

The original Jersey Settlement Community was settled in 1773 by the families of Justus King, Obadiah Brown, Samuel Swayze, Nathan Swayze and Richard Swayze. The land was surveyed by Caleb King, who returned to New Jersey to marry Mary Swayze and then came back with his wife around 1775. He laid out and established the town of Kingston about a mile from the original Jersey Settlement.

The first church in the community was a Congregational Church, organized by Rev. Samuel Swayze around 1773, which continued until his death about 12 years later. This church probably met in the home of the people.

The Kingston Methodist Church was organized by Rev. Tobias Gibson in 1800 and had 7 persons in its original membership: Caleb King, Gabriel Swayze, Lydia Swayze, Prudence Cory, Deborah Luce, Prudence Varnadoe and Eliza King. In 1803 Rev. Lorenzo Dow gave them a lot, 40' X 60', in Block 2, Square 2, fronting on Claiborne St., on which a log building was erected that served the church and community as a school and church for about 20 years. This was the first Methodist property in Mississippi.

In 1822 Daniel Farrar, son in law of Caleb King, donated a plot of ground on which a brick church was built. Trustees of this second lot were Daniel Farrar, Solomon Swayze, George Varnadoe, and Daniel Farrar. The tornado of 1840 damaged this building but it was still used until the erection of the present building. The first meeting in connection with this building was on 13 November 1855 and the deed was made by Alexander King Farrar and his wife Ann Dougharty on 13 February 1856 to the following trustees: G. W. Baynard, W.O. Foules, T. F. Davis, A. K. Farrar and Alexander Boyd.

The church was built at the present location in 1856 and was ready for dedication on the first Sunday in May 1857 by Rev. William Winans and Rev. William H. Watkins.

Regular services have been held at this church for more than 150 years by Methodist ministers. In recent years the descendants of the original settlers have a reunion there; they have aided greatly in the upkeep of the building.

CO-CHAIRMAN PRESENT THE DIRECTOR OF PROCEEDINGS A THANK-YOU GIFT.



DR. CHARLES VAHLKAMP & DR. JERRY WARD CONDUCT FRIDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES.

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NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

Sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the National Park Service, presents

FREE OF CHARGE

the movie

NATIVE SON

The screen's brightest stars bring Richard Wright's classic novel to life in a riveting and suspenseful thriller.

Academy Award-winner Geraldine Page joins Oprah Winfrey, Matt Dillon, Geraldine Page, Carroll Baker, Elizabeth McGovern and Victor Love in a movie based on a novel by Natchez's own award-winning author, Richard Wright, 1908-1960.

The story: It was the late 1940s. Bigger Thomas, the black chauffeur for the wealthy Dalton family, picked up Mary Dalton from a night on the town. Mary was very drunk, and Bigger had to carefully and quietly carry Mary to her room. But Mrs. Dalton heard them and called out to Mary. Fearing discovery, Bigger placed a pillow over Mary's face...silencing her forever.

Was it an accident or a murder? The search for Mary's missing body led to a feverish manhunt for Bigger Thomas. His trial detailed his incongruous act, shook the Dalton family and exposed the fears and prejudices of the 1940s.

NATIVE SON...the classic novel and shattering drama that everyone should see.

JUST FOR YOU...

- * **Door prizes**, including a VCR, Walkman, tapes and copies of *Native Son*
- * **Free Coca-Colas and popcorn**, courtesy of Natchez Coca-Cola Company
- * **Comments** before and after the movie by the scholars Dr. Charles Vahlkamp of Centre College (Ky.) and Dr. Jerry Ward of Tougaloo College (Miss.)

7:30 p.m., FRI., JUNE 3 NATCHEZ CITY AUDITORIUM

BRING A FRIEND!

OVER

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The Natchez Democrat

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1994

Evening Natchez, Vidalia and the River Loop

Natchez, Miss.

50 CENTS



The Natchez Democrat/David Bundy

EXTRA, EXTRA: Pernelle Ellis, left, and Elnor Terry, both of Vidalia, are greeted by "news boys" DaShun Corey, left, and Byron Zerby, both 10, of Natchez, in front of the Natchez City Auditorium as they made their way to Friday's Natchez Literary Celebration activities. See story and schedule page 3A.

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Session could aid Natchez

By MARK LAIRNCES

U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., said soon good news for Natchez from Capitol Hill this week could be in the form of a bill to help the city attract investment in the opening centuries of the 19th Annual Natchez Landing Celebration.

Mr. Cochran said that

the bill would help the city attract investment in the opening centuries of the 19th Annual Natchez Landing Celebration.

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Cochran

Saturday, June 6, 1994

THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT Natchez, Miss. 387

The Miss-Lou

Hundreds flock to fifth literary celebration

Adams County native Wright to be subject of event tonight

By TERRY TAYLOR
The Natchez Democrat

Extensive, educational, interesting and fun is how many reactions from near and far describe the Fifth Annual Natchez Literary Celebration.

"It's exciting to immensely," said Kenneth Wilton, who is on a holiday visit from London. "I think it's absolutely wonderful that a town should care enough about its literary heritage to put on such an extraordinary event."

"It peaked our interest in different books," Martha Bell, of Mobile, Ala., said.

Co-Chair Candy Vance Smith said about 900 people have attended the festival, and said she expects several hundred more. "We have lots of excited people, excited audience members and lecturers," she said.

Among those lecturers was Mississippi author Willie Morris. On Friday afternoon, Morris delivered a lecture titled, "My Gen-

eration: Nineteenth Century Mississippi Editor."

Morris said the festival has also inspired on him last year. "I had such a good time last year and was so impressed that I wanted to come back," he said. He said the festival encourages young people to read in this nation's age is healthy.

Educators attending the festival view the event as an educational opportunity for their schools. "We have four faculty members representing our college attending this conference," said Barry Meltinger, president of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. "This gives them an opportunity to advance their own knowledge of literature and history in Mississippi, which in turn will make them better classroom instructors in our college."

"I find it to be very educational, interesting and fun," he added.

"I see the celebration as good for one school, because it gives you a

lot of visibility to this community," said Billy Thomas, president of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, which is a sponsor of the festival.

In addition to being educational, Smith said the festival has also opened doors for people. Smith, the wife daughter of "Native Son" author and Adams County native Richard Wright, was staying at Linden and came down to tonight to find waiting for her the daughter of the editor of her father's works. "This man and her father were best friends," Smith said.

Smith added that the two daughters are sharing memories of their father, which Wright will include in her upcoming biography of her father, "Daughter of a Native Son," to be published by Random House.

The public is invited to "An Evening with Mr. Wright" at 7 p.m. Saturday at the City Auditorium. The event will include a film biography of the author, two lectures, one to be given by Julia Wright, and a presentation of the first Richard Wright Literary Award in Eudora, Wyo.

Full course on menu today at celebration

Here is a look at Saturday's highlights for the Natchez Literary Celebration. Events will be held at the Natchez City Auditorium unless otherwise specified.

9 a.m. "A Dark White World that You Can Believe In: William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams, and the Old South," by W. Kenneth Hutchins, University of New Orleans.

10 a.m. "Everybody to Their Own Viewing: Eudora Welles and the House of Lottens," by Peggy W. French, Louisiana State University.

11 a.m. Reflections based by Richard Wright's "Black Boy," by C. B. Smith, University of New Orleans.

11:15 a.m. "Literature: Capturing the Spirit, the Signs and the Sounds of the South," by Clifton Taddei, Tulsa, Okla.

12 p.m. Bookends and Bookending Party

2:15 p.m. "Literary Landmark Tour" featuring the William Johnson House, Andrew Marshall Family Home, Richard Wright Family Neighborhood, Lumberton, Mount Reform, Foster Mount and Historic Hillside College.

3 p.m. "An Evening with Richard Wright," "Behind the Camera: The Making of 'Black Boy,'" a film biography of Richard Wright by Melissa Diane Lacey Jr. of New York City; "Black Boy's Children" by Julia Wright, the author's daughter who lives in Paris, and presentation of the first Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award by Julia Wright to Eudora Welles.

7 p.m. "Mississippi: It Leaves a Great Taste in Your Mouth," a gala reception at Deane Hall.

Session

Continued from Page 1A

Cochran has been a strong supporter of the park as well as extending the Trips, which now ends north of the city.

Cochran said he was particularly interested in the program because of the interest from past projects, the revitalization of the Natchez Literary Celebration and from Congress and increasing up to

Natchez Opera Festival and the development of Natchez Landing. Cochran, who has 10 years in the area, said he has been looking for Republican candidates and starting about the public's concern.

He said he didn't "bother" of education from Big government and that he had given the country. Cochran said that a generous amount of the celebration was

people's representation, reducing the recent reduction of U.S. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Chicago, on complex charges.

Regarding the nation's public, Cochran said, "I don't pretend to understand it all, but we need to address it. We need to listen to the people more."

He said, "When they see that government can work for them, they really are thankful."

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The Miss-Lou

Local authors to address peers

Iles to reveal tips on writing, selling a commercial novel

By PETER O'CONNELL
The Natchez Democrat

Two Natchez authors will address the 7th annual Mississippi Writers Conference at the Natchez Eola on Sunday, June 5.

Rob Kuehne, a Natchez native who wrote "God of the Door" under his pen name Rob Dalby, will lead his audience through "The Small-Press Publishing Window: How to Step Through."

And Greg Iles, author of "Spandau Phoenix," will reveal "How to Make Six Figures on Your First Novel."

For the second year in a row, the annual event is being held in Natchez to coincide with the Natchez Literary Celebration. Four other authors also will speak.

Iles said he will carry a message of hope tinged with caution: It is possible to make a living as a writer. But it's never easy.

"I am going to give a no-holds-barred talk on how to write a commercial novel and how to sell it," said Iles, whose first novel cracked the New York Times paperback best-seller list.

Iles recalled conferences where speakers questioned the viability of writing as a profession. This is not only demoralizing, Iles said, it's wrong. This year, for instance, one author sold a first novel for \$800,000. "There is hope. You can earn large advances."

But while publishing success is possible, it is rarely easy, Iles said.

Presuming you have the talent, and presuming you have the will to fill the hours before and after work with writing, you must still convince someone that they should take a chance on you.

When peddling "Spandau Phoenix," Iles sent out 10 queries, receiving two positive replies. This is not typical.

"I know people who have gotten 400 or 500 rejections and then were successful," he said.

Writers must be prepared for rejection. "If an agent rejects you, don't even worry about it. Just move on to the next one."

And if you get a lukewarm response from an agent, look elsewhere. "To get something published is a personal crusade," Iles said. You need an agent as committed as you are.

There is a popular conception of authors as dreamers compelled to write in order to communicate their own vision. But this view of a purely "literary" publishing world no longer holds true, Iles said.

Writers must understand that "litcrasy" novels invariably lose money, negating their appeal to most publishers, he said. "Every person writing literary novels has to be aware that publishing companies are owned by huge corporations making decisions based on the bottom line."

An alternative, he said, is to write a commercial success, then allow your Muse freer rein in subsequent



NATCHEZ AUTHOR: Greg Iles and other authors will sign books at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Eola Hotel.

works. It is difficult to execute this strategy, "But in rare cases you can."

It is a strategy Iles is pursuing in his third novel, a thriller set in Scotland and Germany during World War II. He said the work "solves one of the last mysteries of World War II."

Registration for the event begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Eola. Kuehne is scheduled to speak at 10 a.m., and Iles is the featured speaker at 12:30 p.m.

Sessions from 2-5 p.m. are free, including Mary Brantley's talk at 3 p.m. on "The Literary Genius of

John Grisham." At 2 p.m., Jerry Ward will discuss "Why the Writings of (Adams County native) Richard Wright Were So Successful."

There is a \$20 fee for the morning sessions and lunch.

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SATURDAY MORNING DAN BROWN INTRODUCED DR. W. KENNETH HOLDITCH WHO SPOKE ON WILLIAM FAULKNER, TENNESSE WILLIAMS, AND THE OLD SOUTH



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THE ELDERHOSTEL AND ELDERHAPPENING STAFF, EVER-SMILING WILLIE MAE DUNN, BECKY NEVILL, AND SUZANNAH PATTERSON, TAKE A MUCH DESERVED BREAK.



DR. OLAN RAY INTRODUCES DR. PEGGY PRENSHAW.

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DR. PEGGY PRENSHAW SHARES HER KNOWLEDGE OF OUR OWN EUDORA WELTY.



AN UNEXPECTED GUEST DROPS IN ON THE LITERARY CELEBRATION.

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IS IT REALLY MARK TWAIN?

OR NATCHEZ' OWN TIM MCGIVERAN?



DR. & MRS. TOM GANDY'S
INTERESTING EXHIBIT.



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DR. JAMES H. STRIBLING INTRODUCES
MR. CLIFTON TAULBERT.



MR. TAULBERT SHARES
HIS SOUTHERN MEMORIES.



HE COULD HAVE SPOKEN
FOREVER!

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BOOKS, BOOKS, & MORE BOOKS!



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PALATIAL MAGNOLIA HALL HOSTED A
LOVELY LUNCHEON ON SATURDAY.



MADISON DAVIS LACY FROM NEW YORK
FLEW IN JUST IN TIME TO EAT LUNCH,
AND THEN HE MADE HIS PRESENTATION
SATURDAY NIGHT.

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~~Da Shun Corey & Byron Zerby~~
Da Shun Corey &
Byron Zerby as
paperboys for the
"fourth estate"

1994

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The Natchez Democrat/David Bundy

LITTLE GIRLS OF LANSDOWNE: Kathy Moody and Marsha Colson are two of the "Six Little Girls of Lansdowne" who will host literary tours of their ancestral home on Saturday.



The Natchez Democrat/David Bundy

ANTIQUE BOOKS: An extensive collection of first editions is displayed at Mount Repose.



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1994 Natchez Literary Celebration

*"Mississippi's Literary Heritage:
Black and White and Read All Over"*

LITERARY LANDMARK TOUR

FEATURING WILLIAM JOHNSON HOUSE, MARSCHALK HOUSE,
RICHARD WRIGHT NEIGHBORHOOD, LANSDOWNE, MOUNT REPOSE,
FOSTER MOUND, AND HISTORIC JEFFERSON COLLEGE
with refreshments at Jefferson College
2-5 p.m., SATURDAY, JUNE 4

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The Natchez Democrat

UNDAY, JUNE 5, 1994

Serving Natchez, Vidalia and the Miss-Low

Natchez, Miss.

\$1.25



The Natchez Democrat/David Buntly

HISTORICAL HOME: Deborah Hanson, right, and husband, Peter, center, enjoy listening to John MacIroy's tales of Lansdowne during a tour of the home Saturday as part of the Natchez Literary Celebration. See page 8A for story.

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Tour brings Natchez book to life

By JACQUELINE COCHRAN
The Natchez Democrat

Visitors to Lansdowne met two of the "Six Little Girls of Lansdowne" as they toured the Marshall family home on Saturday.

Marsha Colson, Margaret in the book, said the story was written by her grandmother, the late Margaret Marshall, in the 1950s when the home was still a working plantation.

"We were children when it was published," Colson said. "To us it was just fun."

Colson said her cousin began a candy company a few years ago and used old sketches from the book as package art.

She said people began to ask about the sketches and her cousin encouraged the family to reprint the book, which they did just this past year.

"It is the story of our childhood," she said. "It was a wonderful childhood that hadn't changed much as a working plantation in all those years."

Guests were greeted at the door by Marshall's daughter, Devereux Marshall Nobles.

"This is the first time we have done the literary tour," said Nobles. "There have been two or three buses, and people in cars coming and going."

Karen Williams of St. Helena Parish, La., said it was only natural for her to have an interest in the attending the Natchez Literary Celebration since she teaches English at LSU.

"People who read Eudora Welty and Richard Wright are interested to learn more of them," Williams said.

Williams' companion, Davey Brooks, also of St. Helena Parish, said he was enjoying the architecture of the homes, as well as the many lectures they had attended.

"We have been to The William Johnson House, the Andrew Marchalk Family Home and Jefferson College," he said. "And everywhere, the hospitality has been great. A real treat."

Linda Lightsey of Gulfport said she and her three companions were all English teachers at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Lightsey's friend June Bailey said the tour gave the teachers an opportunity to meet writers in person.

"It gives you the human touch," she said. "To hear writers read their own words."

Kay Bankston, also of Gulfport, said the Natchez tour also permits the visitors to experience regional colloquialisms.

"The local authors and historians give a sense of place to the works," she said.

The four said they were looking forward to the evening's finale. "Wouldn't miss a thing," they said in unison.

