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NEWS

PUBLIC COWGIRL NO. 1

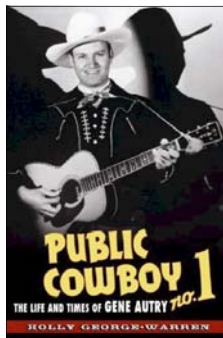
Holly George-Warren pens first ever bio of Gene Autry

♣ From dusty bins stuffed with paper-sleeved 45s at Archie Burkhead's downtown Asheboro Record Shop to the pages of *Rolling Stone* and a Grammy nomination, Holly George-Warren has become one of the country's foremost music journalists.

She'll debut her new book, *Public Cowboy No. 1: The Life and Times of Gene Autry*, at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 6, at the Asheboro library — a day before its national release by Oxford University Press.

Holly's appearance, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is free and the public is invited.

Now a freelance writer and an adjunct professor of journalism at SUNY-New Paltz,



Holly grew up with the library. Her mother Martha was a beloved long-time librarian, and her father Alvis designed the award-winning building in 1964 and its remodeling in 1994.

In Asheboro during the 1970s, Holly immersed herself in all things rock 'n' roll, seeking the latest music, traveling to concerts and learning everything she could. In college, she decided to turn her love of music into a career, and headed for the New York scene.

Since then, she has authored or contributed to more than 40 books, and her work has appeared in



Holly George-Warren will debut her biography of western superstar Gene Autry at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5, at the Asheboro library.

The New York Times, *Rolling Stone*, *Village Voice*, *Entertainment Weekly* and many other publications. She also served as editor of *Rolling Stone Press*.

In 2001, she earned a Best Historical Recording Grammy nod for the five-CD Rhino Records set *R-E-S-P-E-C-T: A Century of Women in Music*, which she co-produced.

But there's more than just music that drives her latest work: at heart, she's a cowgirl. "I grew up in Asheboro during the golden age of cowboy movies and shows on TV and was obsessed with them," she told *The Courier-Tribune* in 2002.

Her love of cowboy lore led her to write *How the West Was Worn*, the definitive history of western wear and *Cowboy — How Hollywood Invented the West*.

Now, she has turned to the life of western icon Gene Autry in her new book. The "Singing Cowboy" earned five stars on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, became the first movie star to develop his own television shows, and through a major recording career contributed such standards as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Back in the Saddle Again."

Holly's colleague Ben Fong-Torres likens her to "a modern-day version of the great scouts of the old west" as she tracks down the facts for this first full-length biography of Autry.

Find out more about Holly and her work at www.hollygeorgewarren.com.

Elliot Engel, Lane Ragsdale, Larry Davis, more.... —see inside

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**from
the
director**



County artifacts call library home

♣ **We are sitting on a treasure trove of Randolph County artifacts, thanks to the foresight and diligence of local leaders, the Randolph County Historical Society and others who valued the historical significance of the artifacts enough to see them return "home"!**

The Randolph Hornets Flag, made locally by the families of the soldiers, was carried by Company M (Randolph Hornets), 22nd Regiment, NC Troops, CSA. The flag was most probably captured and left Randolph County in 1861. The reverse side of the flag bears the appliquéd motto, "Onward to Victory". Members of the Company, which fought in every battle except Bull Run, were present at the surrender at Appomattox. The flag was not returned to the county until 1968 after being located in Connecticut. It was presented to the Randolph County Historical Society by Dr. and Mrs. Marion B. Roberts of Hillsborough, NC. Funds are being raised by the Historical Society to restore it to original condition.

Several pieces of Mount Shepherd Pottery tiles and sherds from the library's collection will be on display at North Carolina Pottery Center from May through August 2007. The exhibit will be titled "Slipped, Dipped and Dotted: 18th - 21st Century North Carolina Redwares". Thousands of sherds, tile fragments,

clay pipes and "kiln furniture" were unearthed at this site in Randolph County in 1974 by Williamsburg archaeologist Alain Outlaw under the sponsorship of the Seagrove Potter's Museum. The site was originally a working kiln in the 1770s. The library's collection will also be featured in a book by Steve Compton to be released in 2008 by the University of Georgia Press.

