

# The New SOUTHERN VIEW

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VOL 4 ♦ NO 3

A Quarterly Journal Serving the Greater Jackson Metropolitan Area

WINTER 2004-2005

**FREE**  
TAKE ONE

**McRaven  
Vicksburg Grandeur**

**The Marlin Perkins Fan Club**

**The Magic Waters of Iuka**

**The Flexible Flyer Sled**

**The Silver Pendant  
by Cleveland Payne**

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**Deep Thoughts from November 2, 2004:** Millions of citizens voted in a presidential election today. I splashed mayonnaise on my best shirt while making tuna salad on this same auspicious day.

Both of these events will be history by the time you read this, but my tuna salad incident is not profound, textbook history. The stain on my red shirt might be enduring, but people aren't going to be passionate about it.

There are histories about political and military leaders, inventors, social activists, explorers, scholars, artists, scientists, and writers. It makes a person think: What might Alfred Nobel or Philo Farnsworth have spilled on themselves?

Earth, apart from humankind, has its own geological history, but of course we tend to read even that history only as it effects us personally. If it hadn't been for the Ice Age land bridges, or the chance extinction of the dinosaurs, I might not even be around chopping onions and boiling eggs on election day. It's a good thing that all of that Cretaceous ocean water drained off of Mississippi a million years ago; makes opening the front door easier.



Children a century from now will read about our November 2004 election in school. Essay questions on the subject will be sweated out by anxious students whose chief concern is to try to make a passing grade.

While the world rotates, I am attempting to shake the last few drops of Worcestershire sauce into a bowl. I'm not even hungry for tuna salad anymore. I spotted the doughnuts while looking for the garlic and chose a few of those instead.

If we are the sum of our choices, then textbook history is the record of our greatest accomplishments and most dismal misfortunes, interpreted and immortalized through a briarpatch of big words.

I gaze thoughtfully over the top of a sugared doughnut, and am assailed by deep thoughts, but not for long.

*Kathy*

Editor/Publisher

The New  
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**On the cover:**

A macabre mannequin dances  
in a Victorian petticoat at McRaven  
Photo by William Pitts

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**How are we doing? Any  
comments you'd like to make?**

**A NOTE TO OUR READERS**

If you have an **idea** for an article that you'd like to submit, if there's a **category** you'd like to see added to the pages of our magazine, if you'd like to become a **distributor** for our magazine (remember it is freely distributed...there's no cost to you), if you'd like to **advertise** in our magazine, or if you simply want to **comment** on our magazine, feel free to e-mail us at [info@newsouthernview.com](mailto:info@newsouthernview.com) or send us a letter to **PO Box 7962 Jackson, Mississippi 39284-7962.**

# Scenic & HISTORIC Mississippi #1

## Crosswind to the Delta

by Benjamin Root, Sr., first published in the December 19, 1974 The Southwest Guide.

Photo by William Pitts

North out of Vicksburg the land changes. Mississippi lowlands stretch out to an unvarying sameness for drivers who might have expected hills and curves to break up the journey. But this December, the cotton country of our state is not the same as other Decembers. The magic fiber is still in the fields and those fields remain wet.

Drivers now must be alert. All across their path there plod those mechanical monsters which brave the mud to pick cotton. They come up out of the marshes, cross the road, and strew large clumps of dirt along the highway. They are in trouble and their movements show it. Their plight makes them oblivious to travelers who venture through. Out of respect for those who brave the cold crosswinds from Arkansas to gather Mississippi's best known crop, we give them the right-of-way.

A farmer in Cleveland told me once that each rain takes away another portion of cotton which waits on the stalk. It is Christmas time, and the cotton farmers' harvest remains where it grew.



harvest remains where it grew.

In the Delta, cotton not only is King, but also can be one's undoing. It speaks from most every crossroad, every town and home along the Delta. Wagon cages wait to be filled. The awesome three-wheel pickers dominate the roadsides and lurch back and forth in their struggle with the Arkansas crosswind. Liquid fertilizer tanks, with their jobs now done, are almost hidden by the crop they nourished. Crop-dusting planes stand ready for their next flights. The farmers battle unrelenting nature.

The River Road north, with its unusual "buckshot soil" of our Mississippi Delta breeds not only cotton, but also hard working people facing a daunting task. Seeing them struggle against unpredictable weather, one does not get the impression that their major adversaries are chemistry and synthetics, but rather those elements which ride in next on the crosswind from Arkansas.

# Scenic & HISTORIC Mississippi #2

## Teddy Roosevelt's Bear Hunt

by Kathy Root Pitts

Onward, Mississippi, a small town thirty miles southwest of Yazoo City, and just a few miles east of the Delta National Forest, was the place of origin for the well-known Teddy Bear more than one hundred years ago. In the early 1900s, the Louisiana Black Bear roamed the area; today it is a protected species.

In November 1902, Theodore Roosevelt came to our Delta to help negotiate a border dispute between Mississippi and Louisiana. The recreational part of his trip was a bear hunt, just a few miles away from Onward.

Historians Stephen Ambrose and Douglas Brinkley described the "dense tangle of prickly underbrush, stunted pines and canebrake" in their book, *Mississippi: River of History*. Roosevelt had as his guide the renowned black Confederate sharpshooter and ex-slave, Holt Collier.

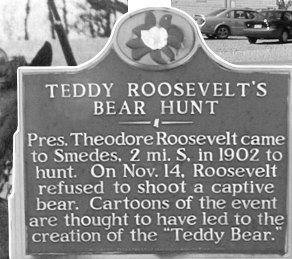
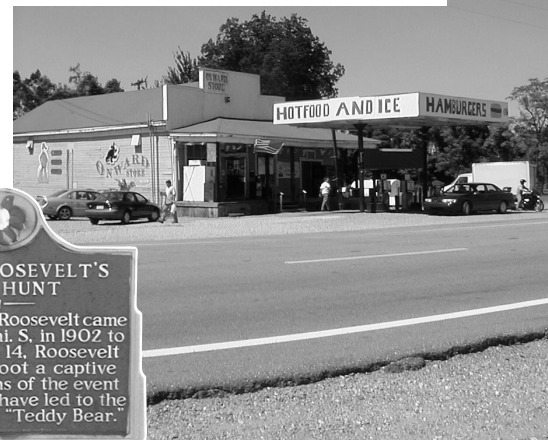
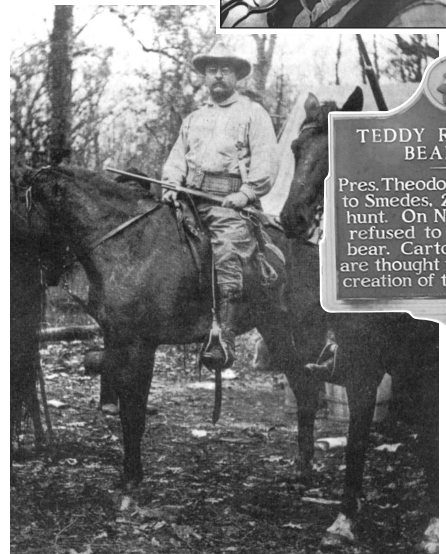
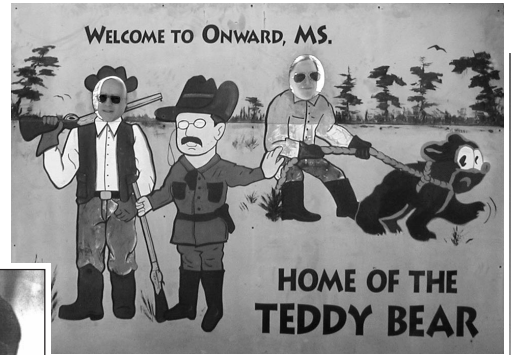
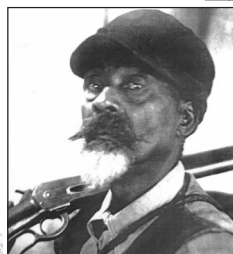
Near the Mississippi River, the hunters made camp. Ambrose and Brinkley: "Supplies were delivered to the camp on mules, and sleeping tents put up in a semicircle next to a huge cooking tent that had been set up the day before." The hunters shared bear stories, and Holt Collier, in the light

Roosevelt (right, on horseback for the hunt) reveled in the informality of the hunting camp, insisting that the men he hunted with address him only as "Colonel."

of a bonfire, was there telling of his adventures. Roosevelt shared his own stories of the Wild West. He enjoyed knowing Collier, and later sent him a Winchester rifle as a gift.

*continued on page 7*

Holt Collier (right) with his gift from Roosevelt, a duplicate of the rifle Roosevelt had used during the hunt, one that Collier had so admired.



Barwick's Onward Store is a popular stopping point on Highway 61 North between Vicksburg and Greenville, where the author and her husband pose with cartoon Teddy as participants in the bear hunt (above).