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RESERVED SEATS

FOR THE

RICHARD WRIGHT FAMILY

"An Evening With Richard Wright"

Director of Proceedings

The Honorable William F. Winter
President, Board of Trustees
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Jackson, Mississippi

"Behind The Cameras: The Making of *Black Boy*: A Film
Biography of Richard Wright" with excerpts from the
documentary

Madison Davis Lacy, Jr., New York, New York

"Black Boy's Children"

Julia Wright, Paris, France

Presentation of the First Richard Wright Literary Excellence
Award to Eudora Welty by Julia Wright



Richard Wright was born in Natchez, Miss., in 1908 to a country school teacher and an illiterate sharecropper. *Black Boy*, a fictionalized autobiography, was published in 1945 and sold 400,000 copies in three months. His first novel, *Native Son* (1940), an honest depiction of black urban ghetto life, was an immediate success. His life led him to Chicago and ultimately to Paris, where he died in 1960. Richard Wright's works are most noted for their passionate sincerity.



Julia Wright, the elder daughter of Richard Wright, was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1942. At the age of five she was taken into exile to France by her parents where she was educated in French schools. She is a columnist for *The Black Scholar*, *Black World*, *Jeune Afrique*, *Le Monde*, and the *International Herald Tribune*. She is a founding member of the *Richard Wright Newsletter*. She currently resides in Paris, where she is finishing a memoir on her father: *Daughter of a Native Son*, to be published by Random House.



Madison Davis Lacy, Jr., is presently producing *Black Boy*, a film biography of Richard Wright. As an independent producer with over twenty years' experience, Lacy's productions include *Your Loss Is Denied* for the PBS series *Frontline* and two films for the new Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. He won an Emmy for his work on the series *Eyes On The Prize II*. Lacy's background includes executive programming positions at PBS and several years as Vice President and General Manager for WNYC-TV in New York.



Eudora Welty, born in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1909, attended Mississippi State College for Women and received a degree from the University of Wisconsin. She has won many awards, including a Pulitzer Prize in 1973 for *The Optimist's Daughter*. She is an honorary consultant of the Library of Congress and a recipient of the National Medal of Literature and Medal of Freedom. Her works include *Delta Wedding*, *Losing Battles*, *The Eye of the Story*, and *The Collected Stories of Eudora Welty*.

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...the first of



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... ..



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This evening is sponsored by
 Copiah-Lincoln Community College,
 Mississippi Department of Archives and History,
 and the National Book Service

"An Evening With Richard Wright"

THE FIFTH ANNUAL NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

Presents

"Behind The Camera: The Making of *Black Boy*, A Film
 Biography of Richard Wright" with excerpts from the

"An Evening With Richard Wright"

7:00 p.m., June 4, 1994

Natchez Municipal Auditorium

Natchez, Mississippi

Production of the film *Richard Wright Literary Celebration*
 A tribute to *Black Boy* by John Wright



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MS. JULIA WRIGHT, GWEN MCCALIP AND OTHERS SHARED A DELIGHTFUL SATURDAY EVENING DINNER AT MYRTLE BANK, THE LOVELY HOME OF DR. & MRS. TOM GANDY.



THE EVER-GRACIOUS JULIA WRIGHT HONORED HER FATHER'S MEMORY WITH HER PRESENTATION AT "AN EVENING WITH RICHARD WRIGHT."



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1994 Natchez Literary Celebration

*"Mississippi's Literary Heritage:
Black and White and Read All Over"*

**"MISSISSIPPI: IT LEAVES A
GREAT TASTE IN YOUR MOUTH"
A Gala Reception
STANTON HALL**

9 p.m.. SATURDAY, JUNE 4



WHAT BETTER WAY TO END A PERFECT DAY THAN WITH A PERFECT PARTY AT THE "JEWEL OF NATCHEZ."

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MISSISSIPPI
WRITERS ASSOCIATION
7th Annual Conference

***"The Making
Of a Writer"***

June 5, 1994
Eola Hotel – Ballroom
Natchez, Mississippi

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The Value of Writing

The schedule for the event is as follows:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| 9:00 | Dr. Ben Douglas | <i>A Viable Alternative to the New York Publishing Scene.</i> |
| 10:00 | Mr. Rob Dalby | <i>The Small Press Publishing Window: How to Step Through</i> |
| 11:00 | Ms. Elizabeth Bowne | <i>Techniques of The Short Story</i> |
| 12:00 | Lunch & Keynote Speaker | |
| 12:30 | Mr. Greg Iles | <i>How to Make Six Figures On Your First Novel</i> |
| <i>The Afternoon Speakers (2:00 - 4:00) are funded by the Mississippi Humanities Council and are free to the public.</i> | | |
| 2:00 | Dr. Jerry Ward | <i>Why the Writings of Richard Wright Were So Successful</i> |
| 3:00 | Ms. Mary Brantley | <i>The Literary Genius of John Grishem</i> |
| 4:00 | Book Signings | All Writers |

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Literary event 'one of the best'

By TERRI TABOR
The Natchez Democrat

The event billed as "Black, White and Read All Over" became accepted all over, according to organizers.

That was the judgment for the fifth annual Natchez Literary Celebration by co-chair Carolyn Vance Smith.



Welty

The celebration sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Department of Archives and the National Park Service attracted literature lovers from all over the United States and other countries to Natchez to

learn more about the city and the state's heritage through the words of Mississippi authors.

"It was a marvelous coming together of the various aspects of the South, especially the coming together of the African-American and white community," Smith said of the festival. The celebrations's theme, "Mississippi's Heritage: Black and White and Read All Over" constituted the acceptance of black and white authors whose works have been well-read.

"We're doing so many good things with race relations," Smith said. She added that the literary festival encourages people to open doors, communicate and accept one another. "There's so much love here and acceptance was what people kept saying," Smith said.

"This was one of the best years

yet," said co-chair Gerald Gaumer of the National Park Service. "Response from persons attending was excellent. I think (attendants) find that Mississippi is more diverse than they think it is."

Vance said about 1,500 people of all ages attended the various events of the three-day festival.

The Friday afternoon lectures, the showing of film version of Adams County native Richard Wright's "Native Son," the Saturday morning lectures and the presentation by Richard Wright's daughter, Julia Wright, drew the largest crowds.

The event culminated Saturday night with the presentation of the first Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award to noted author Eudora Welty, who received the honor at her home in Jackson.

See LITERARY, Page 2A

Literary

Continued from Page 1A

Overall, "The speakers one after another were superb," Vance said.

Several special guests were on hand to participate in the event including Vern Smith, bureau chief for Newsweek in Atlanta, syndicated columnist Bill Minor, and former Gov. William Winter.

U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran kicked off the program Thursday morning.

Vance added that Mississippi Educational Television also filmed throughout the celebration and will air a program based on the conference.

Vance believes the annual festi-

val is igniting the fire of education because it encourages people to read books. She said the success of the festival is evident throughout the Natchez bookstores. The custom bookshop in the Natchez City Auditorium sold between \$6,000-\$7,000 in book sales during the three days of the festival and also the Natchez bookstores sold many books.

"(Next year) I really have a challenge," Vance said. "For five years we've had a superlative conference." The foundation for next year's festival has already been laid with the theme "King Cotton: It's Enduring Influence on the Literary Landscape of the South."

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Celebration finally gives Wright his due

Not too many years ago, to my certain knowledge, the name of Richard Wright could not be found in any official Mississippi publication or school book as one of the native Mississippians who achieved international renown as a writer and intellectual.

Redemptively, Richard Wright, a brilliant black man born the son of an illiterate sharecropper on a plantation near Natchez in 1908, who, at age 32 wrote a powerful literary indictment of white racism, was given belated recognition here last weekend by the Natchez Literary Celebration.

Here for the occasion was Julia Wright, the eldest daughter of the writer, Ms. Julia Wright, a journalist and magazine contributor who lives in Paris, drew parallels between the fictional persons in her father's works and black youth in America today.

Wright's "Native Son," a 1940 novel set in a Chicago ghetto, became the most stunning social commentary ever to appear in American literature until that time on how the system of white-imposed segregation stifled and frustrated black ambitions.

The book became a tremendous success as America was about to enter World War II — and boosted Wright to the pinnacle of



**Bill
Minor**

Syndicated
columnist

the nation's literary figures, a fact virtually ignored by most Mississippians.

One of my fondest gifts is a copy of "Native Son" a Mississippi friend had bought in 1945, surely something radical for those times. A reading, and re-reading of "Native Son" had made me a long-time admirer of Wright for his writing skill, but the also the valuable insight he provided one such as I, who grew up in the white segregated society of the Deep South, into what it was like to be black back then.

Richard Wright's life began in the heart of Mississippi rural poverty, moving from there to the "city," in Jackson where he went as far as the Ninth grade, abandoned by his father by age 15, going to live in Memphis, then Chicago and by 19 reading Dostoyevsky, Dreiser, and Henry James and becoming determined to be a writer.

His Bigger Thomas, the central

character in "Native Son," a bad black youth out of the Chicago ghetto, during the Depression, thrown by his job into the other-worldly lifestyle of white riches, and inadvertently committing homicide on one of them, troubled the consciences of many Americans just beginning to understand the social effects of segregation.

In the preface to "Native Son," Wright relates how Bigger was actually "born" and grew in his mind.

The character begins in Wright's own childhood when he was a barefoot kid in Jackson, terrorized by a bully kid who Wright says is a Bigger No. 1. Then a Bigger No. 2 was an older, tougher kid who resented whites for having everything and he nothing. Then Bigger 3, 4 and 5, all of whom were more contemptuous of Jim Crow symbols and the code of law enforced by whites.

Inevitably, Bigger was to die at the hands of the system. In real life, Wright experimented for a few years with the idea of communism, joining up with a communist-tinged club in Chicago which painted communism as a better way than democracy for Negroes to free themselves of oppression.

Wright obviously was close to

being convinced that the communists were right, but he pulled himself back (one reason: the contempt of the Comies for intellectualism) and severed his ties with the party. (The communist taint though would dampen his success, and, of course, emboldened those in Mississippi who would suppress his literary recognition.)

Wright's "Black Boy," published in 1945, was regarded as a fictionalized autobiography which sold more than 400,000 copies, but never won the acclaim and recognition of "Native Son."

He and his family went to live in Paris, and feeling more accepted as an equal among French artists and intellectuals than back in America, he remained, there until his death in 1960.

Once again, the Natchez Literary Celebration, the brainchild of Carolyn Vance Smith of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College faculty, and now co-sponsored by the college as well as the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and the National Park Service, has produced a cultural gold mine in Mississippi.

Bill Minor writes about Mississippi politics and issues. His column publishes Wednesday and Sunday.

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Well-deserved praise for celebration

When a community becomes mature, it's not necessarily because of the age of its buildings, the longevity of its people or the number of its industries.

Sure, those factors do contribute to a community's lifespan.

A sure mark of a community's maturity is its devotion to the arts.

The past weekend's four-day, fifth annual Natchez Literary Celebration, without a doubt, demonstrated that Natchez indeed has become a master of the arts: in this case, the written arts with a bit of culinary arts thrown in for spice.

We applaud the sponsors, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the National Park Service. In particular, we salute Co-Lin's Carolyn Vance Smith, who has done superlative work to assemble what has become a jewel of a program.

The celebration deftly blended regional writers, regional issues and regional people, but on a big-time scale.

We were impressed with the line-up of programs for the most recent celebration, which was titled, "Mississippi's Heritage: Black and White and Read All Over," signifying the historic significance of newspapers as one of the major themes.

To those who worked long hours assembling the program, we say thanks. Those who presented workshops, lectures and other programs, we were glad to have you in Natchez.

We are sure that the sponsors already are at work trying to make the sixth annual Natchez Literary Celebration better than the fifth.

That will be a tough act to follow.

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Community makes NLC a success

When one is preparing for a project with the magnitude of the Natchez Literary Celebration, one just holds her breath and prays that everything works out well. When the compliments start pouring in labeling the event as a resounding success, a great sense of pride sets in.

Participants who attended all or part of the fifth annual conference held June 2-4 have been most generous with their praise toward the celebration which was co-sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Natchez National Historical Park, the Natchez Trace Parkway, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The 1994 theme was, "Mississippi's Literary Heritage: Black and White and Read All Over."

Among these writing complimentary letters are The Honorable William Winter of Jackson: "I seem to say this every year, but I really believe that I was more impressed and really deeply moved by the speakers and presenters on this program than I ever have been before."

Julia Wright of Paris: "I would like to thank you for the magnificent celebration you invited me to participate in. I leave for Paris with a store of memories of the warmth of your welcome and with additional inspiration to finish my book."

U.S. Senator Thad Cochran of Washington, D.C.: "Thanks very much for including me in the celebration. It was a pleasure to be with you. The event gets better every year."

Dr. John D.W. Guice, The University of Southern Mississippi history professor, Hattiesburg: "Despite its variety, it is uniformly excellent and truly a blessing to Mississippi. As the NLC progressed, one marveled at the consistency of the quality of content and presentation. Most of the lecturers were alone with the drive to Natchez."

Dr. Jacquelyn Jackson, Middle Tennessee State University English professor, Murfreesboro, Tenn.: "It was an exciting, highly informative, well-organized contribution of your time, commitment, and expertise in coordinating the superb lecturers, presentations, and social events. I will always remember the hospitality of all of you and the beauty of Natchez."

The three co-chairmen for this event, Carolyn Vance Smith of Co-Lin, Gerald Gummer of the Natchez National Historical



Top of the Morning

GWEN MCCALIP
Natchez Literary Celebration

Park, and Jim Barnett of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, worked diligently to make the 1994 NLC the success that it was, and it was an honor to be affiliated with these dedicated individuals. We now look back on this accomplishment and realize how truly blessed Natchez is to have the strong support from hundreds of generous, civic-minded people who shared the responsibilities of bringing a conference of this caliber to our community.

What other area can one call on local businesses needing to match a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, and the reply is, "Where do I send the check?" Where else can one call up the catering service at the county hospital and ask for a free cake for Jefferson Davis' birthday, and the response is, "How big do you need it?" (Well, it was large enough to serve approximately 400 participants plus the delighted children at the Natchez Children's Home.) In what other city can one call on bed and breakfast establishments requesting free housing for our lecturers and lecture chairmen, and the only question they ask is, "Do you need three or four nights?" Similar examples could be cited over and over if space permitted, but we will just humbly say thank you to:

The Adams County Board of Supervisors, Judge George W. Armstrong Public Library, Bell South Telecommunications, Bancroft/Feltus Company, Best Western River Park Hotel, Bluff City Distributors, The Bluff City Post, Bookfriends/the Associates of University Press of Mississippi, Britton & Koontz First National Bank, Callon Petroleum Company, CellularSouth, City of Natchez, Deposit Guaranty National Bank, and Ducks Unlimited.

Thanks also go to Eastern National Park and Monument Association/Natchez, Eastern Na-

tional Park and Monument Association/Tupelo, Elderhostel, Foundation for Public Broadcasting in Mississippi, Fry Realty, The Great River Road Revue, Historic Natchez Foundation, Historic Sites (Caramel Baptist Church, Historic Jefferson College, Kingston Methodist Church, and Natchez Museum of Afro-American History and Culture), Houses of Natchez (The Barnes House, The Bries, Bunch Family Home, The Burn, Peter Buttross Home, Cherry Grove, Dorsey House, Dunleith, High Point, Hillside, Gov. Holmes House, Griffith McComas House, The Guest House Historic Hotel, William Johnson House, Lansdowne, Linden, Marschalk Family Home, McLaurin Family Home, Melrose, Monmouth, Mount Repose, Myrtle Bank, Pleasant Hill, Shields Town House, Stanton Hall, Texada, and Woodstock).

Thanks also go to International Paper Foundation, Josh's House of Plants, Kimbrell's Office Supply, Lady Luck Mississippi Inc. (Natchez), McRae's, Mississippi Authority for Educational Television, Mississippi Heritage Trust, Mississippi Humanities Council, Mississippi Power & Light/and Energy Company, Mississippi Writers Association, Moreton's Flowerland, Murray Printing, Myrtle Bank Galleries, Natchez-Adams Chamber of Commerce, Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, Natchez Civitan Club, Natchez Coca-Cola Company, Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau, The Natchez Democrat, The Natchez Digest, The Natchez Eola Hotel, The Natchez Garden Club, Natchez Historical Society, Natchez Newspapers Inc., Natchez Pathology Laboratory, Inc., Natchez Regional Medical Center and Natchez Trace Parkway.

Thanks also go to Don G. Ogdien Attorney at Law, The Order of the First Families of Mississippi, Phi Beta Lambda/Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Pilgrimage Garden Club, Riverbend Catering, St. Mary Catholic Church, Amelia Salmon Architect, Stahlman Lumber Company, William and Betty Stewart Historic Collection, Truly, Smith, Latham and Kuehale Attorneys at Law, United Mississippi Bank, Valley Innovative Management Services Inc., Wal-Mart, and WNAT-WQNZ.

