



"Valdosta has Landed Her College"

"College Landed" meant Land Needed

Valdosta State was chartered in 1906 and opened for instruction on January 2, 1913. In recent newsletters we ran stories on efforts of local legislators in getting \$30 thousand allocated in 1911 by the State of Georgia for the "college at Valdosta" and of the City of Valdosta donating \$50 thousand for building at the college. We used the same headline in our newsletter that the Valdosta Times had used in 1911 one hundred years ago, "Valdosta Has Landed Her College." Yes, Valdosta had landed her college, but as yet then, the college had no land.

In addition to giving \$50 thousand for construction, the City of Valdosta, as a separate transaction, also provided the land on which the college was built. The land given was the West site which belonged to Col. W.S. West and his brother from Jacksonville, Florida had an interest. When I was at VSC in the early 1970s it might casually be mentioned that Col. West gave the land for the college. The facts had eroded over the decades. Before we more recently found articles, etc., that state that the City of Valdosta provided the land, I had asked Sis West May about this and she said that she never heard it told growing up that her grandfather gave that land. Two following articles tell of Valdosta leaders taking the necessary steps for the City of Valdosta to donate the land.

In searching for these articles about the land donation other information showed that Georgia was stridently attempting advancements in secondary and higher education during this period. Various aspects of this fascinating time in education are mentioned in this newsletter.

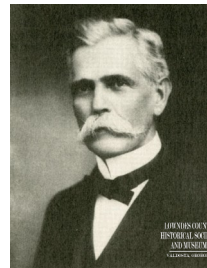
College Plan Went Through With a Rush

Enthusiastic Meeting Was Held Last Night

Monied men of Valdosta to back up the college
and make its quick establishment a certainty
Valdosta Daily Times, January 12, 1912

"The meeting at the city hall last night which was called to take steps in regard to the Normal College in the city was attended by a representative crowd of business men and resulted in laying plans which the deeds to the property will be turned over to the trustees at their meeting next Monday.

Dr. George L. Bitzer was made chairman of the meeting and C.C. Brantley was its secretary. Col. West explained the object of the meeting and spoke of the value of



At left:
W. S. West



At right:
W. L. Converse

the college to the town. At the conclusion of his address, which was received with considerable enthusiasm, he called upon Mr. C.R. Ashley for some suggestions. Mr. Ashley responded with a statement in regard to the land which had been selected. He said that this land would have to be provided either by private subscription or money by private subscription. He also said that the college was going to be of such value to everybody in Valdosta that everybody ought to have a hand in paying for the site for it. He therefore thought that the site ought to be provided by taxation.

He further stated that he thought the best way to handle the matter would be for the citizens of Valdosta to sign a note to Col. West for the amount of money to pay for the land, this note to be payable the first of next January. He also promised to introduce a local bill the next legislature to increase the tax rate in Valdosta to cover the amount of this note, thus paying the amount of the note without signers of this note having to pay it. His idea in having the note so generally signed was to show that the representative people of Valdosta are behind it and to show the Mayor and councilmen that public sentiment is with them in levying the tax. He called upon his colleague, Mr. W.L. Converse, to say that he would support the measure in the legislature.

Mr. Converse replied that he would not promise to support the measure if it was going to involve any delay. This brought on a number of short talks and suggestions. Mr. McCrackin, Maj. Varnedoe, Judge S.M. Varnedoe and others made short talks, and Mr. Converse finally agreed to pledge himself to raise the amount by taxation, but he insisted all of the time that the note should be fixed so that Col. West could pass over the deeds to the property by the fifteenth, or when the trustees met next Monday.

Mr. Ashley, speaking for himself and Mr. D.C. Ashley, stated that the note would be arranged at once and that they would guarantee \$10,000 of the amount to be paid at once, so as to satisfy Mr. E.E. West, of Jacksonville, who owns part of the land and who, it was said, might want his money right away. Col. West had stated that he could wait for his part of the money, but that he could not speak for his brother.

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Nearly all of those present agreed to go on the note and it was also decided that other citizens would be asked to sign it today. Among those who pledged themselves to sign the note to Col. West and his brother were the following: D.C. Ashley, C.R. Ashley, W.L. Converse, Frank Roberts, B.S. Richardson, E.P. Barber, J.M. Smith, J.A. Dasher, C.S. Bondurant, W.D. Peeples, J.L. Giddens, O.K. Jones, M.J. Chauncey, B.H. Roberts, Robert Black, J.H. O'Quinn, B. Conoly, T.M. Talbot, J.C. Wilson, N. Holcomb, C.C. Varnedoe, J.G. Mackey.

