

Exhibits Open at Welty Education and Visitors Center

Exhibits detailing the life and work of Eudora Welty have been installed at the Eudora Welty House Education and Visitors Center, completing the facility's final phase of development. A ribbon-cutting was held on August 13 officially opening the visitors center.

The exhibits feature photographs of Welty from infancy to adulthood as well as artifacts such as her silver baby spoon, early manuscripts, her photographs, a typewriter used by Welty, favorite record albums, and much more.

One item on display for the first time ever is the Pulitzer Prize Welty won in 1973 for *The Optimist's Daughter*.

"Welty never displayed the award in her house," said Mee-mie Jackson, special projects

coordinator for the Welty House. "Indeed, it was found where she kept it: in a box in a closet."

The first temporary exhibit has also been unveiled. "Eudora Welty at Yaddo" focuses on Welty's time at the New York artist's colony in the summer of 1941.

"With these exhibits we can delve deeply into topics important to Welty's life," said Amy Steadman, curator of collections. "We plan to have rotating temporary exhibits each year."

The permanent exhibits and "Eudora Welty at Yaddo" were funded by the Phil Hardin Foundation.

Welty's relationship with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History began in 1957 with her initial donation of manuscripts and working papers to the state archives. In 1986



Cutting the ribbon were (from left) MDAH director H.T. Holmes, Welty House director Mary Alice White, Phil Hardin Foundation president Robert F. Ward, Jackson Prep senior and national Scholastic Art and Writing Award-winner Alexandra Franklin, MDAH Board of Trustees president Kane Ditto, and Eudora Welty Foundation president Jim Moore.

Welty arranged for the state to have her house after she died.

Eudora Welty died July 23,

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Mississippi History Now Posts 2009-10 Schedule

Upcoming Articles on Architecture, Civil War, Leontyne Price

Mississippi History Now, the online publication of the Mississippi Historical Society, is entering its tenth season. The featured article for September is Martha H. Swain's "Hubert D. Stephens: Mississippi's 'Quiet Man' in the Senate." Last month's feature was an examination of Jefferson College, Mississippi's only chartered educational institution to open prior to statehood. Former director

of Historic Jefferson College during the Civil War; Jennifer Cheryl Munyer Waldrep, authored the piece. All previous articles from *Mississippi History Now* are archived and available on the site, mshistory.k12.ms.us. All articles include lesson plans for use in the classroom.

Planned articles include Toby Bates on the Vietnam War; Todd Sanders on Mississippi architecture; Minoa Uffelmann on rural Mississippi women; Tim Smith on the city of Jackson



U.S. Rep. Hubert D. Stephens, circa 1911.

Baughn on Rosenwald schools in Mississippi; Ben Fatherree on the history of the community college system within the state; Ellistine Holley on Leontyne Price, Alan Huffman on surviving the Civil War, and Elli Morris on the history of making ice.

Mississippi History Now is funded entirely through donations and grants. To learn more, email pjeanes@earthlink.net.

MISSISSIPPI HISTORY STORE

Most items in the Mississippi History Store are now on sale at 75 percent off. The store, located in the William F. Winter Archives and History Building, will close on September 30.

Sale items include Walter Anderson prints and posters, Mississippi memorabilia, holiday ornaments and decorations, and Mississippi books. For more information call 601-576-6921.

Hurricane Camille Photo Gallery Online

To memorialize the fortieth anniversary of Hurricane Camille, MDAH has created a special online photo gallery documenting the aftermath of the killer storm.

Hurricane Camille, a category 5 storm, made landfall on the Gulf Coast just east of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, around midnight on August 17, 1969, with winds estimated at 200 miles per hour and tides fifteen to thirty-two feet above normal. As it moved through central Kentucky and into West Virginia and Virginia, it dumped up to thirty-one inches of rain, generating flash floods and landslides.

The storm system caused an estimated 259 deaths (three in Cuba, 143 on the Gulf Coast, and 113 in the Virginia floods) and \$1.421 billion in damage. Until hurricanes Andrew (1992) and Katrina (2005), Camille was cited as the largest single act of destruction in United States history.

