

Behind the Scenes: The Guy Hayes Collection

By Samantha Mooney

At first glance the Guy Hayes Collection may seem simple - but take a second look. The photographs are a delightful peek into everyday life in Georgia from the 1950s to the mid-1960s. The subjects are wide ranging: sporting events, gubernatorial races, the civil rights movement, etc. Hayes's photographs reveal a changing America, a culture in constant flux.

After World War II America became an economic and political behemoth, countered only by the Soviet Union. The economy was strong due to a continuation of the wartime industrial build-up. Young men, returning after the war, settled down, and created families; resulting in the Baby

Boomer generation. The landscape changed as suburbs expanded, rapidly becoming the preferred living areas for the rising middle class. The end of the war and new affluence meant that American families had increased leisure time, creating a new consumer culture around the television. More than ever before Americans were fascinated by celebrities. Outdoor recreation and parties, particularly food, became a way to advertise their new wealth.

Hayes himself was indicative of post-war trends. Hayes had served in the Navy during World War II and returned afterward to live in Avondale



One of the treasures of the Hayes collection--a puppy in a cream pitcher.

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History Quest 2018

By Marissa Howard

The DeKalb History Center hosted 1,400 students from nine schools around DeKalb County and the metro area for our annual History Quest from October 22nd - 26th. Students from 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 8th grades rotated through nine stations experiencing history first hand through entertaining performers. Students had a chance to meet historical figures ranging from Harriet Tubman to Hernando de Soto. There also were interactive sessions with dancers teaching early 19th-century Regency dance.

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Upcoming Events

Lunch & Learn

Tuesday, November 13, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Free & Open to the Public

Join us for our November Lunch & Learn presented by Sarah Lisle, Director of Interpretation of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Alliance on Tuesday, November 13, from noon - 1:00 p.m. at the Historic DeKalb Courthouse. She will be presenting "The Lyons Farmhouse: Preservation in Progress." Bring a bagged lunch and enjoy! Contact Marissa at howard@dekalbhistory.org or 404-373-1088, extension 20, if you have any questions.

Holiday Open House

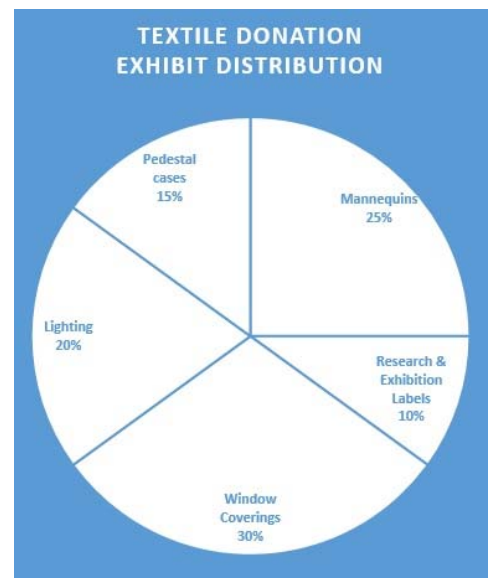
Tuesday, November 27, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Free & Open to the Public

Come celebrate the giving season with us at our Holiday Open House on the evening of Tuesday, November 27th. It is "Giving Tuesday," so let us invite you in and give back to the community! See our current exhibits and the Archives reading room and enjoy festive cocktails (cash bar). For more information, contact Marissa at howard@dekalbhistory.org or 404-373-1088, extension 20. ✦

End-of-Year Fundraising Campaign

It's that time of the year again! We are officially kicking off the giving season with our Holiday Open House. We are aiming to reach our goal of \$10,000 over the course of December in order to enhance our upcoming exhibition showcasing textiles from the collection. We have already raised 20% of our goal thanks to a grant from the Decatur Beer Festival, but we still have farther to go. Will you help us make our goal this year and make an end-of-year donation? Thank you for your generosity! ✦



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DHC Member Meet-Ups

We held three different meet-ups at various locations around Metro Atlanta recently. These events often offer a behind-the-scenes look at or tour of museums, facilities, or historic sites.

This month marks the one-year anniversary of our DeKalb Traveler series and Member Meet-Ups. We have had a great time exploring many local historic and cultural sites. Past tours have included the CDC Museum, Waffle House Museum, and Fernbank Planetarium. To add to this list in August we explored Wild Heaven Beer in Avondale Estates by taking a backstage tour of the brewery facility and then tasting a variety of their locally brewed beverages.



