Ethel Claiborne Dameron Building
In WBR To Be Dedicated April 21

ART AND HERITAGE — Mrs. Ben C. Devall, above, is shown with a pastel chalk drawing, "Birds of Paradise," done by her friend, the late Louise Kohler Laws, whose works will be featured at the museum opening and building dedication. — PHOTO BY ART KLEINER

BY CYNTHIA WOODY
The Ethel Claiborne Dameron building, which houses the West Baton Rouge Museum, and the museum's new Paul D. Perkins wing, will be formally dedicated Sunday, April 21. There to accept the honor will be Port Allen's beloved citizens, the spirited threear-old Mrs. Charles Irving Dameron.

Ceremonies will take place April 21 at 3:30 p.m. at the North Louisiana Museum of Art in Shreveport, Louisiana. Especially prepared for the opening exhibit will be drawings, photographs, and selections from the race collection of the late Louise Kohler Laws, who made a house for the museum during the fall and spring months at Claiborne Plantation in Denham. Textiles, which immediately stand out about Mrs. Dameron, are in her civic pride in community, and the other is a love of friends. The museum is considered Mrs. Dameron's achievement because she was the driving force behind the building from the democratic. Mrs. Dameron was the first chairman and currently is a member of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, which established the museum itself in 1984.

The building was recorded in what was formerly the records vault of the clerk of court's office in the old court house. The columns and trusses were recently moved from the Perkins wing. The whole structure was refurbished, resulting in a pleasing and functional building with Greek architectural details. The spacious grounds of the new Ethel Claiborne Dameron building were landscaped by the T. A. Martin Company.

A Place For Keepsakes
Ethel Dameron, affectionately known as "Puffy," remarked that from time to time she met friends and acquaintances who had kept things important to the family and community, but did not know what to do with them. She pointed out that the family house and memorabilia were good. "But family things," she said, "are family things. I feel these things should have a place in our lives... that we need a special place for things which are a part of the community's heritage..."

PORT ALLEN MUSEUM — Mrs. Charles Irving Dameron, above, stands in front of the building which will bear her name. The rebuilt, refurbished and expanded structure houses the West Baton Rouge Museum, which includes the new Paul D. Perkins wing. The building dedication is set Sunday, April 21, at 3:30 p.m. and the public is invited to attend.

HOME OF ARTIST — Mrs. P. Chaverin Wilkinson and John K. Laws, above, are pictured at Claiborne Plantation in Denham, where the artist lived several months of the year. Always in search of something special for her home, Mrs. Laws found that she often needed to create it herself using live plants from the garden and flowers from the path. The drawings to be featured at the museum opening include those pictured here. "Puffy" Laws is a member of the West Baton Rouge Historical Association, which established the museum in 1984. The building was recorded in what was formerly the records vault of the clerk of court's office in the old court house. The columns and trusses were recently moved from the Perkins wing. The whole structure was refurbished, resulting in a pleasing and functional building with Greek architectural details. The spacious grounds of the new Ethel Claiborne Dameron building were landscaped by the T. A. Martin Company.

WORKED IN THREAD — Miss Helen Laws, above, holds a piano bench cover done by her grandmother, recognized grande dame of the West Side. It shows the family crest against a background done in tent stitch. Mrs. Laws died in 1984, four years before her death at age 72.