



Now You Know

August 2013

N o r t h e a s t G e o r g i a H i s t o r y C e n t e r

V o l u n t e e r S p o t l i g h t

Flowery Branch is a perfect place for Pat Major.

- The traffic is nothing compared to Gwinnett County's.
- This area has wonderful opportunities for someone who's retired but doesn't want to sit down.
- She has her own room for her crafts.

At her home in Gwinnett County, Pat was always moving her scrapbook clutter and paper crafts from a table to somewhere out of the way. But at her Flowery Branch home, she has claimed the bonus room, where, among other things, she cuts out stars and other objects for Family Day at the history center. She has a machine that does the cutouts in no time, a benefit of teaching elementary school for 30 years. She also makes her own greeting cards.

Patricia Mary Major became a volunteer at the history center about eight years ago, encouraged to join by her friend Colleene Ivey. She's taken docent training — and has led some tours — but she prefers working the desk.

"Being a docent reminds me a little too much of going on all those field trips during my teaching career," she said.

Not that she disliked teaching. She loved it, in fact. She especially liked working with young students having trouble with reading and watching their progress.

She misses teaching and interacting with children. "You just can't go up to kids in the mall and ask how they're doing," she said. She still fights Gwinnett traffic, but mostly for meetings of the Gwinnett Retired Educators Association, for which she is historian.

She no doubt can relate well to young children because she is not quite 5 feet tall. "Sometimes the principal had a hard time spotting me in my room," she said.

Her husband, Morris, retired before she did and had to find another job to keep him busy until she com-



Pat Major

pleted her 30 years teaching. "Somebody told him that's what you get for marrying a kid," Pat said.

Actually, their daughter, Jennifer Tuggle, turns 40 in September, which is strange because Pat said she is only 42. Jennifer lives in Louisville, Ky., and has two sons, 14 and 12. Not to be outdone by her mother's hobby, Jennifer makes ladies' hats for the Kentucky Derby.

"At least the women look better than the horses," Pat's interviewer suggested.

"Well, some of them do," she quipped.

Pat Major obviously enjoys life and loves meeting and encouraging people, whether it's at the history center or at First United Methodist Church, where the Majors are members. So it's no surprise she would enjoy friendly cruises to places like Alaska, the Caribbean and Hawaii.

Speaking of cruises, Morris, a Navy man, was stationed during the Vietnam era in Key West, where his job was driving the captain around on the base. "No wonder he thought about making the Navy a career," Pat said. Morris has helped with veterans activities at the history center.

Pat, we love your sense of humor, and we appreciate your bringing it to the history center. You have a way of brightening lives wherever you happen to be. So, thanks for volunteering.

Don't Forget to visit the Presidential exhibit before it is too late! The temporary gallery will be housing a new exhibit "Over Here and Over There: Georgia Remembers World War II" beginning in September.



Countdown to Green!

A Taste of History

Auto Racing in Northeast Georgia

*Featuring the Petty Family:
Richard, Kyle, and Rebecca*

We still have tickets available for our annual Taste of History! Join us at 7 pm on Friday, August 30, 2013 at the First Baptist Church Banquet Hall for a special evening with the legendary Petty Family: Richard, Kyle, and Rebecca. The talented and beautiful Ronda Rich will serve as the Master of Ceremonies, while the delicious meal will be by Johnny's Barbeque of Gainesville.

All proceeds will go towards the History Center. Individual tickets are \$50.00. Sponsorships are available.

For more information or to reserve your ticket, call the History Center at 770-297-5900 or email Rachel Phillips at rphillips@brenau.edu.

Forum



Join the History Center on Tuesday, August 13, at 7 pm to see a reproduction of Robert Mitchum's car from Thunder Road! Bill Blalock, who restored the car to be exactly like that used in the movie, will talk about his experiences in creating the masterpiece as well as other connections, among them Mitchum's son James. Admission is Free for members, \$3 for non-members.



On the History Center Wish List:

- **Pop tops** (from soft drink cans or similar)--we need 1000 by August 10
- **12-15 inch pieces of fabric**--denim, camouflage, khaki or dark green or black canvas or twill. Polyester or cotton knit will not work. Old blue jeans, shirts, or pants will also work--needed by August 10
- **Six eight track tapes**, 1980's music
- **12-15 inch lengths of 3/8 inch grosgrain ribbon**

Please contact Julie Carson regarding donations or with questions.



