

Mrs. George H. Hart, Jr., President

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#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO MISS CARO

Many happy returns to Miss Caro Lewis, formerly of Valdosta, now of Bal Harbour, Miami Beach, Florida, who was 100 years old in October, 1986. Foxy Wilcox first told me of Miss Caro's 100th, and that he talked with her. Thanks to Gloria Dalton Sorenson who has written me sending clippings and information. Miss Caro had written Gloria and John: "When I look in the mirror, I make a face in the mirror at what I see. Best of all -- I stay happy." A good practice for all. Let's try it!

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ZEKE TILIMAN

Zeke is ninety-years-old in January 1987, and we are so glad to see him and Eloise from time to time, always happy, always smiling, both just as attractive as can be. Many happy returns to them and sons Harrison and Bubber and their families.

#### GIFTS

We are most grateful to Mrs. Homer Eberhardt of Atlanta, Georgia who has given a substantial gift to the Society. She has also given memorabilia which we will write about later. Many thanks to Mrs. Eberhardt for her interest and support.

#### HERITAGE 100 DINNER

CORRECTION!! I was a month too soon in printing that the dinner is in February. It is in fact on March 26. We will announce place, time, etc., in the February Newsletter. Barry Phillips is our speaker -- an attorney in Atlanta, formerly from Valdosta, a former Wildcat football player. We look forward to an interesting evening with Barry and his wife Gracie.

#### SPEAKING OF FOOTBALL

Our friend Nick Hyder's Valdosta Wildcat Football Team has just won the 19th State Championship Title. They finished this season with a 15-0 record, and it is the 14th time Valdosta has gone through a season without losing or being tied. Hyder has had three of these undefeated teams, while former coach Wright Bazemore produced nine. Valdosta's first undefeated season was 1929, when it was 11-0 under coach Mike Herndon. And don't forget all those wonderful 1930's years with Bobby Hooks, in recent Newsletters. Valdosta is tops in the Nation -- the fifth national title. We can never give out of stories (nor tire of writing) about the Valdosta Wildcats. So I'm planning more. Congratulations! "Paw Power" is certainly powerful.

#### THE CLEVELANDS

I had a note from Frances Cleveland Hilsman in Jackson Mississippi (which I will print later) and she was most appreciative of our article of her father, Dr. Cleveland. She wrote she'd show it to her red-headed granddaughter who could not quite believe that "Big Gus" had made up the yell, "Rah Bicca Bah...." Frances, thanks so much for writing.



(I'm not a preacher, but I have a message for)

# ALL MY HISTORICAL CHILDREN

by

Albert S. Pendleton

You only go around once in this life, so grab all the history you can get. Make all the history you can -- for someone else to dig up. Enjoy history. It can be fun.

I don't agree with Abby Hoffman (whoever that is) at all. I read recently (a quote in a calendar) that she (or he) said nostalgia was a drag and those who dwelt in it were despondent.

Nostalgia is a form of history, and Abby Hoffman is dead wrong. History is informative, entertaining and interesting. I learn something new of long ago all the time. One of the stories on which I had the most compliments was "Summer Music -- Still Dreaming of a Song," probably one of the most nostalgic pieces I've written here. I enjoy recalling the past (most of it, anyway) but I certainly don't live there. It is said we try to determine what could have been done to make the past different, wars, etc., but more realistically we learn of the past to make sure we don't make the same mistakes in the future. Whatever.

When I think of our Society and Museum, I think of all the people who have spent and are spending many hours to keep it going. I think of the late Joe Stevens who found, charted and recorded every cemetery in Lowndes County, was our president and was present when the doors opened. I think of the late Vera Hagen, who was a founder and president of our Society and so concerned with its welfare. I think of the late Sara Dunaway Deloach who wrote a story for us about her life on West Hill Avenue in Valdosta. I think of concerned members such as the late Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McKey. All these and others have supported us through the years. I think of all the people who have given items to the Museum. I think of all the hours spent maintaining the Museum, collecting items, researching and writing the Newsletter, getting programs, arranging displays, and hundreds of other activities. I think of Tom and Jane Shelton and all the activities they are involved in, Jane's book Pines and Pioneers, and Tom's helping with the slide program and school programs (both of whom said fifteen years ago, we need a newsletter and Albert you should start it), and of Mary Young Boatenreiter, former energetic president and one who has put the Newsletter together for the past years, a chore I'll tell you about in a moment. I hate to mention names. One is sure to leave someone out. Always helping are Mary Ann Blanton, Edith Roberts, Jean Malone, Jane Caudle, Nan Allen, Jewell Barnum, Bootsie Smotherman, Fainsey and Mac McClure and so many more.

