



Contributing to Community, Recognitions in this Issue

100 Years: Valdosta Rotary Club 75 Years: Valdosta-Lowndes Youth Center 30th Season: Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

Our area is fortunate to have a citizenry that makes this an achieving community. At the close of this year we take a moment to mention and appreciate these particular entities that are observing benchmark anniversaries in 2019.

“The Valdosta Rotary Club had its beginning late in 1918 and early 1919, when a group of local businessmen interested in the formation of a club in Valdosta corresponded with Rotary International and with Rotarians in Jacksonville. At first, the formation of a local club was discouraged because it was thought that Valdosta was too small. After several visits, and a recognition of enthusiasm of the Valdosta Group, the Jacksonville Club agreed to sponsor the Valdosta Club.”

“In the latter part of March, 1919, the formal institution of the club took place. On the day of the formal institution, the meeting was held at noon because the Jacksonville men had to come to Valdosta and return to Jacksonville on the train. The first meeting was at the Valdes Hotel and everyone paid for his meal individually. The formal charter was issued under the date of June 1, 1919.”

“The moving spirits in the venture to start Rotary in Valdosta were J.J. Newman and A.R. Jackson. Newman’s classification was Stationery, and Jackson’s was Hardware. The other charter members and their classifications were: D.W. Almand, Cotton Oil Manufacturing; Dr. Frank Bird, Physician; C.C. Brantley, Valdosta Daily Times Editor; Dr. D.H. Breedlove, Osteopath; J.B. Copeland, Lawyer; O.D. Dalton, Wholesale Groceries; J.R. Dasher, Naval Stores; A.L. Davis, Men’s and Boy’s Clothing; W.G. Eager, Consulting Engineer; Dr. A.G. Little, Surgeon; T.H. McKey, Lumber; J.T. Mathis, Musical Instruments; W.M. Oliver, Ladies’ Ready-to-Wear; W.D. Peeples, Insurance; Dr. E.P. Rose, Naval Stores; W.R. Strickland, Cotton Mill; Dr. Jim Smith, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist; H.Y. Tillman, Banker; and Dr. R.W. Wallace, First Christian Church.”

The Valdosta Rotary Club sponsored the formation of new clubs in our area, among them being the Live Oak, Florida Club and the Quitman Rotary Club in 1921, the Moultrie Rotary Club in 1922, and locally the North Valdosta Rotary Club, in 1974.

The club was an early supporter, and it now continues to support, the Georgia Rotary Student Program. The Valdosta Rotary Club sponsored the formation of the Val-



Above: Valdosta Rotary began civic projects immediately after forming. The photo is dated 1919 and is a Rotary sponsored outing and picnic to Twin Lakes for South Georgia State Normal College (VSU) students and the children in the Training School on campus. Early the college training school had a high school and granted diplomas. We have one such diploma in our archives.

dosta Boys Club and purchased its first site in Nov. 1945.

Rotary International works diligently on worldwide polio eradication. Southeast Rotary Districts continue a funding project for Alzheimer's research. The Valdosta Club recently received an anonymous \$150,000 donation for the club to present towards this purpose.

Children’s literacy via the Dolly Partin Imagination Library and law enforcement appreciation L.E.A.D. are active current projects. The club established a fund for law officer personal emergencies. Local money staying here and serving local officers.

From 2003, Members of Rotary – Older Crew Old Man’s Rotary is a former affectionate nickname

Tex Eldridge 98, Woody Dennis 90, Harold Bennett 88,
Bob Stump 88, Willis Miller 88, Howard Holt 87,
J. C. Woodward 87, Cecil Pitts 87, Jesse Parrott 85,
Dick May 85, & Tom Gandy 84 (the compiler of list)



LOWNDES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

Photo at left:

Valdosta Rotary members and others bid farewell to GRSP French foreign student after her year at Valdosta State College.

John Langdale
(Not identified)
Hartman Eager
Dr. Ralph Thaxton,
VSC President
J. C. Greene
Monique Pasqualini,
St. Etienne, France
Ray Shirley
Rudolph Howell
Margaret Langdale

The *photo above* was in our archives without explanation. We recognized only John and Margaret Langdale and Dr. J. Ralph Thaxton. A Rotary member suggested the photo might involve the Georgia Rotary Student Program [GRSP] and that did lead us in the right direction. We learned that the GRSP was conceptualized and begun in 1946, just after WWII, by Will Watt, a Rotary member in nearby Thomasville. Georgia is the only state in which its Rotary Clubs have established this type student program.

Dr. Rob Kellner, retired from VSU, is a current member of Valdosta Rotary and active with the GRSP program statewide. He had the Rotary Georgia District office supply him what records they had of GRSP students attending college here that were sponsored by Valdosta Rotary. They told him the early records might not be complete. Rob shared with us at the museum that the first two participants listed at VSC, 1950-51 and 1951-52, were both female students from France. With these clues to help we began to solve the mysteries of the photograph above. From the VSC Pinecone yearbook for 1950-51 we identified the lady at the depot as Monique Pasqualini.

However, checking further we found that John Langdale had recorded that the first GRSP student Valdosta Rotary sponsored individually as a club, was in 1949-50. This was VSC's last year as Georgia State Womans College and the student was Lydia Ruth Kost of Germany. Rob Kellner

has added her name to the Valdosta Rotary GRSP list in the District archives. John Langdale further mentioned that Lydia Kost, after returning home, soon arranged to become a teacher in the United States, beginning her U.S. career in Georgia. Langdale had also noted that the club assisted her in many ways as she came from the rough situation of post war Germany.

Information on the identities of the others in the photograph greeting Pasqualini at the train were supplied instantly by brothers Judge H. Arthur and Tyson McLane.

Rob Kellner said that other South Georgia District Rotary Clubs participate in the GRSP, thus VSU often has four students and has had as many as six. John Langdale also told of one student from India being so thankful to have spent a year of study in "America, The Land of Opportunity."

Maria Therese Bergen of Auglet, France, *at right*, became the third Valdosta Rotary sponsored GRSP in 1951-52.



Home Countries of Valdosta Rotary GRSP at VSU 1949-2019

Africa – 6
Egypt – 1
Kenya – 3
South Africa – 2
Asia – 8
India – 3
Japan – 2
Philippines -1
Turkey – 2
Australia – 2
North America – 3
El Salvador – 1
Mexico – 2
South America – 7
Argentina – 1
Bolivia – 1
Brazil – 2
Colombia – 2
Ecuador – 1
Zealandia – 1
New Zealand – 1
Europe - 37/38 *
Austria – 1
Denmark – 3
Finland – 3
France – 3
Germany – 6
Hungary – 2
Iceland – 1
Northern Ireland – 1
The Netherlands – 1
Norway – 5
Poland – 1
Scotland – 3
Sweden – 8
* one attended 2 years

Rotary International & Valdosta's Double Quartet

It was a feather in the cap for Valdosta. The Valdosta Double Quartet was chosen to perform at the 1924 Rotary International Convention in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The convention had 9,173 delegates. A premiere event of the convention was attended by 20,000; as noted "the Good-Will Pageant was a spectacular affair set on the banks of majestic Lake Ontario."

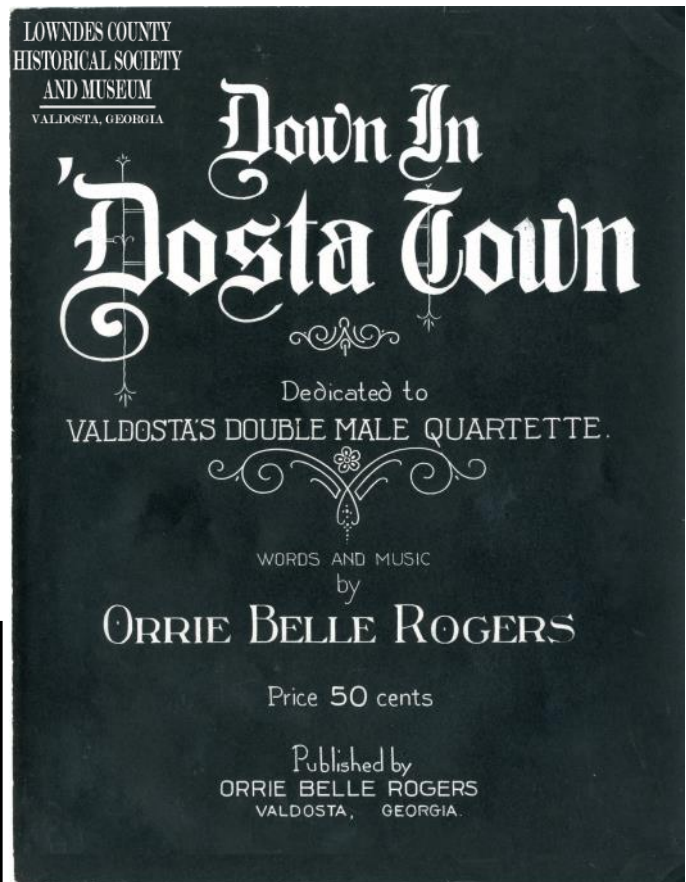
Being chartered in 1919, Valdosta Rotary was highly honored that their young club with the Double Quartet could receive such an invitation.

The *photo image below* was used in Rotary International's feature publications about the convention, thus we use it here.

Top Row: George Sherman, James Dasher, J. T. Mathis, Bob Harris. **Bottom Row:** Emory Bass, Harry Stump, Lloyd Greer, Bob Stump. Three in the group became Valdosta Rotary Club presidents.

In the museum archives is another less formal photo of the group which was actually taken in Toronto. It also includes J. B. Copeland who was a Valdosta Rotary International delegate.

At right; The cover to the sheet music for *Down in 'Dosta Town*, the song dedicated to Valdosta's Double Male Quartette. Orrie Belle Rogers (1893-1976) came to Valdosta as an instructor at South Georgia State Normal College (VSU). She published the song in 1922. In 1925 she married Richard Parrish. Some in town will still remember Mrs. Richard Parrish for her community music and being most active at First Baptist Church. VSU's Musical Theater performed an adapted *Down in Dosta Town* within a fun play on Valdosta's founding during the Sesquicentennial in 2010.



LOWNDES COUNTY
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Girls Club's Top Member
Friends Admire Plaque Given To 12-Year-Old Karen Noles

2019: 75 Years of Service Boys Club and Girls Club

As was stated in the 100 years of operation for Valdosta Rotary one of their chief efforts in earlier years was to establish a Boys Clubs and a Girls Club. The entity was established January 22, 1944.

Cathy Biles Parker, Youth Center Vice President of Marketing and Development, reported during interviews concerning the 75th Year that in 1945 the former Milhous family residence at 311 S. Troup Street was purchased with funds contributed by the Valdosta Rotary Club.

In October 1955 the current location at 614 N. Toombs Street opened. It has continued there as the Valdosta-Lowndes Youth Center. The Lake Laurie Drive Complex opened in 1981.

The *photo above* must be from 1946 or '47. The cake at center appears to have two lit candles, perhaps the second year of the Boys Club, thus before moving to N. Toombs Street. We would appreciate any help in identifying those in this photograph, most would be around 80 years old.

The news clipping *at left* is in the museum archives but is not dated. Karen Noles [Baskin] of Valdosta when recipient of the Girls Club's Top Member Award at age 12.

The Youth Center has greatly impacted the young in our community and received significant recognitions. In 1948 Frankie Harrison was named Boys Club National Boy of the Year. See LCHS Newsletter Issue May/June 2008 which includes a photo of him being welcomed by U.S. President Harry S. Truman.

We Now Have Bookends for our 'Bird Births'

In our last newsletter we mentioned the addition of Dorothy Drexel (St. Pierre), *photo at right*, born December 23, 1929, and Betty Ruth Harp (Butler), *photo below right*, born December 21, 1932, as Mixson-Bird Hospital births but did not include their photos. These four photos are from various Valdosta High School yearbooks.

