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Turner Center for the Arts

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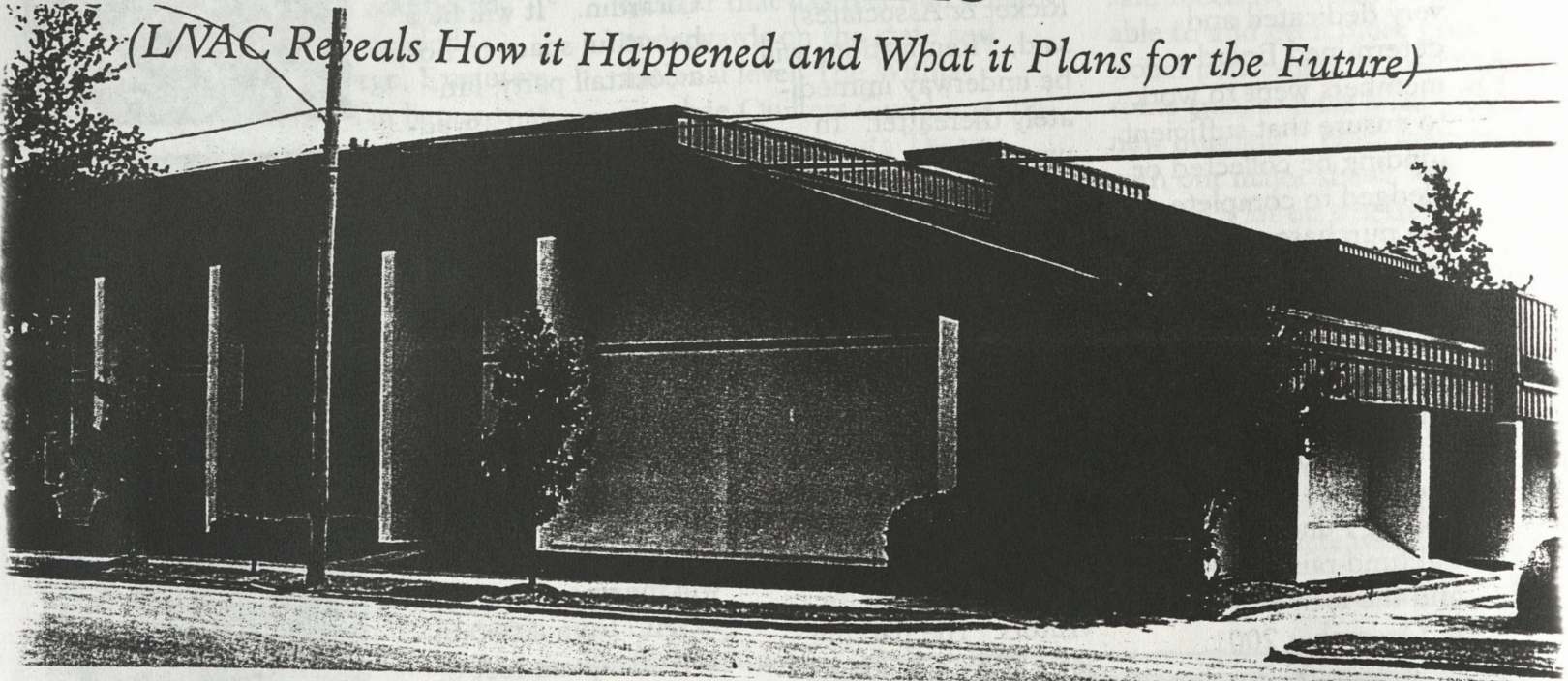
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By Elaine Kent

The Annette Howell Turner Center For the Arts

(LVAC Reveals How it Happened and What it Plans for the Future)



For years the Lowndes/ Valdosta Arts Commission had very little physical presence in the community, meeting and operating out of small, loaned space. Then approximately 15 years ago, under the chairmanship of Dorothy Pearlman, the property at 1204 North Patterson Street was acquired, giving

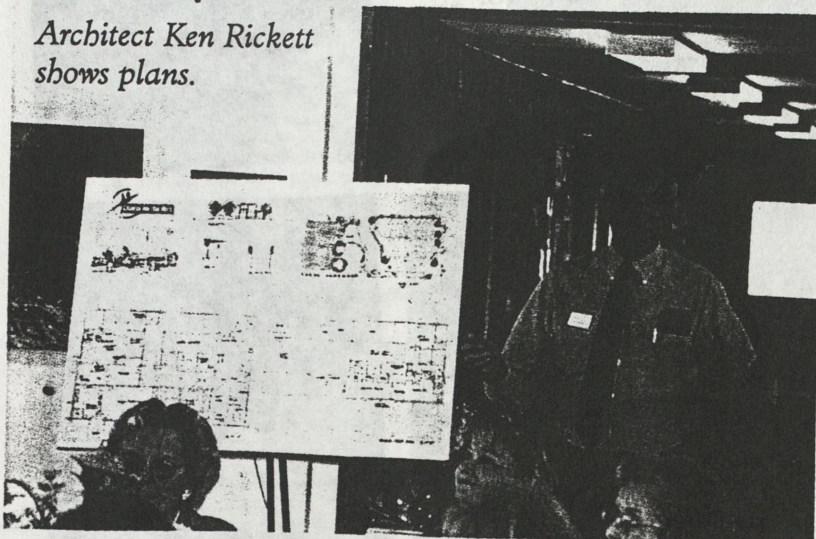
LVAC a permanent home. Because of their vision for the Arts, Dorothy Pearlman and Lena Bosch signed the loan for the building, and with the help of Dottie Mackey, Dottie Eager, and many others, formed LVAC's supporting organization, the Cultural Arts Guild. Later, the facility, with Wilby

the late Hyta Mederer issued a challenge to match her gift, which has resulted in a solid endowment initiative.

Due to continued growth, the Commission Board realized a need for a much larger building with adequate parking. Patti Girardin, present chairman, spearheaded the effort to seek funding to purchase the First State Bank Building at 527 N. Patterson Street, available due to the Bank's expansion move. (Interestingly, many had said that the building already looked like an Art Center.) Girardin approached former Senator Loyce Turner with the proposal to memorialize his late wife by naming the potential Center, "*The Annette Howell Turner Center For the Arts*". Turner and his three children very generously donated a sub-

Coleman at the helm, was renovated and increased in size to accommodate a much larger gallery space. Also at that time,

Architect Ken Rickett shows plans.



stantial portion of the purchase price for the building making the acquisition a reality.

Inspired and energized by the Turners' generous offer, L/VAC's very dedicated and determined Board members went to work to ensure that sufficient funding be collected or pledged to complete the purchase of the building and renovations, with an endowment to maintain it. Receiving matching funds for the Turners 'gift from Governor Roy Barnes' Discretionary Funds, the capital fund-raising began and the loan was closed in December 2001. Now, Capital Fund-raising is ongoing to reach all the financial goals and secure funds for additional operating costs. The two main galleries have been pledged in the names of Sidney and Dorothy Pearlman and the Price-Campbell Foundation, respectively. The Wilby and Gloria Coleman family, The Turner-Bradley Foundation and hundreds of other individual and corporate sponsors have donated or pledged their support. Valdosta, Lowndes County, and State governments have provided great encouragement and monies.

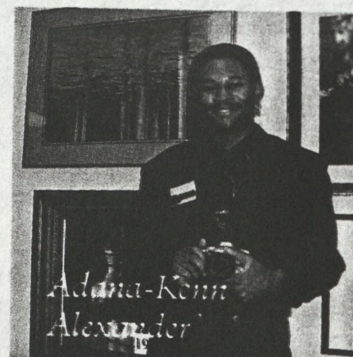
When Will the Move Take Place?

First State Bank will be out of the building in June. Architect Ken Ricket (of Ellis, Ricket & Associates) said, "Renovations will be underway immediately thereafter." In unveiling the plans for improvements, he noted the main entrance would be in the rear of the building with a sculpture garden, two water structures, and a large seating area to accommodate outdoor events and additional landscaping to create an inviting entrance for visitors. The parking lot will accommodate buses for tours. The interior of the building will be re-designed with two large galleries as well as a children's gallery. There will be rooms for a permanent art collection, including a priceless African Art Collection (now in storage) donated by Jerry Tillman. Spaces for classes, studios, volunteers, and a boardroom are planned. A large multi-purpose room will be situated adjacent to a commercial-style kitchen to be used for catering and culinary classes. The elevator and bathrooms will be made fully accessible for the disabled, and all offices will be

downstairs.

"The building will be available for the public to rent for various functions", said Chairman Patti Girardin. "It will be a beautiful space to host a cocktail party, luncheon, or even a wedding reception. It should easily accommodate 200 for a seated dinner, and with the outdoor plaza, guests can flow from outside to the inside, enjoying fascinating works of art at every turn. L/VAC expects to occupy the building in early 2003."

The new Center will mean a move for L/VAC from 4,000 to 17,000 square feet of space. Currently L/VAC holds monthly art exhibits and continuous art classes, presents four national Broadway shows, schedules 15 professional theatrical school performances for a five-county area, offers meeting rooms for 20 civic organizations, hosts daily tours through its galleries, stays open seven days-a-week, and somehow does it all beautifully with only



(LVAC cont. on page 14)

three full-time employees, Executive Director Roberta George, Assistant Director Elaine Kent, and Executive Assistant Adann-Kennn Alexxandar, depending very heavily on the work of interns and volunteers. As more classes and programs are added, it's expected that additional personnel will be needed.

Roberta George, Executive Director, said, "I'm happy that the additional space upstairs will allow all the associated guilds more workspace. We have a thriving Choral Guild that produces very professional Spring and Christmas concerts every year; a Writers Guild that meets at L/VAC every Saturday, and its writers have had poetry and short stories published in national magazines, some have even had books published. The

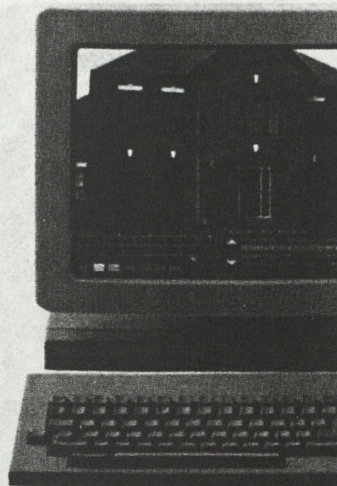
Southern Artists League is a very viable entity of L/VAC meeting every Sunday afternoon for drawing and painting classes with a live model; The Snake Nation Press is producing *The Snake Nation Review*, a book of short stories and poetry every quarter that has received honors and awards on the state and national level; The Withlacoochee Quilters Guild is going strong; The Valdosta Theatre Guild is a thriving entity; and Jean Arambula publishes the *Voice*, a monthly newspaper showcasing the Arts. The Cultural Arts Guild, headed by Sarah Bartholomew, is L/VAC's supporting organization from which is drawn the majority of volunteers. They, along with the Valdosta Junior Service League and the Azalea City Woman's

Club, are working hard for the Arts."

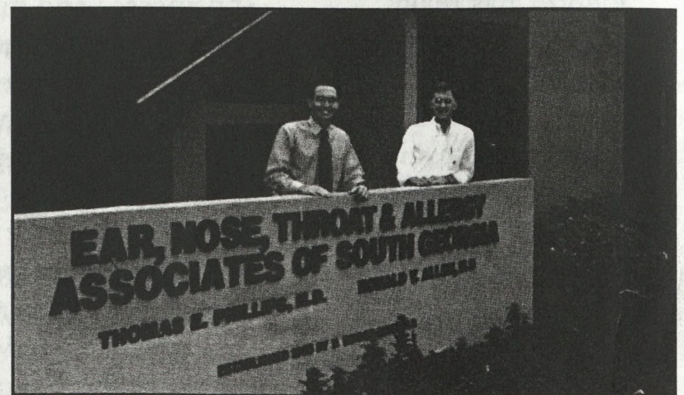
Commission Board meetings are currently filled with plans for the future. Bob Harrison, of MediaSouthEast, and chairman of L/VAC's Broadway Presenter Series Committee, said recently, "I hope we'll be able to add even more professional performances, including some smaller ones inside the new building. How we proceed with our major shows will depend a lot on whether the new Performing Arts Center becomes a reality. Many of the shows we'd like to bring in require a larger stage and arena than is available at Mathis Auditorium. The performance series has become financially stable in recent years, and ticket sales continue to increase. I'm very

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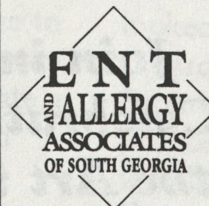
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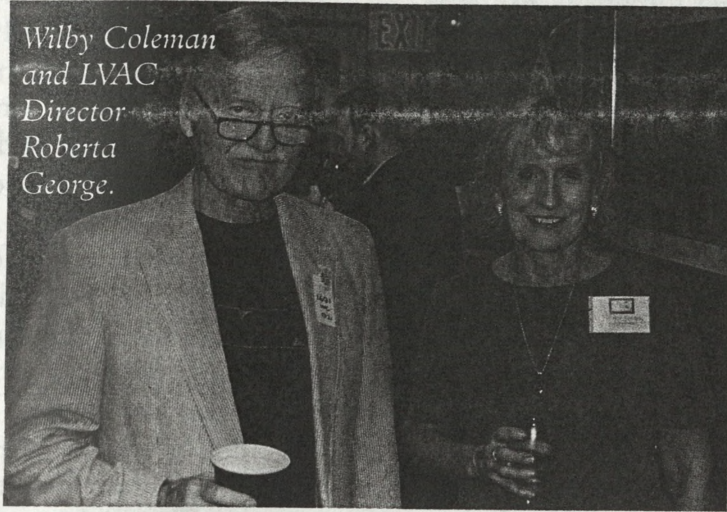


Ronald V. Allen, M.D.
Diplomate, American Academy of Otolaryngology

Thomas E. Phillips, M.D.
Diplomate, American Academy of Otolaryngology

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Allergy 244-2569 / Emergency 333-1000

Wilby Coleman
and LVAC
Director
Roberta
George.



excited about the reception the shows have been getting, and tickets will soon go on sale for the 2002/2003 Season."