The Hurricane Camille Photograph Collection consists of seventy-three images related to the aftermath of the storm on



An outdoor church service on the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Camille in 1969. Photograph by John W. Nicholson, Jr.

the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The images were combined from three sources. The United States Air Force produced the eight black-and-white photographs that document Keesler Air Force Base personnel involved in the recovery efforts post-landfall.

Al Fred Daniel, a professional photographer from Jackson created twenty-three black-and-white images of commercial and residential property damage.

The largest section of the collection consists of forty-two color photographs taken by John

W. Nicholson Jr., also from Jackson, who captured images of the destruction, especially to churches, along most of the Gulf Coast, including Biloxi, Mississippi City, Gulfport, Long Beach, Pass Christian, and Bay St. Louis.

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2001, at the age of 92. The restored garden opened in 2004 and the house in 2006. For the first several years, the orientation film for the museum was shown in Welty's garage. The house immediately to the east of the museum had been constructed at the same time and in the same Tudor Revival style as the Welty House. When it became available in 2007 the department purchased it for use as the visitors center. Museum staff moved their offices in 2008, freeing up the space they had occupied in the Welty House for further interpretation of the museum. Later that year the house tours were expanded to include the former office space—the



bedroom of Welty's younger brothers and the sleeping porch.

Tours of the Eudora Welty House are offered Tuesdays through Fridays at 9 and 11 a.m.

and 1 and 3 p.m. by reservation. The Education and Visitors Center is open free of charge Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Welty Mural To Be Unveiled at Museum of Art

The Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson will host an exhibition of the diptych painted by Eudora Welty along with Welty's photographs of the Mississippi State Fair from the 1930s. The exhibit will open Saturday, September 26, and run through Sunday, December 6.

The large, colorful painting was discovered in the basement of Welty's house at 1119 Pinehurst Street in Jackson following her death. It has never been on display before.

For more information call 601-960-1515.

Volunteers Play Vital Roles at State Archives

Volunteers at the state archives contribute in many ways, from welcoming the public to processing collections behind the scenes.

“We could not do everything we do without the strong support of our volunteers,” said Julia Marks Young, director of the Archives and Records Services Division. “We are truly fortunate to have such an able and dedicated group.”

The division has enjoyed the longtime support of several such people. Jean Hudspeth, a retired librarian, has volunteered with the archives for more than eight years. She works three days a week in the microfilming section.

Pat Weeks works in the public reading rooms and with indexing projects. She has been a volunteer for more than five years.

Nan Harvey began volunteering at the archives three years ago. One day a week she assists patrons with microfilm and microfiche research projects and



Pictured in the second-floor work area of the Winter Building are Archives and Records Services volunteers (from left) Daniel Schwartz, Judy Hocking, Nan Harvey, Ally Pace, Pat Weeks, and Paul Bragg. Not pictured is Jean Hudspeth.

helps index death certificates.

Retired psychologist Paul Bragg started volunteering in 2007. He processes newspaper articles, brochures, and other items for the collection of 30,000 subject files.

“Paul’s knowledge of Mississippi history and current events is invaluable to us, and he is willing to help us with any project,”

says Jane Phillips, head of the Published Information Section.

Judy Hocking has been helping with collections since 2008. She works with Clarence Hunter, curator of the Tougaloo Collection, processing written correspondence and photographs for the Joyce Ladner Collection as well as other collections.

The newest volunteers are

Ally Pace and Daniel Schwartz, who began volunteering in July. Ally Pace works at the reception desk, welcoming patrons and directing them to reference assistance. She also helps with data entry, subject file work, and collections processing.

“Staff could not maintain the current mail turnaround without our volunteers helping work the public desks,” said chief reference librarian Anne Webster.

Daniel Schwartz volunteers in the Image and Sound section, scanning photographs and assisting the audio-visual curator with inventories and re-formatting duties, and also catalogs items in the Paper Archives section.

For more information about volunteer opportunities with the Archives and Records Services Division contact Forrest Galey at 601-576-6872 or fgaley@mdah.state.ms.us. To learn more about volunteering at other MDAH sites, call Elizabeth Coleman at 601-576-6985 or email ecoleman@mdah.state.ms.us.

