

# YESTERDAY



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# TODAY

## Newsletter of the LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chartered September, 1967

305 W. CENTRAL AVENUE  
VALDOSTA, GEORGIA 31603

August 1999

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Photograph of Dr. Durrenberger.

### Dr. Durrenberger Given Life Membership

Dr. Joseph Austin Durrenberger was given a life membership in LCHS at a special Board of Trustees meeting held July 13, 1999. In a resolution, the Trustees acknowledged his long, loyal, and commendable contributions to the Society. He served as President from 1974 to 1975 and as a Trustee for more than ten years. Even at the age of 100 years, he continues his participation in the Society's activities.

A native of Copper's Cove, Texas, Dr. Durrenberger came to Valdosta in 1929 as Professor of History and Social Sciences at Georgia State Womans College, now Valdosta State University. He retired July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1966 and continues to service as a Professor Emeritus. His activities extend beyond the academic sphere into Valdosta's civic, religious, and business organizations.

### Collection Spotlight

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#### The Edwina Roberts Collection

Edwina Roberts was the hub around which the John T. and Kate Young Roberts family revolved. Miss Roberts was born and died in Valdosta's oldest house. From a young age she suffered from disabling physical ailments requiring constant care. During her 72 years she collected thousands of photographs of her family and friends and genealogical information. We are indeed fortunate to now house this collection. Donated by the Roberts descendants, in Edwina Roberts name, this collection includes photographic portraits, snapshots, and memorabilia. The Collection chronicles not only the Roberts family's history but gives us an important insight into Valdosta's history from the late 1800s until Miss Roberts' death in 1973.

Catherine L. Redles, Lonie Pendleton, Lilla Kate Hart, and Edwina "Bootsie" Smotherman, all nieces of Edwina Roberts, are volunteering their time to put the collection in order. They are organizing the photographs and papers into archival folders and identifying all items. This collection will be invaluable for researchers looking at Valdosta's first 100 years.

### Governors Honors 1999 Architectural Design Class



An enthusiastic group of young Governors Honors Students visited the Museum to research Downtown Valdosta. This Architectural Design class was taught by Spencer Taylor, a Brooks County High School Technology Education and Drafting Instructor.

The class selected two Downtown Valdosta Historic District buildings for an adaptive reuse proposal. They chose 106 – 108 North Patterson Street. After field review and measurement, they constructed a scale model of these buildings incorporating their proposal for interior reuse. The outside appearance was preserved as closely as possible to the original while the inside reuse proposal was adapted to this earlier period.

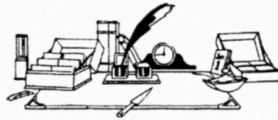
The 1904 *Valdosta Directory* discloses that Harley Hardware Company occupied 106 while S. B. Goodwin's Sons, furniture, occupied 108.

The detailed scale model and a video of the project was given to LCHS. It is currently on display in the lower level. It is constructed in sections with removable modules so the interior may be viewed.

*Continued page 3*

# Albert's Desk

by Albert Pendleton



## Some Local Valdosta News 1917-1918

**Saturday April 21, 1917. *The Valdosta Daily Times.***

### OLD LANDMARK PASSES FOR MODERN BUILDING

Work of dismantling the one-story brick building on North Patterson Street next to the First Methodist Church, formerly occupied by Blackburn's Studio and the Bryan and Bruce Cigar factory, was begun this a. m. In place of the old building will be erected a thoroughly modern and up-to-date theatre, the Valway. (Mrs. A. Converse owned the lot. The theatre would seat 800, with large stage for large shows, and, of course, movies. Theatre later called the Strand.)

Same date, Blackburn Studio was moving to 106 West Central Avenue, "In our new quarters, especially designed for our business."

**Saturday, April 21, 1917. *Valdosta Daily Times.***

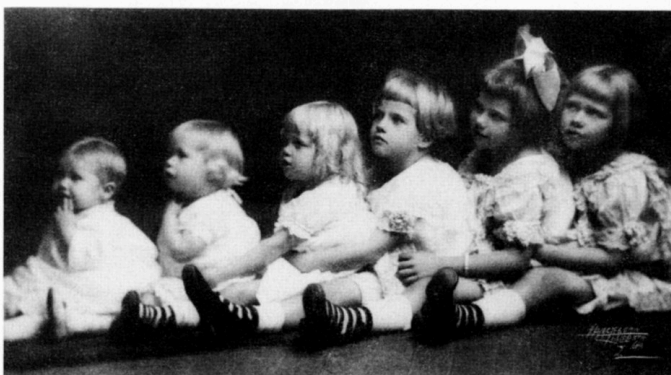
### INTEREST IN MEETING GROWS EVERY NIGHT.

The interest in the Bricker-Harding meeting at the First Christian Church is growing nightly. And there are additions every night. Four splendid young women confessed Christ last night.

Dr. Bricker keeps up the high level of thought in his sermons. They furnish a rare feast. Men are hearing and enjoying them.

The "Boosters" under the direction of Mrs. Harding gave their first program last night. It consisted of short recitations by individuals; and by all the "Boosters" in concert. Some of these had a splendid personal message for all. There were several songs, one of which was accompanied by a flag drill which appealed to the patriotic spirit in all. The special features were the recitation by Miss Dorothy Hereford, and the marching drill by the six Misses Daltons. The children showed in their work the influence of a controlling hand. The program was greatly enjoyed by the great audience which filled the house, who came to the meeting. There will be baptisms Friday night.

(At this time there were six Daltons. Later, there were ten. In the photograph below left to right are Lary, Adelma, Virginia, Vallie, Emily, and Ferrell.