■ Gwen McCallip, a Natchez resident, served as fund-raising chairman for the 1994 Natchez Literary Celebration.

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O The Natchez Democrat PINION

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1994

Natchez is blessed with Literary Celebration

It was my good fortune recently to spend the first week of June in Natchez attending the Literary Celebration sponsored annually by Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Although I have lived in Starkville since 1966, it has only been in recent years that I have had occasions to spend time in Natchez.

It is a delightfully charming and lovely city. Its ambience is marked by a warmth, hospitality and graciousness unmatched, in my opinion, by other cultural cen-

ters of the Old South, including such cities as New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, and Charleston.

The good people of Natchez have an appreciation for their traditions, their homes and town and people — in short, their history and culture, that is exceptional.

The hospitality that Natchez extends to visitors is extraordinary.

The Natchez Literary Celebration, like the hospitality of the townspeople, is equally praisew-

orthy. Year after year the organizers and of that event put together a truly outstanding program that brings to Natchez some of the nation's foremost scholars and entertainers.

Residents of Natchez are privileged to hear and meet nationally and internationally renowned figures whom one might expect to encounter in major cities but not in a small Mississippi town.

Carolyn Vance Smith, public relations coordinator for Co-Lin, President Billy Thames and other responsible parties from the col-

lege deserve highest praise for the great success the Literary Celebration has achieved.

Those from outside who participate in the celebration invariably leave Natchez greatly enriched by the intellectual exchange and by the personal growth they gain from the program and the many opportunities they are afforded to visit with the people of Natchez.

Yours is a rich heritage. Continue to nurture and cherish it.

Charles D. Lowery
professor and head
Mississippi State University

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Mr. Marion Smith
Route 5, Box 583
Natchez, MS 39120

May 1994

What You Say About Us

"MHC's programs are worthwhile in facilitating greater citizen awareness of and participation in the process of public policy making." *Corney Crowder, Oxford*

"I have never seen an event . . . that brings so many 'lay people' in contact with scholarship in the humanities [as the MHC-funded Natchez Literary Celebration]." *John Guice, USM*



"The Library and Community Values." The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal and Forest County. Photo courtesy D. C. Young

"I continue to be impressed by the broad involvement of MHC as I peruse their publications and reports, in so many facets of Mississippi life and culture." *Rev. Msgr. Noel Foley, Jackson*

"From my perspective, there is no organization in Mississippi that is doing more to foster a sense of what makes for a healthy society than the MHC." *Stephen Finn Young, Hattiesburg*



"The Civil Rights Movement" in Calhoun County * Mississippi Cultural Creations. Photo courtesy Mississippi Cultural Creations.

"I hope you will remember that the National Endowment money (through MHC) makes a difference to the people of Choctawhatchee County." *Patty Crooby, Port Gibson*



"The Natchez Jewish Homecoming" Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience. Photo courtesy Thomas H. and Zan Gandy

"The Council has helped to bring broad-based cultural and educational activities to many of our citizens who . . . have not had the . . . possibility of receiving such exposure." *Walter Hurms, Jackson*

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Eudora Welty

South's most famous living writer recalls days as fledgling critic

By **DANNY HEITMAN**
Advocate staff writer

JACKSON, MISS. — At age 86, the writer Eudora Welty is a fine old tree, bent and knotted but saply alive. A frayed spine gives her posture a parenthetical curve. She walks with a pronounced sway, very slowly, negotiating even the broadest floor like a tightrope. Tucked by a T-shirt dress, her voice is that dulcet murmur — a voice the coveted Faulkner Prize called “up but reliable as any true tone.”

Welty can no longer claim the ability her upstairs study can no longer sustain of her celebrated Smith Corona electric typewriter. After years of arthritis, her hands are as stiff as wire.

But age, that voracious craftsman, has sharpened Welty's best features into high relief. Her wide blue eyes display the calculating clarity of stained glass, and their oval shafts slightly as their stems of light. They stare out all the more in Welty's brightening face, her jaw slackened by gathering years.

“I've been so blessed that my vision is still working,” said Welty, sitting in the parlor of her home in downtown Jackson. Through writing in hand for her, Welty remains an avid reader. In the otherwise neat brick house where Welty has lived most of her life, one sees numerous stacks of books. Like most rooms of her abode, the parlor is overflowing with itself a bit, so that treatment can take at any one's length.

Clearly, Welty's treasures are her books. A copy of Jim Lasker's memoir *A Run of My Own*, sits on the sofa with a small pile of others. “You'll find this terrible, this messy!” Welty asked, surveying the room from a blue reclining chair. She tries to keep a steady stream of advice on hand: “you can read one a night” — and Welty's also been rereading Elizabeth Bowen and Chekhov.

And, of course, her library includes a fresh copy of *A Writer's Eye*, Welty's latest book and her second collection of criticism. Just published by the University Press of Mississippi, *Eye* assembles every book review Welty ever wrote — 67 pieces penned over 42 years. Most of the reviews originally appeared in the *New York Times*, where Welty spent the summer of 1944 as an intern.

The internship established Welty as a frequent *Times* reviewer, brightening her profile and helping fund her real vocation as a writer of fiction. Welty can't thank Robert Van Gelder enough for giving her that chance.

Van Gelder was the unorthodox *Times* Book Review editor who befriended Welty and hired her for the summer. He had followed her early fiction and thought Welty would be just the fresh face he needed. “I was a complete novice,” Welty recalled. “But Van Gelder liked me. He liked trying somebody out who had never done this before. The summer before me, he had put a puppeteer in the job. I liked that. It was refreshing. Robert Van Gelder often invited people to come in for a summer with new life and breath. He did lots of things that were unusual.”

As a young journalist, Welty reviled *New York's* leading newspaper industry. “At that time, the *New York Herald Tribune* was still going a great newspaper,” Welty said. “You know, every newspaper needs a rival. So it was really not competitive and really more fun that way. I'm glad I had that experience.”

Even after leaving her internship, Welty continued to review for the *Times*. “It was interesting, you know, you get a book today, and your review is done in two days. I kind of enjoyed that. It was part of the excitement of being assigned to do a book, that you did it immediately.”

But now, disoriented by these reviews, “I often wanted that I could put something back through this of the [book] editor after I had studied it with her or with my wife,” Welty said. “You feel in your case, judgment is a good quality. But I'll not say good at all. I don't think I'm the ideal reviewer for a daily newspaper. It's really not what you do to hear the word ‘book’.”

“I don't have direct access to the page as I once did. I couldn't ever dictate anything. So I don't feel as objective as at first as I normally did. I'm not complaining because I'm getting along so well.”

Review of *A Writer's Eye*, Page 18
Learning to lose Welty's work, Page 18

And since I was trying to write fiction at the same time, I always had this feeling looking for the editor. I couldn't stand to see some kind of “slamming.”

Back in Mississippi after her brief stint at the *Times*, Welty was starting to realize that Jackson would be home for life. She had tried New York once before, as a graduate student in advertising at Columbia University. In the dead of winter, her mother would send her boxes of clothes to last her out of home. “It was wonderful to be up there, at the ice and snow, and these lovely tropical flowers everywhere,” Welty recalled. Later, Welty revived the tradition herself, carefully shipping baskets to her friends up North.

“I moved the coats to the inside edge of the boxes so they wouldn't move around or pile up and be under there. It was my own invention,” Welty said. “I also tried to send four or five blooms in a box on overnight express. I'd wrap the stems in wet cotton. In those days, you could go down to the train station and put things in the express and they'd get to New York the next day.”

In 1944, during her first stay in Columbia, Welty received a note and message from Jackson. Her father, a prominent insurance executive, was dying. Welty left behind and returned south to help the family. “My father had leukemia, the first case I'd ever heard of,” Welty said. “The doctor told us about it, and he said, ‘While the erythrocytes in your father won't stick it up.’ Of course, he always did.”

Though removed from Jackson, Welty kept a professional interest in writing news. Welty's career thread she quickly found a connection in her own backyard. As a publicity agent for the Works Progress Administration, Welty traveled the backroads of Mississippi taking charges.

“I learned about my native state for the first time,” said Welty. “Jackson is just about the only large town here. If you want to learn about Mississippi, there's never to learn here that you can learn in any one city. So the WPA gave me a chance to go everywhere in the state.”

Welty's photography deepened her power of observation and her skill for illustration. She strengths that much her fiction. One of her early short stories, “The Whinnies,” demonstrates her powerful paint a large scene in a small space.

Nightfall. The darkness here then, the same always there, has been room and walls for many months and change has the light through in the trees. Then the moon rose. A firm leg quite visible, like a white mouse in water, among the branches of dry oaks in the lighted dark leaf.

Continued on Page 18

Advocate staff photo by Lou Wessinger

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Mississippi's Literary Heritage: Black and White and Read All Over

Presentations are in the Natchez Municipal Auditorium, 201 Jefferson Street, unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, June 2, 1994

- 8:00 a.m.** Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Billy B. Thomas, President
Capital-Lincoln Community College
- 9:15 a.m.** "Two Centuries of Creativity in Mississippi: Black and White and Read All Over"
Dr. Charles Reagan Wilson
The University of Mississippi, Oxford
- 10:15 a.m.** Refreshments, Hosted by Capital-Lincoln
- 10:45 a.m.** "Sensory Tones: Long and Short" Andrew
Hatchler, the Incredible Story of 18th-Century
Newbery!
Dr. G. Dwight English
Seville, Spain
- 1:00 p.m.** "Water Burn and His Legendary Mississippi
Connections"
Dr. Robert N. Barlow
The University of Illinois, Chicago
- 3:00 p.m.** Refreshments, Hosted by Capital-Lincoln
- 3:30 p.m.** "The Black Experience in Natchez, 1750-1850"
Dr. Ronald L.F. Davis
California State University, Northridge
- 4:00-5:00 p.m.** Free Guided Tours of Natchez, a National
Historic Landmark
- 4:00-6:00 p.m.** Free Guided Tours of The Museum of the
Natchez Association for the Preservation of
African-American Culture
- 6:00 p.m.** **Prince of the Slaves** (100 Ticket Needed)
• The Premiere of a Play about Benjamin, a
Royal Slave, and His Natchez Master to Be
Presented at the New Gallery of Natchez,
Sharing the William Gaudin National Park
District, State Park, New Mexico, and
Mr. Richard Peeling, History Alive, Reading,
Pennsylvania
• Tours of Natchez and Garden Party, Hosted
by the Natchez Association for the Preservation
of African-American Culture
- Friday, June 3, 1994**
- 9:00 a.m.** "A Mississippian Defends a Nation: Jefferson
Berth as Confederate President, 1862"
Dr. Grady McWhiney
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth

- 10:00 a.m.** Refreshments, Hosted by Capital-Lincoln
- 10:30 a.m.** "War, Race, and Social Change Two
Perspectives on the Fictive of Stark Young"
Dr. Robert C. Petersen and
Dr. Josephine Johnson
Middle Tennessee State University,
Murfreesboro
- 1:00 p.m.** "The Fourth Estate: Newspapers as Social
Chronicle"
• "Two Centuries of Newspapers in Mississippi"
Dr. David Searing
The University of Mississippi, Oxford
• "The Black Press in Mississippi, 1860-1960"
Dr. John Eric Thompson
Southern Baptist University, Charlotteville
• "The Activator: George Hanger, Editor of the
Hinds County, Mississippi, Sentinel"
Mr. Willie Morris
Jackson, Mississippi
- 3:30 p.m.** Refreshments, Hosted by Capital-Lincoln
- 3:00 p.m.** "Good Food, Good Folks, and Good Times: The
Bites of Southern Foods in Southern Culture"
Mrs. Patricia B. Westfall
Chatham, Virginia
- 3:45 p.m.** "Kingson and Second Creek: Country
Communities"
Dr. Elizabeth McNeil Peggler
Natchez, Mississippi
- 4:15-7:00 p.m.** "Kingson and Second Creek: Anthony
Hoffman's 'Poughkeepsie'" (200 Ticket Needed)
Tours of Woodstock, Cherry Grove, and Hillside
Plantations, with Refreshments at Woodstock
and Dinner on the Grounds at Kingson
Woodstock Church
- 7:30 p.m.** Let's Go to the Movies: **Richard Wright's Native
Son** (Free to the Public, with Refreshments and
Dear Prices, Courtesy of Natchez Coca-Cola
Company and Bookwoods, University Press of
Mississippi)
• "An Overview of Two Film Versions of the
Famous Novel, *Native Son*"
Dr. Charles G. Volkmar
Centre College, Danville, Kentucky
• *Native Son*: A Showing of the 1981 Film,
Starring Matt Dillon and Oprah Winfrey
• "Dramatic Issues: *Native Son* as Literature
and Film"
Dr. Jerry Ward
Truman College, Truman, Mississippi

Saturday, June 4, 1994

- 8:00 a.m.** "Is Back, Wild World That You Can Breathe In"
William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams, and the
"Old South"
Dr. W. Kenneth Mathias
The University of New Orleans
- 10:00 a.m.** "Everybody in Their Own Viewing" *Endless
Walls and the Seas of Letters*"
Dr. Peggy W. Prudden
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
- 10:00 a.m.** Refreshments, Hosted by Capital-Lincoln
- 11:15 a.m.** "Mississippi Literature as Anthropology and
Fiction"
Mr. Gilian Taylor
Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 1:00 p.m.** Book Sale and Booksigning Party
Honoring All Lecturers
(Free to the Public)
- 2:00-5:00 p.m.** "Literary Landmark Tour" (200 Ticket
Needed)
A Tour of Sites Associated with Books and
Authors:
• The William Jefferson Howe (Tour Stop)
• Andrew Marshall Fields House (Tour Stop)
• Richard Wright Family Neighborhood
• Landmarks (Tour Stop)
• Moore House (Tour Stop)
• Foster House
• Historic Jefferson College (Tour Stop with
Refreshments Hosted by Mississippi Heritage Trust)
- 7:00 p.m.** "An Evening with Richard Wright"
(Free to the Public)
• "The Making of *Black Boy*: a 100th Anniversary
Educational Television Documentary," with
Excerpts from his Documentary
Mr. Madison Davis Lacy Jr.
New York, New York
• "Black Boy's Children"
Mr. John Wright
Paris, France
• Presentation of the First Richard Wright
Literary Excellence Award
Mr. Wright
- 9:00 p.m.** "Mississippi's Lessons in Great Times in Your
Month" (100 Ticket Needed)
A Gala Reception at Stanton Hall

Ticket Form

Please indicate the number of tickets you desire:

	Number of Tickets	Total Cost
A. Lectures June 2, 3, and 4, with printed materials and refreshments	_____	\$0.00
B. Lectures one-day only, either June 2, 3, or 4, with printed materials and refreshments	_____	\$5.00
C. The play, <i>Prince of the Slaves</i> , followed by tour and garden party Midway, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 2	_____	\$5.00
D. First-time-area plantation tour with refreshments and dinner on the Grounds, 4:15-10 p.m., Friday, June 3	_____	\$10.00
E. Literary Landmark Tour with re- freshments, 10 a.m., Saturday, June 4	_____	\$5.00
F. Gala reception, Stanton Hall, 9 p.m., Saturday, June 4	_____	\$5.00
G. An all-day writers' conference with refreshments, The Natchez Ecological Plant, Sunday, June 5 (See reverse side of this brochure for details.)	_____	\$12.00

Total payment due \$ _____

Please check payment method.

Personal check (Money payable to Natchez Area Office)

MasterCard Visa
(For credit card purchases, complete form below.)

Card and account number _____

Expiration date _____ Ticket's date _____

Signature required _____

(Please cut back side of this form.)

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The Fifth Annual
NATCHES LITERARY CELEBRATION
Presents

**MISSISSIPPI'S
LITERARY
HERITAGE:
BLACK AND WHITE
AND READ
ALL OVER**



Solacing Mississippi's Extraordinary
Multi-cultural Literary Heritage

June 2-4, 1994
Natchez, Mississippi

Sponsored by
Coyle-Lewis Community College,
Mississippi Department of Archives and History,
and The National Park Service

9:00 a.m., Friday, June 3

Dr. Grady McWhitty holds degrees from Colby College of Louisiana, Louisiana State University, and Columbia University. Dr. McWhitty has taught at Troy State University, Indiana College of the University of California, Berkeley, Northumbria University, the University of British Columbia, Tulane University, Wayne State University, the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, the University of Alabama, and Texas Christian University, where he is Loydon Baker Johnson Professor of American History. He has held office as numerous organizational officers.



