



# CHATTAHOOCHEE TRACINGS

Newsletter of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission

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## WESTVILLE EMBARKS ON \$8 MILLION CAMPAIGN



*Westville Village in Lumpkin, Georgia*

Westville Village, in Lumpkin, Georgia will be easier to visit, and its programs will be easier to use as a result of a major fund-raising drive now taking place. That is what Mac Moyer, Westville's Executive Director says. "A visit to Westville is a wonderful learning experience," Moyer stated recently. "This campaign is designed to serve our visitor's needs better—more comfort stations, more gift shop space, more and better orientation, attention to the needs of

handicapped visitors, improved educational programs, better parking, improved conservation capacity, and additional displays, including our first slave house installation and a real millpond." The campaign, called the "History Alive Drive" began in 1999. To date, Westville has added the Kiser House, where visitors can get refreshments and use restrooms. The Thornton House has been restored and put into service as the executive offices for Westville. Michelle

Alexander was hired to be Interpretive Director. Electric "scooters" for handicapped people have been purchased and put into service. An engineering plan has been completed for the construction of the millpond behind the Farmhouse. Additional plans call for \$4 million to endow salaries and services. If funds allow, Westville will also construct a new visitor center, allowing the current store to be moved into the Village. The total campaign is expected to raise \$8 million. Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs of the undertaking are President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter. Fund counsel has been retained to assist in this campaign. Charles Bentz Associates, is a company that is known for other successful campaigns that have been structured in the area.

### PRESIDENT SIGNS 2002 INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL

President George Bush has signed into law the FY 2002 Interior Appropriations bill. Since the initial Presidential budget blueprint, submitted in February, to the signing of the bill in November, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) has had an uphill climb. Initially, the President requested just \$37 million for the HFP, a dramatic reduction of \$57 million from FY 2001 levels. In a letter to Congress this spring, President Bush moved to continue the Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant program by adding \$30 million to his HFP request, bringing the total to \$67 million. In June, after a mark-up in the House, HPF funding had risen to \$77 million with the House adding \$5 million for States and Tribes, and \$5 million for a new National Trust Historic Sites fund. When the Senate took up the Interior Appropriations bill in July, it allocated \$74 million to the HPF, just \$3 million for Historic Sites. At conference, the difference between the two bills was compromised and the HPF was awarded \$74.5 million: \$2.5 million for historic sites. This \$74.5 million amounts to just half of the HPF's annual authorization of \$150 million.

# CHATTAHOOCHEE FOLKWAYS

By Fred Fussell, *Folklorist*

## FOOL ME GOOD

Chattahoochee Valley blues woman Precious Bryant has, at the age of 60, recorded her first solo CD. The Terminus Records (Atlanta) release titled "Fool Me Good" is receiving sensational reviews from music critics and entertainment writers coast-to-coast.

Precious grew up in a family of traditional musicians in a close-knit community in which there were many, many blues players, guitar pickers, and gospel singers. Traditional Georgia music - especially country blues - has been a part of Precious Bryant's life for as long as she can remember.

Precious Bryant never performed publicly until 1983 when, after years of coaxing by folklorist George Mitchell and others, she reluctantly agreed to play at The Columbus Museum's Chattahoochee Folk Festival, an event that was partially funded by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission. Precious was an instant hit. Her naturally warm stage presence and her lively guitar style, combined with her excellent voice, quickly won her a devoted following around the Chattahoochee Valley area.

Since her debut in Columbus, in 1983, Precious Bryant has performed for audiences in this country and abroad. Among the venues at which she has appeared are the Georgia Folk Festival in Atlanta, the High Museum of Art, the North Georgia Folk Festival in Athens, the American Blues Festival in Utrecht Holland, the Canadian Folk Festival in Alberta, the Blues to Bop Festival in Lagano, Switzerland, and the Alabama Folk Festival in Montgomery. She's performed at numerous other events, including venues in Savannah, Memphis, Atlanta, Columbus, Chattanooga, Tuskegee, Eufaula, and all around the Southland. Two of Precious's standard numbers are included on the CD set "In Celebration of a Legacy" that was re-issued last year by the Historic Chattahoochee Commission. Yet, despite that and her numerous personal appearances, she, like many other traditional American musicians, has never received the widespread public notice that she so richly deserves. Until now. And now that's beginning to change.

