



Cross County Historical Society

P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396

www.cchs1862.org

Cross County *ERA*

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SPRING 2008

New Hope School Project Is Inspiration for New Award

The New Hope School Restoration Project has been the inspiration for a new award to be presented by the Arkansas Delta Byways Commission. The enthusiasm generated by the New Hope Project Committee during the months of December and January stirred such interest that at the annual ADB Awards Banquet on January 25, the New Hope Project received the first-time-presented “Most Enthusiastic Volunteers” award. The New Hope Project Committee members were pleased to receive this first award of its kind.

Also accepted by the New Hope School Restoration Committee during the awards presentations was a trophy for being nominated for the Boot Strap Award, an award that recognizes the committee, which during the year accomplished the most work with the least amount of funds.

The New Hope School Project is a sub-committee of the Cross County Historical Society, which owns the New Hope School property at 3762 Hwy 284, Wynne, a gift received from Leo and Charlene Smith in July of 2007.



Cross County Museum
711 East Union, Wynne

CROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS

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Pictured are (l to r) Marcel Hanzlik, president of Delta Byways; New Hope Committee members Billy Sanders, Bridget Hart, Cathy Hagler (former New Hope student); Carol McCrary; and Advisor for the Arkansas Delta Byways, Nancy Clark. Committee members not pictured are Johnny Wilson; Barbara Burkhart (former New Hope student); Florence Halstead; Leigh Chambers; Teresa McCrary; and Danny Ball, project consultant.

Museum Given \$23,400 Grant Approval

Randy Dennis, Program Manager for the Department of Arkansas Heritage, Little Rock, AR, recently remarked in a letter to the Cross County Museum:

"The Heritage Grants Review Committee met ... and it is my pleasure to inform you that your project was selected to receive \$23,400.00 from the Department of Arkansas Heritage. You should be very proud of this achievement. We received 202 applications for a total of \$4.2 million, but funding of \$600,000 limited the committee to a selection of only 33 projects...."

"Congratulations to the members of your organization for their contributions in providing an outstanding project that preserves Arkansas's heritage. I look forward to working with you as you successfully complete your project."

The grant was written by Michelle Slabaugh, and letters of support for grant application were given by Sen. Jim Luker, Rep. Jerry Brown, Cross County Economic Development Director Aaron Stewart, County Judge Kenneth Witcher and Wynne Mayor Paul Nichols. Much appreciation goes to these individuals.

The Cross County Historical Society has a newly renovated space in the former Wynne Elementary School Building, and a rapidly growing collection of donated artifacts and historic materials. We recognize the need to engage professional guidance to develop the following:

- A clear and easily communicated vision for an exhibit program that meets our organization's goals and the expectations of the County communities we serve.

(Continued next page)

- A firm conceptual design based on consensus, sound design and 3-D communication principles that will guide the subsequent development of an attractive, cohesive and accessible exhibit to stand out as a memorable cultural and educational asset for Cross County and its future visitors.
- Identification and evaluation of technical options for the display and preservation of donated artifacts that meet current preservation standards.

Project Rationale

The Cross County Historical Society believes that a focused and formative concept planning phase will provide the best possible foundation for the development of its new space. A 3-D design and space planning involves disciplines and knowledge outside our collective experience; we have reached out to Capitol Exhibit Services, Inc. (CESi), a historical society consulting firm with an established reputation. We met and spoke with representatives of CESi at the SEMC Conference in Little Rock last October and were impressed with their experience and interest in our institution. Subsequent discussions have convinced us that their involvement and guidance will help us develop a sound and tailored concept in the most timely and efficient manner. This concept will become the roadmap for subsequent development of an attractively integrated story line, graphic selection, self-guided activities and engaging artifact presentation within the allocated space. The resulting CESi/Cross County Historical Society work product will become the basis of a subsequent implementation grant proposal effort.

