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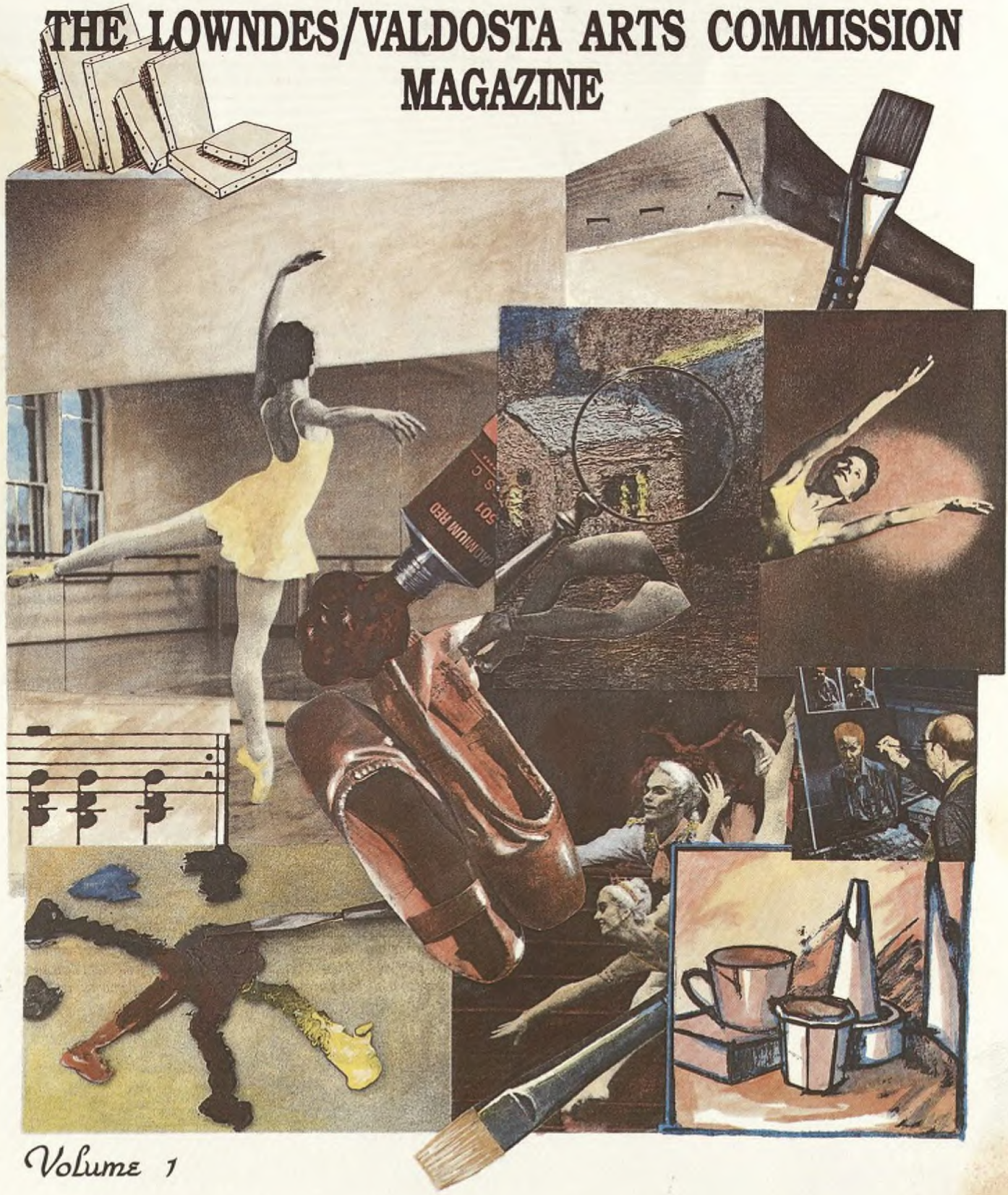
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ARTALK

THE LOWNDES/VALDOSTA ARTS COMMISSION
MAGAZINE



Volume 1

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 1204 North Patterson Street
 P.O. Box 1966
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 Tel. : 912-247-ARTS

Chairman Coleman Speaks Out...



125 years after the establishment of Lowndes County and Valdosta, we have established the first Cultural Arts Center for our community at 1204 North Patterson Street, right in the heart of historic Valdosta. Those of you who have found us, know that we are just one block south of Valdosta State College and three blocks north of the historic Crescent House. In the past two years we have been quietly building the interest and the activities of the center.

Your support, however, is needed to keep the doors open.

Our purpose is to create an organization for the study, production and celebration of the visual arts, the performance arts, the literary arts and arts education, and to provide for membership in the Cultural Arts Center in Valdosta and Lowndes County.

You as a member can play a crucial role in the operation of the center.

If you are not already a member, we hope that you will choose to become one--NOW! Call 247-ARTS for membership information. Better still, drop in for it, and let us show you around.

He's an artist. That helps.
 He's a musician. That helps.
 He's a lawyer. That really helps.
 And he rides a bicycle (once across the Alps).

These attributes--and their combination--eminently qualify him to be a unique chairman of the Lowndes / Valdosta Arts Commission.

Actually, he would climb any mountain to bring the best in the arts to Valdosta and Lowndes County, making Wilby Coleman a Commission chairman...
 ...EXTRAORDINAIRE!



--The Editor

What is Artalk?

