

Newsletter of the LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chartered September, 1967

305 W. CENTRAL AVENUE VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603

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January, February, March VOL. XLVII NOS. 1,2 & 3

Acquisitions, Activities & Visitors

Georgia Day Recognized

The Georgia Day program on February 12 at the Museum continued recognition of the 50th Year of the Lowndes County Historical Society with the emphasis being our collecting and preserving this areas part of Georgia history. In the *below* photograph Mayor John Gayle presented a proclamation to Jerry West,



Regent of the General James Jackson NSDAR Chapter, event co-sponsor. Some attendees, photo below, included Cathy Lester Bobbie Perry, Lester and Ed and Rita Hightower, Ed is a society Trustee.



**** Born in the Bird Hospital? ****

In the last newsletter we inquired as to those born in the Bird Hospital. We previously had three births reported; Fred DeLoach, Jr., Tommy Hatcher and Sonny Shroyer, Enos on the *Dukes of Hazzard*. Two additional births have been reported; Jean Wells (Sheffield), born October 19, 1938, who wrote of Dr. Conrad Williams always referring to her as his "Fif teen Dollar Baby." Also Charles E. Bryan, Atlanta, born May 3, 1937, and later getting inoculations there. Inform us at research.lchs@gmail.com.

A Little Bit of The Valdosta Little Theater

We have several research topics in the works for newsletters but found ourselves so short on time to finish the details of particular research that this newsletter morphed into covering recent museum happenings.

The museum very recently received numerous programs and posters concerning the arts in Valdosta from the estate of the late Janet Robinson. A small number of these posters are shown in this newsletter along with information from newspaper clippings in our files that were compiled by the late Susie McKey Thomas and Albert Pendleton. The following are random notes from the museum clipping files and not a detailed study. Clippings are from the *Valdosta Daily Times*

December 12, 1936 - The Valdosta Little Theater Guild will present a one act play "Modesty" by by Paul Hervien, at the Carnegie Library auditorium on Monday evening at 8:15. The cast will include Walter Howell, Wibby McKey and Miss Nell Zipperer. The play will be under the direction of Miss Broun Hutchinson. A talk on "Current Plays in New York" will be made by Mr. William Parmenter.

January 28, 1952– Members of the Little Theater of Valdosta met at the house of Mrs. Dorothy Carter [Perlman] to elect officers.

April 1, 1957- A meeting is being called for tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. for those persons interested in forming a little theater group in this community. The meeting will be held on the terrace of the Daniel Ashley Hotel.

December 17, 1958- The Valdosta Theater Guild's first production of the season will be presented at the Garden Center auditorium Thursday and Friday evenings December 18 and 19 at 8.

Note: The Little Theater lost everything they had collected in the Williams Street Valdosta High School fire November 19, 1977.

November 22, 1977- Valdosta Little Theater Needs Aid. *This article is in the museum archives*. They had paid royalties and *(con't. page 2)*

Notice a difference? The Newsletter is on white paper.

As the Society begins its 51st year, the Newsletter begins its 47th year, Volume XLVII. First produced by Albert Pendleton in November 1971, it was typed and on white paper. About 1989 the society began consistently using a cream or beige paper. The newsletter had few photos then due the individual expense of processing them. With technology advances, the newsletter now includes many more photos and images with most of these appearing clearer on white paper. For consistency a decision was made to complete our 50th year using beige, then trying white. We hope you see it as an improvement. YESTERDAY AND TODAY January, February, March 2018 Volume XLVII

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Above: This interesting surviving advertising poster was among the Janet Robinson items donated to the museum, it announcing a performance of the Lowndes Symphony Orchestra in 1978. We are currently unaware of any other concerts being performed as the Lowndes Symphony Orchestra. The current Valdosta Symphony Orchestra at Valdosta State was formed in 1990 and is now in its 28th Season.

Julie Morris Chotiner Museum Donations reflect a part of Dorothy Carter Pearlman Arts Legacy.

During 2017 the museum was contacted by Julie Morris Chotiner of Mills River, NC, concerning her costumes from Lowndes High School theater in the early 1970s. The museum was glad to accept these costumes especially with them representing the Dorothy Carter era of impact on student and community theater. The Chotnier costumes have provided the museum a very good and sufficient sampling of the era.

There are nine costumes from two musical plays, Oklahoma(3) and Showboat(6). They were sewn by her mother Helen Morris, Mrs. James C. Morris, and her grandmother Thelma Scott, Mrs. C. R. Scott. The two costumes in the photo at left are both from Showboat.



A Mystery Solved and a Surviving Surprise

At left: Fred DeLoach III, Atlanta, on the west side of the LCHS Museum with the metal sign noting the construction date of the1905 Valdosta High School. Early this year Fred Deloatch III, donated items to the museum. While here he mentioned bringing by a school sign years earlier. We asked "What school sign?" and he replied the one from the Central Avenue school with the date. Several years ago Fred III had brought the letters by during lunch hours. The person on duty made no acquisition and recorded no name. The story was it came out of a barn in middle Georgia. Ends up that since Fred III attended there when Valwood, his father when VJHS and his grandmother taught there the family acquired the sign during demolition. Below left: The VHS 1905 sign is the lighter section in the pediment above the columns. The Fall of 1913 began a memorable year at this school as the 11th grade was added and the first official team-football began. Below right: The demolished Ritz was Valdosta's grand theater. Phil Jones and Ken Kinard recently donated a surviving surprise Ritz-Now Playing lobby sign to the museum. Bottom *right*: The lobby sign with an Elvis movie poster. *Bottom left*: The Ritz playing a Bob Hope movie, and note Cowart's Dress Shop at right.