Mr. W.B. Conoly stated that he was authorized by G.W. Varn and W.S. McRee to have their names put upon the note.

Mr. Frank Roberts moved that a committee be appointed consisting of C.R. Ashley, D.C. Ashley and W.L. Converse to prepare the note and to get the signatures to it. Mr. D.C. Ashley is to fix a negotiable paper and nearly all of the businessmen and property owners of Valdosta are to go on it, it being stipulated that every signer's liability is for not more than \$400. It is probable that a hundred signatures will be added to the note.

This ended the business for which the meeting was called and the crowd adjourned."

Note: We have copies at the museum of some of the other articles in relation to this subject: January 4, 1912, "Valdosta May Lose College Located Here; City must have deed to site ready for the trustees when they meet here Monday week"; January 16, 1912, Trustees to Meet Again in Atlanta, Plans for College Building to be submitted, Work Upon the New College is Expected to be Underway Before the First of March, Next; and February 19, 1912, Trustees Adopt a Design for the New College, W. A. Edwards, Architect Will Draw Plans, At a Meeting of the Board of Trustees Today the General Arrangement of the Building was Agreed On.

Deed for Site Passed Over This Evening

Trustees of Valdosta Normal College Met Here

The money for Mr. Eugene West's portion of the land was put up by the Citizen's Bank today.

Valdosta Daily Times, January 15, 1912

"The deeds for the site for the new Normal College for Valdosta were turned over to the trustees this afternoon and now nothing is to be done but let the contract for the school building and begin construction.

Mr. W.L. Converse, one of the local trustees and member of the committee which was appointed last Thursday night to get up the money to pay for the site, secured the money from the Citizens bank today to pay Mr. Eugene West [of Jacksonville] for his part of the land. The amount was \$13,160 and Mr. Converse put up fifty shares of Citizen Bank stock as collateral.

The note which the citizens aligned the other day to cover the cost of the land will be turned over to Col. West as a collateral for his part of the land.

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President Powell's Report

Note: The following is Richard H. Powell's report on the college for the "Forty-Third Annual Report of the Department of Education to the Georgia Legislature for the Year Ending December 31, 1914." The report was published June 1, 1915.

"The report of a school so new as the South Georgia State Normal College, should it would seem, be devoted largely to a description of what the school is. Certain, general information is appropriate.

The college was established by a special Act of the Legislature in the summer of 1906, but no appropriation was made for buildings or maintenance until the summer of 1911. At that time the State appropriated \$30,000 for a building and equipment. The city of Valdosta gave a campus of sixty acres of land (which, with the sewerage and water systems provided at a cost of about \$25,000 to the city, is worth about \$75,000). The city also gave \$50,000 payable in installments of \$5,000 a year for ten years. Later the city made \$25,000 of this cash bounty available at once; and the first building was erected and furnished.

What kind of building to erect was a problem. There was not enough money for an administration building and a dormitory too. Owing to the high cost of board in Valdosta, a school without a dormitory was out of the question. It was deemed wisest, therefore, to construct a building which should be eventually entirely a dormitory, but part of which might for the being serve for administration purposes. This plan gave dormitory accommodations—at normal capacity—for fifty students. The recitation rooms (formed by leaving out the partitions between pairs of bed rooms), are just large enough to accommodate the classes that may now be admitted.

It is urgently needed that an administration building be erected with larger class rooms, and that the present building be converted entirely into a dormitory. Thus the college could more than double its capacity.

The most serious difficulty against which the college is now striving is the general belief that the capacity of the dormitory is very limited (as it is), and that it is about full (which it is).

The conditions of the establishment of the college indicate its nature and function. As the bill was originally prepared, it provided for an institution of higher learning with normal and industrial courses. Later the bill was amended specifically to admit the teaching of agriculture (this subject just then coming into prominence), and so to make the charter complete. As the bill passed, the institution was given liberty to develop in any way that seems best to the Board of Trustees.

At the first meeting of the Board after the school was financed, it was decided that the best interests of the State could be served by restricting the institution, for the present, at least, to the higher education of young women. The college is therefore an institution of

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Col. West passed over the deeds to the property and it was turned over to the Board of Trustees at the meeting here this afternoon. The trustees came in this morning and there was a quorum present, though the full board was not present.

The meeting was held too late this afternoon to give any of the details of what was done. State School Commissioner Brittain was present, but President Barrow did not arrive from Athens.

