



HOTELS

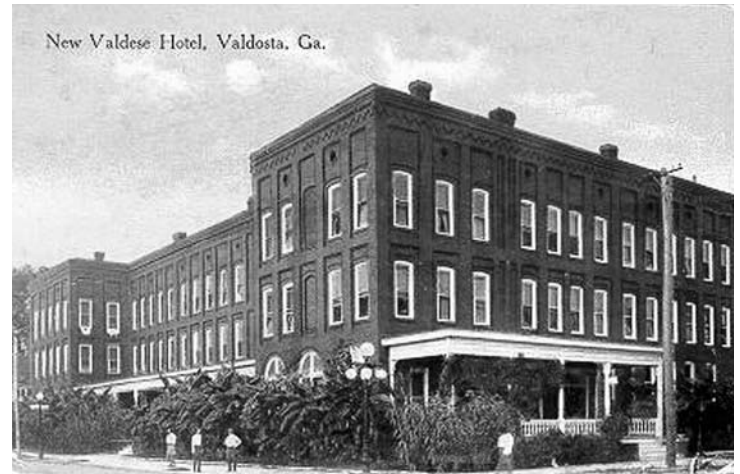
by Donald O. Davis

A person involved with the expansive James Road – Market Street development was in the museum a few weeks ago making historical inquiry. During our discussion he stated that the development might have as many as four hotels. The construction of new hotels is making a statement on the Valdosta skyline. The purpose for the construction of the Valdes Hotel in 1902 was to make a statement for the city.

Important local businessmen lead the Valdes Hotel project. Valdosta was called the state's "richest city" and was the site of the Georgia State Fair and such a hotel would be an asset to the growth and development of the city. E. D. Ferrell leased the hotel for ten years. The Georgia Hotelmen's Association was founded at the Valdes with E. D. Ferrell as first president. The Valdes ran on the American plan, room and three meals a day, rather than the European plan, room only. The Valdes was located in the northwest corner of the Hill Avenue and Toombs Street intersection, now the site of Daugharty Service Station.

The Patterson Hotel opened in 1912 on the site of the earlier Florence Hotel (*see page two*). The banquet celebrating the opening of South Georgia State Normal College (VSU) was held at the Patterson Hotel on January 2, 1913. In 1913 the Valdes Hotel announced that fifty additional rooms would be added to the north on the Toombs Street side. Decades later the Patterson Hotel was demolished. Barnes Health Care Center is now at this site.

The Daniel Ashley Hotel opened in 1925 and was a social center of the town for many years. Among the three grand "modern" hotel buildings of downtown Valdosta only it remains. Detailed articles on area hotels are available, having been written by Albert Pendleton and others.



The Valdes Hotel opened in 1902.



The Hotel Patterson opened in 1912.



A new Holiday Inn hotel opened in 2007.



The Hotel Daniel Ashley opened in 1925.

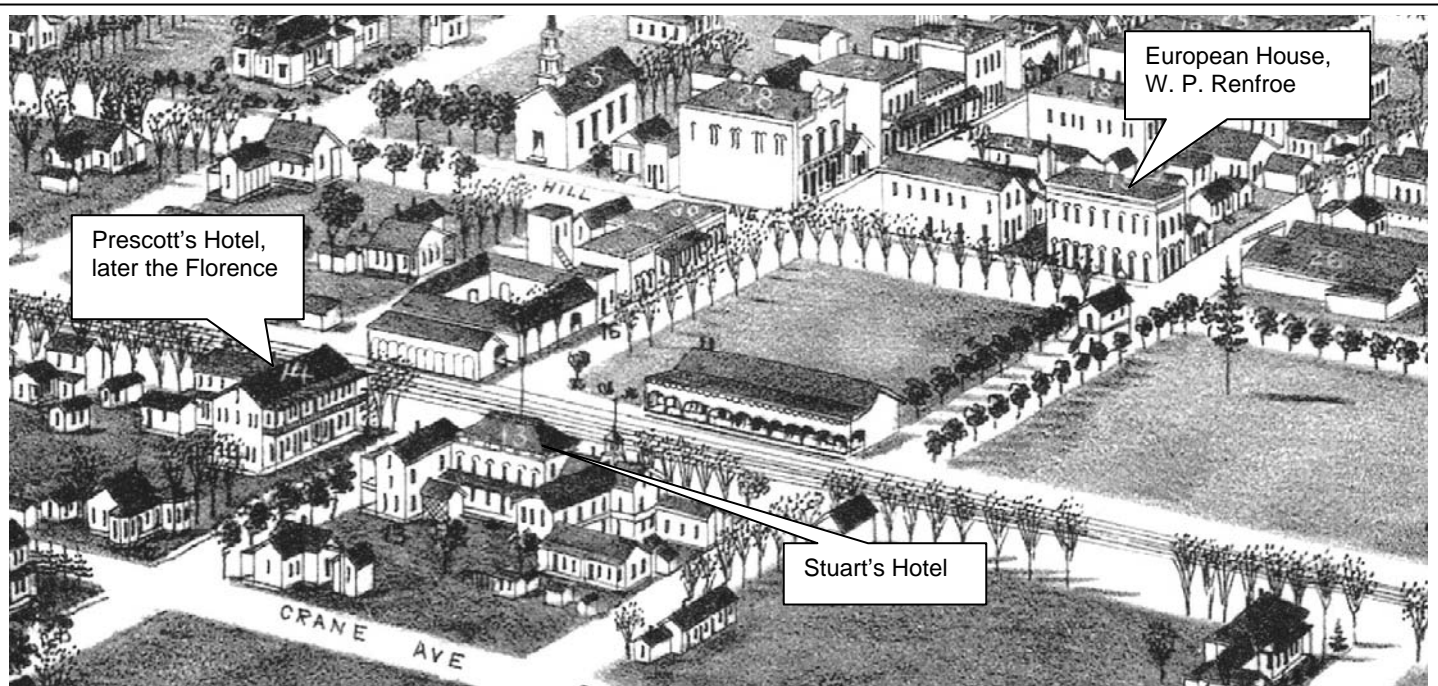
“But the garments Valdosta wore a few years ago are entirely too small for her now.”