Bill Sineath, Building Fund Chairman, said, "This new Arts Center has really shown me the good side of people in this area. It's been a community effort, and much hard work has gone into getting LVAC where it needed to be for such an expansion to take place. And when so many are giving of their time, their talents, and their money, it's an inspiration to work even harder. Everyone who comes through the door is here for a positive reason. We want LVAC to continue being a community-focused Center where it makes you feel good just to be here. For instance, we plan to

have ongoing, entertaining programs so our young people will want to just come and hang out. And, as Chairman of the Building Fund Committee, I'm issuing an invitation to all individuals, businesses and major corporations to help sponsor this project. Let's treat ourselves to the best Arts Center in this region."

The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts is just another example of how Valdosta, Lowndes County, and the rest of South Georgia are growing, needing more cultural and educational facilities.

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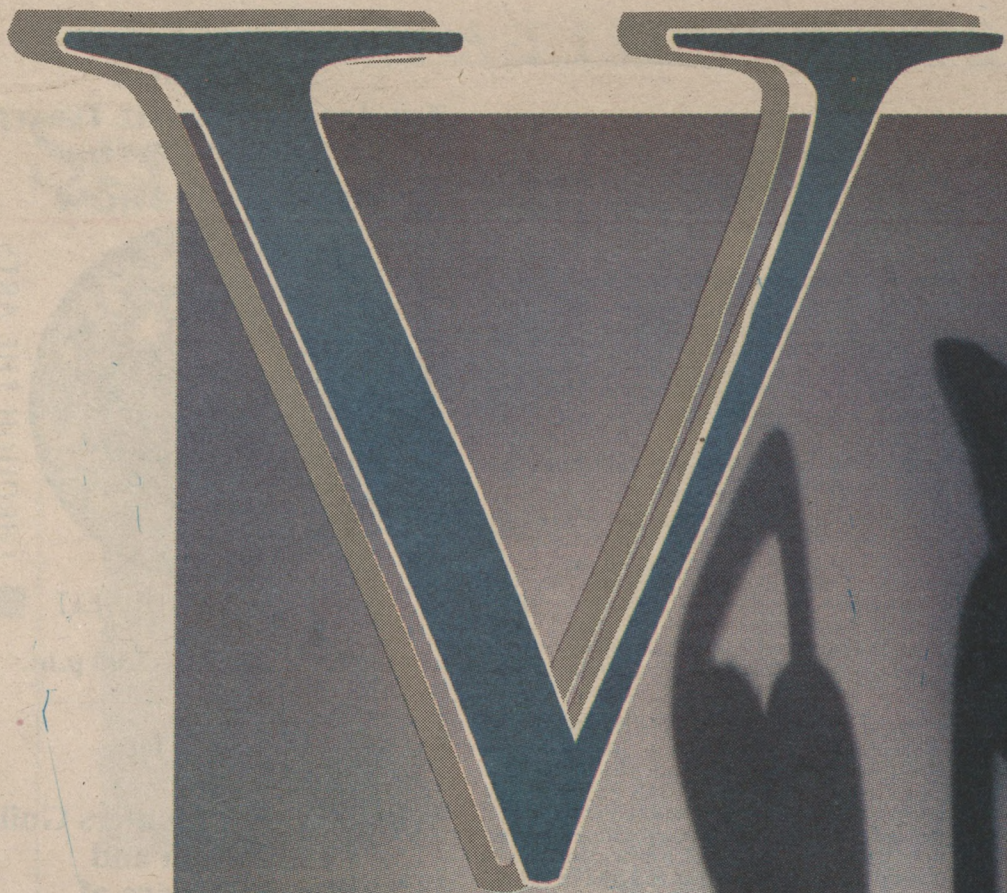
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African sculptures and artifacts collected by Jerry Tillman. Part of the permanent art displayed at the Annete Howell Turner Center for the Arts in Valdosta.

the Valdosta Voice
June 2003
Valdosta and The South

Volume 3: Issue 5

Heritage Foundation

Normal Life Art

The Essential Clash

Information provided by Miss Jane Osborn

South Georgia Coalition to End Homelessness monthly meeting, Noon, lunch served, donations accepted. Call Karen Costlow-Nolan for information and or directions, 229-245-8064, ext 105 or scg211@bellsouth.net.

CIVITAN Valdosta, NOON on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. CIVITAN is a small civic club with an emphasis on helping persons who are mentally and physically challenged. Meetings are held at noon at the Valdosta Country Club in one of the smaller meeting rooms. Everyone is invited. Membership is open to all and interested people are encouraged to contact the president, Dr. Mary H. Watson, 229-333-0254, and arrange to attend a luncheon meeting.

June 5 Valdosta Civic Roundtable, NOON, Valdosta Country Club.

June 6 - 7 Hate Summit IV: Building Diversity and Defining Democracy will illustrate the intersection of hate violence with various issues, and how the reduction of hate violence builds a more democratic society. Such hate violence includes hate crimes, police brutality, INS transgressions and other human rights abuses based on race, gender, sexuality, ethnicity and national origin. The leadership summit brings together civil and human rights organizations, youth leadership, policymakers, faith-based organizations and scholars to develop community responses to hate crimes, hate violence and other human rights abuses. Participants gather in conference Friday to share models of community response and several working group meetings. Saturday includes a rally and march to the M.L.K. Jr., Center and an evening dinner honoring Coretta Scott King, Joseph Lowery, C.T. Vivian and Andrew Young. For more information on all the great offerings of the weekend visit www.thecdr.org or call Dexter Wimbish at 404.221.0025.

June 5-7 First Annual Conference for Community and Scholar Activists, Emory & Henry College in Emory, Virginia. Just Connections has extended its deadline for registration and scholarship application. Conference is for com-

munity activists, students, faculty, and other social justice advocates who may be interested in exploring new ideas for building knowledge, resources, and partnerships that can help them solve community problems.

The Just Connections conference will be an exciting opportunity to share issues and best practices in participatory research, service learning, and community-based education. Invited are community activists, scholar-activists, college administrators, students, and funders who are involved in this work in distressed mountain communities. The conference will feature: **Sessions led by several pioneers of community development and participatory research in Appalachia** -- Helen Lewis, Marie Cirillo, Franki Patton Rutherford, Frank Adams, and others. Sharing of models, methods, and lessons learned. How-to workshops on incorporating community-based research (CBR) and service learning projects into courses.

Presentation of innovative community models, including the Emory & Henry model of place-based service learning by long-time scholar activist Professor Steve Fisher.

All participants will receive a copy of the Just Connections Curriculum Toolbox, developed for use by community and academic activists. The mission of Just Connections, Inc. is to invigorate grassroots democracy among residents of distressed mountain communities by creating and using models for participatory research and service. Scholarship funds are available to help defray costs--such as conference fees, housing, child care, and meals--for lower-income participants. www.justconnections.org for more information, or contact: Janice Morrissey, Ph.D., GEAR (Grassroots Empowerment Alliance of Rome) P.O. Box 772 - Rome, GA 30162, 706-235-5134 (office) 770-684-3645 e-mail: GEAR5134@bellsouth.net

June 10 Prevent Child Abuse Lowndes County, Old Times Restaurant, NOON, contact Sandra Wilcher for information. Contact J. Driggers at jdriggers@datasys.net for more information.

June 10 "The United Religions Initiative." Linda Bennett Elder will speak on this global interfaith project which has headquarters in San Francisco. The project has as a principal focus

the cessation of religiously motivated violence. The organization embodies the principles inherent in thinking globally and working locally. Bio Chem Auditorium at VSU, 7:00 PM

June 24 "Media Accountability and Literacy." Frank Barnas will speak on how the coverage of the War in Iraq has highlighted issues of media integrity and the connections between corporate news organizations and the military-industrial complex. Bio Chem Auditorium at VSU, 7:00 PM

June 11-14 First National Conference for Nonprofit Human Resources

Idealist.org host, Philadelphia, PA. With a wide variety of breakout sessions, the conference is designed for seasoned full-time HR professionals, as well as for Executive Directors, Directors of Operations, or other staff at smaller nonprofits who must wear the HR hat among many others. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.idealists.org/conference2003>.

June 19 Lowndes/Valdosta Mental Health Association monthly meeting, NOON, Shoney's restaurant, Hwy 84 just east of Norman Drive (NOTE NEW MEETING PLACE). It is important that you attend this public meeting if you are a recipient of the funds of this organization. For more information, contact Jane Osborn at osbo1933@bellsouth.net or 229-245-8064

June 26 Easter Seals Chocolate Classic "Creating Solutions, Changing Lives", Lowndes-Valdosta Convention Center, 7:00 PM. Indulge your passion for chocolate! Tickets are \$10.00 per person. Champagne, wine, coffee and other beverages will be served along with eats and treats. There will be a silent auction on various items, and a 50/50 raffle. Come join the fun. To donate an auction item or buy advanced tickets, call Suzanne Harvey at 229-460-0492 or Cathy Burks at 229-247-8030

See page 19 for more notices.

Send notices for publication to: snakenation@mchsi.com

June Events at
THE ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER
Center For The Arts

YOU'RE THE SHOW



LIVE PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE ARTS

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Saturday June 6, 7:00 p.m.

Reception for:

Withlacoochee Quilters Guild
Exhibition and
Judith Moore of
Sante Fe, New Mexico

June 23: 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m

The Lamar Dodd Exhibit
on display through August.

African Art Exhibit
on permanent display

Call 247-2747 for information.

Artist Directory

All media

Hollis Barnett (229) 333-5838
Dick Bjornseth (229) 293-0352
J. Stephen Lahr (229) 244-7024
Ouida Duke Lampert (229) 242-8757
Barbara & Marshall Norris
(850) 948-2720

Teresa Rozier (229) 559-0220

All media, murals and faux finish

Ann Johnston (229) 247-6311

All media, including restorations

Karin Murray (229) 333-5835

Acrylic paintings, landscape

Marcia Flatau (229) 242-2180

Acrylic paintings, scenics

Harley Hall (229) 794-3595

Calligraphy

Todd Alderman (229) 245-8054

Phyllis Maria Harris (229) 253-9177

Ceramics

Walter Hobbs (229) 244-9888

Jack Smith (229) 242-4820

Ceramic mosaic - woodburning

Terry A. Reese (229) 559-9419

Colored pencil

Leon Colvin (229) 247-5037

Lettering, Signs, Murals, Airbrush

Troy Hendricks (850) 929-4230

Metal sculpture

Wilby Coleman (229) 253-1691

Oil portraits

Bill Hoopes (229) 263-4068

Fay Bridges Hyatt (229) 253-9982

Oil paintings

Ruth Kahler (229) 247-6621

Oil paintings, still lifes

Bebe Blanton (229) 242-7419

Ferrell Harris (229) 245-1671

Oil paintings, murals, faux finishes

Elizabeth Hall (229) 560-3132

Pastel

Patsy Hickox (229) 686-5676

Photo restoration

Jack Rowe (229) 244-1755

Photography

Steve Heddon (229) 460-0479

Tracie Radford (229) 253-9703

Portraits, paintings, faux finishes

B.J. Paulk 242-5134

Claire Hall (229) 249-8423

Restoration

Cynthia Carmichael 229-263-1931

Sketches

Haley Rosenberg (229) 247-2795

Stained glass

Mick Widner (229) 249-0344

Water color media

Eleanor Bollman (229) 333-0195

Watercolor, southern landscapes

Lillian Brooks (229) 794-2473

Watercolor

Joyce Haddock (229) 244-1049

Claire Hall (229) 249-8423

Sylvia Warrick (229) 244-3170

Al Park (229) 244-6165

Georgia Smith (229) 242-5820

Watercolor Portraits

Jean Little (229) 244-5466

Watercolor, including pet portraits

Don Pettigrew (229) 244-9394

Watercolor, Oil, Acrylics, Murals

Olga Powell (229) 242-6939

Joann Adams (229) 263-5408

Writer, Experimental Performer

Mark Sonnenfeld (609) 443-0646

Artist: Call or mail your listing to

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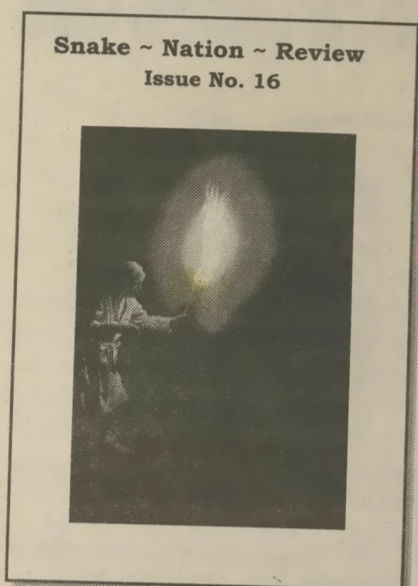
Sunday Brunch
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For reservations

Serena McDonald Kennedy Award

By Jean Arambula



Snake Nation Review
Issue Number 16
available in June.

Recently, The Price-Campbell Foundation awarded Snake Nation Press a grant that will allow the Snake to offer an annual fiction award. It will be called the *Serena McDonald Kennedy Fiction Award* in honor of the grandmother of a trustee of the Foundation.