Hal Horowitz, a contributing writer for CD NOW,

had this to say about the new Precious Bryant CD: "Bursting with a calm authority and composure gained through persistence and an intimate understanding of the blues genre, Bryant has released a stunning, uncompromising disc that perfectly showcases her remarkable talent. Boasting a smooth yet assured voice infused with the wisdom of her years, Bryant's jaunty, upbeat style and subtle joyfulness will cure anyone's blues. Vibrating with warmth, humor and integrity, Precious Bryant casually beckons listeners back to a simpler time when honest emotion captured the undeniable spirit of the blues. This delightful album on the Terminus label is one of

the low-keyed highlights of the year."

And in the February 1, 2002 edition of the LA Weekly, reviewer Chris Morris wrote, "Her glowing originals...sung straightforwardly with brush strokes of beautifully controlled vibrato and filigreed with flowing fingerpicking, are what make the record. Best among them are the buoyant title song (Fool Me Good), the somber admonition 'Don't Let the Devil Drive' and the ebullient 'Don't you Wanna Jump,' all brimming with understated



*Precious Bryant*

feeling. The album concludes with a winning one-two punch: a testifying rearrangement of 'When the Saints Go Marching In' and the rippling instrumental 'Georgia Buck.' Records as lovely as 'Fool Me Good' give one faith in the state of the blues-and that of the human race, for that matter."

A writer for the Stamford (CT) Advocate recently wrote, "It might be only January, but 'Fool Me Good' is a contender for blues album of 2002." Many other publications, including the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Guitar World, and Billboard Magazine have all agreed.

In a recent interview, Precious Bryant said this, "I just hope, you know, I don't never get to where I can't play my guitar. I don't want to do that. Cause I feel sometimes, you know like...I just love my guitar, and I love my music."

"Fool Me Good" is now available at major record shops and music stores nationwide.

# GUEST COLUMN

by Sherrie Walker  
City of Clayton

It's a little known fact to most who grew up in Alabama and spent years studying Alabama history in school that six of this great state's governors were from one Alabama county-Barbour County. Governors John Gill Shorter, William Dorsey Jelks, Braxton Bragg Comer, Chauncey Sparks, George C. Wallace and Lurleen Burns Wallace, the state's only female governor.

They led us from statehood through civil rights and, though not always noted in history books as being from Barbour County, they served a great role in Barbour County's, Alabama's and our nation's history. In 2000, Representative Billy Beasley put before the Alabama Legislature the concept of the Barbour County Governor's Trail, to recognize the contributions these leaders made to our heritage.

A present, the trail begins in Clio on Highway 51, the birthplace of George C. Wallace. It continues through Louisville, which served as the county seat. It then turns on to Highway 30 in Clayton taking you through the town that later became the county seat and was the birthplace of Wallace's professional and political careers. It ends along Highway 431 in Eufaula just up from the Shorter Mansion. After much discussion of the historical significance and ease of travel, it appears a loop through the Comer area may be added to tie the trail together and recognize more history.

Once the trail was designated, work began to obtain a grant for the survey and registration of sites along the trail. The Alabama Historical Commission awarded this grant and it is there at present. The towns along the trail met the financial match.

It was then that a steering committee was established. This group is made of citizens involved in the community, knowledgeable in the county's history and supporting of the project along with a representative from each municipality.

It has been brought to our atten-

tion that a building located along the trail, of historical significance, could be made available to us and could serve as an Interpretive Center. This would function as sort of an information booth to speak. It would offer information relevant to the six governors and their lives, possibly linking traits that these leaders had that projected them into their roles. It will also serve to guide and direct visitors along the trail to other related features. We presented our ideas for the facility to the Alabama Historical Commission and they agreed to assist with the management aspects of the project.

