

The New SOUTHERN VIEW

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VOL 3 ♦ NO 2

A Quarterly Journal Serving the Greater Jackson Metropolitan Area

FALL 2003

Eagle Lake Past and Present

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Five Happiness

A Taste of the Orient

The Pride of the Fleet

An Exhibit of Naval History

Scenic & Historic Mississippi

The Witch's Grave

Talk to the Animals

The Truth about Bats

Whatever Happened To...?

The Hotels at the End of Capitol Street

See the Calendar of Events
for Fall Activities

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Fall and Spring, the equinoctial seasons, aggravate dreamers.

Though most of us now enjoy climate-controlled existences, we still have to get from the house to the car. Summer and winter give our pampered bodies something elemental to fight—wilting heat and freezing rains. We are distracted from the inner fires and chills.

The cyclic, less tempestuous patterns of fall and spring, on the other hand, assail our minds in some primeval way, maybe telling us that we, like our less comfortable forefathers, should be busy planting or harvesting. Out of rhythm with these seasons, we simply fret that maybe there's something we forgot to do. We, who occupy beige offices or unload dishwashers, look out the window and feel a little lost.

Is the ground ours anymore? Even we in bucolic Mississippi find ourselves often feeling disenfranchised from the soil. The earth seems to lure us in the fall and spring. This attraction goes beyond fields and farming. Autumn is a sensuous season. The thick fruity odor of sweet olive makes Thanksgiving seem very close.

Rasping pine needles under our feet bring back childhood in a rush. We smell an oak fire and wonder at what hearth it was kindled, and what are that family's problems and joys?



At no other time of the year does nature pull at us like it does in autumn. Falling leaves spin languidly enough to draw our eyes pointedly to the ground, our feet touch that ground—if no other part of us does—and we yearn to wander in a transport that is not just movement from place to place, but more of a soul's abandon and rediscovery within the Earth.

If planted in the world at some other time and place, would you still be the same person? We believe in a spirit of whom we have been, but are we ever haunted by whom we might have been? Fall suggests this specter to me.

I sometimes sense that behind the musky winds of autumn breathes some half revealed ghost of ourselves.

Kathy

Editor/Publisher

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On the cover:

Lamar Life Building at night in
downtown Jackson
Photo by William Pitts

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Scenic & HISTORIC Mississippi #1

The Road to Rodney First published in *The Southwest Guide*, January 1974.

by Benjamin Root, Sr.

Photo courtesy of www.civilwaralbum.com

Near the Windsor Ruins is a narrow path for cars. It leads southwest into moss-laden trees and dares to go where only a horse should travel. On either side the forest and woods close in tighter as you move away from the main road. With twists and turns, it beckons you on. But the old ghost town which you seek is elusive, and the trees behave as if they want to close in behind you, blocking the path home.

It is an area belonging to the past, to river-boatmen, to plantations, to the Civil War, and to yellow fever. There are old graves out near the main road where tombstones weathered and eroded tell of a past reckless and vibrant. There were people of many kinds, aristocracy to slaves, proud ladies to concubines, all of whom made up the life and living which attached itself to the river. But the river has changed its course, having moved farther west. Now its artifacts dot the landscape, for those who are observant enough to see its departing motion and hear its sound in the overhanging trees. It speaks of a time, both good and evil, when people attended church and brought their slaves



to sit in upper rear balconies, some of which still exist. A doe and her fawn with dancing movement quickly cross the path which once was heavy with the thud and rumble of wagon and mule, horse and carriage. A road which seems to lead nowhere, except to carry you backward in time, becomes more and more narrow and soon one feels obliged to escape before being entrapped by history.

Mississippi moving boldly through the twentieth century leaves in its wake some

of Americana's most colorful pieces, many of which lie along the great river and the Natchez Trace. It was an environment which tempered its occupant. By holding up a greater cross-section of life for him to study, it taught him well. Right and wrong were easily seen to exist side by side.

Present-day problems of our South might be solved more quickly and rationally by those whose forebears were nurtured by the many life experiences of those hills and hollows which line the Road to Rodney. Before it closes its pages, travel down it if you dare. But beware! Highwaymen may still be hiding in its dark places. Riderless horses with flying manes and jeweled bridles may be galloping along its upper ridges. Black men with tortured faces might be watching from hidden hollows. Gay bonnets and empty hoop skirts might still be there waltzing alone, long after the fiddlers are silent.

Whether you go there or not, to this place where shadows flicker and where echoes linger, know full well that it all most surely happened—along the Road to Rodney.

Scenic & HISTORIC Mississippi #2

The Witch's Grave

by William Pitts

Photo by Jack Bales, Mary Washington College Library, Fredericksburg, Virginia

Having heard the story of the Witch in one form or another for many years, we decided to stop off on a trip to the Delta this past Spring in order to see the Witch's Grave in Yazoo City's Glenwood Cemetery. After stopping twice for directions (and getting turned around once), we located the cemetery and started searching for the headstone.

A lady whose car was stuck in a ditch in the cemetery (help was on the way) pointed us in the direction. Not far from the entrance, the Witch's Grave was easy to spot by the heavy chains lying on the ground around the plot. On closer inspection, we could see that the massive chain was indeed broken! And the weighty headstone had fallen over and split in half up the middle from striking one of the short pointed corner posts anchoring the chain. Was this the work of vandals or had the Witch, in anticipation of the 100th anniversary next May of her alleged arson, toppled the headstone backwards onto the post behind it? We were informed later by the Yazoo Convention and Visitors Bureau that "a strong wind came through and blew it over." Plans are in the works to replace the broken stone with something lighter.

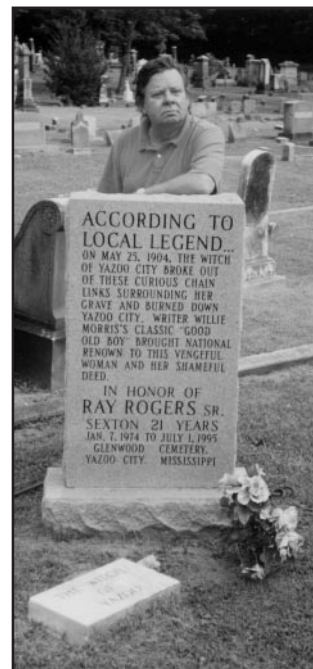
For those of you not familiar with the tale, following is a portion of Willie Morris's book *Good Old Boy: A Delta Boyhood*, reprinted with the kind permission of Larry Wells, co-publisher of Yoknapatawpha Press in Oxford.

The Witch of Yazoo City as told by Willie Morris

Many years ago, there was a mean and ugly woman who lived alone in carefully guarded seclusion near the banks of the Yazoo River. Nobody knew anything about her, but they loathed her nonetheless. They hated her so much they didn't even give her a

name. It was rumored that on stormy nights she would lure fisherman into her house, poison them with arsenic, and bury them on a densely wooded hill nearby. This was her hobby, but although many people suspected her of these evil diversions, no one was able to prove anything. Then one late afternoon in the autumn of 1884, a boy named Joe Bob Duggett was passing by her house on a raft when he heard a terrible, ungodly moan from one of the rooms. He tied his raft to a cypress branch, ran to the house, and looked through a window. What he saw chilled his blood and bones. Two dead men were stretched out on the floor of the parlor, and the old woman, wearing a black dress caked with filth and cockleburs, had turned her face up to the ceiling and was singing some dreadful incantations, waving her arms in demented circles all the while.

