

# McIntosh Gazette

McINTOSH, FLORIDA

FALL/WINTER, 1978

## RECORD CROWD EXPECTED FOR MCINTOSH 1890 FESTIVAL



THE DEPOT TODAY



THE DEPOT BEFORE MOVING AND RESTORATION

### History of the Friends

By Alice Warrington, Asst. Historian

The preservation and enhancement of the natural and architectural beauty of McIntosh and the promotion of recreational activities in the community was the impetus for a group of people to meet on September 26, 1973 to form an organization to carry out these ends. The idea for such an organization came from citizens, young and old. At the next meeting, with a charter and by-laws written, the club was named the *Friends of McIntosh*, and Dr. E.W. (Ned) Cake was elected the first President.

Charter members were: Sadie Alston, Dottie and Ned Cake, Kay and John Campbell, Betty and Ernie Hopwood, Margie Karow, Susan and Joe Phillips, Katie and Ed Johnson, Bettie McKoone, Mitzie and Robbie Roess, Hester and Roger Stevenson, June and Fred Ward, and Alice and Howard Warrington. Meetings were first held in the Community Center.

The first undertaking was to lease the plot of land next to the Post Office and start the Mini-Park. All met on Saturday to landscape, build a fence and paint. Materials were donated by businesses in Ocala and Gainesville. The little Park was dedicated on October 28, 1973, with a large crowd attending.

When it was learned that the old Depot in town could be had if it was moved off the railroad right-of-way, a string of money making activities followed: bake sales, dinners and the like. But much more money was needed if this landmark to the town's past was to be saved, much less restored. So the 1890 Festival was originated, with the first being held October 19, 1974, and netting the club \$2,738.96. A lot of effort has gone into the Festivals and the Depot since then as you can see.

The town of McIntosh, Florida once again sets back the clock and returns to the days of its Founding Fathers. This Fifth Annual 1890 Festival promises to be the best yet with a great Tour of Homes (see next page), tremendous entertainment (schedule below) and a newly restored Train Depot!!

The Festival is organized by the Friends of McIntosh, a group of local citizens interested in preservation and area history. Past revenue from the Festivals has gone toward the purchase of the once decaying depot, its moving off the railroad right-of-way, sand-blasting and painting. Now work needs to be done in the interior to create a viable space for a multitude of public functions. This "community center" concept will allow for small concerts, scouting activities, exhibits, square dancing and club meetings.

We hope you and your family will get in the spirit of this special day — enjoy the costumes, homes, food and bazaar and in doing so help toward the preservation of a part of our past.

## 1890 Festival

### Schedule of Events

- 11:00 Parade (*Circles around the town.*)
- 12:00 North Marion High School  
Band Concert
- 12:45 Medicine Man (*He can cure your  
ills!*)
- 1:00 Gainesville Civic Ballet
- 2:00 Tampa Pipe Band *The Scots  
and McIntosh go together!*
- 3:00 Costume Contest
- 4:00 Harmony Grits (*Bluegrass*)

Look out for auction items throughout the day and check in at the Depot at the end of Main Street for Old Time Movies, Punch 'N Judy show and regional exhibits. Check out the Ice Cream Parlor at the Mini-Park on your way to the Depot.

