



- Escambia Echoes -

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THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY 1962

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Escambia County Historical Society will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 1962 at 7:00 P.M. at the Thomas E. McMillan Museum on the campus of Jefferson Davis State Junior College in Brewton.

This month's speaker will be Mr. Bob Cason, of the Alabama Department of Archives and History in Montgomery. Mr. Cason is a curator in the State museum section and is serving as acting director of Archives and History due to the recent death of Mr. Milo Howard. Mr. Cason is past president of the Alabama Museums Association and is very active in statewide programs whose goals are to improve the services and interinstitutional cooperation of this state's museums.

Mr. Cason will address the Society about present and planned future improvements and changes within the Archives and History facility.

FORT CRAWFORD MARKER PLANNED

Plans are now underway to apply for and place an historical marker designating the site of Old Fort Crawford (1817-1819) in East Brewton. This marker, which would be identical in style to the one recently placed near Pollard, is tentatively planned for placement at or near the intersection of Highways 29-61 and Ridge Road in the immediate vicinity of Norton's Plaza in East Brewton. We will keep you well informed as these plans are finalized and the necessary preparations are concluded.

HATS FOR APRIL

Last month's meeting featured a program entitled, "Old Hats Review", when a collection of twenty-four hats of yesteryear, loaned to the Society by a charter member, were modeled as in a fashion show by six of the ECNS ladies.

The oldest hat featured was purchased in 1907; the newest, in 1927. Some had the quality of having been hand made. Narration was included with information given about the styles, brand names, dates, and descriptions of the hats being shown.

Members modeling the hats were Myrtise West, June Martin, Alice Will Beall, Margaret Tiley, Gladys Byrd, and Evelyn Jernigan. The program was narrated by Rita Jane Boykin.

MUSEUM NEWS

A showing of the photographs of students currently enrolled in Jefferson Davis College's Studio Photography course will be featured during the month of May.

A collection of cameras is being developed quite rapidly. Mr. Hank Locklin, of McLellan, Florida has donated a 1923-1926 Kodak folding bellows camera and a portable stereo camera of the 1915 period; Oscar and Maxine Wynn, of Ozark, Alabama, have donated a 1901 patent panorama camera as well as some fine examples of popular, "snap-shot" cameras of the 1940-1950s era. The museum is still seeking used and antique photographic equipment both for exhibition and for use in its classes as instructional examples; we thank those who have donated their materials for their support and generosity.

PLAN AHEAD FOR JUNE'S "DOWNING DAY"!

The Society, in collaboration with Jefferson Davis State Junior College, is planning a tribute to Mrs. Abbotte Downing. We will have an "Abbotte Downing Day" at the college on Tuesday, June 15, 1962.

Mrs. Downing lives in Dallas, Texas at this time. She was the first Art teacher at Jefferson Davis College and her fine paintings now adorn private and public buildings throughout this area.

Some of Mrs. Downing's finest works will be exhibited at the McMillan Museum for the public. There will be an open house for the college's students in the morning and a program of tribute for Mrs. Downing at 7:00 P.M. at the museum for the Escambia County Historical Society and the general public.

If you are appointed to one of the committees working toward this event, please keep in touch with members of the Executive Committee as plans progress so that we may insure a good turnout and a warm day for this lovely lady.

We will post additional information about this planned gathering in June's newsletter.