Among those out of town who signed the note to cover the college site was Mr. W.S. McRee who came in today and voluntarily signed it.

Those present at the meeting today were State School Commissioner [Superintendent] Brittain, Judge A.C. Ward, of Douglas, Mr. H.J. McIntyre, of Thomasville, Dr. S.C. Woodward, of Adel, and Messrs. W.S. West, W.T. Converse and C.R. Ashley, of this city.

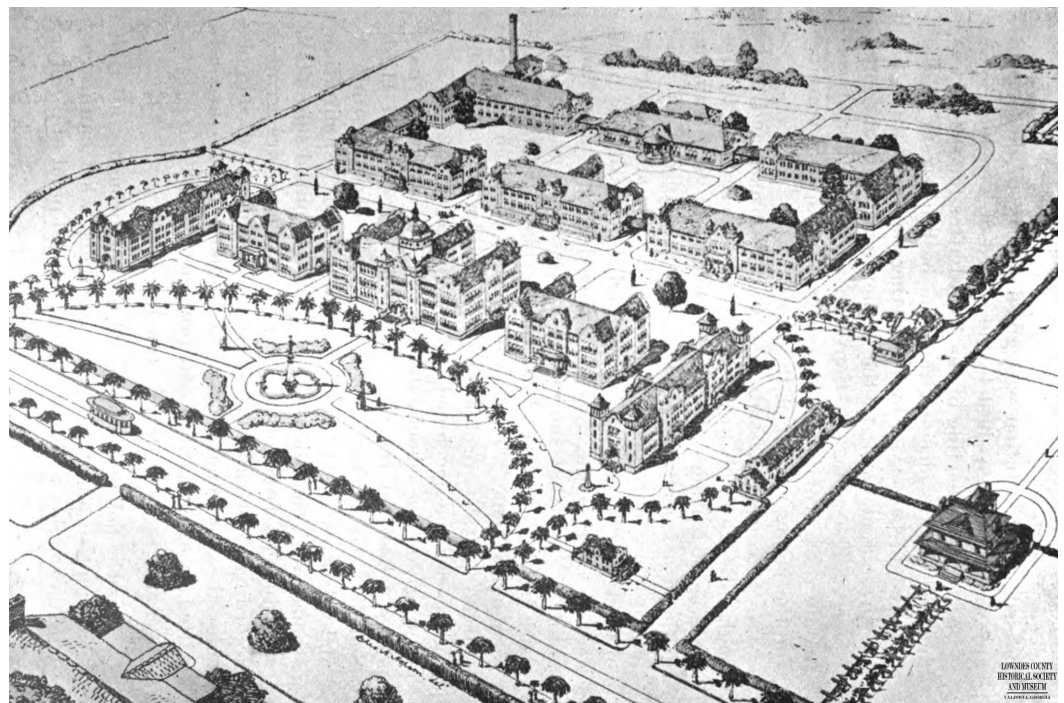
There were also present several architects and President Powell, who was elected at the last meeting of the board. Among the matters to be taken up was the constitution and by-laws covering the board of trustees and some considerations of the buildings which are to be erected.

State School Commissioner Brittain stated to the Times reporter today that his idea was to build for the future and that he thought the main central buildings ought to be built first and so arranged that wings could be extended from it on each side. He thinks that the most modern ideas ought to govern the work and that the trustees ought to look far into the future in their plans. He thinks that the next legislature ought to make an appropriation for dormitories and for an extension of the school.

He stated this morning that he thought there were wonderful possibilities for the school and it would soon be recognized as one of Georgia's greatest educational institutions."

At right: The early architectural over view plan for the college campus. Variations of these plans, with different cropping, are in the 1926 and 1933 Yearbooks.

This view, and a photograph of Converse Hall, the first building, are included in the 1912 and 1913 reports submitted to the Department of Education, in turn, for their report to the legislature. This drawing includes the trolley. The 1926 and 1933 versions do not show the trolley. The trolley system ceased operations in 1925.



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collegiate rank providing both general and special training for the young women of the State.

As to the course of study, the work is broad and thorough. Besides the professional work necessary to the training of teachers, there is thorough and vital training in the usual academic studies and the subjects pertaining to home activities and arts. There is a large range of election allowed to students; and it is possible to plan courses to meet the needs of many different tastes and abilities. All that the college insists upon is that the work be elected along some definite plan, and that it be thoroughly done. Those who expect to teach are required to take professional normal work. Specific courses will be developed as the need arises.