Dr. Grady McWhitty

**"A Mississippi Debate: A Nation
Addresses Slavery as Confederate President, 1862"**

Just as the President of the Confederate States of America professed the War for Southern Independence because more necessary in 1862, it seemed from the Old South to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, Whittier dominated the thoughts of soldiers and citizens alike. And well it might! Northern President Jefferson Davis was very often Confederate needed reminding that the continued existence of the government depended on the union-dependent on the war's successful outcome. The second year of conflict was hard on both sides every Southerner. Confederates were some significant victories, but they also suffered some stunning defeats. The Confederacy's capital did not fall, but New Orleans did, and the Federalists made significant progress toward capturing the Mississippi River. In some military affairs because of his own name they almost captured Jefferson Davis, who admitted in his will "that the weight of responsibility appeared too on [Davis] . . . he would give up his hands to his superior with whom he could share it" in some further story, of which there were many, the Confederates suffered more than 13,000 casualties. Furthermore, the South surrendered all of Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, Arizona, and western Virginia, as well as parts of Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Mississippi. Fighting in the East, the Confederates did some what better than hold their own. In the West, their losses were devastating. "Living with an uncertain future," President Davis had to give and develop his own leadership as they developed a daily an unending will to win, and a conviction that bold strategy would achieve a decisive victory.

Books written or researched/edited by Dr. McWhitty include *The American Civil War* (1988), *Franklin D. Roosevelt: Civil War to the 1920s* (1989), *Abraham and the Civil War* (1991), *Franklin D. Roosevelt: Civil War to the 1920s* (1989), *Abraham and the Civil War* (1991), and *John F. Kennedy's Disruption of Slavery* (1992), *1861-1865* (1992).

9:30 a.m., Friday, June 3
"Woe, Burn, and Social Change:
Two Perspectives on the Politics of Black Young"



Dr. Jennifer L. Jackson

Dr. Jennifer L. Jackson is Associate Professor in the Department of English at Middle Tennessee State University. She earned a Ph.D. degree in Tennessee State University and holds two M.A. degrees from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Jackson has taught at the University of Kentucky and at Lexington Technical Institute/Lexington Community College. Her articles have appeared in various newspapers and other books.

"In Red the Race and the American History Novel"

One of the most versatile and prolific writers - poet, novelist, playwright and director - often passes travels far, and always writes - Mark Young distinguished himself as a major influence in world and American arts. A pioneer in the Southern Literary Renaissance, he made notable contributions in a number of artistic fields, especially in fiction. As a novelist, Mark Young in connection with the Southern tradition and with the national tradition that should emerge out of that tradition, particularly in contemporary Southern life. His first and most popular novel, *In Red the Race* (1944), discusses the theme. Focusing on a broad spectrum of Southern society - landed aristocrats, poor whites, towns, smallholders - Young probes the conflict between the past and the present, interests and shows how given prominence in this novel to understand the philosophy and theme of man's responsibility to others, his personal integrity, and love of the land. Mark Young's treatment of black characters grew from his philosophy and view of the separate way of life and ideas.

Dr. Robert C. Peeples is Associate Professor of English at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He has taught at the University of Southern Mississippi, the University of Hawaii, Louisiana State University, the University of Japan, and at Purdue University. He served as Guest Editor of the Southern Quarterly for a special issue on Mark Young in June 1981 and has written extensively about the author.



Dr. Robert C. Peeples

"Black-White Relations in In Red the Race"

With *In Red the Race* (1944), Mark Young produced the finest example of the Agrarian historical novel of the 1930's. A nation of Texas, Mississippi, and New York's most significant literary critic, Young joined the Vanderbilt University-based Agrarian group, and in *In Red the Race* he worked out an historical novel on subject matter of historical fiction that brings comparison to the more realistic treatments made by his fellow Agrarians, Allen Tate, Andrew Lytle, and Donald Davidson. Young's *In Red the Race* is set in Natchez and his research in Natchez shows in the text of the novel as does his reliance on oral and printed materials from many sources. In the novel itself, Young shows an Agrarian reading of the Natchez past that reflects the way many Southerners today view the history of the region.



Lester Charles,
the Natchez author
of *In Red the Race*
Natchez, Mississippi
1944
Natchez, Tennessee

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More Ticket Information

In connection with the 1994 Natchez Literary Celebration and a number of related events open to the general public.

FREE EVENTS

- **8:30 p.m., Thursday, June 3:** Tours of the mansion, Malheur, a National Historic Landmark, Malheur Avenue
- **8:45 p.m., Thursday, June 3:** Tours of the Museum of the Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, 301-A Market Street
- **9:00 p.m., Friday, June 4:** A music version of Richard Wright's novel, Native Son, starring Rod DeLoe and Oprah Winfrey, Natchez Historical Auditorium
- **10 noon, Saturday, June 4:** Book sale and book signing, Natchez National Historical Park
- **7 p.m., Saturday, June 4:** "An Evening with Richard Wright," starring the writer's daughter, Julia Wright of Paris, France, and the presentation of the first Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award, Natchez National Auditorium
- **Daily, June 3-4:** "Mississippi Writers," a photographic exhibit, Historic Jefferson College and "19th and 20th Century Natchez Scenes," a photographic exhibit from the Norman Collection, Natchez National Auditorium

RELATED EVENTS

- **Wednesday, June 3:** "Wine Now Colonial Natchez Dine from the Spanish Archives in Seville," an alder workshop by Dr. G. Douglas Inglis of Seville, Armstrong Library, 229 South Commerce, Natchez, 925-24126, sponsored by the literary First Families of Mississippi and the Natchez Historical Society. Seals are required with the literary or call (801) 944-0002.
- **Sunday, June 5:** "The Making of a Writer: A Day with Six Successful Mississippi Writers," a free Mississippi Writers Association conference, featuring Mr. Wiley Brantley, Mr. Bob Dalby, Dr. Ben Douglas, Mr. Greg Iles, Dr. Nancy Verbeke Miller, and Dr. Jerry Ward, The Natchez Table Hotel. \$50 per person for luncheon.

To purchase tickets, please call Natchez Box Office at (801) 944-0322 or 1-800-842-5229 or complete both sides of this form and send form with check to:

Natchez Box Office
P.O. Box 1264
Natchez, MS 39121-1264

Name (as you wish it to appear on name tag) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

MISSISSIPPI'S LITERARY HERITAGE: BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER

June 2-4, 1994

Natchez, Mississippi

The fifth annual Natchez Literary Celebration features lectures, tours of historic homes and sites, a play, a movie, a literary excellence award, and special entertainments and parties relating Mississippi's increasingly multi-cultural literary heritage.

The event is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the National Park Service. Lectures are financially assisted by the National Endowment for the Humanities through the Mississippi Humanities Council. Numerous other donors have also assisted.

Celebration Co-chairmen

James F. Forrest, Jr.
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Natchez

Co-art Co-chair

Natchez National Historical Park

Co-art Vice Chair

Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Natchez

Director of Proceedings

The Honorable William F. Winter
President, Board of Trustees
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Jackson



The Natchez Literary Celebration

Copiah-Lincoln Community College
201 Highway 11 South
Natchez, MS 39120

The Fifth Annual Award-winning

NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

Presents

MISSISSIPPI'S LITERARY HERITAGE: BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER

JUNE 2-4, 1994
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI



Sponsored by
Copiah-Lincoln Community College,
Mississippi Department
of Archives and History,
and National Park Service

804-944-0322
P.O. Box 1264
Natchez, MS 39121-1264

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Replace other

TO BE INSERTED IN THE LITERARY LANDMARK TOUR

304 NORTH PEARL ST
The Home of the Selig Spenser Family

ANDREW MARSHALL

Andrew Marshall was of Dutch ancestry from New York and served as an infantry officer in Ohio in early 1790. He owned a small masonry printing press, and after being discharged, he came to the Mississippi Territory in 1802 to live permanently with his wife Susanna. He published the Mississippi Herald from 1802 to 1804, and the Mississippi Herald and the Natchez Gazette until 1807. From 1813 to 1817, he published the Washington Republic.

Through the years Marshall lived in Washington and Natchez and owned various properties. He purchased a parcel of land on Pearl Street, and in 1824, he gave a portion of this property to his daughter, Jane Blinn, for a wedding present when she married Miller Stewart. Another daughter, Susanna, married Robert Stewart, Miller's brother, and lived next door.

In spite of Marshall's colorful reputation, he was also known for acts of kindness such as befriending Ireshia and encouraging Mary Foster to teach the slave/prince how to read and write in English. Marshall was also instrumental in obtaining the freedom of Ireshia's wife.

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Andrew M. Bay
Dunbar Rowland

1828 - Robert Stewart
acquired the city block
and lived in house on
corner next to the
house today
Louis Biggs house:
the today (1800)
Third on Friday/2

Could you please write one or two short paragraphs about A.M. (the food stuff) because what we have for the book is from the xerox copy & they had told we know Robert Stewart owned the city block in 1828. Nothing about A.M. ~~living~~ joining it before.
I can type this up & get to printer.

A.M. ~~lived~~ lived in a party office in Ohio in early 1790. He came to the Republic of the United States in 1798. He had a small ^{print} press. The 1st reprint of MS was "The Country Star". He was discharged in 1802 and came to the MS Territory to live permanently with his 1st wife, Susanna. He ~~published~~ published the MS Herald 1802-1804. The MS Herald & the Gazette until 1807. In 1813-1817, He published the Washington Republic. However during this time that Marshall published the criticism of George Washington, 1st Congressman & 2nd Gov. Some of the criticism was made through letters signed by an unknown "Castigator". He was accused of shooting an elderly widow of 600 \$ for his premature death, and accused of leaving the scene of Battle of Red Bank when the 1st shot was fired.



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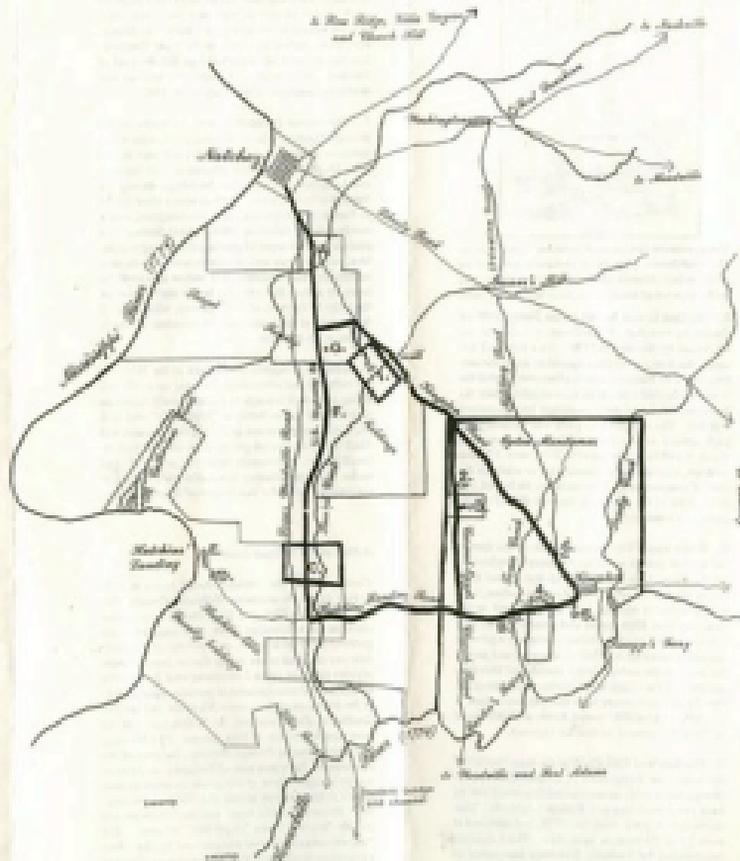
The Kingston and Second Creek neighborhoods represent two types of colonial-era settlement patterns in the old North: British.

The Kingston district was settled in 1773 by members of the extended Swayne family, led by the Reverend Samuel Swayne, a Congressional minister from James County, New Jersey, and his brother Richard. The Swayne families had approved 20,000 acres of a 25,000-acre British grant called the Oglethorpe Plantation. It appears that the eight town-related families originally established a commonal farming venture based on Congregationalist religious principles. The Spanish authorities perceived this Protestant community as a political threat, and forced the Swayne families into Mexico by using Indian raids. The Swaynes returned to the Mainland after 1795, took up individual tracts within the larger Mainland, and established Kingston on a grid plan just east of the present Kingston Methodist Church, across a mile and a half west of the old settlement, marked today by the Jerry Brothers Cemetery above Town Creek. Kingston had a hotel, several stores and a post office, all of which were destroyed in the tornado of 1840. The descendants of the original Swayne families are now scattered all over the United States, but remain their strong sense of family, as exemplified by an annual reunion drawing 400 to 500 descendants of the Swayne families to Kingston.

The Second Creek settlers received their grant from both British and Spanish authorities. Many, but not all, of these settlers were of Anglo-American origin, and had links of one sort or another to the Haskins family. The Second Creek neighborhood is dispersed along the lower reaches formed by the waterway, and the older tracts tend to straddle the creek. In Spanish times, the district comprised one of Turner's 800, which the Liberty Road crosses Second Creek, but there was never a town or village associated with this district. Instead, several of the larger plantations had their own churches (Anglican / Episcopalian and Presbyterian) and stores, which served as social and information centers within the larger community. Although the original grants were small compared to the Oglethorpe Mainland, individual descendants of the Haskins and Swayne families acquired control over large tracts of land in northwestern Adams County through purchases, marriage and inheritance. There is still a strong sense of identity as "Second Creek People" among the present-day descendants of the original grant-holders.

NOTE TO USE THIS MAP:

Follow the heavy lines. All the roads shown on this map appear on the 1808 Report of the U.S. Postmaster to Congress, except for the present route of Highway 61 (which represents a compromise between the Lower Woodville Road and the Old Kingston Road). Portions of most of the roads shown in light line or longer road, so please do not try to use them!



TOWN AFTERNOON'S TOUR:

Travels visit the homes in any order. Where and when will be available at Woodstock (2) throughout the afternoon. Kingston Methodist Church (4) will serve supper on the grounds from 5 to 7:30 p.m. If time, supper will be served at the Kingston Community Center (5). For recommendations, see the tour brochure available at Haskins' Landing Road and Highway 41.

1. Cherry Grove Plantation. Spanish grant to Peter Swayne, 1784.

This complex plantation complex includes many interesting well-preserved architectural and cultural objects, including a double stone core with pigeon holes in the same built before 1820, and a greenhouse and its gin alley built in the 1880's. The house incorporates the plan of the original big double-pole structure, which was raised on a brick basement of the same plan about 1800, and enlarged in the 1840's and 1850's. The tile roof was placed on the front of the house in the 1850's, for fire safety. The family cemetery, established in 1782 and still in use, lies northwest of the house and is worth a visit for the interesting monuments.

Owned by Mrs. Grace M. J. MacNeil, a direct descendant of Peter Swayne. Residence of 80 and Mrs. Ruby Swain.

2. Central Presbyterian Church (previously Central Baptist Church) was organized in 1820.

The present structure, built in 1861, is probably the third building to bear the name. It is considered a remarkable Greek Revival version of the slightly earlier Federal style First Presbyterian Church in downtown Milledgeville, with Greek Ionic columns and square-headed openings in the lobby at Central rather than the Tuscan order and arched openings used in town. Inside, the furnishings and pulpit closely resemble those installed in the First Presbyterian Church when it reestablished in 1811, and the pated pews appear to be identical.

3. Woodland Plantation. Originally included in Oglethorpe Mainland, but sold in 1806 to Philander Smith, and later transferred to John Gilchrist, who separated this portion from the larger tract in 1820 as a dowry for his daughter, Elizabeth Swayne.

This fairly detached Greek Revival house is noteworthy for its brick construction, unusual in country residences, and for the plaster and wood moldings throughout. There is an unusual porch (colonnade) built in the dining room. Note the plaster flanking the central doorway. The tile roof was added in the present century. There is a fine collection of out-buildings, including a story and a half log kitchen with original stone above.

See

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SAD, ISN'T IT?...
POOR FELLA'S AN
IVY LEAGUE
GRADUATE!

HOW DO
YOU KNOW?

HE'S WIPING
THE WINDOW
WITH HIS
DIPLOMA!



Letters to the editor

Disabled need equal access to superhighway

Mississippi is making progress in becoming more accessible to people with disabilities. Among other accommodations, there are now ramps where once there were only steps; sign language interpreters where once there were only loudspeakers; and Braille menus where once there were only printed ones.

These accommodations help with in-person, face-to-face communication and access.

However, since now, as a nation and society, we have

embarked on what is called the information superhighway — a voice-data-video interactive communications process — some concerns have arisen.