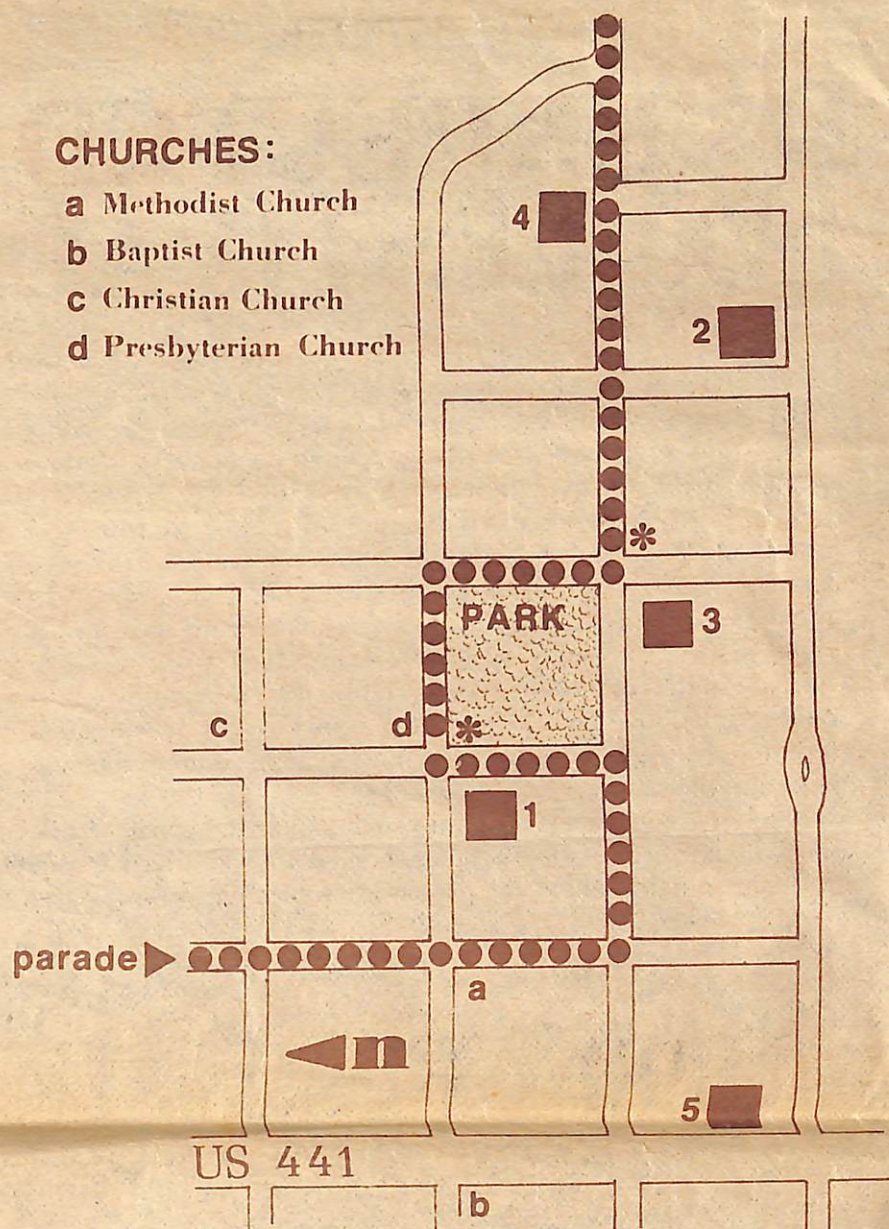
For your convenience toilet facilities can be found behind the Fire Station and behind the Mary Kay Antiques building. Any questions you might have can be answered at the two information booths as you enter the Van Ness Park area.



# Tour of Homes .... 1978

## CHURCHES:

- a Methodist Church
- b Baptist Church
- c Christian Church
- d Presbyterian Church



The Norsworthy-Wiedegreen House (1890) is a good example of the old Victorian farmhouse. As noted above, it was built by William Gist and sold in 1893 to W.G. Norsworthy, a Canadian who came to raise citrus. The family continued to reside in the house for the next 53 years, when it was sold and turned into apartments.

The house is built entirely of pine, probably locally milled. The staircase and mantels are the finest elements in the house, with their beautiful wood graining. There is a total of six fireplaces (which was the original heat source) and the house was lighted by gas through an extensive network of pipes.

The large kitchen was originally connected to the house only by a breezeway. The purpose of a separate kitchen was to spare the house the extra heat from cooking in the summer and also as a measure of fire protection.

The rock wall is reminiscent of the fact that almost all houses in town once had walls or fences to keep the pigs and cows out of the yard. This wall was built by Mr. Norsworthy's brother, a stone mason, sometime before World War I. Notice the stone bench in the front corner, which was used as a "courting bench" by many young people of McIntosh who are now in their 70's, 80's and 90's!

Sandy and Eric Weidegreen bought the house in June of 1975 and have worked hard outside and inside. The veranda was restored (the side had been enclosed for another room); new columns and rail were added. Two kitchens were removed, passages closed, woodwork and staircase in the hall stripped and refinished — to say nothing of lots of painting! The Wiedegreens have been collecting antiques since their marriage and find the unity of the older house and period furniture a healthy atmosphere to live and work. Notice the French rosewood sofa and old harmonium in the parlour and the hand-made pine bedroom suite in the guest room. Portraits of Mr. Wiedegreen's great-grandparents join guests ready to eat in the dining room.

Flowers courtesy of Lynn Florist, Ocala.

