



WALTON

RELATIONS & HISTORY

Volume 10, Issue 5 **Walton County Heritage Association**

May 2019

Smithsonian Exhibit Opening Reception

By
Sam Carnley

As one of a limited number of Main Street cities in Florida, DeFuniak Springs was selected as host of the "Museum on Main Street" exhibition presented by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The theme of the exhibit is "Crossroads: Change in Rural America," and opened Saturday, May 11 in the new business establishment, "Anita's Half & Half," on Baldwin Avenue. Prior to the opening on the evening of May 10, the WCHA Board were privileged to attend a reception held in the Anita's Half & Half location as a preview of the exhibit. The exhibit consists of audio, visual and printed displays on the many aspects of rural America and its people, past, present and future. Main Street DeFuniak Springs director, Jay Evans welcomed guests and visitors to the event.

Outlining the history and character of rural America, the exhibit points out factors influencing it, and how those conditions have changed and will continue changing in the future:

Welcome to Rural America, a crossroads of change in a vast land. American Indians who were already here, those who came in search of a better life, and people who were forced to move all contributed to the development of rural America.

Throughout the 19th century, the majority of Americans lived in rural areas. They built their lives around the work of harvesting what the land could produce, the food, fuel, fiber, ores, and minerals crucial to a growing nation. They built communities at rural crossroads-small towns that became centers of commerce, politics, and culture.

But conditions favorable to robust rural communities changed. Early in the 20th century, growing urban populations shifted economic investment and political influence from the counties to the cities. Since then, the pace of rural change has accelerated.

Today, rural communities are at a new crossroads-a meeting point of ideas where they can chart their own future. With their innovations and creative spirit, rural Americans are helping to define and shape the future of the country.

A photo montage of the reception and exhibit follows. (Photos by Sam and Nell Carnley).

Walton County Heritage Museum

Open Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 4:00 PM
1140 Circle Drive, De Funiak Springs, FL 32435
850-951-2127

<http://www.waltoncountyheritage.org/>



This sign greets visitors to the exhibit as they enter the building.



WCHA members attending the reception: L to R., Sam Carnley, Nell Carnley, Sandy Jack Brown, Carolyn Brown, Marie Hinson, Rose Rogers, Sharon Grenet, Cate Campbell, Mary Lancaster, and Anita Harris.



Jay Evans, Main Street DeFuniak Springs Director, welcomed guests and visitors to the event.



Bessie Pittman, aka Jackie Cochran, aviatrix and 1920s resident of DeFuniak Springs.


 <h2>Smithsonian</h2> <p><i>Crossroads: Change in Rural America</i> is a Museum on Main Street exhibition developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.</p> <p>Curated by Dr. Ann McCleary and Dr. Debra Reid.</p> <p>Brought to you by the Florida Humanities Council. Funded by the U.S. Congress.</p> <p>Florida programming is supported by Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.</p> <p>Florida Humanities Council</p>	<p>Welcome to rural America, a crossroads of change in a vast land. American Indians who were already here, those who came in search of a better life, and people who were forced to move all contributed to the development of rural America.</p> <p>Throughout the 19th century, the majority of Americans lived in rural areas. They built their lives around the work of harvesting what the land could produce—the food, fuel, fiber, ores, and minerals crucial to a growing nation. They built communities at rural crossroads—small towns that became centers of commerce, politics, and culture.</p> <p>But conditions favorable to robust rural communities changed. Early in the 20th century, growing urban populations shifted economic investment and political influence from the counties to the cities. Since then, the pace of rural change has accelerated.</p> <p>Today, rural communities are at a new crossroads—a meeting point of ideas where they can chart their own future. With their innovations and creative spirit, rural Americans are helping to define and shape the future of the country.</p>
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Exhibit Info. Sign, No. 1

Exhibit Info. Sign, No. 2





Exhibit with interactive Video Display.



An exhibit about farming and other occupations.



Mr. and Mrs. Jay Evans



Another Exhibit with Interactive Video Display



The Hors D'oeuvres, Photo 1



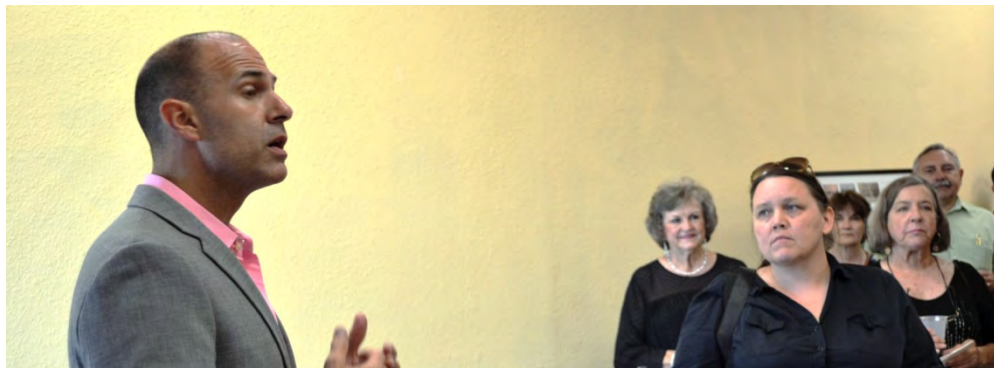
L. to R., Rose, Sharon, Voncile, Marie and Carolyn, WCHA.



Marie Hinson and Nell Carnley



Anita Harris, proprietor of
"Anita's Half & Half"



Jay Evans speaks to the group.



