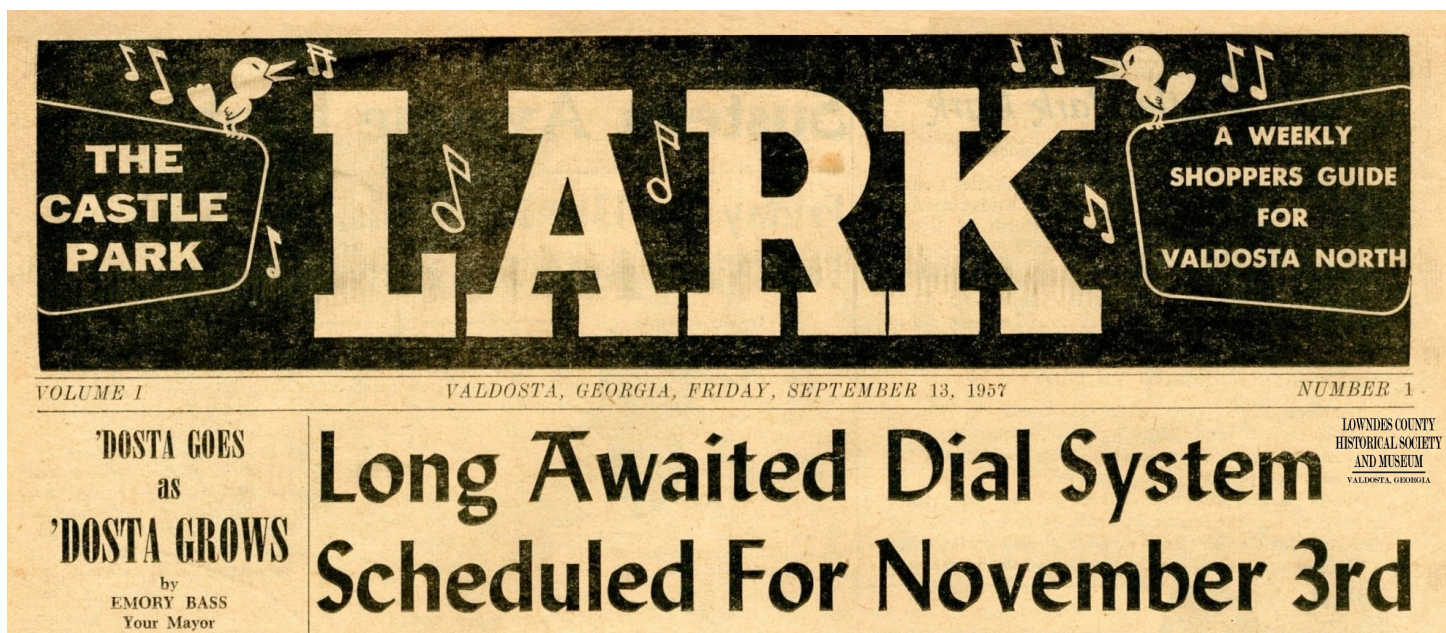


The Castle Park Lark



The **Castle Park Lark**, “A Newspaper for and about Valdostans,” was published during the Fall of 1957. It was a form of shoppers guide for the newly opened Castle Park Shopping Center with other businesses in the area participating. The paper was distributed free. This was the first large retail area in Valdosta away from downtown. D. H. “Curley” Bowers was Editor and Publisher, Tommy Newsom Managing Editor, and Fred Walker Associate Editor.