In June of 2001, a grant application was submitted to the Alabama Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway regional office to acquire the building. In December 2001, we learned that \$750,000 had been awarded to the Alabama Scenic Byways Program to help fund the byways program.

Our scenic byway will serve Barbour County as a means of tourism dollars and a way to help better our roads, promote our history and link our communities. The element that keeps this project moving has been the support of the community. Barbour County has often been seen as two communities, Eufaula and west Barbour County. This project is proving to tie our communities together in hopes of presenting and preserving our history. A history that is significant, yet soon to be lost somewhere in an Alabama history textbook, if we do not work together to preserve it.

## \$3.1 MILLION FACELIFT UNDERWAY AT BAGBY STATE PARK

Work began in December on \$3.1 million in improvements, including a new lodge and restaurant, at Ft. Gaines' George T. Bagby State Park. Anderson Construction Company of Ft. Gaines submitted the low bid on the project and will begin work soon, according to

Jerry Anderson. Improvements include construction of a new restaurant and lobby, new lodge with 26 motel rooms and four additional rooms at the state park's existing lodge. The new restaurant will capitalize on a stunning view of Lake Eufaula/George. "The new restaurant will have a large rear terrace overlooking (the lake), and the interior of the restaurant will be oriented to face the beautiful scenery and sunsets overlooking the lake," Anderson said. The capacity of the restaurant will be 135 people. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources also plans major renovations at Bagby's existing conference center. Improvements include removal of the existing porte-cochere, construction of a new service porch to serve conference rooms from the new restaurant and several new entrances to the conference center. The style of the new restaurant will be Swiss chalet. It will feature exposed timber trusses, large exposed wooden columns and beams, and an exposed wood roof deck in the main dining area. Visitors to Bagby will also find a new swimming pool when Anderson completes the project. The existing swimming pool will be removed to make room for the new restaurant. Other sitework includes removal of much of the existing parking areas and access roads. They will be rebuilt at the end of the project. It is anticipated that work at Bagby Park will be complete before February 2003.

### NEWSLETTER

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (HCC), an agency of the states of Alabama and Georgia, is involved in the promotion of tourism and historic preservation throughout the lower Chattahoochee Valley.

Chattahoochee Tracings is published quarterly and is free to interested citizens. Requests for the newsletter and changes of address should be directed to HCC, P.O. Box 33, Eufaula, Alabama 30072-0033. (334) 687-9755 or P.O. Box 942, LaGrange, Georgia 30241, (706) 845-8440, e-mail hcc@alalinc.net, Web Page www.hcc-al-ga.org.

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

"Hank" Arnold, director of the Pine Mountain Tourism Association was honored as Travel Member of the Year at the November 6 meeting of the Georgia Hospitality & Tourism Association in Atlanta. The award was presented in recognition of Ms. Arnold's outstanding service and accomplish-



"Hank" Arnold

ments in the industry. Presenting the award was Peggy Berg, chairperson for GHTA, who said, "For 24 years she has been a leader in tourism and convention management, including more than 20 years as a GHTA member. Her most recent accomplishment is single-handedly reviving the Stay and See Georgia Travel Show which will be held next May at the Mall of Georgia." Ms. Arnold is a member of the Southeast Tourism Society Association, the Georgia Hospitality and Travel Association, the Georgia Presidential Pathways Travel Association and the Georgia Convention & Visitors Bureau. She is a past president of the Georgia Antique Trail Association, the Georgia Presidential Pathways Travel Association, the Georgia Antebellum Trail Association and the Georgia Historic Heartland Travel Association. She is past member of the Georgia Main Street Association, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee, the Georgia Olympic Task Force Committee and the Georgia Aliens Marketing Committee.



Tom Gates

including the Schley-Peabody-Warner House and the Alexander-McGee-Woodall-Nilan House. Mr. Gates was also singled out as the catalyst for the successful completion of the Port Columbus National Civil War Naval Center, a state of the art museum and tourist attraction. The Sarah Turner Butler Heritage Award was established by the Historic Columbus Foundation in 1985, and is to be bestowed on the honoree for a preservation activity completed within the year of nomination, or for contributions over several years.

Landmark Park in Dothan now has two new staff members. Sharon Chambers is the newest addition to the Landmark Park staff and Karen McInnis is the newest employee of the Alabama Agricultural Museum Board. Sharon Chambers is now working as a teacher/naturalist. For the past thirteen years she has been teaching for the history department at Troy State University in Dothan. Karen McInnis graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BFA Honors degree and received certified museum and archival training at both the University and Provincial levels. Over the last 12 years, Karen has participated at an executive level in a number of

At the annual meeting of the Historic Columbus Foundation Tom Gates received the Sarah Turner Butler Heritage Award. Mr. Gates was recognized for his work on numerous historic properties,

local, Provincial and state level heritage-related organizations. She has experience with a variety of museum subjects having worked in five different types of institutions throughout Canada and the United States. Her specialization pertains to museum infrastructure and exhibition development, but her varied experience has taught her to be prepared for anything.

The Dothan Area Botanical Gardens Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Tracy Hansen and Tracy Smith, both of Dothan, as Executive Directors. The directorship, previously a single position, will now be headed by two individuals serving as Co-Directors of the Garden's development and activities. Judge Luke Cooley, President of the Executive Committee, said, "We are excited with the opportunity this new approach to the executive director position offers. Both individuals have strong capabilities in leading the continued development of the Gardens. The synergy of having these new highly qualified individuals is an exciting development for the Garden's membership and growth as we begin the 2002 year." Immediate focus for the new directors will be planning for the Spring 2002 Garden Tour, membership expansion and communication, and implementation of the Garden's annual and long-range development plans.

William F. Morrow has joined the Museum of East Alabama as Communications Coordinator. Mr. Morrow is a student at Auburn University, in the field of computer science, and comes to the museum with substantial experience in information technology. He has been handling the museum's outreach programs via various publishing and communications projects.

## RENOVATION UNDERWAY ON WALTER F. GEORGE DAM

About \$100 million in improvements to Lake Walter F. George Dam will enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to operate the lock and dam another 40-50 years, a corps official said recently. Bob Chamlee, chief of the corps' Geotechnical and Dam Safety Section in Mobile, Alabama, spoke during the agency's public meeting on improvements during the next three years at the 39-year-old hydroelectric dam on the Chattahoochee River. About 40 people attended the session at George Bagby State Park. The Fort Gaines, Georgia dam was completed in 1962 at a cost of \$85 million. It generates electricity, helps control flooding, provides recreation and assists in barge traffic on the Chattahoochee

River. Lake George, or Lake Eufaula as it is known by some, is a 45,180-acre lake. The corps awarded a contract this summer for \$50.14 million to Treviicos/Rodio Joint Venture to install a concrete and steel cutoff wall in front of the concrete portion of the dam and at the lock to reduce water seepage beneath the dam. "Earlier projects to reduce seepage beneath the earthen parts of the dam have cost about \$21 million," said O. B. "Buck" Earnest, Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint operations manager for the corps. "This is a very permanent fix," said Wesley Schmutzler, safety manager for Treviicos/Rodio. The company will hire 50-70 full-time workers with crews working

24 hours a day, five days a week. The company expects to hire 70 percent to 80 percent of the workers locally. A second contract for \$18 million was awarded recently to VA Tech Voest MCE Corp. to rehabilitate the dam powerhouse. Among the improvements will be the replacement of the original four turbines and governors. The corps will invest another \$31.1 million in the project. "Some specialized workers will come from Italy, Argentina and possibly Germany," said Earl Todd, project manager with VA Tech. "The dam can produce 145 megawatts of electricity, enough to supply 80,000 average households," said Earl Stockton, powerhouse superintendent.