Yes, the Jingle Bells Christmas Tree is Still Up

Renovations to the Bird Hospital are presenting the museum with a squeeze for space. Even before the historical society purchased the building, First Baptist Church allowed us space to store Christmas decorations and other items. For much of this year that space will not be available. Since the tree ties to local history through the author of *Jingle Bells* it is standardly up through February.

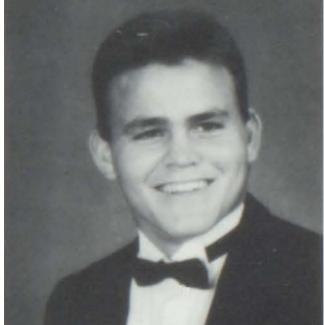
Alpha Kappa Alpha and Miss Ivey

At *left*, pictured in January with the tree, are members of the local Alumnae Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Carolyn Haigler, on the left, contacted the museum about bringing their "Miss Ivey" group to the museum. Miss Ivey youth mentoring activities include a community service project, an etiquette workshop, and tours such as the museum. They annually recognize a Miss Ivey, a Junior Miss Ivey and Little Miss Ivey with this enrichment program. Ivey is a symbol of the sonority.

Lowndes Youth Leadership League

The Lowndes Youth Leadership League (LYLL) annually consists of students from Lowndes High, Valdosta High, Valwood, Georgia Christian, Open Bible Christian and Valdosta Early College Academy. They visited the museum in March along with the Valdosta Police and Fire Departments. "The purpose of LYLL is to assist students in developing an internal sense of community awareness, knowledge of teen issues, the development of leadership skills and provide an opportunity for students to network with each other."

The group of thirty watched a video on the 50th Year of the Lowndes County Historical Society and Museum, some participated in historic scavenger lists, and they were treated to Coca-Cola and peanuts learning their Valdosta story. In the photo *at left* are Pate King, Chase Stokes, Ashton Moorman and Jack Wilson At *left below* are Shayla Jackson, Chunjin Park, Renee Hollingsworth and Ryan McGee. From our archives the museum staff gathered high school photographs of the parents or grandparents of five or six in the class projecting them on the screen after the video. As an example, *below* is Dr. Ashley Moorman, father of Ashton, from the 1988 VHS yearbook, his senior year.



2018 New & Renewal Memberships

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

* Asterisk denotes Life Member ** Double denotes New Life Member

Listing includes Memberships Received previous to March 30, 2018

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Dr. Owen and Joann Youles Gretchen McCoy Young Powder Springs, GA



Above left are four of 110 students of the STEM Academy at Valdosta Middle School who visited the museum. In STEM they advance their knowledge in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. *Above right:* Posing with Gypsy are students in Dr. Ted Geltner's literary journalism class at VSU. "Their task was to find a topic to use as the subject of a historical narrative, which is writing grounded in fact and rigorous reporting that employs the narrative techniques of fiction."

2018 Membership Application, Lowndes County Historical Society, P.O. Box 5	56, Valdosta, GA 31603
Name	Membership Category
Address	Individual \$25.
Phone	Family 30 Business 25/50.
Email	Contributing 100.
	Patron 250.

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William Hamilton 'Bill' Carswell

Reidsville, GA by Beulah Exum Hennly The Sons of the American Revolution Valdosta Chapter of the Georgia Society

Botie Quinn Chitty

by Charles E. Bryan Atlanta, GA

Sandra Jean Cofield Webb

bγ J. Edward Willis

Diane Blankenship Corker Mr. and Mrs. Joe Glenn Smith

Shirley Cooper Dame bv

Mary C. Culbreth

Fannie Pearl Wisenbaker Dasher

bv Ed and Rita Hightower Alfred E. Willis, Ph.D. J. Edward Willis

William G. Edwards by Rebecca Anne Odom

W. Pardee Goodloe, Jr. by Beulah Exum Hennly

Robert Grant Hastings by Mary C. Culbreth

Dr. Charles A. Hodges, Jr. by Mary D. Grav Beulah Exum Hennly

William Jennings 'Bill' Holland

Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Coleman Highlands, NC Mary C. Culbreth Mr. and Mrs. Joe Glenn Smith

David King Hollis, Jr. by

The Fred DeLoach, Jr., Family Mary D. Gray

Jefferson Wier 'Jeff' Hunt bv Mary C. Culbreth

Katherine Scott Landrum

Cumming, GA bv Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Coleman Highlands, NC

John Beechwood Lastinger 'Johnny B' bv Mary C. Culbreth

Alexander Bratton McFadden bv

Robert W. Hagan Roswell, GA Kay Powell Smyrna, GA

Glenn Thomas O'Neal, Sr. hv Beulah Exum Hennly

Dr. A. R. 'Buddy' Pitts, Jr. Mary D. Gray

Katherine Hallman 'Kathy' Smith bv

Mary C. Culbreth

Isaiah Hamilton 'Bubber' Tillman, Jr.

bv Donald O. Davis Patsy T. Giles Mary D. Gray **Beulah Exum Hennly** J. Edward Willis



Lowndes Is Big in Georgia Agriculture At left is Beth DeLoach Meeks with the first time proclamation by Lowndes County recognizing Agriculture Awareness Week. Beth works for the Georgia Grown program. She contacted the museum gathering many images of earlier Lowndes agriculture. At right ca.1960 are

Dr. Joe Crane and C.W. "Slim" Warner presenting a trophy to an unidentified livestock winner. Warner's son Wilbur Warner, Atlanta attorney, is a longtime LCHS member.



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, Redden Hart; Past President, Julie Smith; Anita Shelton

YESTERDAY & TODAY

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Newsletter of Lowndes County Historical Society

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Museum Staff Donald O. Davis Executive Director.

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Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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