

'COOKEVILLE VOICES' SALES TO BOOST CITY'S HISTORY MUSEUM

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COOKEVILLE -- A longtime writer who has written about numerous Cookeville



citizens over the past 25 years has collected a number of those stories in a new book which the sale of will benefit the Cookeville History Museum.

Cookeville writer Sarah Holloway's "Cookeville Voices" will be available at the Cookeville History Museum at 40 E. Broad St. beginning Saturday, Aug. 25. A book signing will be held that day from 1 to 3 p.m.

Cookeville History Museum Director Judy Duke said the book

is historical because it includes a cross-section of Cookevillians.

"Some people are well known, and some have done some wonderful things and are not well known," Duke said. "It's a wonderful addition to other literary projects in our town. I'm thrilled she allowed us to sell it exclusively."

From a retired editor of The New York Times who graduated from Tennessee Tech University to well-known local names in business, art and television, Duke said that anybody could probably find at least one person they're interested in.

Many of the stories about Cookevillians appeared in the Herald-Citizen beginning years ago when Charles Denning was the managing editor.

Holloway recalls that when she first submitted a story to the Herald-Citizen back in 1983, she wasn't sure it would ever be published.

After waiting for a while and not hearing anything, she contacted Denning, who told her he was planning to publish her story, but just hadn't gotten around to it yet.

"The first thing she wrote, it was so well written, so 'unamateurish,' so clear, so 'unmessy,'" Denning said. "She obviously had been very meticulous in writing and rewriting. It was ready to go in the paper.

"Sarah has a great sense of humor, and it comes out in her writing," Denning said.

Denning agreed to edit Holloway's stories once again for the new publication, when she contacted him about a year ago.

The two agreed to include 44 of Holloway's stories about various Cookeville residents. The book also includes updates of the people Holloway wrote about years ago.

The book includes Holloway's stories on the following individuals: Lucy Adams, Mary Frances Bailey, Janet Biery, Keith Bilbrey, Mike Birdwell, Julia Bowman, Betty Brady and Marion Bohannon, Sherry Brooks, Lisa Brown, Cluster Pluckers, Charles Denning, Rubye Fowler, Bob Freeman, Hatty Gill;

Margery Hargrove, Bob Hill, Sally Holland, Barbara Jackson, Nancy Jarrell, Sue Keller, Jean Key, George King, Caroline Lee, Mattie Massa, Michael McCloud, Becky Magura, Aurelia McMurry, Terri McRae, Callie Melton, Mildred Miller, Eleanor Mitchell, Jay Perry;

Jane Roberts, Clytie Saylor, Russell Sloan, Opha Sparks, Carolyn Stockton, Hix Stubblefield, Marie Ventrice, Virginia Carlen Webb, Michael Lee West, Johnnie Wheeler, Susan White and Marla Williams.

Holloway has also written other books including two books about her daughter, Lucy, who suffers from schizophrenia.

Holloway also has two sons, Frank Holloway and Mark Holloway, and two grandchildren, Sarah Marie Holloway and Michael Christopher Holloway.

She said she was grateful to her son, Frank, who assisted her with the book.

Holloway said she's grateful to Denning for publishing her stories in the Herald-Citizen as well as to Mike McCloud, who published stories of Holloway's and other writers in the magazine, Cookeville's Finest.

Holloway's book, "Cookeville Voices," sells for \$20 for a black and white copy or \$35 for a color copy. The proceeds will benefit the Cookeville History Museum.

For more information, contact the museum at (931) 520-5455.

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COOKEVILLE WRITER UPDATES HER BOOK

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In 1989 Sarah Holloway wrote a first-hand account of her daughter's battle with schizophrenia. Now she has updated that story and republished her book with a new title: *Lucy: The Anguish of Schizophrenia*.

"I wanted to bring attention to this illness and the needs still out there. After 27 years I wish I could write that things are getting better -- better services, better drugs, better facilities, but that doesn't seem to be happening," Holloway said.

In this short first-person narrative, she relives the agony that she and her husband, Tennessee Tech professor Frank Holloway and their two sons, Frank and Mark, went through when a teenaged Lucy began to show symptoms of the disease, sometimes acting strangely, making odd comments and becoming inconsolable after other high school students ridiculed her for her behavior.

It's the agony every family would feel in watching a loved child recede into a no-man's land of disturbing voices and uncharted behavior.

"Some people mix up mental illness with mental retardation," Holloway said. "With mental retardation a person will develop to a certain age and then stay at that age. But mental illness isn't like that. A mentally ill person will have good days when they're almost normal, and then regress.

"Schizophrenia is not split personality. It's a brain disease like Parkinson's or Alzheimer's," she said.

In her book Holloway describes the worst day in her life, the day that Lucy was taken, sobbing and screaming and promising to take her medicine if she could stay home, to Moccasin Bend Mental Health Institution by two sheriff's deputies. The couple could only watch hopelessly as their daughter was driven away by two uniformed strangers as if she were a criminal.

"It was almost six years later when we learned that one or both of us could have gone with Lucy in the patrol car that day. If we could not accompany her a woman attendant was supposed to be with her," Holloway wrote.

Neither the mental hospital staff nor the sheriff's department at that time were aware of that state requirement which would have made the transition less traumatic for the 17-year-old.

Holloway's account is full of similar ignorance, mistakes, neglect and lack of communication that can occur in institutions when the practice of medicine is impersonal and the facilities are overcrowded. But the story also contains occasions of hope and caring.

Her reason for updating the book, Holloway said, is to wake people to the plight of the mentally ill.

"Locally, we have no in-patient unit at Plateau. And there's no psychiatric unit at CRMC," she said.

"We're coming up on national Mental Illness Awareness Week (Oct. 5 -- Oct. 11) and I want people to think about the need we have for more research, medicines and care facilities for the mentally ill."

Holloway's book contains an appendix with information about Schizophrenia and a list of advocates and resources and recommended reading.

Lucy: The Anguish of Schizophrenia is on sale at Cookeville's BookWorks, New Century Books and Cornerstone Books. Or click on <www.airleaf.com>. Use the search box to put in the title and Sarah Holloway's name.

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<http://www.ajlambert.com>