

# Local history book dedicated

By LISA TROW  
City Editor

Almost 300 local residents attended the Sunday dedication of a two-year labor of love for Huntsville and Walker County, the 964-page Walker County History book.

County history books are available for those who did not attend the dedication at the Huntsville Public Library until July 18 at a cost of \$57.82.

"I can think of no better way to conclude this (Huntsville birthday) weekend than with the dedication of this book," said Mayor Jane Monday during ceremonies at the First Methodist Church Sunday. "I personally can never thank those people (who worked on the book) enough. They have given us something that will be special for years to come."

Walker County Historical Commission Chairman James Patton, also county clerk, commended the history book at the dedication as work "that will go on for generations and generations," made special because it was finished in time for the state's Sesquicentennial.

Discussing the scope of the stories included in the book — about 1,110 — Patton and other dignitaries recognized the more than 60 local residents who worked "every single day of the week for two years."

Patton said he anxiously perused his advance copy of the massive book to read about the people who had contributed to the Walker County, but "I almost started to cry so...I just had to close the book."

Mary Frances Park, co-chairman of the book committee, said the book's purpose was to provide a repository for "never-before compiled" family histories and other stories.

Park and co-chairman Lucy Alice Stewart commended the volunteers and their spouses who contributed time and energy on the book.

Much of the work with the book involved writing the histories. Two local residents, Johnnie Jo Dickenson and Vernon Schuder, were commended for writing the most stories.



Andrew Schratwieser photos

## Book dedication

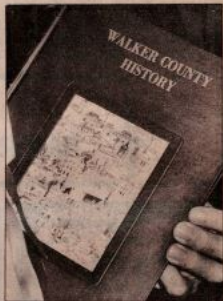
Some of the members of the Walker County Historical Commission and Walker County Genealogical Society were among those honored at the dedication of the Walker County History book Sunday. Pictured with Huntsville Mayor Jane Monday are Juanita Lynch, Mary Frances Park, Lucy Alice Stewart, James Patton and Ellie Wood.

Dickenson wrote 90. Schuder wrote 45 stories.

Joseph Polley Paine, a longtime artist, was honored for his lithograph for the cover for the book.

Typesetters, proof-readers, volunteers who worked with book finances and compiled photographs and many others were also recognized. They included the following: Jean Albarran, Ola Allen, Marie Atkinson, Elizabeth Bailey, Lorita Ballew, Margie Blair, Col. William Blythe, Fred Bobbitt, Servanie Brown, Marsha Bush, Linda Byrd, Wesley Coburn, Dorothy Cole, Ruth DeShaw, J.D. Dickenson, Candi Dixon, Shirley Dye, Josie Lee Feazle, Greg Gathright, Beverly Hansen, Avis Harding, Violet Harris, Lillie Mae Hayman, Gerald Holder, Robbie Lee Hughes, Virginia Humphrey, Judy Hunter, Ken Johnson, Maxine Johnson, Julia Mary Lowry and Juanita Lynch.

Also recognized were Col. William R. Lynch, Clara Malak, Lilla Mae Marshall, Westen McCoy, Bill McClin-



The Walker County History book

tock, Catherine McClintock, Gene Medford, Albert Moore, Mary Frances Park, Linda Parrish, Dr. Darryl Patrick, Eugenia Patton, James Patton, Linda Pease, Robert Pierce, Mary E. Rainey, Eleanor Randolph, Margarette Rathke, Revelle's, Ann Staples, Lucy Alice Stewart, Anna Beth

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