



East Central Arkansas Regional Library

PRESS RELEASE

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WOODRUFF COUNTY LIBRARY REQUESTS HELP IN PRESERVING HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOKS

AUGUSTA. The Woodruff County Library hopes that the community can help it fill gaps in its large collection of high school yearbooks by either donations or loans. The Library holds yearbooks from Laura Conner, Augusta, and McCrory High Schools.

“We would appreciate donations of yearbooks to fill in missing years.” said Regional Librarian John Paul Myrick. “We understand that some people may not want to part with their yearbooks. As such, we are asking if we can borrow them to have the yearbooks digitized.”

Digitization is a process where a photograph of each page is taken, and then saved as a computer file. Depending on the file format, the content is then searchable similar to searching for a web page on the Internet. The library’s digitization contractor, Oklahoma Correctional Industries (OCI), uses inmate labor to do digitization work. Inmates learn skills and work ethics, and libraries and museums benefit by having preserved historical materials. Many yearbooks were digitized years ago for the Library by OCI, but there were gaps. Also, the digitized materials were not searchable.

“OCI has offered to take those scans and convert them to files at no cost to us, as well as to offer us a cut-rate deal to scan missing issues.” Myrick said. “We hope the community will help us fill in the gaps.

For those who have years needed who want to keep their yearbooks, the library is asking to borrow those for about a two month period. “These items will be carried to Oklahoma, scanned, and returned to us in a short period of time, and we will gladly return those to their owner.” Myrick said. “OCI takes extraordinary care of these historical items, and there is no question regarding their safety or their return.”

The Library is looking for donations of the following yearbooks, or at least to borrow copies.

Laura Conner High School, Augusta

Any prior to 1948
1960

Augusta High School

1975
1978
1985-1988
1990-1991
1993-1997
2000-2021

McCrary High School

Any prior to 1941
1942-1950
1958
1960-1961
1965-1967
1969-1971
1973-74
1977-78
2015-2021

Cotton Plant Schools

All years

And any other schools in Woodruff County which might have had yearbooks.

To help the library, contact Karen Golden at 870-347-5331.