

Escambia Echoes

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THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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The Escambia County Historical Society is planning a big day for all.

Jefferson Davis College and The Society are having jointly a day to honor Mrs. Abbottle Downing of Dallas, Texas. Mrs. Downing is a former resident of Brewton, art teacher at Jeff Davis College and well-known friend of many Brewton people. On June 15, 1982 Mrs. Downing has been invited to spend the day with us. College student s will greet her in the McMillan Museum from 11:00 A.M. to noon. Her paintings which she painted while in Brewton will be on exhibit. At 7:00 P.M. the June Meeting of the Society will be held in the Museum. Mrs. Downing will receive her friends there and a short program will be given in her honor. Refreshments will follow. We want every member to take part in this occasion. We are to honor her but it is an honor to us to be able to greet such a very talented and beloved lady. Consider this a SPECIAL invitation for you and your friends. We are looking for you. Be there!

Mrs. Downing, a former resident of Brewton who is well-known for her influence in art and contributions in the betterment of educational advantages in this area, now resides in Dallas, Texas.

Having donated many of her own paintings to D. W. McMillan Hospital and other facilities here, Mrs. Downing has had great impact among local artists who studied under her when she resided in Brewton.

The meeting room of the Historical Society in the Thomas McMillan Memorial Museum at Jefferson Davis Junior College was enhanced for the occasion by various green plants, including diffenbachia, weeping fig trees and ferns.

Mrs. Gladys Byrd, president of the Escambia County Historical Society, presided at the meeting and paid tribute on behalf of the society to Mrs. Downing. Paying tribute to Mrs. Downing on behalf of the Jefferson Davis Junior College were Dr. George McCormick, J.D.J.C. president; Joe Weaver, Dean of Business Affairs; and Dr. Virgil Warren, Dean of Instruction at Jefferson Davis, who commended the philanthropic acts of the honoree.

Friends paying tribute to Mrs. Downing were Miss Rita Jane Boykin, Mrs. Catherine Brooks and Mrs. Myrtice West.

Following the meeting, a reception was held in the lounge of the museum, where the coffee table and occasional tables held arrangements of specimen roses in crystal bowls.

The serving table, covered in a white linen cloth with lace overlay, was centered with a crystal punch bowl flanked by lighted tapers in brass candlesticks. The serving table also held trays of party sandwiches, cookies, cheese balls, cake and nuts.

BOOK

Dr. Joseph A. Jackson has given a book on The Parken Family to the Historical Society. It will be placed in the Alabama Room at the Leigh Library.