Snake Nation Press began publishing the *Review* in 1989, while Roberta George, Founding Editor, was still pursuing her masters degree in English at Florida State University. New literary magazines are usually short-lived, mainly because of their less than lucrative nature and the hard work associated with the endeavor. Roberta managed to keep the Snake afloat, publishing good fiction and poetry from new and also successful writers. Small grants and donations and a growing subscription base give many writers a chance to see their work in print.

In 1991, after accepting the position of Executive Director of Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center (now the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts) it became increasingly difficult to keep the Press publishing. In 1999, Mrs. George decided to suspend operations. In the spring of 2000, Jean Arambula, who had worked with Roberta on the Snake in the mid-nineties, returned to Valdosta to make it her permanent home. Mrs. George suggested she start up the Press again. Since the summer of 2000, The Snake has published two issues of the *Review*, with three more to be published by fall of 2003. Twenty-five issues of *The Valdosta Voice* have been distributed free in the area, featuring local writers, poets and artists. Local artists, writers and poets have volunteered their talents to make the Voice possible. Many are included in this issue.

The Press is an ad hoc member of the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Commission and during the last three years has hosted a monthly Open-Mic at the Center and also numerous writers groups. The Adult Writers Group has met continuously since 1995.

New projects evolving at the Snake include a writers' conference in the fall and a long-term challenge to create a literary center with a library, offering programs of reading, writing, and book arts.

Mrs. George continues to be directly involved, reading, and editing manuscripts. She also plans to spend more time working on her unfinished novel and other literary projects.

VALDOSTA VOICE

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Roberta George
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Snake Nation Press

COLUMNISTS Karen Postel
Maria Arambula
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Chris Parker
Leona Abood
Ted Pyles
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The Valdosta Voice is published by Snake Nation Press, a 501(c) non profit literary arts organization. The Voice supports local artists (writers, fine arts, crafts-people) by offering a free forum for their work and ideas. The Voice welcomes editorials, articles, poetry, and short fiction from the community and the world. All writers retain copyright to the material published. The Voice takes one time rights for publication. Support this endeavor by sending your tax-deductible donations to the address above.

Violet Reed Haas Prize for Poetry: Winner and Finalists

The winner of the Violet Reed Haas Award for Poetry 2002 is Tania Rochelle of Marietta, Georgia. Congratulations Tania!

About the judging...

The judge for the Violet Haas prize was M. L. Williams; whose publications include *How Much Earth: The Fresno Poets* (Roundhouse Press), *Knowers and Makers* in *The Measured Word: On Poetry and Science* (UP: Georgia), *So Luminous the Wildflowers: An Anthology of California Poets* (Tebot Bach), *The Best of the Prose Poem* (White Pine), *Verse and Universe* (Milkweed), *The Geography of Home* (Heyday Press), *Solo, What There Is, Rattapallax*, and elsewhere.

He was the editor of *Quarterly West* for five years, and currently he is Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Valdosta State University and annual co-host of the Poetry Corner at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books.

Tania Rochelle holds an MFA from the Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in several print magazines, including *Snake Nation Review*, *New York Quarterly*, *Iris*, and *Rattle*, as well as in online journals such as *Three Candles*, *The Drunken Boat*, and *Stirring*.

Her poems have been included in the anthologies *Split Verse*, edited by Meg Campbell and William Duke; *We Used to be Wives*, edited by Jane Butkin Roth; and *Mercy of Tides*, edited by Margot Wizansky, due out in August. She is editor-in-chief of the online literary quarterly, *Blaze* (www.sundress.net/blaze). She teaches writing at the Portfolio Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and lives in the suburbs with her husband, four children, and a variety of dogs, cats, and domestic rodents.

Finalists in the Violet Haas Poetry Competition:

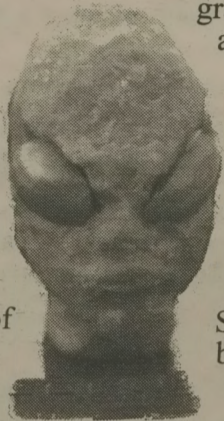
Jarret Keene, Tallahassee, FL
Ronald Bullis, Richmond, VA
Shelby Stephenson, Benson, NC
Mary Ann Larkin, Washington, DC
Rebecca Baggett, Athens, GA
David Salner, Frederick, MD
Phil Memmer, Clinton, NY
Elisa Albo, N. Miami Beach, FL
Philip Fried, New York, NY
Todd Heldt, Chicago, IL
Matt Schumacher, Pleasant Valley, IA
David Keller, Lawrenceville, NJ
Anthony Russell White, San Rafael, CA
Kim Roberts, Washington, DC
Patric Pepper, Washington, DC

Geoff Bouvier, San Diego, CA
James Finnegan, West Hartford, CT
Judy Kronenfield, Riverside, CA
Edie Mueller, Newton, MA
Roger Pfingston, Bloomington, IN
Jonathan Harrington, New York, NY
Richard Jackson, Chattanooga, TN
David M. Shaw, Hillsborough, NC
Jack Donahue, Bayside, NY
Anthony Sorbin, Santa Fe, NM
Matt Flumerfelt, Valdosta, GA
Ernest Stableford, York Harbor, ME
Grace Bauer, Lincoln, NE
Ardyth Bradley, Libertyville, IL
Constance Egemo, Ames, IA

Raw Art...or Playing with your Food

What does a group of artists do at a picnic? They make art of their food. That is exactly what happened at the May event sponsored by the Southern Artists' League. According to SAL President, Jean Little, this fun picnic was held on May 17th at the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

Little explained that SAL members and the public brought food, not just to eat, but to make into art. The photos illustrate a unique sweet potato art by SAL member Georgia Roswell. Another member, Dick Bjornseth, made art by carving out of a can full of SPAM. The public and SAL members were invited to draw or paint different foods



Regional Art Show" juried in six works of the three SAL members: The accepted works include: "Roberta Jean" and "Gary's Willow" chairs by Amy Lansburg; "Young Girl" and "Queen" drawings by Dick Bjornseth, and "Acqua darcholordenequixx" and "Step One (of a Seven Step Process)" photographs by Adann Kenn Alexxandar. All of these works will be on display through May 28th at the gallery at 124 Pine Street, in Albany.

Meanwhile, the Thomasville Cultural Center has juried in additional works of three SAL artists for their "Annual Summer Showcase Exhibition" which opens at 3:00pm on Sunday, June

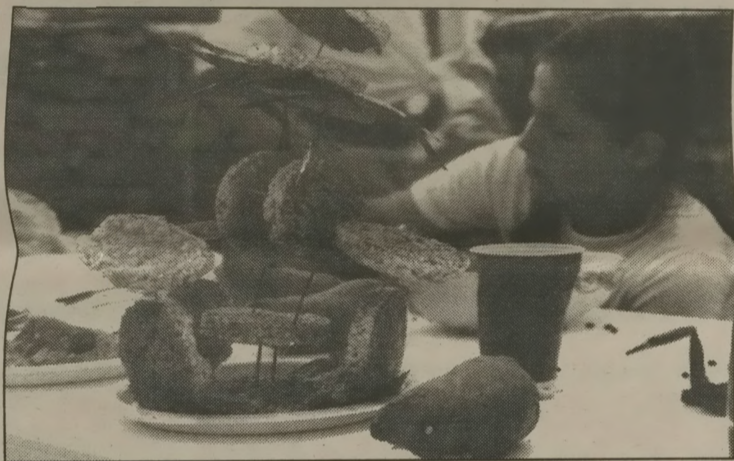
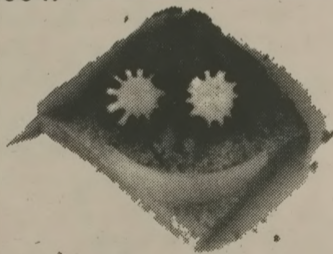
works, a painting and a conceptual 3-D piece. This brings the total SAL members' artworks accepted in the Thomasville up to over 1/4 of the entire show.

The Thomasville exhibition was opened Sunday, June 1 at a reception. The exhibition will be on display at the Thomasville Art Center facilities located at 600 East Washington Street, Thomasville, GA throughout the summer until early August.

The "Best of the Spring into Art" exhibition now on display at the new Annette Howell Turner Center galleries include a large number of artworks by SAL members. This popular art exhibition has traditionally featured a number of SAL artists and the current exhibition is no exception. This show will be on display through June 10th.

In addition to the above, exhibitions, earlier in the year, Jean Little had work in two Black History Month exhibitions. One was at Valdosta State University and the other at the Turner Center. Claire Hall has been shown at the Houston TX Water Media 2003 and also at the Tallahassee Watercolor Tri-state Exhibit.

SAL has completed another groundbreaking year of activity thanks to the work of outgoing officers including Jean Little, Marshall Norris, Lisa McAleer, Amy Lansburg, and Dick Bjornseth. At the next general membership meeting a new set of officers will be elected for 2003/2004.



An unidentified SAL guest gets into the spirit of things at the

Raw Art picnic at The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

as well. Five prizes were awarded. SAL also provided "edible" food and drink to those who attended this tongue-in-cheek event.

Valdosta, Albany, and Thomasville Exhibits recognize SAL Talents:

Congratulations to an unusually large number of SAL members who have recently been recognized for their artworks which include papermaking, drawing, photography, ceramics, and furniture:

The Albany Area Arts Council's "Fourth Annual Southwest Georgia

1. SAL members were fortunate to have 9 out of only 52 artworks accepted for this exhibition. The SAL artists accepted include: Dick Bjornseth "Art Gallery Nude" and "Endless Put On" both prismacolor drawings; Amy Lansburg, "The Fallacy of Ingraham v. Right," and "Sisters," driftwood and found object chairs; Georgia Rowswell for two papermaking artworks; and Walter Hobbs for two ceramic pieces. Lu Sands, "The Hat" a charcoal drawing and Steve Lahr, two

Mac's Park Community Canvas



Photo by Haley Rosenberg

Mara Register and daughter, and James Horton, arrange flowers.

A "community canvas" was created by Valdosta area residents who will have their chance to commemorate Mack's Birthday 2003. A blank canvas and easel was installed at Mack's Park before the annual commemoration of the birthday of Mac Freeman, the owner of The Flower Gallery in downtown Valdosta. Southern Artists' League member Dick Bjornseth began with an under-painting outlining the Wilby Coleman flower metal sculpture and this year's plantings at the sculpture base. The public was invited to take over the canvas and paint their own flowers, comments, signatures, or whatever they'd like to add to the "2003 Commemorative Mack's Park Canvas."

It is hoped that this community painting event will become an annual affair. Over time, the canvases from the proceeding years will be displayed at future annual events. A temporary outdoor gallery honoring Mack Freeman will grow from this event, commemorating not simply the commitment of Mack to beauty and flowers, but to the artistic talent of all Valdosta.

If you would like to become a member, please do so by filling out this form.

You may bring it to any meeting or mail it to the address below.

Southern Artists' League Membership Form

Active. Dues \$20 per year.

Student. Dues \$10 per year.

(Student membership is limited to full-time students who are 18 years or older.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

HomePhone _____ WorkPhone _____

Email _____

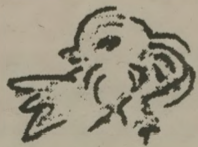
Medium _____ Date _____

Make Check Payable to Southern Artists' League and Mail To:

Southern Artists' League

Box 2562

Valdosta, GA 31604-2562



Mockingbird

Objects Old & New

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• Downtown Valdosta •

247-4561

The Essential Clash

The problem with punk rock, even to the ones who understand it best, is in its conscious lack of structure. Arguably the most anarchic form modern music has yet assumed, punk rock exists as an explosion. Punk songs rarely stray past three minutes in length, can almost never be listened to in sittings of more than an hour's length, and an album that doesn't sound like dirt five years after its release has achieved near-classic shelf life. Yet, here I am, having spent a whole afternoon doing nothing but listening to *The Essential Clash* and feeling far the better for it. So, maybe The Clash wasn't really much of a punk band after all. I've been saying that for as long as I've listened to them.

The Essential Clash has two discs, contains forty songs, and comprises over two hours of music, documenting the band's output during their short but extraordinary career. Unlike most collections bearing the 'essential' tag, this one lives up to its billing in more ways than one. The track selection is nearly indisputable, making *The Essential Clash* mandatory listening for anyone with an interest in the development of rock music. The Clash was a truly pivotal band, one of a very few revered in both mainstream and underground rock circles.

More than half of the tracks on the first disc are culled from the initial UK release of the band's self-titled debut and its alternate US version. It is on those songs that the band is most closely associated with the classic punk sound. The songs are short and the production raw. Joe Strummer's London sneer and bitter lyrics demonstrate clearly that British punk was born out of lower-class anger, rather than the middle-class ennui that sparked its American counterpart. "White Riot", which opens the collection, was written after Strummer and bassist Paul Simonon participated in a riot at the Notting Hill Carnival, a well-known Afro-Caribbean music festival, in 1976. "London's Burning" may talk about boredom, but its clear that the band had no intention of letting such general disaffection last for long. "Clash City Rockers", "I'm So Bored With the U.S.A.", and "Career Opportunities", the last with its declaration "I hate the army and I hate the RAF", were all filled in equal parts with the bile of downtrodden lives and the brazen determination to turn tables on the status quo.

Still, The Clash was far more than just loud and angry. They had a terrific sense of humor, as evidenced by the hilariously cheesy "Oh yeah" harmony on "Police & Thieves". Moreover, they were a band with intense charisma. "(White Man) in Hammersmith Palais" comes a little over halfway through the first disc and should be considered the most important song in their musical development. It was on that song that they first began to show the musical diversity that would inform their future work. Built around Paul Simonon's meandering reggae baseline and augmented by Mick Jones's minimal guitar strokes and Topper Headon's rock solid drumming, the song overcomes dodgy production and builds to a stirring climax, with Strummer encouraging people to find a solution to their problems other than simplistic violence.