The above quotation sounds as if it could be current news, but it is taken from an article (*below*) in the *Valdosta Times* on Saturday, March 29, 1902. The article tells of the demolition of the Central Hotel so that the the [First] Christian Church could build a new sanctuary on the site. The top left photograph shows this sanctuary. It was demolished in the 1950s and the Park Avenue Bank branch is now at this corner of Hill Avenue and Toombs Street.

...One of the most important steps in the line of construction was taken yesterday when a force of hands began to tear down the old Central Hotel building to make room for the handsome new church of the Christian congregation. The old building was among Valdosta's historic old structures that had to give way to the march of progress. When it was erected fifteen or twenty so years ago, it was looked upon with pride by the whole community. At that time it was Valdosta's new hotel and the people of the struggling community thought the town fortunate in boasting of such an edifice.

But the garments which Valdosta wore a few years ago are entirely too small for her now. The old hotel has served its purpose and the ground upon which it stood was worth more than a dozen such structures. The building and lot were bought by the Christian Church some time ago and the old building was sold the other day to Mr. L. C. Solomon for one hundred and fifty dollars, the building to be torn down and moved out of the way by the first of May. The timber in it is to be used in making cottages for rent.

The photograph at left is of the Florence Hotel. As shown in the 1885 Panoramic view below, the Florence and Stuart Hotels were beside the railroad at the intersection of Patterson Street and Savannah Avenue. The European House was at Ashley and Hill. The Central Hotel had not been built.



Alternative Lodging



The Pines Camp motel is listed in the 1925 Valdosta City Directory. Albert Pendleton wrote an article about the Pines and it being the second motel in the State of Georgia. Dick Davis told us that when a child in the late 1920s he rode with people to deliver dinners to the Pines and got a glimpse of Chicago gangster Al Capone. The Pines was located on the site of *Sunny Honda*.



The two tourist home post cards, shown above, are among several we have at the museum. The La Hood Tourist Home card boasts, "Modern Conveniences" and "Private Garages." The Dasher Guest Home card said that it was "Recommended by Duncan Hines." The La Hood home was at 811 S. Patterson. The Dasher home was in the location of the VSU bursary on N. Patterson and was destroyed in a gas explosion.

MEMORIALS

Robert Banks Anderson, III

by
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Daugharty

Scott Blanton

by
Tomie Jean Roberts Blanton

Vivian McIlvaine Brannen

by
Julia Bess Scott

Edwina Hood Burgsteiner

by
Tomie Jean Roberts Blanton
Gloria Dalton Sorenson
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

John Remer Hart

by
Harold and Virginia Bennett
Tomie Jean Roberts Blanton
Lamar and Florence Cole
Martha Norwood Gibson
Capt. Warren C. Graham, Jr. Family
Mary Wyche McRee
Julia Bess Scott
Briggs and Lane Smith
Dennis and Leigh Smith

Mary Helen Rountree Hensley

by
Nic Daugharty
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Daugharty

T. Norwood Holcombe, Jr.

by
Lamar and Florence Cole
Mr. and Mrs. Johnny B. Lastinger
Julia Bess Scott

Laforest Smith Meyer

by
Lougenia Gillis Gabard

John Lorenzo Price, Sr.

by
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Daugharty
Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Willis

Roberta 'Bobbie' Jean Stephenson

by
Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Daugharty

A Time for Thanksgiving

After the flurry of activity and energy that produced the 40th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, September 29th, President-elect Patsy Giles and President Julie Smith organized a "Thank You Party," on Saturday, November 17th, for volunteers whose efforts, past or present, benefited the development of the society or museum. At the function, Lamar Cole introduced and welcomed Steve Burrell as Executive Director of the museum. Julie Smith and Patsy Giles gave brief reviews of society happenings and Donald Davis recognized each person present and mentioned their activity on behalf of the society. A few of those that attended are in the photographs on this page.