Welcome to the 1978 TOUR OF HOMES In McIntosh. This year we have a special lineup of houses to please all: The WIEDEGREEN HOUSE with its cool verandah and antique furniture, The TULLY HOUSE furnished as an antique showcase for the leading dealers in town, The KAROW HOUSE where you can sip punch among the spacious rooms, the McINTOSH HOTEL with its turn-of-the-century charm, the The TURNIPSEED HOUSE filled with contemporary art from around Florida.

\*\*TICKETS for this tour are \$3.00 and can be purchased from the booths at the northwest and southeast corners of the Park. The tour will start immediately after the parade and end at 5:00 P.M. You may visit the homes in any order, and if you do not wish to take the entire tour you may visit any single house for \$1.00, payable at the door.

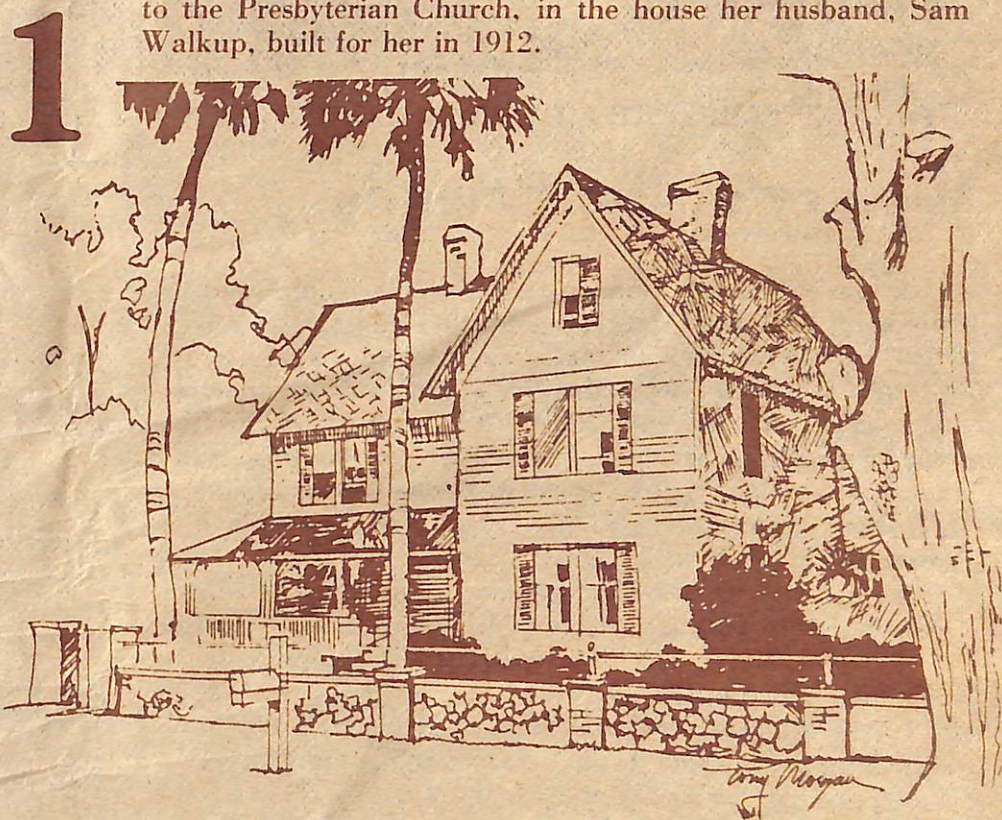
We ask that you do not bring any food or drink into the houses you visit. Have a good tour and remember that your ticket purchase is a contribution toward preservation in McIntosh!

This year the tour salutes one of our town founders — William M. Gist. Mr. Gist and his wife, Alice Fenby came to McIntosh from Maryland in the early 1880's. Their daughter, Annette, was the first white child born in town.

In May, 1885 Mr. Gist helped survey the original plat of McIntosh for the land owners, Percy and Eugene Van Ness who lived in Baltimore. The plat layout is similar to other railroad towns across the country, with blocks 300 feet square. It is interesting to note the subsequent development has not violated this layout, and that development has not extended appreciably beyond this original platting.