Will some people who are deaf, and people with other disabilities that hinder their using such systems be able to use the superhighway like their non-disabled peers?

Will the accommodations these people need be available to allow them to tele-commute twice weekly to work to avoid the long,

hot expensive drives back and forth to the office?

Even with the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is by no means certain that the information superhighway will be one in which people with disabilities will enjoy full and equal access. Many of us are concerned that the superhighway will be built only for non-disabled users, leaving people with special needs far behind.

The Kerry Amendment to Senate Bill 1822 (an update of the 1934 Communications Act cur-

rently being considered by the U.S. Senate) could be the means to create the "ramps and curb cuts" we need in the information superhighway. Sen. Trent Lott serves on an important committee reviewing that bill and we hope he will fully support that amendment and allow for the equal participation of people with disabilities in the information age.

B. H. Stringer
president
Mississippi Association
for the Deaf

Natchez is blessed with Literary Celebration

It was my good fortune recently to spend the first week of June in Natchez attending the Literary Celebration sponsored annually by Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Although I have lived in Starkville since 1966, it has only been in recent years that I have had occasions to spend time in Natchez.

It is a delightfully charming and lovely city. Its ambience is marked by a warmth, hospitality and graciousness unmatched, in my opinion, by other cultural cen-

ters of the Old South, including such cities as New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, and Charleston.

The good people of Natchez have an appreciation for their traditions, their homes and town and people — in short, their history and culture, that is exceptional.

The hospitality that Natchez extends to visitors is extraordinary.

The Natchez Literary Celebration, like the hospitality of the townspeople, is equally praise-

worthy. Year after year the organizers and of that event put together a truly outstanding program that brings to Natchez some of the nation's foremost scholars and entertainers.

Residents of Natchez are privileged to hear and meet nationally and internationally renowned figures whom one might expect to encounter in major cities but not in a small Mississippi town.

Carolyn Vance Smith, public relations coordinator for Co-Lin, President Billy Thames and other responsible parties from the col-

lege deserve highest praise for the great success the Literary Celebration has achieved.

Those from outside who participate in the celebration invariably leave Natchez greatly enriched by the intellectual exchange and by the personal growth they gain from the program and the many opportunities they are afforded to visit with the people of Natchez.

Yours is a rich heritage. Continue to nurture and cherish it.

Charles D. Lowery
professor and head
Mississippi State University

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Community makes NLC a success

When one is preparing for a project with the magnitude of the Natchez Literary Celebration, one just holds her breath and prays that everything works out well. When the compliments start pouring in labeling the event as a resounding success, a great sense of pride sets in.

Participants who attended all or part of the fifth annual conference held June 2-4 have been most generous with their praise toward the celebration which was co-sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, the Natchez National Historical Park, the Natchez Trace Parkway, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The 1994 theme was, "Mississippi's Literary Heritage: Black and White and Read All Over."

Among those writing complimentary letters are The Honorable William Winter of Jackson: "I seem to say this every year, but I really believe that I was more impressed and really deeply moved by the speakers and presenters on this program than I ever have before."

Julia Wright of Paris: "I would like to thank you for the magnificent celebration you invited me to participate in. I leave for Paris with a store of memories of the warmth of your welcome and with additional inspiration to finish my book."

U.S. Senator Thad Cochran of Washington, D.C.: "Thanks very much for including me in the celebration. It was a pleasure to be with you. The event gets better every year."

Dr. John D.W. Guice, The University of Southern Mississippi history professor, Hattiesburg: "Despite its variety, it is uniformly excellent and truly a blessing to Mississippi. As the NLC progressed, one marveled at the consistency of the quality of content and presentation. Most of the lecturers were alone worth the drive to Natchez."

Dr. Jacquelyn Jackson, Middle Tennessee State University English professor, Murfreesboro, Tenn.: "It was an exciting, highly informative, well-organized contribution of your time, commitment, and expertise in coordinating the superb lecturers, presentations, and social events. I will always remember the hospitality of all of you and the beauty of Natchez."

The three co-chairmen for this event, Carolyn Vasco Smith of Co-La; Gerald Gaumer of the Natchez National Historical



Top of the Morning

GWEN MCCALIP
 Natchez Literary Celebration

Park, and Jim Barnett of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, worked diligently to make the 1994 NLC the success that it was, and it was an honor to be affiliated with these dedicated individuals. We now look back on this accomplishment and realize how truly blessed Natchez is to have the strong support from hundreds of generous, civic-minded people who shared the responsibilities of bringing a conference of this caliber to our community.

What other area can one call on local businesses needing to match a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, and the reply is, "Where do I send the check?" Where else can one call up the catering service at the county hospital and ask for a free cake for Jefferson Davis' birthday, and the response is, "How big do you need it?" (Well, it was large enough to serve approximately 400 participants plus the delighted children at the Natchez Children's Home.) In what other city can one call on bed and breakfast establishments requesting free housing for our lecturers and lecture chairmen, and the only question they ask is, "Do you need three or four nights?" Similar examples could be cited over and over if space permitted, but we will just humbly say thank you to:

The Adams County Board of Supervisors, Judge George W. Armstrong Public Library, Bell South Telecommunications, Bancroft/Fluff Company, Best Western River Park Hotel, Bluff City Distributors, The Bluff City Post, Bookfriends/the Associates of University Press of Mississippi, Britton & Koontz First National Bank, Callon Petroleum Company, CellularSouth, City of Natchez, Deposit Guaranty National Bank, and Ducks Unlimited.

Thanks also go to Eastern National Park and Monument Association/Natchez, Eastern Na-

tional Park and Monument Association/Tupelo, Elderhostel, Foundation for Public Broadcasting in Mississippi, Fry Realty, The Great River Road Revue, Historic Natchez Foundation, Historic Sites (Caramel Baptist Church, Historic Jefferson College, Kingston Methodist Church, and Natchez Museum of Afro-American History and Culture), Houses of Natchez (The Barnes House, The Briars, Bunch Family Home, The Bum, Peter Buttross Home, Cherry Grove, Dorsey House, Dunleith, High Point, Hillside, Gov. Holmes House, Griffith McComas House, The Guest House Historic Hotel, William Johnson House, Lansdowne, Linden, Marschalk Family Home, McLaurin Family Home, Melrose, Monmouth, Mount Repose, Myrtle Bank, Pickett Hill, Shields Town House, Stanton Hall, Texada, and Woodstock).

Thanks also go to International Paper Foundation, Josh's House of Plants, Kimbrell's Office Supply, Lady Luck Mississippi Inc. (Natchez), McRae's, Mississippi Authority for Educational Television, Mississippi Heritage Trust, Mississippi Humanities Council, Mississippi Power & Light/and Entergy Company, Mississippi Writers Association, Moreton's Flowerland, Murray Printing, Myrtle Bank Galleries, Natchez-Adams Chamber of Commerce, Natchez Association for the Preservation of Afro-American Culture, Natchez Civilian Club, Natchez Coca-Cola Company, Natchez Convention and Visitor Bureau, The Natchez Democrat, The Natchez Digest, The Natchez Eola Hotel, The Natchez Garden Club, Natchez Historical Society, Natchez Newspapers, Inc., Natchez Pathology Laboratory, Inc., Natchez Regional Medical Center and Natchez Trace Parkway.

Thanks also go to Don G. Ogden Attorney at Law, The Order of the First Families of Mississippi, Phi Beta Lambda/Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Pilgrimage Garden Club, Riverbend Catering, St. Mary Catholic Church, Amelia Salmon Architect, Stahman Lamber Company, William and Betty Stewart Historic Collection, Truly, Smith, Latham and Kuehnle Attorneys at Law, United Mississippi Bank, Valley Innovative Management Services Inc., Wal-Mart, and WNAI-WQNZ.

■ Gwen McCallip, a Natchez resident, served as fund-raising chairman for the 1994 Natchez Literary Celebration.

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Denmark — land of Vikings and nobility; new LSU Music School dean talks about future

Sunday Advocate
MAGAZINE

JULY 17, 1994

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Eudora Welty

A Writer's Eye:
Author discusses
art of reviewing



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Growing to appreciate Eudora Welty

By SARAH SUE GOLDSMITH
Books editor

Eudora Welty is a living American legend. Her short stories are discussed in sophisticated literature classes across the nation. Her name is spoken with reverence. Her fiction is something the serious reader can sink his teeth into. Who hasn't heard of Eudora Welty?

Foggy Freshair was the first husband of Eudora Welty when she was a girl of 16 or 17 living in a small Mississippi town. Freshair, who teaches English at LSU, said that Welty's *Delta Wedding* had just been published in 1946, and a librarian recommended that she read it. It sounded very romantic to a young girl on the verge of the teen years.

"My eyes lit up, but after I read it, I was terribly disappointed," Freshair—with a smile—told her audience at the Matchless Literary Celebration in June.

"There was no courtship, no romance. One sentence has the wedding. I told the librarian I didn't want any more books by that writer—there was no adventure."

All that would change with time, however. Freshair wrote her senior paper in college on Welty. By then, "I responded to her fiction in a vivid and immediate way. But I'm not sure I understood it even then. I went to Welty for answers to help me understand my region. I loved the characters in *Auntie*" and other such writers, but they were in my imagination. Welty's characters were people I had seen.

"Not much had been written about Welty at that time," said Peter Warren had written an essay, and she was mentioned in *Southern Renaissance* by Rubin. Freshair said.

"By 1967, Welty had already published much of the fiction for which she was known. 'Death of a Traveling Salesman' (1936) still stands up very powerfully as a craftsman who knew what she was doing. She also addresses the children of the *Southern Review* for giving her her start. They published six of her stories."

In 1967, *Southern Review* published "A Piece of News" and "A Memory." The following year saw the publication of "Old Mrs. Marthelike," and *Southern Review* introduced "Petrified Man" and "Hitchhikers" in 1970. "Clytie" was pub-



Eudora Welty

lished in the literary journal in 1941.

"*Southern Review* was alive, fresh, ambitious, energetic," Freshair said. By 1962, Welty was noted as a writer of short fiction, and as a regional and woman writer.

"Reading Welty is what taught me how to read 20th-century fiction. She is now one of the most secure and most esteemed American writers. Welty has found an extraordinary, affirmative ground. She has acknowledged and in many ways reversed events of the past that give her attention to the dulness of life.

"Cynthia Brooks and Warren encouraged her to write contemplative fiction. The *Southern Review* rejected 'Petrified Man' and so one else would publish it, so she burned it up. Then Brooks asked her to send it. They wanted to use it. Rather than admit she had destroyed it, she sat down and wrote it from memory. What she eventually confessed to Brooks, he said, 'You just revised it again, Eudora.'"

Freshair noted that in Welty's *Eye of the Storm* Some Notes on River Country, Welty "talks about flowers and trees. The great gifts of live oak trees give more testame-

nt to history than do the people" In 1950, Henry Suttles was "an exuberantly affirming" novel written during hard times for Welty about hard times during the Great Depression. There are 2 1/2 pages of narration. The rest of the 130 pages are dialogue. It's not so hard to read because you have to pay attention to everything."

Freshair said.

Welty appears in her fiction "the cause of the confusion of the transition of life, she cherishes the human comic." Freshair said. The Mississippi writer's first book was *A Curtain of Green*, published in 1941, followed by *The Robber Bridegroom* in 1942. Welty received a Pulitzer Prize in 1972 for *The Optimist's Daughter* and has received numerous other awards for her writing, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1980 and Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres from France in 1987.

Southern University book club

The Southern University Library Society will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the School of Nursing Auditorium on Swan Street. Scheduled for review are *Black Men by Ishi R. MacInnis*, reviewed by Leroy Belle, and *Joel's Ladder* by Andrew Billingsley, reviewed by William "Doc" Turner.

The meetings are free and open to the public.

Poetry society to meet

The Louisiana State Poetry Society will meet Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Main Library on Goodwood Boulevard. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Southern Book Awards announced

Novelists Bobbie Ann Mason and Lewis Nordan and nonfiction writer John Burt Foster are the 1994 recipients of the Southern Book Awards, given by the Southern Book Critics Circle. By the group will honor C. Vann Woodward with its Distinguished Service Award for lifetime achievement. Woodward is Sterling Professor Emeritus of History at Yale

University. The awards will be presented Oct. 9 at the Tennessee Humanities Council brunch on the concluding day of the Southern Festival of Books in Nashville, Tenn.

Mason and Nordan tied for the fiction award, the first time a tie has occurred since the awards began in 1941.

Mason, who lives near Lawrenceburg, Ky., won for her novel, *Feather Crown* (HarperCollins), the story of a woman who gives birth to quadruplets in turn-of-the-century western Kentucky.

Nordan, a native of Hills Bera, Miss., who teaches creative writing at the University of Pittsburgh, won for his novel, *Wet Place* (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill). This story of a fourth-grade teacher is based on the murder of Emmett Till, a black youth, in Mississippi in 1955.

Harold G. Brodwin is the Gertrude G. Good and Carl (Randall) House in an account of a murder in Savannah, Ga., in 1861. A former editor of *New York Magazine*, he writes a monthly column for *Esquire* magazine.

Other finalists in fiction were William Baldwin, *The Heat* in Catch Mory (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill) and David Payne, *River Creek* (Doubleday). In nonfiction, other finalists were Larry Brown, *On Fire* (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill) and Joel Witzmann, *William Faulkner and Southern History* (Oxford University Press).

Woodward, an 85-year-old Arkansas native, has produced interpretations of the novel *Go Down, Moses* and has been one of the most influential American historians of his time. Among his books are *Tom Watson: Agrarian Rebel* (1938), *Origins of the New South* (1951), *The Strange Career of Jim Crow* (1955), *and Burden of Southern History* (1960), and *My Country, My Country* (1961), which won the Pulitzer Prize.

The Southern Book Critics Circle, created in 1940, includes book review editors and freelance reviewers throughout the region. To qualify for the awards, books must be about the South or set in the South, though authors need not be from the South.

This year's awards went to books published between May 1, 1993, and April 30, 1994. ■

New Yorker article boosts local sales of Wilcox's books

By SARAH SUE GOLDSMITH
Books editor

James Wilcox put his name on the literary map with *Modern Baptists*, his first novel. The Hammond native was an instant hit with serious readers (as opposed to those who read only best sellers or escapist fiction).

His likable, slightly awkward characters and risky situations struck a responsive chord in readers' hearts.

But his books have not hit that magic best-seller list, the list that guarantees six and seven-figure advances for the next book. In some of his more recent novels has enjoyed the success of the first novel.

Baton Rougeans who enjoy Wilcox's fiction and admire the writer's efforts were delighted to see the attention given to his work in the recent issue of *The New Yorker Magazine* wondering what effect this article about an established, well-respected but not yet affluent young writer would have on

his career.

Wilcox was sitting at his typewriter in New York. A steady mullin' clanking could be heard in the background.

"Can you believe — they're making copies on the fire escape. I'm sitting here writing my next book, and I get to listen to that."

His vision complaining it was more in the light of good-natured annoyance.

Danielle Steel has her luxurious mansion in which to write, sax noise. James Wilcox has a fire-escape apartment on the fire escape of his 24th Street apartment. Maybe he'll use it in a novel.

"I've had a wonderful response from all over the country," he said, "first from fellow writers who are trying to do something hard with their work. Not everybody gets a million-dollar advance and lives happily ever after."

He doesn't know yet if there will be any "practical consequences" to the article. In Baton Rouge, however, all of his books have sold out for the four bookstores we called,

and customers have requested Wilcox's books. Duncy Phinneys at Cottontown Books said he sold the seven he had in stock right after the article appeared in his distributor. Ingram is "out of everything" by Wilcox. Similar reports of sold-out status came from Elliott's Book Shop, Little Professor and Books-A-Million, though all are hoping for Wilcox books in next week's shipment. "I'm sure their stock is gone."

And it's not just a phenomenon in Baton Rouge, where Wilcox is considered a home boy.

"I was in Boston giving a book's seminar at Radcliffe. A few students will always buy copies for me to sign just because I'm there. But there were no copies of my books in Boston," Wilcox said with some surprise.

"People who have read me before have written just to tell me they have been reading me," Wilcox said. "It's making me wonder if there are more people interested in literary fiction than I thought there were. They've written long letters in response to *Min Uvdr's Leap* Room. In spite of MTV,

there are people interested in literary fiction."

Wilcox said that "writing here and getting these letters has just warmed my heart. One day said he took *Min Uvdr* on a train trip and laughed the whole way. That sort of thing makes me feel good. It makes all the work worthwhile."

As to whether this thunderbolt of good publicity will boost his career, Wilcox said he doesn't know yet. He doesn't know whether his previous publisher, HarperCollins, has any plans to reissue his books, and calls to an editor at HarperCollins were not immediately returned.

