



It is remembered from many school carnivals and area parades

Every December at the museum we are reminded of the “one horse open sleigh” as James Lord Pierpont who wrote Jingle Bells lived in Valdosta for a period around 1870. However, the ride remembered by many current Valdosta/Lowndes citizens from their childhood and youth was on the American Legion’s 40 & 8.

Recently, Gene Herring of Tallahassee came to the museum with a family scrapbook that included this Bookman’s Studio photograph, *below*, and the *Valdosta Daily Times* clipping of the same. His family moved from Valdosta when he was ten years old but he told us his local memories, especially his downtown story about walking Ashley and Patterson Streets selling boiled peanuts to profit enough to afford the 15 cents admission to the Dosta Theater. We asked him to write this story, and he did. See page two.

The *VDT* clipping, April 29, 1953, reports this photo as Mrs. James [Lottie] Stump’s 2nd grade class from Leila Ellis school and that those assisting are Mrs. Carl Mullis, grade mother chairman and assistants, Mrs. James A. Williams and Mrs. Carl Shiver. The group had toured the Valdosta Fire and Police Departments. This photo was taken in the old 200 block of S. Patterson Street near current Barnes Drug Co. Close inspection shows the “barefooted” Gene Herring standing third from left in front of the vehicle. The Dixie Café sign is in the right side background.



Memories of Childhood Activity, Growing Up in Valdosta, Georgia

By Gene Herring

The first ten years of my life was with my family in Valdosta, Ga. Most of that time we lived on Wooding Lane. We moved to Tallahassee, Florida in August of 1955.

My earliest memories of my childhood are when we lived on the Lineberger property on Boone Dairy Rd. I believe I was about 4 years old. My brother Harry, was in the first grade in Clyattville Elementary School. When I was about 5 years old my family moved to a house off S. Patterson Street. I don't remember the street name but I do remember that we would turn off South Patterson Street next to the Pig N Plate restaurant. [Ma Groover's]

When I turned 6 and started 1st grade my brother and I went to Sallas Mahone Elementary School. Later when I was still in the 1st grade we moved to 411 Wooding Lane and we started going to Leila Ellis Elementary on Lee Street. That's when I started going to The Valdosta Boy's Club, at that time the Club was located on South Troup Street.

If I remember correctly there were three adults that were in charge of activities and overseeing of the Club. There were two adult males, I don't remember their names. There was one female adult and we called her by the name of Sister. I do remember that about once a month the older boys would dress up as Indians with war paint and set around a bonfire. I was too young for that and never did join them. There were always sports events going on for everyone. Also, a pool table, trampoline, dart throwing and different types of crafts.

On Saturdays I would usually end up at the Dosta Theater. The cost to get into the theater was 15 cents. Coke and popcorn were another 15 cents. I think the Dosta would open up at 11:00 am. Before the movie started there was always previews of upcoming movies. A news broadcast, usually of the events of the Korean War. (*Korean War period June 1950-July 1953*). Then there was, what was called a serial film. The serial was like a short movie that continued on from week to week. Also, there was a cartoon.

If I got to the theater early enough the theater manager would give me a hand full of flyers to put on car windshields or just distribute around and hand out. After I finished handing out the flyers, I could get into the movie free. The flyers were like previews of upcoming movies.

During the summer of '54 I started selling boiled peanuts. I think I was 9 years old. I would go to the produce stand on West Hill Avenue and get 20 bags of boiled peanuts. I would put the peanuts in a card board box and attach a piece of material from one end of the box to the other end of the box. Allowing the material to be slack so that it would go around my neck to support the box of peanuts. I would sell the peanuts for 10 cents a bag and get 2 cents profit for each bag I sold. I would usually walk the block between Patterson Street, Ashley Street to Central Avenue and Hill Avenue.

I would ride my bicycle to school most every day. Never realizing that I was passing by Doc Holiday's house on Savannah Ave., which was a couple of blocks north of Wooding Lane.