Summer Term

The most earnest efforts of the college have been directed toward meeting the actual needs of its territory. It is practically impossible to reach teachers during their regular school sessions. For this reason the college offers a one month's summer session in which the actual teachers of the actual schools are assisted with the actual problems that they have, and are instructed in the use of the actual text books that they use. In this summer session the State Department of Education has most cordially co-operated, one or more of its representatives being present all the time. For the summer term men are admitted to the classes and the dining hall; but they secure rooms outside.

Attendance

In spite of the fact that after the European War began in August, the college had as many withdrawals as it received applications, it has an enrollment of 76 college students, representing 19 counties. The summer school has an enrollment of 85 students, representing 19 communities. The total enrollment is 161 students, from 31 counties."

R.H. Powell, President

Education Notes of the Period

The following education notes are taken from the R. P. Brooks *History of Georgia*, published in 1913, and the "Annual Reports of the Department of Education to the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, 1912, 1913, 1914" and reports of Joseph S. Stewart, professor of secondary education in Athens.

Appropriations were for the University of Georgia and elementary schools

"The Constitution of 1877 provided that thereafter no appropriations for education other than that for elementary schools should be made except to the University of Georgia. The idea was to build up a great university system of state supported higher institutions. The subsequently established

**School of Technology, at Atlanta,
the Girls' Normal and Industrial School, at Milledgeville,
the State Normal School, at Athens,
Georgia Industrial College for Colored Youths, at Savannah,
and the Normal School, at Valdosta,**
are thus in law members of the university system.

The North Georgia Agricultural College, at Dahlonega, and the Medical College, at Augusta, have also been adopted into the university family."

It was not legal to impose local taxation for high school purposes. Amendments of 1910 and 1912

"Constitutional amendments submitted to the people and adopted in 1910 and 1912 remedied defects in our fundamental law on the subject of education. The 1910 amendment repealed the constitutional provision that prevented counties from levying local taxation for any but elementary schools, so that it is now legal for counties and school districts to impose local taxation for high school purposes. The 1912 amendment made the high school a part of the public school system of the state. This change, however, was rendered less effective by the action of the legislature in refusing to submit to the people a proposed amendment to authorize the use of state taxes for the support of high schools."

"**1904 Amendment** allowed local taxation to supplement the state appropriation to schools (then for elementary only.) The reports of 1913 show that of the 146 counties, only 39 have adopted the county-wide local tax. In addition, 696 school districts within counties have voted the extra tax."

In at least two of the 1910s annual reports Hahira and Naylor, along with Valdosta, are listed with separate school superintendents apart from the Lowndes County BOE. Hahira superintendents listed were W. H. Hall and J. W. O'Dell, and those listed for Naylor, C. M. Hodges and G. M. Markey. Interestingly, in one report the Lowndes County School board does list among its members, W. W. Webb, Hahira, and J. G. Cranford, Valdosta.

Pride in decline of Illiteracy

"The effect of this educational activity can be pointed to with pride. In 1870 27.4 per cent of our white people and 92.1 per cent of our colored population were classified as illiterates. In 1910 the white illiteracy had fallen to 7.8 per cent and the colored to 36.5 per cent. Of those between 10 and 18 years of age the percentage of illiteracy among the whites in 1913 was 3.6; among the colored 15.7 (*continued at right*)

When we recall the fact that only forty years ago there were no public schools and that the state did practically nothing for education, this progress seems little short of miraculous."

Congressional district high schools

One wonders, with so few state institutions of higher learning listed in 1913 (see those listed in column at left), when did all the public colleges we are so familiar with in Georgia appear? Many came later, but were from the earlier forming of an Agricultural and Mechanical high school for each congressional district. Students would enter usually after completing the sixth or seventh grade in their own community. These were established by the 1906 legislature, the same legislature that chartered the state college at Valdosta. The congressional high schools were funded at that time by mandate, while no appropriation was made for the college for south Georgia.

The 1906 district high schools served good purpose as some counties had no high school, or fully operating high school, and very few had an accredited high school.

Concerning a college in south Georgia, in an early education report to the legislature President Richard Powell wrote, "there is no other state institution of higher education in the three-fifths of the state lying south of its center line." When "VSU" was chartered in 1906 it could have been coed. At the time it opened, the nearest state institutions for higher learning for white males (segregation was the law) were in Athens and Atlanta and the nearest for white females was in Milledgeville.

There were eleven congressional districts when the Agricultural and Mechanical high schools began. The schools started opening soon after the legislation. Around 1930 some of the district schools were closed and some became senior or junior colleges or a high school. Those that continued are mentioned here.