Mary and Steve Burrell share a moment Harold Bennett.



Dr. Loyce Turner and Dr. Rudolph Howell.



Jane T. Shelton and Anita H. Shelton.



Patsy Giles and Julie Smith.



Betty Mathis Beck, James M. Beck, Gloria Sorenson, and Barneta Davis.



Susie McKey Thomas and Sis West May.

Holiday Open House Saturday, December 1, 2007



Savannah-Jane Gilchrist organized the refreshment table.



Jon Bennett, center in top photo, was able to show his four grandparents his Eagle Scout project of restoring the caboose interior. With Jon are Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bennett of Marietta. In the lower photograph, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Brown, also of Marietta are shown with Jon's mother Teresa Bennett. Both sets of grandparents made donations to the project.



Anthony Hewitt, left, came to the open house. He enjoyed the museum and returned later in the day bringing his brother.



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Alvarez live in the Fairview Historic District. During the open house they researched their neighborhood in Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. She had completed the Jingle Bell run earlier in the morning.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members,

This is my last newsletter as president of the Lowndes County Historical Society. It has been an honor to serve you these past four years. We accomplished a great deal and met many of the goals I set as president. Patsy Giles is our new president and she has many exciting ideas.

Please attend our Member's Meeting on January 27th at 2:00 PM at the museum. This is our annual meeting to vote on our budget and plan the coming year. Thank you for your support during my presidency. Please renew your membership and stay involved.

Sincerely,
Julie Smith

Rolling Down Highway 41



Recently, we were given several volumes of Georgia Christian School yearbooks. Shortly thereafter, three different postcards of Van's Twin Lakes Motor Court came in the mail. The arrival of these items, covering Dasher and the Lake Park area, reminded me of the Allman Brothers Band hit song, *Rambling Man*, which contains the words "rolling down highway forty-one."

The postcards came from Jane Stallings Knight of Nashville, Georgia, who stated that at one point in life, years ago, she collected postcards. The postcards show the cottages, the office and restaurant exterior and the restaurant interior.

In speaking with Billy VanAusdall, he said that his grandparents, Roy and Ina VanAusdall opened Van's Twin Lakes Motor Court in 1936, moving here from Chicago, Illinois. He said that his grandfather could tell of Chicago during the 'mob' years of the Al Capone gang. Billy said that his grandfather was owner and manager of the business until 1946 when he opened Bobbie's Gift and Candies which moved to the new highway about 1960. The 1939 Valdosta phone book is the earliest at the museum with 'current style' yellow pages. Van's is listed as "Member Chicago Motor Club and AAA, Dining Room-Serving Unusual Food."



After a conversation one afternoon at the museum, Joe Mixson (*left*) returned a few days later to donate his 1962 through 1967 Georgia Christian yearbooks, the *Pine Embers*. He also brought in the 1968 *The Technique*, yearbook of Valdosta Technical School. Before we only had volumes of the *Pine Embers* from the 1990s. Soon after, Julian Copeland, who is on the Dasher City Council, gave the museum a 1948 *Pine Embers* of the then Dasher Bible School. In 1948 the "dormitory students" at the school were from across the south—Louisiana to North Carolina, and north to Ohio.

From the 1965 yearbook is the photograph (*right*) of the Best All Round Senior Superlatives, Allen Black and Anita Wisenbaker (Armstrong). Allen Black is deceased. Anita also serves on the Dasher City Council. She, Julian Copeland, and others are developing a Dasher area historical museum.



Transferring to a 'City' Church

Jesse Felma Moore wrote the book *And One More Thing... Life on a South Georgia Farm, 1932 to 1949, A Memoir*. It was first published in 2004 with a second edition in 2005. Jesse presented copies of both to the museum and gave us permission to print stories from his book in our newsletter. The book offers a rare inside look at the everyday life of a very busy south Georgia farming family during the 1930s and 1940s, and at southern farming itself. Jesse was the sixth of nine children born to Staten Felma and Tressie Mae Copeland Moore. Jesse holds a BS in Agriculture from the University of Georgia and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Harvard University. Most of his professional career was with the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. One of the many stories in the section called *The Family* is *Lee Street Baptist Church*.