Above Left: Gene Herring & behind, Mary Herring, Tallahassee, FL. **center:** Lawanna Soileau, Valdosta & behind, Jimbo Herring, Sr. and Lisa Herring Shumate, cousins, Tallahassee; **right:** Tommy Weldon & behind, Linda Weldon, Jacksonville, FL. Gene, Mary and Lawanna came to the museum when Gene first left the scrapbook for certain items to be scanned. When he came to pick up the scrapbook, other relatives met them here in Valdosta. The Gene Herrings and the Weldons became Society members.

Things related to "Memories" of growing up in Valdosta, Ga.: more from Gene Herring

J. C. Johnson. The DJ at Radio Station WGOV. [WGOV began 1940 on E. Park Ave, then to the Daniel Ashley Hotel] The Dosta, Palace & Ritz Theaters. The Forrest Drive-In Theater. [the screen faced the road, Forest Street]

Snow's Laundry. The Round House. [now at the Crescent] The Doc Holiday House. [now in Eager subdivision] Kresses & McCrory's dime stores. [The Patterson & R.I.S.E.] Two party telephone lines.

Tobacco Warehouses. (I would also sell boiled peanuts here) Kicking cans along the street. Playing Marbles. Goats pulling a covered wagon at the intersection of E. Hill Ave. and S. Lee St. [Goat Man venturing through town] Going to the Library on W. Central Ave. (Now the Museum)

My mother working at Hoods With The Goods. A small clothing store on South Patterson Street. [owned by a Mr. Hood from Tifton is listed in the City Directory] Foot long hotdogs at The Hitchin Post.

Class photos in the Gene Herring Scrapbook in addition to those on Page 3.

Sallas Mahone 1st Grade 1950-1951

Sallas Mahone 2nd Grade 1950-1951

Leila Ellis 2nd Grade 1952 Eleanor Howard

Leila Ellis 3rd Grade 1953-1954

Leila Ellis 4th Grade 1954-1955

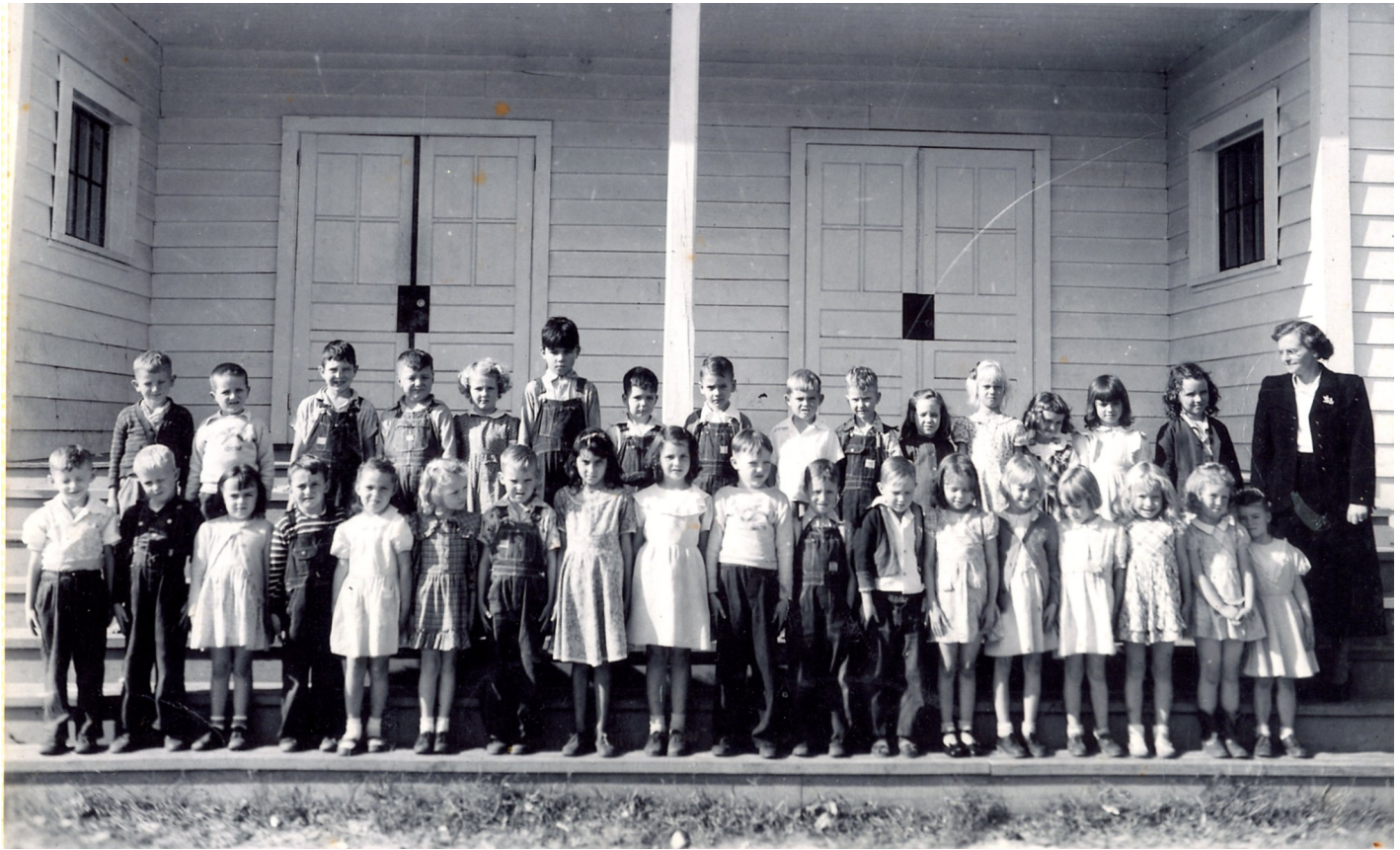
The museum would appreciate Identifications for those in the photos on page three.