It takes four hours or more just to put the Newsletter together. We buy it printed with stacks of each separate page, and we sort it, then the two stamps have to be put on after stapling and folding each one, then the address label. I offered to put together the December, 1986, Newsletter, and it took a week because I work. A recent small item -- we wanted the grounds to look nice for the December Open House. It took two of us four trips to make sure the grass was cut.

We are not complaining, just letting everyone know what goes on behind the scenes. Reading microfilm takes many hours, an interview two or three hours, and maybe more than one visit. We learn something new all the time. We should have had the Blackburn Display for two days or more instead of just one. We're planning more picture displays and will keep that in mind.

No one spends more time working at the Museum and its planning than President Lilla Kate Hart, Museum Chairman Natalie Williams and Co-chairman Susie Thomas. Susie clips articles and files them, not an activity of a few minutes -- it takes many hours. Susie and Natalie look after the cleaning, accepting gifts and arranging displays -- more hours. Lilla Kate said she didn't know being president would involve so much time -- she's found out that there is always something to do.

Recently Veran Blackburn, Jr., asked me, "Who is going to do all this when you older



members are gone." I'm glad he said it. We must get more young members, more interested people to join and help with the work and preservation of our county's history. We need more articles and pictures in our local newspaper concerning our activities. We need to advertise, advertise, advertise, in an effort to get people to come forward. We need to educate. A few people are doing most of the work. The president's job is a busy one. She (or he) is continually called on. When committees fall down, the president has to take charge.

We enjoy what we do, but we need help -- more young people who care and will work. Jobs should be passed around more often -- jobs, that is, like putting the Newsletter together and mailed. I enjoy writing it (should have bought stock in the Liquid Paper Corporation) and seeing people and communicating with them. As you know, I have fallen down and been a month or two behind, but I catch up. I do have 1987 planned but still have much research to do. On a December weekend I just almost put the December Newsletter together (the second time in many years), swept the yard, attended two parties, a funeral and helped Lonie in the kitchen -- got my clothes ready and drove back to Albany. And spent the entire next week getting the Newsletter ready to be mailed. Tom always mails it. Many thanks to Mary Young for putting the Newsletter together for several years, and now thanks to Jane Caudle and Jean Malone who have accepted the job of doing it for a while.

I have found out you shouldn't ask someone, "How do you do all you do?" We can do anything we want to. It's just that simple. It's that way with Susie, Natalie, Lilla Kate and the rest of us. They have homes to keep by themselves and they do it beautifully -- and then they look after their second home -- the LCHS Museum and Society. If I can't find Susie at home, I can find her at the Museum -- or her garden -- or the Spa!

Are we despondent? -- do we seem to you that we live in the past? I hope not, because we don't. Newspapers are full of historical articles and (I say) are recording history daily. A publisher once told me that newspapering was not writing history. I wonder...

In this story I was going to tell you about some of the many historical articles I have clipped: A History of Butter, The Man Who Saved Football, the confusion of the names of Georgia counties and towns, the War Correspondent Memorial Opens at Arlington Cemetery, How Maxwell House Coffee Got Its Name, and tons more. All my articles (two dozen more) will be good for two Newsletters and I will write about them for you this year. Send me some articles you find. Some of you do. In Arizona, the former Ferrell Dalton sent Gloria Dalton Sorenson in California an article about a woman who lived to be 122 years old and had lived in Valdosta in her younger years. Gloria sent the article to Frances Vinson Fisher in Valdosta who gave it to me, then Gloria later sent me a copy. Thanks to all. And I get other articles. We have many out-of-town members, and I'm so glad they enjoy the Newsletter. One recent note from Vera Simpson Asbury said she was joining "to stay in touch with Valdosta." She lives in Tennessee. We love Valdosta and its history. Maybe it's because we have pleasant memories.

Oh, well, there's no need to try to prove my point any more. We win!

But just when I thought I was spared any more about this Abby Hoffman, here comes an article about him. She's a he! And turning fifty years old, poor thing, who "dreams of a radio show to combat mid-life crisis..." Now he doesn't trust anyone under thirty, puts down his old, now affluent friends and "wants to be 22 again, to get busted for a cause again, or, better yet, to drive an ambulance for the Sandinistas in Nicaragua." Go ahead. I've already decided why he dislikes nostalgia. He doesn't have anything pleasant to remember, nothing to be nostalgic about. What he has is not worth the trouble. It isn't worth holding onto and none of this is worth any more space in this writing.

So, we'll make our own history, encourage people to help us with the Museum and Society, and we'll continue to work for it, our cause. We do all these things for our town and county -- let's do it for America! Listen, I still get teary-eyed when Old Glory passes by and "The Star Spangled Banner" is sung before ball games. Let me run -- I have more stories to write.

I'm certainly not a preacher, but this has been my message to you, all my historical children.

Albert S. Pendleton, Editor