The county's original set of Weights and Measures, the legal standard used by merchants and maintained at Alexander Gray's store in Johnstonville, were found in a junk heap near Franklinville in 1954. The set includes 7 brass weights, 1 brass yardstick, 1 gallon dry measure and 3 liquid measures in copper. J.L. Newton found them and with the help of Tom Presnell, then Clerk of Court, and the publication of the original invoice in *The Courier-Tribune*, the items were identified. Local business leaders helped acquire the items and provide a proper display case.

A collection of arrowheads was made possible by several local collectors and donors, including Warner Williams, whose recent one day arrowhead exhibit drew more than 400 people from all over the state. His collection is one of the most extensive on the east coast.

These are but a few of the treasures that await you at the library. All the display cases can be found in the Reading Room of the Asheboro Public Library during regular library hours. Bring your family. Make a day of it!

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news

The Randolph County Public Library NEWS is published monthly by the Asheboro Randolph County Public Library and the Friends of the Library. To subscribe, join the Friends by returning the membership application on page 4.

Suzanne Tate, Director • Carol Rich, President, Friends of the Library • Ross Holt, Editor
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Get critical!

Library offers new database for literary study

♣ Writing a term paper on Jane Austen? Book report on *Animal Farm*? Analysis of *Gatsby*?



of writing, and time period; overview, synopses, analyses and literary criticism of thousands of works including prose, poetry

Try *Bloom's Literary Reference Online*, a new database available at all seven libraries and remotely from wherever there's Internet access.

The database includes thousands of author biographies searchable in various ways including nationality, type

and plays; in-depth articles on topics and themes; analyses of 38,000 characters; and timelines. Also included are all the essays from literature maven Harold Bloom's *Western Literary Canon*.

Find the database at www.randolphlibrary.org/teens.html

Get controversial!

New database covers "Issues & Controversies"

♣ Writing a report on a hot-button issue?



viewpoints, and is designed so that students and other users can quickly grasp the essentials

Try one of the library's newest databases, *Issues & Controversies* from Facts on File. This online resource provides up-to-the-minute, in-depth and objective information on some 600 hotly-debated issues.

It combines authoritative factual analysis with explanations of opposing

of complex topics. It includes chronologies, charts, photos, maps, tables, bibliographies and more.

The database is available at all seven libraries and from any computer with an Internet connection via the library website,

www.randolphlibrary.org/teens.html

Get Friendly!

Seagrove to host meeting of NC Friends group

♣ Interested in becoming a Friend of the Library or learning what Friends do?

The Friends of North Carolina Public Libraries will hold its district meeting from 9:30-1 p.m. Saturday, March 31, at the Seagrove library.

The group will hear from book dealer Peter Lee, who will talk about ways to increase revenue for Friends organizations by selling books on eBay.

There also will be a roundtable discussion for idea-sharing.

To attend, contact local host Donna Miller at 629-6441.

Book swap

The Teen Advisory Board will host a "Book Swap for Teens" at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Asheboro library. All teens are invited to bring books to exchange with other participants; the Book Swap may also include a tour of the Friends of the Library bookstore.

The event is part of National Library Week.

Meanwhile, the monthly meeting of the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) will take place at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 12. All teens ages 13-18 are invited to get involved at the library and help plan teen-oriented programs, choose teen-related books, DVDs, magazines and other material for the library, and more.

Asheboro Reads

Next up for Asheboro Reads is *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards, 2-3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27. The title for April 24 is *Can't Wait to get to Heaven* by Fannie Flagg.

The title for May 29 is *Three Dog Life* by Abigail Thomas.

Book sale

The Friends of the Library book sale will take place from 9-3 p.m. Saturday, March 31, at the Friends Book Store off the Asheboro Public Library parking lot.

Library supporters head to Raleigh for Library Legislative Day

Local library supporters will join in Library Legislative Day on Tuesday, April 17, in Raleigh. Goals include securing a permanent a recent increase in

state Aid to Public Libraries and providing access to a homework help service, Tutor.com.

To participate, contact Suzanne Tate at 318-6814.

Friends of the Randolph Public Library

YES! I'd like to become a Friend and support the wonderful programs sponsored by the Friends each year:

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- Adult \$15
- Family..... \$25
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In Honor of: Frank Willis

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