Joe Bob Duggett raced to his raft, floated into town, and told the sheriff and his men what he had seen. They got a horse and buggy and sped to the old woman's house. They smashed down the front door, but were unable to find either the dead men (who have never been found to this day) or the demented old woman. They climbed the stairs to the attic, opened



Willie Morris, author of *Good Old Boy*, at the Witch's Grave in Yazoo City's Glenwood Cemetery.

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OUTDOOR TREASURES

Eagle Lake, Past and Present

by William Pitts

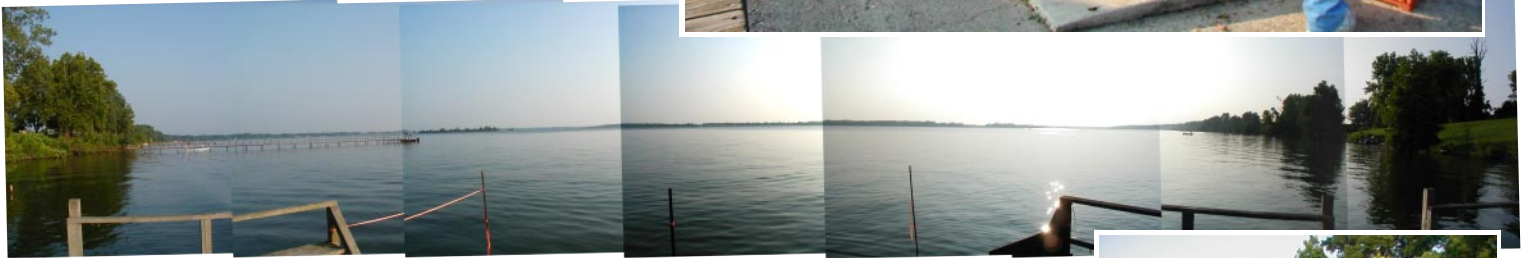
Rivers change constantly. This may seem like an obvious statement but we don't necessarily think about how much they change as they follow their winding course to the sea.

Take a look at any map of Mississippi and you'll see evidence of this as you follow our rivers south on their way to the Mississippi Sound or the Mississippi River. On our state map, the course of the Mississippi River is dotted with a series of lakes called "oxbows" along its length from Memphis towards Baton Rouge. And one of these, just north of Vicksburg on State Highway 465, is Eagle Lake.

At 4,700 acres, Eagle Lake isn't one of the largest lakes in the state, but it is well known for its outdoor activities. Eagle Lake also provides the visitor with a vista not often seen elsewhere in Mississippi. During the Civil War, Eagle Lake was still a portion of the Mississippi River known as Eagle Bend, and was an important river stop, serving the



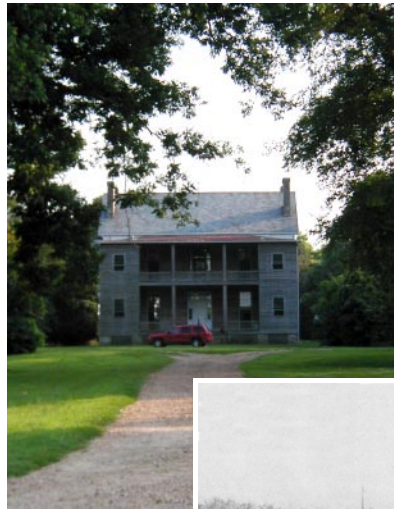
Photos by William Pitts



A panorama of Eagle Lake (above), taken from the dock across from Johnny Roland's Lo-Sto, where on Saturday nights, they move the pool table outside to make room for a band and dancing (above right).

plantation owners of the area. But after the Civil War, this stretch of the river was slowly left behind by the main flow and became what it is today...a long curved lake reminiscent of its riverine origins. The construction of levees along the banks of the Mississippi in the 1920s completed the process. A visit to this article on our Web site will show you a map of the lake, its shape, and its relationship to the Mississippi River and surrounding area.

During the Civil War, Eagle Bend almost played a role in the downfall of "the Gibraltar of the West," in that Rear-Admiral David Porter and General William T. Sherman of the Union Forces left the Mississippi River in March of 1863 and journeyed via Muddy Bayou and Steele's Bayou en route to the Yazoo River in hopes of attacking Vicksburg from the rear. This early attempt was referred to as the Bayou Expeditions. Although they commanded a fleet of five iron-



The Conway House (above) can be seen on Highway 465 near The Cotton Shack.

The Eagle Lake Lodge (left) is a fairly recent addition to the accommodations at Eagle Lake.

During the spring of 1883, the Civil War ironclad USS Louisville (right) took part in the ill-fated Steele's Bayou Expedition against Vicksburg. One can stand on the bridge over Muddy Bayou (above right) that exits the lake near the Lo-Sto and imagine a fleet of five such ironclads plus 19 other ships steaming ponderously away from the Mississippi River towards their Confederate foe hiding along the riverbanks.

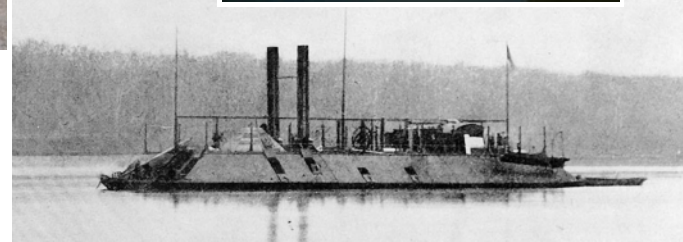
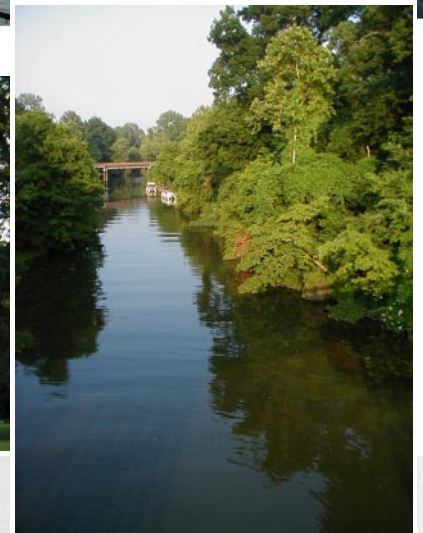


Photo of USS Louisville courtesy of the Naval Historical Center

clad boats, three armed stern wheel boats, four transports, three tugs, and nine barges loaded with Sherman's troops, this attempt failed due to low water, natural obstructions, and fierce Confederate opposition along the narrow streams. This route was

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Business Flash

The Cotton Shack Gift Shop at Eagle Lake

by William Pitts, from a conversation with the owner

We passed by this colorful shack twice before stopping to see what it had to offer and were pleasantly surprised on entering. We were warmly greeted by the owner, Linda Meister, who offered the following answers to our questions.

William: What's the story behind this old house?

Linda: The house was abandoned almost three years ago. I was looking for a building for a gift shop and really wanted one on Highway 465 so the location was perfect! Southern history has always fascinated me. Gordon Cotton with The Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg was my high school history teacher and he's the best. I stopped one day to photograph the condemned structure and immediately knew that this was going to be my gift shop. The owners wanted it out of the



Linda Meister (below) owns The Cotton Shack Gift Shop at Eagle Lake.



Once the one-room school house for the community (below), it also served as the home for Alana Slaughter (near right) and her husband Abraham.



Many of the colorful and unusual items for sale at The Cotton Shack, truly a shopper's surprise.



way so crop dusters wouldn't have to fly over it. I had to save this shotgun house from ruin. I fell in love with it and everyone else thought I was insane! I contacted the owners of the property and the rest is history—literally. This venture became even more meaningful when I found out the building had been a one-room schoolhouse.

William: A one-room schoolhouse? How did you learn this fact?

Linda: After I had been open for about two months, people in the area who stopped by said to me "Did you know this place used to be the old Levee School? I went to school here in the '40s!" This explained the marks on the wall that we uncovered when we stripped off the seven layers of wall paper, some of which was old newspapers. We left some of that on the walls. Some of the writing was math problems worked out by the students and others were love notes! In the early-to-late 1940s, Warren County had 71 one-room schoolhouses and at least three or four of those were located in our area. We have a photograph here taken by one of the teachers, probably Mrs. Haskins, of one of the classes that includes several people who still live in the area.

William: So the school was always here next to the cornfield?

Linda: It was moved here sometime in the 1950s from further up the road. It once stood on the Haskins' farm below the levee . . . that's how it got its name, the Levee School. It was built in the early 1900s for this community.

William: You say the building was moved. Did it still serve as a school here?

Linda: No, it was the home of Abraham and Alana Slaughter for almost 50 years but had been empty since Mrs. Slaughter's death several years ago. We also have a photograph here of Mrs. Slaughter sitting on the porch.

William: What was involved in getting the house ready for business?

Linda: My husband, Michael, and my son, Justin, and I worked day and night for three months. Close friends and neighbors volunteered their services around their normal work schedule and many of them helped us on the weekend. Outside work involved extensive landscaping to remove chicken yards and pig pens, barrels and trash, the accumulation of half a century.

William: So what prompted you to open a gift shop in the Eagle Lake area?

Linda: I've always loved shopping for bargains and old treasures at yard sales, fleamarkets, discount stores, and outlets. My travels allow me the opportunity to pick up unique, quality gifts from different areas and Eagle Lake needed a fun and affordable place to shop for a last-minute gift without traveling 35 miles to Vicksburg.

continued on back cover

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Whatever Happened To . . . ?

The Hotels at the End of Capitol Street

by William Pitts

The King Edward Hotel stands at the western edge of the downtown area, empty and waiting. Yet this isn't the first structure to occupy that spot. Nor the second.



Union troops burning the first hotel on Capitol Street. From *Lost Landmarks of Mississippi* (University Press of Mississippi)

The first building on that site was also a hotel, built in 1861 by R. O. Edwards, the Nashville native who founded the town of Edwards that lies between Jackson and Vicksburg. Edwards constructed a three-story, wooden frame building that was considered a financial risk at that time, as practically the only thing at that end of Capitol Street was a wooden platform which served as the train stop. Most all other businesses were clustered around the intersection of Capitol and State Streets, close to the State House.

Then came the Civil War. After the Battle of Jackson on May 14, 1863, General Mower was appointed by General William T. Sherman as military governor.

It was Mower's task to neutralize Jackson militarily which meant destroying only those goods which could be used against the Union forces by the Confederates. But, when the Union soldiers happened upon a large supply of rum, activities quickly got out of hand. It was during the ensuing pillage that the hotel—named the Confederate

House—was put to the torch, all of this accompanied by a military band playing "Yankee Doodle." Perhaps it was the name alone that incited the incendiary impulses of General Mower's inebriated troops that late spring night in 1863.

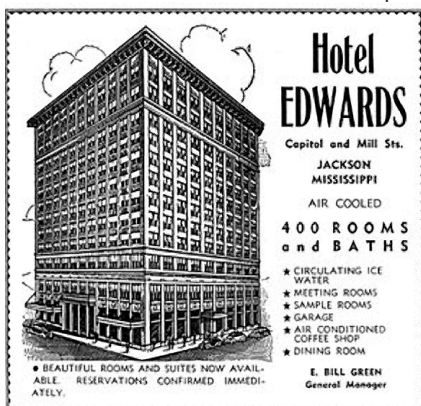
So we come to the origin of the second hotel to occupy that spot on Capitol Street: the Edwards House. After the war was over, R. O. Edwards and his family returned to Jackson, nicknamed Chimneyville, as mostly chimney stacks alone were left standing. In 1866 Edwards began the construction on the new and larger hotel to take the place of the Confederate House during that difficult period in the South's history, Reconstruction. Architect Robert Parker Adams says, "The Edwards House has always been an enigma to me." Having been built in the depths of the Reconstruction Era, "Not exactly a good economic time to build hotels..." R. O. Edwards died in 1867, one year prior to the completion of the second building, so his sons finished in his stead. As reported in an 1868 *Cincinnati Commercial* article, "It is an odd establishment." But it eventually proved to be a successful one.

At the turn of the century, the Edwards House advertised itself as the "Commercial and Political Headquarters of the State," serving as the temporary home of Governor Edmund Noel during a renovation of the Governor's Mansion. In 1909, a banquet was held for President William Howard Taft. It was also here that then-Senator Theodore Bilbo, later the Mississippi Governor, admittedly accepted a bribe in return for a favorable vote on a state Senator-

continued on the next page



The Edwards House (above) and as it appeared on the hotel's stationery (top). Photo and drawing courtesy MDAH.



An ad for the King Edward Hotel, then known as the Hotel Edwards, (left) from the 1949 Hotel Red Book.

mens sana in corpore sano SOUND MIND & SOUND BODY

Breathe Easier by Reducing Mold Sources

by Laura Whelan of Mississippi State University Ag Communications

Recent high-profile instances of toxic mold found in homes have raised fear in many Mississippians, but any mold growth in the home should be seen as a possible health threat. "All molds have the potential to cause health problems," said Beth Miller, assistant professor of human sciences in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at Mississippi State University. "They produce allergens, irritants, and in some cases, potentially toxic substances. Toxic mold is not a recent outbreak, although it has been in the news lately. It is receiving a lot of exposure, especially in humid areas like Mississippi that are more prone to mold problems."

Black mold in particular has been targeted as a dangerous substance, but Miller says use of the term "black mold" is mis-

leading, since most molds are black. "All homes have mold spores in the air, and some even have the so-called black mold, or *Stachybotrys chartarum*, which may cause health problems. But to date, no test has proven an association between this mold and particular health symptoms. Consider the dangers of molds that could contain toxins the same as other common molds that grow in a house."

Molds reproduce by tiny, airborne spores, and they grow indoors wherever excessive moisture accumulates. A home contaminated with mold would have discolored patches or speckled growth on walls or furniture, and an earthy, musty odor in the house. Inhaling or touching mold or mold spores may cause allergic reactions in sensitive individuals.

Allergic responses include hay fever-type symptoms like sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash. Mold exposure can irritate the eyes, skin, nose, throat and lungs of both mold-allergic and non-allergic people, and it can trigger asthma attacks in mold-allergic individuals with asthma.

Individuals who suspect they are suffering these symptoms due to mold exposure should consult a physician, and then take steps to eliminate mold from their home. "The key to mold control is moisture control," Miller said. "It is impossible to get rid of all mold spores indoors because they float in dust particles in the air, but mold will not grow if moisture is not present. If

continued on the next page



talk to the animals

The Truth about Bats

by Alison Sherman

Photos by Alison Sherman

With Halloween quickly approaching, visions of witches, full moons, and bats fill the imagination of children and adults alike. Bats have often been associated with the "dark side" of life. For many, the idea of a bat conjures up the image of a blind, blood thirsty, flying rodent who gets entangled in peoples' hair and is a primary carrier of rabies. These fears and superstitions are bred through misunderstanding and lack of knowledge for a diverse and ecologically beneficial group of animals. For thousands of years bats have been the subject of wrongful persecution and unnecessary fear from the general public. This article is written in the hopes of dispelling popular myths regarding bats and to explain some of the ecological benefits they provide.

