

## MDAH Appreciates Legislative Support

### GENERAL/SPECIAL FUNDS

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History received badly needed increases in appropriations for its general and special funds for fiscal year 2007, including requested funding for staff positions at the Eudora Welty House, \$75,000 to help match a Preserve America grant for research and workshops on rebuilding the Gulf Coast's heritage tourism, and \$150,000 for the Statewide Oral History Project. The total MDAH general fund appropriation for FY2007 is \$9,091,539.

### OLD CAPITOL RESTORATION

MDAH is grateful for the Legislature's enactment of bond bill SB 3070, authorizing \$14.2 million for the repair/renovation of the Old Capitol, which is closed due to severe damage by Hurricane Katrina.

### COMMUNITY HERITAGE PRESERVATION GRANTS

Four million dollars was provided by bond bill HB 1634 for Round Five of the Community Heritage Preservation Grant program. Of the four million, \$1,750,000 is specifically earmarked for the costs of appropriate restoration, repair, and renovation of historically significant county courthouses.

### RETROACTIVE REHAB TAX CREDITS

A rehabilitation tax incentive has been provided

through SB 3067, authorizing a state income tax credit of twenty-five percent of expenses for rehabilitation of commercial and residential buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places or designated as Mississippi Landmarks. Expenditures must 1) exceed \$5,000 in the case of an owner-occupied dwelling, 2) exceed fifty percent of the total basis in the property in the case of all properties other than owner-occupied dwellings, and 3) adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The provisions of the legislation, which will be administered by the Department of Archives and History, are retroactive to January 1, 2006.

### CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM STUDY

Concurrent resolution SCR 627 creates a study committee to examine the feasibility of establishing a civil rights museum in the city of Jackson. Three senators appointed by the lieutenant governor, three representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, and the MDAH director will constitute the committee, which is charged with reporting the results of its study to the legislature in January 2007.

### SENATE CONFIRMATION

The Mississippi State Senate approved six-year terms for three

*Continued page four*

## Art Projects to Support Eudora Welty House

Award-winning artist Barry Moser is contributing a series of five prints depicting Eudora Welty at different times of her life. **Print #3 of Eudora Welty c. 1930** was unveiled at Gallery 119 in Jackson April 20. Each print is in a limited edition of 100 and is signed and numbered by the artist. Prints are \$250 each. All proceeds go to the support of the Eudora Welty House. The Moser prints are available for purchase at the Old Capitol Shop, located in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, 200 North Street, Jackson, tel. 601-576-6921.

Also unveiled at the April 20 event was a **limited edition**

**photographic print of "Window Shopping,"** a photograph Welty made in Grenada in 1936 on her travels for the Federal Writers Project. The prints are 16 x 20, archivally printed from the original negative by master printer James Patterson of Jackson in a limited edition of 150. They are offered by the Eudora Welty Foundation, courtesy Eudora Welty LLC. The prints are \$1,000 each, plus \$20 shipping, handling and insurance costs. Proceeds go toward meeting a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant to be used exclusively for the Eudora Welty House Educational Endowment fund.



*A state historical marker was erected in front of the Eudora Welty House on April 20. Through the marker program, the MDAH Board of Trustees recognizes sites significant to local, state, or national history, ranging from prehistoric Indian mounds to those associated with the civil rights movement. The marker program was established in 1948.*

# Old Capitol Staff Finds New Digs, New Name

With the Old Capitol Museum closed due to Katrina's damage and with artifacts safely stored in the Charlotte Capers Building (Archives and History home before the Winter Building), museum staff members have found office spaces across the MDAH building complex. Lucy Allen, museum division director, and most of her staff have offices in

has an office in the Winter Building (the new home of the Old Capitol Shop). Now that they are moved and settled, planning for the new Museum of Mississippi History has resumed as well as planning for the Old Capitol Restoration (authorized by the 2006 Legislature). When the restoration is complete, the Old Capitol Restoration will interpret

the history of the building that served as the state capitol from 1839 to 1903 as well as the political and governmental history of those years.