Now two additional Bird Hospital births have been reported. Tommy Connell, *photo below center*, was born there February 25, 1938. He and his wife Sharon are well remembered in the community as having been owners of Connell Studios. We received a call from Bud Hatcher, *photo below left*, informing us of his Bird Hospital birth and that he would be by the museum soon with information. We found that Bud's birth date, June 14, 1943, placed him in the category of one of the last to be born at Bird Hospital. Dr. Bird's debilitating fall down the elevator shaft occurred two weeks before on June 1 or 2. Bud was delivered by Dr. Ashley Bird, son of Dr. Frank Bird. With Frank Bird no longer able to run a hospital, and Dr. Ashley Bird entering WWII, by August the facility had sold becoming the Health Department. WWII had Bud Hatcher's father away. Family friends Lou Blanton and Knuck McCrary carried Bud's mother to the hospital. Bud was a second son, Tommy born 1941, and the friends said Bud should be named Paul Bennett Hatcher, Jr.

We now have bookends for our 'Bird Births.' From Buddy Dasher being reported as the first "Boy Baby," September 1927, to Bud Hatcher, June 1943, the last days before the hospital sold.



Currently On Exhibit Wilkinson-Stump Collection ACQ 1985-455

Assuit Egyptian metal dress & shawl, Belgian laces
& Over 300 images from 1912 Grand Tour.

Sister Adair, First Lady of Georgia,
wife of Hugh Dorsey, Georgia Governor,
Wilkinson business activity: Railroad and
development of Clyattville and Lake Park
WWI, WWII and Red Cross

**Portions of the above are on the
Museum website: "Collections"**

Recent Electronic Acquisitions
from Anne Stump Sockwell. **ACQ 2019-110**
The 1912 Grand Tour Travel Journal and Errata
by Marion Wilkinson Stump, *photo at right*

Journal Entry Example:

April 16 Madiera

"Heard positively of the Titanic tragedy."

They were on Atlantic when the Titanic sank



LOWNDES COUNTY
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Gifts in of Honor of J. Edward Willis In Celebration of his

90th Birthday
(continued from previous newsletter)
by
Patsy T. Giles
R. David and Melanie Lasseter



Symphony Orchestra Debuts On Saturday At VSC's Whitehead

LOWNDES COUNTY
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AND MUSEUM
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA

The inaugural concert of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra will be presented Saturday at 8:15 p.m. in Whitehead Auditorium on the campus of Valdosta State College.

Tickets are available at \$15 for a single ticket or \$30 for a season tickets for three concerts.

The product of years of planning, the orchestra of 65 members includes musicians from Valdosta and neighboring cities, faculty and students at VSC, and guest artists from Atlanta, Savannah, Gainesville and Charleston, S.C. The conductor of the orchestra is Robert B. Welch, who is also dean of the School of Arts at VSC.

The program for the concert includes Symphony #8, "The Unfini-

shed," by Franz Schubert and the Violin Concerto in D Major by Ludwig Van Beethoven. The concert opens with "March With Trumpets" by the contemporary American composer William Bergsma.

Violin soloist will be Charles Treger, a noted international artist. Treger, who has performed with the world's greatest orchestras, is a former winner of the Wieniawski International Violin Competition and has played for Queen Elizabeth in England and at the White House. He has been called "one of our most important violinists" and "literally incomparable."

"The symphony is a cultural capstone for Valdosta, a city already known for its vibrant arts offerings," Welch said.

2019-'20: The 30th Season of Valdosta Symphony Orchestra

Whether it is Orrie Belle Rogers (page 3) composing *Down In Dosta Town* in 1922, the current professional Peach State Summer Musical Theater, or the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra, VSU is to be commended for the arts offerings they provide to our region. We tribute Dr. Hugh Bailey, Dr. Malcolm Rainey and Dr. Robert Welch, along with enthusiastic area private support, for the vision and accomplishment of establishing the VSO.

This newsletter, in recognizing significant year anniversaries for the Boys and Girls Clubs and Valdosta Rotary, tells some about each groups efforts on behalf of area children. The VSO, with its Guild, provides free concerts for children with hundreds attending each year.

