

# Francis Manning History Room

Jan. 15, 1985 Enterprise article by staff writer Andy Brack about the creation of the Francis Manning History Room at Martin Community College.

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## They Record The County's Past

By ANDY BRACK  
Staff Writer

You may have wondered, at one time or another, where to go to find out about your family history or that of Martin County. Soon you will have a place to go.

The Francis Manning History Room at Martin Community College will be dedicated 3-5 p.m. Feb. 3 at the college. Manning was editor of *The Enterprise* and *The Weekly Herald*.

At the room, you will find all sorts of historical material, from old news stories and photos to family histories and old maps.

Doris Wilson, chairman of the history room committee for the Martin County Historical Society, and a host of volunteers have spent hours cataloging and organizing all sorts of information.

"It all started when we made the Martin County Heritage Book in 1980-81," Mrs. Wilson said. "We realized that there were a whole lot of records out there worth saving.

"We went to the Martin Community College Board of Trustees and they let us have this room. We need a place that was accessible and knew that we couldn't man it with volunteers five days a week."

Since then, volunteers have catalogued historical information from Harvest editions of *The Enterprise* from the 1930's to 1981-2. After Manning's 1982 death, the volunteers started in on his papers, donated to the Historical Society by the his family.

They also are sorting through the photos of the late druggist, Eugene Rice. Those photos were

included in the Manning files.

Mrs. Wilson said the dedication, not official opening, of the Manning History Room is to honor Manning's contribution to Martin County history.

"He was a great collector, not only of family history, but of anything historical," Mrs. Wilson said.

She estimated that volunteers are about 60 percent through organizing Mr. Manning's boxes of information.

When they finish going through the information, the Historical Society hopes to have the official opening of the room. The only other thing holding them back at this point is the need for index cards to be typed to complete the cataloguing process.

Anyone who wishes to use the room now should stop by for assistance Monday morning



**Doris Williams, left, Brownie Highsmith catalog papers**

when volunteers are on hand.

"We are always delighted when someone comes on Mon-

day," Mrs. Wilson said.

She also said the society would

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Bishop said students still

Edenton's the program should be successful.

# Room

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like copies of any family histories or other historical information Martin County people may have.

"Anyone getting ready to throw out records," she said, "Give them to us."

Peggy Cherry, Martin Community College librarian, said the Manning History Room will be of great use to history buffs.

"I think it will give people who are interested in genealogy another source," she said.

"The room will be easier for patrons to use. A lot of material will be beneficial."

The Historical Society believes it is carrying on Manning's tradition of keeping historical material.

"Mr. Manning was the official person in the county who preserved what he found," Mrs. Wilson said, "And we'll take over for him."

The public is invited to attend the Feb. 3 dedication reception.

What can you do to deter the corrosion that makes light bulbs used outdoors so hard to remove when they burn out?

Spread a thin layer of petroleum jelly over the threads of the light bulb and it can be easily removed.

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