The 1st Congressional District Agricultural High School, Statesboro. It became Georgia Teacher's College then renamed Georgia Southern.

The 2nd District Agricultural High School, Tifton. It became Abraham Baldwin College.

The 3rd District Agricultural High School, Americus. It became 2 year then four year Georgia Southwestern College.

The 4th District Agricultural High School, Carrollton. It became 2 year then four year West Georgia College.

The 7th District Agricultural High School, Powder Springs. It became John McEachern High School.

The 11th District Agricultural High School, Douglas. It became 2 year South Georgia College.

Georgia gained a Congressional seat in the next census and another District Agricultural High School was added in Cochran. It became 2 year Middle Georgia College and then 4 year Middle Georgia State College.

These schools are another part of Georgia's interesting advances in education occurring simultaneously to the formation years of Valdosta State University 1906-1913.

Valdosta High adds 11th Grade in Fall 1913

Editor's Note: The majority of the article below is a letter written by a Joseph S. Stewart to the *Valdosta Times*. Curiosity as to the identity of Joseph S. Stewart led to much of the information in this newsletter being uncovered. Stewart was listed as the Professor of Secondary Education at the University of Georgia. It appears at that time, maybe the only professor of secondary education.

A few internet searches brought interest, fascination and appreciation of his tremendous efforts in improving and advancing the foundations of education in Georgia.

In the letter he somewhat puts Valdosta on the spot by telling of other towns already in the process of adding the 11th grade.

Higher Grade Suggested for High School

Valdosta Times, February 17, 1912

Hon. Joseph S. Stewart, of Athens, was in Valdosta last Saturday and while here he wrote the editor of The *Times* a note from which we take the liberty of publishing the following extract:

"One cannot visit your city without noticing many evidences of growth. Your city is to be congratulated upon the splendid spirit shown in raising \$50,000 to make possible the South Georgia State Normal School. This gift puts Valdosta permanently on the Educational map of the country. This city becomes a center for the training of teachers for this rapidly growing section. Valdosta was also among the first of the South Georgia cities to provide good high school facilities. The city has as good a three year high [8th,9th and 10th] school as can be found in this section.

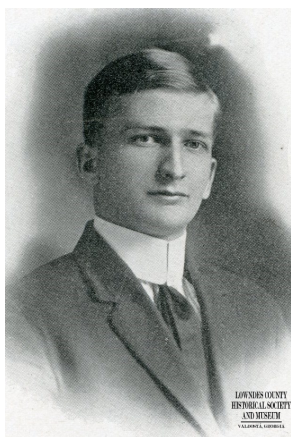
"The times demand now a higher school or one giving four years of high school training. This has become necessary owing to the raising of the students of our college to rank with the best in the nation and to the demand for more training at home for those who cannot go away to school. Practically all the towns and cities of the State have recognized this condition and have increased the high school grades to four.

Bainbridge, Thomasville, Boston, Quitman,
Moultrie, Albany, Americus, Cordele,
Ashburn, Fitzgerald, Macon, Columbus,
Dublin, Waycross, Brunswick, and Baxley

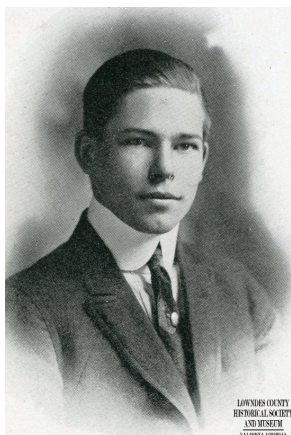
are among the cities of South Georgia that will have four year high schools next year. Three fourths of the high schools in the United States are four year schools.

"The additional year can be added at little extra expense and it will save many times the cost in increased training of the children of the city.

"I entrust that your board of education will consider this matter and instruct the superintendent to readjust the present course of study for next year, making it a little less strenuous, allowing more elections [electives] and carrying four years."



Saunders and Stevens



Above: An early postcard of the later demolished 1905 Valdosta High School. The school was located on W. Central Avenue in the west end of the current First Baptist Church contiguous block. It would become a junior high, then elementary school, then the first location of the Valwood School. Adding the 11th grade in Fall 1913 began to increase the enrollment and the need for the 1922 VHS on Williams Street, whose construction planning was delayed due to WWI. **At left:** Albert Saunders, above, and John Law Stevens, were two of about five 1913 graduating 10th graders, that remained to become the first 11th grade graduates. In doing so, both were able became members of the first official football team in 1913. Saunders became a medical doctor and Stevens was in banking at C & S.