The five songs taken from the second Clash album, *Give 'em Enough Rope*, show the band moving in what may have been an unexpected direction at the time. The production is smoother, with a far greater emphasis on melody than anything the band had previously attempted. This might have been a problem had Strummer and Jones not been the hugely gifted songwriters that they were. "Julie's Been Working for the Drug Squad" again showcases the band's good humor, while "Safe European Home" and "Tommy Gun", which includes a short but mind-blowing single chord solo from Mick Jones, pack just as much power as anything on the debut. "English Civil War" nicks the melody of "Johnny Comes Marching Home" and transforms it into a straight-ahead rocker on which the band's playing is tighter than it had ever been before.

The first disc closes perfectly, with one of The Clash's very finest moments, their glorious cover of Sonny Curtis's "I Fought the Law". The band's populism is on full display, stripping away the morose tone of the original. Opening with a thunderous drum-roll, continuing with Strummer and Jones's dual-hook guitar interplay and closing with a handclap inducing sing-along, this is a version that trumps the original in every way. There is no regret in Strummer's delivery of the lyrics, as if the fact that the law ultimately won is of no consequence. To The Clash, the point was in the fight.

The second disc opens as perfectly as the first ends, with seven tracks from the third Clash album, *London Calling*, their consensus masterpiece. The energy of their debut and the melodic sense of its follow-up meshed with a new level of adventurism. "London Calling" foretold of an apocalypse with something akin to delight, and when Strummer snarled the lyric, "London calling, now don't look to us/ Phony Beatlemania's bitten the dust", he was making it clear that the band had no



The Clash: *The Essential Clash*
Epic Records, 2003)

interest in pandering to their growing mainstream recognition. "Rudie Can't Fail", "Jimmie Jazz" and especially the Paul Simonon written and sung "Guns of Brixton" show just how well The Clash understood the world-music that influenced everything they produced from that point onward. Also notable was Mick Jones's increased vocal contribution. "Clampdown" is as fiery and convincing a salvo against global capitalism as any band has managed since. "Lost in the Supermarket" follows in the same lyrical vein, but with a more gentle, alienated tone. The buoyant "Train in Vain" is almost pure pop, and continues to be one of the band's most often played songs.

Following the London Calling selections is the single "Bankrobber", an impassioned tale of an unjust prison system. Next comes "The Magnificent Seven" one of five songs selected from the sprawling 1980 triple-album *Sandinista!* The song is notable for both its infectious mid-tempo rhythm and its lyrics, perhaps the sharpest social commentary The Clash ever achieved.

So get back to work and sweat some more,
The sun will set and we'll get out the door,
It's no good for man to work in cages,
Hits the town, he drinks his wages,
You all fret, you all sweat,
You all fret, you all sweat,
But did you notice you're not getting anywhere?
Don't you ever stop long enough to start?

And later in the same song:

Luther King and Mahatma Ghandi
Went to the bar to check out the game,
But they was murdered by the other team
Who went on to win fifteen mil.
You can be true; you can be false,
You'll be given the same reward.

It was after "The Magnificent Seven", which opened *Sandinista!*, that The Clash first began to disappoint. That only five songs are taken from the album, which totaled thirty-six, is telling. That only two of those, "Police on my Back" being the other, are good enough to merit mentioning in the same breath as everything that had come before is even more so. Caught up in a vein of experimentation, The Clash had somehow forsaken the fervor that had colored all their prior output.

Sandinista! was both a critical and commercial disaster, and it was followed in 1982 by the less bizarre but equally scattershot *Combat Rock*. The last album before the band fell apart, *Combat Rock* produced The Clash's two biggest hits. As timeless as "Should I Stay or Should I Go" may be, "Rock the Casbah" is nearly as dated and intolerable. The album track "Straight to Hell", on the other hand, is head and shoulders above either, built on a gorgeously understated rhythm and elevated by an inspired vocal performance from Strummer, that serves as a reminder of what had been. Soon after the release of *Combat Rock*, Strummer and Jones, had a falling out and Jones was sacked from the band, along with Headon. In 1985, Strummer and Simonon released *Cut the Crap* with a revamped lineup. Had they chosen to heed the advice of the title, the album would not have existed at all. "This is England" sounds simply moronic when compared to the glories of the past and it was still far better than any other track that album.

It is not hard to see what went wrong for The Clash. Bands that burn with so much intensity and creativity rarely last for long. Self-confidence undermined the freshness that blazed throughout their early years. Regardless, we owe it to ourselves to remember them for the best of their work and, if we continue to do so The Clash is a band that will never be forgotten.

DAY TRIPPER

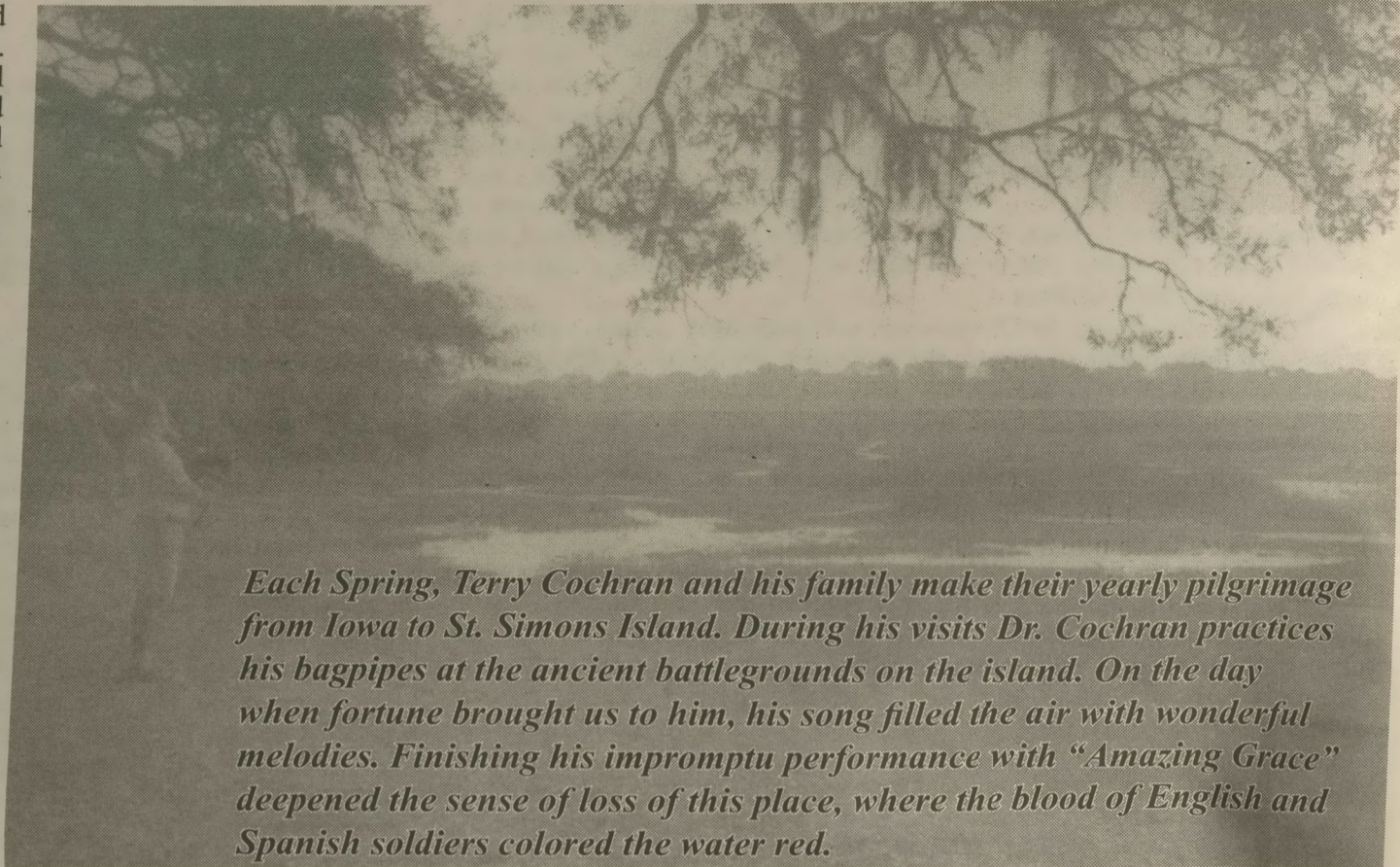
St. Simons Island: History Without Hype

A trip to St Simon's Island is a must for history buffs. Georgia's history is a vital part of the life on this small island off the coast. Numerous sites abound with plenty of historical information about the founding of Georgia. On the island you will find the Fort Fredericka National Historic site. When Parliament chartered the Georgia colony in 1732, Englishmen of all classes rallied to the idea of a new stronghold that would serve as a utopia, or ideal society, in the American wilderness. The first shipload of 114 persons left England under the leadership of one of the colony's trustees, Gen. James Edward Oglethorpe (1696-1785). Reaching Georgia in 1733, this first group of settlers established a town on the Savannah River that they named Savannah. A settlement was not the only purpose in founding Georgia, Oglethorpe sailed down the coast in 1734 to look for strategic points to fortify

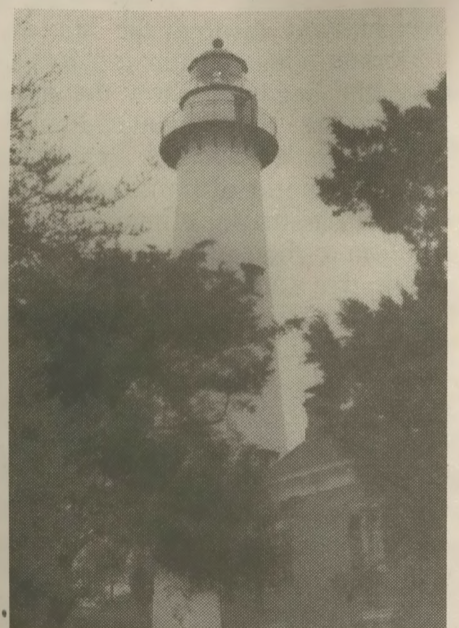
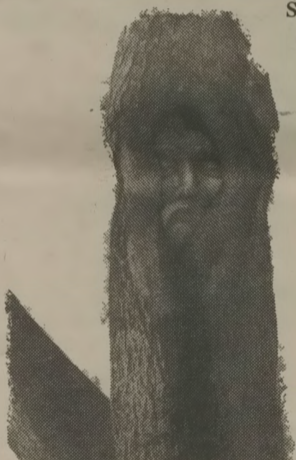
against the Spanish. He found a likely site on a sea island just below the mouth of the Altamaha River. This was St. Simons, an island with thick forests, good water, and a fertile upland. He returned to England and recruited a group of settlers to accompany him back to St. Simons. On reaching the island in 1736, Oglethorpe and his settlers laid out a military fort and town, both named Frederica in honor of Frederick, Prince of Wales, King George II's son.

The Fort became the key to the British defense of the Georgia colony and supported troops that fought a Spanish force on St. Simons Island. The Spanish opponent was Manuel de Montiano, governor of Florida. His objective was of a punitive nature, to destroy Frederica and lay waste the coast as far north as Port Royal, South Carolina. After capturing that town, he planned to strike at the English plantation system by freeing the slaves in the surrounding countryside. In early July his ships ran past the guns of Fort St. Simons and landed troops a few miles up the inland passage. Outflanked, Oglethorpe pulled back to Frederica. On July 7 about 200 Spanish soldiers advanced up the military road connecting the two forts. Oglethorpe routed this column with a fierce attack. When Montiano learned of this repulse, he sent several hundred of his best men forward to cover the retreat. Several miles along the road these troops ran into a British ambush. That battle became known as "Bloody Marsh", because the marsh was said to run red with the blood of the dead and wounded. This British rout of the Spanish forces ended the final Spanish threat to Georgia. Oglethorpe proclaimed a day of thanksgiving for this deliverance. All of these points of interest are within an easy bike ride for most visitors.

"The Village" is unincorporated and has a distinct personality apart from the rest of Glynn County. It is reminiscent of Key West, only more family-friendly. Art galleries, local restaurants, and a well-stocked used bookstore are some of the places not to be missed. The ever-present bike paths are most representative of the easy pace found on the Island. Winding along-side every street, the trails give visitors an opportunity to experience a safe, relaxed vacation. A three-hour drive from Valdosta, an overnight stay is recommended so the full flavor of the Island can be enjoyed. St Simons, rich with history, from Oglethorpe to Wesley to a functioning lighthouse open to the public there is something for everyone on the Island. And don't forget the "Spirit Trees" and quiet beaches where a dolphin sighting is as sure as the sunrise.



Each Spring, Terry Cochran and his family make their yearly pilgrimage from Iowa to St. Simons Island. During his visits Dr. Cochran practices his bagpipes at the ancient battlegrounds on the island. On the day when fortune brought us to him, his song filled the air with wonderful melodies. Finishing his impromptu performance with "Amazing Grace" deepened the sense of loss of this place, where the blood of English and Spanish soldiers colored the water red.



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Directions:

From Valdosta go east to Waycross on U.S. 84, at Waycross stay straight to go onto GA-520 W/US-82 W/CORRIDOR Z. Continue to follow GA-520 W.GA-520 W becomes US-17 N/GA-25 N. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto FJ TORRAS CSWY (Portions toll). Enter next roundabout and take 1st exit into St. Simon's Island. Total Distance: 126.70 miles

Heritage Foundation: Past, Present, Future...

by Louie Peeples White

It started with the invitation, which summoned the members of the Valdosta Heritage Foundation and their guests to an annual meeting AND a "Winnersville Ball". These two events were to take place together at the same time at the Valdosta Country Club on Thursday, May 15, 2003, starting at 6:30 p.m., during National Preservation Week, which is always the week after Mother's Day.

