

Sesquicentennial Items Earn Statewide Honors

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Staff

MOREHEAD CITY—The North Carolina Society of Historians recently presented a total of 12 awards to local individuals, the Alleghany Historical-Genealogical Society Inc. (AHGS) and a local business for materials produced for Alleghany County's Sesquicentennial Celebration. The awards were officially presented on Oct. 10 and information on the awards was given to the newspaper last week.

Imaging Specialists Inc. took five Paul Green Multimedia Awards for items produced for the sesquicentennial, including two puzzles, a Web site, a brochure and a reprint of the 1889 inaugural edition of The Alleghany Star. Jeff Halsey, who owns the business with his wife Sharon, also is the AHGS president. The puzzles depicted a map of the county and pre-1933 aerial views of Sparta from postcards owned by Bill Irwin. The Web site, which may be viewed at www.ac150.com, was first made active earlier this year and advertised events and other sesquicentennial information. Web design and other work on the projects was done by the Halsey's daughter, Claire. The brochure was one produced to advertise events using histori-

cal photos as a backdrop. The Alleghany Star reprint, done with permission of The Alleghany News, included advertisements and more recent newspaper articles. It was a fund-raiser for the sesquicentennial and free copies of that publication remain available at Imaging Specialists. The contest judges said the work involved in reprinting the old edition and adding the additional information was "remarkable."

The business won another multimedia award for the AHGS Web site. Also awarded to Imaging Specialists was a Garland P. Stout Publishers Award for its body of historical work for the year, as well as the Presidents Award. That award is one of the most prestigious presented, according to information from the Society of Historians. Only one is presented each year to one of the winners of other categories chosen unanimously by the judges.

Jeff Halsey said, "We didn't even dream we would do this well. There were a total of 777 entries in this competition and only about 10 percent of the entries won awards. We were really proud to see our county's sesquicentennial this well represented at a statewide

event."

Comments from the judges released by the Society of Historians stated, in part, "Never have we seen such an array of wonderful items created by a publisher...exceptional entry. History can be promoted in so many different ways; however, to promote, one has to draw people in. Every item we examined from from this publisher did just that..."

Agnes Joines nominated the Halseys' business for the honor, and the Halseys in turn nominated the other award recipients, including Ms. Joines' husband, Ernest Joines.

He was selected for a statewide multimedia award for his work in compiling a four-disc set of local music, some of which had never been published. Joines and wife Agnes attended the event to receive the award.

Of Joines' work, the judges said, in part, "This is a truly phenomenal entry...from the superb presentation to the helpful and informative inclusions, to the colossal amount of talented people involved, and the masterful, soul-touching music...music so typical of the North Carolina mountains."

Ernest Joines said, "I was pleased and honored that they

they thought that much of what I had done." Joines officially worked on putting the compilation of local music together for about a year and a half, but he used resources he had been collecting for most of his life.

Janice Alexander took a multimedia award for a puzzle made of old newspaper articles, while Avin Joines was a winner for a drawing of scenes of the county that was made into a child's frame tray puzzle.

June Furlow was given a multimedia award for a quilt design depicting the Alleghany countryside that was made into a puzzle.

Of the puzzles, the judges said all four are "of the finest quality and will last a lifetime."

The puzzles were produced locally by Napco, which also made the sleeve for the Joines' music compilation.

Also attending the event to represent the county was Board of Commissioners chair and Sesquicentennial co-chair Ken Richardson. Halsey said Richardson noted at a subsequent steering committee meeting that the honors were the "...most significant awards I can remember Alleghany receiving."



WINNERS—Shown are (from left) Claire Halsey, Sharon and Jeff Halsey, N.C. Society of Historians President Elizabeth Sherrill, Ernest and Agnes Joines and Betty and Ken Richardson.