

Museum of History Receives Grant For Flag Conservation

"They give us a glimpse into local history."

Textile conservator Anne Tyrrell, recently hired to begin Phase II of the conservation of the N.C. Museum of History's large and significant flag collection, believes we learn much from the study of North Carolina's historic banners.

A recent \$12,500 grant from the Institute of Museum Services will allow the museum to continue conservation of the collection of 350 flags, some dating as far back as the American Revolution. The one-year grant will be matched by the Museum of History Associates, a support group.

In May, 1981, Ms. Tyrrell completed Phase I of the conservation, which she termed "a condition survey," adding that "we

redesigned storage and completed an up-to-date inventory." With the help of this grant, Ms. Tyrrell, who holds a master's degree in textiles and clothing and a certificate in textile conservation, has returned to begin Phase II.

"This is really an important collection," Ms. Tyrrell pointed out. She explained that it is among the largest in the country and one of the most diverse and significant. Through these flags we can trace the history of some of the local areas.

"And it is most important that we continue conservation. And soon!" she emphasized. "Many are already too far gone," she added sadly.

She described how the flags are mostly battle flags from the Civil War era, vary-

ing widely in appearance and construction. Conservation therefore requires various methods depending upon the fabric and condition.

"We don't want to sew up the bullet holes or tears where flags were ripped off their staffs," she said. "In such cases we just try to stitch around the tears enough to support the fabric, and thus preserve the flag's history."

She explained that conservation is a time-consuming process, and she hopes eventually to receive volunteer assistance.

Just now, however, Ms. Tyrrell is continuing her search for materials and equipment and is looking forward to a year of preserving still a little more of North Carolina's history for others to see and study.

Hotel Writes The Book

Answering The Key Question — Where Can I Find The Best...?

Whether hotel guests are visiting a city for business or pleasure, the questions are always the same: "Where's the best place for a great steak? To buy antiques? See celebrities?" The list is endless, as hotel doormen, desk clerks and concierges from Bangor to Los Angeles will attest.

Now, one enterprising hotel group has decided to discover and document "The Best" of one popular stop-over city, Atlanta, and has plans to do the same for other locations. Guest Quarters, the maverick hotel company that originated the "suites only" hotel-without-rooms concept, has researched and published a book highlighting the best the city has to offer.

Best of Atlanta is the product of months of sampling by a force of bar-hoppers, shoppers, epicures, sports event-goers and general miscellany observers. It is a lively commentary offering detailed information on such items as the best place to go off one's diet, meet a stockbroker, or investigate plastic surgery.

Coded to city maps, the book has some 450 entries in categories focusing on shopping, dining, entertainment, kids' activities and sightseeing. Entries cover a broad range of "bests," including information on Atlanta's best cheap thrill (a ride on the Peachtree Plaza Hotel's outside elevator to the 78th floor), best bathroom graffiti (in the Emory University Law School men's room), best way to create a new you, best Old South nostalgia tour, and other tidbits.

To celebrate *Best of Atlanta's* debut, Guest Quarters threw a "best" party, which brought together all the best restaurants for a



"pot luck" extravaganza of house specialties ranging from continental Russian to fried chicken and hamburgers, chili dogs and onion rings.

The event included a formal presentation of certificates to all those individuals and establishments acclaimed as "The Best." Local Atlanta celebrities receiving "Best of Atlanta" certificates included Atlanta Braves and Cable News Network owner Ted Turner, singer Isaac Hayes, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Steve Bartkowski, and a Willie B. look-alike standing in for the Atlanta Zoo's famous TV-watching gorilla.

Best of Atlanta, which retails for \$5.95, will be sold at special events benefitting the Eggleston Hospital for Children, the Atlanta Arts Alliance and the Atlanta Zoo, and profits will be shared with those charities. The company will launch "best of" programs in other Guest Quarters cities, including Washington, DC, Alexandria, VA, Houston, TX, and Greensboro, NC.

Copies of *Best of Atlanta* can be ordered by calling Guest Quarters toll-free at 1-800-424-2900, or by writing Guest Quarters, 111 Perimeter Center West, Atlanta, GA, 30346, or 7000 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30328.

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Saw Cost Analysis Includes All Items

Chainsaws are spitting sawdust around more and more woodlots and home grounds these days as more Americans become saw owners. The primary motivation is savings in labor and money.

There is no question that the noisy little monsters save labor. Remember the old crosscut saw? No doubt the chainsaws are helping to save on fuel costs for many homeowners who are using wood as a primary heating fuel.

But the saws, in addition to their purchase price, have a cost of their own—fixed and operating costs.

An analysis by one authoritative source puts this cost at \$1.31 per hour.

This figure includes some

fixed cost items that most individual saw owners probably wouldn't consider—taxes, interest and insurance, for example. The combined cost of these three items came to 29 cents per hour, according to figures used in the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) analysis.

Repairs to the \$525, 17-in. saw used for the study was set at 26 cents per hour over the 2,000 hour operating life of the saw. Fuel and oil came to a combined 46 cents per hour.

Some other items, such as spark plug, file, chain and bar costs totaled, 30 cents an hour.

How much your saw costs depends on the purchase price, the saw's durability and how you're operating it.