Bats are not blind and many have very good eye sight. Visual ability varies depending on the species, however many fruit bats can see very well in the light and better than humans in the dark. Besides seeing well with their eyes, most bats use echolocation to navigate in the dark. Echolocation is the animal equivalent of sonar and relies on echoes of sounds made by the bat to locate objects. Echolocation allows bats to capture small insects in mid-flight.

Only Vampire Bats drink blood. There



A Rafinesque's big-eared bat, *Corynorhinus rafinesquii*, taken at St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge, during mist net surveys.

are three species of Vampire Bats, all of which are found exclusively in South and Central America. Vampire bats feed on the blood of other animals, primarily livestock.

There are two diseases that can be contracted from bats, rabies and histoplasmosis. While these diseases can be very serious, the chance of contracting them from bats is unlikely.

People and bats rarely come in contact with one another and usually the only time a bat will bite is if a person is holding it and it feels threatened. Less than half of one percent of bats tested has rabies. A person is much more likely to contract rabies from stray dogs or cats. Other species that carry rabies include skunks and raccoons. To avoid the possibility of contracting rabies from an animal, never pick up a stray or wild animal, particularly if it appears to be ill.

All bats found in Mississippi are insectivores and therefore provide the ecological benefit of being a natural pest control. Little Brown Bats and Gray Bats, for example, have been found to consume over 3,000 mosquitoes in one night by one individual. With increased fatalities occurring in the south-east from the West Nile Virus, bats can be



Another Rafinesque's big-eared bat in an abandoned building at St. Catherine Creek NWR.



A Southeastern *Myotis*, *Myotis austroriparius*, gently captured at St. Catherine Creek NWR.

thought of as a natural source for controlling mosquito populations and therefore reducing occurrences of the West Nile Virus. Bats also help to control agricultural pests. Big Brown Bats, for example, are predators of several agricultural pests such as June Bugs, moths, and beetles.

If you are interested in controlling insect populations on your property and aiding in the conservation of bats, you might consider putting up a bat house. Bat houses are small structures that can provide a home for hundreds of misplaced bats. These relatively cheap houses have been found to be very successful in providing shelter for many bat species and reducing insect abundance in the immediate area. Bat houses can be purchased at Forestry Suppliers and Wild Birds Unlimited in Jackson, Mississippi.

If you have any questions regarding bats, please contact Alison Sherman, Bat Coordinator/Conservation Biologist for the Mississippi Natural Heritage Program at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science at 601/354-7303. She is currently working towards her master's degree in Environmental Science at Jackson State University.

The Hotels . . .

continued from the previous page

rial position. These were interesting times.

The days of the Edwards House came to an end on February 1923 when the owners had the hotel demolished and erected in its place the current building, called at first the Hotel Edwards. Recognizing the significance of their establishment to the state's influential elite, the owners wanted to be ready for the opening of the 1924 Legislative session

with a larger, grander edifice. The Hotel Edwards was built and ready for occupation by December 1923.

The Hotel Edwards, its name later changed to the King Edward Hotel, continued in its prominent role as a meeting place for politicians, society, and the general public until it closed in 1967 as a result of various economic changes. Now it stands, awaiting its next incarnation.

Reducing Mold Sources

continued from previous page

there is mold growth in a home, it can be cleaned off surfaces with a weak bleach solution. Strong chemicals or biocides, substances that destroy living organisms, are not recommended for mold removal unless used by a professional."

After cleaning the mold, resolve the moisture problem so that the mold will not return. Keep the humidity level in the house below 50 percent, and use a dehumidifier in humid months. Make sure the home has adequate ventilation, including exhaust fans in the kitchen and bathrooms.

If a home sustains water damage, dry damaged areas within 24 to 48 hours to prevent mold growth and to remove and replace flooded carpets. "Toxic mold is typically hidden in the home in rotted wood, under carpet, or behind wall paneling," Miller said. "Investigating hidden mold problems may be difficult and will require caution when potential sites of mold growth could be disturbed. For example, removal of wallpaper can lead to a massive release of spores if there is mold growing on the underside of the paper. If

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there is a possibility of a hidden mold problem, consider hiring an experienced professional," Miller advised.

INTERIORS & EXTERIORS



A spacious deck adds to the enjoyment that Dr. Guild and his family derive from their converted caboose.

The kitchen and breakfast area (below and right) is in the left end of the caboose (as seen in the photo above) while the living room is in the right end.

The unfinished interior (left) of one of the half-dozen cabooses that Dr. Guild has collected over the years.



The cupola above the caboose (right), where the crew kept a watch over the moving train, now serves as a bedroom and study area. One of several original lighting fixtures (below) that can be found throughout the caboose.



Caboose: From the Middle Dutch *kambuis*, for “ship’s galley,” and from the Low German *kabhuse*, for “wooden cabin on ship’s deck,” dating from 1747. The modern railroading usage dates from 1861.

The caboose has long been the rolling office and living quarters of train crews but one local psychiatrist, Dr. Donald Guild, decided to take several cabooses one step further in their usefulness and at the same time, save them from the sad fate that has faced so many since railroads quit using them.



Dr. Guild, and his wife Sharron, relax (left) in the remodeled interior of the 1946 cupola-style caboose that he renovated as an apartment for his son Cameron, who was a medical student at the time. Although hesitant at first, Cameron lived in the caboose until he married.



Dr. Guild left a number of the original fittings in the caboose, such as the air brake pressure gauge (above right), and the signalman's flags and flares, called torpedoes (above). A collection of signal lanterns lines the wall above the rebuilt bunk (left). The ladder just past the bunk leads up to the cupola, now a bedroom. Below is a view of the utility side of the caboose showing the extra-capacity air conditioning and heating unit that Dr. Guild had installed to keep the caboose comfortable year-round.



Photos by William Pitts

The French Quarter of New Orleans *a book by Jim Fraiser*

Book review provided by University Press of Mississippi

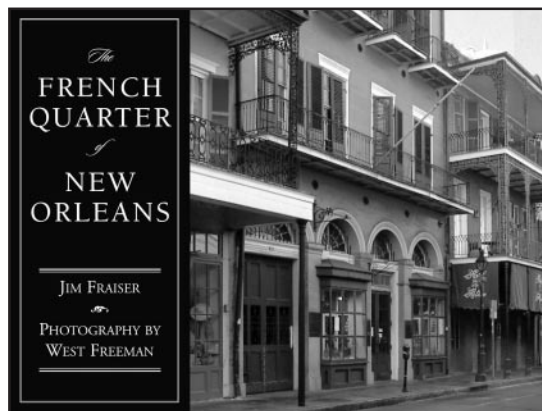
There is no place in America like New Orleans' famed French Quarter. With photographs and history, *The French Quarter of New Orleans* explores the unique evolution of this district. The author, Jim Fraiser, and photographer, West Freeman, team to reveal how war, fire, floods, politics, cultural conflict, and architectural innovation shaped the Quarter.