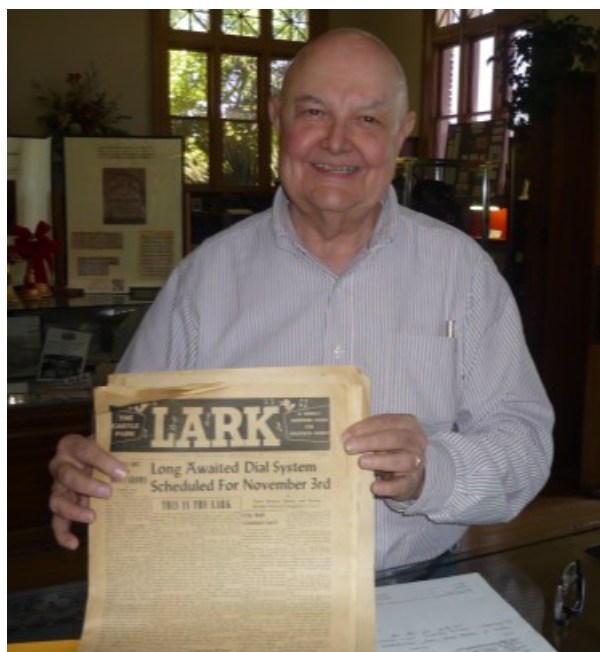
These papers have good news articles covering the new dial telephones (**headline above**) when everyone switched to a Cherry 2 or Cherry 4 telephone number, or to the upcoming opening of the Doctor’s Building. The museum enjoys these articles because in 1957 there was no historical society to collect and preserve information on these events.

The advertisements in the **Lark** bring to mind many former active businesses in town. One large ad announces the First Anniversary Sale of The Casual Shop “Fine Men’s Wear” Friday, Nov. 29th thru Dec. 10th. It includes a photo of Bob Taylor and Ed Blalock as owners and mentions the always important at Castle Park, “Free Parking.”

Other ads in the **Lark** include Mathis & Youmans, Talbot Paint and Wallpaper Company, The Little Shop, LaRue’s Ladies Wear, Castle Park Barber Shop, Rogers Pharmacy, The Sports Center, Patterson Jones Shoe Store, Castle Park Variety Store (Playland), Town and Country Decorator, Lilly Company, Castle Park Service Station and others.

The date of the first **Castle Park Lark** was Friday, September 13, 1957. The last issue was Number 13 on Friday, December 6, 1957. They wrote about beginning on Friday the 13th and ending (maybe) with the 13th issue. This collection had five issues, others would be welcomed.

Below: Local attorney Walter Newsom recently donated issues of the **Castle Park Lark** to the museum that had been preserved by his brother the late Tommy Newsom. Tommy had been managing editor of the **Lark** at age nineteen. A **Lark** article by Tommy Newsom is on page two.



From the Castle Park Lark - An article concerning

Football Trains to Jesup and Thomasville

Since the *Castle Park Lark* issues donated to the museum came via Tommy Newsom we wanted to use an article written by him in this newsletter. The article below comes from the last issue of the *Lark* Vol. I, Number 13, Friday, December 6, 1957.

A few notes explaining Valdosta in 1957:

The ACL is our original railroad from Savannah. In 1957 I-75 did not exist and highway traffic came through town on Ashley Street US41. Urban Renewal had not occurred and Oak was not a through Street, ending north to south at Magnolia beside current Langdale Ford. Independent but public City school systems were not provided school bus funding by the state, so school buses were not available for trips.

The Train Boarding Problem

By Tommy Newsom

"Last Friday afternoon at 5 p.m. an ACL [Atlantic Coastline] engine with several passenger coaches pulled down the tracks and stopped beside the depot here in town. Its destination was Jesup, Ga., site of the region football match between the Wildcats and Jesup.

Several hundred football fans began to converge on the train.

But here is where the rub came in: first and most important the train was blocking the traffic that was traveling on Patterson, Ashley [US41 and no interstate yet] and Toombs Streets and secondly the people boarding the train were in mass confusion.

The band didn't know where to go, fans didn't know which coach to board and one lady had lost her small son. All of this dallying was going on while the train sat still and the Friday afternoon rush traffic became a snarled mass of automobiles.

A line of cars were stretched from the ACL tracks all the way back to Central Avenue and the problem was just as bad to the south of the tracks.

