



Museum of East Alabama

FALL EDITION

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What's New with the Old

What an exciting time this is for the Museum of East Alabama. The Charter Foundation has recognized our progress and our potential with a grant of \$60,000. The grant is payable over 3 years and is targeted at renovations and new exhibits in our West Wing. It will go a long way toward realizing our vision for exhibits in that space. The grant brings our total donations for our capital campaign to approximately \$250,000. Thanks to all of our donors and to the Charter Foundation for making it all possible.

When Clark Lundell and the School of Industrial Design team were helping us plan our renovation and new exhibits, Clark said that we should feature something special on the wall space between the front and rear parts of our main building. When I inquired what



that would be he said "That remains to be seen." We now know what that special feature is. Dick Millman of Auburn donated his time and talents to develop a wonderful mural that depicts some of the important and unique buildings and scenes from this area's history. It is a beautiful and significant addition to the museum and we are very grateful to Dick and to everyone who helped make it happen.

Several years ago my brother, Jim Harris, presented a new musical he wrote in collaboration with renowned composer Mark Hayes. The show was called "Civil War Voices" and it made its debut as a fundraiser for the Museum of East Alabama. Since that time the show has attracted enthusiastic audiences and rave reviews. Now the show is coming full circle and will appear again in East Alabama, this time as part of the Arts Association of East Alabama Performance Series. The Barter Theatre is touring the production this fall. I saw the show in Virginia this spring, and it was wonderful. We are proud that the museum played a part in bringing this important and moving production to life. It will be at the Performing Arts Center in Opelika on Thursday, October 13. Don't miss it.

I have been privileged to serve as President of the Museum of East Alabama for the past 5 years. We have lots of talent on the museum board, and it is time for some new leadership. I plan to continue to be actively involved with the museum as a board member and volunteer. Our new president is Jim Hardin. Jim is recently retired from Auburn University where he worked in the Student Affairs office after a career in the Air Force. Jim has been active on the board and as a museum volunteer and he will provide great leadership for the museum going forward. He has a lifelong interest in history and hopes to continue improving the museum exhibits and maintain the museum as a vital part of this region. **Bert Harris, President.**

Museum Hours

Tuesday—Friday
10 am till 4 pm CDT
Saturday
2 pm till 4 pm
Closed Sunday & Monday
E-Mail:
museum@eastalabama.org

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Charter Foundation Grant Awarded

After years of hard work by volunteers, the Museum of East Alabama received a grant of \$60,000 payable over three years from the Charter Bank Foundation to finish the renovation of the building and assure the history of east Alabama is preserved for future generations. The grant is in addition to \$200,000 from private donations.

The presentation of the first portion of the grant was held June 2 at the museum. Linda Drummond, Lee County President of the Charter Bank Foundation, presented the check to the museum founder, 99-year-old Eleanor Harris. "We are glad to be able to make the donation," says Linda Drummond. "The Foundation has put a lot of money into Lee County."

Foundation board member Shirley Flora was also on hand for the presentation. "I have been here less than 20 years," says Flora, "and to see what this sidewalk museum has done is unbelievable. The whole credit should be to the volunteers. I am so proud that the Charter Bank Foundation recognizes this accomplishment. As a member of the Foundation Board, it was a joy when they voted to present their full request. That is exciting."

Eleanor Harris thanked the Charter Foundation for being civic minded.

"This grant will allow us to finish some important work that we have primarily done with private donations and volunteer labor," says Bert Harris, president of the museum board. "This will go a long way to help us finish these important exhibits in a first class manner."

Glenn Buxton, Director of the Museum, stated, "We are very pleased to get this grant from the Charter Bank Foundation. Without this grant would be not be able to finish the displays like they should be and to finish the work we started three years ago."

"We are going to make this a showplace for east Alabama and am sure it will start drawing local people," adds the director. "People visit the museum from all over the country and world to see the history of east Alabama. We want to let people know about the new exhibits and have more local people visiting the museum. Right now 70 percent of the people who visit the museum are from out of town."



L-R Back: Glenn Buxton, Shirley Flora, Bert Harris, Jim Hardin (Front) Linda Drummond, Eleanor Harris

Capital Campaign Donor Recognition Levels

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Directors Report

To our dear patrons and history enthusiasts: this has been a year of exciting change and growth! With the start of our fiscal year beginning this October, we are proud to introduce, in addition to our quarterly newsletters, the end result of a collaboration of efforts. The West Wing construction has concluded and the exhibits, namely "East Alabama at Play", "East Alabama at Home" and "The People of East Alabama" are awaiting visitation. In particular, Josh Stephens of Opelika has graciously loaned the early 20th century sound effect instrument collection

which his Great-Grandfather, a Foley Artist, used during the era of silent movie theaters. This amazing collection was featured on a recent episode of the "Antiques Road Show" from Biloxi and is housed in our "East Alabama at Play" exhibit. Notably residing in our "People of East Alabama" exhibit is an incredibly well preserved pre-historic Indian canoe. Amongst our proudest additions is a 48 foot long painted mural by local artist and retired Auburn University art professor Dick Millman. It features scenes of East Alabama from the Creek Indian Heritage, Horace King, Camp

