

**“TENNESSEE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY:  
MOMENTS LEADING TO 100 YEARS”**

**COOKEVILLE** — It’s been an opportunity to open up the box. Take out some things that haven’t been touched in decades.

Maybe even a hundred years.

After all, it’s the ideal occasion — the centennial year of Cookeville’s own Tennessee Tech University. And the Cookeville History Museum is celebrating that fact with an exhibit opening on Sept. 18 from 5-7 p.m.

“We have things most people have never seen,” Judy Duke, administrator of Cookeville museums, said.

The exhibit — titled “Tennessee Technological University: Moments Leading to 100 Years” — coincides with TTU’s centennial downtown kick-off, in which the Golden Eagle marching band will lead the campus community on a Centennial Walk foot parade from TTU’s Centennial Plaza on down Dixie Avenue to Dogwood Park, which is behind the museum on East Broad Street.



*Tennessee Tech 1966 Marching Band.*

“We’re going to be a part of that,” Duke said of the museum exhibit, which takes a look back at relationships between Cookevillians and TTU over the past century.

“We have some really neat artifacts that have not been seen by the general public. For instance, we have the faculty minutes from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute from 1916-1931. We also have athletic memorabilia and items representing some of the different university presidents.”

Photos, banners, purple and gold attire and much more.

“I don’t want to give it away, but these are things that have been in archival preservation more or less,” Duke said, crediting such contributors as Rose Black of the TTU archives, Tracey Duncan of the alumni association and Laura Clemons, the university’s centennial coordinator, for their help in bringing together items for the exhibit.

Other individuals have helped as well.

“We have things President Angelo Volpe has brought in and things from President Derryberry’s family... and other former presidents,” Duke said.

In addition, TTU’s human ecology department has contributed costumes, and Backdoor Playhouse director Mark Creter has provided photos from ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ productions through the years.

During the exhibit opening, the museum will be serving heavy hors d’oeuvres. Visitors can then head over to Dogwood Park for birthday cake during TTU’s downtown kick-off festivities.

That event begins at 5 p.m. and includes the launch of a commemorative book, “The Tennessee Tech University Centennial, A Collection of Essays and Photographs,” at the museum and a 50th reunion dinner for TTU’s class of 1965 at the park.

The one-mile Centennial Walk from the campus to the First Street entrance of the park begins at 6:30 p.m., with a kick-off show to follow at 7 p.m. at the performance pavilion, featuring awards, live music and more.



Preparing for the September 18 exhibit opening of “Tennessee Technological University: Moments Leading to 100 Years” at the Cookeville History Museum from 5-7 p.m. are Judy Duke, administrator of Cookeville museums, left, and Laura Clemons, university centennial coordinator. Ty Kernea, Herald-Citizen.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 9 September 2015

### **TTU WALK TO BE RECREATED FRIDAY**

TTU — For many years, the faculty and staff at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute would meet students coming to town on the train and take them up to campus.

That walk will be recreated in reverse during Tennessee Tech's centennial Downtown Kick-Off Sept. 18. Led by the marching band, people from the university and community will lead the Centennial Walk, marching down Dixie Avenue to Dogwood Park. At the park, there will be live music, theater, awards, birthday cake and a few surprises.

"It's no secret that without the support of the residents of Cookeville, Tennessee Tech would not be here," said Laura Clemons, university centennial coordinator. "With the downtown kick-off, we are taking the celebration to the community rather than making them come to campus."

The Downtown Kick-Off at Dogwood Park will begin at 5 p.m. with the opening reception of a TTU Centennial exhibition at the Cookeville History Museum, the launch of the commemorative book, "The Tennessee Tech University Centennial, A Collection of Essays and Photographs," and a reunion dinner for TTU's class of 1965.

Pre-show activities begin at 6 p.m. and include a pep rally featuring the TTU spirit squads. The Centennial Walk from campus to the park begins at 6:30 p.m. and the Kick-Off show, featuring awards, music and other performances, will begin at 7 p.m.

During the event, there will be free birthday cake and a few surprises.

In case of rain, events will move to the Cookeville Performing Arts Center and the Centennial Walk will be cancelled.



*Cookeville citizens lead the "March of Appreciation" to campus on May 18, 1966, as the finale of Tech's 50th anniversary celebration.*

TPI was established, against the will of the state's elected officials in Nashville, because of the passion of residents of the Upper Cumberland who were determined that their children would have a place to further their education close to home.

"TTU's centennial celebration is as much a celebration of the men who fought to bring the university into being as it is a celebration of the university," said TTU President Phil Oldham. "In those early days, TPI was focused on educating those who lived closest to our small campus. Since then, our academic reputation has grown with our student population and our campus.

“We are proud of who we are and how far we have come. We look forward to kicking off our Centennial celebrations with the people who have made our growth possible.”

For more information about TTU’s Centennial and the Downtown Kick-Off, visit <https://www.tntech.edu/centennial/downtown-kick-off/>.

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<http://www.ajlambert.com>