LIBRARY LENDS ITSELF TO BROWSING



KEN OSBURN / Staff

Chris Forrester of Lyman and his daughter Reagan came to Greenville to see the Library of Congress traveling exhibit, Gateway to Knowledge, which has stopped here for a two-day visit.

Copies of significant items in nation's past visit Upstate

By Angelia Davis
STAFF WRITER
adavis@greenvilleonline.com

Chris Slagle has never been to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., but he got a personal view of its offerings when copies of some of its treasures were brought to Greenville.

On Tuesday, Greenville became the 50th nationwide stop in the library's traveling exhibition "Gateway to Knowledge."

It arrived in a customized 18-wheel truck, featuring facsimiles of many of the library's top treasures.

They included the 1455 Gutenberg Bible, the rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, the first drawings of Spider-Man, and Alexander Graham Bell's notebook entry describing his first successful experiment with the telephone.

The exhibition will visit up to 60 communities in the Midwest and the South this year to make more people aware of the library and the resources that it contains, according to docent Abigail Van Gelder.

As it is with the library, visits inside the traveling exhibition are free and offer the public "a close and personal look at some things that would normally be in a glass case," Van Gelder said.

The exhibition will be parked

See LIBRARY on page 5B

GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE

The exhibition includes facsimiles of the following national treasures:



DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Written in Thomas Jefferson's hand with edits by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams



ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL

A notebook entry describing his first successful experiment with the telephone



SPIDER-MAN

The 1962 drawings for the comic book that first introduced Spidey to the world

LIBRARY

FROM PAGE 1B

beside Cline Hose & Hydraulics at 615 Buncombe St. from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. today.

The display is co-hosted by the Greenville County Library System and the Upcountry History Museum.

Slagle, of Easley, saw the library's truck parked Tuesday morning and went inside, and he planned to "call more people to tell them to get here."

Chris Forrester brought his 2-year-old daughter Reagan with him from their home in Lyman. He was most fascinated with the Declaration of Independence and how "they used technology to see the different changes in it."

Forrester, who has visited the library in Washington, said the exhibit is "good for people who basically can't get to Washington. It gives you a little bit of the inside of the library and kind of America's history."



KEN OSBURN / Staff

An exhibit describes Thomas Jefferson's role in re-establishing the Library of Congress through the gift of his personal book collection to the nation.

Mattie Thompson Long of Greer, who also has visited the library, said the items on display in Greenville are very similar to those in the library as far as the quality.

Long, who wanted to see the display of Thomas Jefferson's documentation, was impressed the most with the fact that the exhibition came to Greenville.

"It shows that our area is growing, that it caters to the needs of the population, and so our intellectual and artistic needs are being met," she said.