, 723 MAIN STREET, HATTIESBURG.

Note: Thank you for supporting HAHS. The status of your membership is found after
your name on the address label-the year dues have been paid or "L" for Life member.

Did you know HAHS Museum is now listed on the World Wide Web under:
www.hattiesburg.org. Click on Attractions!

2002 HAHS MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Individual \$10 _____ Couple/Organization \$15 _____
Student \$2 _____ Each Life Membership \$100 _____
Memorial to: _____ Amt. _____
Honorarium _____ Amt. _____

(Please make checks payable to HAHS)
P.O. Box 1573, Hattiesburg, MS 39403-1573

WANTED: CITY DIRECTORIES

We need old city directories. Our collection is "spotty," but so often we are able to locate information for "walk-ins," especially new residents who are interested in re-searching the history of their homes. The collection of City Directories owned by HAHS covers the years from 1905 through 1994. We do not have the following directories: 1908, 1910-1917, 1919-1928, 1930-1936, 1938-1940, 1942, 1943, 1945, 1947, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1957, 1960, 1966, 1990, 1995-2002.