Westville Historic Handicrafts, Inc. has taken steps to protect the view looking from the 1850 Village of Westville across Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive south of Lumpkin, Georgia. Westville officials recently closed on the purchase of 17.38 acres across the road from the Village, from Tammy Roland, of Lumpkin. The price was \$80,000. "The property includes a house that is being rented and pine trees planted about 8 years ago, and provides pasture for Westville's horses, mules, and oxen," said Westville Executive Director, Mac Moye. "The main thing is to maintain the vista," Moye said.

A new historical marker was recently dedicated at Plains High School, which was designated as a model school in 1938 and as the State School of Georgia in 1997. Both former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn Smith Carter, graduated from the school. Plains High School closed as a public school in 1979, but it continues to make its mark on young people. Last year, about 11,000 students participated in special programs there. The school is now part of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site and after restoration reopened in 1996 as the main visitor's center for the site.

The Port Columbus Civil War Naval Center has acquired an original 34-star naval ensign measuring seven by fifteen feet. The early war flag is marked "5 yd ensign" and is completely hand-sewn. There is a name written on the fly of the flag, but the museum staff so far can not associate the name with a ship or shipyard. It is in very good condition.

Randall Travel Marketing, Inc., an independent consumer research firm that focuses solely on travel and tourism, has announced a new annual

comparative study report entitled Annual Tourism Destination Website Comparative Study, that rates and compares websites developed by destination marketing organizations (DMOs). Research for this new study began in August. It will rate each DMO website based on specific 100-point motivation and technical criteria. Included in the criteria are such items as user-friendliness; ease of finding the site; speed of download; compelling home page; and ease of navigating the site. All fifty state DMOs will be included in the study. Additionally, five regional and fifty city/county DMOs will be included. For more information on the study contact Randall Travel Marketing, Inc., at (704) 799-6512.

Four Columbus siblings-George Adams Jr., Ed Adams, Philip Adams and Charlotte Adams Clark-have donated \$150,000 to complete the first phase of the Columbus Botanical Garden. The garden will be called the Lillie Belle Kimbrough Adams Garden after the Adams family matriarch. The garden is located on land that was once part of the sprawling Adams farm. The family donated the land and the century-old farmhouse in 2000 to Columbus Tech Foundation. Construction on the first phase will begin in the spring and take about six months to complete.

Eufaula has been nominated as an American Rose City in the Year of the Rose, 2002, and Mayor Jay Jaxon has proclaimed 2002 as the Year of the Rose in Eufaula. Chet Harris, president of the Wiregrass Rose Society, wrote Jaxon to inform him of the nomination and explained that the Year of the Rose is a worldwide celebration in the name of promoting peace. "Your city with the roses planted in the median through town has drawn our attention, and based on our conversation we have in hand a certificate as prepared

by the American Rose Society to present to you." Eufaula will join other cities nominated as rose cities in a listing in the 2002 Annual of the American Rose Society and also on the society's web site, [www.ars.org](http://www.ars.org). Linda Teaford, master gardener, is employed part-time with the city horticulture department as program coordinator. She is already hard at work developing plans for planting and promoting "old" roses as part of Eufaula's celebration of the Year of the Rose. Plans include everything from urging groups to donate and plant old roses to sponsoring seminars.

The Dothan Area Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Eufaula/Barbour County Chamber of Commerce have joined with the Columbus, Georgia Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Rome, Georgia Convention and Visitors Bureau to create a co-op group tour package. This new group tour opportunity is known as the "G.R.I.T.S. Tour," an acronym for Georgia-Alabama-River-Itineraries-That are-Special. The G.R.I.T.S. Tour is a project that the participating Convention and Visitors Bureaus have been working on for two years, and it has now been organized. The importance of this tour is that visitors do not recognize state lines, much less county lines. Groups are now looking for something new, innovative, and closer to home. By including attractions, itineraries, restaurants, and accommodations in a package deal, the participating cities will be an even more recognizable group tour destination. Another advantage of the G.R.I.T.S. Tour is that all four tourism organizations will be cross selling and marketing this new product to many different contacts in the group tour industry. The G.R.I.T.S. Tour will be a four-day, three-night tour. It will begin in Rome, Georgia or Dothan, Alabama, depending on the location of where the tour group will originate.