Welcome to our newest members:

Tim Taylor

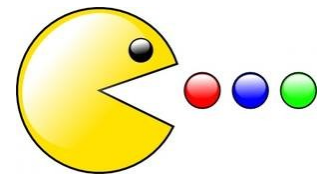
Allen Jernigan

We are so glad to have you with us!

The Big 1980's: A Decade That Defined Us

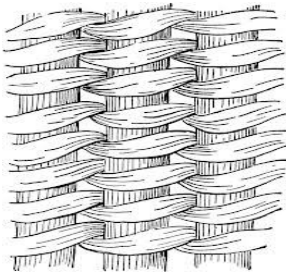
August 18, 1 to 4 pm(3rdSunday)

- Take a walk down memory lane to the not-so-distant 1980's.
- Activities and exhibits will highlight a cross-section of the decade, with the focus on Northeast Georgia, but also including national and international aspects from 1980-89.
- Both children and parents are encouraged to dress in a style of the '80's. Best dress-alike/look-alike contests will be held, plus dance contests. -Visit www.negahc.org for a list of the contests and times or call the History Center, 770-297-5900, for the information.
- In keeping with the explosion in video gaming, we will have an '80's vintage arcade game on hand for visitors to play.
- A "Looking for the '80's" gallery tour is scheduled at 2:30 p.m.
- Hands-on activities include a pac-man keychain or zipper pull and more.

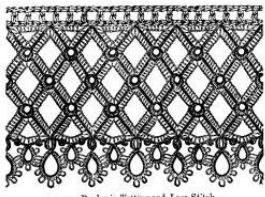


Family Day sponsored by North Georgia Eye Clinic and Laser Center

Are you interested in learning a new "old" skill? In the near future, classes will be offered for basket-weaving and also for tatting.



Basket weaving is taught by Jan Stansell, and the project is completed in a one-day session. The next class is scheduled for *Wednesday, August 7, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.* Participants will weave a round basket with a hinged or swinging handle. The class is \$35 per person, which includes all the materials for the basket. The class size is limited to eleven students, and participation is on a first paid, first registered basis.



44—Border in Tatting and Lace SClub.

Lace-maker Katherine Griffin teaches *tatting* in a series of five two-hour classes. Class fee is \$25, which covers all five sessions. We are trying to gauge interest in this heritage craft; therefore, no date has been set for the classes.

If you are interested in either enrolling in the basket weaving class, or learning to tat, please contact Julie Carson as soon as possible. (770-297-5900 or jcarson@brenau.edu) Class sizes are limited and participation is on a first paid, first registered basis.



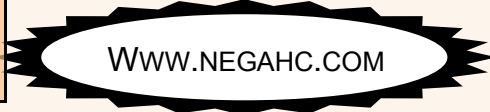
N o r t h e a s t
G e o r g i a
H i s t o r y C e n t e r

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Phone: 770-297-5900



WWW.NEGAHC.COM

The Northeast Georgia History Center is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the region. By maintaining a unique collection of historical items, presenting exhibits, conducting programs, enabling research, and partnering with other institutions in the region, the History Center strives to promote a greater understanding of the cultural, social, economical, and political history of Northeast Georgia.

Coming Events

August 7	9:00-3:00	Basket weaving Class
August 13	10:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	<i>Forum- Bill Blalock & the Thunder Road Car</i>
August 15	11:30-1:00.	Board of Directors Meeting
August 18	1:00- 4:00 p.m.	<i>Family Day- The Big 1980's: A Decade That Defined Us</i>
August 30	7:00 p.m.	Taste of History

Three Things!

In the last few weeks there have been THREE remarkable donations to the History Center. They are all currently on display in Founder's Hall so that our visitors can see our wonderful new additions.

First, a bust of educator and community leader Beulah Rucker was donated by the artist Jean Westmacott. This will eventually be placed in our exhibit on schools and education in Northeast Georgia.

Second, McDonald's franchise owner Bob Swozowski has developed a new exhibit on freedom and the founding of the nation centered around a 1/5 scale copy of the Liberty Bell cast during the bicentennial. This exhibit is done in honor of Mr. Swozowski's business partner O. Frank Markette, Jr.

Third, Mr. William Reed has given us a Korean War era M38A1 Willys Jeep! When it's not in parades or being taken out to schools, this jeep will reside at the History Center to help us tell a small part of the story of the Forgotten War. Mr. Reed restored this jeep in honor of his friend and Korean War veteran Frank Turk.

So come by and see these wonderful new additions... and if you see any of these three generous folk, be sure to give them a big "Thank You!" for helping to preserve and share the history of Northeast Georgia.