By Matt Flumerfelt

What is Artalk? Is it Lascaux or Trois Frères? Is it Venus of Willendorf or Venus de Milo? Is it van Gogh's ear? It could be the story of the Greek sculptor Phidias. He was the one who created the chryselephantine Zeus. Chryselephantine means that it was made of gold and ivory. He was prosecuted for impiety, because in the shield of Zeus, he carved his own portrait, along with that of his good friend, Pericles. Or it could be the story of the Greek painter Zeuxis. He was painting a picture of a chariot race, and was trying to make one of the horses look like it was foaming at the mouth from exertion. But he was unable to get the desired effect. In anger and frustration he threw a sponge at the painting. Luckily, it hit the horse in the mouth, and created just the effect he was seeking.

So mayst thou pèrfect by a lucky blow
what all thy softest touches cannot do

Some artists go to great lengths in the quest for fame. The artist Gericault used to bring home the heads of decapitated prisoners to sketch, for his studies of the insane. Apparently his landlady didn't like the smell. You might say she lost her head. We all know how Michelangelo spent hours on his back painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. But did you know that, besides being a painter and a sculptor, he was also an architect and a poet?

What makes artists spend long hours, and go to such great lengths, to express themselves in stone, wood, clay, or metal; on paper, canvas, brick, and in a thousand other ways? There are many answers as many artists. As Plato said of the poets of his day, they themselves don't even know the meaning of the things they create. Artalk is about freedom of thought. It is about nonconformity and individualism. It is about our innate desire to express ourselves. It is about beauty, and truth. Does that answer your question?

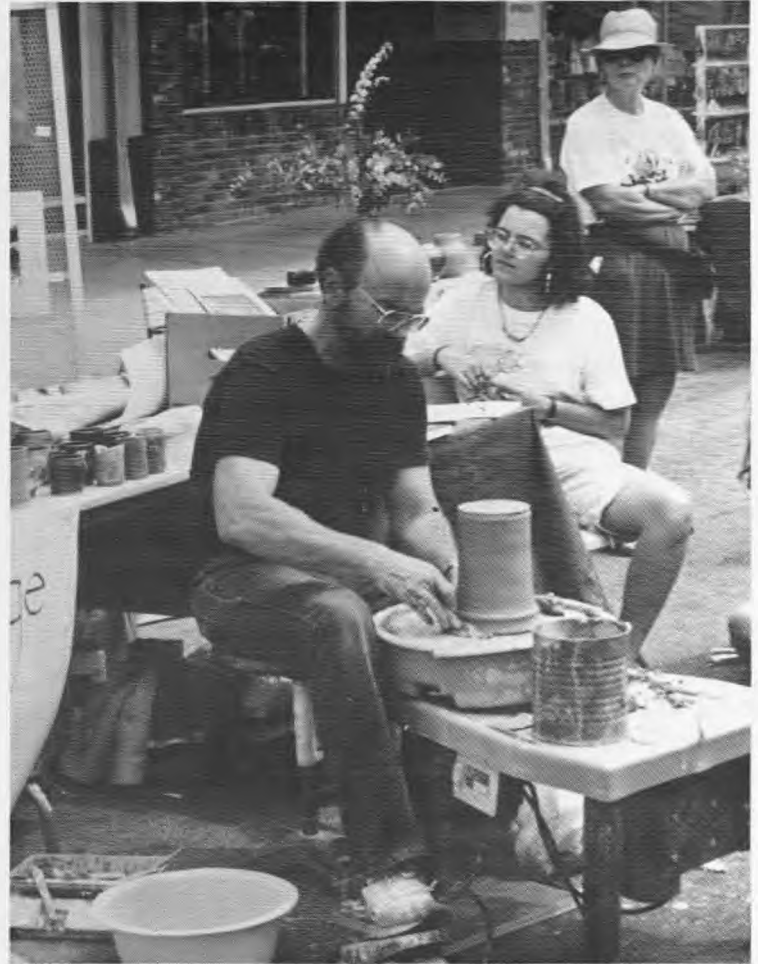
*There is only one difference between
a madman and me. I am not mad!*
-Salvador Dali



What is L/VAC?

By Louie White

It's many things...
...and more...
It's the Cultural Arts Center and...
It's the Presenter Series at Mathis and...
It's Art Classes for all ages and...
It's the Annual Puppet Show for schools and...
It's the Cultural Arts Guild and...
It's the Arts Festival every spring and...
It's the Great Hahira Pick-In and...
It's the Theatre Guild and...
It's the Artists League and...
It's the Writers Guild and...
It's the Choral Guild and...
It's the Quilters Guild and...
It's the Volunteers who give their time and...
It's Patrons who give their money and...
It's Corporate Friends who give their gifts and...
It's Members who join and...
It's one heck of a Director and...
It's one heaven of a Chairman and...
...like I said...
It's many things...
...and more...
...always more...
And they all add up to...
**THE LOWNDES/VALDOSTA ARTS
COMMISSION!**
Does that answer your question?



History

On December 9, 1971, the Lowndes County (Georgia) Commissioners approved a resolution to establish an Arts Commission "To encourage and stimulate the study, pursuit and preservation of the visual, performing and literary arts through the county."

By June 30, 1978, when it was reorganized as the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, Inc., (L/VAC), the group had developed an active and broad based community arts program.

On February 2, 1990, L/VAC opened the first Cultural Arts Center in Valdosta and Lowndes County at 1204 North Patterson Street, inviting other related groups under its umbrella, becoming even more a viable arts organization--together.



CULTURAL CENTER EXHIBITS

October

Old Fashion Fish Fest--A harvest of food and art that will appeal to the eyes as well as the stomach. Reception: October 5

November

High School Art Exhibition. Third annual exhibition of young, talented individuals, representing Lowndes and Valdosta City Schools. Reception: November 9

December

Carol Swanson--Georgia Watercolor Society Artist from Augusta, Georgia, with an international reputation of excellence. Reception: November 23

1993

January

Nancy Kent--Award winning watercolor illustrator and portraiture. A member of the National Watercolor Society, published and exhibited throughout the Southeast. Recently exhibited in the Jekyll Island Club & in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

February

Quilting--The Withlacoochee Quilters Guild members will be exhibiting juried works for special displays.

March

Southeastern Pastel Society--The Society recently exhibited in Atlanta and Stone Mountain. Formed in 1987, it is dedicated to promoting pastel as a medium in the Southeast.

April

Steve Andersen--A professor of Art at Valdosta State College, he has exhibited throughout the states. A rendition of his design for the Lowndes County Human Resource Building is now part of the Atlanta Committee Olympic Games permanent exhibit.

May

1st State Bank Show--The juried portion of this event will be on display at the Center. This is the 6th year of this exciting display of 2 and 3 dimensional award-winning art.

June

Ouida Lampert/Becky Young--"Artistic License." Works by artists Ouida Duke Lampert and R.K. Young in multiple disciplines. A delightful display with humor and depth. Highlights include paintings on silk and mixed media works.

July/August

Workshops--Special displays and programs.

August (2 weeks)

Southern Artists League--Local artists display their latest work the last two weeks in August.

September

Stephen Lahr & Wilby Corman & Lanny Milbrandt--"A Triple Play." A multi-media display which will include found-object, watercolor, and finely finished jewelry.

October

Artoberfest (Theme Show)--It's OCTOBERFEST time! This will be another fun and theme show.

November

It's Art--(High School Competition)--The 4th annual "Our High School Students Can Paint and Sketch Too!"

November/December

Rusty Hall--An internationally recognized artist will have scenes and studies for a show titled "The Sign of an Excellent Artist."

For further information visit the Cultural Arts Center, or call 247-ARTS.



South Georgia Writers Guild

The South Georgia Writers Guild was founded in 1986 as a support group for writers. The Guild sponsors seminars and workshops, encourages creative writing, and helps members publish their works. Over the past several years, the Guild has hosted many well-known writers, like Donald Justice, Richard Wilbur, Louise Shivers, Starkey Flythe, and others. The Guild is a co-sponsor of the Snake Nation Review, and is partially funded by the Lowndes-Valdosta Arts Commission. The Guild meets on the second Saturday of every month at 2:00 in the conference room of the South Georgia Regional Library. For more information, call Matt Flumerfelt at 247-5933, or write to South Georgia Writers Guild, 2300 N. Patterson St. #42, Valdosta, GA 31602.

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Just sit down at the typewriter
and open a vein.
- Red Smith*



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Peter Simon - Pianist
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an Evening
Performance.



Dickens' A Christmas Carol
Thursday, Dec. 10, 1992
A Lavish Production

The Atlanta Symphony
Tuesday, Mar. 16, 1993
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Peter Pan
The High Flying Broadway Musical
Tony Award Winner
Tuesday, Jan. 26, 1993

PETER PAN
THE HIGH-FLYING BROADWAY MUSICAL!



Center for Puppetry Arts

The Center for Puppetry Arts is touring **THE WIZARD OF OZ** with the support of the Georgia Council for the Arts, the Southern Arts Federation, the North Carolina Arts Council, and Arts Midwest.

Based on L. Frank Baum's classic tale, the production was adapted and directed by George Latshaw. **THE WIZARD OF OZ** takes audiences into a world of fantasy with puppets fashioned after the illustrations from Baum's first edition in 1900.

On Dorothy's journey to the Emerald City to find Oz, she meets many characters, including a tin woodsman who creaks and clanks, a cowardly lion who crouches and cowers in beastly embarrassment, and a scarecrow who really slumps when he loses his stuffing. Rod puppets tell the tale in this production about making friends, sticking together, and helping one another realize that dreams come true when we believe in ourselves.

Set design is by Dex Edwards, lighting is by Liz Lee, and puppets were designed by Stephanie Kaskel, designer for the Center for Puppetry Arts' 1991-92 production of **Dinosaurs**. Four professional puppeteers manipulate the characters. 1404 Spring Street at 18th, Atlanta, Georgia 30309. Business Office (404)-873-3089; Box Office (404)-873-3391. Vincent Anthony, Executive Director.

*You need three things in the theatre-
the play, the actors and the audience,
and each must give something.*

-Kenneth Haigh



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treatments, anti-cellulite treatments,
makeovers and **many more.**



The Valdosta Arts Festival

A ten-day Arts Festival, April 6-16, 1988, co-sponsored by the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission and the Valdosta Parks and Recreation Department, included an arts and crafts show, quilting seminar, writers workshop, art exhibit, and musical performances each day at lunch, 3:30 p.m., and evenings.

Five years later, Arts Aloft, a combined Arts Festival and Balloon Rally, April 2-12, 1992, co-sponsored by the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission and (now) the Valdosta Parks and Recreation and Community Affairs Department, included a local theatre performance, saxophone and clarinet recital, quilting seminar, art exhibits, downtown attractions, poetry reading, brown bag concerts, juried art show, trumpet recital, Shakespeare play, percussion recital, puppet shows, flower show, Singing Americans, cloggers, Suzuki Players, open air market, Hats Off Tea--and forty hot air balloons from all over the country (and Canada)!

Arts Festival, 1993, will take a different--and surprising--turn, however. Instead of expanding even more, as one might think, it will crystallize into a four-day event only, April 15-18, led as usual by Larry Hanson, with a team grown to 50. Best, its designers have learned, isn't always big--or bigger.

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where commerce has enriched the busy coast.
-William Cowper*

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Tonight's Program

*December 10, 1992
Mathis Civic Auditorium*



A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens



BACKGROUND

Charles Dickens was a Londoner. In 1843 when he wrote “**A Christmas Carol**”, he was at the height of his career, a proud, successful writer whose novels brought tears to the eyes of devoted readers as far away as America.

Dickens, at thirty-one, had worked his way from the humble, often brutal experiences of a poverty-stricken childhood to the drawing rooms of London’s social-literary set. He was the head of a large and costly household, and he was hounded by the necessity to earn money and, at the same time, to maintain a brilliant career.

One of the prime motivations in the creative force of Charles Dickens was the wish to expose the suffering and hopelessness of the working poor in England during the Industrial Revolution. “**A Christmas Carol**”, written in a month’s time, contains Dickens’ philosophy. He believed in the brotherhood of man, in the necessity of good will in human conduct. He created “**A Christmas Carol**”, composite characters, brought to us now after more than a century of revision and elaboration. Yet these characters remain powerful and vivid in their original, symbolic stance.

Scrooge is the embodiment of the acquisitive, middle-class society whose value system focused exclusively upon profit and gain. The Cratchit Family are the working poor, with all the tender honesty, limited prospects and tragic problems which typified that class in England. Even the medical problems of Tiny Tim strike a note central to the theme, as there was in 1843, no hospital in London which would admit a child as a patient. Packaged in the warm, sentimental setting of Christmas, Dickens assails us with his political social idealism. We see Scrooge mistreat Bob Cratchit with cold-hearted arrogance, precisely as organized society visited its injustices upon defenseless working class. Here is the cruel paradox of the Industrial Revolution, and Charles Dickens became the spokesman, the dramatist of Victorian England’s soul search.



Join your neighbors in supporting the arts in our community. Please renew or begin your membership in Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission by contributing in one of the following categories: Individual - \$25, Family - \$50, Friend - \$100, Contributor - \$250, Sponsor - \$500, Patron - Silver - \$1,000, Gold - \$2,500 or Platinum - \$5,000. Call 247-ARTS for more information and visit the center often.

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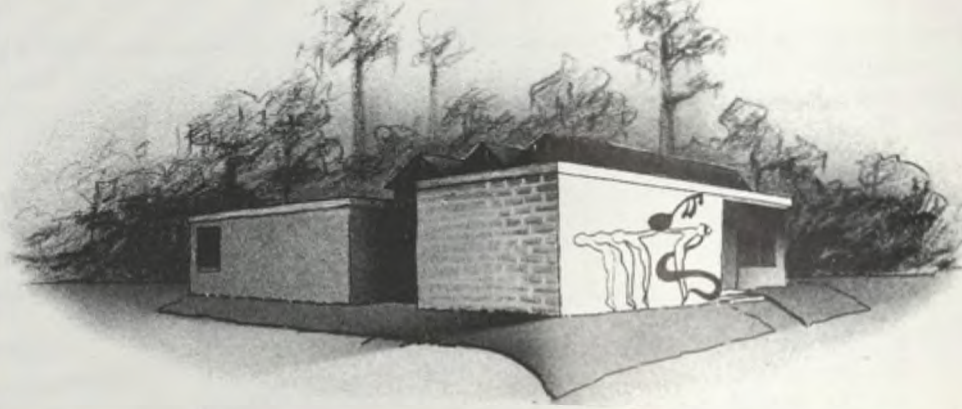
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Peter Pan Will Be Flying In

The American musical comedy classic, "Peter Pan," will be the next attraction at Mathis Auditorium, January 26, 1993 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are now available at the Center.

"Peter Pan," as everyone knows, recounts the whimsical adventures of the three Darling children when Peter Pan entices them to flying away from their nursery with him into the magic and wonder of Never Land, where they participate in all the exciting dreams children ever dream - and a few that are beyond their dreams.

Never Land is people with characters of rare imagination and charm. There are little lost boys for whom Peter is seeking a mother, there are bloodthirsty and villainous pirates led by wicked Captain Hook, there are real Indians, there are winsome animals who talk, there are lithesome mermaids and above all, there is Tinker Bell, an elfin spirit of a fairy who buzzes busily about like a hopped-up firefly.

To Barrie's ingratiating flight of fancy have been added lightsome dance numbers, an epilogue he wrote for the book but did not originally use in the play, and a wealth of enchanting songs like the delicate lullaby "Tender Shepherd," the joyous "I'm Flying" sung by Peter and the children as they commence their historic flight to Neverland, the droll nonsense song "Ugg-a-



Photo by Eduardo Patino

Wogg" by which the English speaking children and some hopefully fierce Indian children try to communicate, "Mysterious Lady," sung by Captain Hook to the disguised Peter, "I Won't Grow Up," the theme song of the stubborn little boys and the rich tribute to "Never Land" rendered in sentimental tones by

Peter. The composers and lyricists for these numbers are Jule Styne, Betty Comden and Adolph Green of "Bells are Ringing" fame, as well as Mark Charlap and Carolyn Leigh.

For further information, phone your Valdosta Arts information number 247-2787.



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The Valdosta Choral Guild's holiday concert will be December 15th at 8:00 P.M., Mathis Auditorium. Tickets are now available for \$5.00 at the Cultural Arts Center. Buy early in order to avoid the long lines at the box office. The program will be directed by Dr. Webster Teague. The Choral Guild will once again feature Sallas Mahone's 4th grade chorus.

South Georgia Writers Guild

In more than one sense, money seems to be the bottom line these days. Not only is the Writers Guild limited by its budget in the kinds of programs it can offer, but the individual writers themselves are limited in the amount of time they can devote to the precarious practise of their craft. In the Newsletter and in our monthly meetings, I do everything I can to encourage members to "follow their bliss" and devote more time an energy to cultivating the muse. Our members share a variety of publishing strategies, and when possible, we offer programs of speakers and workshops to try and get the creative juices flowing. If you would like to meet and get to know other writers, and hear their solutions to problems like writer's block, writing interesting dialogue, constructing a novel, etc., come to one of our meetings, and be prepared to share your work and ideas with others.

Matt Flumerfelt, President

Get A Piece Of The Action

Join your friends, neighbors, and colleagues by becoming a member of the Cultural Arts Center. Membership has its privileges.

- Discounts on the Presenter Series
- Special announcements
- Invitation to special events
- Discounts on Gift Shop items

These memberships enable the Center to operate in its home at 1204 N. Patterson Street. These dues also provide, free of charge, special youth performances and exhibits.

Visit the Center and share your ideas with us. The Center will be beginning its Phase II expansion program. Thanks to our community, we are making the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center a reality.

Become a member of the Lowndes/Valdosta Cultural Arts Center today and become a part of an artistic adventure.

Burton Bright, Executive Director

P.S.: The Center offers the perfect setting for your parties and events. Our facility lends itself to elegant affairs with our gallery, kitchen facility, conference room and convenient parking. The Center can accommodate up to 125 people. With our exciting exhibits, your guests will enjoy a memorable event.

Cultural Arts Guild

The cultural Arts Guild is dancing! No, not the Texas Two-Step, but its own: The Cultural Arts Guild Two-Step. It seems to be doing everything in *TWOS!*

For "openers" it offered TWO kinds of membership this year: Active and Sustaining, both at its usual \$10 fee, its membership mushrooming immediately to way over TWO hundred (actual count at press time: 228) and still climbing! At a "Celebration of Membership" in November, active members also signed up for TWO categories of participation: Docents (assisting in Center operation) or Hostesses (staging monthly art exhibit openings).

Second, it's come up with TWO fund raisers for this Guild year: the Jewelry Sale (Diamonds and Gold - TWO) in December, '92, and, in March, '93, a tour of homes to see some of the most outstanding private art collections in this area and a visit with noted artists at work in their own studios (TWO again!).

Moreover, last year the Guild raised money to give the Arts Center TWO, important additions: a new rug in its Conference Room and a newly renovated kitchen!

FURTHERMORE, the stated purpose of the Guild, from its beginning, has been TWO-fold: "To promote the Cultural Arts Center and its activities and to support the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission and its endeavors."

The Cultural Arts Guild TWO-step indeed!

Dancing.

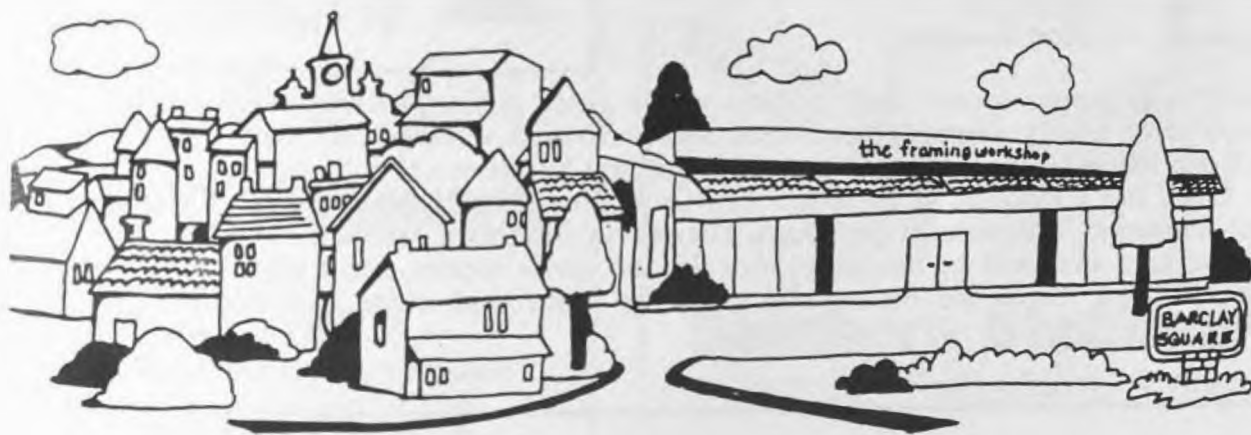
Louie White
L/VAC Liaison

The Great Hahira Pick-In

Originally, the Great Hahira Pick-In was designed as a string music contest with a few good bluegrass bands thrown in for balance and professionalism. This format lasted for a period of five years and was ultimately abandoned because of the near impossibility of getting bands to enter the contest. Regretfully, the contest was discontinued and since the sixth year all of the bands have been hired--normally from fourteen to sixteen.

Hahira, Georgia, is a small rural town of about 2,500 located on Interstate 75 about twenty miles north of the Georgia/Florida line. It was with some trepidation that the mayor and Council allowed us to put on the First Great Hahira Pick-In in 1978. None of them had ever attended a bluegrass festival and some had visions of their little town being inundated by hordes of hippieish acid rock 'n' rollers. One councilwoman brought her preacher to make sure that he thought everything was going right. He was entranced and she was satisfied. The following Sunday morning, the preacher was on the stage singing "Amazing Grace" with the back-up band and giving a sermonette as a bonus. The festival has been a smash success with the people of Hahira and of nearby Valdosta. The Pick-In draws people mostly from South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, and Tennessee.

The Great Hahira Pick-In, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation and has been fortunate in receiving major grants from Chevron, USA and Tommy Griner Pontiac/Cadillac/Nissan. Because of the number of bands engaged, these grants have played a major role in our ability to continue to produce a quality and successful show each year. Over the years we have had Jim and Jesse, Jethro Burns and Red Rector, Front Porch String Band, Red and Murphy, Red Wing, Perfect Tyming, Warrior River Boys, String Fever and other top quality bands. Most of the bands, however, are less well known, though equally top quality.



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Theatre Guild

Theatre Guild, the local community theatre, is now under way in its fourth season. One of four organizations under the umbrella of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, the Theatre Guild was established in 1989. The first production was *The Mousetrap*, which LVAC produced in conjunction with the 1989 Spring Arts Festival.

Following the original production, LVAC Theatre Guild was organized as a separate group, operating independently of, but cooperatively with, the Arts Commission, to enhance the artistic and cultural quality of community life in Valdosta and the surrounding area. In addition to producing four or five shows a season, members of the Guild conduct theatre workshops for children and adults, participate in outreach programs like In-School visitors, and have developed a program to encourage school teachers to get their students to come see more theatre through its own Great Plays Program.

Theatre Guild is open to all who wish to join. The members do a variety of things. Some do the technical work like building, painting, setting lights and running sound equipment. Others act or direct. There are those who run the box office, usher, and manage the "house." Some members support us simply by joining and coming to see shows. The only requirements to belong to Theatre Guild are an annual ten dollar membership fee and a love for the theatre. Meetings of the Guild are held the first Thursday of each month at the old Dosta Theatre in downtown Valdosta. Meetings begin at 7:30 P.M.. Guild business is taken care of by a ten member Board of Directors elected by the membership. The board meetings are held a day prior to the general membership meetings and as needed. The Board of Directors for the 92-93 season are:

President - Jerry Ellis
Vice President - Mary Ann Green
Secretary - Denise Steptoe
Treasurer - Malcolm Rainey
Publicity/PR Chair - Joanne Griner
Membership/Tickets Chair - Michael Lowe
Site Search Chair - John Deming
Play Selection Chair - David Ince
Member-at-large - Kay Jennet
LVAC Liaison - Dr. John Youmans



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Theatre Guild began as, and until recently was, a gypsy group. Having no permanent home, Guild productions have been rehearsed, constructed and performed at various sites all over Lowndes County. Storage space for sets, props, and costumes, was donated by various people and businesses. Now, at last, Theatre Guild has a building of its own. The Guild recently purchased the old Martin Theatre, more commonly known to Valdostans as the "Dosta Theatre" in downtown Valdosta. Extensive renovations and a great deal of hard work will be needed to turn this old movie theatre into a playhouse. The members of the LVAC Theatre Guild are enthusiastic about its future and invite everyone to come join in the excitement.



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SOUTHERN ARTISTS LEAGUE

The Southern Artists League, Inc. is a non-profit organization of local artists, both professional and amateur, centrally based in Valdosta, Ga. Founded in 1989 by then President Ouida Duke Lampert, S.A.L. has grown considerably in membership and community standing in a very short time.

S.A.L. consists of artists of all media and supporting members of the community, as well as art patrons. The group has its central office in the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission building, Burton Bright, director, located at 1204 N. Patterson Street. This is also where S.A.L. has both its Board and Membership meetings.

S.A.L.'s main purpose is to promote quality original art for sale and/or exhibition and to educate the general public about all aspects of art. S.A.L. is also a basic support group for and of artists to promote a exchange, to create an outlet for career expansion and to generate public awareness of fine art.

Since its founding, S.A.L. has been involved in many community projects.

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The Cultural Arts Guild

It began in the summer of 1989 when some 40 Arts-interested ladies gathered at Crestwood, home of Dottie Eager, to sip lemonade and talk about the possibility of a Cultural Arts Center in Valdosta and a Cultural Arts Guild to support the center.

The response was most enthusiastic, and Dottie Eager and Dottie Mackey became Co-Chairmen of the Guild that very afternoon, working together over the next months to set its purpose and to organize its structure. Other officers were soon named: Lucile Griffin, Secretary; Sally Kurrie, Treasurer (Later replaced by Twinki Smith); Lee Bennett, Center Chairman; Merry Jo Whidby, Membership Chairman; and Emma Murrah, Program Chairman. Louie White became Arts Commission Liaison.

The Singing Americans, the Guild's first fund-raiser at Mathis Auditorium in 1992, realized \$8000, enabling the Guild to install a new rug in the Center's Conference Room; put in a new kitchen for serving refreshments at Center openings; and purchase needed easels for display purposes around the Center; and to offer the Arts Commission a "financial cushion" for carrying on its work at crucial financial moments.

The Guild has now formulated some By-laws and reorganized for 1992-1993 as follows: Dorothy Pearlman, former chairman of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, is now Guild President; Sally Moritz, Vice-President in charge of fund-raising; and Merry Jo Whidby, Vice-President in charge of membership. The other officers remain the same.

Dues are \$10 a year, and are used to pay for operating expenses (printing and postage), and refreshments for openings. Members may now choose to be active and support or simply support by paying dues and attending events.

A fund-raiser planned for March, 1993, promises to be another winner: a tour of private art collections in Valdosta homes. Details to be announced in January.

As you can see, that was very good lemonade Dottie Eager first served at that initial meeting in 1989. Cookies too.

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Snake Nation

Snake Nation Press, Inc. has published 6 issues of Snake Nation Review in the last three years and is ready to present its first anthology, Inside, Outside 93. Featured authors are: Madison Smartt Bell, Joyce Carol Oates, Clyde Edgerton, Mary Hood, Padgett Powell, Larry Brown, O. Victor Miller, Starkey Flythe and others. Twenty new drawings by Marshall Smith.

Order your subscription now at \$25 and receive the anthology. Winter issue of the Snake Nation Review will have photographs of Wilby Coleman's sculpture, a story by Joyce Carol Oates, Editors' Choice Awards, and poems and essay by Steven Corey of the Georgia Review.

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- *Received 13,000 visits from members of our community.
- *Hosted 22 major exhibits exhibiting the work of local, regional, national and international award winning artists.
- *Operated a gallery shop which features original work reasonably priced by the finest regional and national artists.

We are an umbrella commission for other organizations and activities:

- *The presenter series which brings to our community the finest in professional entertainment.
- *The Southern Artists League, an organization which promotes the visual arts for our community.
- *The Valdosta Choral Guild which keeps our hills "alive with music."
- *The Writers Guild publishing and promoting interest in the written word.
- *The Theatre Guild which locally produces and performs five major productions annually.
- *The Great Hahira Pick-In which is an internationally recognized blue grass music festival.
- *Special tours and events.
- *The Cultural Arts Guild formed in support of the center.

Art centers across America provide membership opportunities for citizens to foster a sense of ownership among patrons and to provide special services and incentives for art enthusiasts. Among the benefits you will receive are the ongoing presence of a Cultural Arts Center in our community.

We hope that you will choose to become a member.

Burton Bright--Director

He's an arts enthusiast. That helps. He's a marketing teacher. That helps. He's a military man. That really helps. And he jogs(all over Valdosta).

These attributes--and their combination--eminently qualify him to be an Executive Director of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission.

Actually, he jogs all over Valdosta, one way or another, on matters of L/VAC business, and then some, making Burton Bright a Commission Executive Director...

...EXTRAORDINAIRE!

--The Editor

Artalk

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Arts Festival
Cultural Arts Center
Cultural Arts Guild
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Capsule of History

The first painting--probably--was on the wall of a hidden cave in France; the first musical sound instrument--probably--was a gourd with a pebble in it in Africa; the first theater--probably--was in Greece; the first dancing--probably--was by aborigines in New Guinea; the first writing--probably--was on a stone in Egypt; the first singing--probably--was a chant in India...

...probably.

Truth hidden under layers of time starting when everything began...

...probably

How much history there is in any art museum! In any symphony orchestra! In any theatrical production! In any dance performance! In any singing group! In any writing!

Any.

And not probably.

Fact.

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Why Art?

By Matt Flumerfelt

Why art? Perhaps because art is the one thing we do for its own sake. It is intrinsically rewarding. Nobody becomes an artist believing he will get rich. A person must have a genuine need to express himself creatively. Fortunately, this includes most of us. Art is an expression of true joie de vivre, a feeling of triumph at having momentarily overcome our personal concerns and troubles to express the universal dormant in each of us. It is a striving for an ideal, a kind of quest for the grail. Art is an adventure, an exploration of our own minds that ends in the discovery of who we really are. Thus, it has a religious dimension as well. Art is a form of prayer. For through art, we seek the inner core of meaning that lies at the heart of life and the very center of our being. Art is a questioning and weighing of values, an indispensable process if we are to continue to grow as individuals and as a society. There is an incomparable pleasure in having transcended our personal cares and caught a glimpse of the eternal. The real question is not "Why art?" but "When do I start?" Why not today?



Why L/VAC?

By Louie White

Why L/VAC?

"Because"...

"Because it's there"...

"Because I say so"...

Three usual answers to the age-old question:

Why?

But...er, why for L/VAC?

Well, because.

(It was meant to be.)

Well, because it's there.

(It did become a challenge.)

Well, because I say so.

(It did bring forth good leaders.)

Well, then, never mind why.

The question really should be...

Why NOT L/VAC?

Because...

Capsule of History

It's here.

It started with the first settlers of diverse backgrounds who came to this area of South Georgia seeking new life...

It gathered force through seven wars in and out of this nation...

It increased immeasurably when in better times individuals appeared who could teach and train the many who have talent...

It gained momentum when leading citizens got together and brought performing artists, both national and international, to the very doorsteps of this community...

And it reached mega proportions when some of the same made possible the very first and very lively Cultural Arts Center in Valdosta, the third seat of Lowndes County...

It's...Art...

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Associated Groups

South Georgia Writers Guild

The South Georgia Writers Guild meets on the second Saturday of every month at 2:00 P.M. at the Cultural Arts Center, 1204 N. Patterson St., Valdosta. Membership is open to all writers. Annual dues are \$15, which includes a year's subscription to the Newsletter. The purpose of the Guild is to encourage creative writing and the study of literature, and to help members publish their works. For more information, call Matt Flumerfelt at 247-5933 or the Cultural Arts Center at 247-ARTS.

L/VAC Theatre Guild

Theatre Guild Valdosta meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 P.M. at the Valdosta Playhouse, 122 N. Ashley St. Membership is open to anyone interested in community theatre. Annual dues are \$10. The purpose of the Guild is to provide experience in live theatre for performers, backstage workers, and audiences alike. The box-office number is 24-STAGE. For more information, call Mary Ann Green at 247-1003 or Joanne Griner at 242-8204.

Valdosta Junior Service League

The Valdosta Junior Service League meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 P.M. at the Converse-Dalton-Ferrell House at 305 N. Patterson St. Membership is by invitation only. The purpose of the League is to improve cultural, welfare, recreational, civic, and educational conditions in the community. For more information, call Kim Strickland at 247-2687.

Great Hahira Pick-In

The Great Hahira Pick-In is an annual bluegrass festival held in Hahira, GA. It has been called by the Georgia Council for the Arts one of the premier folk art festivals in the state. The Pick-In is held annually on the last weekend in April. Under the auspices of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission, the Pick-In is also sponsored by major grants from Chevron USA, Roundup Grass & Weed Killer, Harvey's Supermarkets, and the Georgia Council for the Arts. Past performances have included such outstanding bluegrass groups as the Cross Creek Cloggers, 1st Coast Bluegrass, Thin Ice, Smokin' Grass, Brush Fire, Larry Rice and The Front Porch String Band, and Hahira Bluegrass Inc. Prices are \$7.00 for Friday, \$10.00 for Saturday, or a special advance weekend rate of \$15.00 for both days. For more information, call 247-2787.

