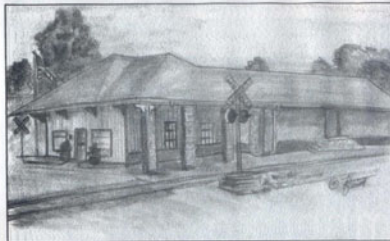


INDEPENDENT

Booneville, Mississippi, Thursday, November 25, 2004

50 Cents

A12 • The Banner-Independent • Thursday, November 25, 2004



BACC CARDS ON SALE

This drawing by Michael Johnson of the Historic Downtown Depot in Booneville will be featured on the new note cards being sold now by the Booneville Area Chamber of Commerce. The cards with envelopes come in packs of 10 and are available for \$10.

BACC note cards make unique holiday gifts

The Booneville Area Chamber of Commerce unveiled a new fundraising project last week, just in time for holiday shopping.

The BACC will be selling new note cards with envelopes featuring a cover picture of the Historic Downtown Depot.

BACC Executive Director Tanya K. Finch, IOM, said that this fundraiser has been talked about for a while and she hopes it will be very popular with local citizens as well as people from other areas.

"Local people and out-of-towners have contacted us in the past wanting something like this as a memento of Booneville and Prentiss County," Finch said. "We're proud to now have something to offer them."

The idea for this fundraiser is something that Finch said

basically "fell into our laps." The artist responsible for the drawing of the depot, Michael Johnson, brought the picture to Finch at the Chamber office earlier this year.

"When Michael came in with his drawings and I saw the picture of the depot, the idea for the note cards just took on a life of its own," she added. "Our Board of Directors discussed it and decided it would be great for the Chamber of Commerce to be able to offer this to our local citizens and to the many visitors to our area."

Johnson, a native of the Laurel/Hattiesburg area, now calls Booneville his home and has been fascinated by the history of this area. He enjoys drawing buildings such as the depot and is currently working as a substitute teacher in the Booneville School System.

The note cards come 10 to a package with envelopes and are available for \$10 at the BACC office in the Historic Downtown Depot and at Dickerson Furniture at 105 West College Street.

"We hope to have a different note card each year from now on and would love to see them become collectors items in our area," she stated. "Each new card will feature a different drawing from Michael Johnson of a historic or significant building in Booneville or Prentiss County."

For more information about this fundraising project or to purchase note cards, contact Finch or Lori Blansett at the BACC office at 728-4130 or visit them at 100 West Church Street in the Historic Downtown Depot.