In 1890 the Gists bought Block 48 from J.S. Neal, whose new house had just been struck by lightning and burnt to the ground. On this land Mr. Gist built his first large house (House No. 1 on our Tour). When his wife died in 1893 from childbirth complications, he married a childhood friend, Ella Nelson and built for her and his family a new house, several blocks away (House No. 2). Mr. Gist died in 1950, aged 91, and his wife Ella died in 1951, aged 90.

Mr. Gist's daughter, Elizabeth, age 92, still lives in town next to the Presbyterian Church, in the house her husband, Sam Walkup, built for her in 1912.



The Gist-Tully House was built in 1893 by W.M. Gist for his second wife Ella. A comparison of his first house (No. 1 on the Tour) and this house shows a heightened sense of formality. On the exterior turned columns support a highly ornamental rail (which has not been restored at this time). A two story bay element has been added to the front, which breaks the rectilinear form of the parlour. Inside the hall boasts a staircase to the right and double doors into the parlour. Moldings, which were kept simple in his first house are now more ornate. Mantels and staircase are not customized here, as before, and common stock items were used.



Around World War II the house was converted into a hospital for the town by Dr. J.L. Strange. The attic was finished off for nurses' rooms, which today form fun-filled spaces for children's rooms.

The house was recently purchased by Pat and Gene Tully, who plan to begin restoration work soon.

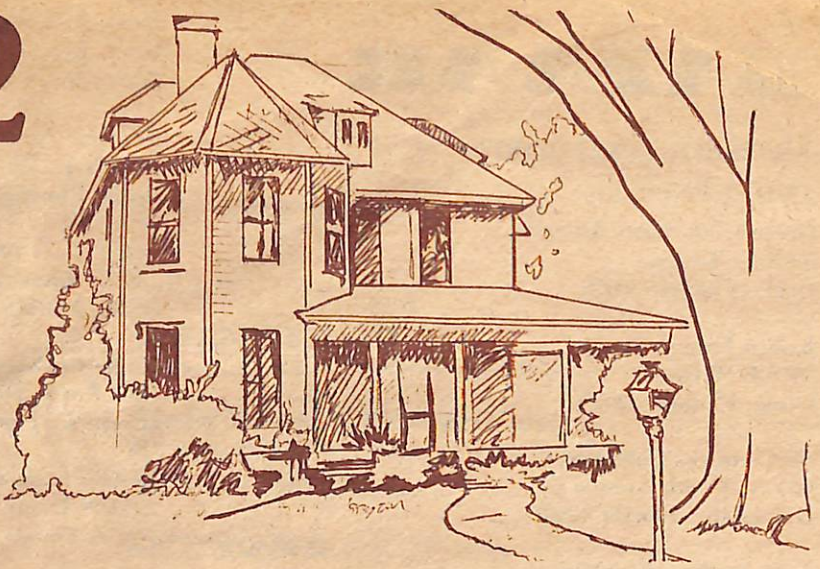
Due to a stroke of good luck, the house was available as a showcase house this year for the leading antique dealers in town. All the items you will see in the major spaces, are for sale and tour hosts will be able to provide you with price information on larger pieces.

Ella Gist was the first president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church, and it takes little imagination to see her entertaining the women at the turn of the century in the beautiful parlour. Anice and Jones Johnson of Antiques Plus and Johnson & Johnson Antiques have furnished the room handsomely in period pieces highlighted by an off-white sofa.

The dining room beyond had been brought to life by Jan and Bob Bigelow of Harvest of Antiques. The plates and glasses on the table help us visualize the Gists with their children, Annette, Joshua and Elizabeth, setting down to a fine dinner. If you're lucky you might hear the old Victrola play a tune as an after-dinner treat.

Please visit the shops of these dealers and join us in thanking them for their fine efforts today!

Flowers courtesy of Bennett's Florist, Ocala.



The Allen-Karow House was built for W.E. Allen in 1888. Mr. Allen was McIntosh's first postmaster and the house remained in the family until the 1940's, when it too was turned into apartments. The familiar yellow house has ornate rafter brackets and quadrifoil attic vents of the Italianate style. The house was heated by fireplaces and was fitted for gaslight.