The invitation was, one might say, a kind of agenda for the meeting; and the Ball, listing four officers and thirteen directors of the Foundation as well as a long list of its current projects: the complete restoration of the Roberts House, Valdosta's oldest house, built in 1845; the Main Street Program in historic downtown Valdosta, which the Foundation was instrumental in bringing to Valdosta some years ago; the publication of a special book called, *Valdosta and Lowndes County: A Story of the People and Their Buildings; an Historical Survey of Lowndes County*; National Register listings, especially Sunset Hill Cemetery, which has now been approved by Washington, D.C., for the final OK; and the Heritage and History Room in the South Georgia Regional Library, named in honor of the Valdosta Heritage Foundation by the library.

But the "Winnersville Ball"? Well, when President Louie White, looked back over the Foundation's doings this past year, September, '02, through September, '03, community winners were actually, officers and directors, or persons involved, one way or another, with the Valdosta Heritage Foundation.

For example, Mara Register, the Director of the Community Development Department of Valdosta, last fall was chosen to be the Business and Professional Woman of the Year, and Amy Carter, wife of Director, Doug Carter, was selected in the spring as the Valdosta Junior Woman's Club Woman of the Year! Moreover, *The Valdosta Daily Times* chose one Foundation Officer, its secretary, Joanne Griner, as "a person who makes a difference in Valdosta" in numerous volunteer capacities, starting and chairing the City-County Azalea Festival now in its third year.

Two directors, Mara Register, mentioned previously, "makes a difference" as well as does Liza Newsom in her job as head librarian of the South Georgia Regional Library. Glenn Gregory, local architect and Project Manager of the Roberts House Restoration, and Dr. Harry Hamm, Director of LARC Services Inc., and President of the Fairview Association of Homeowners (an ex-officio officer of the Heritage Foundation, as the Victorian homes of the owners were mostly restored by the owners themselves) were both recognized by the *Times* as "making a difference in Valdosta."

At the Lowndes County Historical Society Annual Dinner in May, Louie Peeples White was given the Harold Bennett Award for continuing to support historical preservation in Valdosta.

Each of the aforementioned was presented a be-ribboned "Winner's Medallion" by the evening's special host, Donald Davis, and special hostess, Gloria Sorenson, both active members of the Valdosta Heritage Foundation—and everybody there as well. "We are all, ALL winners in Valdosta," said the President, who then made the only



Louie White, President of the Heritage Foundation has the first dance with Jimmy Rainwater, Mayor of Valdosta.



Left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Hughes B. Jenkins, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shelton; and Mr. and Mrs. Blake Pierce, the dancing couples especially invited to come to show everybody else how to dance. Mr. and Mrs. William Okuma were away from the table chatting with the other guests.



Gloria Sorenson, Special Hostess, gives the invocation. Seated in front of Gloria at the head table are Donald Davis, Special Host; Debbie Saeger, wife of the Treasure of the Heritage Foundation; and Ken Ricket, Vice President of the Heritage Foundation.



Richard Hill, local architect and long active in preservation activities in Valdosta; James Horton, Valdosta Main Street Director, and Shanna Hall.



Mara and David Register, Ken Ricket, architect, and the Mayor talk about Valdosta.

President's Award this year to Main street Director, James Horton, for his "outstanding work performance" since he became Main Street Director in 2000, now fully accredited in Washington, D.C. earlier this year.

Champagne was then poured for all attending to toast Andre Gerhart, Valdosta's Preservation Planner with the South Georgia Regional Development Center, and Alex McDonald, also a Preservation Planner in Camilla, Georgia, who was married on Cumberland Island in April and is now living in Quitman. A large contingent from Quitman came to wish them well along with many friends in Valdosta.

Chosen as the Special Speaker for the Annual Meeting and the "Winnersville Ball" was the Mayor of Valdosta, also, of course, the Mayor of "Winnersville", the Honorable James H. Rainwater, who spoke glowingly of Valdosta's progress and potential, especially proclaimed the city will reach metropolitan population in the foreseeable future and what it could portend for the Heritage Foundation, especially the completion of the Roberts House.

There was thunderous applause to what the Mayor had to say. Then the music started, and the "Winners Ball" began, as the Mayor and the President Louie White danced, encouraging others to get up too.

On hand for that moment were four couples of the Eileen Trantham Dancing Class provided by the Valdosta/Lowndes County Recreation, Parks and Community Affairs Department. Like swans on a quiet lake they moved in celebration of the moment and were wonderful to see (and try to emulate).

The music was provided by "The Winners", a trio led by Robert Plummer of the orchestra, "Sentimental Journey". John Patterson was called away on business just before "The Winners" were to play.

But back to THE invitation....there appeared at the end a cartoon from *The New Yorker*, showing some fish slowly walking ashore, but one was way ahead and kind of gyrating around. The caption under the cartoon has him saying, "Walk, hell. I gotta dance!" (And the Valdosta Heritage Foundation with it!)

The Lowndes County Historical Society elected new officers for the 2003-2005 term. They are: President, Julie Smith, 1st Vice president, Chris Meyers, 2nd Vice President, Lamar Cole, Secretary, Joe Tomberlin, Treasurer, Redden Hart, Publicist, and...

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

A Partner of the Community

by Leona Abood

The Medicine Shoppe, with its clean, white-stuccoed exterior, sits serenely surrounded by green lawn, shrubs, and pine trees. Conveniently located near Langdale Place and a large residential area, it is an excellent example of how a small business can thrive even in a very competitive market. Almost every grocery store in the city has a pharmacy and three large national pharmacy stores have recently opened in the city, yet Robert Hatton of the Medicine Shoppe says he is as busy as ever. He knows his customers by name and visits with them when they come into the Shoppe. The Shoppe employs four full-time and two part-time employees.



No one likes to be sick and feel ill, but when you do, doesn't it make you feel better knowing Robert Hatton is waiting at the Medicine Shoppe ready to help and meet your immediate needs. In my case, I live across the street. When I really feel bad, which seems to be a lot lately I just call Robert and tell him to deliver my prescription. The delivery is free and within 15 minutes.

Originally from Jesup, Georgia, Robert and his wife, Kimberly of 14 years and their three children, Sarah, Rachel, and Joshua have lived in Valdosta a little over 10 years. They have renovated a home in the Historic Fairview District of Valdosta.

Robert Patton is very active in Park Avenue Methodist Church, singing in the choir and on occasion accompanying the choir with his trumpet. He has a solo in "He has provided the Lamb", an annual Easter event at Park Avenue Methodist. "The Lamb" is a production of Christ's journey to his death and resurrection.

Robert wears many hats, pharmacist, husband, father, active member of his church, and a great asset and contributor to our community. Hats off to a local involved businessman!

The Medicine Shoppe



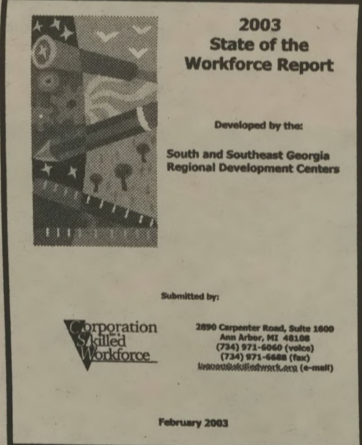
Your Custom Medication Pharmacy!

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A Review:

2003 Strategic Plan For Workforce Investment

Published by the South Georgia Regional Development Center (RDC) on behalf of the South Georgia Workforce Development Boards



Included in this publication is the *2003 State of the Workforce Report*. This publication should be required reading for citizens throughout the region. "This report assesses the current and emerging status of the region's labor market supply and demand and its emerging workforce trends." The issues addressed are challenges this area will face in the coming years to sustain the current quality of life and to improve the lives of everyone in the future.

The Report not only includes eye-opening statistics from state and federal sources, it is also supplemented by "interviews with regional community leaders, including business owners, educators, economic development entities, community advocates, and government leaders."

An essential part of this report is the effort to bring together economic, education, and workforce information, creating a clearing-house of pertinent information these segments can distill into plans that will "provide a useful framework for planning."

Regional, rather than county or city issues are addressed. The counties included in the district are: Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, and Ware counties. The *Plan and Report* are posted on www.sgrdc.com. Call Haley Rosenberg at the South Georgia Regional Development Center (RDC) at 333-5277.

Why Does "Regional" Matter?

For all of the variation among the eighteen counties that make up the region, community leaders are coming to understand that they have more commonalities than differences. They are finding, as leading employers reported in interviews for this report, that this region is in global competition for good jobs, such as the best of the manufacturing and service jobs that form the core of the region's existing economic base. Companies determine locations on a regional basis before they ever consider a specific city or county for their site. Families decide where to locate based upon the image and reputation of a region. Schools, healthcare, arts, transportation, and other important quality indicators play a major role in the final decision. Through understanding how the region is faring, everyone can make key decisions about their own future and that of their community.

The issues defined above are not only of regional importance but also are a national concern. In the coming months, *The Valdosta Voice* will address these issues with editorials and articles. Guest columnists are welcome to submit their articles for publication. The *Voice* wants to give the opportunity for citizens to express a their opinions creating a fair and balanced view of political, economic, cultural and social problems concerning all.

Quality of Life Issues are defined in the Strategic Plan

- How to make this an easier place to do business & prosper (small businesses, start-ups, entrepreneurs)
- A shared vision; time with family; hope-good jobs that pay well
- Strong communities with common goals
- Community consensus and empowerment to solve problems
- Region-wide economic diversification

Summer Programs Guide



Children's Art Camps

Instructors: Teresa Rozier and JoAnn Adams
 Each session covers multiple types of art media and different projects each week, varying from two-dimensional to three-dimensional work, while allowing children to learn new techniques and new ways to further an interest in art. There will be six sessions for children ages 5 and up.
Cost: \$65 (Full price first child, half price for second.)
Times/Dates: 10 a.m. -12 Noon, Monday-Friday
Session 1: June 16 - 20 • Session 2: June 23 - 27
Session 3: July 14 - 18 • Session 4: July 7 - 11
Session 5: July 21 - 25

Dance Imagination

Instructor: Caitlin Mather Kirk
 For children, ages 4-7, this creative movement dance class aims to inspire young dancers to express and communicate their ideas through movement while having the opportunity to understand the art and techniques of dance in a fun atmosphere of enthusiasm and purpose.
Time/Dates: 2-3 p.m. Session 1: June 16 -20 • Session 2: July 21 - 25
Cost: \$60

Furky Jazz

Instructor: Caitlin Mather Kirk
 For ages 8-13, this class will focus on the techniques, rhythms, and styles of essential jazz dance using jazz, pop, disco, R&B, ethnic, and other styles of music.
Time/Dates: 3:30-4:30 pm
Session 1: June 16-20
Session 2: July 21-25
Cost: \$60



Creative Dancercise for Boy & Girls

Instructor: Priscilla Harms Cowart
 For Ages 4-5, Creative Dancercise is especially designed for young children. Many aspects of the cultural arts will be included, yet the main focus will be on exploring "The Wonderful World of Mime" through the joy of movement.
Time and Dates: 2-3pm, Tuesdays June 24, July 1, 8, and 15
Cost: \$40

Pre-Ballet

Instructor: Priscilla Harms Cowart
 For ages 6-7
 Through the adventures of exploring pantomime as well as the realm of music to the enchanting basic movements and steps in ballet. We meet once per week. Parents are invited to the last class to observe.
Times/Dates: 3:30 - 4:30 Tuesdays
June 24, July 1, 8, and 15
Fee: \$40

Creative Dance

Instructor: Priscilla Harms Cowart
 For Ages 8 -9
 Fantastic Adventures lie ahead as your child explores step by step, the "Wonderland" of music and dance. The pathway is designed to develop musical sensitivity in understanding basic elements of rhythm. Development of physical coordination, balance, strength, and flexibility is exercised in a creative dance format.
Times/Dates: 2:30 - 3:30 Thursdays, June 26, July 3, 10, 17
Cost: \$40

Landscape Studies Workshop

Instructor: Linda Blondheim
 Pochades, the value of small format studies in composition and color. Learning to do small studies of composition, value, form, and color to save time and materials before doing larger paintings.
Times/Dates: 8am-12pm and 3pm-7pm,
Saturday, June 14
Cost:\$40 per day (supplies not included)

Write your Memoirs or Family Stories

What will happen to those stories you tell around the dinner table? The weird practical jokes your father and his brothers pulled on each other? The wise things your grandmother or mother said? You've had an interesting, eventful life; put it down on paper, a treasure forever.
Start this summer, June 19, four Thursday evenings; 6:00-7:30pm
Instructor: Roberta George
Publication a possibility
Cost: \$50



Colored Pencil Workshop

Instructor: Jeffery Baisden
 "How do you make it look so real?" Find out how in this two day workshop creating dynamic surface treatments. We explore techniques for creating believable glass, metal, wood, and fabric while incorporating them into your composition. This is an introduction to colored pencil and some drawing experience is recommended..
Times/Dates: 8am-12pm July 12 and 13.
Cost:\$135

How to Write a Haiku

Instructor: Jean Arambula
 Writing a Haiku can be easy, fun, and therapeutic. This little book by southern poet Neca Stoller will guide the writer through the process.
June 7, 14, 21, 28; Saturday 10:00 a.m.
Fee \$50 Text included in price of class.