**Saturday, June 9, 1917, *Valdosta Daily Times.***

### COUNCIL TAKES STEPS TOWARD AUDITORIUM WILL ERECT PAVILION AT BROOKWOOD PARK.

The matter of erecting a pavilion in the city park located on Patterson Street at the Mile Branch was taken up. It was decided that such pavilion would be an added attraction to the park and accordingly it was decided to erect a pavilion 35 by 70 feet... The matter of naming the park came up. It was decided, upon motion, to name it Brookwood Park.

**February 23, 1918. *Valdosta Daily Times***

### THE PASSING OF THE 'HACK.'

For many years Valdosta had the reputation of being a prolific field for the hack-driving industry. Every train was met by the hackman and visitors to the city had no trouble in getting about town at any hour, day or night. But the advent of the automobile has made the hackman's avocation less profitable. The hackman no longer crosses the "dead line" crying his "wares," because there are not many hackmen left. The man who comes in on the early morning train is lucky to find even "old Mincy" on duty. The passing of the hackmen is like other changes that are occurring here. It is a putting off of the old and taking on the new.

**Saturday, March 23, 1918 *Valdosta Daily Times.***

### AMUSEMENT LANDMARK IS NOW PASSING AWAY FAIR BUILDINGS AT PINE PARK ARE BEING DISMANTLED...

(Pine Park, for fairs and circuses, was the area Park Avenue, Williams Street, Moore Street, and Patterson Street.)

One of the landmarks of South Georgia is disappearing now as the work program dismantles the fair building at Pine Park, and those who might, for any reason, want to take a last look at them, should lose no time, as the buildings are beginning to come down

For twenty years Pine Park has been the amusement center of South Georgia and North Florida during the fall season and the grounds and buildings there each year have been thronged with sightseers and those bent on pleasure. Originally built to house the Georgia State Fair, which occupied the buildings and grounds for a period of three years, the buildings have since been used for other fairs, and during the last five years they were the home of the Georgia-Florida Fair.

Later on in the season, new and imposing buildings will arise in the new fair ground, and by fall will be ready for the thousands who will come, as usual, to Valdosta for the annual exhibition of the Georgia-Florida Fair. (The new fair grounds were on Forrest Street, site of Crackin' Good Bakers.)

A page of Valdosta history is now being torn down and a new history written of more modern methods.

## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. is the scheduled time for our Annual Business Meeting. It will be held at the LCHS Museum in the lower level. Please enter by the side elevator entrance. Overflow parking is available across the street at the First Baptist Church lot or next door on the lot of Thompson Group. We plan for an interesting program and a minimum amount of necessary business.

Please plan to attend and bring a friend. Remember our meetings are held quarterly in September, December, March, and May. Don't miss this opportunity!



### Trustees Meeting, Tuesday September 7, 6:30 p.m.

A "Pot Luck" covered dish dinner will be held at the Museum for Trustees and spouses. Please confirm your attendance by calling Bootsie Smotherman 242-6943. The entrée course and beverages will be provided. Each Trustee please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share.

## MEMORIALS

A gift in memory of Emily Aline McCall  
by Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Dover

### Continued: Governors Honors 1999

LCHS assisted the 14 gifted young people of Spencer Taylor's class in their research for project material. They made use of the maps, directories, photographs, and other materials available in our collections. Information on this project, including student profiles, may be found on the internet at <http://www.services.valdosta.edu/ghp/ghp.html>.

Governors Honors Program is a six-week summer curriculum providing gifted and artistically talented high school students educational opportunities not usually available during the regular school year. Activities are designed to help participants acquire skills, knowledge and attitudes to become independent, life-long learners. The Governors Honors Program began in 1962 and Valdosta State University has hosted it since 1980.

## UPDATE

The Heritage of Lowndes County, Georgia  
Deadline for submission extended to  
September 30, 1999

The Heritage of Lowndes County, Georgia is a unique collection of topical and family sketches being compiled by the Heritage Book Committee of Genealogy Unlimited Society, Inc., Valdosta. Anyone may include their sketches, up to 500 words, without charge. Purchase of the book is optional. Information is available at the Museum or through Genealogy Unlimited, Inc.



## KIDS DAY



This month come learn about  
**Historic Preservation**



**Saturday, August 21**

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

ages 5 – 12 years old  
accompanied by an adult

at the  
Lowndes County Historical Museum

## Doc Holliday Festival

**August 13, 14, & 15.**

A Doc Holliday Festival is planned by the Doc Holliday Society Inc. in Griffin, Georgia. It is to be held at Math Fields, west of US 19-41, North of Griffin on Georgia 92 at Heads Creek Bridge. For more information call (770) 412-9180.

## Dues Notice

Membership is from September 1<sup>st</sup> annually. Dues notices have been mailed. Your prompt response would be appreciated. If you have any questions regarding dues, please direct them to our Membership Chairman, Anita Shelton 244-1706 or Alan Morgan at the Museum 247-4780.

An updating of the mailing list is being done and we urge you to advise us of any needed change.

## Response to Wish List

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hunt for donating the wheel chair requested last month. We placed a sign on the door of the handicapped entrance stating that a wheel chair was available upon request. This addition will enable those less physically able to enjoy our facility.



**WANTED!**

Who is this man? Found among the photographs in the *Edwina Roberts Collection*, this individual sparks no memory with the Roberts descendants. Does anyone recognize him?

If so, please contact the Museum at 247-4780.

**YESTERDAY & TODAY**

Newsletter of the

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