Wilcox's main concern is the book in his typewriter that isn't written yet — and people are clamoring for it. It will be published by Hyperion, the Disney-owned publishing house.

"What's the title of the novel he's working? I call it *Control*, since it doesn't have one yet. Something will come to mind sooner or later," he said, laughing. ■

Professor teaches lessons from Aaron Burr

By SARAH SUE GOLDSMITH

Books editor

One of the delights of attending a literary conference such as the National Literary Celebration is that speakers who have written definitive biographies of famous figures in history attend to talk about those persons, whom they have grown to know as well as they know their own families.

In their research, they also become very familiar with other historical figures.

Robert Remini, a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has become a favorite of regular Natchez conference goers, so vivid are his personality sketches.

This year, Remini, who won the American Book Award for his biography of Andrew Jackson, spoke on "The Great American Scoundrel" Aaron Burr. Burr presented a "strange, unusual figure: smart, budding, hatched (awed)," Remini said. "Ladies loved him. He was a seducer of people, very persuasive, hard to resist. He was a natural-born con-artist."

Remini cited Burr's background succinctly: born in New Jersey, grandson of the great divine Jonathan Edwards, law degree from Princeton, member of George Washington's staff. Burr participated in the invasion of Canada and was part of a conspiracy to get rid of Washington. He was the leader of Thomas Jefferson's "Republican" faction. He married Alexander Hamilton was the Federalist leader.

In the presidential election of 1800, the pence with the most votes became president and second-most votes was the new vice president. But Jefferson and Burr tied. "Congress had to go through 35 ballots before Jefferson was chosen president and Burr vice president," Remini explained.

"Hamilton fought him tooth and nail. Burr ran for governor of New Jersey, and

Hamilton spoke out against him again. When he lost the governorship, Burr fought a duel with Hamilton and shot him dead. He was indicted for murder in New Jersey and New York and left for Virginia and went west. He met another scoundrel named James Wilkinson," he said.

The intrigue became historical. "Wilkinson offered to work for the Spanish. He became Agent #13 to take Louisiana from France in 1803. The Spanish was frightened half to death of the Americans, Americans eyed Florida and the West with a lust—it can't be described any other way. Andrew Jackson was called the Napoleon of the Woods. Aaron Burr charmed the pajamas of Jackson. He told Jackson his plans. He got Andrew Jackson to build flat boats. He was going to sail down the Mississippi River, detach the West and proclaim himself King Aaron I."

He would share all this power with his beloved daughter, Theroesia. "Theroesia was everything to him. When she died later in a border dispute in South Carolina, it broke his heart. He sailed down the Mississippi River and arrived in Natchez on June 17, 1805."

Burr sat on his baggage and allowed dignitaries to shake his hand. He wrote his daughter that the planters were well educated, refined, had books and nice houses. He rode the barge to New Orleans and back to Nashville.

What was he up to? "We can document Wilkinson's betrayal of his country.... Burr was probably plotting it by ear. He was ambitious for power,

"Now it is the new age of the political operator, the manipulator. Politics has been debated. We have politicians who only care about what they can get for themselves."

— Robert Remini

take over the western country and declare it independent of the United States.

Wilkinson wrote to Jefferson and told him there was a conspiracy afoot. Jefferson saw his chance to get revenge"

on Burr. Burr came innocently down the river headed for Natchez. He didn't know about the proclamation calling for the arrest of the Burr conspirators. He didn't know Wilkinson had betrayed him. Burr went to the capital at Washington, Miss. and turned himself in. Henry Clay defended him and got him off. They had no evidence, only rumors. The planners of Natchez got up his bill money of \$3,000," Remini said.

"The jury condoned the proclamation of the acting governor, Wilkinson sent a posse to seize him. Burr ran. He got as far as the Tenessee River. He was tried for treason by John Marshall. Jefferson was out to get Burr, but Jefferson had an enemy in the court — the judge, John Marshall.

"Burr dressed to the nines. Women came to his jail to visit him and bring gifts. Another enemy of Jefferson was John Randolph. He lies like a dead mackerel in the moonlight, stinking," Randolph said of Jefferson.

Burr was acquitted, but then the western court wanted to try him, and he fled to Europe, where he tried to get French funds for his campaign to "dismember the

fame and women. Wilkinson wanted nothing but money."

In 1806, Remini said, James Donaldson wrote to Wilkinson that Burr was plotting to take over the western country and declare it independent of the United States.

Wilkinson wrote to Jefferson and told him there was a conspiracy afoot. Jefferson saw his chance to get revenge"

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Burr was acquitted, but then the western court wanted to try him, and he fled to Europe, where he tried to get French funds for his campaign to "dismember the

U.S. or attack Florida." He also went to the Spanish and offered to help them.

In 1812, the indictments against Aaron Burr were dropped. Burr married a wealthy widow and looted her inheritance. He sired children in his 70s. His conduct caused discussion on the grounds of adultery when he was 80."

Remini summed up these early political shenanigans by observing that "if you get into politics other than to serve the common good, you are corrupt."

"Now it is the new age of the political operator, the manipulator. Politics has been debated. We have politicians who only care about what they can get for themselves," Remini concluded. What is needed are statesmen, he said.

The Natchez Literary Celebration, held the first weekend in June each year, is a three-day series of lectures, tours, entertainments and other special events honoring Mississippi's multicultural literary heritage.

The event is sponsored by Capah-Lewisville Community College.

Next week: "The Back Experience in Natchez"

Southern Literary Society to meet

The Southern Division of the Literary Society will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the School of Nursing Auditorium on Swan Street.

William E. Moore will review *The Mark Twain in America* by C. Eric Lincoln, and Debra Holden will discuss *In My Place* by Charlyne Hunter-Gault.

The meeting is free and open to the public.

Diversity in children's literature

Ana Truesdale, LSU education professor, will speak Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the LSU Union Atrium Room on "True Diversity in Children's Literature."

Truesdale's talk, which is free and open to the public, is part of the Union Program Council's *Lemondade 2001 Lecture Series*.

PAPERBACK PLEASURES

NAIIVE

Familiar Birds of Lakes and Rivers by Richard K. Walton, **Familiar Birds of Sea and Shore** by Simon Perkins, **Songbirds and Familiar Backyard Birds** by Wayne Peterson and **North American Birds of Prey** by Clay Salton and Richard K. Walton (Allred A. Knopf, \$8 each) — These four new National Audubon Society Pocket Guides are slim, trim, concise and illustrated with full-color, close-up portraits of the birds discussed. Just a tiny size of these title books in a pocket and enjoy the lakes, beach or wilderness as you match up the physical traits, voices and habitats with the birds you encounter.

Songbirds is a valuable reference for novice backyard bird watchers eager to learn the differences among the sparrows and other frequent visitors.

GENERAL NOFICTION

Christy by Catherine Marshall (Avon Books, \$5.99) — Reissued in conjunction with the new CBS series of the same name, the paperback carries a picture of Rellie Martin on the cover. First published in 1967, the novel still draws a new generation of readers as a result of the televised version of the inspirational story. Christy is a young schoolteacher who goes to know and love the colorful people of the Shenandoah and whose faith is tested by her relationships with two young men.

ADVENTURE

Indiana Jones and the White Witch by Martin Caidin (Bantam Books, \$4.99) — Another rollercoaster adventure is in store for readers as a body and a red-haired archaeologist set out to find a stolen map that may lead them to an incredible treasure of gold that dates from the time of Christ. To do them, they have the sword of Merlin and the powers of Wicca, a white witch.

MYSTERY/THRILLER

The Lesson of Her Death by Jeffrey Wildt (Doubt Books, \$5.99) — Bill Cordo is a police officer faced with tracking down a young killer. Then they stakes become higher when he realizes her a fighting for his life and for everything he holds dear as his learning impaired daughter falls for the killer.

ROMANCE

Rachel in Silk by Sandra Chaifetz (Bantam Books, \$5.50) — Newspaperwoman Dorian Burke goes to Willow Creek, Wis., to find her brother's killer but falls in love with a rugged handsome rancher, Jake Silver, in this sizzling romance set in frontier days. Trouble is, Jake has sworn never to love another woman after his true love's death.

Lord of the Island by Kimberli Wagner (Bantam Lovequest, \$5.99) — American Teen

Harley loses a tiny cottage for the winter on the island of Skye and falls for the island, Ian MacLeod, in spite of his scarred face. Their love may heal their separate sorrows.

Shogun Wedding by Olivia Reppech (Bantam Lovequest, \$5.50) — Aaron Breedless returns to his mountain home in Appalachia to honor his father's deathbed request that Aaron wed Adey McDonald to keep peace between the clans. Though he fears Adey to the point of obsession, he fears little commitment.

GENERAL

Defining Affirmative Action: Race, Gender, Ethnicity and the Politics of Inclusion edited by Nardana Mills (Delta, \$10.95) — The controversy over affirmative action has spawned numerous essays reflecting the diverse opinions on the issue that is dividing America. Is affirmative action the way to fix what's wrong in our country or is it a path to disaster? Contributors include Clarence Thomas, Anna Quindlen, Ellen Goodman, Julian Bond and William Greider.

WESTERN

War Clouds Book 25 of The White Indian Series by Donald Clayton Preter (Hawthorn Books, \$4.99) — Remie's new Little Hawk is captived by the British while attempting to run a blockade. At the same time,

Tecumseh's efforts to form an Indian confederation with the British are about to be realized. The children of Remie, the White Indian, must decide where their future lies during perilous times.

The Proving Trail by Louis L'Amour (Bantam Books, \$3.99) — Kearney McRaven knew his father would never have killed himself, he just wasn't a quitter. The key goes after his legacy — \$10,000 and the deed to a cattle ranch. He must also find out the truth about his father's death.

Thunderstick by Don Coldsmith (Bantam Books, \$3.99) — Singing Wolf is 17 and must prove himself as a hunter and as a lover, but he has a rival for the affections of Rain, and his rival has a powerful new weapon, a thunderstick. He must overcome his jealousy to learn from Wolf Feathers how to use the powerful gun.

SCIFIFANTASY

The Gates of Moon by Michael Scott (Bantam/Avon/Sue, \$4.99) — Contemporary fantasy and suspense are combined in this dark tale of monsters, magic and ancient legends that block the way as Stephen Fisher attempts to transport life-saving technology to a remote island nation.

— Compiled by Sarah Sue Goldsmith

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Slaves managed to keep family unit intact – historian

By SARAH SUE GOLDSMITH

Books editor

"The breakdown of African-American families is not a legacy of slavery," Ron Davis, professor of history at California State University at Northridge, told participants of the Natchez Literary Celebration recently. Davis was speaking on "The Black Experience in Natchez."

"The typical slave plantation was family oriented, 75 percent of the slaves lived in family cabins. There were a great many non-blood relationships among blacks. Very little slave terror was inflicted. Punishment was methodical. The slave family was a great mechanism for social control," Davis said.

In the 1830s and '40s, slaves were given free rein to come and go between plantations or between the plantation and town. Families had their own vegetable gardens and their herds. Each family was given a portion of pork and other meat. "After the war, gardens disappeared. Sharecroppers grew cotton and visited the local store. Merchants did not want them to have their own produce" so they would have to buy more from the store. "Every inch of land was in crops."

African-Americans lived in Natchez from the time the French took them there in the 1720s, but historians have had to "reconstruct the past through descriptions by white people of black people, from land records and census records," Davis said. "African-Americans did not leave diaries or wills. They were slaves," Davis pointed out. "They left very little imprint upon the land that historians can find and describe."

One notable exception, however, is the diary of William Johnson, a freed black barber who lived in Natchez (published by LSU Press).

Davis said there were apparently 200-300 slaves in Natchez in the mid-1790s, many of whom sided the Natchez Indians in their revolt against the European settlers. "By 1735, there were no more Natchez Indians in the area. The Africans probably left with them. Only Native Americans were here earlier than the Africans. Slaves were used to uproot the farm."

In 1787, there were 673 blacks in the Natchez area, Davis said. By 1860, blacks outnumbered whites, with a population of 14,292 blacks and 5,618 whites. Most of these blacks were field hands on the plantations, only a few were skilled laborers, he said.

"There were 600 buildings in Natchez in the 1840s. They were not built by black laborers; they grew cotton. While artisans, such as cabinetmakers, white carpenters, built the buildings, the heavy labor was done

by blacks," Davis said.

In addition to working as field hands, slaves worked in towns or on estates. Town slaves were domestic servants, clerks in shops, or drivers. Under the Hill, Estate slaves tended the gardens, drove the women and children whenever they needed to go or were personal servants. The drivers "were really skilled, driving women and children on roads that were really dangerous. They had a lot of free time, waiting"

while women shopped or paid social calls. "A culture among slave drivers began to emerge, setting them apart from other slaves. White gardeners designed and put in plants. Blacks did the heavy labor."

A major problem on plantations was health. Davis said, "Typical plantation living quarters were horrible—infested with flies, filthy. Cubans were washed out once a year. The planter would bring in a barrel of blood, and offer slaves to choose from. If they didn't fit, they'd go barefooted instead."

"There were a lot of doctors in Natchez during the antebellum period," Davis said. "Their fee was \$800-900 per year for doctor's services for slaves." He said planters would bring in doctors to treat sick or injured slaves, but many times, slaves made up ailments to get out of working, and this sometimes resulted in sick slaves not getting treatment. The overseer couldn't tell when an illness was real or feigned.

The Natchez Literary Celebration is sponsored annually by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and The National Park Service. **Hot seats:** "William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams and the Old South."

Sundays at 4

The Baton Rouge Gallery's Sundays at 4:00 series will feature readings by mem-



bers of the Innesse Critique writers' group held at 4 p.m. at the gallery, 1442 City Park Ave.

Janice Carter and Patricia Chambers will read poetry. Celestine Davis and Yvette McClay will read short fiction, and Pearl Hall will read autobiographical sketches.

Innesse Critique was founded in 1962 to encourage writers' by engaging in writing to each other's work and encouraging publication of works completed.

Carter, president of the group, is a native of Baton Rouge. Chambers teaches writing at Wyndsett Adult Learning Center. Both have had poems published in anthologies. Davis lives in Zachary and is a guidance counselor at White Hills Elementary in Baker. She was first-place winner in a 13-parish teachers' Writing Contest in 1988. Hall, a Baton Rouge resident who was

born in New Orleans, writes short stories, essays and autobiographical sketches. McClay is a student of LSU's creative-writing program and is compiling her book, *Women of Tomorrow*. The readings are free and open to the public.

Here, a collection of short stories

The human people is a delicate, often unpredictable thing. *Human* goes intimately with other humans, feeling lonely and adrift if they do not find it. Yet the very reasons that excite us for ourselves do not materialize, and when they write of their experiences, they may seem sorrowful or sad to the reader.

Elizabeth Inness-Brown's collection of short stories, *Here* (LSU Press, \$19.95), evokes a myriad of emotional reactions from the reader, but the thread that links them seems to be emotional distance.

In "Territory," a little girl does not understand the complex relationship between her parents. She doesn't really like her father, and when he leaves or comes back to the family, she feels unaffectionate. He is outside the arena of her life.

In both "Stephen" and "Really Love Him," a young woman drifts along with a man. In the first story, the woman agrees as a lark to drive cross-country with Stephen. She thinks she loves him but can't talk openly with him. Evocative descriptions help readers recall similar settings and experiences from their lives. There is universality in these vignettes.

The young woman in "Really Love Him" yearns for security and a warm fire with snow swirling outside, yet she doesn't really like Larry, with whom she sleeps whenever she visits her friends in the country. Larry is just an ordinary guy, nobody exciting, yet many women would be content with a man like him. The brief flashes of lives are overshadowed by long periods of discontent, even boredom.

There's a darker side to "Traveler," as a young woman steps in a small town cafe where she used to live and is picked up by a man who calls her by a wrong name. She decides to play along because it might lead to another love affair—but with disturbing results.

Each story is a different world. Each has a different quirk to its ending. Each offers a slightly different insight into the human condition. Some are tinged with humor, some are sad, some are bizarre. Each is life.

The author covers the seasons of a person's life, using numerous voices, both male and female. The stories are beautifully executed and compact as only short stories can: be spare parts, no wordy revelations, simple food for thought, a rewarding reading experience. ■

PAPERBACK PLEASURES

GENERAL

The Book of Video Lists by Tom Wieser (Andrews and McNeil, \$16.95)—Movies that can be purchased on video are listed under 700 categories and cross-referenced with 7,350 capsule reviews. Choose movies that interest you from the lists and then seek them out when you visit video stores. Not all films are included (Kelly's Heroes, for example, is absent), and the movies on the highly recommended list are simply the author's personal favorites.

