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FAIR CONTINUES: Gwinnett County's Fair continues through the weekend at the Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville. Among the rides is a traditional Ferris wheel, shown in this night scene by Frank Sharp.

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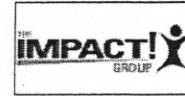
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GwinnettForum.com is a twice-weekly online community commentary for exploring pragmatic and sensible social, political and economic approaches to improve life in Gwinnett County, Ga. USA.

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TODAY'S FOCUS

New book about Duluth combines art and storied past

By VALLY SHARPE
Special to Gwinnett Forum

DULUTH, Ga., Sept. 20, 2011 – It's easy in the midst of Atlanta's urban sprawl to forget that it wasn't always so, to be so caught up in the everyday stuff of life that we seldom think about how we got here. We may briefly wonder while sitting at a stoplight why the road we're on, like McGinnis Ferry, or Abbott's Bridge, is named what it is. Then the light turns green and ends our musing that just a couple of centuries ago only Indians were here, until families moving around in search of prosperity settled in just because the soil was rich and the rivers flowed clear.

But Ann Parsons Odum has never forgotten. Great-great-granddaughter of Evan Howell, the founder of Duluth, she set out a few years ago to memorialize the landscapes and character of her

hometown in paintings, first in batik and later in pastel.

I first heard of the "Parson girls," Margaret, Kathryn and Ann, in 2008. Though I'd had an office in the Duluth postal area earlier in the decade, a year or so before our company ventured into helping authors who wanted to self-publish produce and market their books, it wasn't until I worked briefly at Rainbow Village that I began to put the two together in earnest. So it was mere chance when Ann decided to move forward with the vision of putting a collection of her Duluth paintings into a book that I was around, and could assist her.



Ann Parsons Odum at her easel.

While choosing paintings to include, Ann and her daughter, Sharon, began telling me stories, not just about the houses and farms and rivers and trains, but of the people-of prosperity and hardship, celebration and tragedy, church and community. From that I suggested Ann put those stories in the book, beside the paintings. In the space of the year, we'd laughed and cried and gossiped a little, and by the time we were finished, I felt like Duluth was my hometown, too.



I am excited and honored to announce the arrival of *Duluth, Georgia: Through the Eyes of One of Its Own* by Ann Parsons Odum. A delightful collection of over 80 paintings, historical facts, and personal stories about the people and places of Duluth past and present, it will be a treasured keepsake for Duluth natives and newcomers alike. I can speak from experience-you're gonna love the view.

Ann will be signing copies of her book on Thursday and Friday (September 22 and 23) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Parsons Cards and Gifts in Duluth Station. This weekend she'll be in the General Store at

TODAY'S QUOTE

What stand-patters do when they are under attack

"The instinct of stand-patters under attack, after all, is to stand even more pat."

– Biographer Edmund Morris in his book, *Theodore Rex*, page 432.

SEARCH GWINNETT FORUM

GWINNETT CALENDAR

One of the highlights of Duluth Fall Festival will be the carnival put on by Gold Medal Shows. It is a full scale midway complete with a Ferris Wheel, Merry Go Round, and much, much more. It will be open evenings from Wednesday, **September 21** to Friday, **September 23** and then all day during the Festival which is **September 24-25** in Downtown Duluth. There will be a parade, almost 400 booths, entertainment on three stages, a road race and much more. For more information, visit www.duluthfallfestival.org.
(Paid Advertisement.)

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, at Lionheart Theatre, Norcross: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through **September 25**. Reservations recommended at www.lionhearttheatre.org. Not recommended for children.

Meet the Author: 7 p.m., **Sept. 21**, at the Norcross Cultural Arts and Community Center. Author Stuart Woods will discuss and sign his books. Sponsored by Gwinnett County Public Library. For more information, visit www.gwinnettpal.org or call 770-978-5154.

(NEW) **Cruise-In in Suwanee:** 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., **Sept. 22**, Town Center Park. About a dozen stylish cars are anticipated for the Cruise-In, featuring antique cars and hot rods. This is a regular fourth Thursday event, with merchants offering special prices, in-store events and entertainment.

Gateway International Food and Music Festival:

