



Cheering for Community: We cheer as we will begin to Build our Nation and Community Again



In researching for this newsletter the *above* photograph caught our attention as a symbol of community spirit. Taken from the 1952 VHS yearbook, it should become an iconic image for Patterson Street. Modern techniques should allow for enhancement of the cheerleader images or they could be sketched or painted.

“Better Days are Ahead Valdosta,” Coleman Talley Law

The storyline: The bandaged football player represents Lipsey of Tifton The VDT sports headline after the 1950 season game read “*Lipsey 33—Valdosta 13.*” In this 1951 season VHS won the Class A State Championship. There were losses to Albany and Moultrie but they were Class AA teams. At this time in Lowndes County only VHS and the historically black high schools had football teams. See page six for cheerleader information.

Museum honored to receive Air Force Uniforms: Major General Lee V. Greer



**To the present,
Major General Lee V. Greer
has attained the highest active duty
military rank of any Valdosta native.**

In May of 2018 Major General Lee Greer, Retired, visited the museum with his brothers-in-law Judge Richard M. Cowart of Valdosta and David Hansen of Wetumpka, AL. *(photo below)*

While at the museum Greer quizzed concerning items the museum accepted and told of his military uniforms. Learning his record we told him that we would be most honored to receive his uniforms and also a biography of his career.

In September of 2019 Gen. Greer made a return visit to the museum bringing uniforms and military insignia for acquisition. *Photo left below.* Currently, this collection has been processed and can be viewed on the museum website in the Korea-Vietnam area of military textiles. The Acquisition Number is 2019-90.

The photo of Major General Greer, *immediate left*, in military uniform, is taken from the U.S. Air Force Biography Display website. This site documents Greer's military career and we included the information on the museum website with the photos of his uniforms.

Excerpt from the USAF Biography Display

"The general is a command pilot with 5,000 flying hours. His military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with seven oak leaf clusters, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Combat Readiness Medal and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Silver Star."

The museum looks forward to featuring Gen. Greer's uniforms when we can begin preparing new and updated exhibits.



**Photo at left:**

Lee Varnedoe Greer as a 1953 senior at Valdosta High School. He is the youngest of the eight Lloyd Barton, Sr., and Julia Winn Varnedoe Greer, children (six grew to adulthood.)

At right: The future Gen. Greer and Rosemary Clark, voted Who's Who Cutest Couple by their 1953 VHS classmates. The couple will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary in 2020.

Lee and Rosemary Greer currently reside in Fair Oaks Ranch, TX and are Lowndes County Historical Society members. They have many relatives living in Valdosta and Lowndes County.