It was a good twenty minutes or more before the train got underway and still longer before the traffic was untangled by the city police. Besides this big tie-up of regular traffic, suppose there had been a big fire or a bad wreck in the southern part of the city while the train was blocking all three main thoroughfares. It would have been impossible for a firetruck or ambulance to have penetrated the tangle of cars.

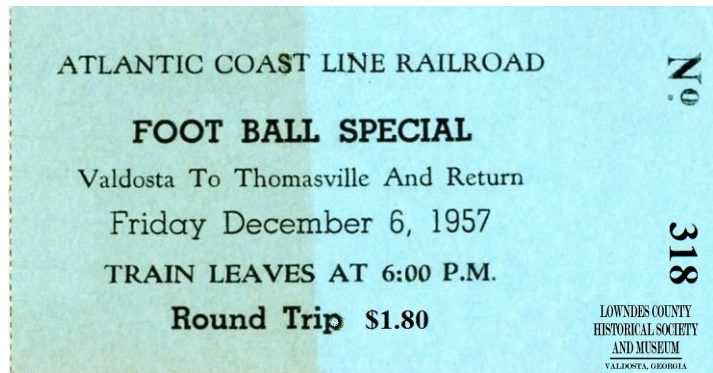
Valdosta is a growing city. It has traffic problems of great magnitude under normal conditions so why, I ask, are these unnecessary tie-ups caused.

Mind you, I am not condemning "special football" trains. The Wildcats need local support and next year when they play teams in Macon and Columbus this method of travel will probably become practical for local fans. But why tie up the downtown traffic just to load these trains.

There is a bad enough traffic snarl when the trains make there regular stops in the city. So, as a suggestion, I say why not have the boarding point of the football trains at a less dramatic point than the main streets.

Tonight another train leaves for Thomasville and although this copy is begin written before its departure time, I imagine that the scene is a repetition of last week's Jesup railway trek.

Lets hope this problem is solved before next year."



Above: A Football Special train ticket to Thomasville.

Much to our surprise at the museum, as the *Castle Park Lark* issues were being scanned as a part of their acquisition, Sandra Sessions Anderson came to the museum with items from high school scrapbooks. Among the items was the above football train ticket. She also wrote on her football program "I went on the football train- We won! Dale Williams was hurt." Valdosta had played Jesup for the quarterfinal game and then Thomasville for the South Georgia Championship. The victories placed them in the state championship game with Rockmart High.

Dale Williams, known for his passing, was hurt and fullback Bozey Thomas was switched to quarterback for the championship game. Rockmart took an early 6-0 lead but the Wildcats prevailed winning 13-6. No passes were completed by either team in the game, but in the "Yardstick" each shows one interception. From the *Valdosta Times*, "Every minute was hard fought for the 'cats', as they never had the margin to let up."

Football Train Is Chartered For Thomasville

The special football train to Thomasville has already been chartered, it was announced this morning.

The train will leave from the Atlantic Coast Line station at 6 p.m. tomorrow, and will make the return trip 40 minutes after the end of the football game between Thomasville and Valdosta high schools. The two teams are playing for the south Georgia Class AA championship.

Cost for the round-trip ticket is \$1.80. Tickets may be bought at the ACL ticket office or at the Jaycee office on West Hill ave. up until departure time Friday.

At Left: from
Valdosta Times
Thursday
Dec. 5, 1957

Final Notice
For the
charter
Football
Train to
Thomasville

1957 State AA
Championship
Playoff Games

Valdosta Over:

Jesup 13-0,
Thomasville
20-0,
Rockmart 13-6

A 26 game
winning streak

A Thoughtful Surprise for Victoria Wilcox Doc Holliday Trilogy Author

Victoria Wilcox gave one of her first lectures on Book III in her Doc Holliday trilogy, *Southern Son' The Saga of Doc Holliday, The Last Decision*, at a well attended program at the museum in Valdosta on Saturday, May 23. The book had just arrived from the publisher earlier in the month. She also gave commentary on Book II, *Gone West*. Victoria Wilcox gives superb presentations with much study and insight into Doc Holliday's activities.

