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Margaret Hiers donates painting of the Octagon Building;

Other works shared with world via HardisonInk.com



Margaret Hiers stands by as City Manager Mary Ellzey reads her research concerning the history of the Octagon Building in Chiefland.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © June 26, 2018 at 11:18 p.m.

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CHIEFLAND – Margaret Hiers on Monday night (June 25) donated an oil painting she made of the Octagon Building in Chiefland, and she share the history of this – the first Chiefland City Hall.

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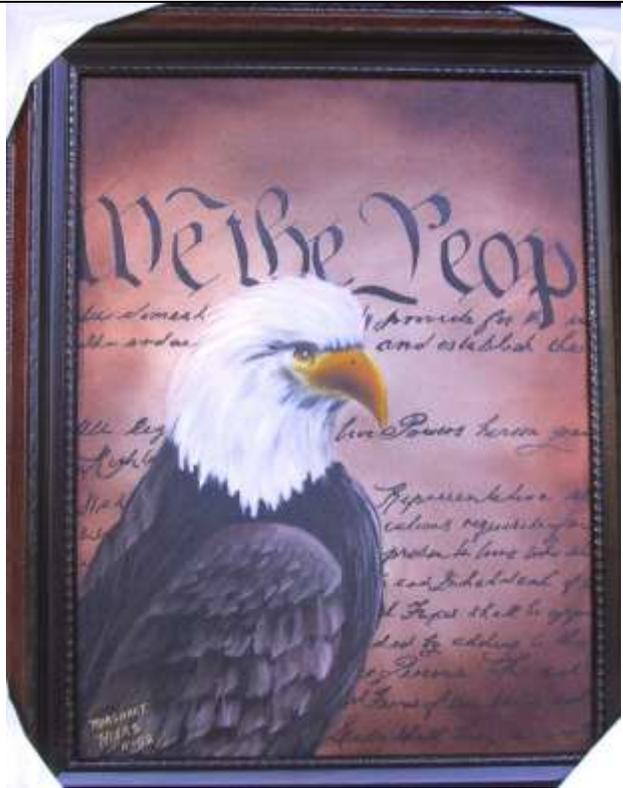
The painting donated to Chiefland.



Standing with the painting are (from left) City Commissioner Teresa Barron, City Commissioner Rollin Hudson, Chiefland Mayor Betty Walker, artist Margaret Hiers, City Commissioner Donald Lawrence and Vice Mayor Chris Jones.

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**This is a patriotic painting
by Margaret Hiers.**



**Another of the many lovely
paintings by Margaret Hiers and
shared with the world through
HardisonInk.com is seen here.**

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This fawn (baby deer) with big eyes is so young it still has its spots. This is a painting by Margaret Hiers.



The historic Trenton Train Depot is captured on canvas by Margaret Hiers.

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This Mustang is another of the many great works of art by Margaret Hiers.

Later Monday night, she sent by email photos of five other paintings she completed to *HardisonInk.com* to share with the world, including one of the Trenton Train Depot.

She has painted more than 80 pictures.

As she made her presentation, Hiers told the City Commission that her ancestry runs deep in Levy County.

Among her relatives were her great uncle Rollin Hudson, the great-grandfather of City Commissioner Rollin Hudson.

“These citizens and others were instrumental in establishing the town of Chiefland,” she said.

Her husband was the late John Delmar “Bud” Hiers Jr.

Sylvia Hiers Emmons, one of their daughters, is the manager of the Gilchrist County Public Library Public Library in Trenton. Another daughter is Gilchrist County Court Judge Sheree Hiers Lancaster.

“My passion is art,” Margaret Hiers said. “I love painting in oils, acrylics and pastels.”

She painted the Octagon Building from her memory of it being in the city park before the other buildings were constructed around it.

City Manager Mary Ellzey read the document the painter created.

The octagon open-air structure was built, circa 1921, from hard yellow pine. It graced the center of Chiefland City Park.

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The original purpose of the building was a bandshell to be used by the Chiefland community, Ellzey said as she read the fact Hiers had found by her research.

In 138, the bandshell was enclosed, creating a meeting and greeting hall. It then became Chiefland's first City Hall.

In 1959, Chiefland constructed a new City Hall because it had outgrown the building, Ellzey said as she read the document.

The Octagon Building was moved to the Chiefland Cemetery where it was used by Boy Scouts and others for meetings. It fell into disrepair.

The Chiefland Woman's Club made it a project to restore the Octagon Building and return it to its home in Chiefland City Park, Ellzey said, to be used as a library. It opened in 1974 after being completely restored.

In 1985, the Luther Callaway Public Library was constructed after the Octagon Building had been outgrown for that purpose. For a period of time, it was used as an office for the Greater Chiefland Area Chamber of Commerce.

Although it is used now only for storage, it remains in Chiefland City Park as a reminder of Chiefland's history.

The late Etter Usher Sr. had donated the Chiefland City Park, Hiers said, and she lived across the street from that park when she was in third grade.

She played there as a child, and she remembers the building sitting in the middle of the park – before the fire station, building department structure and police station had been placed around it.

The only other structure in that park decades ago was a basketball court. There were trees, and that is why she put trees in the painting she donated to the city.

Hiers said she would like to see that building used as a reading room, or perhaps as a place to display artifacts of Levy County.