Migraines: The Complete Guide by the American Council for Headache Control, The American Association for the Study of Headaches, Lystra M. Constantine et al.

Suzanne Scott (Dell, \$9.99)—If you're one of those people frequently crippled by a raging headache, this guide gives tips on mapping the migraine profile, current drug treatments, techniques to control migraine, facts about children who get migraines and the link between migraines, PMS and menstruation. Headaches affect more women than men, and treatments for them have been around for 6,000 years.

Get Published: 100 Top Magazine Editors Tell You How by Diane Gage and Marcia Coppers (Henry Holt and Co., \$16.95)—This updated listing of magazines and their freelance editors should be an every writer's desk, along with *Writer's Market* and *Library*.

Marketplace. Beginning freelancers will learn such basics as becoming familiar with the magazine you propose to write for, writing for the magazine, not yourself, being familiar with the overall magazine market to avoid duplicating ideas already explored.

SO FULFILLING

Fueled by Parke Godwin (AvonNovels, \$5.50)—Godwin takes the basic elements and characters of the King Arthur legend and embellishes the tale with his vivid imagination.

Mysterium by Robert Charles Wilson (Dutton Spectra, \$11.95)—The citizens of Two Rivers wake up one morning to a world

that is similar to but terrifyingly different from their own. The entire town has disappeared, courtesy of a bizarre accident at a top-secret scientific facility. The new people are dark green and speak a strange language; airplanes look like purple and white butterflies. How can the people of Two Rivers get back to normal?

Once a Hero by Michael A. Stackpole (Ballantine, \$5.99)—Mystery, magic, Elven folk and a quest to bring back a long-dead hero prove an action-packed adventure in this author's first fantasy novel, written in the style of David Eddings and Terry Brooks. ■

Compiled by Sarah Sue Goldsmith

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WATCHED LITERARY CELEBRATION

MISSISSIPPI'S LITERARY HERITAGE: BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER

The Fourth Estate: Newspapers as Social Chronicles

"The Black Press in Mississippi, 1865-1994"

Julius E. Thompson

Southern Illinois University at Carbondale

June 3, 1994

Major Black Newspapers in Mississippi, 1865-1994

Year	Number of Papers
1865	2
1870s	5
1880s	17
1890s	45
1900-09	87
1910-19	18
1920-29	8
1930-39	5
1940s	10
1950s	18
1960s	7
1970s	5
1980s	10

Selected Examples of the Black Press in Mississippi, 1938-1994

Publication	Date Founded	Major Publisher/Editor
The Forum Community Newspaper (Clarksdale)	1993-active	Dennis Jackson
Brotherhood (Columbus)	1976-7	Shelling
Delta Leader (Greenville)	1929-1957	H. H. Brown
The Informer (Hattiesburg)	1980-Active	Charlie Braxton
The Eagle Eye (Jackson)	1944-1950s	Arrington W. High
40 Acres and a Mule (Jackson)	1978-1981	Jessie Morris
Jackson Advocate (Jackson)	1939-Active	Perry Gossett (1939-77), Charles Tisdale (1978-)

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AGAINST GREAT ODDS

From Reconstruction to the present, black-owned newspapers in Mississippi have struggled to give black citizens a voice. Their obstacles have included lack of funding, a "brain drain" to Northern states, and the Ku Klux Klan.



Julius Thompson: "Mississippi historically has been one of the more important states for understanding the black experience in America. Newspapers capture one aspect of that experience."

By Marlynn Davis

Julius Thompson may no longer have Mississippi newspapers on his hands, but it left an indelible impression on his researcher. He went across back. *The Black Press in Mississippi, 1865-1994*, explores the ups and downs of the black-owned media, primarily newspapers, in

his home state. Digging through archives and reading hundreds of copies of these papers provided him of their importance in achieving black interests—but also of the impediments commonly in their path.

"Mississippi was one of the most oppressed (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale) 49(1), 1993)

most other states," says Thompson, assistant professor of history and Black American Studies at SIUC. "The black press often taught us how blacks dealt with economic, political, social and cultural conditions."

"In 1994 Mississippi had 10 percent of the black population in the United States. Therefore Mississippi historically has been one of the more important states for understanding the black experience in America. Newspapers capture one aspect of that experience."

Until the 1970s, the vast majority of white newspapers and other media in Mississippi were strongly conservative and strongly anti-black. With little to no representation in the white-controlled media, blacks needed their own formal means of communication about the events and issues affecting them.

The black newspapers began to spring up across the South after the Civil War were the only means for reporting news from black communities or events from a black perspective. The number of black papers in Mississippi mushroomed, from the first one in 1865 (the *Voluntary Colored Citizen*), to seven in the 1870s, 40 in the 1890s, and nearly 100 in the first two decades of this century. Many of them were published by churches or fraternal organizations, but some were community-based weekly papers trying to make a go-of a community.

For a long time there wasn't a single of them. Many white businessmen would not advertise in black papers, and black businessmen were too small to provide much advertising revenue. However, among blacks was widespread belief that being against the law to teach slaves to read and write, so black papers could not count on a large subscription base. And because they could only afford weekly or monthly publication, they could not compete with white-owned dailies.

Black editors put their own money and sweat into their papers, often producing them single-handedly or with the help of family members. The most newspaper publishing was a second job—a labor of love. Many papers were established or edited by ministers, doctors, teachers, and political leaders. Although they tended to be moderate or conservative, they actively promoted blacks' educational, political, and economic advancement. But the worldwide Reconstruction in the late 1870s

DR. JULIUS E. THOMPSON'S BOOK AVAILABLE TO LEARNERS BEYOND OUR SITE. VISIT WWW.BROOKING HALL DISTRIBUTION BY DR. WILLIAM FERRELL



MR. SID SALTER INTRODUCES DR. DAVID SANSING.



MR. WILLIE MORRIS TALKS ABOUT HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER AS DR. SANSING & MR. WILLIAM TERRELL LISTEN ATTENTIVELY.



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THE NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION
presents
Luncheon at the Carriage House
on the Grounds of Stanton Hall

Friday, June 3, 1994

Presiding: Dr. William Durrett, Professor of English
Hinds Community College, Raymond, Mississippi

Luncheon

After-Luncheon Presentation

AND, I BEG YOUR PARDON

an original dramatization written and presented by

LeCrisha Peyton, Monticello, Mississippi

and

Laura Smith, Sontag, Mississippi

This work, dealing with communication between the races, was conceived, researched, written, and produced by Lawrence County (Mississippi) High School student LeCrisha Peyton and Copiah-Lincoln Community College (Wesson, Mississippi) student Laura Smith, with advice from their award-winning history instructor and sponsor, Ruth Lambert of Monticello, Mississippi.

In 1993, after the dramatization won first place in the state of Mississippi's Junior Historical Society competition, the students went on to national competition at the University of Maryland. There they won a prestigious national award, the "African-American History Award." In 1993-94 they have presented the dramatization to numerous regional and state groups, including the Mississippi Historical Society.

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THE AWARD WINNING CARRIAGE HOUSE SERVED A DELICIOUS LUNCHEON ON FRIDAY, JUNE 4.



CO-LIN'S JUDY WIGGINS WAS ALL SMILES IN HER SASSY HAT BECAUSE SHE GOT TO BE JULIA WRIGHT'S LIAISON.



DR. BILL DURRETT INTRODUCES LECRISHA & LAURA.

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PATRICIA MITCHELL TALKS
ABOUT GOOD SOUTHERN FOOD.



THE HONORABLE
SAMUEL CAUTHEN
INTRODUCES
DR. BETH BOGCESS.

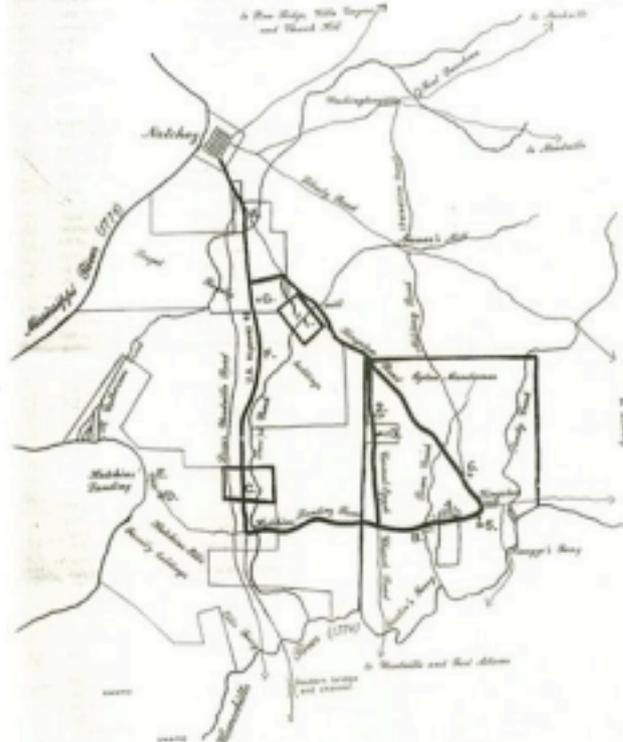


DR. BOGCESS PREPS
FOR THE AFTERNOON
KINGSTON TOUR.

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HOW TO USE THIS MAP:

Follow the heavy lines. All the roads shown on this map appear on the 1868 Report of the U.S. Postmaster to Congress, except for the present route of Highway 61 (which represents a compromise between the Lower Woodville Road and the Old Kingdon Road). Portions of some of the roads shown in light line no longer exist, so please do not try to use them!



THIS AFTERNOON'S TOUR...

You may visit the homes in any order. When and where will be available at Woodstock (2) throughout the afternoon. Kingston Methodist Church (4) will serve supper on the grounds from 5 to 7:30 p.m. If it rains, supper will be served at the Kingston Community Center (5). We recommend that you return to Natchez via Backlin's Landing Road and Highway 61.

1. Chevy Chase Plantation. Spanish given to Pierre L'Enfant, 1784.

This complete plantation complex includes many interesting and unusual dependencies and outbuildings, including a double row-cott with paper-vene in the screen built before 1820, and a greenhouse and ten-ply alley built in the 1880's. The house incorporates the plan of the original log double row-cott, which was raised on a brick basement of the same plan about 1800, and enlarged in the 1840's and 1850's. The tile roof was placed on the front of the house in the 1920's, for fire safety. The family cemetery, established in 1782 and still in use, lies southeast of the house and is worth a visit for the interesting monuments. Owned by Mrs. Grace M. J. Mackell, a direct descendant of Pierre L'Enfant. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Rowlin.

3. Central Presbyterian Church (formerly Central Baptist Church) was organized in 1823. The present structure, built in 1921, is probably the first building to bear the name. It is considered a remarkable Greek Revival version of the slightly earlier Federal style First Presbyterian Church in downtown Natchez, with Greek Ionic columns and square-headed openings in the balcony at Central rather than in the facade, the frontispiece and pediment clearly resemble those installed in the First Presbyterian Church when it remodelled in 1871, and the paired piers appear to be identical.

3. Woodstock Plantation. Originally included in Ophus Manchester, but sold in 1856 to Philetus Smith, and later transferred to John College, who presented this portion from the larger tract in 1931 as a dowry for his daughter, Elizabeth Sumner. This double-fronted Greek Revival house is noteworthy for its brick construction, unusual in country residences, and for the plaster and wood moldings throughout. There is an unusual pocket (leading left) in the dining room. Note the piazzas leading to the central screen. The tile roof was added in the present century. There is a fine collection of outbuildings, including a story and a half log kitchen with servants' rooms above. Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K. Armstrong. Wine and Cheese

The FHS Annual Award-winning

NATCHEZ LITERARY CELEBRATION

Presented

Kingdon and Second Creek

Anthony Hutchins' Neighborhood

An Historical Map

Compiled by Elizabeth M. Rogers, Ph.D., from William H. Mumford's 1868 map of the River Mississippi from Natchez to the Gulf of Mexico. This is an 1868 map of just north of Natchez with the U.S. Postmaster's Report to the Congress, and from various local Office records, and with the assistance of the Historic Natchez Foundation and the Natchez Antiquarian Society.

MISSISSIPPI'S LITERARY HERITAGE: BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER

JUNE 2-4, 1994
NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI



Sponsored by
Capitol-Literary Community Center
Mississippi Department
of Archives and History
and National Park Service

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4. **Wichita Plantation.** Part of the Ogden Mandate, subdivided from the main tract in 1837 as the inheritance of Lydia Swartz, daughter of Richard and wife of Job Casey. The present house was built for Mrs. Joseph Casey in the 1850's and probably replaced an earlier Creole residence.

An inviting veranda occupies three sides of this comfortable residence with Italianate detailing. The two levels over the veranda and the walled porch and enclosed steps of the chimney are particularly striking to the viewer. Windows opening full-length provide for immediate access to the outdoors from all the principal rooms. The center hall can be divided by folding doors, while the dining room includes an unusual two-level porch.

5. **Kingston Methodist Church.** Built between 1850 and 1857. Replaced an earlier church destroyed by the tornado of 1860.

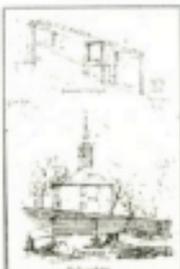
The Congregationalists of the 1790's found themselves at home with nineteenth-century Methodism, and the Avery brothers who created the town of Kingston intended that the church be the center of community life. This tract was donated by Alexander Farnes, owner of Kingston Place (shown as large manor), to which the cemetery on the north side of Hinchins Landing Road belongs. The present temple form church is very similar in style and details to Zion Chapel A.M.E. Church (1858), originally located Presbyterian Church in Natchez, which was designed by J. Edwards Smith. There is an active congregation, and the church still serves as a center of religious and social culture, "in the sense of the dead of old to the present."

Dinner on the Grounds 5:30 p.m.

6. **Kingston Community Center, formerly the Kingston School.** Supper will be served here at the end of the day.

Other Points of Interest:

A. **The Grand Village of the Natchez Indians** is located about 7.5 miles east of the highway, on the banks of St. Catherine Creek. This was the scene of French and Indian encounters, both friendly and hostile, on the last 30 years of the eighteenth century. The site is presently administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and offers a variety of educational programs in and out of the museum, as well as an opportunity to explore the grounds and plazas which have been preserved.



Charles-Auguste Brasseur, pencil sketch, ca. 1820 or later. Note high chimneys, as in lot of white-marble-and-brick porch below. (Sketch of St. Charles-Auguste Brasseur, published in the first of two issues of *Le New Orleans*, no. 4000.)

B. **The first known burial in the Jersey Settlers Cemetery** was that of Job Corp, Jr., aged about 20, killed by Indians in 1780. As a result of his death, the Jersey brothers agreed to move the settlers closer to Natchez, which effectively ended the Reverend Samuel's career as an evangelist, since the Spanish prohibited open meetings for Protestant worship. The original town site was probably the high ground across the road from the cemetery, which is still in active use after 200 years. 3 Union soldiers, who died of a malarial fever while in the care of compassionate Kingestons, lie buried just to the north of the obelisk on the west side of the old part of the cemetery.

C. **White Apple Village** was the site of the first of the British grants made to Anthony Bonchies in 1770. He sold his grandchildren that he had been led to the site by an elderly Natchez Indian, who told him that it was the best farming land in the area. Between Highway 63 and Second Creek, near the collapsing brick building (formerly a private museum, then an art studio) stands the abandoned Hinchins cemetery. This village may have been the site of the first French encounter with the Natchez before in the 1690's. Hinchins' name here probably stood on the highest ground north of the highway.

D. **The Battle of Ellis Mills** is the only "battle" of the American Revolution in Adams County, although there were numerous raids carried out by both pro-American and British Loyalists. This skirmish took place April 16, 1778, and involved at most 20 or 30 men on each side. The Loyalists commanded by Anthony Hinchins succeeded in preventing further incursions into Hinchins' territory, but had already been severely pillaged by earlier American raiding parties.

E. **Ellis Mills** is a "lost town." Formerly situated partly down the Mills to the river banks above Hinchins' Landing, this village apparently included a substantial church as well as a large and other services related to the river port. Before the Mississippi River shifted its course to the west, Hinchins' Landing shipped more cotton than did the port of Natchez. Steamboats still stopped to take on and discharge passengers here as late as the 1880's.

F. **The Forest Plantation** was the home of Sir William Dunbar, a Scottish immigrant, who was a surveyor, naturalist, archeologist and man of letters. Dunbar laid out the present city of Natchez and designed several public buildings during the Spanish administration. He was also a close friend of Franklin, Jefferson, and Washington, and a member of the American Philosophical Society. He established 150 acres of gardens (including vegetable, native plants and ornamental trees and shrubs) surrounding his residence. He wisely improved the house by adding the veranda, barely visible through the trees to the east of the highway, which are all that remain of his home, but the country is clearly visible at the mainline.

G. **Mummy's Coptwood** was built in the 1830's in the early days of automobile tourism, as a cafe and filling station. It belongs to a distinctly American architectural genre between "high-style" and folk art, in the same tradition as the Sucker dinette and Shell Oil shell-shaped gas stations and the streamlined diner. Formerly operated as a creek and coffee shop, the Mummy has traditionally served as the picnic house for the State of Adams County.

A Note on the Military Road

Construction on the "Military Road" began in 1807 at Fort Adams, in southwest Williamsburg. Fort Adams, located high on a bluff overlooking a great cove in the Waxhopper River, was considered the gateway to the southwest, and control of this position was essential to the young United States' expansionist designs upon Louisiana and Texas. The Military Road was intended to provide equal mobility for troops moving between Nashville and the Old Southwest. Fort Dunbar, at Washington, was the next position north of Fort Adams. The Military Road never passed through Natchez, but crossed the Waxhopper River just east of Kingston, at the most vulnerable point clear of the great rapids in this river's delta, and ran almost due north to Washington. From there the road was to follow an old Indian "trace," in an "improved" version, the "improvements" were progressed further than Oldlands Road, some forty-five miles northeast of Natchez, and the Military Road is much better known today as the Natchez Trace.

The Kingston and Second Creek neighborhoods represent two types of colonial-era settlement patterns in the old Natchez District.

The Kingston District was settled in 1773 by members of the extended Dunbar family, led by the Reverend James Dunbar, a Congregational minister from Sussex County, New Jersey, and his brother-in-law, Richard. The Dunbar brothers had acquired 20,000 acres of a 25,000-acre British grant called the Ogden Mandate. It appears that the eight later-related families originally intended a communal farming venture based on Congregationalist religious principles. The Spanish authorities prohibited this Protestant community as a political threat, and forced the Jersey Settlers into Natchez Street, and founded the Jersey Settlers into Natchez Street. The settlers returned to the Mandate after 1797, took up individual tracts within the larger Mandate, and established Kingston as a grid plan just east of the present Kingston Methodist Church, about a mile and a half east of the old settlement, marked today by the Jersey Settlers Cemetery above Town Creek. Kingston had a hotel, several stores and a post office, all of which were destroyed in the Tornado of 1840. The descendants of the original Jersey Settlers are now scattered all over the United States, but retain their strong sense of family, as exemplified by an annual meeting drawing 400 to 600 descendants of the Jersey Settlers to Kingston.

The Second Creek settlers received their grants from both British and Spanish authorities. Many, but not all, of these settlers were of Anglo-American origin, and had links of one sort or another to the Hinchins family. The Second Creek neighborhood is dispersed along the river corridor formed by the waterway, and the older tracts tend to straddle the creek. In Spanish times, the Jewish courtrooms were at Farnes' Mill, where the Liberty Road crosses at Farnes' Mill, but there was never a town or village associated with this district. Instead, several of the larger plantations had their own churches (Anglican / Episcopalian and Presbyterian) and stores, which served as social and information centers within the larger community. Although the original grants were small compared to the Ogden Mandate, individual descendants of the Hinchins and Dunbar families acquired control over large tracts of land in southwestern Adams County through purchase, marriage and inheritance. There is still a strong sense of identity as "Second Creek People" among the present-day descendants of the original grant holders.

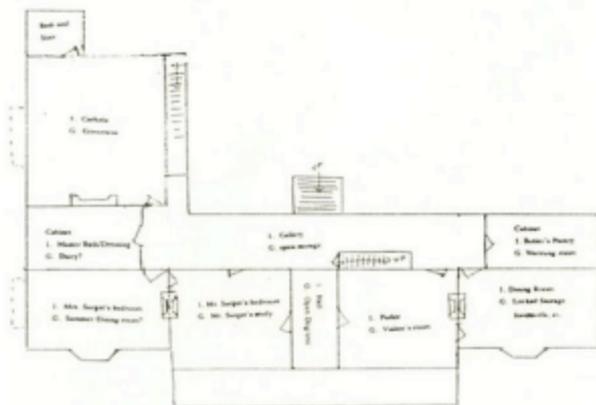
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Cherry Grove Plantation.

Spanish grant to Pierre Surget, 1788.

Cherry Grove takes its name from the grove of magnificent, and now very ancient, cherry-bark oaks which create the park-like setting of the "yard". The present owner has a replacement planting program, but this was begun only in the last thirty years, and the results will not be apparent for another century. Meantime the giants fall. This complete plantation complex includes many interesting and unusual dependencies and outbuildings. Although Cherry Grove was the original "home place," ownership of this tract often passed to a younger child. For example, Charles, the oldest child of Pierre the Founder, never married, and after his mother's death, the tract passed to James Sr., one of the younger children, rather than to Frank, Sr., who was already establishing himself as the second-wealthiest man (after William John Minor) in the Old Southwest. There was talk of building a columned "great house" closer to the yard gate (on the knoll near the pond east of the driveway), but the Civil War evidently intervened. The Surget family traditionally raised thoroughbred horses, Devon and Ayrshire cattle, and sheep. They were among the founding members of the American Jockey Club, and held the same racing colors, cherry and gold, for over 100 years. Cherry Grove was used as a seasonal residence only, with the family moving into Natchez during cold weather.

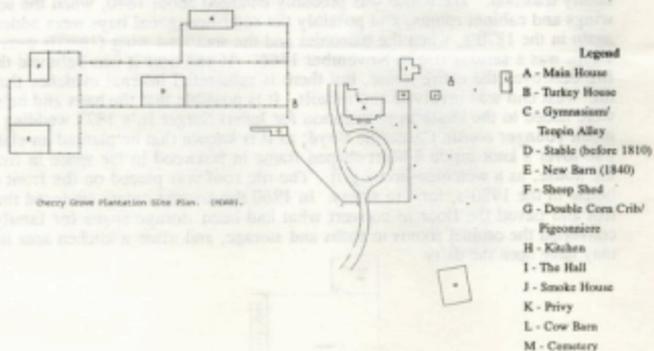
The present house incorporates the plan of the original log single-pen dog-trot, which was raised on a brick basement of the same plan about 1800, according to family tradition. The house was probably enlarged about 1840, when the set-back wings and cabinet rooms, and possibly the semi-hexagonal bays were added, and again in the 1870's, when the balconies and the southeast wing (1880?) were built. There was a serious fire in November 1866. At one time it was believed that the fire destroyed the entire house, but there is substantial internal evidence that only the west end was involved and rebuilt. It is possible that the bays and balconies were added to the house in preparation for James Surget Jr.'s 1873 wedding to his much younger cousin Catherine Boyd, as it is known that he planted an elaborate true-lover's knot inside a heart-shaped frame in boxwood in the space in front for the house, as a welcome-home gift. The tile roof was placed on the front of the house in the 1920's, for fire safety. In 1960 the present owner enclosed the dog-trot and paved the floor to convert what had been storage space for family use, converted the cabinet rooms to baths and storage, and made a kitchen area in what may have been the dairy.



ARCHITECTURAL PLAN OF CHERRY GROVE, DRAWING ROOM, AS OF 1960
The present dog-trot area is the second section, built in 1880, the "L" dog-trot.

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North of the house you will see a stable built before 1810, a double corn-crib with pigeon-cotes in the eaves (and hand-hewncypress log feeding troughs) built before 1820, the "New Barn" (built in 1840!) and a sheep-shed, while inside the house-yard there is a turkey house and a gymnasium with ten-pin alley built about 1880 for Carlotta Surget, mother of the present owner. The 1810 stable was primarily for stallions and for the actual breeding process, and the New Barn was primarily for mares in foal, yearlings and other stock which needed to be separated from the stallions. South of the house is the kitchen, one of two "formstone" buildings in the Natchez District (this late nineteenth-century rusticated cement-block material was preferred for retaining walls and fence supports) the "Hall," (quarters for visitors and for teen-age boys sent to James Surget, Jr., grandfather of the present owner, for instruction in farm management), a brick smoke house, the last surviving privy, and the cow barn. Northwest of the house is the family cemetery, established in 1792 and still in use, and worth a visit for the interesting monuments. An unusual feature of this cemetery is that the wife is generally buried at the husband's right hand.



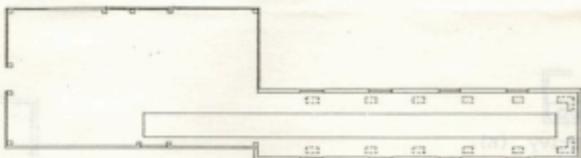
Owned by Mrs. Grace M. S. MacNeil, a direct descendant of Pierre Surget.
Residence of Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Rowlin.

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Cherry Grove outbuildings

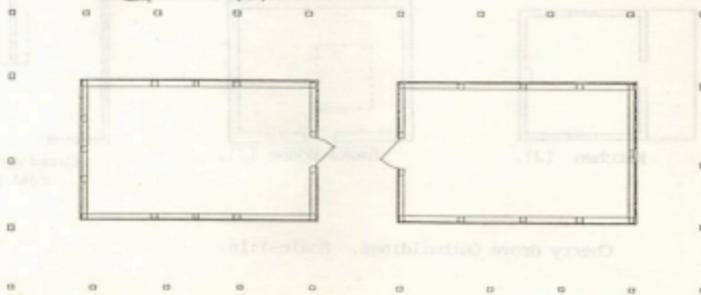


Gymnasium and ten-pin alley (C)

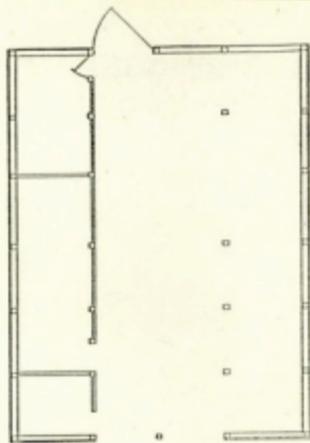


Scale 1:16

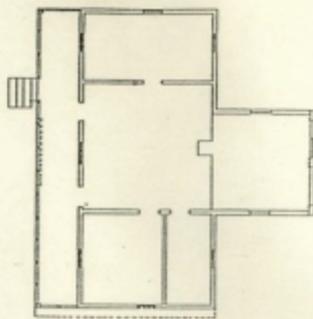
DOUBLE CORN CRIB
Sheep barn (G)



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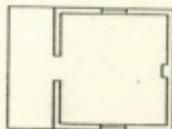
Barn (F). SHEEP SHED (F)



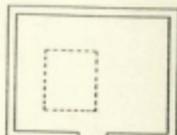
House (I).
BATCHELOR HALL



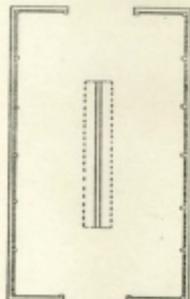
Privy (K).



Kitchen (J).



Smoke House (J).



Cattle Barn (L).

Cherry Grove Outbuildings. Scale-1:16.

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HISTORIC CHERRY GROVE
OWNED BY MRS. GRACE
MACNEIL & FAMILY.



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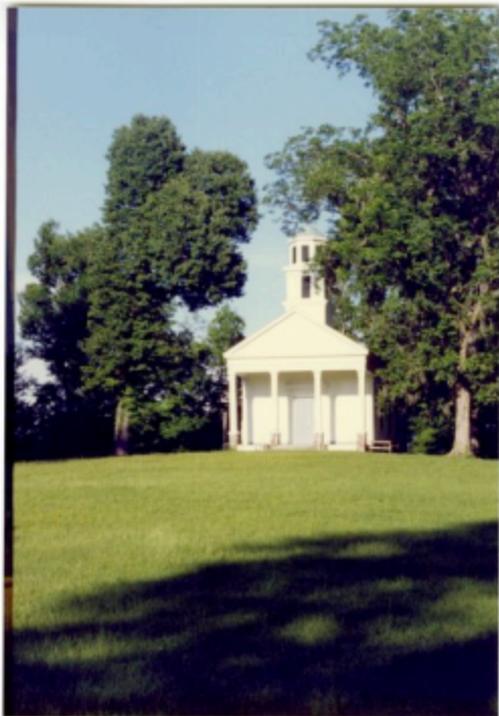


INSIDE CHERRY GROVE
LOOKING OUT.



DR. BOGGESS STROLLS
WITH AN NLC PARTICIPANT.

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MT. CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH, A MINIATURE REPLICA OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WAS A LOVELY "DRIVE-BY" ON THE TOUR.



INTERESTING OUTBUILDINGS LIKE THIS ONE AT WOODSTOCK WERE INTRIGUING TO NLC PARTICIPANTS.

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WOODSTOCK, THE HOME OF MR. & MRS.
TOMMY ARMSTRONG, WAS THE SETTING FOR
A REFRESHMENT BREAK PREPARED BY THE
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHOIR.



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HILLSIDE, THE ANTEBELLUM
HOME OF MR. & MRS.
WALTER SALMON & FAMILY.



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BEAUTIFUL VIEW OF THE
KINGSTON COUNTRYSIDE FROM
HILLSIDE'S GALLERIES.



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Kingston Methodist Church.

Built between 1856 and 1857. Replaced an earlier church destroyed by the Tornado of 1840.

The Congregationalists of the 1700's found themselves at home with nineteenth-century Methodism, and when the Jersey Settlers created the town of Kingston about 1800, they intended that the Methodist church be the center of community life. The first building was located in the grid-plan town, on the public square, and was destroyed by the Tornado of 1840. The tract on which the present building stands was donated by Alexander Farrar, owner of Kingston Place (house no longer standing), to which the cemetery on the north side of Hutchins Landing Road belongs. The present temple-form church is very similar in style and details to Zion Chapel A.M.E. Church (1858; originally Second Presbyterian Church) in Natchez, which was designed by J. Edwards Smith, who also designed Christ Church, Church Hill. The grand temple form has become more intimate in the rural setting, but the interior detail remains elegant. Note the original frontispiece, pulpit, altar rail, pews and gallery, and the original plaster ceiling medallion.

There is an active congregation, and the church still serves as a center of "religious and moral culture," in the terms of the deed of gift to the Trustees.

Dinner on the Grounds: 5-7:30 p.m.

Kingston Community Center,

formerly the Kingston School. Supper will be served here in the event of rain.



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1994 Natchez Literary Celebration

*"Mississippi's Literary Heritage:
Black and White and Read All Over"*

**TOUR OF THREE PLANTATION HOUSES IN THE
KINGSTON NEIGHBORHOOD: HILLSIDE, WOODSTOCK,
AND CHERRY GROVE**

with refreshments at Woodstock and
**"DINNER ON THE GROUNDS" AT KINGSTON METHODIST CHURCH
4:15-7:15 p.m., FRIDAY JUNE 3**

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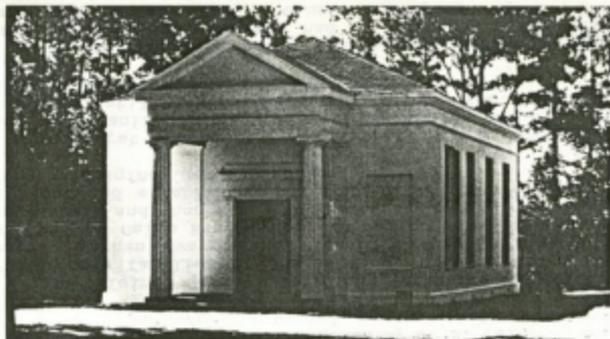


MELANIE WHITE AND FRIENDS "COOKED UP A STORM" FOR NLC'S DINNER ON THE GROUNDS.

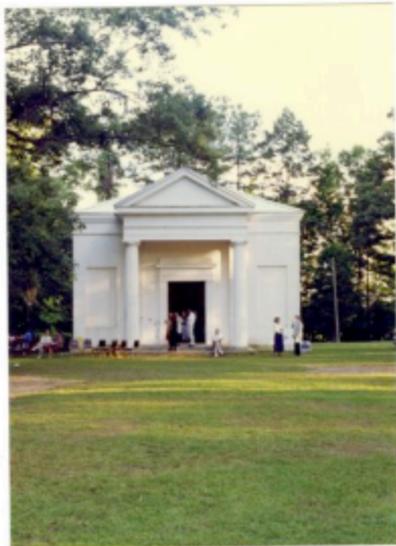


HOW MANY DESSERTS DID YOU SAY THEY HAVE?

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Kingston United Methodist Church
Natchez, Mississippi



THE ELEGANT SIMPLICITY OF THIS ANTEBELLUM PLACE OF WORSHIP

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