Conversational French

Instructor: Adann-Kenn Alexandar
 Learn basic conversational French in an easy going atmosphere.
Date/Times: Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 p.m. Begins June 17

Artistic Photography Seminar II:

Methods for Models and Portraits
 Instructor: Adann-Kenn Alexandar
 Seminar will focus exclusively on taking pictures of people and/or models.
Times/Dates: 2-4pm
Saturdays, June, 14, 21, 28 July, 5 and 12.
Cost: \$55 (Camera and film required)

Artistic Photography Seminar III:

Experimental Photography
 Instructor: Adann-Kenn Alexandar
 This workshop will focus on using the camera, film, and other equipment that can be found around the house.
Times/Dates: 2-4pm
Saturdays, July, 19, 26, Aug, 2, 9, and 16.
Cost: \$55 (Camera and film required)



On Going Classes

Teen Writing Workshop

Chair: Maria Arambula & Rachel Wayne
 A workshop using imagination, grammar, and discussion for creative writing for young adults. **FREE!**
Times/Dates: 2-4 p.m., every Saturday.

Life Drawing Class

Chair: Dick Bjornseth
 Draw, paint, or sculpt live models, Sundays from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Bring supplies and be prepared to work. \$5 for Center members and Southern Art League members; \$10 for non-members.
Times/Dates: 1:30-4:30 p.m., every Sunday.

Yoga Classes

Instructor: Roberta George
 Stretch, relax, and release your way to better health. Bring mat and comfortable clothing. **FREE!**
Times/Dates: 6-7:30 pm, every Wednesday.

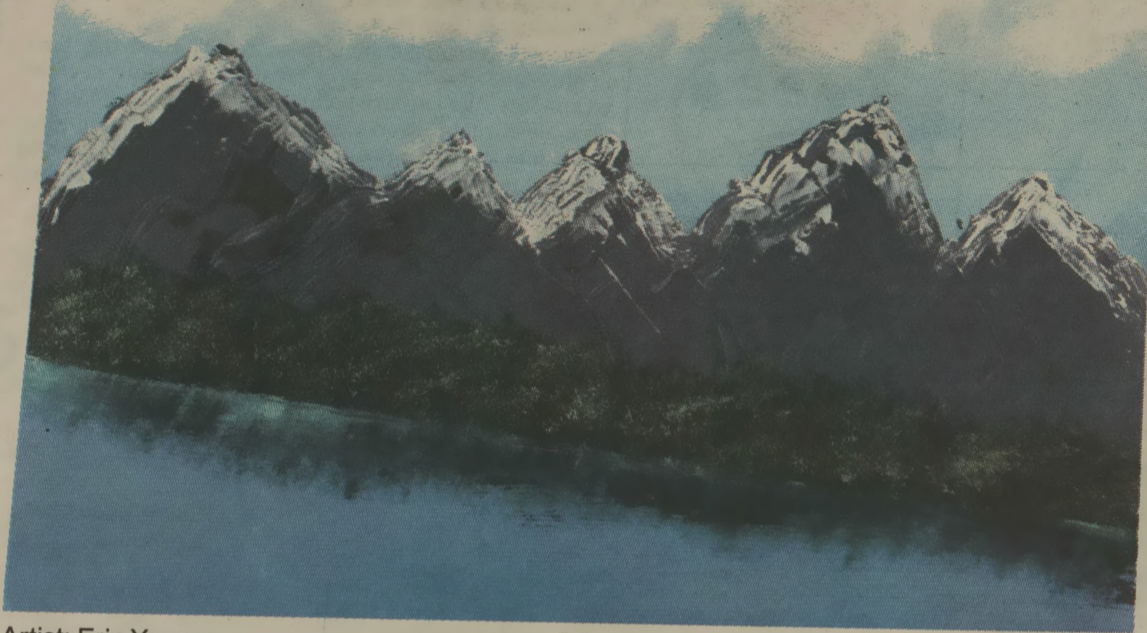
Intermediate Writing

Chair: Manuel Tovar
 Swap work, edit, and critique. Only serious writers need apply. Free!
Times/Dates: 2-4 p.m., every Saturday.

FEATURED ARTISTS

Disability Turns into Ability

Normal Life



Artist: Erin Young

Individuals being served at Normal Life Valdosta Day Program participate in art classes at the Artist RoundTable located at 5111 Bemiss Road in Valdosta. The individuals participating really enjoy the opportunity to express themselves through art.

On May 15th and 16th, the Normal Life Day Program, in coordination with the Artist RoundTable displayed the paintings at Normal Life Valdosta at 1794 E. Park Ave.

Mrs. Sherry Yarborough is the owner/operator of the Artist RoundTable.



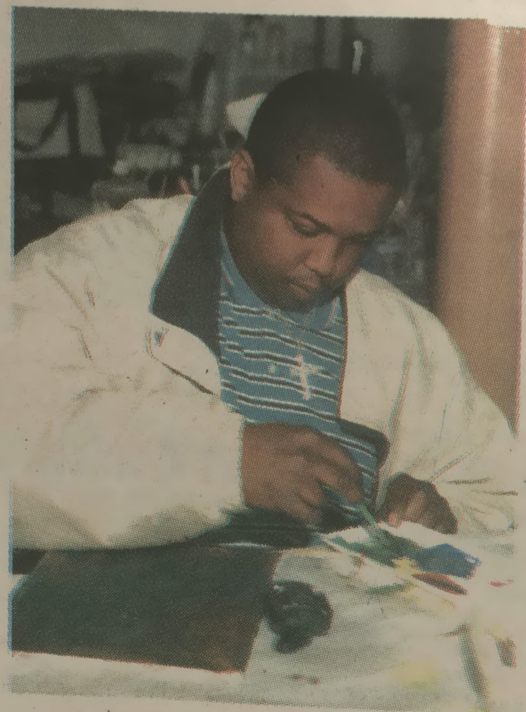
Artist: Jamie Hall



Artist: Allen Hall



Artist: Jamie Hall



Mr. Daron Sanders hard at work on one of the many paintings done during art class.

They Have a Point

Withlacoochee Quilters Guild

Reception for the Withlacoochee Quilters Guild Exhibit and the Judith Moore Exhibit will be June 23, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.



Raffle Quilt
by Members of the Guild



Quilt by Kathy Dunigan



"E Pluribus Unum" by Edna Gillis

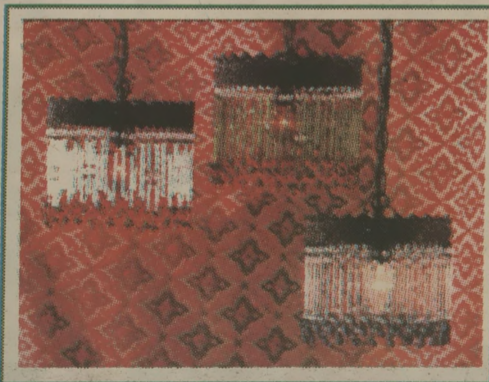
This quilt is in remembrance of 9-11. The terrorists thought that their actions would tear us apart, but it only served to bring us closer together. As the many pieces of a crazy quilt come together to make a whole, so do our citizens, regardless of their race, gender, or age come together to make our nation.

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Tickets for the Raffle Quilt shown above can be purchased at the Quilted Peach at 125 N. Patterson for \$1.00 or six for \$5.00. Drawing will be June 16.

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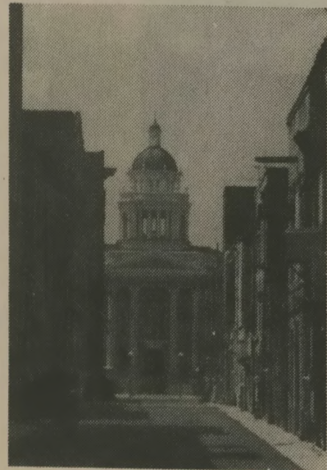
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ANNETTE HOWELL TURNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

PROGRAMS GUIDE



Hyta Mederer
 Sculpture Garden
 Metal Sculpture by Wilby Coleman

The main entrance of the new Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts acts as part of the permanent exhibit. The area is an excellent demonstration of how public art can compliment a public space. The fountains are lovely. Water cascades down stacked fieldstone, providing soothing melodies for relaxing. The courtyard also acts as a buffer between the building and parking lot. It is complimented by two pieces of metal sculpture by local artist Wilby Coleman.



Summer 2003

THE ESSENCE OF GARDENING

By Ted Pyles

Blueberries, Foxes, Dragonflies, and Dirt

DIG THAT DIRT

Did you ever wonder why dirt smells so good, especially the freshly turned kind in your flowerbeds and gardens? Well, here's the answer. It's all about tiny, bacterial micro-organisms doing all-out war in the RHIZOSPHERE. And the rhizosphere—a word that sounds like it was stolen from a Star Trek movie—is nothing more than the soil zone where roots grow. Down in that invisible, root-growing world, minute organisms feed on disease pathogens, either beating them into nutrients or sometimes preying upon and parasitizing them. One of the main kinds of helpful and aggressive organisms, although pathogenic to humans and animals, are called actinomycetes (ak-tuh-no-me-seats); little bacteria that provide natural antibiotics as they kill the bad guys—which in turn—GIVES SOIL ITS WONDERFUL AROMA. Rather amazing.

ABOUT BLUEBERRIES

Blueberry bushes are fine specimens in the plant kingdom, guaranteed to look good in any landscape. They are native to North America and they come by their beauty naturally, being kinfolk to mountain laurels, rhododendrons, and azaleas. They can be used as hedges, accents in shrubs or flowerbeds, or plant them in rows in the back of your lot. I've even seen them planted near doorsteps as eye-catching sentinels. Of course, birds love them too. In spring, the branches are decked with small, bell-shaped flowers. Come summer, berries appear fat and frosty-blue, blending with their blue-tinged leaves. But come autumn, the blue turns fiery red. Plus, blueberries have no thorns, making them easy to prune and harvest. Blueberries can be washed, dried on a towel, and frozen in Ziploc bags waiting to be summoned for cereals, muffins, pies, waffles, pancakes, or homemade ice cream. If homegrown, they're a lot cheaper than buying them in a grocery store.

Back in February I horse-traded my labor for ten mature blueberry plants. The man needed twenty bunches of elephant grass planted and I wanted blueberries, which he had in abundance. We struck a deal. It was a very cold day, and I wasn't sure if the blueberries would survive, but I dug them up and transplanted them anyway, and by George they all survived and I have oodles of blueberries.

In order for blueberries to thrive, make sure the soil is well aerated, moist, very high in humus, and acidic. Lucky for south Georgians, the soil is quite natural for blueberries as well as the fig. But figs, like tomatoes and okra, can have a problem with nematodes; micro-worms that attack the root systems, causing the fruit to shrivel. One way to acidify the soil around blueberries is to mulch with a thick layer of sawdust each year, about an inch deep. Watering or the rain will wash the acid from the sawdust into the soil. Just make sure the sawdust is not from treated lumber though. And before you mulch, throw a few handfuls of compost around each plant as well as a couple of tablespoons of sulfur powder, which you can order through drugstores. Sulfur is a powerful acidifier. (Sulfur is also great for roses and tomatoes—especially when worked into the soil.) Also, it is recommended that you buy two different types of blueberries for healthier cross-pollination.



DOING AS DOES CAN

This year I'm fighting a gardener's nightmare. I'm creating a new garden spot, which just happens to be infested with a healthy stand of Bermuda grass. But, I'm plodding away and refusing to be defeated. So far, I've tilled and raked, tilled and raked, and tilled and raked until I've made room for three twenty-six foot rows; one of potatoes, one of yellow and zucchini squash, and one of tomatoes and jalapeno peppers. By week's end, I hope to have two more rows finished—one for green beans and the other for pickling cucumbers. I planted my eggplants in my flowerbeds as well as my onions, collards, garlic, and strawberries. And if all goes well, I hope to have an asparagus bed soon too.

Of course, it would help if I had more youthful energy to accomplish these goals, anything below forty would do at this point. But I am getting a lot of good exercise, even if the mosquitoes are dining on me daily. My plan is to create a combi-

nation vegetable and flower/shrub nature garden, with a swing and/or a twig bench, and a picket fence to boot. If I can break enough of the soil up, I plan to mulch it with newspaper and rye hay and wheat straw. By the end of the season or early spring of next year most of the Bermuda should be dead and I'll till all of the mulch into the soil and plant up a storm. Two sides of the nature garden are already lined with the blueberry plants, and I must admit they're looking good.

BIG CONTAINER GARDENING

Recently, I saw a unique gardening style. Outside a home, amongst all kinds of flowers and shrubs, veggies were growing abundantly. The smallest containers were the five-gallon size and several plants were in the larger seven-gallon. From the looks of the plants, a good composted-soil of some sort was used because every plant, whether tomato, eggplant, squash, pickles, or peppers, and a myriad of others, were as hearty as vegetables can get.

“He took one bite and chomped several times as he looked about warily . . .”

ABOUT THESE LITTLE FOXES

I have a couple of red furry beggars that come near my back door every night. I believe they are male and female and I suspect a den is nearby. I'll know if a litter of pups show up with mom and pop before long. I have fed them leftovers of every sort and so far they haven't tried to look the gift horse in his mouth. For several nights I fed them bread, until it dawned on me that I was running out of bread for toast and sandwiches. So I thought I'd see how revolutionary they were in regards to technology, and fed them a bag of micro-waved popcorn. I salted the corn and poured it on the lawn near my kitchen porch, doused my lights, and waited. Sure enough, here one came, the first night only one showed up. (I think the other one is with pups in their den). He took one bite and chomped several times as he looked about warily. I laughed silently and said,

“I bet you can't eat just one.” And he couldn't. From my dining room window, in the dark, I watched as this fox ate the entire bag, one kernel at a time. It took over an hour for him to finish his meal. Since, I've fed him popcorn several times, but I caved in and bought a bag of dog food biscuits; he takes several into his mouth and runs back in the woods. I think he's taking them to his mate in a den. He returns and eats one or two before taking two or three more back into the woods. After several nights, he's gotten used to me, and now I have several shots of him on film.