Collier photo by Willa Johnson, courtesy of Jane Weathers; Other photos by William Pitts  
Roosevelt photo courtesy of the Theodore Roosevelt Collection, Harvard College Library

# OUTDOOR TREASURES

## Sky Lake Wildlife Management Area Mississippi's Newest WMA

by William Pitts

"Sky Lake provides overwintering habitat for a variety of migrating birds including shorebirds and neotropical migrant songbirds. It is an important link in the chain of WMAs, refuges, and national forests for migrating ducks and geese in the Mississippi Flyway."  
—Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation



Looking northeast along the lake on a rainy October afternoon from Sky Lake Road.

Dr. David Stahle, Director of the Tree Ring Laboratory at the University of Arkansas, states "Sky Lake ranks as one of the most important ancient baldcypress stands in the lower Mississippi Valley...and should be conserved for future generations."

In our Fall 2004 issue, we told you about the champion baldcypress of Mississippi found at Sky Lake Wildlife Management Area in northern Humphreys County. In this issue, we will focus on Sky Lake itself. I accompanied Walter Passmore of the Mississippi Forestry Commission and a small group of foresters on a field trip to Sky Lake to see the big tree. We left early on an October morning from the Jackson Hilton, where almost 200 foresters from around the country had attended the 2004 National Association of State Foresters Annual Meeting, and headed north on U.S. Highway 49.

Our goal was a crescent-shaped expanse of Delta woodland, dusty and dry after many weeks with no rain. Seen from the air, Sky Lake traces a gentle arc across the Delta, punctuated on all sides by the shiny rectangles that denote the many catfish ponds of the area. Seen from the road as we approached, it seemed to be nothing more than another line of trees growing along one of the many watercourses that stretch across the land. But this particular line of trees hides many secrets.

Sky Lake is an oxbow lake with no recent connection to any river seen by modern humans. Around 5700 B.C. or 7,700 years ago, during the Early Archaic period, it was part of a distributary of the Mississippi River, much the same as the Atchafalaya River in southern Louisiana is today. According to the Mississippi Wildlife Foundation, the oldest known evidence of human occupation in the area around Sky Lake dates to 4,000 years ago. Just south of Sky Lake is the Jaketown site, with mounds dating back to 1100 A.D.

Meeting up with State Forester Steve Burgess, we walked down a gentle slope into the flood plain of the ancient river bed. Making our way between the trees, I could see that they were getting larger.  
*continued on page 14*

Photos by William Pitts



We passed this giant baldcypress on our way to see the lake. Note the size of the people below.

A Delta thunderstorm rolls over Sky Lake in this view (below) across one of the area's many catfish ponds.



(Above, from left to right) Steve Burgess, Walter Passmore, and Ronnie Myers with the MFC took pleasure in showing Sky Lake and Mississippi's champion baldcypress to visitors Edgardo Gonzalez and Rubén Padrón of the Puerto Rico Forest Service. In a photo composite (right), the size of the state champion can only be hinted at. One needs to see it in person to fully appreciate its size and age.



# The Garden Gate

## Springdale Hills Arboretum & Christmas Tree Farm

by Kathy Root Pitts, from an interview with Ed Blake

Click here for a map to Springdale Hills

Photos by William Pitts unless otherwise noted

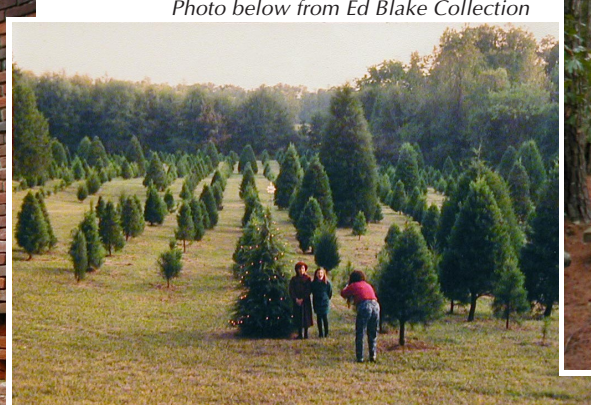


Photo below from Ed Blake Collection

Ed Blake (left, in front of the Boscobel Plantation kitchen that he's restoring) maintains a hands-on approach to his farm, from planting and maintaining the numerous Christmas trees (above) to building the log cabin (right).

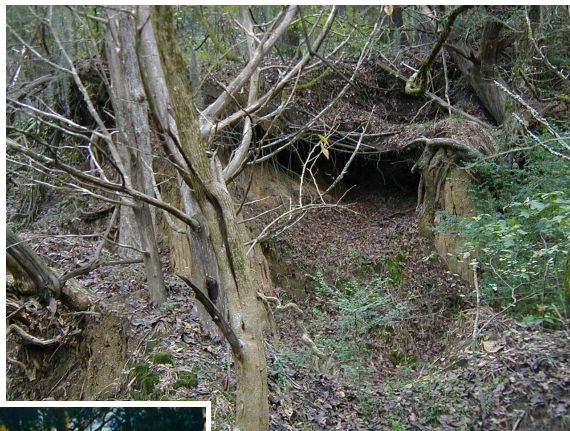


The Arboretum, made up mostly of cedar, is a wildflower and bird preserve as well as a place to view and study trees. Deer with their fawns sometimes walk right up onto Blake's lawn to munch turnip greens. Ed recalls black bear tracks on the property one winter. That same bear made its way up a tree in Raymond and finally ended up in the Jackson Zoo.

*continued on page 14*

You may have heard the name Ed Blake. He is a local agricultural journalist who writes articles for the Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation's publication *Mississippi Farm Country*. We reprinted an article of his on indigo in our Spring 2003 issue.

Ed Blake is also one of the state's resident experts on trees. Though into his seventies, he still maintains his vast arboretum and Christmas tree farm near Pocahtonas. Here is a man who loves raw nature, so much so that he tries even to make his own home as much like the olden days as possible. He drinks water from a spring, and heats his house from a hearth using the abundant wood of his surroundings. And he reminds



There are lots to see and do at Springdale Hills. Students from St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Jackson (left) load up their choice tree.

Charlie the Ghost's Cave (above) is on the trail leading to the hill where Boscobel Plantation was situated.

naming the varieties of trees on his hundred and four acres. To his distress, he found that they could not identify nearly as many of the species as he felt that they should. So, the family piled into the car and began learning what there was to know about the 150 species of trees on the place.



Photo from Ed Blake Collection

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# talk to the animals

## Origin of the Marlin Perkins Fan Club

An excerpt from the Marlin Perkins Fan Club's website, reprinted with permission:

A letter from Jack Stevens to his readers

Marlin Perkins introduced generations to the world of animals and nature with his Sunday night television show. And that's just how our fan club got started over thirty years ago.

We were a bunch of theatricals in Jackson, Mississippi, and our stage was at New Stage Theatre. . . Whether in rehearsal or performance, we always had Sunday nights off. It was our little bit of "twilight time" between the end of the work week and the beginning of the next one, which for most in our group started early the next morning.

Almost every Sunday afternoon after we had finished our theatre work, we gathered at one of our houses for food, fun and laughs. It was a treasured time to unwind, drown a few nerves, listen to great stories, share music and meet new people that our friends invited. A good time with wonderful fellowship was guaranteed in those Marco Polo days.

The highlight of every Sunday gathering was "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom," starring our hero, Marlin Perkins. We always conducted an official ten-minute countdown before each episode began, and absolutely no talking was allowed during Marlin's show. . . . After the show was over, we would often take nature rides to follow the sunset and catch the last glimpse of light, trying to steal a few extra moments from the day.

As our group grew to fifty or so members, we realized we had created a tradition, we became a little more serious about things. We named ourselves the official Marlin Perkins Fan Club, and even selected a password – "Nature."

We were always on the look-out for information about Marlin. Family and friends saved newspaper clippings and magazine articles and mailed them to us from all over the country. Marlin was our hero!

We all had our favorite Marlin story or Wild Kingdom episode, and discussing those always kept our meetings lively. Events on Marlin's early radio and TV shows created urban legends. He was never bitten by a snake on live TV, but we watched as he experienced what appeared to be a life-threatening encounter with an anaconda. In the movies, we expect a double or a stuntman to perform the risky activities. Not with Marlin! He wrestled the anaconda, scaled the precipices, and dove with sharks simply because he was as authentic as the nature he loved.