The former Old Capitol staff look ahead to the construction of a new **Museum of Mississippi**

**History**. Therefore, current museum offerings—exhibits in the Winter Building, traveling exhibits, school programs, and other museum programming now bear that name.



(Top) Bonzai Fine Arts handlers remove one of the Old Capitol Museum's largest artifacts, the dugout canoe, from the Mississippi 1500—1800 exhibit and (below) carry it into the Capers Building, where it will be stored until the new Museum of Mississippi History building is constructed.



Lucy Allen, director of the MDAH Museum Division, in her new trailer office on High Street

trailers that are part of the MDAH Records Center on High Street. Collections staff have offices with the collection in the Capers Building. Old Capitol Shop manager Melissa Taylor

## New Gail Pittman Dessert Plates

Mississippian Gail Pittman, nationally known for her distinctive hand-painted pottery, has designed a series of dessert plates commemorating the opening of the Eudora Welty House. Two new plates, the third and fourth in the series, depict camellias, some of Welty's favorite flowers.

One plate features pink camellia blooms and a quotation (on reverse) from Welty's *The Optimist's Daughter*. The other features red camellias and a quotation from her story *First Love*. The blue background of the plates is inspired by the blue walls of Welty's bedroom, where she wrote.

The plates are offered through the Eudora Welty Foundation and are available at the Old Capitol Shop, William F. Winter Building, at \$25 each. To order, call the Shop at 601-576-6921.

The Foundation provides financial assistance to MDAH for administration of the Eudora Welty House and Collection.

## Archaeologist O'Hear: May 9

On Tuesday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m., John O'Hear, archaeologist at Mississippi State University, will present a slide talk at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians about the archaeological collections in the Tupelo area and the Natchez Indians' connection with the Chickasaw. This event is part of the Grand Village Archaeology Program Series. For more information, call 601-446-6502.

## Request for JMH Back Issues

The Historic New Orleans Collection would like to add a complete set of the *Journal of Mississippi History* to its holdings. If any newsletter reader has access to a collection that needs a "good home," the HNOC would appreciate the donation. Please contact Gerald F. Patout, Jr., Head Librarian, Williams Research Center, Historic New Orleans Collection, 410 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA 70130-2102, tel. 504-598-7125.

**Subscribe to the Mississippi History Newsletter. It's free. Call 601-576-6857.**

# Recovery Workshops May 18, 20, 21

A **one-day conservation workshop** on the recovery of water-damaged **Textiles and Costumes** on **Thursday, May 18**, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. is open to all individuals, both paid and volunteer, who are responsible for the care of col-

lections open to the public. Sessions will be held on the Jefferson Davis campus of the Gulf Coast Community College and include a morning of lecture and demonstration followed by an afternoon of hands-on exercises involving wet and dirty objects. Relevant handouts and lists of resources and contacts will be provided. Pre-registration is required. Lunch will be available for purchase at the college, and accommodations are available.

the Margaret S. Sherry Memorial Library, Biloxi, and **Sunday, May 21**, at the **William F. Winter Building, Jackson**. Half-day workshops are offered to Mississippi residents with private collections or family treasures already damaged



*Desalinization of books demonstrated*



*Damaged Confederate money and recommended cleaning tools*

at risk for future storm-related damage. This workshop includes a special focus on Textiles and Costumes.

Sessions in June will focus on photography. Future workshops through November will address books, archives, and art-on-paper; paintings and painted surfaces; glass, metal, ceramic, leather objects; and furniture and wooden objects.