ABOUT MOSQUITOES

Where I live in the country, the mosquitoes have been terrible, the worst I've seen since moving here in '91. But what can I expect since I practically live in a swamp. But, a neat thing has happened of late. DRAGONFLIES came. They love mosquitoes and eat them by the dozens in every meal. And oddly enough, all that is needed to attract dragonflies is place sticks in the ground all around the house, garden, and yard. Thin bamboo sticks three or four feet tall will suffice. Dragonflies love to perch on top and survey their quarry. I now have dozens of dragonflies; they just appeared one day. To me they are a Godsend, like what happened to the Mormons when the seagulls came and ate the locusts. I even remember praying a frustrated prayer one day when trying to work in my yard. I said, “God do something and get rid of these damn mosquitoes.” And who would have guessed. He sent me a flock of dragonflies. I just love 'em.

Until next time, let's tune into nature, and all of God's little miracles, and love our neighbors as ourselves. Happy gardening.



IN OTHER WORDS

Dialogue with Majuba: Kent Buescher

Summer time is just around the corner," The Voice editors said, "Majuba, do a story about having fun in the Valdosta area."

"Okay." So readers, this month our special guest is the founder of Wild Adventures Theme Park, Mr. Kent Buescher. When I arrived at gate "C", I saw a peacock resting on the rooftop of the marketing and advertising modular unit. When I reached for the front door knob, the peacock held up its head and shouted out an honorable alarm. I knocked and entered the outer office. In the reception area on the west wall, I saw a large photograph shot from a satellite. On the north wall I saw an open door to an inner office. A wooden plaque, another photograph, and the secretary's desk were located near the north wall. Directly behind the secretary's area on the east wall was a closed door.

MAJUBA: Good morning ma'am.
GRETA: (Smiling) Good morning. My name is Greta Cook. May I help you?

MAJUBA: Yes, I'm the writer of "Dialogue With Majuba".

ANN: (Quickly, she came from the inner office) Yes! Hi! We've been expecting you.

MAJUBA: Thank you. (Shaking Ann's hand)

ANN: My name is Ann Lowe. It's nice to meet you. We'll let Kent know you're here. (Turning toward the secretary's desk) Greta, will you let Kent know that his ten a.m. interview is here.

GRETA: Kent, your ten o'clock guest is here.

KENT: I'm on my way.

GRETA: Thank you. (Smiling as she hung up the telephone receiver) Kent will be with you. Hopefully, he will be here sooner than later.

MAJUBA: I understand. Kent is probably treating one of his critters. Are these two photographs on the walls of the same place?

GRETA: Yes. They are shots of the Park. The picture over there on the west wall was taken four years ago. This small one here by my desk was taken six years ago. There have been many more changes. Plus, as we are speaking there are changes in the making. It's almost time for us to update this airplane photo. But it may be a while before we can do the satellite photo again. (In a low voice) It cost ten thousand dollars. We don't update that one very often.

Kent: Coming into the reception area and extending his hand) Hello! It's nice meeting you. Yes sir? You want something to drink?

MAJUBA: No thank you. (We shake hands)

KENT: Did you see all those staff members in the other office? They are waiting to tell me something. (Opening the office door behind the secretary's desk) Majuba, come on in my office. Well, this is our little conference room. What are you here to report about.

MAJUBA: I'm not a reporter. I'm a storyteller, and your story is worthy



to be read. So will you begin by telling our readers your birth name.

KENT: Okay. My name is Kent Allen Buescher. (Placing his walky-talky on the table and sitting with his back toward the west wall)

MAJUBA: May I call you Kent like the staff members do?

KENT: Yes.

MAJUBA: Kent, where were you born?

KENT: Fayetteville, Arkansas. My family moved to Valdosta when I was two years old. So I have lived here all my life. My father was transferred in 1955 or 1956 as a plant manager for Levi Strauss and Company.

MAJUBA: What schools did you attend?

KENT: I went to Sallas-Mahone Elementary School and S. L. Mason. When they changed the schools around, I went back to Sallas-Mahone. I went to Valdosta Junior High School. I went to Pineville High School, Valdosta High School and I attended Valdosta University.

MAJUBA: What were your educational goals?

KENT: I planned on going to pre-med. But I found out that I had a weak stomach for that kind of work. I decided that I would change my career plan and not go back to

school. Somewhere along the line I started a little scuba diving business. I realized that I like being in business and I enjoyed serving people.

MAJUBA: You started your first business at what age?

KENT: I have been in some kind of business since I was old enough to work, eighteen years old. In 1981, I started a printing business. Now, I've started the Wild Adventures Theme Park.

MAJUBA: What is your wife's name? When did you two get married?

KENT: (Smiling) My wife's name

wolf.

MAJUBA: Yes, I want to try it again—without the heavy costume. Maybe in the Western Town. I was overwhelmed by the many critters I have met there. Kent, most of them I had never seen in person or on the *National Geographic* television programs. My mind was blown away. Wow!

KENT: (Smiling) Right.

MAJUBA: I remember seeing you with a shovel cleaning up the cages. You were moving in and out of the cages like you were the animal living in there.

KENT: (Laughing) Right, I still

"When my staff and I do our best to please our guests I sleep better at night. My employees know that I am only one person and I cannot be everywhere."

- Kent Buescher

is Dawn. She and I met in 1980, and we married in December of 1981.

We have one daughter and she is ten years old. Her name is Kara and she attends public school.

MAJUBA: Is she a member of your Wild Adventures staff too?

KENT: Dawn does administrative-work for the park but spends most of her workday at her office at US Press. I spend the majority of my time out here running this business. On some days it seems to be running me. You know how that goes. (Laughing)

MAJUBA: (Smiling) Yes, I do know how things go around here.

About six years ago, I was in a show out here. I saw you working with your crews.

KENT: I thought that I recognized you!

MAJUBA: We all danced around the stage in heavy costumes and it was my job to pull an old piano and Jack across the stage.

KENT: Okay! (He cuts off the walky-talky)

MAJUBA: We had some hot weather.

KENT: Now, I do understand where we met!

MAJUBA: At 7 or 8 a.m., I rode out here with one of your staff members. So I could walk around your space and enjoy the different environments.

KENT: Okay. When I saw you in the office I said to myself, "I know him!"

MAJUBA: Yes, we do know each other.

KENT: You were in Wild Adventure Rocks.

MAJUBA: Yes, I was one of the main characters.

KENT: You were the dancing

do it. Well, except for last year; I broke my leg in three places and couldn't move my knee for awhile.

MAJUBA: I noticed every time one of the critters saw you, it approached, showing sad eyes and gave your hand a lick.

KENT: (Laughing) You're right. After my knee healed, I started back working hard again. Everyday I help the crew pick up trash too. Because I feel that I must set an example.

MAJUBA: Sound business ethics.

KENT: When our guests come here, to them this is my home. Because, I spend more time here than where I sleep at night. You know what I mean?

MAJUBA: Yes. You are enjoying your trip here too.

KENT: Yes. This is my home. Everything should be clean and spotless. So, all my staff members know that we are in the trash business.

MAJUBA: It is the formula for success.

KENT: My staff members need to see me greeting our guests. When I see a family taking a picture, the rest of the family is there in the scene. But, there is something wrong with that picture. I ask the person to let me take the picture for them. So it can really be a family photograph. When my staff and I do our best to please our guests, I sleep better at night. My employees know that I am only one person and I cannot be everywhere.

MAJUBA: I have noticed that most of the ride ticket staff members are young people.

KENT: Yes, We have many high school and college students working with us. For many of them this is their first job. I want them to know that we are about serving people.

MAJUBA: Yes, it was a joy to work here with you and your staff members. This place is many worlds rolled up into one. Way beyond fantasyland.

KENT: Yes, people have all sorts of things to worry about everyday. People have to worry about jobs and families. People worry about crime and what is going on in the world today.

MAJUBA: When people come here they leave all of their troubles behind.

KENT: Yes, our guests come here to have a good time. It is an honor to see people from different places and respond the way they do.

MAJUBA: Wild Adventures is like experiencing a fictional adventure.

KENT: Right. When I first started this place, everybody thought I was a fool.

MAJUBA: Who is the fool, now?

KENT: Those people said, "You make lots of money in the printing business. Why blow it all away trying to build a theme park in Valdosta? Nobody will come here from Jacksonville or Tallahassee."

MAJUBA: Well, you and your staff members have proven those non-believers wrong.

KENT: Right. Because people do come from further than those two places. People know we offer a good, safe, clean, and fun place to spend the day with their families or friends. We respect the needs of our guests.

MAJUBA: You all respect the needs of the critters too.

KENT: Yes, this is true and the animals know it too. I like all of the animals. But I like the black bears the most. When we first got the bear cubs and the baby lions, the keepers and I took turns taking them home. We had to bottle-feed them. The bears grew up to be very protective. Once we had a house cat to get inside of the bear's cage. We knew that the male bear was going to attack the little cat. But the female bear protected the cat from harm. Even though the cat didn't belong to her. I have seen keepers sit up all night long with a sick animal. Sometimes, it would be two days before they go home. I'll say, "We can get somebody else to sit with the animal." (Smiling and taking off his glasses) I'll get this in response, "No, No, it's my responsibility. This animal is my baby."

MAJUBA: I remember when you all put those cool water spray tents up. After every show, I would change into my street clothes and take a walk around the area just to spray my body. Old people walked through the water spray three and four times with a smile on their faces.

KENT: All those things make us what we are. This summer we'll open up a water park. I think that will be another fun thing for people to do out here. There is no other park like Wild Adventures in this country. We're not

just rides. We are not just animals. We're not just shows. We don't have hills for seniors or the disabled to have to walk. We're blessed to have flat land, which makes our guests enjoy the Wild Adventures experience.

MAJUBA: Is this really a dream come true for you?

KENT: Yes, by all rights Wild Adventures shouldn't be here. We shouldn't be having this interview,

"There is no other park like Wild Adventures in this country. We're not just rides. We are not just animals. We're not just shows. We don't have hills for seniors or the disabled to have to walk."

- Kent Buescher

today. The experts said Valdosta was too small for a place like this. But I think when we take care of our guests, and I take care of my employees the public will always respond to a quality product.

MAJUBA: Is Wild Adventures still privately owned?

KENT: Yes. My wife and I own the majority of the company. We do have a few outside share holders. Majuba, as I moved forward it took more money than I had. So I told those stockholders that Wild Adventures was a risky business and a gamble. *Because I may be out here trying to do something way off the chart.* Many people say this is foolish.

MAJUBA: Yes, do you feel that this place is your special calling?

KENT: Yes, I've always felt led. I try to listen to my inner voice. Sometimes it's not what I want to do. But it's what I believe I should do.

MAJUBA: Do your daughter's friends look upon you as a celebrity?

KENT: (Laughing) Some of them. Sometimes they do. But I'm not. I'm just like anybody else. I'm only a working parent trying to take care of my family.

MAJUBA: I know Michael Jackson must envy you. I do not say this in a negative voice.

KENT: How?

MAJUBA: Your spread is larger than his NeverLand. You have a million or more people as guests here a year and most of them do not know you're walking around in the crowd.

KENT: (Laughing) Michael has had his share of hard knocks. But he has done a lot of good for many people too. I wouldn't want to be in his circumstances.

MAJUBA: Why not?

KENT: Everywhere Michael goes, everybody recognizes him. No, his kind of life is not for me. People hold him up to a standard. He makes a mistake with one of his kids. Everybody wants to ridicule him and that's a tough place to be. You know what I mean?

MAJUBA: Yes!

KENT: I see stars and other celeb-

rities with their families. They come out here every week. They come from all walks of life. Some of them, with their heads this big. (Using his hands and shaping a circle the size of a basketball)

MAJUBA: Wow! I thought they would try to blend in with the other people.

KENT: Those celebrities that understand where they are in life do try to blend in. But there is not one place

and retreat to and just be a person. Michael can't do that and that.

MAJUBA: Yes. Our interview is at an end. Kent what do you want the people to receive from reading this interview.

KENT: I know they come out here to Wild Adventures with their families. They do and I know they do too. *Valdosta Voice* readers, I do appreciate you all coming out here. If it were not for you all, we would not be here today. There is no way we could stay in business without guests coming to enjoy Wild Adventure Theme Park. Thanks.

MAJUBA: Thank you.

I want to spotlight Mrs. Louie White, the mystery lady of many hats. I enjoyed our lunch date. We must do it again.

A shout out to Nathaniel and The Gospel Travelers on their new CD Titled *Go On*. The group continues with their down home sound.

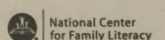
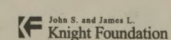
Readers, have some fun in the sun; stay safe and healthy. Now, I am going to enjoy my day here at Wild Adventures.



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IN OTHER WORDS

Dear:

New Poetry Editor
Reads Cover
Letter
Addressed to his
Predecessor

by Miles Garrett Watson

Write for The Voice:
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Send to:
SNAKE NATION PRESS
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Valdosta, Georgia 31601

Dear Poetry Editor,
It's been a wild three months here in Vermont. We finished the renovations. Fell off a fifteen-foot ladder and broke my arm, thus I'm typing this one-handed. As for good news, my second chapbook, Salted Pork, is out; I'll send you a copy for \$5. Just recorded my first spoken-word tape -- only \$3 for that. Getting settled in now for another winter by the lake. I can't tell you how many years it's been since I've felt any kind of normalcy.