Send to research.lchs@gmail.com

Most of this era school class photos were sponsored by Halls Children's Shop, Bob & Sarah Mathis Hall.

Clyattville Elementary circa 1948-49. Jesse Harry Herring, brother to Gene, is front row 7th from the right.

Of the 16 Boys, 10 are in Overalls



**Below: Mrs. Lottie Stump, 2nd grade teacher at the Leila Ellis School, 1952-1953
Gene Herring is in the back row, 3rd from the right.**



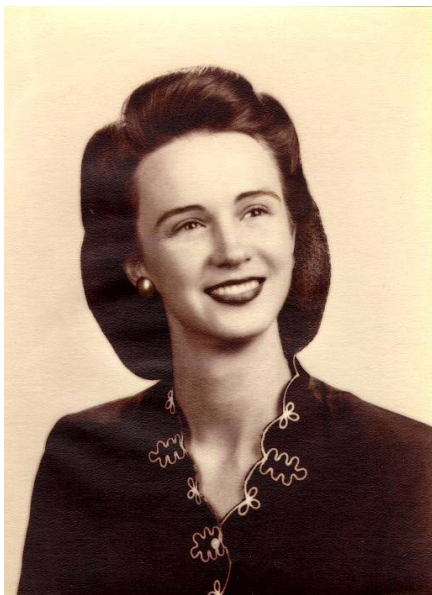
REHABILITATION 2022

**MUSEUM ANNEX - BIRD HOSPITAL
AND
The Billie Ham Smith & Frank Dodd Smith, Jr.
Exhibit Center**

**LOWNDES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
INC.**

**J. Glenn Gregory Architects
provided design and construction management.**

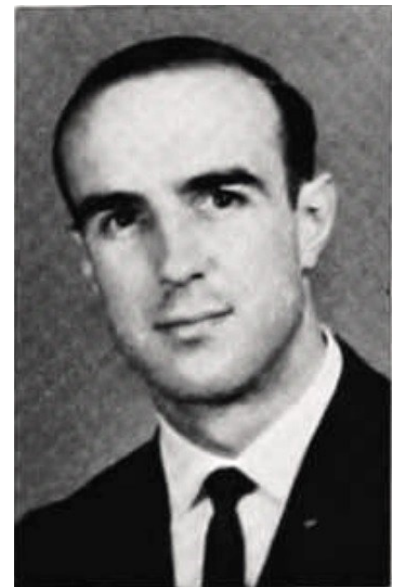
Mixson-Bird Hospital opened in 1927.