By the mid 1970s, we decided to write Marlin and let him know of our existence. With the help of Hewitt Griffin, programming director at our local NBC-TV affiliate station, and our local Mutual of Omaha insurance agent, Nelson C. Vestal, we secured Marlin's correct address and fired off our fan club letter to Marlin! In record time, our hero replied. In his letter dated June, 22, 1975, Marlin wrote:

**"Dear members of The Marlin Perkins/ Wild Kingdom Fan Club**

**What a nice surprise to find out I have so many devoted followers of 'Wild Kingdom' in your area. I must acknowledge the fact, however, that my co-stars—all the varied and wonderful species of wild animals that make up the wild kingdom—are the ones that really deserve the credit for the success of the series. They also deserve the interest and attention of all the conservationists in this country who watch the show. I am sure the members of this club will become as determined to help wildlife survive in this crowded world as I have.**

**Enclosed is a photograph [pictured above] which I hope you will accept with my warmest regards."**

**Sincerely,  
Marlin Perkins**

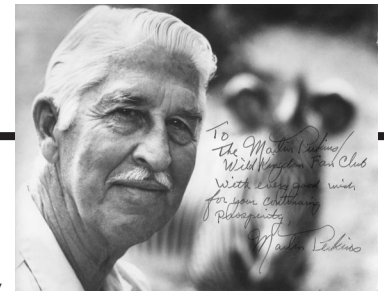
At our very next meeting we voted unanimously to create a t-shirt using the photo that Marlin sent. . . . The t-shirts surfaced from New York City to San Francisco and many points in between.

With our charter letter from Marlin and our brand new t-shirts, the Marlin Perkins Fan Club was stepping out in style. Everyone added items to their outfits, depending on the season. I still think about the fellow who ran the local army surplus store and wonder what he must have thought when we rolled in and bought every pith helmet in his store. He was always glad to see us.

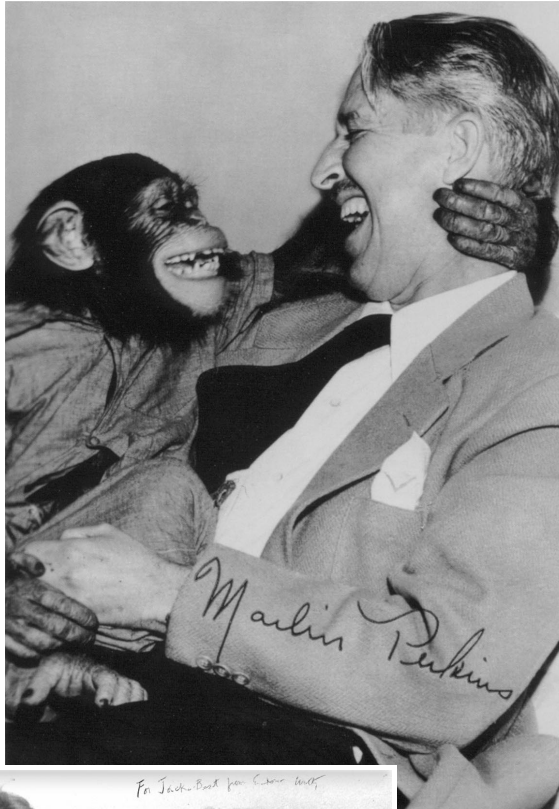
On behalf of our Marlin Perkins Fan Club, I thank you and honor absent friends.

Nature! Jack Stevens, "keeper of the flame"

The New Southern View did not have room to print the entire "Origin of the Marlin Perkins Fan Club" article from the Club's website. Visit [www.marlinperkins.com](http://www.marlinperkins.com) for information on Marlin Perkins, and for more on New Stage Theatre's connection to the Marlin Perkins Fan Club. Also read about Spencer Jones's actual sighting of Marlin at the Drake Hotel in Chicago.

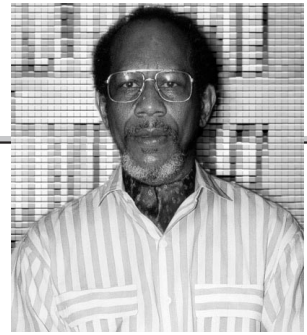


Photos courtesy of The Marlin Perkins Fan Club



Seen sharing a laugh with a friend on a fan club postcard (top), Marlin Perkins brought the Wild Kingdom into our living rooms every Sunday.

In the first documented picture of a Marlin Perkins Fan Club t-shirt, Jack Stevens is pictured above with Pulitzer Prize winning Mississippi author Eudora Welty.



## The Gray Mass

### An excerpt from *The Silver Pendant*

by Cleveland Payne

Cleveland Payne, the accomplished writer from Laurel, Mississippi is working at present on the third volume of his trilogy featuring the adventurous Slim McCall. What follows is a cliffhanger snippet from that novel, *The Silver Pendant*, due to come out in 2005. We look forward to the finished project. The other two novels are: *The Defining Moment* (2000) and *The House on the Boulevard* (2002). In this excerpt, we see an intriguing glimpse at one of the many interesting characters who crosses Slim's path and help to define his life.

It was mid-morning of the fourth day of Kahlia's journey to the sea. The girl-warrior had finally left the rugged Maya mountains and was now well into the deep jungle and, as instructed, was moving, off-trail, toward the fabled Belize River that would eventually take her to the sea.

Her new jungle environment was alive with the sound, movement, and variegated color of a full range on animal and plant life which appeared grotesque and

exaggerated and at the same time harmonious, natural, and, in its own way, beautiful—but charged with immediate and hidden dangers.

The tall, lean, lithesome girl-warrior, now in her thirteenth year, knew that the mountains she'd left behind carried their own, more open, danger. She knew she had to be ever-vigilant.

The jungle was a far cry from her three-day journey across the Mayas where the prevailing color was gray and, aside from the roof of caves in the late afternoon and at night, the only canopy was the wide, high sky and the only sound, aside from her own footfall, was the cry of powerful high-flying birds of prey.

As Kahlia moved deeper into the jungle, she became instantly aware of a sudden quietness. She knew something was amiss. She found herself crouching, her position, defensive; her spear point, lifted up in front of her, ready to parry or strike. Her knife encased but within easy reach, she

listened intently.

Presently, she heard the sound of voices and a strange kind of laughter unwind. Moving cautiously through the heavy vegetation, Kahlia felt that, in spite of the persisting quietness, a hundred pairs of peering eyes were watching, from cover, an unfolding drama taking place just ahead in an open sunlit place.

Kahlia moved cautiously toward the clearing and froze when she heard a long, piercing cry that cut through the silence and abruptly stopped—leaving her chilled.

She cautiously made it to the edge of the clearing, quietly positioned herself in the heavy foliage, and using both hands, parted a cluster of leaves, and witnessed a scene that would, literally, prove to be the stuff that nightmares are made of.

***The New Southern View* will keep you posted as to when *The Silver Pendant* is ready for sale.**

## Teddy Roosevelt's Bear Hunt

*continued from page 3*

The next day came the fabled hunt, but no bear was shot. One version of the story tells that an exhausted black bear was finally lassoed and brought back to camp where the President had already retired. The bear was offered to the President for a trophy, but Roosevelt refused to shoot a captive animal, believing this to be "un-sportsmanlike." There is also a version of the story that tells how the bear in question was a mere cub that had crossed Roosevelt's line-of-fire.

On Monday, November 17, a Clifford Berryman cartoon appeared in the *Washington Post* depicting the President's refusal to kill the bear. The caption "Drawing the Line in Mississippi" is believed to refer to both the border dispute and Roosevelt's moral character in declining an unfair advantage at shooting the bear.

The Teddy Bear itself began as a cuddly stuffed toy designed by Rose Mitchom of Brooklyn, New York. Rose's brother, and later founder of the ideal Toy and Novelty Company, Morris Mitchom, received permission from the President to name the toy "Teddy's Bear." Since then, the "apostrophe s" has been dropped. Coincidentally, a similar toy bear was being developed in Germany around the same time by Richard Steiff.

The Teddy Bear as we know it today is still a favorite toy, and a part of American legend. The Onward General Store is like-

wise an interesting glimpse into southern Americana. The dining area is festooned with photographs of the people involved with the famed bear hunt. A glass case in the front of the store sells small Teddy Bears done up to look like Theodore Roosevelt. A plywood sign out front depicts characters from the scene, with the head openings cut out so that visitors can have their photos taken posing as if they are part of the November 1902 event.

Beyond these trappings though, the small general store of Onward exists not as legend or tourist site, but as a very real country store with its gravel parking lot, worn front porch, rickety tables with their ketchup and mustard, glass refrigerator cases, shelves of food and camping equipment, and most notably, its South Delta people living out their rustic, slow-paced, hard-working, and sometimes difficult South Delta lives.

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# INTERIORS & EXTERIORS



The landing of the home's main staircase (right), a flying-wing design built with cantilevered supports, displays one of the many works by American sculptor John Rogers that can be found in the house—his work served as a record of the time.

This piece in the corner (right) commemorates the theatrical appearance in Vicksburg of the Booth family. They performed in Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," six weeks prior to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln by family-member John Wilkes Booth on April 14, 1865.