The Cross County Museum Gift Shop contains some interesting items. There are some nice anniversary dishes for sale, along with other goodies. The shop is located in the original fourth grade room of Miss Elaine Smith, just to the left of the large lobby in the museum at 711 East Union. The museum is open from 10 - 4 Monday through Friday.



New Hope Teacher Dies

Mrs. Estelle Sullivan, 96, passed away on Monday, March 3. She was a 1930 graduate of Wynne High School. She taught grades one through eight for many years at the New Hope and the Antioch Schools, both east of Wynne. "Miss Estelle" was well loved and will be remembered by friends and former students of the school. Burial was at Harris Chapel Cemetery off Highway 284, Wynne.

CROSS COUNTY HISTORY TEST

By Johnny Wilson

Who were the first Cross County officials to hold the following county offices?

- 1 County judge _____
- 2 Clerk _____
- 3 Sheriff _____
- 4 Treasurer _____
- 5 Coroner _____
- 6 Surveyor _____

Answers are on another page.

Jars Available for Donations

The jars in many stores and restaurants are waiting for your donations to the Cross County Museum. Toss in your coins and dollars! The future Endowment Fund will someday enrich a student's life with the gift of a scholarship. We thank you now; a student will thank you later.

Cross County Museum Receives Conservation Bookshelf

Cross County Museum is among the first to receive a set of resources from IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf. The set consists of conservation books, DVDs, and online resources. The award is based on an application describing the needs and plans for care of museum collections. It addresses such topics as the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

The IMLS Bookshelf is a component of *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a conservation initiative responding to a 2005 study by Heritage Preservation documenting the dire state of the nation's collections, and spotlighting the needs of America's collections, especially those held by smaller institutions.

Michelle Slabaugh, treasurer of the Cross County Museum, applied for the collection, which is offered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal funding of the nations museums and libraries and its cooperator, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH.) A total of 2,000 free sets will be awarded by the end of 2008.

Historical Society Benefit to be May 17

The Historical Society has set a Saturday, May 17th date for its 3rd Annual Museum Benefit. The event will take place outdoors at the home of Mike & Michelle Slabaugh from 5 – 9 p.m. Dinner entertainment will be provided by The Last Chance Jug Band of Memphis. Headed by musicologist David Evans, University of Memphis music professor, the band is a modern day incarnation of Memphis jug bands from the 1920's and 30's.

In addition to operating funds the Society hopes to raise enough money to establish an endowment with the Endowment Foundation of Cross County.

Tickets for the event are \$30 and will be available May 1st at the Museum and at the Chamber Office.

The Historical Society has made great strides since its reorganization in 2005 due to the support of Judge Witcher, the Quorum Court, local businesses, and the community. Sen. Jim Luker, Rep. Jerry Brown, former Rep. Leroy Dangeau and the Cross County Economic Development Corp. have all been very supportive in helping with grants. We would like to thank all those who have supported the Museum through their donations of time, money and membership dues, and ask for your continued support to keep the momentum going.

- The Museum serves the entire county of Cross. Many generations to come will benefit from the Historical Society's efforts to collect and preserve our rich culture and treasured artifacts.
- We have partnered with the county schools by providing students with a venue to research and learn about their county's culture and history. Several students have volunteered at the Museum earning community service hours for school and clubs.
- Our Museum has partnered with Arkansas State University and University of Central Arkansas by providing internships for four students in their history programs.
- The Museum has benefited tourism in the county by providing a sightseeing venue for lodgers at Village Creek State Park, Mid-South Championship Marathon runners, and other visitors to Cross County. In 2007 the Museum brought in genealogy researchers from as far away as Wisconsin, Florida, Texas and California who all needed food and lodging. Over 700 visitors signed the guest book in 2007.
- The Museum is located on the Delta Scenic Byway in downtown Wynne benefiting the Downtown Revitalization effort.

The Historical Society offers a program/lecture once a month which is free to the public. The Museum has also made its meeting room available to other organizations in town such as Master Gardeners and the Cross County Endowment Foundation.