In one of our slide shows at the museum we include a good image of the Mikado being performed by locals in 1896. The students learn that at one time if you wanted music you had to learn to play the instrument and with no movies you had be the players. **Left:** VDT article October 28, 1990, from the museum archives.



In 2014, the VSO was winner of the national American Prize in Orchestral Performance, Howard Hsu, conductor.

Photo above: Connell Studios, Tommy (photo page opposite) and Sharon, after retiring donated some public image photos from their files to the museum archives. Several involve the last VSO concert of the first season (May 25, 1991) and the late night brunch held afterward. On the transport bus we think we recognize Woody Dennis, the Okuma's, the Whitesell's, the Brantley's, Owen and Nelda Harris, Harold and Lee Bennett, Jamie Carroll. Please notify us of corrections or additions.

2019 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

*** designates Life Member
** designates Patron Member
* designates Contributing Member

Emerson and P.J. Bell *
Arlington, TX

David and Becky Bentley
Bobbie Snow Boal
Atlanta, GA

Michael Bright
Roxanne Williams Brown

Marion Anise Roberts Cross
Rev. Thomas W., Jr. & Pam Davis
Athens, GA

Allan and Joan Dear **
David L. Girardin
East Palatka, FL

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Roy G. Levine & Chong Chu *
LaQuinta Inn & Suites
Elaine Parrish McMillian

Tom William Odom
Lake Worth, FL
Stephen T. Paine
New York, NY
Bernard and Sheena Perry

Anne Stump Sockwell
Birmingham, AL
Harry A. Stump
Pensacola, FL
John F. Tomlinson

MEMORIALS

Wayland Hendry 'Bo' Blalock

by
Donald O. Davis
Mary D. Gray

Timothy Alan 'Tim' Brogdon

by
Donald O. Davis

David Edward Brooks, Sr.

by
Patsy T. Giles & Daughters
Lisa Giles Gilchrist
Linda Giles &
Sherri Giles Corker
San Raphael, CA

Betty Howell Callahan Chason

by
Patsy T. Giles

Rebecca DeLoach Eades

Louisville, KY
by
The Fred DeLoach Family

Ida Jane Lumpkin Ferrell

by
Donald O. Davis
Mary D. Gray

Rutledge Avalon 'Rusty' Griffin, Jr.

by
Donald O. Davis
Mary D. Gray

Dorothy Bell Lodge

East Brooks, Quitman
by
The Fred DeLoach Family

Emma Maughon Stevens Murrah

by
J. Edward Willis

FAMILY MEMORIAL GIFTS

Sue Pendleton Bell

by
Emerson and P.J. Bell
Arlington, TX

Thomas W. Davis, Sr. & Julia Davis

by
Rev. Thomas W., Jr. & Pam Davis
Athens, GA

The Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

Gratefully acknowledges
A Gift from

The Loyce and Annette Howell Turner Foundation

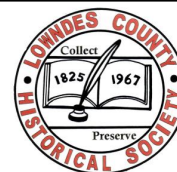
Dr. Loyce and Ingrid Turner

The Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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The Lynn Pippenger Foundation of Raymond James Charities

Lynn Pippenger Tampa, Florida



Current members will receive a separate annual membership renewal notice by mail.

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

Membership Category

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

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

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Officers and Executive Committee (Ending 2019)

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

September 29..... Officers & Trustees for 2020 Elected

November 19..... Holly Garden Club at the Museum

November 28, 29, 30 Closed for Thanksgiving

November-December..... Jingle Bells History and Christmas Tree

November-April..... Wilkinson-Stump Collection on Exhibit

Annual Museum Closing.....December 25—January 2

January 2020.....Begin Expansion: Carnegie Museum with Bird Annex

January—April..... Annual Membership Drive

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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

Web page:

<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of

Lowndes County Historical Society

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Donald O. Davis

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Executive Director

Amy Brown

Textiles Curator and Research

Harry S. Evans

Special Collections and Research

Logan Mabey

Intern

Vickie Ledbetter Everitte

Community Volunteer

Adam Doughty, Drew Johnson

Social Media

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