Historical Society Seeking Nominations

Every year the Mississippi Historical Society awards prizes for outstanding work in interpreting, teaching, and preserving Mississippi history. Nominations are now being accepted for the following:

The McLemore Prize, which carries with it a \$700 stipend, is given for the best book on a subject related to Mississippi history or biography published the previous year.

The John K. Betterworth Award is given annually to an outstanding teacher of middle or high school history in Mississippi. The winning teacher receives a \$300 cash award and is invited as the society’s guest to its annual meeting.

The Riley prize, which carries with it a \$500 stipend, is awarded biennially as merited

for a doctoral dissertation on a topic in Mississippi history or biography completed within the previous two years.

The Glover Moore Prize, which carries with it a \$300 cash award, is given annually as merited to the author of the best master’s thesis on a topic in Mississippi history or biography completed the previous year.

The Frank E. Everett, Jr. Award is given annually as merited to a local historical organization that, as a member of the Federation of Mississippi Historical Societies, has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation and interpretation of Mississippi history. The winning society re-

ceives a \$300 cash award.

The Elbert R. Hilliard Oral History Award, which carries with it a \$300 cash award, recognizes oral history projects exemplifying a distinguished collec-



tion, high-quality preservation, and proper use of oral history.

The James T. Dawson Award is presented annually as merited to a local government in Mississippi with an exemplary records management program. A local

government eligible for the award may be a municipality, a county, or a school district.

Two other prizes, the Dunbar Rowland Award, given in recognition of major contributions to the study and interpretation of Mississippi History and the B.L.C. Wailes Award for national distinction in the field of history, are presented as merited.

Awards of merit are presented annually to individuals or organizations for their outstanding archival or museum work. All prizewinners will be invited to the society’s annual meeting, to be held in Gulfport on March 4–6, 2010, to receive their awards. Details are online at www.msh-historical-society.com. For more information or to make a nomination email info@mshistorical-society.com or call 601-576-6856.

SEPTEMBER MDAH CALENDAR

WASHINGTON

Historic Jefferson College

Highway 61 North
601-442-2901
info@jeffersoncollege.com

Saturday, September 12.

Copper Magnolia Fine Arts & Crafts Festival & Flea Market. Artists and craftsmen show off their talents in this one-day festival on the grounds, which also features hands-on children's activities and live musical entertainment.

Tuesday, September 15, noon.

Lunchtime Lecture Series: Surviving Summers. Michael Busbin, education coordinator at the Manship House Museum in Jackson, will discuss how nineteenth-century families made it through our hot Mississippi summers before electricity and air conditioning. Bring a lunch.

Saturday, September 26, 10-11:30 a.m. *EXPLORE! Ancient Flying Reptiles.* Pteranodons, pterodactyls, and the archaeopteryx weren't dinosaurs but they lived at the same time, about eighty million years ago. Discover how big these flying reptiles were, what they ate, and what they turned into. \$10 pre-registration required.

JACKSON

History Is Lunch Series

Noon-1 p.m., William F. Winter Archives and History Building
200 North Street
601-576-6998

Wednesday, September 2— Marion Barnwell will talk about famous Mississippi chef Craig Claiborne.

Wednesday, September 9— Bill Patrick will present "Mississippi Musicians."

Wednesday, September 16— Senator Hillman Frazier will talk about slave castles of Africa and the African Diaspora.

Wednesday, September 23— sculptor Tracy Sugg will show images and discuss her work.

Wednesday, September 30— Millsaps professor Kristen Oertel will discuss her book on pre-Civil War Kansas and its parallels with Mississippi.

Old Capitol Museum
State Street at Capitol
601-576-6920
info@oldcapitolmuseum.com

September 12-30. See the Mississippi Heritage Trust's *10 Most Endangered Places* photographic exhibit.

Manship House Museum

420 E. Fortification Street
601-961-4724
info@manshiphouse.com

Saturday, September 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. *Civil War Sites and Sounds.* Observe life as it was during the Civil War as reenactors portray soldiers encamping on the grounds.

NATCHEZ

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

400 Jefferson Davis Blvd.
601-446-6502
info@natchezgrandvillage.com

Saturday, September 19, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. *Bark in the Park,* the annual fund-raiser for the Natchez Humane Society.