Opelika, Auburn University, Lee County Courthouse, The Bottle, and so much more. The mural spans the main hall of the museum and a special thanks to Dr. Clark Lundell and his staff for making this important art creation possible. We invite you to explore these, and the many other additions to our museum. **Glenn Buxton**



As seen on Biloxi Antique Roadshow

From Opelika to the Big Apple, Fort Sumter and Back to Opelika

Civil War Voices, a musical that premiered in Opelika as a fundraiser for the Museum of East Alabama has received rave reviews at the Midtown International Theatre Festival in NYC. The show, written by James Harris with music by Mark Hayes, also won 6 awards including one for "best production of a musi-

cal". The show's success in New York is likely to lead to further productions, especially in connection with the sesquicentennial of the Civil War. It has already been performed at celebration of Lincoln's 200th birthday in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the Civil War Institute's annual conference in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and Fort Sumter.

We are grateful to Jim Harris for bringing Civil War Voices to

us for our fundraiser and we are happy the show is having success and will return to the Opelika Arts Performing Series on Thursday, October 13, 2011.



Jasmine Club Donates Urns

The Jasmine Garden Club of Opelika donated matching urns filled with boxwood to the Museum of East Alabama. Funds for the urns were raised through various garden club projects over the years.

Members of the garden club are Kay Harris, Ann Cipperly, Ava Yates, Lee Sadler, Anne Carpenter and Alma Smith T.



Eleanor Harris Memoirs

“Day by Day in Every Way-Better & Better

At 99 years of age and nearly completely blind, Eleanor Harris faces many challenges, but none of them prevent her from living the motto her mother taught her as a child, “Day by day in every way - better and better.” Mrs. Harris has recently published a book by the same name, telling her amazing story with many adventures, successes and life with her late husband, John T. Harris.

Eleanor’s optimism and positive approach to life comes through in every page of her life’s story.

Day by Day in Every Way - Better and Better is available at the Museum of East Alabama for a \$15 donation to the museum. Memberships to the museum are also available, which provide much needed support to continue the museum in the community.

Day by Day in Every Way – Better and Better

The Memoirs of Eleanor Sues Harris



By Eleanor Sues Harris

Translated and Compiled by Sam and Ashley Harris
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East Alabama Mural by Artist Dick Millman



The Museum of East Alabama expresses its appreciation to Dick Millman for painting our new mural. It’s 48 feet long & 3 feet high. Richard G. Millman is an Emeritus member of the Auburn University Architecture Faculty and the American Institute of Architects; Signature member of the Alabama, Georgia, and Southern Watercolor Societies; received formal education in Architecture and Art at the University of Michigan.

Richard Millman wrote and illustrated the Auburn University Walking Tour Guide, published in 1990. He’s listed WHO’S WHO IN AMERICA, and his work has been published in WATERCOLOR 1994 (Fall Edition) and in the book CREATIVE WATERCOLOR by Mary Ann Beckwith. (1995)

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Glenda Weiland
Warner Williams
Enid & Charles Weissinger

J.T. Harris: Memorial

Yetta Samford

In Honor: Eleanor Harris:

Yetta Samford

It's Time to Renew Your Membership

Our new fiscal year begins October 1st, so it's time to renew your membership for the coming year. We rely on our members for financial support, so please give as generously as you can. I know we can count on your continued support.

Thank you.



THE MUSEUM OF EAST ALABAMA
P.O. BOX 3085
OPELIKA, AL 36803-3085

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 Just clip this form and send it with your membership renewal or use it to join for the first time!
 Your donations of time or financial support are appreciated any time!!

————— Please mail this form with your check to The Museum of East Alabama, PO Box 3085, Opelika, AL 36803-3085

Our membership drive is a major part of our annual fund raising, vital to museum daily operations.

*membership benefits include newsletters, discounts on museum activities and the preservation of your local history

We need YOU at The Museum of East Alabama! Museum Membership Categories include:

<u>Basic</u>	<u>Supporting</u>	<u>Sustaining</u>	<u>Patron</u>	<u>Blue Ribbon</u>	<u>Benefactor</u>
\$25	\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1000

(All donations to The Museum of East Alabama are tax deductible)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip

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My annual donation enclosed is _____ I prefer to donate the following amount monthly through 9/07: _____

____ Yes! I want to be a member! _____ I have been a member for ___1-5 years ___ 6-10 years ___ 11-15 years

____ Yes! I want to volunteer! _____ I have been a volunteer for ___1-5 years ___ 6-10 years ___ 11-15 years

____ I am available the following days/times: _____

____ Particular areas of interest to me at the museum are: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MUSEUM OF EAST ALABAMA