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For Immediate Release –

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Tour the Lake Dalhousie Mansion Event begins the Dr. Edgar J. Banks Relic Hunt “Edutainment” Week

EUSTIS – The Eustis 125th Anniversary Committee announces a tour of the Lake Dalhousie Mansion, designed and built by Dr. Edgar J. Banks, to launch the Relic Hunt “Edutainment” Week on Sunday, November 2, 2008. Event details are as follows:

- Event Date:** Sunday, November 2, 2008
- Tour Times:** 2:00 pm, 2:45 pm, 3:00 pm
- Tickets:** \$10.00 available at the Lake Eustis Chamber of Commerce
(tickets sold in advance – limited to 20 persons per tour)
- Tour director:** Drs. Robert and Leah Ladley (current owners)
- Location:** 37918 Co. Rd. 44A, Eustis 32726
- Directions:** Highway 44A east of Hwy 19, Eustis. Turn left at Estes Rd.
- Parking:** Please park along 44A adjacent to the property and enter on foot through the home’s front wrought-iron gate.

Dr. Edgar J. Banks, the famous archeologist who retired in Eustis in 1921, designed and built a mansion for his family on Lake Dalhousie in 1926. The Mediterranean-style structure is reminiscent of the architecture found in locations where Dr. Banks unearthed his historic archeological discoveries. The house has had three owners since his death in 1946.

The current owners, Dr. Robert and Lea Ladley, have graciously offered to open the home to the community on November 2nd to help launch the Edgar J. Banks Relic Hunt Week. They will provide three, 45-minute guided tour opportunities limited to 20 persons per tour. Tickets are available through the Lake Eustis Area Chamber of Commerce at (352) 357-3434.

Dr. Robert Ladley and his wife Dr. Leah Ladley, who bought the home 10 years ago when it was in disrepair, have modernized it for livability but were careful to restore many of its fireplaces, artistic mantles, parquet wood flooring, chandeliers, crown moldings, and other uniquely designed elements. They are well versed on the history of the home, thanks to an informative visit by the late Daffney Banks McLachlan (Dr. Banks’ daughter). During her visit with them, she gave them photos of the house the first year it was being built.

Eustis 125th Anniversary Committee volunteers will be on hand to direct parking and visitors. We ask the public to please respect the Ladley’s private property and grounds at all times. No pets or small children please. All proceeds will go toward the Eustis 125th Anniversary events.

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