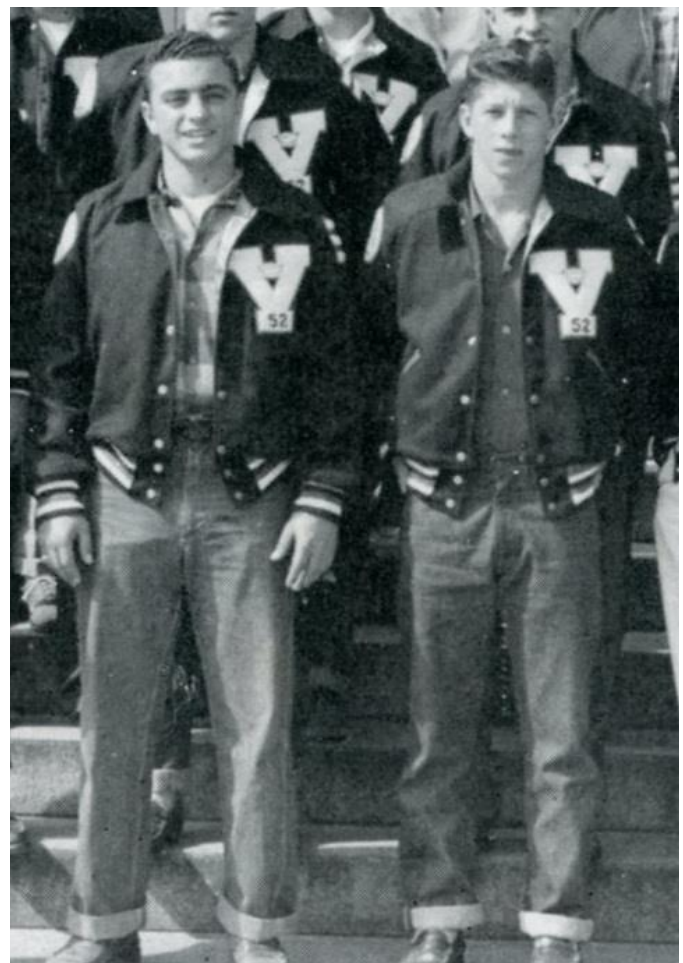
Lee Greer's early diverse activities reflect to the future showing him as certainly capable of leadership positions. His VHS activities ranged from band, state solos; to club leadership including Key Club to Hi-Y president; yearbook staff, to the baseball and football teams. He was his Sophomore class Vice-president and Junior Class President. He was also a member of the inaugural Student Council at VHS formed during the 1951-52 school year.

The football team won the state championship in both Greer's Junior, 1951, and Senior, 1952, football seasons, Wright Bazemore coach.

Another activity was being president of the V-Club his senior year, it promoting participation in sports, clean sportsmanship and encouraging high scholastic standards among athletes.

In the photo **at right** with Lee Greer is Noel George, V-Club Vice President. In 1959 Noel George joined the faculty (math) at Lowndes County High School (Golden Eagles) to eventually lead baseball for the Lowndes High Vikings. His devotion and success led to the naming of Noel George Field. Information on line gives a proper and interesting tribute to Noel George.

In continuing to flip pages of the yearbook we find that Patsy Carroll Smith, **below**, and Noel George, **at right**, were voted Who's Who Most Popular by their 1953 classmates



At left: Patsy Carroll Smith, a member of the Class of '53 was a well known and appreciated art teacher and community artist. The 1953 photos in this newsletter are from her yearbook which was donated to the museum. In her yearbook, the college her classmates attended is scripted on their photograph, thus "Ga. Tech" on the photo of Lee Greer.

2020 New & Renewal Memberships

(Received by April 15)