When Victoria Wilcox spoke on Book I at the museum in 2013 she told of finding a worn book in a filing cabinet at the library in Griffin, GA. It was *In Search of the Hollidays, The Story of Doc Holliday and His Holliday and McKey Families* by Albert S. Pendleton, Jr. and Susan McKey Thomas. Albert had passed away but she began an endearing friendship with Susie. Wilcox expressed she would very much like a copy of the original printing (1973) should any ever appear. In sorting Albert's years of research stacks the Pendletons came across a few original copies, some signed, but one with a most appropriate message for Victoria Wilcox, "With all best wishes, Sincerely, Susan McKey Thomas." **Top left:** Helen Pendleton and Catherine Pendleton present the signed original copy to Victoria Wilcox on behalf of their mother Lonie Pendleton.

Also signing books

Left Center: Earle S. McKey and Lyn Thomas are first cousins, Lyn also Susie's son. To Doc Holliday they are first cousins twice removed. A purchaser of Books II and III asked them to sign his books as they were the relatives of Doc Holliday in attendance. **Bottom left:** Dr. Richard Thomas and wife Hally of Crestview, FL. He recently purchased at the Doc Holliday dental chair and related items at auction. A program is scheduled their August 15. **Below:** Maggie Vallotton and Ronnie Blanton pose with Dr. Ronald Wilcox, of Peachtree City and Victoria's husband, as he took a break from program logistics and book selling.



A special presentation: Pendleton, Wilcox and Pendleton



First cousins McKey and Thomas



Thomas, Wilcox and Dr. Thomas, dentist



Vallotton, Blanton and Dr. Wilcox, dentist

Leadership Lowndes at the Museum



Above: Scott James, 92.1 Radio personality and Tina Parker—Worms of Ace Electric. **Below:** Chad Slaughter, Waller Heating and Air; Nikki Rogers, First Federal; and Wade Henry, Blanton and Griffin Insurance.



The members of Leadership Lowndes 2015 were enthusiastic visitors to the museum. They came on Thursday May 21 as a portion of their very full Quality of Life Day.

The group participated in a Scavenger Hunt adapted for Leadership Lowndes. It highlights historic points and items that reflect the building of a culture of achievement in our community. The “read” version of the Valdosta Sesquicentennial slide show was also running and available for viewing.

Leaving the museum, the class was told about the development of US 84 as the Wiregrass Georgia Parkway, heritage and ecosystem; the *Jingle Bells* author living here and Quitman; being the 2nd place in the world to bottle Coca-Cola; and peanuts being important in South Georgia. They were presented a Coke with peanuts and told, “If you drive US84 singing *Jingle Bells*, while sipping on a Coca-Cola with peanuts, you are doing something most appropriate to the Wiregrass Georgia Parkway.”

Below: Leadership Lowndes alumni Angie Crawford, State Farm Insurance and Sementha Mathews, Public Information Officer for the City of Valdosta. Angie is a great-great granddaughter of Thannie Smith Wisenbaker, a Civil War refugee to Valdosta as a youth, who decades later wrote the most thorough account of earliest Valdosta that exists. Although the alumni were not participating in the scavenger hunt, Mathews discovered one of the answers in yearbooks on display. “Who is the only mayor of Valdosta to be both a graduate of Valdosta High School and Valdosta State?” Current Mayor John Gayle. She took phone photos and texted him his youthful images.