The parlor (above), the center of social life for the household, features a 1853 Chickering piano (left), one of America's earliest and most popular piano brands. Under bell jars atop the piano are silk flowers placed there in 1853. Music, games, and magic lanterns were several of the main forms of entertainment for the time. This magic lantern (right) was fueled with whale oil.

*Harper's New Monthly Magazine* (above left) is turned to an article entitled "Heroic Deeds of Heroic Men," an 1865 account of the Union forces' attempts to take Vicksburg during the Civil War.

Mah-jongg (above) was a popular parlor game in Europe in the 19th Century, not becoming widely played in this country until the third decade of the 20th Century.



Photos by William Pitts



**McRaven House** was begun in 1797 by Andrew Glass, a highwayman who robbed travelers on the Natchez Trace and died at the hands of his wife. The oldest structure in Warren County, it is an odd mix of three different building styles—Frontier (1797), Empire (1836), and Greek Revival (1849). McRaven is also considered the third most haunted house in the country.

Named after a small community that is now a part of Jackson, McRaven has seen its share of Vicksburg history, serving as a hospital during the siege of Vicksburg as well as the Union headquarters after the surrender. Located about one mile west of the Vicksburg National Military Park's Railroad Redoubt, fortifications on the east side of McRaven were part of the Confederate defensive works situated along the route of the Southern Railroad of Mississippi.

Occupied for many years by sisters Annie and Ella Murray, the house is currently owned by Leyland French, whose ancestor brought us French's Mustard—first introduced at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

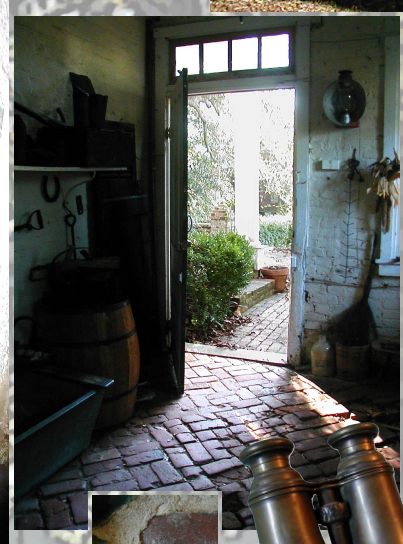


The east lawn (right) was used as a Confederate encampment during the Vicksburg Siege and now plays host to re-enactments. At the far end were trenches used for the defense of the railroad that runs along the south side of the property.



A display of Victorian undergarments are found in the master bedroom (right).

Look for these photos and dominoes (left) in the gentleman's dressing room across the hall, and this insect-shaped cast-iron bootjack in the 1836 bedroom (below) where of the house's many posts has been seen.



This wheel chair was donated to McRaven by the Sisters of Mercy who operated a girls' school in the house prior to the Civil War. These binoculars (left) are exhibited alongside other Civil War-era items, several of which are quite surprising.



The original paint, made from crushed blueberries and buttermilk, coats the inch-thick sand plaster on the brick walls in the 1797 bedroom (right and detail). The 1797 kitchen (above right)—the entrance can be seen to the left of the cistern at far right) was remodeled once in 1849 and used by the Murray sisters until 1960.

**Open from March through October, 9 am until 5 pm daily. 1-1/2 tour, admission. For more information, call 601/636-1663.**



# Whatever Happened To . . . ?

## They Were Made in Mississippi?

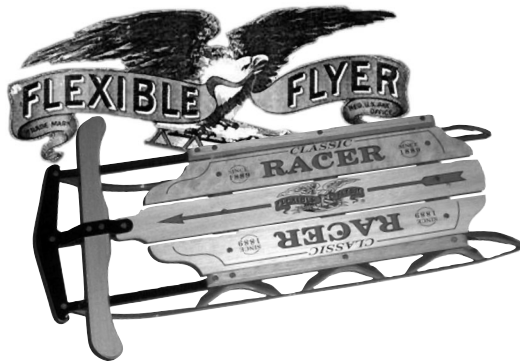
### Flexible Flyer Sleds

by William Pitts

Here in central Mississippi, just about 48 miles southwest of the geographical center of the state, I can remember successfully sledding down a snow-covered hill only a handful of times in my half-century of life. Sledding just isn't a part of the winter scene around here. Rain, mud, bare trees, and the occasional ice storm—yes. But snow is something we see maybe once every five years. Or in the movies...

So it's interesting that just 84 miles north-east of the geographical center of the state, in the small town of West Point, is a company that used to make the most famous sled in the country. The Flexible Flyer sled, which was invented more than 100 years ago by a Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Quaker named Samuel Leeds Allen, found its way to subtropical Mississippi through a couple of business acquisitions.

In 1871, Allen founded the S.L. Allen Company for the purpose of manufacturing farming equipment of his own design. But as business was seasonal in nature, he needed a product outside of farming to keep his employees busy during the off-season. The answer came from one of his passions—sledding. Allen was from an area of the country where there was sufficient snow for the enjoyment of that past-time, plus he was a tireless designer and inventor with a deeply ingrained Quaker work ethic.



His first three attempts were not commercially successful. His fourth design could be folded up for easy transport and storage but the price of \$50.00 put it out of the reach of most consumers. His fifth attempt was hard to steer and the whole line was soon sold at auction. Not one to give up, Allen came up with the "perfect" steerable sled around 1889 but it was more ten years before the market was ready for the Flexible Flyer.

So successful was this sled that it became harder and harder as time passed to find sleds made by competitors. All the stores seemed to want the Flexible Flyer. Children wanted the Flexible Flyer over all others, too. Allen himself described the sled in his catalog as the "invention of a grown-up boy." Although designed and built for sledding enjoyment, it also played a role in more serious adventure—in 1928, a Flexible Flyer accompanied Admiral

The Flexible Flyer was first sold in a store in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania called Wanamakers. That store's eagle brand was adopted for the Flexible Flyer's logo (left).

Byrd on his expedition to the South Pole.

Allen died in 1918 at the age of 77, but the company that he started for the purpose of improving farming methods, continued to improve sledding for countless enthusiasts. Over the years, the company developed various models of the Flyer as well as other winter sports equipment, such as a line of wooden skis based on a Norwegian design.

In 1968, Leisure Group, a Los Angeles-based company, bought the S.L. Allen Company. They also purchased Blazon, Incorporated of West Point, Mississippi, an outdoor play equipment manufacturer, in 1969. The following year, Flexible Flyer manufacturing was moved from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Medina, Ohio. But three years later the toy division of Leisure Group was purchased by a group that included five Blazon employees. Thus Blazon Flexible Flyer came to be and the production of the county's most popular snow sled moved to Mississippi.

Around 1998, the production of Flexible Flyer Sleds ended. But, according to Sports4kids.com, the manufacturing rights were purchased by Torpedo, a Canadian company, and production resumed in 2003. Under the guidance of president and CEO Alex Garcia, Flexible Flyer in West Point continues to make play and exercise equipment. Today, the company employs close to 300 people.

Photo courtesy of Charlotte's Antiques/www.goantiques.com; Facts drawn from the www.needak.com website

## TO THE NINES!

### Victorian Wedding Dresses On Display at the Old Capitol Museum

by Kathy Root Pitts

Clay Williams of the Old Capitol Museum informs me that the Old Capitol will maintain a rotating clothing exhibit to fill their large glass textile case. Presently, and most likely at least until the summer of 2005, we can view the Victorian Era Wedding Dresses.

The dress on the left, in the photograph to the right, was worn in Brandon by Margaret R. Gunn at her marriage to William Buchanan in 1880. The middle dress was worn in Natchez by Grace Allen Hodge at her marriage to Edward Joseph Hodge in 1894. The dress and shoes on the right were worn in Clinton by Frankie Tatom Williams at her wedding to James Pendleton Williams in 1899.

The wedding dress fashion began to emerge in the early 1800s with the marriage of Princess Charlotte at her wedding to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg in 1816. In 1840, the style became clearly defined with the white silk and lace gown worn by Queen Victoria in 1840.

The early Nineteenth Century white wedding dress, though designed to celebrate marriage, would be altered slightly and worn later by the bride for visits to friends and family. This was an introductory period during which the new bride would present

herself socially as a wife and lady of a household. The train and flowers would be removed, and the bodice, a separate part of the dress in most cases, would be retrimmed. According to Elizabeth Davies in her *A Brief History of the Wedding Dress in Britain*, "Queen Victoria herself removed the lace overskirt from her dress and frequently used it again—she wore it over a black silk gown for her Diamond Jubilee celebrations over 50 years later."

The plaque accompanying the dresses at the Old Capitol informs us that the Victorian period, named for Queen Victoria of England, spans roughly from the end of Reconstruction to the

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These delicate and lacy wedding gowns are representative of the Victorian style.