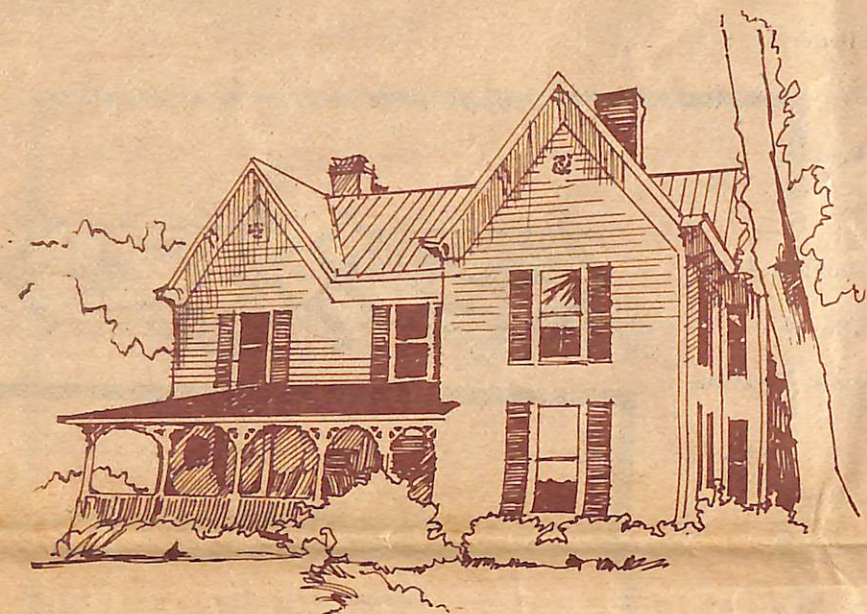
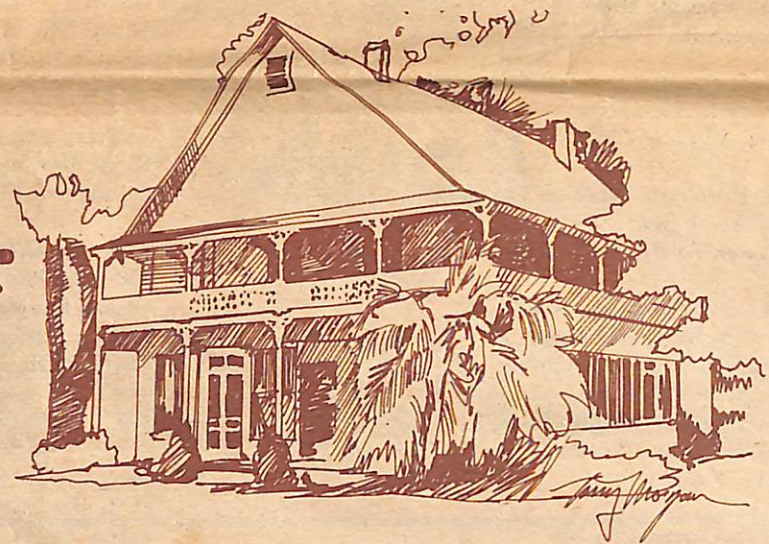
When Margie and Dave Karow bought the house it was in serious need of repair. The entire downstairs had to be refloored (with the wood kept pale to lighten the interior). Heavy porch columns put on in the 1940's were removed and the porch restored with elements from an old house in Ocala. The private and public parlours, dining room and family room on the first floor attest to the ease of entertaining the house allows.

Stop a while and enjoy a cup of punch in the dining room as a guest of the Tour of Homes.

Margie is a real estate agent in town and is very active in preservation locally in the Friends of McIntosh, and statewide through seminar participation.

In the front yard notice the palm tree growing out of the old oak. In the back yard a depression behind the fire station is all the evidence left from a pond that used to be there before mosquito control became an issue in the 1930's.

Flowers courtesy of Crevasse's, Inc., Gainesville.



The McIntosh Hotel is a yearly favorite on the tour. Owner Betty McKoone says that people just come up and ask to see it whether there is a tour or not! The 19 room structure certainly peaks our curiosity because there are so few railroad hotels left in Florida. The hotel was started in 1895 to provide meals and rooms for passengers on the Florida Southern Railroad. Unfortunately, 1895 was the year of the "Great Freeze" and the hotel construction was not completed before economic hard times set in. Despite an unlucky start under the ownership of the Bateman's, Burry's and now Mrs. McKoone, the hotel has had guests sit on the upstairs and watch the town below.

The area around the hotel was much more dense commercially. This past year the old open packing house was torn down which was next to the hotel on the railroad tracks.

The check-in desk is still present and the homey environment of the old dining room can be appreciated by all!

Flowers courtesy of Petal Pusher, Ocala.