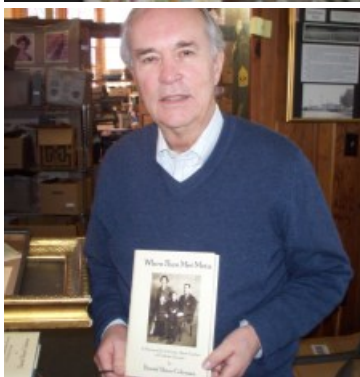


A Lone Lowndes Burial: Jessup Cemetery

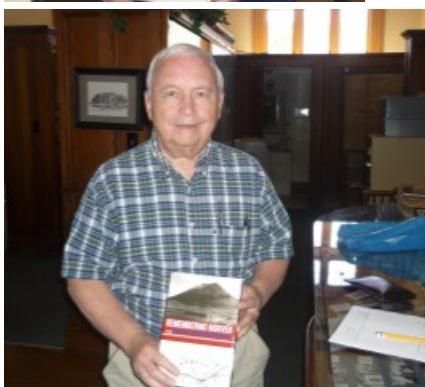
At left are Jay Adkins, Zella Fuller, Phil Ray, Geraldine Clifton and Gary Rowe. On Thursday May 28, Jay Adkins took this group and Donald Davis, who took the photo, to this burial sight that he had discovered and reclaimed from overgrowth and anonymity. On leased hunting land southwest of Ousley Jay noticed fencing in a thicket near a new fire break. Heavy equipment had missed this site by a few feet. After clearing and much genealogical study it was discovered to be the grave of a young girl Adelia Jessup who died near 1860. Her parents later moved to Brooks County. This burial is mentioned in cemetery surveys but the site unknown. The burial is on beautiful land with wild magnolia, virgin wiregrass, longleaf pine seedlings and abundant gopher tortoise holes. The museum commends Jay Adkins for his diligence in this project and willingness to share information.



Gretchen Smith Mui, *left*, who on behalf of her mother, Mrs. Arthur Smith, shown recently donating a book by her father, *Navigators Log, World War II Memories of Arthur R Smith, Jr.* He practiced architecture in Valdosta over 50 years. He left Georgia Tech at age 19 to serve in the U.S. Army Air Corpse. Seventy years later, at age 89, he began writing these memoirs of his wartime experience.



At left, Daniel Shaw Coleman. In 2014 Dan Coleman published a family history *When Theo Met Meta: A History of the Coleman-Shaw Families of Valdosta, Georgia*. Early this year he donated a copy to the museum. The book is over 250 pages with fascinating genealogical and historical stories predating the Revolutionary War. Paperback copies are available for purchase at the gift shop at the Annette Howell Turner Center of the Arts.



Left: Stephen W. Edmondson, MD, at the museum. Dr. Edmondson recently donated a copy of his book *Remembering Morven and the Old 660th District*. Dr. Edmondson stated that the Morven District has deep roots to old Lowndes County and many connections with Valdosta. The Morven area was formerly Lowndes County. The book is 412 pages including interesting pre settlement history. Dr. Edmondson is retired living in Clayton, GA

Donations Continue to Enhance Museum Collections and Archives



Above: Elton and Priscilla Cowart. The many church directories in the museum collection are often used for reference and photographs. When the Park Avenue Methodist seniors were coming to the museum we advanced their visit with the information that we had no PAUM directories in our collection. When they arrived Elton Cowart church Seniors Coordinator, donated six different directories: 1979 25th Anniversary edition; 1995; 2000; 2004 50th Jubilee edition; 2007 and 2012. The museum is very pleased to add these volumes to our library.

Below: Josie Epps Brooks, Stuart Brooks and Denise Epps Viorde. The plaque in the mahogany shadow box featuring the service medals from three wars reads, "IN MEMORY OF GEORGIA NATIVE, Lt. Col. Thomas B. Epps, Sr., USMC, Ret. Veteran of WWII, Korea and Viet Nam, Presented by Grandsons, Stuart and Mason Brooks, Hahira, GA." The small photo is Epps when he entered the USMC in 1943. The Brooks live in Hahira, Denise Viorde in Daytona Beach, FL.