Photo by William Pitts

# *mens sana in corpore sano* SOUND MIND & SOUND BODY

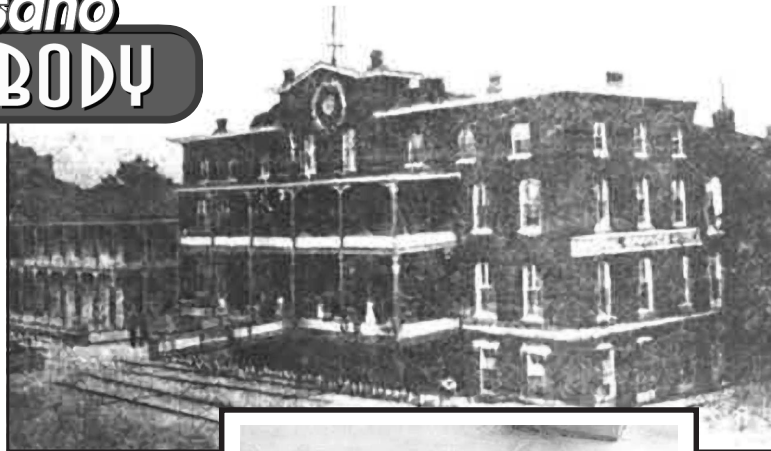
## The Magic Waters of Iuka

by William Pitts, from facts provided by the Iuka Public Library and the Tishomingo County Archives and History Museum

Photos courtesy of Cheri and Paul Bates  
Historical marker photo by Eddie Richardson

It is told that a Chickasaw Indian chief by the name of Iuka, sick and beyond the ministrations of his tribe's healers, heard of the curative powers of the natural spring waters found at a location in what is now northeast Mississippi, not far from the Tennessee River. Eager for a cure, he had his people carry him there. Drinking deeply, he was relieved of his suffering. He recognized the powers inherent in these waters and chose to make his home there, where he stayed until the end of his days.

Following the Civil War, Reconstruction wasn't the only hardship facing the south. Yellow Fever spread through the populace, but Iuka was spared and became a place of refuge with people coming from as far away as Memphis to escape the scourge and to seek the restorative waters. Iuka's exemption from the disease was credited to the springs and the fame of the waters spread.

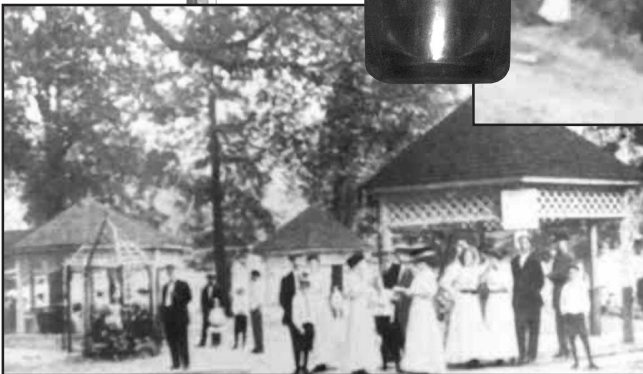


An Iuka Mineral Springs Soda Water Company bottle (left).



These aged photos from the late-1800s show children wading in Indian Creek (above) and several of the pavilions (left) that were built over the springs.

The Mineral Springs Hotel (top) was built during the surge of prosperity that the mineral springs brought to Iuka.



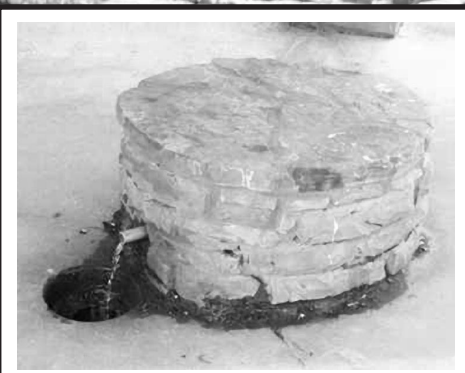
Bottle photo courtesy of Tishomingo County Archives and History Museum

Chief Iuka hasn't been the only benefactor of the springs over the years. Slowly filtering through countless miles of underground rock strata and accumulating the minerals that gave them the rare properties that so many sought, the waters found their way to the surface, and into the history and mythology of Tishomingo County. White settlers coming into the area followed Chief Iuka's lead and the town of Iuka, named after this chief, grew around the six springs. Prosperity followed and in 1856 the Memphis and Charleston Railroad came through, the choice being influenced by the springs, although a more logical path lay several miles away. But the presence of the railroad made Iuka a strategic target for Union troops during the Civil War. Three major engagements were fought in and around the town.

Less than two decades following the end of the Civil War, Iuka was a fashionable spa, a mecca for the wealthy from the North and the East—places like Washington, D.C. and New York City. The Mineral Springs Hotel was built in 1872 and pavilions were erected over the springs for those "taking the waters." Visitors strolled among the oaks and elms of Mineral Springs Park, and gathered around the park's bandstand to listen to concerts under the stars. World famous orchestras played to gala dances in the Mineral Springs Hotel's gaslit ballroom. Bookings were solid from May until September. The waters blessed more than just the body and soul.

Then the attention of the world was focused on the waters of Iuka when, at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, a panel of judges deemed Iuka's mineral water "best in the United States" for purity and mineral content. Bottled Iuka water became a

*continued on back cover*



*For those of you with a chemist's curiosity, here is the analysis of the waters*

### Spring No. 1

For chronic malarial chills, loss of appetite, anemia, and general debility. Analysis: largely Peroxide of Iron, small quantities of Aluminum, Chloride of Lime, Chloride of Potassium, Chloride of Sodium, Free Carbonic Acid, and Sulphates in small proportions.

### Spring No. 2 – The Beauty Spring

For dyspepsia (indigestion) and stomach troubles of all kinds. Analysis: largely Sulphurated Hydrogen, Free Carbonic Acid, with a small amount of Bicarbonate of Magnesia, Bicarbonate of Lime, Bicarbonate of Potash and Soda, and Chlorides of Potassium and Sodium.

### Spring No. 3 – The Star Spring

For nervousness and as a general tonic. Analysis: Bicarbonate of Iron, Free Carbonic Acid, with small amount of Bicarbonate of Magnesium, Bicarbonate of Potash, Bicarbonate of Soda, and traces of Chloride.

### Spring No. 4 – Alum Water

For sore eyes, ulcers, inflammations and sores of rheumatism. Analysis: Protosulphate of Iron, Sulphate of Soda, Carbonate of Magnesia, Chloride of Calcium, Sulphate of Aluminum, Earthy Phosphates, and Iodine combined with Magnesium.

### Spring No. 5 – Black Sulphur Water

For Bright's disease and all affections of the kidneys, bladder, and stomach. Analysis: Protoxide of Iron, Chloride of Sodium, Chloride of Calcium, Sulphate of Lime, Sulphate of Magnesia, Sulphate of Soda, Sulphurated Hydrogen Gas, and Carbonic Gas.

### Spring No. 6

Analysis: Iron, Calcium, Magnesium, Bicarbonates Silica, Sulphate of Radicle, Sodium of Potassium, and Chloride.

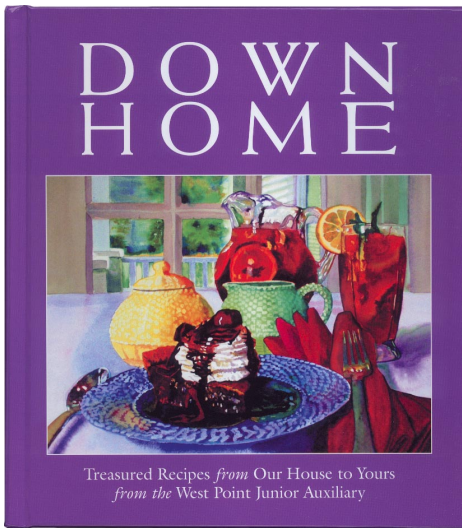
# Cookhouse Special

## Down Home: Treasured Recipes from Our House to Yours The Noble and Tasty Efforts of the West Point Junior Auxiliary

reviewed by Kathy Root Pitts

*Down Home: Treasured Recipes from Our House to Yours* is an inviting cookbook compiled by the West Point Junior Auxiliary. The cover art and decorative line art on the pages themselves were created by Okolona, Mississippi's own Cindy O'Barr Davis. Her cover still-life is a masterful and attractive composition in bright and contrasting colors. Davis is also responsible for the dramatic black and white photos marking the chapter headings.

Proceeds from *Down Home* will go to support the charitable efforts of the ladies of the West Point Junior Auxiliary who make it their work to care for needy children of West Point and Clay County. Informative descriptions of the West Point Junior Auxiliary's noble projects and accomplishments over the years are sprinkled throughout *Down Home*.