My wife is a freelance biologist. I took her to NYC last weekend to meet my editor. We went over proofs, went 10-pin bowling, drank tequila and then slept it off at the Best Western. We really needed a break from all the drywall dust.

Have I told you about my brother? He hasn't been doing well of late. Got busted for assault last summer. Served six months. He's now resorted to hanging with local bank robbers. He called three weeks ago to ask if I'd like to drive the getaway car. I was flattered he found my driving skills adequate, and I considered his offer carefully. Definitely a better financial situation, but no job security. I politely turned him down and suggested we only meet in public places from now on. We agreed on Dunkin' Donuts. Incidentally, he showed me some poems this week. Not bad. Perhaps I will encourage him to send them to you.

As for my work, now that our irritating postal strike is over, I'm submitting again. Please consider the enclosed twenty-three poems for your magazine. As always, I hope this letter finds you well.

Sincerely,

P.S.
Thank you for all your wonderful comments on my last submission. After further consideration, I completely understand why you were regrettably unable to accept anything at that time.

IN THE MARGIN

by Dr. Manuel Tovar

Entra...

*Come in. Visit for a moment.
Don't be a stranger.
Come in. You haven't changed a bit
and look good in that dress,
your favorite color.
It has been a long time,
and yesterday is dead. I swear to you.
Only dry, wilted flowers are left
as memories.
Come. Enter. I invite for a cup of coffee
and talk of present moments.
I swear I won't mention
what we were or the broken
almost forgotten dreams.*

*I swear, I will be good,
like an old friend of many years
and won't mention or talk
about the painful circumstances
we went through.
I won't pay attention to your eyes
or to the apple-mouth I used to bite,
or to the body I used to run
my fingers over,
or to your lips like red carnations.*

*Come in, come in...
I invite you for a cup of coffee
so we can warm to memories,
that both of us know are gone....*

12/19/96

About the Artist

Manuel Tovar, M.D.

Born: Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Education: Elementary/High School education in the school system in his native city.

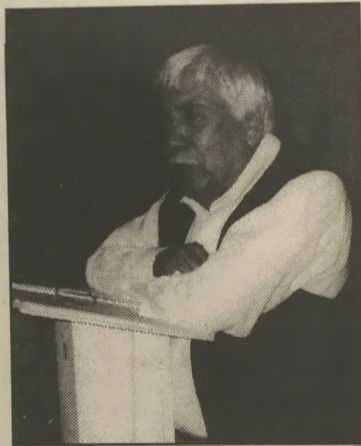
College: PhD. in Medicine from the Universidad de Nuevo Leon (UANL)

Professional Data: Biology teacher for two years at UANL. Family Practice in Valdosta 1974-1998. United States citizenship acquired in 1964.

Literary Credits: *Tenuidades*, First book of poems published by the UANL in 1969 in Spanish. Second book of poems published in Valdosta, Georgia, written in English.

Personal: Semi-retired from medical practice of Family Medicine since 1998. Valdosta resident since 1973.

Dr. Tovar works at the Farm Workers Clinic in the Lake Park/Echols County area part time and has done so for the last two years as the primary physician for the migrant workers. Dr. Tovar is the only physician manning a migrant clinic in the whole state of Georgia, most clinics use the services of a Physicians' Assistant.



From: The Poetry Editor

by Roberta George

SNAKE NATION PRESS began publishing the *Review* in 1989, while Roberta George, Founding Editor, was still pursuing a masters degree in English at Florida State University. New literary magazines are usually short-lived, mainly because of their less than lucrative nature and the hard work associated with the endeavor.

After accepting the position of Executive Director of Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center (now the Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts) it became increasingly difficult to keep the Press publishing. In 1999, Mrs. George decided to suspend operations.

In the spring of 2000, Jean Arambula, who had worked with Roberta on the Snake in the mid-nineties, returned to Valdosta to make it her permanent home. Mrs. George suggested she start up the Press again. Since the summer of 2000, The Snake has published two issues of the *Review*, with three more to be published by fall of 2003. Twenty-five issues of *The Valdosta Voice* have been distributed free in the area, featuring local writers, poets and artists. Local artists, writers and poets have volunteered their talents to make the Voice possible. Many are included in this issue.

Mrs. George continues to be directly involved, reading, and editing manuscripts. She also plans to spend more time working on her unfinished novel and other literary projects.

God, how I love the bad poems, those faintly copied
on cheap paper with no SASE. The ones that rhyme:
"I tried, you lied, I cried." So trite, so true,
they're strangely appealing, but easy to toss.

It's harder with the in-betweens, not good, not bad.
After the first three lines, I send a rejection,
which says, "Keep trying", but really should say:
"Keep writing for yourself-alone."

For your own pleasure squander your hours,
but for God's sake don't bind those darlings up
in a purple folder and send them off to a contest,
to an editor, to me."

For years, I've tried, as you suggested, to recycle
your paper. It's hard to throw away trees, let alone
parchment and linen and frills: feathers & ribbons
& cowhide strips, almost like gifts, almost like bribes.

And your print, outstanding: block, script, chancery-
calligraphy the monks would have died for.
The investment in laser printers alone
boggles my pocket-book mind.

And the wonderful bindings: ebony spirals of centipede legs,
sleek vinyl covers holding the creamy page
in implacable claws. It seems an added hurt to tear,
to rend, to send back the ravelled edge.

And without fail, your titles are good:
poignant, pithy, mysterious namings that promise,
like wrapped packages, the un-deliverable: "West of Samoa",
"A Dream of Idiots", or "Yesterday's Glimmer".

And the list of credits: "I've published in
Poetry, *The New Yorker*, and thousands of small lit
magazines such as yours." I'm always resentful,
always envious, and always impressed.

Best I like the epigrams, those lines of someone else's
above your own. Insightful, shrewd, chock full of
wisdom, but where's the connection?

Well, poets, friends, fellow contenders,
I salute you. I commend you.
You at least got your devils into the mail.



About the logo:

The Snake Nation Press logo was designed by the late Marshall Smith, who also illustrated several issues of the *Review*. Roberta is depicted with a snake around her neck.

Wings * Sandwiches * Salads * Games

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CLOSING THOUGHTS

Pine Tree Philosophy

From the Heart

Apothegms of Joan S. Bailey

Taps being played always stirs the soul and makes one stand tall—proud to be free and a part of "One Nation Under God."

To drive a nail one must coordinate hand and eye. To drive a point one must coordinate ideas and delivery.

A well-developed vocabulary, used effectively, is the secret ingredient of communication. Adopt a new word everyday!

To maintain vitality, stimulate your mind by reading something new everyday.

Your life is a book with its own unique plot that is written as you live. When the last chapter is completed, may your story inspire those who read it to strive for a higher level of achievement.



Sunflower: 36" x 48" oil

See Judith Moore's Exhibit starting June 23 at The Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts.

JUDITH MOORE paints large-scale floral environments and still life subjects transformed by light and shadow. This close-up vision is painted in a precise and even method of sharp focus realism. The oil paintings celebrate the familiar, the beauty of nature and the richness of life. The forms of the objects are broken down to become the strong design found in nature as the sun lights the living organic forms or the fragment of a scene. Judith Moore resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A graduate of Southern Illinois University, her work has won numerous awards and is in collections throughout the country.

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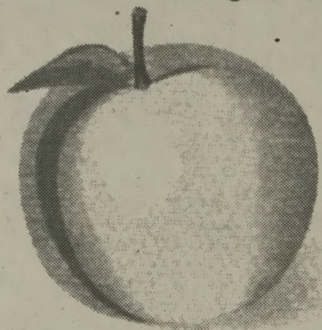
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NOTICES

AmericanRed Cross

The following blood drives are scheduled in June and are open to the public

Thursday, June 5:

Milan Theatre
123 Mt. Zion St.
Milan, GA 31060
1:00PM-6:00PM

Omega Baptist Church
219 Oak St.
Omega, GA 31775
3:00PM-7:00PM

Hooters
1854 Clubhouse Rd.
Valdosta, GA 31602
3:00PM-7:00PM

Friday, June 6:

Lowe's
2000 Hwy. 82 West
Tifton, GA 31794
12:00Noon-5:00PM

Sunday, June 8:

New Covenant Church
2167 Whiddon Mill Rd.
Tifton, GA 31794
1:00PM-5:00PM

Monday, June 9:

Lumber City Hall
301 Main St.
Lumber City, GA 31549
3:00PM-7:00PM

Fitzgerald First Baptist Church
Merrimac Dr.
Fitzgerald, GA 31750
2:00PM-7:00PM

Thursday, June 12:

First Presbyterian Church
501 First St. SE
Moultrie, GA 31768
1:00PM-7:00PM

Harvey's Supermarket
270 E. McPherson St.
Nashville, GA 31639
10:00AM-3:00PM

Friday, June 13:

Moody AFB Fitness Center
5091 Garner St.
Moody AFB, GA 31699
10:00AM-3:00PM

This drive for military only

Monday, June 16:

Pearson First Baptist Church
410 Railroad St.
Pearson, GA 31642
2:00PM-7:00PM

Tuesday, June 17:

Irwinville Baptist Church
Hwy 125
Irwinville, GA 31774
3:00PM-7:00PM

First Methodist Church
107 West 12th St.
Tifton, GA 31794
1:00PM-6:00PM

Aaron's
162 Ocilla Hwy, Bldg B
Fitzgerald, GA 31750
2:00PM-7:00PM

Thursday, June 19:

Adel United Methodist Church
214 S. Hutchinson St. (Hwy 41)
Adel, GA 31620
2:00PM-7:00PM

Fuji Photo Lab
4501 Wal Mart Way
Tifton, GA 31794
10:00AM-3:00PM

Monday, June 23

Quitman First Baptist Church
509 W. Screven St.
Quitman, GA 31643
2:00PM-7:00PM

Tuesday, June 24:

Weir Senior Citizens Center
200F Central Square
Douglas, GA 31533
2:00PM-7:00PM

YMCA of Valdosta
2424 Gornito Rd.
Valdosta, GA 31602
3:00PM-8:00PM

Wednesday, June 25:

Lowndes Co. DFACS
206 S. Patterson St.
Valdosta, GA 31601
:30AM-2:30PM

Thursday, June 26:

Nashville First Baptist Church
301 W. Washington
Nashville, GA 31639

WHAT TO DO WITH AN OLD FLAG

Girl Scouts of Southwest Georgia is collecting worn, torn, or faded American flags. Bring the flag to the office 109 E. Hill Street, Monday through Friday between 9 and 2 pm. Or mail the flag to Girl Scouts of Southwest Georgia at PO Box 5082, Valdosta Ga., 31603

Domestic Violence Support Groups

Survivors of domestic violence and stalking are now meeting in several area counties. In Valdosta, a new series begins in April, see below.

- Cook County group meets on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in Adel.
- Berrien County group meets on Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in Nashville.
- Colquitt County group meets at 11:00 am in Moultrie.

All groups are free and confidential. Call Theresa Collins at The Haven (229)241-9834 or (800)273-4823 for information

VSU MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

DEPT OFFERS CLINIC

The Moore Street Clinic, located at 210 West Moore Street, between Patterson and Oak Streets, offers low-cost therapy to individuals, couples, and families struggling with different kinds of problems including:

- depression
- divorce and separation
- anxiety
- anger management
- parenting problems
- child behavior problems
- grief and loss
- relationship problems
- domestic violence
- anger management

We offer our services to all people, regardless of age, gender, race, political or religious views, sexual orientation, or ethnic background.

The Moore Street Clinic charges for each session according to family size and income, so fees range from just a few dollars to \$50. However, no person or family will ever be denied services based on income. When you call for the first appointment, someone will talk with you about your fee, so that you will know that amount before your first meeting with your therapist.

To arrange an appointment with a therapist, call 229 219-1281 Monday through Friday between 9am and 11am. If you can't call between those hours, leave your name and number on the answering machine, and your call will be returned as soon as possible or the next business day.

For Rent

Three bedroom house, two bathrooms, den, central heat and air, large corner lot, furnished kitchen, piano, 319 West Park Avenue, \$750 a month, \$500 deposit. Call 242-1503



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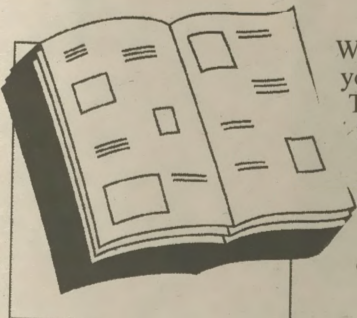
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What will happen to those stories you tell around the dinner table? The weird practical jokes your father and his brothers pulled on each other? The wise things your grandmother or mother said? You've had an interesting, eventful life; put it down on paper, a treasure forever.

Start this summer!
June 19, four Thursday evenings; 6:00-7:30pm; ;
Instructor: Roberta George.
Publication a possibility.
Cost: \$50
Call 247-2787

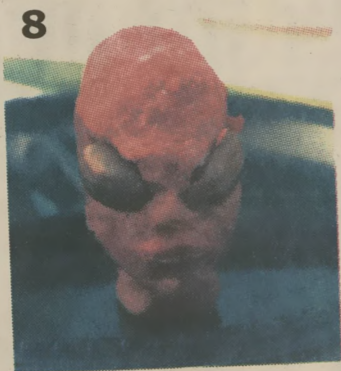
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SNAKE NATION REVIEW back issues are available; Visit our new website at www.snakenationpress.org
Subscribers to the Review receive the Valdosta Voice free in their mailbox.



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the Valdosta Voice

June 2003



Lighthouse by Johnny Southwell (oil on canvas)

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