In West Freeman's 160 color photographs, the present-day romance of the Vieux Carré is here to savor. But *The French Quarter of New Orleans* moves beyond the Old World facades and into the heart and history of the many peoples—Spanish, French, Creole, Native American, African American, and Italians—who have lived here.

From humble, wooden French cottages to stately, brick Spanish Colonial mansions, from Madame John's legacy to the St. Louis Cathedral, the Quarter's architecture enthralls, and Jim Fraiser's text creates an anecdotal walking tour of memorable and storied sites.

Studying buildings, Fraiser points out the struggle between native Creoles and new-

comers in the replacement of Creole townhouses and cottages with "shotgun houses" and American Greek Revival homes. Freeman's photographs and Fraiser's text detail the historical signifi-



cance and architectural styles of over one hundred structures.

The history of the Quarter teems with vagabonds and saints, warriors and playwrights, musicians and politicians. Fraiser

animates the fascinating story with such evocative figures as the pirate Jean Lafitte, the conquering general Andrew Jackson, and the voodoo queen Marie Laveau. Riverboat gamblers, ladies of the night, duelists, opera aficionados, plague victims, jazz musicians, charlatans, and Mardi Gras revelers populate the streets and edifices Fraiser describes. For those who have visited the French Quarter, this book will be a treasured memento of the district's unparalleled romance and flavor.

Available in September of this year, *The French Quarter of New Orleans*: 248 pages and 160 full-color photographs with glossary, bibliography, and index.

Jim Fraiser is the author of *Mississippi River Country Tales* (2001) and with West Freeman, *The Majesty of the Mississippi Delta* (2002). He lives in Jackson, Mississippi.

West Freeman is a native of New Orleans. His photographic work has been featured in *Architectural Digest* and is in the permanent collection of the New Orleans Museum of Art.

The Witch's Grave

the door an inch or two, and caught sight of several dozen half-starved cats, all bunched together and gyrating in their wild



The Witch's headstone as it appeared last April, pushed over and broken, plus the grave marker shown on page three is missing. The work of vandals or of the Witch...?

insanity. Two skeletons, which were never identified by the sheriff's office, dangled from a dusty rafter. Fish bones littered the floor, and the smell was unusually pungent. The sheriff, his deputies, and Joe Bob stood there transfixed, finally banging the door shut when eight or ten of the cats tried

to get out.

Then from the backyard they heard the sound of footsteps in the fallen pecan leaves, and from an upstairs window they saw the old woman sneaking away into the swamps which abounded along the River. "Stop in the name of the law!" the sheriff shouted, but the old woman, who as Joe Bob Duggett would later tell his grandchildren, looked "half ghost and half scarecrow, but all witch," took off into the swamps at a maniacal gallop. They followed in hot pursuit, and a few minutes later they came upon a sight that Joe Bob remembered so well he would describe it again, for the thousandth time, on his deathbed in the King's Daughter Hospital in 1942. The old woman had been trapped in a patch of quicksand, and they caught up with her just seconds before her ghastly, pockmarked head was about to go under. But she had time to shout these words at her pursuers: I shall return! Everybody always hated me here. I will break out of my grave and burn down the whole town on the morning of May 25, 1904! Then, as Joe Bob also described it later, with a gurgle and a retch the woman sank from sight to her just desserts.

With the aid of pitchforks and long cy-press limbs the authorities were able to

retrieve her body. The next day, with the wind and rain sweeping down from the hills, they buried her in the center of the town cemetery, in a cluster of trees and bushes, and around her grave they put the heaviest chain they could find—some thirty strong and solid links. "If she can break through that and burn down Yazoo," the sheriff said, more in fun than seriously, "she deserves to burn it down."

The years went by, the long Mississippi seasons came and went, and the town forgot the old woman.

On the morning of May 25, 1904, some twenty years later, Miss Pauline Wise was planning her wedding. As she entered her parlor to show her visitor some gifts, she discovered a small blaze. Suddenly a strong wind, unusual for that time of year, spread the fire to adjoining house. From Main Street the fire spread to all intersecting streets and soon reached the residential section. The roar of the ever-increasing flames, the confusion of terrorized thousands, the hoarse shouts of the firefighters, and the sound of crashing walls made a scene of awesome horror that remained a fixed picture in the memory of eyewitnesses as long as their lives lasted. Many fine homes were destroyed, and every bank, every physician's, lawyer's and dentist's office, every hotel and boarding-house, every meat market and bakery, the

continued from page 3

TO THE NINES!

The Painful Pursuit of Scholarship and Respectability

by Kathy Root Pitts

Photo by Benjamin Root, Sr.

When I began first grade in September 1963—back then you actually began in September—the dress code for students was uncomplicated. Girls wore modest dresses and boys wore slacks, shirt tails tucked in, no jeans. T-shirts were under-wear. With junior high came the great culotte/pantsuit debates, and teachers were expected to be down on their knees measuring tunic hem lengths and peaking under flaps to be sure that we were in “divided skirts” and not just disguised shorts. Jeans were becoming acceptable, but there was much administrative anxiety as to how rebellious and expressive our jeans were allowed to be. Then there came T-shirts, halters, hotpants, and miniskirts. Diversity of dress combined with adolescent demands for individual liberty kept the dress codes under constant adult scrutiny right into the early seventies.

When I was in school, the issue of dress code was defined in terms of modesty and scholarly behavior. Anxiety over school safety as that relates to the dress code was an issue never expressed when I was attending first through twelfth. Safety as well as concerns for economic “seeming”-

newspaper and printing office, every church, clubroom, and lodge room, every telephone, telegraph and express office, the depot, the post office, every furniture store, every hardware store, all but one livery stable, all but one drugstore, every barbershop, every tailor shop, every undertaking establishment, and, in fact, nearly every business necessity.

The next day, after the murderous flames had consumed themselves, several elder citizens of the town made a journey to the grave in the middle of the cemetery. What they discovered would be passed along to my friends and to me many years later, and as boys we would go see it for ourselves, for no repairs were made, as a reminder to future generations. As if by some supernatural strength, the chain around the grave had been broken in two.

This immense and grievous tale alone would have been enough to make us woe-fully mortal Yazoo boys susceptible to the ghostly presence in our midst as we grew up in the 1940s. But on still, cold nights in the fall, as the mists whirled and eddied out of the delta, and the wind whistling and moaning from the woods made our hearts pound in fear and excitement, we had other things to remind us that this was unusual country to have been born in. *For the town itself had been built on a graveyard.*



equality have driven the push for school uniforms in some academic institutions. We have, in fact, reached a deep divide separating personal self-expression and comforting conformity. The Jackson Public School system is encouraging uniforms, and individual schools within the system have their own standards and colors.

The 2003-2004 Jackson Public School dress code (paraphrased here) reflects the drive for safe and modest conformity:

- moderate hairstyles
- unsuggestive attire
- underclothes treated as underclothes
- clothing fastened and tucked
- only simple and inexpensive jewelry
- no inflammatory words or symbols
- shorts no higher than 5" above the knee
- no hats (medical or religious permission considered)

- no potential weapons
- no house shoes
- no sunglasses (medical permission considered).

In the JPS 2003-2004 *Student Handbook*, dress code specifics fill more than an 8x11 inch page, with illustrations, and still leave much to the discretion of the principal.

The contest between student individuality and the teacher's need for discipline has reached a crucial stage, but this is not necessarily a painful breaking point. Fair discipline and harmless self-expression are both desirable virtues that can exist side-by-side. What better place to acquire a respectful balance between the needs of the individual and the needs of society than in school. We are, after all, in school to learn how to become useful and happy adults in a social setting.