Above: Tomie Jean Roberts Blanton. Earlier this year Mrs. Blanton brought a snapshot scrapbook to the museum to be scanned as an electronic acquisition. The scrapbook had been compiled by her father, Ben Hill Roberts, Jr. in the 1910s. One chief interest in the photos were casual shots of her father in his WWI uniform, which is in the museum textile archives. A great added bonus were three dozen photos split between Ocean Pond and Blue Springs, the latter with rare shots of the grounds and buildings of the resort.



Above: Joyce Evans, Jennifer Altman and Patsy Giles

Below: Joe Tomberlin, Marvin Smith and John Bennett



Below: Tatting Level Two at the Museum

Amy Brown, *standing center*, gave a museum program in conjunction with VSU Learning in Retirement. Two LCHS Board of Trustees members attended: *second and fourth from the left*, Lilla Kate Hart and Catherine Redles. On the *far left* is Ferrell Harris, and *far right* Charlie Oliver.

Lowndes County Historical Society Trustees Meeting June 11, 2015

The recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lowndes County Historical Society had perfect attendance with all fourteen current members present. There is one vacancy from our sudden loss of Redden Hart, treasurer.

Current officers are Patsy T. Giles, President; T. Davy Shelton, 1st Vice-President; Martha Norwood Gibson, 2nd Vice-President; Dr. Joseph A. Tomberlin, Secretary; and John Bennett, Treasurer.

Other Board members are Joyce Evans, Jennifer Schroer Altman, Dr. Marvin Smith, Lilla Kate Parramore Hart, Catherine Redles, Sally Shingler Kurrie, Ron Irwin, Lyn Thomas and Dr. John Crowley. Shelton and Crowley are not pictured. Julie Smith is Ex-officio as immediate past president.

The Executive Committee consists of the officers and three at large members. The Lowndes County Historical Society was established in 1967 with Natalie Sirmans Williams, Vera Hagan and Dr. William Gabard as founders. The society first had a museum on N. Patterson Street in the Griffin Home. The society moved into the old Carnegie Library in 1977. The lower level gallery opened in 1997.



Above: Sally Kurrie and Ron Irwin



Above: Lyn Thomas and Martha Gibson



2015 New & Renewal Memberships

(continued from previous newsletter)

Place of residence listed for those
Outside of Lowndes County

The Historical Society Trustees
and Museum Staff greatly appreciate
your memberships as they affirm our
place as an important cultural entity
in Lowndes County and help us to
fulfill our mission—

To collect, preserve and present
the history of Lowndes County.

A. J. Alexxander

Charles W. and Sallie S. Barnes
Quitman, GA

Wesley and Sandra Blanchard

Ronnie N. Blanton

Blanton & Griffin Insurance Agency

J. Converse Bright

Nathan Brown

Joseph J. and Patricia S. Cordova

Jan Shelton Danis

Bethesda, MD

Lynell Dasher

Daugharty Service Station

Robert T. Daugharty

John K. Dukes, Jr.

Carolyn A. Haigler

James W. Hall

Edward Hart

Dallas, TX

Judge George and Lilla Kate Hart

George Hart, III, MD

Macon, GA

Judy S. Hart

Michael and Jean Hill

William R. Howard, M.D.

IDP Housing, LLC

Rhett Holmes

Jim E. Jarvis, Jr.

Alton and Jean Johnson

Judge and Mrs. Arthur McLane

Carl L. Miller, Jr.

