

Display Features 'The Greenwood Era'

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Of The Eagle Staff

An Open House is planned for Sunday afternoon, April 3, in celebration of the opening of a new exhibit at the Tulsa County Historical Society's museum on the grounds of the old Thomas Gilcrease estate. Subject of the new permanent exhibit is "The Greenwood Era."

The exhibit features photographs of scenes from Tulsa's historic black area, called in years gone by the

"Negro Wall Street of America," and pictures of some of those individuals who helped build, re-build and maintain one of the strongest minority communities in this part of the country. Among the familiar faces from Greenwood's past are those of B. C. Franklin, Judge Amos T. Hall, early undertaker and developer James H. Goodwin, Major Latimer, J. W. Williams, the Mann family and the Cavers.

Of particular interest is a rare copy of a book entitled "Events of the Tulsa Disaster" containing first-hand accounts of the devastating race riot which won Tulsa attention on the front page of the New York Times for several days running back in 1921.

The exhibit has been assembled through the efforts of Mrs. Mozella Jones, daughter of B. C. Franklin and a member of the Historical Society's Board of Directors. It followed great interest generated in response to a presentation on "The Greenwood Era" by longtime Booker T. Washington Principal Henry Whitlow for one of the Society's quarterly dinner meetings in recent years. Mr. Whitlow has made the presentation on several other occasions, as well.

According to Mrs. Jones, the display has been made possible through the aid

and generosity of a number of persons. Materials for the exhibit, even though it has been on display for the past few weeks, is still coming, she says.

Among those who have loaned photographs and other bits of memorabilia are W. D. Williams, Sam Jackson, Eunice Sewall, E. W. Woods, Mr. Whitlow, P. A. Chappelle, Mrs. Amos Hall, Lottie Neal, Mildred Williams, Eutle Jones, Vi Berry and Dude Tyler.

On loan also is the rare copy of the

"Events of the Tulsa Disaster," but, says Museum Curator Annabelle Monnet, a good copy has been made of the book which will be retained by the museum. Written in about 1922 by a young black woman named Mrs. Mary E. Jones Parrish, who was apparently visiting Tulsa at the time of the riot, the small volume contains her own reminiscences of the violent incident along with comments from several Greenwood leaders whom she evidently interviewed in the days

following the devastation. Photographs included in the exhibit range from pictures of the post-riot Greenwood to the interiors of Greenwood businesses.

According to Ms. Monnet, the Open House will be from 1-5 p.m. Sunday afternoon. The museum is regularly open from 1-5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday and special arrangements for groups at other times can be made by calling the Historical Society office 531-5232.

THE GREENWOOD ERA



Mozella Jones and Annabelle Monnet prepare for opening of the new exhibit on 'The Greenwood Era'

Left: William building being rebuilt
after fire. Right: Betkin building sold by
Kryasov. Howard building, one story building
was Percy's cafe, Hardy building, foodwin
building, Smith building, Greatman theatre.