Lee Street Baptist

When I was 6 or 7, Mother and Daddy decided to enroll all us children in Sunday school at Lee Street Baptist Church in Valdosta. I put up a fuss, but it did no good. From that day forward, only verifiable sickness would keep any of us from attending Sunday school and church very single Sunday of the year. Then, at age 13, in addition to going to Sunday school and church on Sunday mornings, I was gently persuaded by Mother to start attending Baptist Training Union and church services on Sunday nights. The most powerful ammunition in her bag was allowing me to drive the car there and back.

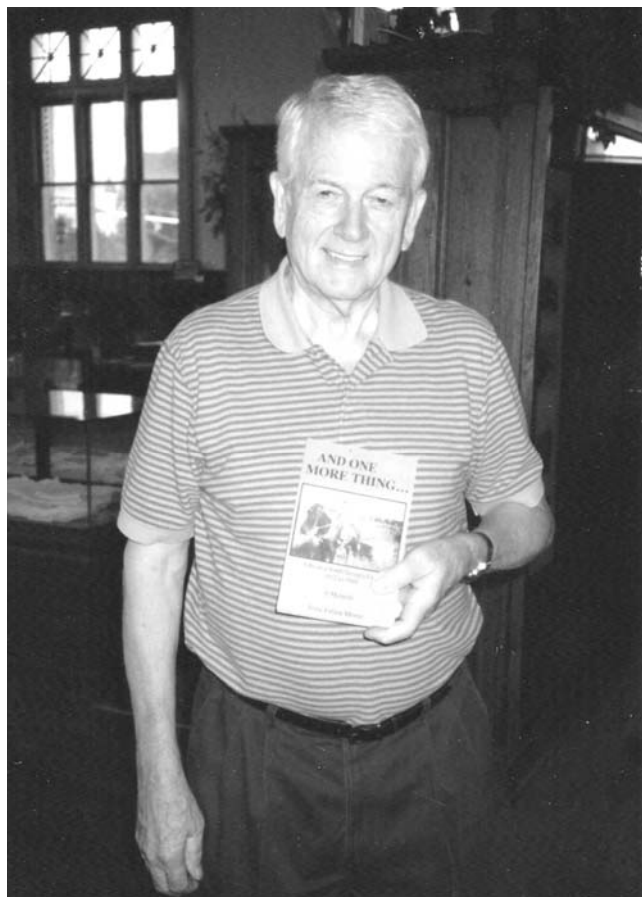
For a good many years, I felt like a fish out of water at Lee Street Baptist. All the other boys and girls in my Sunday school group lived right there in Valdosta and were classmates at school during the week. Since I not only lived on a farm but went to another school, we had absolutely nothing in common. It was like going to another planet every Sunday.

To make matters worse, I felt at the time that people who lived on a farm were somehow inferior to those who lived in the city. I suffered through it as best I could, drawing as little attention to myself as possible. Daddy consistently aggravated the situation by getting us to Sunday school late. This meant that I had to enter the group assembly room Sunday after Sunday with the session already under way. Facing me dead-on were 40 to 50 boys and girls with nothing better to do than look me dead in the eye.

During my high school years, I finally adjusted to living in two worlds.

Part of this was due to Mr. Tom Shelton, who was in charge of the Sunday school's teenaged group. He was sensitive to my shyness and did everything he could to make me feel at ease. Mr. Harmon Boyette, my Sunday school teacher during those years, was also instrumental in my becoming more self-confident around the city boys. He would somehow know of my FFA[Future Farmers of America] achievements, and would make it a point to congratulate me in the presence of all the boys in the class he taught.

Another thing that helped me make the adjustment was basketball. Although my school, Pine Grove {High School}, was categorized as class C for sports competition purposes, we scheduled two games each year with Valdosta High, a much larger, class A school that consistently excelled at sports. Some of the Valdosta basketball players were in my Sunday school class, so at least we had something in common. While it was a rare occasion when Pine Grove defeated Valdosta, our little school could be counted on to make Goliath anxious about the outcome right up until the final whistle blew. This, more than anything else, allowed me to walk into that Sunday school room with pride and confidence.



Jesse Felma Moore at the Museum



Lee Street Baptist Church sanctuary building.

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Museum closed for Christmas Holidays - December 24th through January 2nd .

January 27 2:00 PM Members Meeting

January 28 Son's of Confederate Veterans

February 10 2:00 PM

Georgia Day Celebration with the General James Jackson
Chapter, NSDAR

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YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
Lowndes County Historical Society

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Donald O'Quinn Davis

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with Julie Barnes Smith

Museum Staff

Steve Burrell
Executive Director

Donald O'Quinn Davis
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YESTERDAY & TODAY

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