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NEH Welty Workshop
July 11, 2008

I am working on two different topics. First of all, I am interested in Welty's depictions of New Orleans in both her fiction and her photography and would like to examine how she portrays New Orleans and how the city functions as a metaphor, especially in *The Optimist's Daughter*. Secondly, I am considering food in Welty's fiction. In both *Losing Battles* and *Delta Wedding*, food not only provides rich imagery and realism, but the food itself, its preparation, and its consumption reveal a great deal about class; I am also interested in the connection between food and sexual appetites. Finally, I want to explore the connections between food and family ties.