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JULIUS McCURDY, ROBIN HARRIS, and JAMES MACKAY
PRESENTATION OF \$25,000 ENDOWMENT TO
DeKALB HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[*Recording begins mid-sentence.*] JAMES MACKAY: . . . in the life of the DeKalb Historical Society. It's a particularly happy occasion because it is coming so soon after a meeting that we had recently in this building [Decatur Federal Savings and Loan Association] to discuss the need for an endowment fund for the DeKalb Historical Society. At that meeting was Robin Harris, president of the Decatur Federal Savings and Loan Association [*Camera pans to show ROBIN HARRIS sitting at the far left of the screen; JULIUS McCURDY is seated between MR. HARRIS and MR. MACKAY.*] and an enthusiastic supporter of the historical society. We realize that we were talking about formidable sums of money. But the reason that this is such a special occasion is how quickly we were able to get together to make a presentation. [*To MR. HARRIS*] Robin, I wish you would say for history what experience you had when you sought the first substantial contributions to the endowment.

MR. HARRIS: Well, Jamie, we had that luncheon two weeks ago last Wednesday; and we decided—MR. McCURDY said that what he'd like to have is a nest egg of \$25,000 to start off the campaign. And it seemed to me that it was something that JULIUS [McCURDY] wanted, that there were a lot of people that would like to participate in helping him attain that initial goal.

I left the Stephen Decatur Room [of the Decatur Federal Savings and Loan Association], got on the elevator, stopped at the fifth floor, found H. G. Pattillo in his office, and got a commitment [*snaps fingers*] like that for \$2,500. I found Bill Tatum in his office; got a commitment like that for \$2,500. That was what we had talked about--\$2,500 from ten different people. I stopped on the second floor before going back to my office; and I went to Scott Candler, Jr.'s, office and got a \$2,500 commitment just like that. So I'd raised \$7,500 before I got back to the office from the luncheon. Called Jack Embry, got him in. He was in his office, and he committed \$2,500 for [sic; from?] The First National Bank of Gwinnett County. Called Doug McCurdy, Jr.-- "Buddy," and he agreed to participate for \$2,500. Called Bill Evans, and he did likewise. Jim Miller has committed \$2,500. Dave Chesnut [*spelling? Could be "Chestnut"*] on

behalf of he [sic] and his Aunt Pearl committed \$2,500. There were four others--makes a total of thirteen—totaling \$32,500, both in cash and in pledges. [*Hands check to MR. MACKAY.*] And there's the check.

MR. MACKAY: Thank you very much, Robin. That's one of the most heartwarming reports I've ever heard in any effort to raise money for a worthy cause. And I think you and I know the key to this, and that is the fact that each person who has made this commitment to the endowment of this society did so out of a dual feeling: first out of recognition of the desirability of our having an endowment fund but second out of respect and regard for JULIUS McCURDY, who was the second president of the society. [*To MR. McCURDY*] Julius, it is a privilege here, as a member of the board, to present to you this evidence of contributions totaling \$32,500 that come from friends of the society and admirers of JULIUS McCURDY. And I don't think we could honor a finer citizen of our county, nor do I think there is any more important object of giving at the present time. So I want to present this to you with our admiration and with our appreciation for your inspiring so many people to give this generously. [*Hands check to MR. McCURDY.*] And I wish you would tell Mr. Howard Worley, our host on the video camera [videographer], what this means to you and why you think that an endowment for the society is so important.

MR. McCURDY: Well, Jim, having been the second president of the historical society some forty-five years ago almost, I have realized for a long time that the society needed to be on a permanent, self-sustaining basis. We need to keep our dues reasonable so that we can have as many members as possible, but we do need a background that would provide enough funds to continue the operation of the society if our present contributors, for any reason, happen to fall short. And so this is extremely pleasing to me. I am grateful to both of you [MR. MACKAY and MR. HARRIS] for what you've done. I am also grateful to the others who have made these contributions. I hope that we can continue in a low-key manner to add to this fund until we get an amount that would be sufficient to--together with a reasonable dues schedule would maintain the society without our having to appeal to public funds or for other purposes. [*Camera pans to right, showing unidentified woman seated to MR. MACKAY's left.*] So I'm very grateful, and I hope you both will accept my heartfelt appreciation.

MR. MACKAY: Well, we do Julius, and our president, Mrs. Peggy Hill, could not be with us at this hour; but if she were here, she would encourage those that are watching this to join. There are some people that are not in a position to contribute to the endowment, as you say; but we now have a membership of approximately 1,400, [to MR. HARRIS], Robin; and with a population of over 500,000 we still have room for more. Do you have anything that you would like to add to this occasion?

MR. HARRIS: No, that's just the—it's the easiest money I've ever raised.

MR. MACKAY: Well, we're going to put it to work for the society, and the society is working hard. And I would like to thank Howard Worley for recording this great event in the history of the society. Thank you, Howard.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE *off-camera*: I appreciate that, too.

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Transcribed by CS