Above: The museum now has an attractive plaque installed on the N. Oak Street face of the Bird Annex. It was realized that the building would almost always be quickly referred to as the Bird Hospital/Annex, but also realized and desired was that the major donors be properly recognized with the structure, thus **The Billie Ham Smith & Frank Dodd Smith, Jr. Exhibit Center**. The son honored his mother's request concerning the Lowndes County Historical Society should she survive him, even though he survived her.

Billie Ham (Smith) grew up in Valdosta/Lowndes but her adult life and the life of her son, Frank Dodd (Tony) Smith, Jr., were in Cartersville, Bartow County.

Left, Billie Ham Smith, 1915-1996. *Right,* Frank Dodd (Tony) Smith, 1941-2019, photo from an Emory University law yearbook.





1964, the Pinevale band led the Valdosta Christmas Parade for the first time. *Left*, Leon Henderson Drum Major.

Circumstances near the end of a recent VSU football game brought about a chance meeting that Leon Henderson considers "Divine." I agree with him. And it also involved Queen Fluit's scratch biscuits and squash casserole from 50 years ago. Wonderful discussion led to Leon Henderson telling about the Pinevale Band in 1964. On Monday he brought the photograph, *at left*, to the museum. We discussed much. He said that he considered our work at the museum a ministry. I shared that we had been told that before. We are very glad to now have this photo in the museum archives and for exhibit.

Finding the Story: Eddie and Betty's Grocery

A few weeks ago Joyce Evans inquired as to information on this Grocery and told that an article existed that had covered the business. We were very glad to find the article in our archives, *Valdosta Daily Times*, February 17, 2007. It is a very good article and available for any who may want a copy.

We also learned that Gloria Evans was a younger sibling to Eddie and Betty, the father having named the business early after two older children. Some listings from 1950s City Directories [CD] and Phone Books [PB] include: **1953 CD**, Log Cabin restr (Edw Evans) 726 E. Force, h.747 E. Force: **1954 CD**, Eddy & Betty Grocery 744 E. Force (EddyEvans) h.747 E. Force: **1957 CD** Eddie & Betty's Grocery, 744 E. Force & 731 S. Lee: **1957 PB EARLY** Lee St.9239, Force 9233: **1957 PB LATE**: Lee CH2-9233, Force CH2-9115.



Left top: Leon Henderson, 1964, when the Pinevale Drum Major. **Left:** Lavonie and Leon Henderson, show Donald Davis yearbook items.

Right: Gloria Evans—Ford, Albany, & Joyce Evans, Lowndes County Commissioner, are sisters-in-law that came by to thank the museum for finding info on Eddie's & Betty's Grocery.