Madison, FL

Ashley and Ginger S. Paulk

Margot Pearlman

Gary and Karen Lyons Pierce

John and Gretchen Quarterman

Nell Zipperer Ricketts

Rountree Materials

Bill Rountree

Marie Converse Smith

Morris Smith

Butch and Susan Wiggins

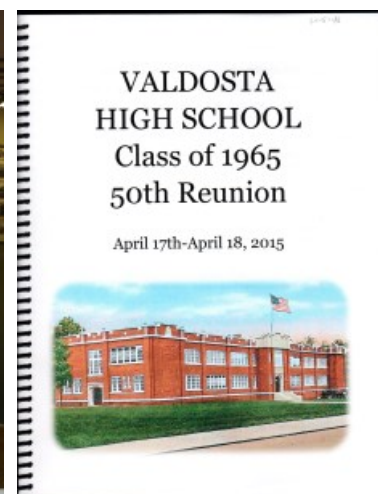


REUNION VISITORS

At left are Richard and Linda Goodson Wicker. They came to Valdosta for their 50th Class reunion extended to multiple years of Lowndes County High School. He donated his 1964 Junior year football jacket stating it in much better condition than his Senior jacket. LCHS was popularly referred to as LoHi and the mascot was the Golden Eagles. The Wickers reside in Americus, GA.



Above: Cissy Williams Burnette of Madison, FL visited the museum while attending her VHS Class of 1970 45th Reunion. She is an Ellis family descendant, with revered educator Leila Ellis (1860-1950), **above right**, a relative. Cissy shared that she is owner of the Leila Ellis desk and is considering the museum as its future home.



Above: Toni DiMascio Twitty of Camilla, GA at the museum gathering information on her 1965 VHS classmates. Toni compiled an exceptionally well produced publication on all class members and donated a copy of the record to the museum.

Johnny B. Lastinger, 1932-2015

Whether working with youth, or in business and community promotion, Johnny B. Lastinger's civic abilities and love for our town placed him prominently in the public arena. Few may be aware of other time he volunteered in a private manner, as in the photo *at left* taken at the Lowndes County Historical Museum.

The following is paraphrased from our May & June 2004 newsletter:

Johnny B. Lastinger was a great friend to the Lowndes County Historical Society. The Chamber of Commerce's photographs, hundreds of them in over twenty-five archive boxes, are housed at the museum. For months, Johnny B. came to the museum, methodically identifying all people and places possible in this collection. Lastinger headed the Chamber of Commerce from 1970 to 1995 as Executive Vice-President. Our sincere condolences to Lamb and the family. He served his generation.



At *left* is Johnny B. Lastinger, unidentified, and Bubber Tillman checking on donations to the 1960 United Fund. The negative of this photograph was just scanned from the *Valdosta Daily Times* Negative Collection housed at the museum, and brought to our attention by summer employee Ben Vieth. Ben is the graduate assistant in the VSU History Department and completes his masters work in Spring 2016.

Right: Ben Vieth scanning portions of the VDT Negative Collection.



Compiling Dealerships History

The museum is slowly developing a file on new car dealerships that have existed in our community. Photo *at right* from our files is Lena Dykes Bosch when the second female Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce in 1997. In discussion we asked for a Bosch Olds-Buick photo under the pines, *bottom right*, which she recently supplied the museum.



There will always be an interest in classic and antique vehicles, but with recent new construction and remodels we notice that we have only scant information consolidated on historical local dealerships. For example, the museum has one photo of Glisson Chevrolet on W. Hill Ave. and mainly deconstruction photos of it on Patterson Street, formerly beside the Converse Dalton Ferrell House. It became Roger Budd Chevrolet on Ashley downtown, relocating, then Kehoe, then Prince.

Buick dealerships began with Roberts about 1910, and later Southwell Motor Co., Jud Godwin Buick, Bosch Olds Buick and now Prince Chevrolet, Buick, GMC.

We asked Mrs. Bosch to include the pine tree story: "In 1987 during a storm and during my son's (Bart) wedding a large tree came down, destroying 13 cars (new). With sad tree-loving hearts we turned the remaining pines into sawdust—"

So whether it be Puett DeSoto, Gould Dodge, McLarty Studebaker, Boyette Lincoln Mercury or Ware-Reddick Pontiac Cadillac we hope to gather a dealership history.



