



Going into the BDC's *Connections*  
(<http://bit.ly/1CqMaef>) blog on May 1, 2022:

Shared by Grace Cordial, 19 April 2022

Nelle and Ora Smith will give an Author Book Talk about *Paradise: Memories of Hilton Head in the Early Days* on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 in the St. Helena Branch Meeting Room, 6355 Jonathan Francis Sr. Road.



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## *Paradise: Memories of Hilton Head in the Early Days*

An Author Book Talk  
with Nelle and Ora Smith

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**May 17, 2022**  
**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

Lecture will be held in the  
St. Helena Branch Library at  
6355 Jonathan Francis Sr. Road  
Registration required. Space is limited.  
Sign up opens online May 3, 2022 at  
<http://BeaufortHistoryMuseum/wildapricot.or>  
Closed when capacity is reached.



Beaufort District Collection  
Beaufort Branch Library Building  
311 Scott Street, 2nd Floor  
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902 | 843-255-6468  
[www.beaufortcountylibrary.org/](http://www.beaufortcountylibrary.org/)

Their talk is part of Season 5 of the joint Beaufort History Museum/Beaufort County Library Local History series coordinated by the Library's special collections and archives unit, the Beaufort District Collection.

When John Gettys Smith was hired as the public relations man for Charles Fraser's Sea Pines Plantation Company in 1963, he moved his young family to the Carolina

lowcountry – much to the horror of his parents and in-laws. His wife Nelle McCants Smith and their daughter Ora Elliott Smith will share what it was like to live on Hilton Head from the early 1960s into 1996.

Nelle opened the first shop in Harbour Town and ran it for 25 years. Nelle helped start the first Sunday school at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, a Cub Scout troop, the PTA, and the library. Her husband was the assistant general chairman under Fraser for the Heritage Golf Classic for the PGA tournament's first five years. He also designed the distinctive plaid worn by the champion of the tournament. Everyone – including 8 year old Ora – had to pitch in to help during those early years - and she continued to pitch in working with her mother at Nell's Harbour Shop, and later owning and managing a second Nell's Shop at Wexford Plantation.

As Nelle explained to newspaper columnist David Lauderdale recently: “If we lacked something we felt we needed, we just started it!” In other words, the women were part of the “can-do generation” that helped transform Hilton Head Island from a quiet coastal island with only a couple of thousand inhabitants on it into the premier resort destination it is today.

Listen, laugh, and learn with these two indomitable ladies of the Lowcountry. Registration will close when room capacity is reached.