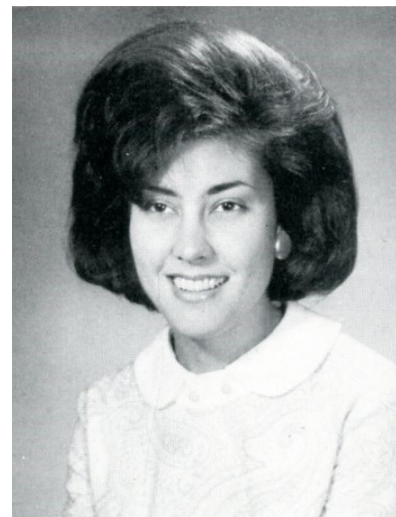


Viewing the **1961 LoHi Legend** yearbook shows that actual **LoHi Legends** visited the Museum. They visited the museum 3 or 4 weeks apart but their story came to us from the 1961 yearbook **LoHi Legend**. Beverly Chatham Johnson, Colorado Springs, CO, was by the museum first, checking on Twin Lakes information. She became a society member. Her activities included Editor of *Eagle's Eyrie*, Student Newspaper, Cheerleader, LCHS Beauty Queen and Senior Superlative. Ron and Sara Newsom, Denton, TX were here visiting family. Ron bought 2 books. We discussed his late brother who wrote for the *Castle Park Lark* newspaper. His activities included Student Council President, Mr. Senior Class, newspaper and Senior Superlative. **Below:** Newsoms, Johnson, and Johnson.





Darryl and Mary Bloodworth. **Left.** They had not been into Valdosta for over 50 years. His pilot training was at Moody AFB and she taught at Valdosta High the short time they lived here. He had graduated from the Air Force Academy where he played football and baseball 3 years, becoming baseball team captain. After a few years in the Air Force he had a calling for law and resigned. In his retirement he is an author and his next book will have references to Moody and Valdosta so they wanted a current scope on the town. I told Mary Bloodworth I remembered who she was. An article in the *The Carousel*, publication of the Moody Officers' Wives Club, May 1967, tells of Mary (Bloodworth) being with the FSU Circus and CBS sending them to Europe for their Sports Spectacular program, also that her "interests include reading, teaching a High School girls' Sunday School class and all forms of dance." She and Amelia Castrinos are recalled for an interpretive dance at the VHS Spanish Club chapel program.



**Gift in Recognition
of the**

**The Lowndes County
Historical Society & Museum
for efforts in Preservation of
Local & Family History**

**by
Lynn Pippenger
The Lynn Pippenger Foundation
of Raymond James, Inc.
Tampa, FL**



Left, 1966-67 VHS Spanish Club Officers. **Front,** President, Junior Mark Darden, his Senior year was at Lowndes. **Seated,** Rozzie Bird and Faculty Sponsor Mary Bloodworth (*she also above*). **Standing,** Barbara Hill, Susan Leonard, Peggy Sikes Chitty and Judy Sigrid Grondahl Kingsbury.

**Below: Recent International Visitors
Poland, The Netherlands, Japan, Germany, Mexico,
Canada and South Africa now of Florida.**

Left: Teresa and Ronan Poninski of Poland and Cypress, Texas.

Right: Dr. Magdalena Nowak, Gdansk, Poland. VSU visiting professor.

The Poninski's had a great time viewing our 1912 Grand Tour Warsaw post cards. 1912 being before the bombing damage to the city in WWI and WWII. It is of great intrigue when people observing the cards are told the Valdosta group was on the Atlantic Ocean the night the Titanic sank.



Dr. Novak brought her VSU Public History class to the museum for an example program on using local history in tourism. We surprised her by showing the Poland postcards from the Valdosta Grand Tour at the end of the scheduled presentation. We appreciated Dr. Nowak's kind words. "I would like to thank you so much for having my class in the Museum and for your wonderful presentation. We really appreciate your hard work and dedication."



Photo below:
Benny Cox
at the museum
with artifacts

Benny Cox recently brought by items from his childhood performance days for electronic acquisition. In this photo is a 1950s Jamboree brochure that has him front-and-center and a photo of him performing with his sisters at the Roxy Theater at Castle Park. He well remembers WGOV radio station in the Daniel Ashley and being promoted by J.C. Johnson. In later years Benny worked for Lowndes County maintenance and we appreciatively remember him bravely changing our ceiling light bulbs in the globes high above, here in the Carnegie/Museum.



Ken Sulak, PhD, Gainesville, U. of Florida retired, Suwannee River watershed ichthyologist. In retirement he has been gathering a study of all historical crossings of the Suwannee River in the watershed; road bridges, rail trestles, ferries, to ancient trees bent in growth to show directions. He tells of the Suwannee name coming from the 'little San Juan' "sanjuanee." With the English the big river changed, San Juan to St. John. Our Lowndes Withlacoochee, Little and Alapaha Rivers are in the Suwannee watershed. Sulak resourced the LCHS museum; WWALS Riverkeepers, John Quarterman, Hahira; and the Wiregrass Region Digital Project, Philip Williams, Valdosta.