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**

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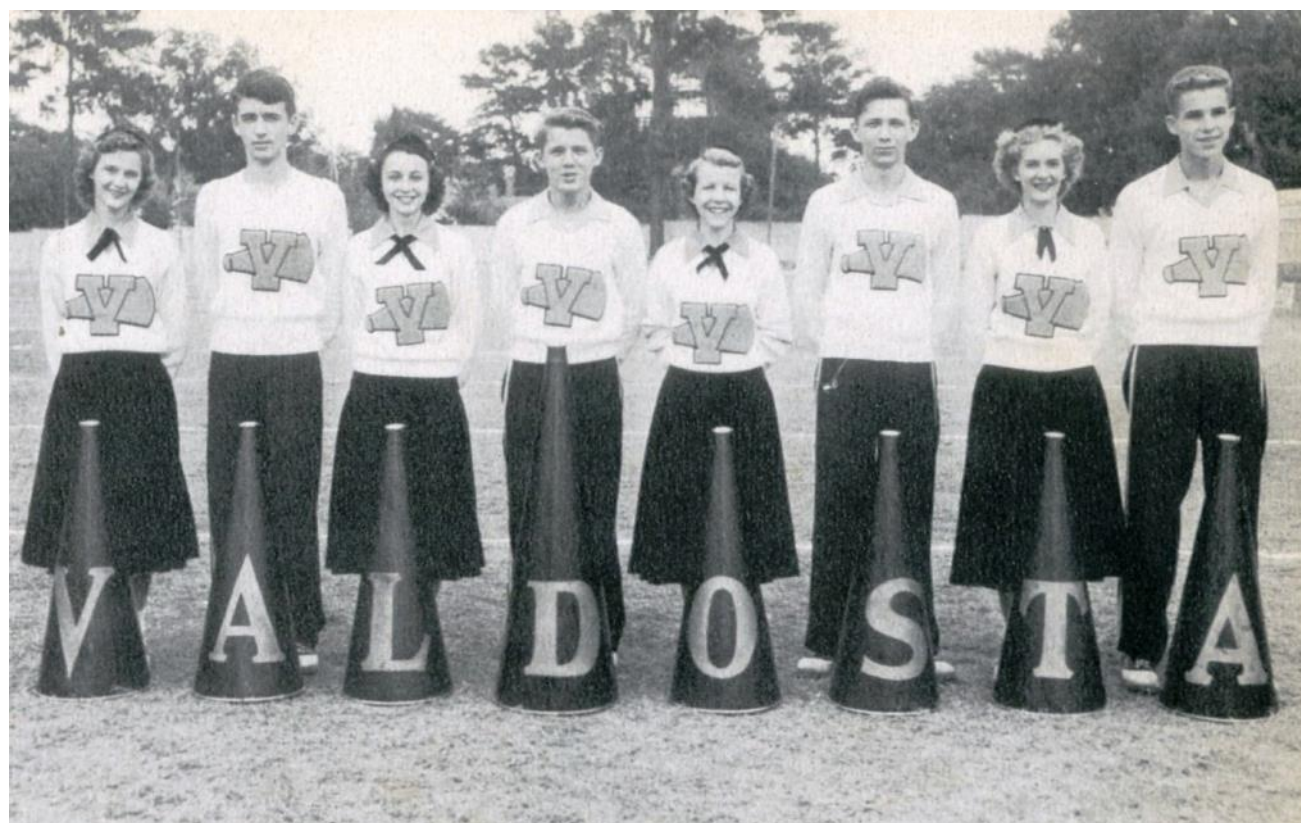
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The Patterson Street cheerleaders, 1952 yearbook: Claire Wiggins (Wilson) '52, Richard Newton '53, Sarah Martha Robinson (Daugharty) '53, Maurice Whiddon '53, Lulu Hamilton (Tatum) '53, Joe Puett '52, Maureen O'Steen Pruitt '52, and Jack Carter '53. Georgia added the 12th grade in 1952. The tenth graders behind the 11th grade graduates of 1951 had to complete the 11th and 12th grades, thus became 1953 graduates. This left the 1952 class small. Students that transferred in were placed on the 12 grades tract and were a good portion of this class. Claire Wiggins Wilson of Leawood, Kansas is a current LCHS member. Richard Newton, Atlanta attorney, has contacted us recently. Concerning the late Maurice Whiddon, MD. After VHS he joined the US Marine Corps, Korea veteran, graduated VSC 1961, then the Medical College of Georgia. Among his many hobbies, from 1978 until 1980 he and his son were the Georgia state champions, United States champions and World champions of the Father Son Two Man Team Skeet Competitions.

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The museum was recently made aware of the death of Tony Smith, a member of our benefactor family. He had last mailed information to the museum August 28, 2019.

In the photo at right Tony Smith is pictured with Ed Willis at the society's History 100 Dinner in 2002.

Tony's mother, Billie Ham Smith, directed interest towards the museum. Tributes will be accorded them in future newsletters and Annex activities.



2020 Membership Application, Lowndes County Historical Society, P.O. Box 56, Valdosta, GA 31603

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Membership Category

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

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**The museum remained Closed to the Public
at press time for this newsletter.**

**Our core staff of three continues flexible “distancing” work schedules.
We will follow the advisement of officials and our
Board of Trustees for reopening to the public.**

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
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