Recognizing 100 years of football

THE BAZEMORE ERA: FOR 30 YEARS, NEARLY EVERY PLAYER WAS STATE CHAMP

Editor's note: The following article was written by Robert Bohler, a 1969 VHS graduate who is currently student publications director at Texas Christian University, TCU, in Fort Worth, TX.. When Robert was in Valdosta this summer to visit relatives he came by the museum and verbally shared this story. Robert, being in journalism, understood the request that he write the story or the information would not be retained. Robert was on a state championship team as a sophomore and told that he was in the era of the Pineywoods Rooters as a football nickname.

The article tells of the broad scope of years in which players and all four-year-students experienced a championship, continuous from freshmen entering VHS in 1944, that had a state championship as seniors in 1947, to 1975 seniors that had a state championship as freshmen in 1971.

We appreciate that Robert noticed, researched and shared this information with us.

By Robert Bohler

"Imagine a community where each and every high school football player over more than 30 years earned a state championship and where all the students could claim their school had been state champs.

That's only slightly exaggerated, and it was possible if you played football for Valdosta High late 1940s, '50s, '60s and early '70s or were classmates in that era. And for most VHS students and most VHS players, it was very much the reality.

Sports fans everywhere know about the dominance of Wildcats football over most of the past 100 years. And they know of the great Valdosta High coaches like Bobby Hooks, Wright Bazemore and Nick Hyder, who among them won 23 state championships, most of them at the state's highest level of play. And they know of the six national titles. And they know VHS has won more games – 869 going into the 2012 season – than any program in the country.

And staunch Wildcats fans—count yourself among the most diehard of diehards if you know the distinctions among the 'Cats, Headhunters, 'Skinners, and Pineywoods Rooters – may know that Bazemore won or shared 14 state titles in 28 years of coaching, including titles in 1947, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1969 and 1971. That skein included two sets of three-year streaks and three other back-to-back title seasons. In fact, for the Bazemore era, it's almost easier keep track of the seasons the Wildcats didn't win state titles instead of when they did.

The numbers pile up: over a 25-year period, from Bazemore's first title team in 1947 to 1971, his final season that was capped off with a national championship, Valdosta High only once went more than two seasons without capturing



Above: Youthful Robert Bohler in the soda fountain area of Barnes Drug Store after school in the late 1960s.

another title. Bazemore's 1947 team kicked off the string with the Class B championship in the old Georgia Interscholastic Athletic Association, and the Wildcats picked it up with consecutive Class A titles with its successor, the Georgia High School Association, starting with Class A consecutive titles in 1951, 1952, and 1953. They were followed by championships in Class AA ('56-'57) and Class AAA ('60-'62, '65-'66, '68-'69, and '71), when AAA was the top classification. And Bazemore's players won during the era of segregation (the titles from 1947 through 1965) and integration (in '66, '68, '69 and '71).

There was never an era before or after—in any sport in Georgia, at least—where one team so dominated its competition, and all those titles have been well documented.

But a further crunching of numbers reveals the greatest measure of VHS's football success and the role it played in defining the community. Over a 31-year-period period that began with interim head coach Buck Thomas' second season in the fall of 1944 and concluded with Hyder's first season in 1974, every Valdosta Wildcat who played every high school season at VHS was a member of at least one Bazemore-led state title team.

The string begins with the eighth-graders under Thomas (himself 18-4 in his final two years) who played as seniors on the '47 title team and concludes with seniors on the Hyder team who had played as ninth-graders on the 1971 national championship team. It's a reign of success that spanned the end of World War II, the Eisenhower years, the *continued on page 7*

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Vietnam War and the civil rights era of the 1960s, and the beginning of Gerald Ford's post-Watergate presidency. Bazemore, once he returned from the war, only once went more than two seasons without a state title. As a result, most of the VHS graduating classes over a 20-year period from 1953 to 1972 could claim bragging rights to at least two state championships over the course of their high

school years.

It's a remarkable success story: the heritage developed over three-plus decades helped define the community's sense of identity, and the growing news coverage that followed played a pivotal role in placing a national face on the town of Valdosta."



Above: In the spring of 1964 Coach Wright Bazemore is shown giving the "Will-Bes" team a halftime pep talk. The players listening from the dressing room floor include, left to right, Bobby Moore, Bill Henry, Larry Colson, Glenn Davis, Robert Goff, Jimmy Neal, Mike Garwood, Billy Grondahl, Mike DeLoach and Sandy Ellison.