In glancing through *Down Home*, I am impressed by the simplicity and balance of the recipes. No dish looks hard to prepare, yet they all seem very appetizing and complete. The Table of Contents is divided neatly into ten course types, with one large chapter devoted solely to "Chocolate." Excluding the heavenly decadence of that well-thumbed chapter, the recipes reflect a pleasant balance between healthy variety and popular favorites. If I'm going to indulge in "Sautéed Shrimp with Grits and Cream Sauce," then I would like to begin with a vegetable-rich bowl of "Turkey Gumbo." I enjoy receiving books like this compilation from the West Point Junior Auxiliary.

*Down Home: Treasured Recipes from Our House to Yours* can be ordered by calling the Cookbook Marketplace at 1-800/269-6839.

## A Child's World Bearly Made in Madison An Innovative Toy Shop

by Kathy Root Pitts

Bearly Made, that inviting store front at 2086 Main Street in Madison with the gigantic teddy bear outside, is one of the cleverest ideas for a toy store that I've encountered.

Bearly Made is Mississippi's only "make-your-own" stuffed animal store. Stuffed animals have traditionally been passive toys—meant to be cuddled and slept with. But at Bearly Made, the child is actually in on the process of creating his own toy from the stuffings to the outfits. A child who has a hand in making his own toy will certainly value the item all the more. Each child stuffs his animal using a machine that looks like a cotton candy machine when it is running. You can really see the workings inside, through a protective glass cover. The child presses a pedal, and the machine blows the light, fluffy fiber stuffing into the animal. The

toy can be as fat or thin as the child likes—he or she has that much control. Inside of this toy the child tucks a little star with a special wish on it. The star is sealed into the animal, and is nested there forever.

After the animal is stuffed, the child can choose an outfit for his or her personal creation. New outfits are debuting all the time. There are jogging suits, princess sweaters,



Bears indoors and out greet the visitors to Bearly Made.

Even the flower pot stands bear watching.

sports uniforms, coats, dresses, any number of perfect costumes for what is sure to become a favorite and comforting companion.

There is a wide variety of unstuffed animals to choose from. These are decidedly Mississippi toys that take their names from Mississippi places: Rocky the Raccoon denotes Rocky Springs, Paris the Poodle pays tribute to the town of the same name in north Mississippi. Rosedale the Unicorn celebrates the Rosedale of Bolivar County, and Randolph the Reindeer takes his name from the community of Randolph in Northeast Mississippi. And though

*continued on back cover*



This shows a very small sampling of the variety of stuffed animals available from Bearly Made.



Photos by Kathy Root Pitts

## Wildlife Mississippi Releases Birding Trail Plan

reprinted courtesy of the Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation (also known as Wildlife Mississippi)



### Audubon and Partners Publish Mississippi's First Birding Trail Map

#### Guide Highlights More Than 50 Great Birding Sites in Coastal MS

Audubon Mississippi and its partners have published the state's very first birding trail map highlighting more than 50 birding hotspots throughout Mississippi's six southernmost counties, including sites on the mainland as well as sites accessible only by boat. Many of Mississippi's top birders worked on the map for more than a year, gathering a wealth of information for each site. This free, full-color map is available at the state's twelve Welcome Centers, and upon request from the offices of Mississippi Division of Tourism, Audubon Mississippi, and the Mississippi Coast Audubon Society.

The Mississippi Coastal Birding Trail nearly completes the Gulf Coast birding trail loop, which so far includes trails in Texas, Alabama, and Florida.

The Mississippi Coastal Birding Trail map was made possible through the Power of Flight Grant Program, a partnership of Southern Company, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

For more information, please contact Audubon Mississippi at 601/661-6189 or visit their web site at [www.msaudubon.com](http://www.msaudubon.com). You can learn more about birding trails nationwide by visiting National Audubon's new birding trails website at [www.audubon.org/bird\\_trails](http://www.audubon.org/bird_trails).

Birding Trail (GTCBT) helps underscore the vast potential of birding trails to provide recreational opportunities, improve support for conservation efforts, and offer economic support to local economies. GTCBT travelers devoted 31.23 days to birding on the trail. On their most recent trip, they spent an average of \$981.99 per person, mostly in the coastal region. If these patterns remained consistent on other trips taken throughout the year, barriers averaged spending \$2,452.18 in a 12-month period.

When considering direct and indirect expenditures using a "multiplier," annual spending was probably closer to \$4,900.

Wildlife Mississippi's goal to establish the Great Mississippi Birding Trails includes a series of birding trails. They are: 1) Mississippi River, 2) Tombigbee, 3) Gulf Coast, 4) Pearl River, 5) Natchez Trace, 6) North Mississippi Reservoirs, 7) Chocataw and 8) Pascagoula.



Photo by Dave Menke: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The National Survey on Recreation and the Environment recently reported a 155.2% growth (to 54.1 million persons) in bird watching in the United States between the 1980s and the late 1990s.

An Environmental Protection Agency survey of wildlife watchers along the Middle Platte River in Nebraska concluded

that a travel party of birders consisted of about 5 persons, staying in the region approximately 3 days and spent an average of \$285 per person. This travel party of birders returned approximately 3.5 times per year spending for a total of \$790.17 annually per person. Respondents invested significantly in birding equipment averaging \$1,505 per person as measured by replacement costs. An average respondent to the survey, contributed between \$1,276 and \$1,814 per year to the Nebraska economy. The cumulative Total Gross Economic Output of birders is between \$25 million and \$53 million annually to the Nebraska economy.

Birders are a quiet, educated, conscientious, and economically stable group that could contribute significantly to Mississippi's economy. The potential return in economic output of birders is great. By developing the Great Mississippi Birding Trails and promoting them nationally and internationally, birding in Mississippi could provide economic, aesthetic, wildlife, and conservation benefits

statewide with the most significant benefits accruing in rural communities.

Texas and Florida are the first two states to establish significant birding trails. Mississippi could be a new state to establish a trail, taking timely advantage of birding tourism opportunities that would benefit both rural and urban Mississippi.

Mississippi is located in the center of the Mississippi Flyway for waterfowl. In 1935, Frederick Lincoln, a former Secretary of the Interior, wrote "This route [Mississippi Flyway] is followed by such vast numbers of ducks, geese, and other birds that observers stationed at favorable points in the Mississippi Valley during the height of migration can see a greater number of species and individuals than can be noted anywhere else in the world."

This provides the opportunity to view over 380 species of neotropical migratory birds which have been recorded in Mississippi, including some of the most colorful birds from South America. In fact, the Magnolia State is in the center of the Mississippi Flyway for birds leaving the Canadian nesting grounds en route to their tropical winter homes.

Birding trail stops could be established around the state, capitalizing on existing, natural, historic, and cultural resources. The federal refuges, state wildlife management areas, state parks, and the national forest provide opportunities for every type of birding enthusiast.

The success of the Great Texas Coastal



Eastern Kingfisher

Photo courtesy of the Mississippi Fish & Wildlife Foundation

## Sky Lake WMA

Then I began noticing the broad, fluted bases of the baldcypress. The ground underfoot changed from the hard dry dirt of the Delta fields to a soft springy feel. I felt as if I were walking on a mattress. Marveling at the size of the cypress we were passing, I was told, "That's nothing. Wait 'til you see the big ones!"

We stopped at the sight of the cypress that had held the title of the largest at Sky Lake. But moving on further, we soon came in view of the current state champion—only 70 feet tall but with a circumference of 47 feet. The large fluted base is hollow with a narrow entrance on one side. We all took turns squeezing through this crevice to look at the heart of the great tree. Interestingly enough, the temperature was noticeably lower inside by about 10°. Standing inside this giant, I could almost feel the full significance of the Sky Lake Wildlife Management Area.

We also visited the lake itself, walking along a raised roadbed to the edge where Rubén Padrón noted the tracks of white-tail deer and raccoon in the soft mud at

*continued from page 4*

the water's edge. Sky Lake's 773 acres provides habitat for a variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, and aquatic and amphibious species such as alligators, turtles, frogs and crayfish. Our approach had disturbed a flock of egrets feeding near the shore. They took to flight at our approach and landed near the center of the lake to wade and continue their feeding, giving us an idea as to the shallow depth of Sky Lake.

The Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation, founded in 1997 to conserve, restore, and enhance Mississippi's fisheries and wildlife resources, worked with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and the Office of the Governor to acquire the Sky Lake property "so that it would be preserved, not only for its fish and wildlife values, but for scenic, ecological, and scientific values."

The local people have known of the beauty and significance of Sky Lake for years. Soon the rest of us will have the opportunity to walk among the cypress, perhaps one day along raised walkways, and stand on the shore of this ancient lake.

## Springdale Hills

Ed Blake began selling Christmas trees to help pay the bills. Every Christmas season since the early 1960s, revellers who yearn for a sense of Old Style Christmas can cut their own tree at the oldest Christmas Tree farm in Mississippi. From morning until dark, Ed opens his Christmas Tree farm the day after Thanksgiving and continues until Christmas Eve. He offers six to seven types of Christmas trees. Some pines, some cedars. He finds that the demand for pine varieties over cedar has increased over the years. He started, more than forty years ago, with one thousand Arizona Cypress. Ed Blake is very conservation-minded, and is careful to insure that his vast tree stand stays replenished.