Withlacoochee Quilters Guild

The Withlacoochee Quilters Guild meets on the fourth Monday of the month in the Georgia Power meeting room on the corner of Patterson and Gordon streets at 7:30 P.M. Anyone interested in quilting, beginner or experienced, is welcome as a member. Annual dues are \$12 per year. The purpose of the Guild is to educate the present and future generations in the art of quilting. For more information, call Edith Shepherd at 244-0220.

Southern Artists League

The Southern Artists League meets on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 P.M. at the Cultural Arts Center, 1204 N. Patterson St., Valdosta. Membership is open to all interested artists. Annual dues are \$20 for participating Members and \$5 for Associate Members. The purpose of the League is to encourage the production of original artwork for exhibition and/or sale. For more information, call Emory Warrick at 244-3170.

Snake Nation Press

Snake Nation Press, a literary magazine located at 110 #2 West Force St. in Valdosta, began publishing in the fall of 1989. Since its inception the Press has been recognized as an upcoming Georgia publication, featuring poetry and fiction by outstanding national and southern writers. In 1993, Snake Nation Press received the highest rating in its category from the Georgia Council for the Arts. The annual subscription price for Snake Nation Review is \$20. The magazine is run and edited by Roberta George and Nancy Phillips. For more information, call Roberta George at 249-8334.

Valdosta Choral Guild

Beginning each September, the Choral Guild rehearses every Monday from 7:30-9:30 P.M. at the Westminster Presbyterian Church on Country Club Drive. Rehearsals are under the direction of Dr. Webster Teague, retired professor of music at Valdosta State University. The Choral Guild is open to any interested singer. Annual dues are \$10. The purpose of the Guild is to share in the joy of singing. For more information, call Dr. Teague at 242-837 or the Cultural Arts Center at 247-ARTS.



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The Lowndes/Valdosta Cultural Arts Center is a fully mainstreamed gallery representing emerging and recognized artists with emphasis on works by professional artists. Its services include workshops, classes, private and corporate art consultation, exhibition planning and art advisory services to architects and designers. Membership in the Center is open to the public and its yearly fees enable the Center to operate and provide programs, especially for children.

CULTURAL ARTS GUILD

The purpose of the Cultural Arts Guild is to promote the Cultural Arts Center and its activities, and to support the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission and its endeavors. It offers hospitality at the monthly art exhibit openings and plans annual fund-raisers to benefit the Center. Membership, active or inactive, is \$10 per year. Doris Pearlman is the current president.

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In appreciation for Outstanding Service as Executive Director of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission from February, 1990 to August, 1993, this Volume 2 of Artalk Magazine is affectionately dedicated to Burton Bright.

Artalk Staff:

Louie White, Editor; David Leon, Art Director; Matt Flumerfelt, Copy Chief; Sissy Tillman, Printing Coordinator; Kathryn Lasseter, Advertising Manager.

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18. HEALTH AND WELFARE

Public Health:		
Health Clinic Visits	4,289	37,129
Environment:		
Sewerage/Water Insp.	50	347
Other	95	1,058

FAMILY SERVICE

AFDC Cases	2,280	21,497
Food stamps	4,548	42,279
MAO	609	5,809
AFDC related medicaid	994	8,849
General assistance	45	489
Foster care through County	24	315

19. CULTURE AND RECREATION

South Georgia Regional Library		
Circulation	18,891	213,315
Attendance & Contacts	17,853	175,347
Programs (Outreach and Library)	1,567	22,867
New Books	391	11,256
Media Added	24	294
Art Exhibit Attendance	866	9,250

20. ARTS COMMISSION

The following is the summary of activity for the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission:

- April 2 - 12 was the annual Arts Festival, members of the Arts Commission were involved in all aspects of the Festival - from chairmanship to Balloon pilot.
- The key events of the festival which the Arts Commission sponsored or co-sponsored were:

The Florida Shakespeare's theatre production of "Twelfth Night"-720 people attended this included 120 secondary school students which 25 complimentary tickets were provided- additionally 30 special population people were given complimentary tickets.

The First State Bank Candlelight reception, which was a fund raising event for the center, had 477 people attend which included 180 artists and their guests. The gross receipts for this event were \$6,600. all expenses were met. This was the first year for this public event for the arts and will be continued.

The Cultural Arts Guild and the Commission produced a farewell concert for "Bodie Chitty and the Singing Americans." Over 1,800 people attended the concert for two nights. This event raised over \$7,000 for the Cultural Arts Center.

The Theatre Guild produced an original play by a local citizen, Albert Pendleton, at Mathis Auditorium. There were five (5) performances with over 550 people in attendance.

The Southern Artist League hosted an Art Show in conjunction with the Balloon Rally.

Mrs. Dorothy Pearlman, Chairman of the Board, was named volunteer of the year by the Georgia Assembly of Community Art Agencies (GACAA) for 1992. She received the award at the recent GACAA conference in Decatur, GA.

An Olympic Flag Transfer committee was formed in order to coordinate the plans, programs and activities for September 11, when the Olympic Train stops in Lowndes County. The Arts Commission will be coordinating the entertainment for the festivities.

Summer workshops and classes are being planned for children and adults.

650 people visited the center during April, this included the special Byzantine Religious Icons and the juried exhibit from First State Bank

The exhibit at the center will continue through May 31st.