The group listens to Jay, Photo 1



The group listens to Jay, Photo 2



The group listens to Jay, Photo 3



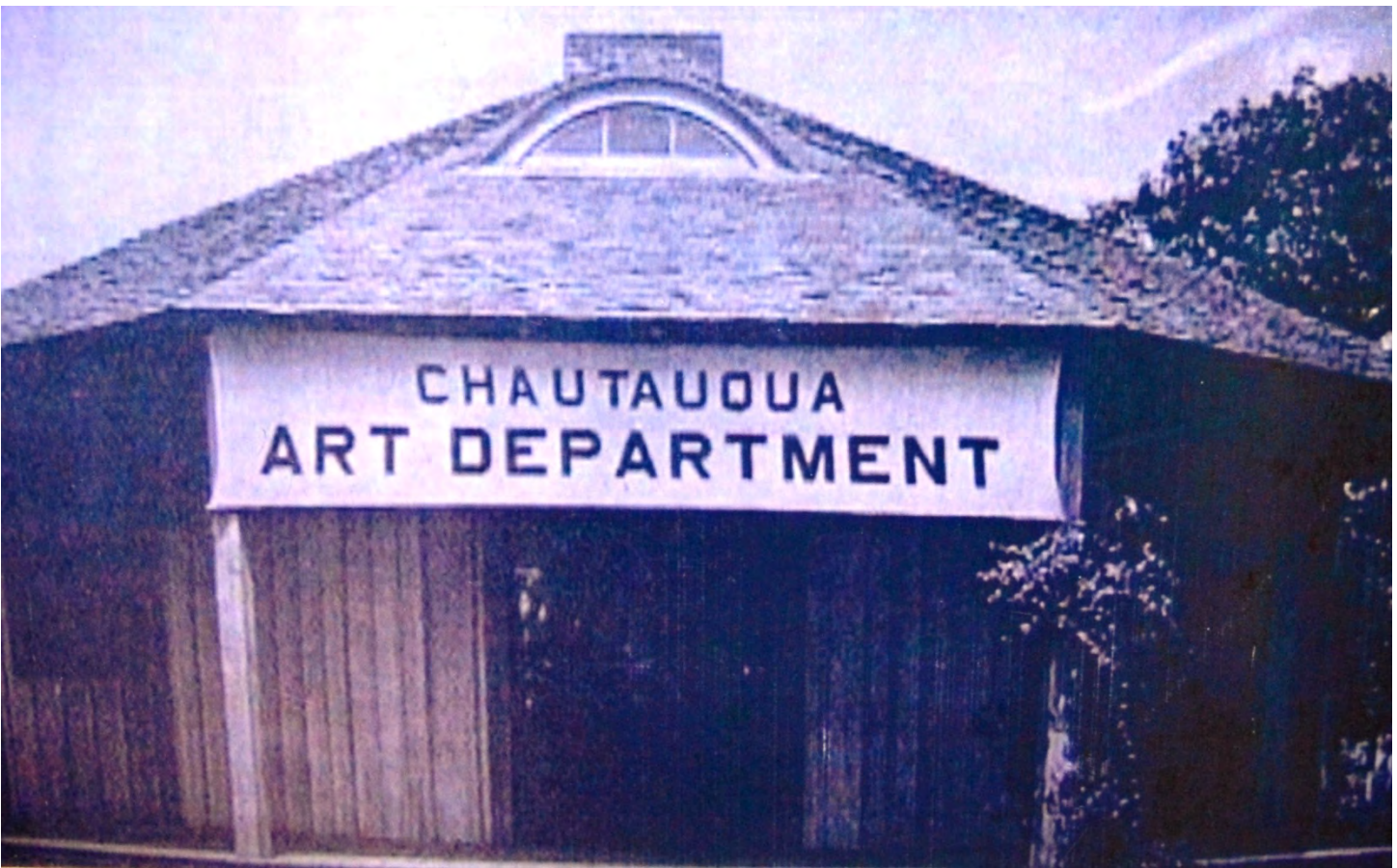
The Hors D'oeuvres, Photo 2



Exhibit on Accelerating Change: A Changing Economy and Addressing Poverty and Inequality.



Exhibit on The Attraction of a Country Life.



Vintage photo of the Chautauqua Art Department in the "Octagon House."



Cate Campbell enjoying the reception.



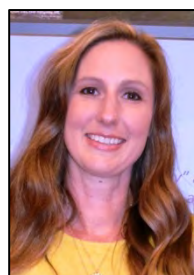
Charles Hinson also.



Nell Carnley too.



And Jay



And Mrs. Evans



And Anita Harris



And Me



Walton County Heritage Association

Membership in the Walton County Heritage Association includes
Membership in the Museum and Genealogy Society
2019

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM as we are updating our records

Membership Benefits:

The Museum Research Center:

Members get free copies of documents and use of the Genealogy Society computer when Museum is open to the public.

The Museum Gift Shop:

Members receive 10% discounts on books, special publications, postcards, photographs, CDs, DVD's Videos and Gift items.

Membership is on a calendar year basis. Those paying in November or December will be members during those months as well as the next calendar year.

Walton County Heritage Association annual dues: Single - \$25.00 Family - \$40

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State** _____

Zip: _____ **Phone** _____

Email: _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift to the Walton County Heritage Association:

_____ \$ _____ Dues Individual, Family
 \$25.00 \$40.00
_____ \$ _____ Other Cash Donations Total Enclosed \$ _____

- ☐ I would like to volunteer at the Walton County Heritage Museum
☐ I have genealogy information I would like to share with the Genealogy Society
☐ I would like to talk with someone about how to get started researching my family tree
☐ I have artifacts or photographs I wish to donate or loan to the Museum

Please mail your check and this form to
Walton County Heritage Association
1140 Circle Drive
De Funiak Springs, FL 32435

Thank You!

All membership dues are tax deductible.

The Walton County Heritage Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts may be tax deductible as defined by the Federal Income Tax Regulations. To request a receipt for your tax deductible membership in the WCHA please contact us.