Field trips are a part of Ed's work that he thoroughly enjoys. Boy Scout Troops often visit in December. They can easily spend a whole day walking the trails, cooking marshmallows and hotdogs, and learning in The Great Outdoors, the world's largest classroom. Ed invites school children, or anyone with a love of nature, to his arboretum. Sometimes, while giving a talk, he will whittle a rustic toothbrush from a black elm twig, ruffling the ends into an article like what might have been used by pioneers. He describes the hard work of those who had to draw a living from this land, splitting fence rails from white oak to hone out a patch of ground for farming. For Ed Blake, pioneer times and nature were inextricably joined.

Springdale Hills is covered in nature trails and Ed likes to give guided tours to help nature enthusiasts identify Mississippi's many indigenous trees. Ed

prefers giving guided tours to posting signs along the paths; this way he can be available to answer questions and relive that first trek into the woods when he and his family began to learn and develop what would become Ed Blake's life's calling. There are trails open to vehicles for those unable to do much walking or climbing.

The ruins of the old Boscobel Plantation are part of Ed Blake's tour. All that is left now of the ancestral home of Dr. William Frances Greaves 1830s two-story mansion are the kitchen walls and the spring fed cistern made from mortar mixed with goat hair. One hundred fifty years later, there is not a crack in the walls of that cistern. The romantic ruins of Boscobel have as a backdrop the scarlet oak, a tree that changes colors so remarkably in north Mississippi.

The Boscobel Plantation was owned by Dr. William Frances Greaves. Dr. Greaves story was a near tragedy. During the Civil War, he was taken by Union troops. His pregnant wife was told that she would never see her husband alive again. But as a doctor, William Frances Greaves was sworn to tend to those in medical need, without regard to political affiliation. He ministered to the wounded and sick Union soldiers, and was eventually sent home on a horse to rejoin his family.

The Greaves family is an old military family who served in the Navy. Dr. William Frances Greaves father fled to Pocahontas, having killed a man in a duel in South Carolina just after this form of settling arguments had been outlawed in that state. The Greaves family gained title to one thousand acres in the Pocahontas

*continued from page 5*

# Webventuring<sup>®</sup>

*by William Pitts*

Questions we've got! Sometimes it's the answers that are hard to come by. Hopefully this issue's offerings will help some. *All addresses current as of press time.*

### [www.historymarkersofms.com/](http://www.historymarkersofms.com/)

Do you try to read them as you speed past or do you stop when it's convenient and see what they have to say? Here's your chance to read some you might have missed, courtesy of Eddie Richardson, a man who has taken on a truly Herculean task—photographing all of the historical markers in Mississippi.

### [unitproj.library.ucla.edu/biomed/spice/](http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/biomed/spice/)

Do you know where licorice comes from? Did you know that the city of Chicago was named for "the place where the wild garlic grows?" How about the fact that some medieval landlords were paid not in currency but in peppercorns? Learn about the history of spices and their uses from the University of California at Los Angeles's Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library.

### [www.nava.org/](http://www.nava.org/)

Do flags interest you? Are you curious about their design, history, and symbolism? Do you wonder why these bits of cloth have such a profound effect on people and nations? Here's where most of the answers lie.

## contact us:

[info@newsouthernview.com](mailto:info@newsouthernview.com)

What is YOUR favorite Web site?

region as a reward for services during the Revolutionary War. Two other plantations were built by Greaves family. One, Santa Rosa, was to be burned by Union troops during the Civil War, but was spared when Union soldiers in need of medical treatment were bedded and treated there. Grassdale Plantation, where Kickapoo is now, was not so lucky. It was torched.

The Springdale Hills Arboretum and Christmas Tree Farm is a fascinating journey back into history, and into a closeness with nature from which so many of us can benefit. There is serenity, comfort, and stability in the trees. They have witnessed so much turbulent history, ruined mansions, tragedies, and successes. Yet they are as familiar as a remembered childhood.

Springdale Hills Arboretum and Christmas Tree Farm is one of those successes. Ed Blake will be there, sharing his knowledge and farming his trees.

The Christmas Tree Farm will be open from 9 am until dark, from November 26th, the Friday following Thanksgiving until Christmas Eve. For more information and directions, call 601/366-4679.

# our community calendar

All information current as of press time.  
We accept no legal responsibility for errors or omissions.

## EXTRA EVENTS

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

### EXHIBITS

#### The Legacy of Timbuktu through Friday, December 31

A rich intellectual and cultural heritage of African and Islamic blend on display: ancient manuscripts, artistry, and craftsmanship. International Museum of Muslim Cultures 601/960-0440 or [www.muslimmuseum.org](http://www.muslimmuseum.org)

#### The Grand National Show of the Mississippi Watercolor Society through Sunday, January 9, 2005

This year's presentation includes approximately 60 works from across the country in various water-based mediums, organized in conjunction with the Mississippi Watercolor Society. An illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition. Admission. Mississippi Museum Of Art. 601/960-1515 or [www.msmuseumart.org](http://www.msmuseumart.org)

#### The Alligator Exhibit through Monday, January 24, 2005

An exciting photography show by renowned nature photographer C. C. Lockwood takes you directly into the world of the American alligator, the amazing reptile with a crooked smile. Admission. Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. 601/354-7303 or [www.mdwfp.com/museum](http://www.mdwfp.com/museum).

### EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

#### DECEMBER • DECEMBER • DECEMBER

##### Christmas at the Old Capitol

Wednesday, December 1–Thursday, December 23

Annual event featuring the Old Capitol trains, period Christmas decorations and toys, and beautifully adorned period Christmas trees. Free. Old Capitol Museum. 601/576-6920

##### Annual Christmas Tree Festival Wednesday, December 1–Friday, December 31

A showcase of various civil, social, and religious organizations' decorated Christmas trees. Smith Robertson Museum. 601/960-1457

##### Jazz, Art & Friends

Thursday, December 2

What could be better? Live jazz, great art, gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and the friendly people of Jackson. Admission. Cash bar. Mississippi Museum of Art. 601/960-1515 or [www.msmuseumart.org](http://www.msmuseumart.org)

##### Puppet Wonderland

Thursday & Friday, December 2 & 3

Wednesday & Friday, December 8 & 10

The Mississippi Puppetry Guild presents *The Toad Prince*, a colorful Chinese version of *Beauty and the Beast*. Admission. Millsaps College. 601/977-9840

##### Christmas at the Governor's Mansion

Thursday, December 2–Tuesday, December 21

Traditional holiday decorations using seasonal greenery and fruit, and free guided tours Tuesday through Friday. Reservations for groups of ten or more. 601/359-6421

##### Old Jackson Christmas by Candlelight Tour

Friday, December 3

Catch the holiday spirit in Jackson's most historic buildings: the Old Capitol, the Governor's Mansion, the Manship House Museum, and the State Capitol. 601/576-6920

##### Belhaven Singing Christmas Tree

Friday & Saturday, December 3 & 4

A Belhaven tradition since 1933, the Singing Christmas Tree is an outdoor choral performance of the season's favorite Christmas carols. Bring a blanket and/or a chair. Free. Belhaven College. 601/968-5930

##### Annual Chimneyville Crafts Festival

Friday, December 3–Sunday, December 5

Fine work by 140 craftsmen. Demonstrations, exhibits, and sales. Admission. Mississippi Trademart. 601/981-0019 or [www.mscreativemsguild.org](http://www.mscreativemsguild.org)

##### A Christmas Carol

Friday, December 3–Sunday, December 19

Discover true joy during the holiday season with this timeless story of the true spirit of Christmas. Admission. New State Theater. 601/948-3533 or [www.newstagetheatre.com](http://www.newstagetheatre.com)

##### Christmas at the Manship House Museum

Friday, December 3–Thursday, December 23

Daily tours feature authentic Victorian decorations at the Manship House. Free. Reservations for groups of ten or more. 601/961-4724 or [www.mdah.state.ms.us](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us)

##### Festival of Trees and Lights

through Saturday, December 4

Beautiful Christmas trees themed and available for purchase. Choirs and ensembles will perform daily. Free. Semi-Formal Dinner with Live Auction. Admission. Crowne Plaza, Downtown Jackson. 601/372-0149

##### Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 5

The Old Capitol Shop offers a sampling of Mississippi's folk art, crafts, and books by and about Mississippians. Concert at 3 p.m. Free. Old Capitol Museum. 601/576-6920

##### St. Nicholas Day Crafts Workshop

Monday, December 6

Children will learn about and make a Victorian Christmas craft. Free, for ages five to twelve. Reservations required. Manship House Museum. 601/961-4724 or [www.mdah.state.ms.us](http://www.mdah.state.ms.us)

