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DONALD BARKER
... Explains project

Andre Smith Memorial Fund Formed

By **EMMA MOODY**

MAITLAND — A small group of friends of the late Andre Smith, famous etcher, artist, architect and founder of the Maitland Research Studio, gathered in the garden of the center Thursday afternoon to found the Andre Smith Memorial Fund Assn. This is an assisting citizens' group of the Central Florida Museum, and Maitland Research Center.

The meeting was called jointly by Donald J. Barker, president of the board of trustees of the Central Florida Museum, and Dr. George R. Crisler, chairman of the Committee.

“The Andre Smith Memorial Fund Assn. is establishing an appeal for the sum of \$30,000, such monies to be recognized as basic requirements for the next two years in establishing as a central theme an Andre Smith Memorial Gallery in conjunction with the chapel area, as well as the overall operational needs, Barker explained for the total plant facilities,

Barker explained. More specifically, it is recognized that this sum of money will make possible the building of the Memorial Gallery, the operation of its programs, as well as meeting the continuing salary commitments for both A. J. Banca and Ralph Ponder, who had worked with Andre Smith for so many years in maintaining the total group of buildings and grounds," he added.

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In explaining the reasons for the meeting, Barker said, "For a period of a quarter of a century, Andre Smith developed, expanded and vitalized the Maitland Research Studio. During that period, he created a plant facility of great beauty and unusual artistic accomplishment.

He and his associates evolved in this environment innumerable works in the field of fine art and brought to Central Florida a unique environment and resource. When Andre Smith died in 1959, the inspiration for the studio ceased and, at the same time, financial assistance likewise came to an end.

"The board of trustees of the Maitland Research Studio was, therefore, forced to consider disposition of the property in some manner befitting its many years of development.

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It was designated that the Maitland Research Studio should henceforth be called the Central Florida Museum's Maitland Research Center, and that its general activities center around the fields of anthropology, archaeology, ethnology, primitive art, folk art and history.

During its first season of activities, as of this date more than 10,000 people have visited the re-designed galleries and grounds.

"Contrary to general belief, the Maitland Research Center is not an endowed institution. The Central Florida Museum has taken from its basic budget (and a limited one at that) the necessary monies to preserve the beautiful environment and instructional program.