During the month of September the DeKalb Travelers took an in-depth tour of the Old Atlanta Prison Farm with the help of the organization "Save the Old Atlanta Prison Farm." This group has been working to preserve this 1,248 acre plot of land that used to serve as a working farm for penitentiary inmates. Over the course of around 30 years, 150 inmates cultivated 800 acres of this land. The prison farm has a complicated history and unfortunately has come into disrepair; it fully and officially closed in 1995. It is owned by the City of Atlanta, but is located within DeKalb County, which complicates funding. This did not stop us from enjoying the lovely trails and marveling at the leftover pieces of the façade of the Carnegie Library that can be found on the property today.



The DHC was a sponsor of the Pine Lake Festival this year, which occurred the first weekend in October. To support the lovely fall festival, we hosted another member meet-up where DHC members enjoyed a day full of art, music, food, and fun together. ✦



Photos—Top to bottom:

DHC Tour group chatting at Wild Heaven Beer in Avondale Estates.

Literary building relics from the Carnegie Library seen at the Old Atlanta Prison Farm.

Pine Lake Festival 2017 Community Art Project, photo credit: Pine Lake Festival website.

History Quest *(cont.)*

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We are excited to see the growth of the History Quest program this year. We have increased the number of Title I school attendants that visited as well as increased the number of performers who came to speak to the students. What makes this particular program near and dear to our hearts is getting to watch the students really engage with history through fun, interactive stations. We hope to continue to grow and expand upon this program in the upcoming years.

The DeKalb History Center is proud to continue to offer this program in keeping with our mission. We are excited to begin planning for another sold-out year in 2019. ✦



Behind The Scenes *(cont.)*

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Estates. Prior to his deployment he had worked as a photographer for local newspapers. He quickly resumed this work for the next 50 years, freelancing for *The Atlanta Journal* and *The DeKalb News/Sun*. He remained a DeKalb County resident until his death in 1998.

The Hayes Collection is vast: the DeKalb History Center has over 12,000 negatives covering a period of over forty years. This is a rich resource for academics and the general public. The Hayes Collection is enjoying a second life on social media, where it has proven popular. This is understandable: the photos are not only historically interesting but also visually so. Take the picture of the dog in the teacup or the cat pushing the baby stroller. These were kitsch images; but like our forefathers, who doesn't love pictures of adorable pets acting in unorthodox ways?

The Hayes Collection shows extraordinary breadth. It illustrates the changing fashions in women's clothing from boxy, military-inspired suits to full, calf-length skirts. Women are often seen in domestic roles, cooking or taking care of the household. The nuclear family is a stable and consistent presence. It is likely that Hayes thought little of his work. He photographed ordinary life, nothing more and nothing less. Yet, the Hayes Collection provides us, well separated from the past, with a glimpse of how our forebears lived. ✦



Delta Passenger disembarking in the 1950s.