Georgia All-time Wins Through 2011 and Shutouts

Often the rankings spoken of are national, but since Robert Bohler's article is on state championships this graph is on state win records. The information is gathered mainly from the Georgia High School Football Historians website and team websites including the tvillebulldogs.com by Mark Yandle. There is some difficulty in tracking records of teams that changed names when integration mergers occurred. As an example, the records of Athens/Clarke Central, and others, may need adjustment.

Team	Wins	Loses	Ties	Georgia Shutouts	
1. Valdosta High Wildcats	869	205	34	1. Valdosta High	384
2. Lincolnton/ Lincoln Co. Red Devils	696	246	23	2. Lincolnton/ Lincoln	318
3. Gainesville High Red Elephants	693	302	25	3. Thomasville High	317
4. Athens/ Clarke Central Gladiators	687	289	22	4. Washington/Wilkes	274
5. LaGrange High Grangers	676	305	31	5. LaGrange High	253
6. Thomasville High Bulldogs	675	311	46	6. Thomson High	247
7. Marist High War Eagles	634	318	38	7. Dalton High	243
17. Moultrie/ Colquitt Co. Packers	586	362	32	7. Gainesville High	243
22. Tifton/ Tift Co. Blue Devils	533	399	29	11. Moultrie/ Colquitt	226
				14. Tifton/Tift	213

Everybody Didn't Play Football

Editor's note: The following article is taken from the Valdosta High School Library Scrapbook Collection at the museum. It is on a page with other articles dated in July 1971. Julian Miller graduated from VHS in 1968. He worked for the *Valdosta Daily Times* until 1976 and had become Sports Editor. He then became managing editor of the *Times-Enterprise* in Thomasville. In 1979 he joined the *Augusta Chronicle* and was general manager and president before becoming publisher of the *Savannah Morning News*. He retired from the newspaper business in 2008 and has since become public information administrator for the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan police department.

When I contacted Julian he shared several stories relating to his *Valdosta Times* columns, including his being hung in effigy at his own alma mater for sports picking VHS to lose a game that they won.

Near the end of this column please note Julian telling of planting grass on Cleveland Field. With so much use - football, band, P.E. - much of the field was usually grassless by spring. We P.E. boys would annually "get to" sprig the field with grass using axes and hatchets to make the holes.

So, perhaps it might be noted, that besides being Athletic Director, teaching P. E. and coaching football, Wright Bazemore instructed the only agriculture class at Valdosta High.

High School P.E. Memories Strong

By Julian Miller, Valdosta Times, July 1971

"Summertime... when the weather's hot, the days are long and all you old high school friends are home for vacations and discussions about the old days.

Those good old days of Physical Ed during our senior year at Valdosta High School when we thought Wright Bazemore put us through a lot more work than the varsity football team.

Take for example the time he lined everyone up on the east end of the football field and told us we would run in under 13 seconds or we'd run all day.

Now back then I wasn't much quicker than I am now, and although I was the second one to run, I was positive that 13.1 was as close as I would get.

"Run it again," came the orders.

"Aw coach,"

"Run it again!"

There's no sense arguing with the man. If he wants me to run it and make a fool out of myself I would run it. But then the luckiest thing that ever happened to me occurred. I took one step and came down on a piece of glass.

"Look," I cried happily, showing him the trickle of blood knowing I wouldn't have to run again.

"Go on... run it again," came the orders. But I was saved... because it was about that time that Mrs. Bazemore walked up, told me not to run and half carried me to his office where she put four Band-aids on the tiny cut.

I remember the next day. That cut hadn't even

entered my mind until I went out to P.E. and noticed him walking up with two pair of boxing gloves.

Sprinkler Roulette

That's where I started my acting career. You would have sworn that foot was killing me. While everyone else was boxing his brains out I watched.

And then there was the time, toward the end of the year, when we were given the chore of moving the gigantic water sprinklers on the field.

Someone had to get down on hands and knees, bending over the pipe to turn the water off and usually it was me. But this time something happened, as I turned it back on, the joint gave way and I was caught in a flood that made Hurricane Carla look like a summer shower in the Everglades.

Everybody laughed. But how many of them ate meat pinwheels in the school lunchroom that day while I went home for a steak and dry clothes?

Of course there were more times when I didn't get away from everything. Like when we played what has got to be Bazemore's favorite game next to football... crab soccer.

