

NEW HISTORY PHOTOS INTRODUCED INTO DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

by Laura Gwinn

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COOKEVILLE -- A small group of downtown business owners, city officials and CityScape members gathered Thursday evening at the Kitchen and Bath Gallery to view the newest photos added to a history collection that has garnered so much popularity in the WestSide district.



Attendees were taken on a walk by two Cookeville History Museum volunteers -- Amy Vickers and Linda Henderson -- who were dressed in period costumes.

"This is really neat," attendee Robert Reeves said as he walked around the square. "Everyone's done a lot of hard work on this. Good job!"

These additions are now combined with the current history photos on display on the WestSide district, photos that are mounted on the exterior of businesses all around the area.

Ryan Jorstad is credited with taking this project on, with the help of Judy Duke, museum administrator, and her museum volunteers.

"We are lucky to have people like Judy, her volunteers and the museum," Jorstad said. "They have helped out so much."



The idea to do this project came from a visit Jorstad made to Granville. He talked to the officials there, got the pertinent information and brought it all back to Cookeville.

"He came to me about it and took it all upon himself," Toni Evans, CityScape director, said. "The WestSide photos were so popular people wanted to know how to get in on it. And Ryan just went with it, approaching each business and building owner about it."

Each building owner in the downtown district who has a photo on their building paid for it themselves.

"That's a true indication of community spirit," Jorstad said. "We're always looking to add to the collection."

A brochure with maps of the walks, with both the WestSide and downtown photos, is currently being produced by the Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce and will be available at the Leslie Town Centre, located at 1 W. First St., along with various businesses on the WestSide, Broad and around the square.

"Anyone who may have vintage photos that might add to the history walk are encouraged to contact me by e-mailing rjorst@twlakes.net," Jorstad said.



CityScape director Toni Evans talks to Cookeville History Museum volunteer Amy Vickers during Thursday's reception held at the Kitchen and Bath Gallery. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

*Read more about Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>