Cookhouse Special

Five Happiness Chinese Restaurant:

A Taste of the Orient

by Kathy Root Pitts,
from a conversation with the owner

Mr. Minh (pronounced meen), the owner and manager of Five Happiness Chinese Restaurant on West McDowell Road in south Jackson, came from a Chinese restaurant family which immigrated to the United States from Saigon, Vietnam in 1982. He then moved to Jackson from New Orleans with his parents in 1993 and started his local restaurant, which is now a very popular place for those who enjoy wonderfully prepared Chinese cuisine.

Five Happiness offers a wide assortment of Hunan, Szechuan, and Hong Kong cooking styles, ranging from mild to more highly seasoned dishes. If a dish is spiced very hot, it is kindly indicated as such on the menu. Minh's entrees provide an abundance of vegetables, prepared in the nutritious stir fry fashion. Favorite items on the Five Happiness menu are Sesame Chicken, General Chicken, and Sweet and Sour Chicken. My favorite is the cream cheese and crab meat wonton.

A meal at Five Happiness is a pleasant departure to another world. The restaurant's interior has many exotic oriental touches—among those, a large fish aquarium with nine gold fish and multi-colored hand-raised koi. The number nine in Chinese culture represents good luck and happiness. There are large murals, one



Be sure to stop by and visit the goldfish and koi, both hand-raised by Mr. Minh.

of a waterfall, and one of eight horses which symbolize success in business, as the number eight in Chinese sounds like the word for "lucky."

Mr. Minh delights, "We're proud to be here and to be supported by the local community. We're happy and try to work hard to serve the people in the community." Mr. Minh explains that the five happinesses: benevolence, fate, long life, no sickness, and financial power—are a philosophy, and a common name now for Chinese restaurants. We hope the hard working Mr. Minh, his family, and his restaurant will be blessed by these happinesses for a very long time.

Open 7 days:

Sunday–Thursday 11:00 am–9:30 pm
Friday–Saturday 11:00 am–10:30 pm
Daily lunch buffet 11:00 am–2:00 pm
Sunday buffet 11:30 am–2:30 pm
601/371-8765

福臨門酒樓



Photos by William Pitts



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The Garden Gate

The Ancient Artform of Bonsai

by Kathy Root Pitts

Mississippi is the home of the largest importer and grower of bonsai in the United States. Brussel Martin, our resident expert bonsai artist, has traveled to Asia annually for the last twenty-five years to personally select his imported trees. He has also helped thousands of bonsai students develop and perfect their talents. Brussel offers tips for beginners, definitions, and answers to frequently asked questions on his Web site: www.brusselsbonsai.com.

Brussel tells of his long interest in the bonsai art form: "When I was five years old, I can remember being instantly captivated by several bonsai my father brought back from a California business trip. As a teenager, I began to seriously study the art of bonsai. What started out as an artistic endeavor in my parents' backyard quickly

grew into a business. In the 1970s, I began selling bonsai through the mail and traveling to shows across the country. By the early 1980s, I was making annual buying trips to Asia."

By way of Brussel's on-line store, the bonsai shopper can have these well-cared-for trees delivered year round as well as bonsai tools, books, fertilizers, accessories, and carefully selected pots from Yixing, China for the bonsai enthusiast.



Japanese Maple (left)
 and Camellia sasanqua
 (below) which is 35 years
 old and 38" tall.



Photos courtesy of Brussel's Bonsai

A Child's World

The Pride of the Fleet

by William Pitts

From out of the past and across the seven seas sails a miniature fleet of warships all proudly bearing the name USS Mississippi. Docked at the Old Capitol Museum in Jackson through Sunday, November 9, the Pride of the Fleet exhibit explores the histories of these four ships through naval uniforms, flags, ship memorabilia, photographs, and detailed models, as well as rare and impressive film footage of the three more recent ships.



The visitor enters the exhibit (left and below) through a mock-up of a portion of a ship's superstructure (above), a most unusual sight to see within the rotunda of the old museum building.

Photos by William Pitts



The first USS Mississippi (above) compared with the last (above right).



Details of the second (above) and third USS Mississippi (right).



According to a press release, this is the first original exhibit by the Old Capitol Museum to feature artifacts acquired through the museum's affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. "We are proud to have developed this exhibit for the Old Capitol Museum," said Director Lucy Allen.

Once inside, an activity sheet is available for students (and anyone else) that is designed to give a better understanding of the exhibit, complete with games centered around items found in the displays, and diagrams that show the sizes of two of the ships in relation to the Old Capitol Museum building.

The exhibit is divided into four main displays, one for each of the ships, covering 156 years of nautical development from a steam- and sail-powered, wooden-hulled frigate armed with

muzzle loading, deck mounted cannon to a modern nuclear-powered, guided-missile cruiser with the ability to attack targets at ranges of up to 1000 nautical miles. Finely detailed models of each of the four ships, built by Dave Benway and Dan Richardson of D&D Precision Model Crafters of Vicksburg, serve as the centerpieces of each

continued on back cover

A 20 year old, 29" tall Wisteria (below) and two Satsuki Azaleas, one 40 years old and 22" tall (near right) the other 30 years old and 25" tall (far right).



A 50 year old, 29" tall Gingko Biloba (below).



Brussel's Bonsai Nursery is located in Olive Branch, Mississippi, just thirty minutes from Memphis, Tennessee. A map to the nursery can be viewed on Brussel's Web site by following this path: click **About Us**, then

click **Directions to Nursery**.

Brussel's Bonsai is open weekdays from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. and can be contacted either by toll free number 1-800/582-2593 or by e-mail at info@brusselsbonsai.com.

Eagle Lake

deemed by Sherman as "useless to us as a military channel."

Eagle Lake has hosted many visitors from across the country over the years. But it wasn't always an easy trip. Before 1963, the only way to reach Eagle Lake was by a dirt road and a hand-operated ferry across the Yazoo River. When State Highway 465 was built, the area was finally accessible to the casual visitor. In the summer of 1983, The Cotton Exchange Restaurant was opened as the focal point of a planned resort area on the lake. Condominiums, a communal pier and dock, and a sand beach were planned to round out the resort area but such was not to be. A portion of the condominiums were completed and are in use today, but the restaurant closed a few years ago, and the building was later lost to fire. Only the foundation and the chimney remained, later to serve as the foundation for a residence.

Prior to that, the only other fair-sized place to stay was the Eagle Lake Lodge. Built by J. H. Sheppard sometime in the late '30s or early '40s, the original lodge was purchased in 1946 by Johnny Roland's family. Johnny and his family lived at the lodge and rented rooms to hunters and fishermen who visited the area. Johnny describes the lodge as "made out of cypress...with a big screened front porch with rocking chairs on it all the way across" from which one entered into "a large open living room. It was just a big white house up on [vertical] logs and I remember as kids we used to play under it a lot." Boat and motor rentals were a big part of their business until rising insurance rates made that uneconomical.

Johnny's family also owned the Lo-Sto, a combination grocery store and bait shop. The store was situated across the road from the lodge and was a popular gathering place for the local farm workers on weekends. Blues played "all night long" on the jukebox as "hundreds and hundreds" of farm-hands gathered on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. The Lo-Sto got its name, according to Johnny's mother, from the fact that it was on the downhill side of

the road, right on the shore of Eagle Lake. A customer once asked Johnny, "Is it the Slow Store?" and he said "No ma'am, Lo-Sto." And she said "Well, I can't say that. I can't say Lo-Sto." Johnny's response was "You just did!"