Last on the tour is the J.C. Turnipseed House, built in the late 1890's. Mr. Turnipseed was the first Clerk of Session at the Presbyterian Church — and keeping track of records should not have been hard, for he was the owner of the main general store. Turnipseed General Store was in the building which now houses Donna's Boutique and Antiques Plus (directly north of the house). It was originally situated "downtown" near the present post office and during the 1930's was pulled up the hill by mules.

The Turnipseed House is unusual in the combination of roof and second story using dormers. You wind up with a rather low ceiling plan upstairs. The house has fallen into disrepair until recently purchased by Robbie and Mitzi Roess as investment property. Foliage which covered the house has been removed, porch restored, floors refinished and plaster patched. More work needs to be done, but now we can see the inherent possibilities of the house and how the Turnipseeds might have used it.

Artists from Florida is the unifying theme of the collection seen today in the house. The wide variety of graphics and sculpture should appeal to all tastes. Works may be purchased and information can be secured from the artists or tour hosts.

In addition to these homes, please visit the four Churches of McIntosh, which are open today for all to see.

The Methodist Church was moved, pulled by mules, in 1895 and served as the Sanctuary for all denominations in the early years of the town. Look at the old picture of the Church in the Vestibule.

In 1903 the Baptist Church was built on the Wire Road (now U.S. 441). The beautiful stained glass windows were a gift from the J.K. Christian Family.

The Christian Church (1904) boasts an open belfry which still rings out each Sunday as a call to worship. To the right of the Church is the site of the first permanent school house in town (1889) which had an enrollment of about twelve pupils.

The Presbyterian Church (1907) started as the Center Point Church in Boardman in 1885. It has just finished a major restoration program. The windows were re-sealed and a Lexan covering put on to protect the larger windows from storm damage. Ailing plaster was patched and the Sanctuary painted to bring out the vivid colors of the windows. Sconce lights installed in 1952 were removed and hand cast reproduction electric lights from the turn of the century were put in. The Eastlake pulpit furniture had previously been refinished.

We hope you have enjoyed your tour. All profits go towards the further refurbishing of the Depot and other preservation projects around McIntosh. Our thanks to Eric and Sandy Wiedegreen, Margie Karow, Gene and Pat Tully, Betty McKoone and Robbie and Mitzi Roess for the opportunity to come into their homes.



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Gainesville, Florida 32605

Leland Brewsaugh, Wildlife Paintings  
11414 Portside Drive  
Jacksonville, Florida 32225

Donny Brydon, Gifts  
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Ocala, Florida 32670

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Jackie Carlin, Woodcrafts  
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Evelyn Carter, Crochet  
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Nancy E. Jackson & Sandi Stripling, Rubout,  
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Howard R. Jenkins, Stained Glass  
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Ocala, Florida 32670

Ruth Knobloch, Wall Plaques  
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Ocala, Florida 32670

Ocala Clock Shop, Cypress Clocks  
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Ocala, Florida 32670

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1803 Forest Drive  
Inverness, Florida 32650

Leslie Paramore, Papier Tole  
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Frances Peters, Tin Craft  
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Gainesville, Florida 32601

Jay Rawlins, Ceramics  
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Scots Accent, Imported Gifts  
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Lee Shank, Stoneware Pottery  
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McIntosh, Florida 32664

Cathryn Sherwood, Handmade Dolls  
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Mary F. Simmons, Cypress Creations  
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Ocala, Florida 32670

Mary Lou Smith, Macrame  
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Virginia Smith, Calico Dolls & Toys  
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Mrs. Anonia Aiken has donated proceeds from the sale of her book, "Salt 'N Pepper Poetry," toward the restoration of the Depot. Mrs. Aiken has been writing poetry for over 35 years and this very personal edition represents but a part of her literary output. Copies of the book may be ordered for \$5.00. Send to POETRY, Box 1890, McIntosh, Florida 32664.