On the Gym Floor

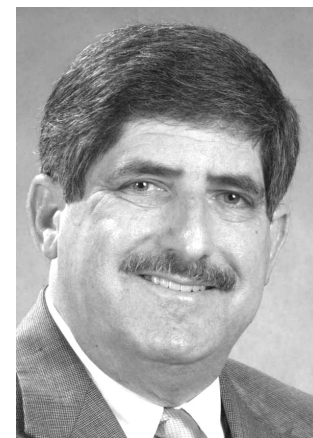
If you've never seen it before, imagine two teams of boys, sitting on their rear ends and moving along on their hands and feet without getting up... all while trying to kick a soccer ball across the gym floor.

The terrifying thing about crab soccer was that the losing team was rewarded with grass drills. To those of you who've never seen them, imagine someone like Bazemore yelling, "front," "back," "feet," "front," "feet," "back," and all the while, you have to turn in that position either standing, or lying on your back or front. And every now and then he'd say something to the tune of "Let's do some pushups, one two three... 48,49, you're not together, start over."

And that brings to mind the times we were called upon to plant grass on Cleveland Field. Someone made a trip to Brookwood Plaza first and two weeks later we had corn stalks growing about three to six inches higher than the grass and no one knew who did it.

The miraculous thing about that is, Baze caught every one of them. And everyone else wants to know why his teams win football games."

At right:
Julian Miller,
currently of
Savannah, Ga.
Photograph
from
2004



Memorials



Charles and Jane Sims Adams

by
Beulah E. Hennly

Harold Martin Bennett

by
Estate of James & Betty Beck
Jan L. and Bobby Snow Boal
Atlanta, GA
Mr. & Mrs. Tim H. Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. Wade H. Coleman
Mr. & Mrs. George Cross
Martha N. Gibson
Beulah E. Hennly
Charles & Bebe Joyner
Clarkston, GA
Dr. & Mrs. William W. Oliver, Jr.
Macon, GA
Margot Pearlman
Jeanne Davis Rountree

Emmett Lamar Cook

by
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Mary Harris Crosby

by
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Richard Harding "Dick" Davis

by
Donald O. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Vera Wilson Drynan

Portland, OR
by
Virginia C. Drumheller
Adair Nunnally Pizer

John L. Eldridge

by
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Jack Gayle, Jr.

by
Jerry N. Byrd
Mr. and Mrs. George Cross
Robert T. and Bette Jean Daugharty
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Marie Durrance Godbee

by
Patsy T. Giles

Barbara Darby Hornbuckle

by
Donald O. Davis

M. D. "Buddy" Meeks

by
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Charles Michael "Mike" Modlin

by
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Anne Hubbard Moseley

by
Donald O. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Barry Phillips

Atlanta, GA
by
Charles and Marjorie Noell West
Washington, DC

Ginny Carroll Smith

Sumner Kehoe

by
Patsy T. Giles
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Floyce Vickers Tillman

by
Donald O. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

John Robert Wiggins, Jr.

by
Jan L. and Bobby Snow Boal
Atlanta, GA

Twin Sisters

Eliza Peebles MacLemore

Griffin, GA
and

Louie Peebles White

by
Jan L. and Bobby Snow Boal
Atlanta, GA



2012 Memberships

(Con't from previous newsletters)
Residence listed if
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Ft. Worth, TX

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Jean Davis Rountree

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Valdosta, GA 31603

2012 Membership Application
Lowndes County Historical Society

Membership Category

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

Name _____

Address _____

Email/phone _____

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 9 10:30 AM.....Program with Learning in Retirement: Emily Foster and Donald Davis on Valdosta's growth in recognition of Community Planning Month

October 13 11:00 AM.....Repeat of above program

October 15 10:30 AM.....Program with Learning in Retirement by Amy Brown, spinning fiber to make thread

November 22-24.....Museum closed for Thanksgiving

December 1.....Holiday Open House

December 8.....Lake Park Area Historical Society Tour of Homes

Special Exhibits: Civil War sesquicentennial by Jeremy Petrella
100 Years of the Chamber of Commerce
Professional Baseball of Valdosta, Lynn Thomas collection

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;

Executive Committee: Mary McRee, Anita Shelton, and Susie Thomas

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
<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
Lowndes County Historical Society

Newsletter Editor

Donald O. Davis

Assistants

J. Adam Doughty

Andrew W. Johnson

Museum Staff

Donald O. Davis

Director.

Amy Brown
Textiles and Research.

J. Adam Doughty
Andrew W. Johnson

YESTERDAY & TODAY

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