MEMORIALS

Dorothy Dees Beggs

by
Donald O. Davis

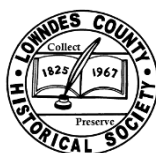
Redden Parramore Hart

by
Mary W. McRee
Dr. William & Virginia Mixson Story
Shelby, NC

John Beechwood Lastinger

"Johnny B."

by
George and Lucille H. Converse
Cincinnati, OH
Donald O. Davis
Patsy T. Giles
Alex B. McFadden
J. Edward Willis



William Miles Lester, Sr.

Auburn, AL
by
Patsy T. Giles
Mary W. McRee

Caroline Little

Westcliffe, Colorado
by
Earle S. McKey, III

Nancy Rutledge Wainer Parrott

by
Brad and Ann Burnette
J. Edward Willis

Wayne Morris Smith

by
Donald O. Davis
Patsy T. Giles
Capt. Warren C. Graham, Jr
Ashburn, VA
Catherine L. Redles
J. Edward Willis

Dr. Joseph C. Stubbs

by
Patsy T. Giles
Dr. William & Virginia Mixson Story
Shelby, NC

Annette Howell Turner

by
Dr. William & Virginia Mixson Story
Shelby, NC



Honor Flights Scrapbook

Above: George Powell donating his uncle Bert Powell's scrapbook on WWII Veterans Honor Flights to the memorial in Washington D.C. The first honor flight in Georgia was from Valdosta with Bert Powell a prime promoter.

Morris Smith 1928-2015

Morris Smith was a long time active member of the Lowndes County Historical Society and for several years a member of its Board of Trustees. The image at right is the dedication page photograph from the 1960 *Pine Needle*, Valdosta Junior High's second issue of a yearbook, a copy of which is in the museum archives.

The Dedication states:

"It is in grateful recognition of her loyalty to Valdosta Junior High School, and her untiring work as the faculty advisor of the 'Pine Needle' Staff, that we, the editorial staff, dedicate the 1960 'Pine Needle' to Miss Morris Smith."

On that 1960 staff are two current Historical Society members, Lyn Thomas and Elaine Parrish McMillian.

Morris' obituary on the McLane Funeral Services website tells of her career in social work, as an author, and civic participation and leadership. From the varied resources at the museum we find that at



VHS Morris was not only a faculty voted Senior Superlative but also a peer voted Who's Who as Miss V.H. S. Most Popular. Her male counterpart, Mr. V.H. S. in the 1945 yearbook, is the current Dr. Buddy Culbreath. She continued service to others her entire life.

2015 Membership Application, Lowndes County Historical Society, P.O. Box 56, Valdosta, GA 31603

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Membership Category

Individual \$25. ____
Family 30. ____
Business 25/50. ____
Contributing 100. ____
Patron 250. ____

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS**Officers and Executive Committee**

President, Patsy Giles; 1st Vice President, T. Davy Shelton; 2nd Vice President, Martha N. Gibson; Secretary, Joseph Tomberlin; Treasurer, John Bennett; Past President, Ex Officio, Julie Smith; Anita Shelton

August 14 Madison Co. Senior Citizens
August 29 Pinevale 1963 Reunion

September 7 thru 12 Closed Labor Day Week
September 24 Open Bible School
September (date to be announced).... members meeting

Other Events

September 14 Lake Park Historical Society 6 P.M.
September 18-20 Antiques Show for benefit of Crescent

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

305 West Central Avenue
P.O. Box 56 Valdosta, GA 31603
(229) 247-4780
Fax: (229) 247-2840

E-mail: ddavis.lchs@gmail.com & research.lchs@gmail.com

Web page:
<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
Lowndes County Historical Society

Newsletter Editor
Donald O. Davis

Museum Staff
Donald O. Davis
Executive Director.

Amy Brown
Textiles and Research.

Harry S. Evans
Benjamin Vieth
Special Collections and Research

Adam Doughty
Drew Johnson
Social Media

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