# MUSEUMS AND BUILDINGS IN THE NEWS

The Eufaula/Barbour County Chamber of Commerce will soon move into the newly renovated (circa 1889) Central of Georgia freight depot on Broad Street in downtown Eufaula. The depot will not only house the Chamber of Commerce offices, but a welcome center and interpretive center. Long range plans call for a Barbour County Museum facility to be housed in the building. While grants covered \$450,000 of the project and \$140,000 has already been raised for the depot, the chamber needs another \$300,000 to pay for the project.



*Eufaula/Barbour County Chamber of Commerce to be housed in the newly renovated Central of Georgia Depot*

On September 13, 2001, downtown LaGrange was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The district had already been recognized as a local historic district by the City Council of LaGrange. The district was first nominated by the Troup County Historical Society in 1996 after historic preservation consultant Julie Turner prepared a nomination. The City of LaGrange has also received a grant from the Georgia Historic Preservation Division to develop design guidelines for the new district. Jaeger Company of Gainesville has been awarded the contract to develop the guidelines. The guidelines will help property owners and mer-

chants know what kind of changes and new construction will be acceptable in the district. Printed and electronic guidelines will be available to the public by late spring 2002.

The Board of Directors of the Wiregrass Museum of Art has given the green light to the City of Dothan to contract with the low bidder, Construction CGM, Inc., to begin PHASE THREE construction of the facility. Over \$800,000 has been raised from donations, grants and matching funds from the City, for the project. The museum board is seeking an additional \$300,000 of in-kind contributions of materials, donations and corporate grants to complete the retrofit of the last of three connected buildings that was once Dothan's old municipal Water and Electric Plant (built in 1912-13). Once renovated, the addition will provide the City of Dothan with a meeting facility in support of the Dothan Civic Center and Opera House and will allow the museum to expand its educational programs. The large multipurpose grand hall will be available for parties, receptions and business meetings while the four lower classrooms can also serve as breakout space. Catering kitchens will be on both levels of the buildings. The goal is to have the new facilities in operation by September 2002.

The New Hope Rosenwald School located in Fredonia (Chambers County), Alabama, was added to the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior on November 29, 2001. The National Register is the official list of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archaeological resources.

The Dinglewood Historic District, located in Columbus, Georgia was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 21, 2001. This historic district is a small, residential neighborhood composed of the Dinglewood House (circa 1859); early 20th century residences; a privately-owned, central, circular park; and a city-owned park. The district developed around Dinglewood, the two-story, Italianate-style house designed for Colonel Joel Early Hurt by Columbus architects and builders Barringer and Morton. The 30-acre Dinglewood estate was subdivided in the early 20th century, and 16 houses were constructed between 1917 and 1951. The early 20th century house types include Georgian house, bungalow, and ranch. Common house styles in the district include Colonial Revival, English Vernacular Revival, and Spanish Colonial Revival.

To meet the needs of a younger generation of Americans who don't remember Franklin Delano Roosevelt and to provide greater accessibility for visitors with disabilities, the Little White House State Historic Site is currently involved in a fundraising effort to build a new museum. The new facility will feature a state of the art auditorium, exhibits explaining FDR's impact on Georgia, the U.S. and the world. Many mementoes, now in storage, will be displayed in the new facility. At 18,000 square feet, the building will be seven times larger than the current museum. It is expected to draw 250,000 visitors annually and have an economic impact of \$16 million a year. Since Georgia Governor Roy Barnes kicked off the campaign on April 12, 2001, the Little White House State Historic Site has received gifts or pledges of over \$1.5 million to go along with the \$2.5 million appropriated in the Governor's budget. Ground breaking is planned for April 12, 2003 and dedication for April 12, 2004. The first full year of operation will be 2005. For further information about the site, contact the Little White House State Historic Site at (706) 655-5870. The site is open seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (ET)

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