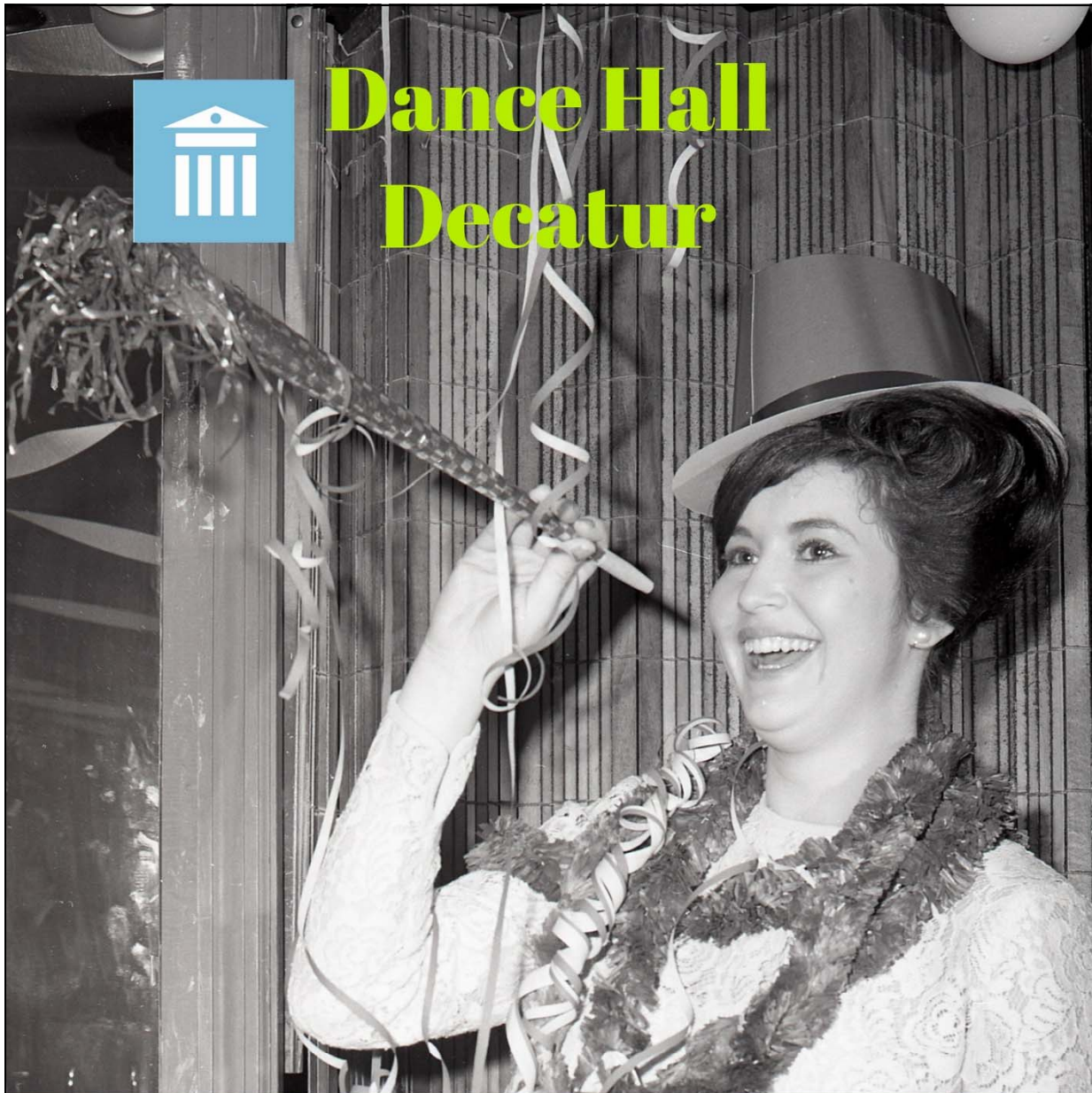
1970s sanitation protest in downtown Decatur.



Self-portrait of photographer Guy Hayes, 1984.



Decatur High School marching band, 1947.



**A New Year's Eve benefit for DeKalb History Center.
Historic DeKalb Courthouse, 101 E. Court Square, Second Floor
Monday, December 31st from 8 pm - 1 am
Member Ticket: \$45 / Nonmember Ticket: \$60 / Under 21 Tickets: \$15
Reserve seating available & group rates available.
Tickets include: appetizers, 2 drink tickets, a champagne toast,
and dance floor with DJ. To buy tickets visit:
[Squareup.com/store/dekalb-history-center](https://squareup.com/store/dekalb-history-center)
or call (404) 373-1088.**

Member Spotlight: Joyce Cohrs

Joyce Cohrs is one of the many exceptional members of the DeKalb History Center. Joyce is originally from Illinois but has been a longtime DeKalb resident since moving to Stone Mountain in 1969 and then to Decatur in 1978.

Joyce is an alumna of Emory University and enjoyed a career as a librarian at several local libraries, including the DeKalb County Library system and two overseas jobs in the Middle East. Joyce brought her library sciences knowledge to the DHC by volunteering as an advisor in cataloging and archival practices and as a member of the Archives Committee. When asked about the progress of the DHC over the years, Joyce said, "The History Center has been taking on a new life. Excited for the future, especially now that we are open on Saturday to allow many more to visit."

In order to help bring archival learning to others, Joyce has kindly donated the Joyce Cohrs Scholarship Fund to the DeKalb History Center. This fund allows us to hire future archivists and librarians through internships.

Joyce has been a member of the DHC since 1980 and has assisted us in many ways during that time. Not only has she helped us in developing our archives, she has also made it possible for other scholars to come in and use our collections for research. Thank you for all you do, Joyce! ✨

Right Photo: Joyce Cohrs volunteering at the Friends of the Library book sale May 26, 2018.



Left Photo: Sophia Malikyar, Agnes Scott College Senior, seen here doing archival research. She is currently a Joyce Cohrs Scholarship Fund intern at the DHC.

Membership donations are important to our mission. If you have questions about your membership, please email Marissa at howard@dekalbhistory.org.

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All funds received through memberships directly support the preservation of DeKalb County history and are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Your generous contribution to the DeKalb History Center will provide you with a year-long membership that includes our quarterly newsletter to keep you informed on all our activities. We hope that you will join our team by either renewing your membership or joining as a first-time supporter.

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Please mail this form with your contribution to: DeKalb History Center, 101 East Court Square, Decatur GA 30030

DeKalb History Center

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