

Contact: Regina Burgess, 522-2120, rburgess@nwrls.com

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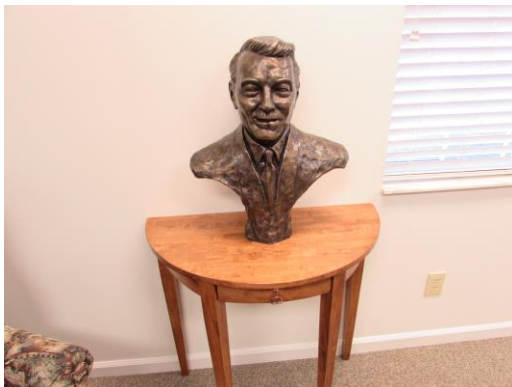
Charles Whitehead (1931-2014) was integral in providing the citizens of Wewahitchka and Gulf County with the public library that bears his name. As trustees of his estate, Panama City Mayor Greg Brudnicki, James Finch, and Gerald Hamm unveiled a portrait bust of Charles Whitehead at the library on September 24, 2014 to honor his memory. Also in attendance were Gulf County Commissioner Ward McDaniel; David and Trish Warriner; Alan and Marlene McNair; Tom and Mary Gibson; former Gulf County Commissioner Nathan Peters; former library manager Ann Matlock; and Patty Fisher, Diane Semmes, Betty Holloway, and Linda Whitfield from the Woman's Club of Wewahitchka.

The Charles Whitehead Public Library was dedicated on August 25, 2003 after three years of substantial fundraising efforts. It was Charles Whitehead's seed money that provided the impetus for subsequent fundraising efforts. According to an article in *The Star* (Port St. Joe) published August 28, 2003, at the library dedication Mr. Whitehead praised the efforts of the community, and said, "My participation was financial. It took the hard work of the community to build the library."

Prior to the new library being built, the library was located in the former Gulf County Courthouse. The space for the library was very small and inadequate to meet the needs of the growing community. In the year prior to the opening of the new library statistics show there were 8,000 visits, 5,200 items borrowed, and 100 computer uses. During the last full fiscal year, the Charles Whitehead Public Library had over 19,000 visits, almost 14,000 items borrowed, and over 7,000 computer uses.

The Charles Whitehead Public Library is located at 314 North Second Street in Wewahitchka.

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Charles Whitehead Portrait Bust



Gerald Hamm, James Finch, and Greg Brudnicki



James Finch, Gerald Hamm, and Greg Brudnicki



Alan McNair and Gerald Hamm



Gulf County Commissioner Ward McDaniel with Branch Manager Beulah Harrison, former Branch Manager Ann Matlock, Woman's Club of Wewahitchka President Patty Fisher, Diane Semmes, Betty Holloway, and Linda Whitfield



The Warriners and the Hamms