Movie Industry in Area

At left: John Fornof is new to Valdosta due to the movie industry. He has received awards for writing and producing and coaches the same to those new to the industry. He is affiliated with South Georgia Studios and Philanthro-Films. The visit was a mutual learning experience for him on Valdosta and the museum on films. He signed the guest register when leaving and termed his museum visit "WONDERFUL"

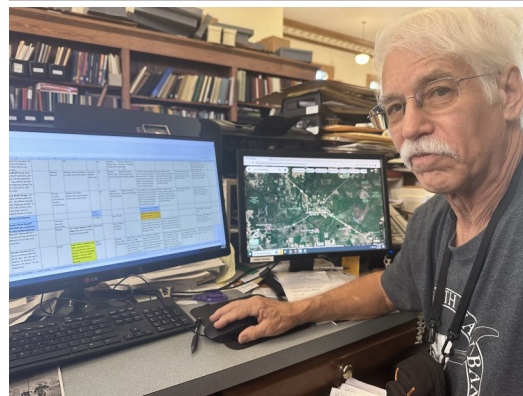


At right: Leslie Slocumb Parker, Brevard Hinton & Lalee Dasher Cregger

The Colonial Dames, Valdosta Town Committee, recently had a program on "The McKey & the McKeys" at the museum annex.

It was noted that Lalee D. Cregger's father Howard R. Dasher Jr. (Buddy) is

Photo below: Dr. Ken Sulak at the museum.
Fascinating Suwannee watershed research.



recorded as the first 'Boy Baby' born in the Bird Hospital, 1927. Cathy Hanson, Dames President, said "this meeting at the museum is one of the best we have ever had."

2024 Membership Application

Those who are already LCHS members will receive their Annual Membership Application Notice in the mail by the first week in January 2024. The letter is mailed annually to current members and any remaining in the membership files for 2 previous years, thus 2021 and 2022 receive the mailing also. Anyone else should clip this membership form and mail to LCHS. This year begins a slight dues increase to cover rising costs. The individual membership level is raised from \$25. to \$30. and the Family (Household) level from \$35. to \$35.

Mail to: LCHS
P.O. Box 56
Valdosta, GA 31603

2024 Membership Application

Lowndes County Historical Society

Membership Category

Individual	\$30.	___
Family	35.	___
Business	50.	___
Contributing	100.	___
Patron	250.	___
Life	1,000.	___

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

MUSEUM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Officers and Executive Committee

President, John Reid Bennett; 1st Vice President, Ron Irwin; 2nd Vice President, Mary Young Manning; Secretary, Carol M. Irwin; Treasurer, Ed Hightower; Past President, Ex Officio, Sally S. Kurrie

October 19..... Program for the Colonial Dames. The McKey and the McKeys
 October 25..... Ribbon Cutting and Celebration, Restoration of 1905 Courthouse
 November 11, 11 a.m. Armistice Day Bells of Peace, Museum Grounds
 Recognizing Jessie Ragan local WWI U.S. Army Nurse
 Nov. 16 Program for VSU Public History Class Dr. Magdalena Nowak
 Nov 23 –25 Closed for Thanksgiving Weekend
 December 1..... Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting
 December 10, 2-5pm Lake Park Area Historical Society Christmas Tour of Homes
 December 25- January 2..... Museum Annual Holidays Closure
 January-March 2024..... Society Annual Membership Drive
 January 15..... Closed M L King, Jr. Holiday observed

Lowndes County Historical Society & Museum

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Web page:

<http://www.valdostamuseum.com>

YESTERDAY & TODAY

Newsletter of
 Lowndes County Historical Society

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YESTERDAY & TODAY

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