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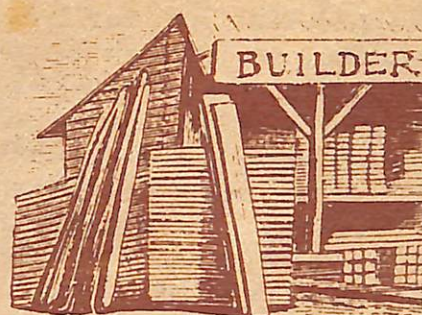
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And someone a violin -  
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At shore down by the lake  
And toast the buns, make more fun  
Then wind it up with chocolate cake!  
The good old days of hayrides  
Filled with moonlight and carefree fun.  
I would gladly exchange my evening bridge  
For an evening of oldfashioned fun!*  
Anonia



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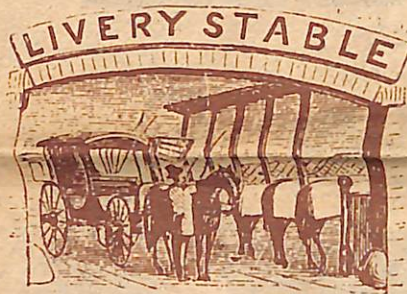
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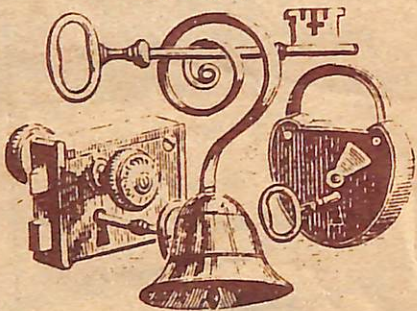


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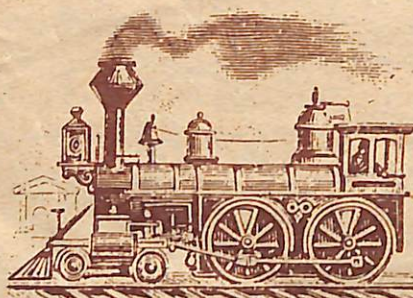
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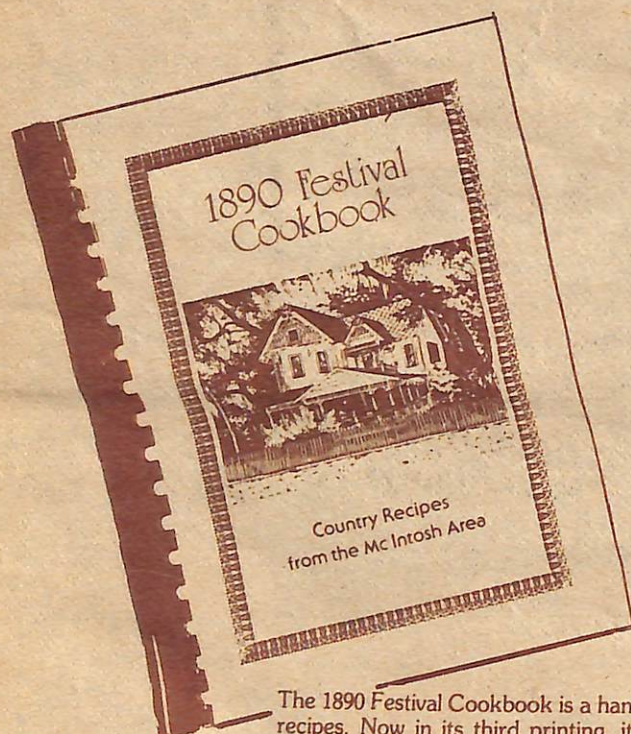


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## Art of Florida an Invitational Show

The Turnipseed House, a turn of the century home, becomes a gallery for an "Art of Florida" show opening October 28 from 12 A.M. to 5 P.M., and will remain open until the following Saturday, November 4 from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M. each day. Sixteen Florida artists have been invited to show in The Turnipseed House.

Featured artists are: **BENINI**-painter-Evinston; **HOWARD SOLOMON**-sculptor-Wauchula; **R. PATRICK ELLIOTT**-painter-Big Scrub; **BOB CAMP**-painter and illustrator-Tampa; **LELAND BREWSAUGH**-woodcarver and painter-Jacksonville; **ROBERT L. ANDERSON**-portrait painter-Winter Park/West Virginia; **MARGARET SUNG**-painter-Gainesville; **RITA REED**-painter-Micanopy; **HARRY MICHAELS**-painter-Gainesville; **LILLIAN S. UPDIKE**-painter-Ocala; **REBA INVERSO**-painter-Titusville; **TOM GLISSON**-painter-Ocala; **MR. AND MRS. BARRY NORD**-stained glass-Gainesville; **MARGARET WATTS**-painter-Ocala; **JOANNA CLARK**-sculptress-Gainesville; **CHARLES F. BELVIN**-painter-Gainesville.