The workshops are sponsored by the Winterthur Museum, the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation, and MDAH. For more information call 601-576-6879 or visit [school.utexas.edu/~cochine/gulfcoastrecovery](http://school.utexas.edu/~cochine/gulfcoastrecovery)

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## Welty House Preview Tour



*Top: Mary Alice White, Eudora Welty House director (above right) leads Representative Rita Martinson, Senator Jack Gordon, Representative Mary Ann Stevens, and Representative Steve Holland on a preview tour of the Eudora Welty House. Below: White shows recent book featuring Welty House to Representative Steve Holland, left, and Senator Jack Gordon, right.*



*Below: White shows historic Welty family photographs to (l-r) Representative Reecy Dickson, MDAH director emeritus Elbert R. Hilliard, MDAH trustee Jack Garner, National Endowment for the Humanities assistant chairman for Partnerships and National Affairs Carole Watson, and NEH chairman Bruce Cole.*



**After May 3 tours of the Eudora Welty House will be offered by reservation only Wednesdays through Fridays at 9 and 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m. To make a reservation, please call 601-353-7762.**

## May 23 Forum: Greenwood Cemetery

The Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Association will sponsor a public forum at noon on Tuesday, May 23, at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson. Topics for discussion will be the historical significance of Jackson's Greenwood Cemetery, the relation of the cemetery to Jackson tourism, the importance of the cemetery to historians and genealogists, the current condition of the cemetery, and ways to improve its condition.

William F. Winter, president of the MDAH Board of Trustees, and MDAH director emeritus Elbert R. Hilliard will participate in the forum, and Jackson's mayor, city council members, and city staff have been invited to participate. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided at 11:45 a.m. Preliminary questions and suggested topics for discussions may be directed to Peter B. Miazza at 601-853-1889.

## Legislation, cont'd

members of the MDAH Board of Trustees: William F. Winter of Jackson, Lynn Crosby Gammill of Hattiesburg, and E. Jackson Garner of Jackson.

## MDAH Events

**History is Lunch Brown Bag Series**, noon at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building—Wednesday, May 3, Alan Huffman will discuss and sign copies of his book *Mississippi in Africa*; May 17, Scott Baretta will examine various Mississippi blues styles. Call 601-576-6857 for information.

**Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. on the Old Capitol Green. Crafts from the Past.** Children ages five to twelve make crafts from bygone eras. Free, 601-576-6920.

**Friday, May 12, 5–7 p.m. Manships at Dusk.** Enjoy an evening tour of the Mansion House Museum and its Victorian garden, featuring musical entertainment. Free, for more information call 601-961-4724.

**Saturday, May 13, 1–2 p.m. at Winterville Mounds, Greenville. Dreamcatcher Workshop**, led by Florida Muscogee artist Valerie Goetz. Participants will learn to make dreamcatchers, small hoops covered with mesh and decorated with feathers and beads and believed to give owners good dreams. A \$20 registration fee is due by May 10. Call 662-334-4684 to register or for more information.

## Birney Imes Photos At Delta Blues Museum

The beauty of a land and its people is revealed in *The Mississippi Delta, An Intimate View: Photographs by Birney Imes*, showing at the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale. The exhibition, on display now through July 5, originated from a National Endowment for the Arts grant Imes received through the Mississippi Museum of Art in 1985. Traveling through communities like Panther Burn, Darling, and Nitta Yuma, Imes captured the beauty of nature juxtaposed with the dilapidated juke joints, rusted automobiles, and deserted communities that pepper the landscape. His photographs

of impoverished Delta farmers and their families are testaments to their strength and character.

The Delta Blues Museum presents this exhibition as an affiliate member of the Mississippi Museum of Art. The Mississippi Museum of Art's Affiliate Network is funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Delta Blues Museum is housed in the former freight depot at 1 Blues Alley in downtown Clarksdale. The museum is open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m. and by appointment. For more information, call 662-627-6820.



Speakers for the Alfred Holt Stone Symposium at the Winter Building on April 8 included (l-r) Eugene R. Dattel, James G. Hollandsworth, Jr., Anne Webster, and John David Smith.