During the flood of 1973, the most severe flood on the lower Mississippi River since 1927, the Lo-Sto building floated off of its foundation. "It went down the lake," according to Johnny. So they moved the operation of the store up the hill to the lodge where they operated until 1979, when the lodge burned down. The following year, Johnny's family built the current Lo-Sto on the site. Johnny still operates it with his wife, Louise. On Saturday evenings, with the help of friends and two hand carts, the pool table is moved outside to make room for dancing to the music of the juke box or visiting bands.

A friend of Johnny's, Tim Carpenter from Ohio, has opened a new Eagle Lake Lodge. Tim states that "If you want to experience Mississippi, you should come out to Eagle Lake . . . when you come out here, you'll obviously have the wildlife experience, but you also have the people. And that's the beauty of Mississippi, its people. And on the Delta, you have a tremendous history, a wonderful heritage, and the texture, I think, of what Mississippi is about. There are a lot of characters, there is a lot of fun, there is a lot of joy, and there is a lot of peace out here."

Other stops and sights for the visitor to Eagle Lake are The Cotton Shack for gifts (see article on page 5), Pearl's Country Kitchen, Yore Country Store for groceries, gas, and bait, Maxwell's Landing for boat and motor rental, and Tara Wildlife for more outdoor experiences. The Conway House, used as a hospital during the Civil War when Eagle Lake was still part of the Mississippi River, is being restored by Royce Rogers of Yore Country Store.

An easy drive from Jackson, Eagle Lake is reached by taking I-20 West to Highway 61 North just east of Vicksburg. Follow 61 north to Redwood and cross the Yazoo River. Once on the other side, look

continued from page 4

Webventuring[@]

by William Pitts

Ever wonder what the big picture looks like? Everybody needs to know where they stand in the grand scheme of things. These three sites are good places to start in order to learn what's around you and where you fit in.

All addresses current as of press time.

www.gomdot.com/

The Web site for the Mississippi Department of Transportation has a wide variety of maps of the state, ranging from state maps to county maps, city maps, and even a map showing hurricane evacuation routes.

www.topozone.com

The Internet's first interactive topographical map of the entire United States makes seamless United States Geologic Survey topographic maps available by name place, decimal degrees, degrees/minutes/seconds, or by UTM coordinates. For starters, the intersection of Capitol and State Streets in Jackson is approximately 32° 17' 56" N, 90° 10' 49" W.

www.terraserver-usa.com

Want to see what your neighborhood looks like to the birds? Containing 3.3 tera-bytes of high resolution USGS aerial imagery and USGS topographic maps, this site lets you explore the United States (and the world) in aerial photographs. Remove "-usa" from the address for the world-view. And for an "out of this world" extra, try the Area 51 button in the upper right hand corner.

contact us:

info@newsouthernview.com

What is YOUR favorite Web site?

for signs for State Highway 465 and Eagle Lake, then follow 465 west to Eagle Lake, approximately 17 miles. Again, check our Web site for a detailed map that will show you where the Lo-Sto and other sites are. And if you stop in at the Lo-Sto, tell Johnny we sent you.

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our community calendar

All information current as of press time.

EXTRA EVENTS
www.newsouthernview
FOR EVENTS THAT DIDN'T MAKE
IT INTO THE MAGAZINE!

EXHIBITS

through Saturday, September 20

Manship House in Summer Dress

Experience the Victorian practice of preparing the home for the onslaught of the heat, insects, and dirt of the summer months. Come see life in the 1800's South through this fabulous home of one of Jackson's early mayors. Free. 601/961-4724 or www.mdah.state.ms.us/museum/manship.html

through Sunday, October 26

Weekend Crafts Demonstrations

Each weekend, March through October, Mississippi craftsmen and artisans demonstrate their talents free to the public at the following locations; Jackson: Saturday only at the Chimneyville Crafts Gallery, Mississippi Ag Museum. Ridgeland: Saturday and Sunday at the Mississippi Crafts Center on the Natchez Trace Parkway. 601/981-0019

through Sunday, November 9

Pride of the Fleet

The Old Capitol Museum hosts its first original exhibit showcasing naval uniforms, flags, ship memorabilia, photos, and detailed models of the four Navy ships that bore the name *USS Mississippi*, as well as rare film footage of the ships. Several items on loan from the Smithsonian Institution will be included. Old Capitol Museum. Free. 601/359-6920

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

SEPTEMBER•SEPTEMBER•SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 5 through Sunday, September 7
Celtic Fest

Immerse yourself in Celtic music and culture at an event that offers educational workshops and Celtic art. Fun for the entire family includes activities for children and concessions. Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum. Admission. 601/713-3365 or www.celticfestms.org

Saturday, September 6

Farish Street Heritage Festival

The second oldest African-American community festival in the state of Mississippi features two stages of live entertainment from national, regional, and local artists and performers, children's activities; soul food and other ethnic delicacies; and cultural activities. Farish Street Historic District. 601/960-2384 or www.robinsoncommunicationsllc.com

Saturday, September 13

Boomers at the Ballpark

Mississippi Symphony presents music inspired by the American Wild West and a fireworks display. Smith-Wills Stadium. Admission. 601/960-1565 or www.msorchestra.com

Saturday, September 13

Festival Latino

This annual cultural event features dance, music and crafts from Central and South American countries as well as the Caribbean Islands. Sample foods from the northern border of Mexico to the tip of South America. Free activities for kids. LeFleur's Bluff State Park. Admission. 601/371-1682 or www.mshispanicassociation.org

Saturday, September 13

Olde Towne Fall Fest and Crafts Fair

This Annual event, founded in 1971, is held on the historic brick streets of Olde Town Clinton. Festival attendees are treated to arts and crafts, food, fun, entertainment, and children's activities. Free. 601/924-4744

Tuesday, September 16

Unburied Treasures: 1960s

Gear up for a great evening exploring the visual arts, music, and literature of the 1960s; a look at a variety of art forms during different decades of the 1900s. Mississippi Museum of Art. Free with museum admission. 601/960-1515 or www.msmuseumart.org

Thursday, September 18

Handworks Holiday Market

Handworks is a semi-annual arts and crafts market featuring exceptional quality handmade items by many of Mississippi's and the South's best artisans. Trade Mart. Admission. 601/948-6436 or www.handworksmarket.com

Friday, September 26

The Broadway Concert: A Romantic Journey

Mississippi Symphony presents its first concert in the 2003-2004 Pops Series. Thalia Mara Hall. Admission. 601/960-1565 or www.msorchestra.com

Saturday, September 27

WellsFest (20th Annual)

An annual family festival held to benefit Harbor House this year. Activities include a 5-K race, fun walk, food, children's games, arts and crafts, art auction, silent auction, and plenty of live music by area entertainers. Lakeland Park on Lakeland Dr. Free. 601/353-0658 or www.wellschurch.org

OCTOBER•OCTOBER•OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 1 through Sunday, October 12

143rd Mississippi State Fair

This is one of the South's largest fairs, featuring amusement rides, concessions, musical entertainment, and a variety of competitions and educational demonstrations. Mississippi State Fairgrounds. Admission. 601/961-4000

Saturday, October 4

Zoo Party

The wildest party in town! This black tie fund-raiser is a fabulous adult evening out under the stars at the Zoo. Food from Jackson's finest restaurants, live music, silent auction items from local merchants...guaranteed to be a wild time. Admission. 601/352-2582 or www.jacksonzoo.com