Of particular interest to both adults and children is the Indian artifact collection of J. Alvin Hendrix, a McIntosh naturalist. The outstanding collection highlights the skill and genius of Central Florida's first artists, the pre-Timucuan Indian.

The "Art of Florida" show is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roess of McIntosh, owners of The Turnipseed House presently under restoration. There is no admission charge.

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Atlanta, Georgia

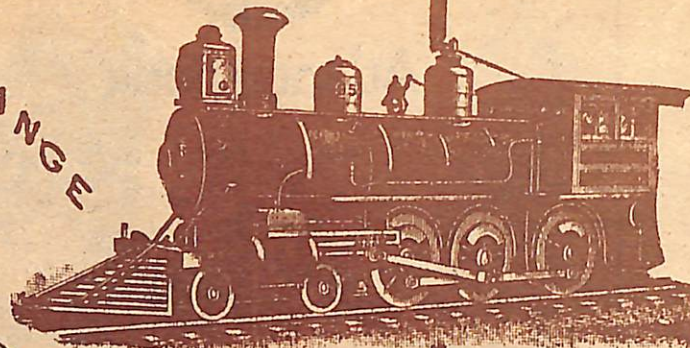
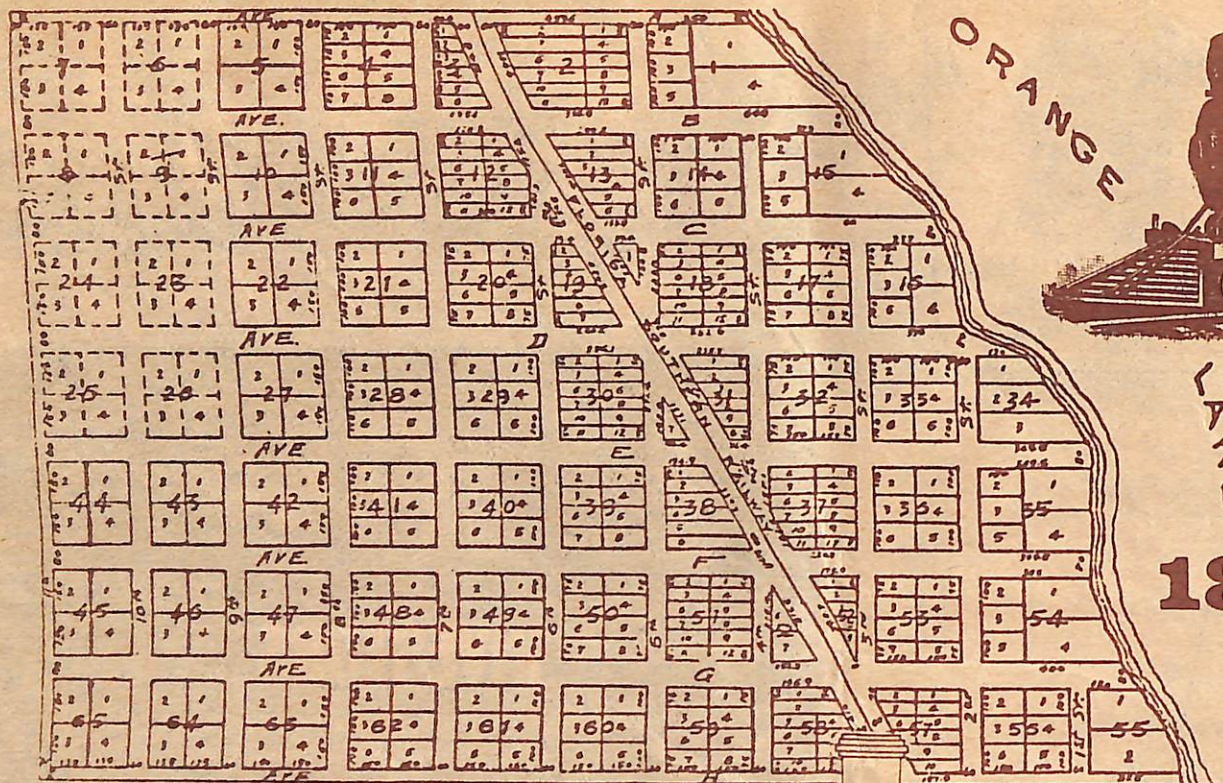


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