New Hope School Exhibit and Reception to be Sunday, March 30

The Cross County Museum will present the New Hope School exhibit along with a reception on Sunday, March 30, from 2:00 to 4:00. The exhibit is located in the large lobby at the front of the building. In the exhibit are pictures of students who attended the school through the thirties and forties, pictures of some former teachers, and color pictures of the construction recently done on the school building. One may view the only remaining original brick from the first chimney of the old one-room school. Also on display are the original school hand bell and the story of its long journey out of the state, how it was found at a Tennessee flea market by Kenneth W. Cauble and returned to its home.

The museum is located at 711 East Union and is regularly open Monday through Friday from 10 to 4:00.

President's Message

I hope that all of you are looking forward to an exciting springtime. With the approval of the Arkansas Heritage planning grant, the Society and Museum will be busy working with Capitol Exhibit Services of Virginia to create a long-range plan. Then, we will be submitting more requests for grants to implement the plan. Our thanks to Michelle Slabaugh for her hard work in putting this (and other) grant proposals together for us.

Congratulations to Bridget Hart and the New Hope School Project Committee on their recent recognitions (the Bootstrap category and the Enthusiasm Awards) at the annual Delta Byways Banquet held in January.

Thanks to Shea Lewis, Superintendent Parkin Archeological Park, for a very interesting program at our last meeting.

Our program on 25 March 2008 will be Mr. Wayne Parker, Director of the St. Francis County Museum in Forrest City. He will be sharing their experiences with us, so please make plans to attend the March meeting, beginning at 7:00 P.M. on that Tuesday evening. Take a moment to read through the newsletter for other items of interests. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a part of our organization, pass along the membership application to them, or if it's time to renew just complete it and mail it back to us.

See you there.

- Richard



CROSS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 943

Wynne, AR 72396

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www.cchs1862.org

The ERA may be viewed on the website above.

Spring 2008

In Gratitude

Our appreciation goes to the **Cross County Bank** for the printing of this newsletter. The bank is located at 1 Cross County Bank Plaza, PO Box 9, Wynne, AR 72396, Telephone 870-238-8171, with branches in Wynne, Hickory Ridge, and Cherry Valley.

Hickory Ridge History Book for Sale

35 Degrees 24 Minutes North 91 Degrees West: A Town Called Hickory Ridge by Don Evans, Isaac Bratcher, James Jeffers, and Johnny Wilson. Price \$40.00. Contact Johnny Wilson at 870-697-2993 or johnny.h.wilson@att.net.

List of Members If you would like a list of members of the Cross County Historical Society, please call 870-238-4100 or email crossmuseum@sbcglobal.net and a copy will be mailed to you.

Cross County ERA

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Bridget Hart, Editor. Consultants: Pres. Richard Hartness, Author and Historian; George Anne Draper, Educator and Librarian.

Contact Editor: bhart1@sbcglobal.net

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEEDS YOU! (And Cross County needs the Society!)

If you would like to become a member of the Cross County Historical Society, fill out the form below and mail along with your check to the Cross County Historical Society, P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396. Members receive annual renewal letters. **MEMORIALS ARE WELCOME.**

Would you like to **save postage** and view the newsletter on the website instead of receiving a hardcopy at home? _____

Memberships: Individual \$15__ Family \$25__ Institutional \$35__ Sustaining \$50__ Patron \$100__ Benefactor \$250__ Advocate \$500__
Lifetime \$1000__

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address: _____

Gift ()In memory ()In Honor of: _____

Address: _____

Please notify the following of this gift: _____

Address _____

***Please make checks payable to Cross County Historical Society and mail to P. O. Box 943, Wynne, AR 72396
501 (c) (3) Non-profit Organization***

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Answers to Cross County History Test: First Cross County Officials
Co. Judge: S. L. Austell; Clerk: B.D. McClaran; Sheriff: J.N. Dodson; Treasurer: Robert Meek; Coroner: K.B. Pledger; Surveyor: M. Halk