Sunday, October 5

Afternoon Fall Musicale

Mississippi Symphony presents its first concert in the 2003-2004 Chamber Series. Briarwood Presbyterian Church. 601/960-1565 or www.msorchestra.com

Thursday, October 9

Canton Flea Market

This gigantic arts and crafts show, with over 1,100 booths, features a juried show to promote outstanding artists and craftsmen. On the grounds of historic Madison County Courthouse and the surrounding downtown area. Voted as one of the top 100 events by the American Bus Association. Free. 601/859-1307 or 1-800/844-3369

Monday, October 13 through Friday, October 17

Monday, October 20 through Friday, October 24

Pumpkin' Picking (in the morning)

Features a hay ride tour of a vegetable garden, children's barnyard, snack and visit to the pumpkin patch to pick out your own pumpkin. Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum. Admission. 601/713-3365, 1-800/844-8687 or www.mdac.state.ms.us

Friday, October 17 through Saturday, October 18

Fall Flower & Garden Fest—Crystal Springs

An open house field day event for showcasing flower, vegetable and herb gardens is featured along with advanced technology displays for growing fruits and vegetables. Seminars, wagon ride tours, and educational exhibits. Free. 601/892-2056 or www.mstate.edu/dept/cmrec/fallgardenday.htm

Tuesday, October 21

Unburied Treasures: 1970s

Gear up for a great evening exploring the visual arts, music, and literature of the 1970s; a look at a variety of art forms during different decades of the 1900s. Mississippi Museum of Art. Free with museum admission. 601/960-1515 or www.msmuseumart.org

Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25

Fright Night at the Zoo

For ghosts and goblins this Halloween, the Jackson Zoo is the best place to be! Kids of all ages will love the "Trail of Terror" featuring a snake pit, mummies, monsters, trolls, witches, and other surprises. Jackson Zoo. Admission. 601/352-2581 or www.jacksonzoo.com

Saturday, October 25

A Tribute to Stuart C. Irby, Jr.

Join the Mississippi Symphony for a very special evening of music to honor Stuart C. Irby for his lifetime of supporting the Arts in Mississippi. Thalia Mara Hall. Admission. 601/960-1565 or www.msorchestra.com

Thursday, October 30 and Friday, October 31

Halloween Carnival

Children of all ages will enjoy ghostly hay rides, a haunted farm, fortune telling, nature trail, magic show and trick-or-treat goodies. Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum. Admission. 601/713-3365

NOVEMBER•NOVEMBER•NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 1

Trustmark Red Beans & Rice Festival

Enjoy delicious samplings of red beans and rice, courtesy of the many cooking teams vying for the title of the BEST red beans and rice dish. Downtown Jackson. Admission. 601/353-2759 or www.stewpot.org

Wednesday, November 5 through Saturday, November 8
Harvest Festival

It's harvest time at the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum. Come and observe the operation of the cotton gin, the sawmill and cane mill, and the blacksmith shop. Admission includes a tour of the museum. 601/713-3365 or www.mdac.state.ms.us/agmuseum

Thursday, November 6 through Saturday, November 8

Mistletoe Marketplace

Enjoy the excitement of this three-day holiday shopping extravaganza featuring merchants from across the nation. Each day is filled with special events designed to fuel the excitement of the approaching holiday season. Trade Mart. Admission. 601/948-2357, 1-800/380-2870 or www.jljjackson.org

Sunday, November 9

Family Fun Concert

Mississippi Symphony presents its second concert in the 2003 Pops Series. Belhaven College Center for the Arts. Admission. 601/960-1565 or www.msorchestra.com

Sunday, November 16

Holiday Open House

The Old Capitol Shop's annual Open House offers visitors a sampling of the state's folk art, crafts and books by Mississippians and about Mississippi. Enjoy the Metro Jackson Chamber Orchestra in concert. Free. 601/359-6920 or www.mdah.state.ms.us

Tuesday, November 18

Unburied Treasures: 1980s


Gear up for a great evening exploring the visual arts, music, and literature of the 1980s; explore art forms during different decades of the 1900s. Mississippi Museum of Art. Free with museum admission. 601/960-1515 or www.msmuseumart.org

Saturday, November 22

Moonlight and Empty Arms

Mississippi Symphony presents its second Bravo Series concert. Thalia Mara Hall. Admission. 601/960-1565 or www.msorchestra.com

Join us on-line at the first of each month for events that didn't make it into the magazine!



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DISPLAY PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN KIRKPATRICK

The Pride of the Fleet

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display, giving the visitor a small idea as to the level of naval technology of each era.

These four ships served across the globe for the last half of the 19th Century and almost all of the 20th Century, from the Orient to the Middle-East, opening trade routes, pursuing peace, and expanding the global influence of the United States. Through paintings, personal items, and photos, the Pride of the Fleet exhibit reveals the often-overlooked human factor that is so much a part of any technological development.

The museum staff states that after the exhibit closes, some components of Pride of the Fleet, among these the four models and the ships' flags, will be relocated to the Senate Chamber on the second floor for permanent display. For more information on this free exhibit, call the Old Capitol Museum at 601/359-6920 or visit their Web site at www.mdah.state.ms.us. The museum is open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, and 12:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

According to the museum's Web site, a full-color catalog accompanying this exhibit at the Old Capitol Museum of Mississippi History is also available at the Old Capitol Shop for \$12.95 each. Pride of the Fleet tells the stories of the four U.S. Navy ships that carried the name USS Mississippi. The catalog features pictures related to each of the ships, as well as technical information and photographs of scale models of the ships. Images in the catalog cover the extremes of life aboard naval vessels, and range from photos of intense military firefights to onboard boxing matches and volleyball games among the crew. Famous USS Mississippi crewmembers such as Jimmy Carter and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., are also pictured. The catalog is the most complete compilation of information on the ships to date. For more information or to place an order, call 601/359-6921.

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The Cotton Shack Gift Shop

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William: Tell us what type of items you sell.

Linda: My most popular selling items are windchimes, designer purses, jewelry, and framed photos of Eagle Lake and the surrounding historic sites. I also sell discounted name-brand clothing, and offer gift certificates and free gift wrap.

William: What was it about the shotgun house that most appealed to you?

Linda: I love history and realize the importance of preserving the past. This shotgun house is unusual in that it still has the separate room that served as the kitchen. Most renovated shotgun houses lose this structure when the kitchen is moved inside. That wasn't the case here.

William: Are you originally from Eagle Bend?

Linda: No, I was born and raised in Vicksburg, but I visited the Eagle Lake area since the early 1970s to attend boat race events and enjoy watersports. My husband and I moved to Eagle Lake seven years ago to enjoy its beauty and solitude.

William: Do you have any future plans that you'd like to share with our readers?


Linda: I have recently expanded to include photography of Eagle Lake and surrounding historical points of interest. Most of the photos are from my own personal collection taken over the past 30 years. Many subjects and scenes in the photos no longer exist. Photography is my passion and the store serves as an outlet to share this love with others. I also plan to include yard and garden items and pottery.

William: What are your hopes for the shop?

Linda: I hope to continue to prosper and offer unique gift items in a historical place that people will long remember!


William: Any other comments you'd like to make about running a gift shop here at Eagle Lake?

Linda: I meet so many interesting people from the community and others traveling through. They share historical facts with me and give me some great business ideas. I love what I do!



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