##### Ballet Mississippi "The Nutcracker"

Friday, December 10–Sunday, December 12

The beloved Christmas story comes to life on stage to delight young and old with Tchaikovsky's beautiful music and the quaint Russian fairy tale of a little girl and her favorite toy. See dancers from Mississippi perform this timeless classic. Admission. Thalia Mara Hall. 601/960-1560 or [www.msball.com](http://www.msball.com)

##### Ballet Magnificat "A Christmas Festival"

Saturday & Sunday, December 18 & 19

The Ballet Magnificat! Touring Company is joined by their School of the Arts students in the group's gala holiday performance that has become a tradition to many. This Christian Dance Company tours all over the United States and the world showcasing Mississippi's wealth of talent. Admission. Thalia Mara Hall. 601/977-1001 or [www.balletmagnificat.com](http://www.balletmagnificat.com)

### JANUARY • JANUARY • JANUARY

##### Fire and Ice: From Warm Melancholy to the Russian Winter

Saturday, January 8

Mississippi Symphony Orchestra performance, Concerto for cello in E minor/ Symphony No. 5 in E minor. Admission. Thalia Mara Hall. 601/960-1565 or [www.msorchestra.com](http://www.msorchestra.com)

##### Mississippi Endangered Species

Hands-On Program for Families

Saturday, January 15

John DeFillip, Museum Outreach Teacher, presents "Gators, Tators, and Turtles: Wild Endangered Mississippi" with interactive, hands-on programs designed for family audiences. Admission. Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. 601/354-7303 or [www.mdwfp.com/museum](http://www.mdwfp.com/museum)

##### "Skies Alive! Ringworld"

Thursday, January 20

Live show includes tours of Mississippi's night sky and telescope viewing of the moon and other nighttime objects. Admission. Russell C. Davis Planetarium. 601/960-1550 or [www.thedavisplanetarium.com](http://www.thedavisplanetarium.com)

##### Mozart by Candlelight

Mississippi Symphony Orchestra Intimate Classics Series  
Saturday, January 22

Enjoy Mozart's Overture to Apollo et Hyacinthus, Symphony No. 41 in C, "Jupiter," and Concerto for Flute and Harp in C. Admission. Belhaven College Center for the Arts. 601/960-1565 or [www.msorchestra.com](http://www.msorchestra.com)

##### Shiloh Rules

Tuesday, January 25–Sunday, February, 6

*Shiloh Rules* depicts five female Civil War re-enactors who arrive early for the Battle of Shiloh—full of comedic moments and timely themes. Admission. New Stage Theatre. 601/948-3533 or [www.newstagetheatre.com](http://www.newstagetheatre.com)

##### Dixie National Livestock Show, Parade, and Rodeo

Friday, January 28–Sunday, February, 10

Saddle up the whole family for an adventure straight from the Old West at the Mississippi Fairgrounds. One of the country's biggest and best Western events includes a rodeo, livestock show, western festival, and a parade. Admission. Mississippi Coliseum and Fairgrounds. 601/961-4000

##### Bell Concert Series—The Orrin Evans Jazz Trio

Saturday, January 29

Enjoy a scintillating evening of jazz piano with award-winning jazz composer and pianist Orrin Evans, described by the *New York Times* as "one of the best developments in jazz in the late '90s...A singular young pianist in whose sound you will hear an adventurous mind with a refreshing aversion to cliché." Admission. Millsaps College—Ford Academic Complex Recital Hall. 601/974-1422 or [www.millsaps.edu/pfrmarks/evanstext.shtml](http://www.millsaps.edu/pfrmarks/evanstext.shtml)

##### Mississippi Symphony: Mozart by Candlelight

Friday & Saturday, January 30 & 31

An all-Mozart concert is presented in the glow of dozens of candles. The January 30th performance will be at Galloway United Methodist Church, and the January 31st performance will be at the Belhaven Center for the Arts. Admission. 601/960-1565 or [www.msorchestra.com](http://www.msorchestra.com)

### FEBRUARY • FEBRUARY • FEBRUARY

##### A Night at the Oscars

Saturday, February 12

The Mississippi Symphony Orchestra will pay tribute to the rich musical heritage of cinema with selections from Oscar-winning films such as "Gone With the Wind," "Exodus," "Ben Hur," and "E.T.: The Extra Terrestrial." Admission. Thalia Mara Hall. 601/960-1565 or [www.msorchestra.com](http://www.msorchestra.com)

##### Mississippi Symphony Orchestra La Dolce Vita: Viva Italia!

Saturday, February 26

Overture to Italiana in Algieri (Rossini), Intermezzo from Cavalleria rusticana (Mascagni), The Fountains of Rome (Respighi), Napoli (Helsted). Admission. Thalia Mara Hall. 601/960-1565 or [www.msorchestra.com](http://www.msorchestra.com)

Saturday & Sunday, February 26 & 28

##### Mississippi Gem & Mineral Show

Come see Mississippi minerals, fossils, and gems stones. Exhibits and demonstrations plus dealers in gems and minerals. Admission. Mississippi Trademart. 601/936-3250

Join us on-line at [www.newsouthernview.com](http://www.newsouthernview.com) for events that didn't make it into the magazine!

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## Victorian Wedding Dresses

*continued from page 10*

beginning of World War I. The era was marked by a high degree of formality, superstition, and symbolism in romance, especially in weddings.

"It was during this time that many modern customs associated with wedding dresses originated. Before, wedding dresses were commonly the bride's best dress; they were made in a variety of colors and intended to be worn on several occasions. During the Victorian Era, wed-

ding dresses became increasingly elaborate and began to be made exclusively for the wedding. The color white, representing purity, became the most popular color for the dresses during this time, a custom that continues today."

The wedding dress, during the course of the 1800s, became more and more a one-use garment, intended solely for the marriage ceremony until, as we know them now, the wedding dress became ex-

clusively a gown for the ceremony itself, to be stored carefully. If used again in this day and age, it would most likely be handed down to a daughter.

**A Brief History of the Wedding Dress in Britain by Elizabeth Davies—[www.geocities.com/e2davies/brides.html](http://www.geocities.com/e2davies/brides.html). Information also drawn from the plaques and signs mounted at the Old Capitol display.**

## The Magic Waters of luka

*continued from page 11*

much sought after commodity. But World War One ended any hope for cashing in on this fame. luka's dreamed-of prosperity became another casualty of the war. The waters' devotees and the special trains from the East dried up as did the springs' flow from the build up of mineral deposits and from neglect. During the Depression years, the bandstand and pavilion fell into disrepair. Finally, the grand Mineral Springs Hotel was lost to fire.

In the 1960s, a group of luka businessmen started a campaign to restore the springs and the park to their original condition and give the community a boost. Sadly, this endeavor died in the making.

However, in the 1970s, luka George Page led a civic-wide project to improve the park for the enjoyment of the town's children, "our most valuable asset." With money raised by the local Lions Club, and matching state and federal funds, new playground equipment and benches were installed. A new bandstand was built, and an authentic log cabin was located and moved to the park.

And the springs remain. Although mostly clogged by their own mineral load, they are still there, situated in a circular area about fifty feet, with three still flowing. As Cindy Nelson with the Tishomingo County Archives and History Museum stated, "Sci-

entists profess surprise that in such a small space so many different streams should be found, so different yet so vital, sulphur, iron, magnesia, carbonic acid gas, alum, and many other chemicals, good for so many ailments..."

Cindy says that the park has a certain mystique about it, this "walk through history." Not too far away, Chief luka's grave is supposedly part of the foundation of the BankcorpSouth building. He chose this place to live out his life and now it seems that he has become a solid part of the locale, imbedded in the physical as well as the historical, forever associated with the healing waters of luka's Mineral Springs.

## Bearly Made

*continued from page 12*

this reindeer comes from a climate far warmer than the frozen North Pole, one naturally thinks of Christmas and snowflakes when looking into his appealing bright eyes.

The owners of Bearly Made: Amy Page, Betty Snuggs, Charlotte Oglesbee, and David Snuggs are proud of their shop, and the truly practical way that they have fused the bliss of childhood indulgence with good sense.

Bearly Made is an intelligent choice for field trips. The process of making a toy is educational, absorbing, and fun. The children have the opportunity to learn about President Roosevelt's famous trip to Mississippi where the Teddy Bear originated. Some parents help to motivate their children in lessons and good behavior with the promise of a trip to Bearly Made.

Bearly Made is perfect site for children's birthday parties. The atmosphere is bright and festive, and the party guests are thoroughly entertained by creating their own toy. When it comes time for cake, the children can step over to the delightful Strawberry Cafe where owner Buddy Gill is in charge of refreshments.

One clever service Bearly Made offers is the Wish List. If a child wants several things, and the parents want to save some of these gifts for birthdays or rewards, the child fills out a wish list that remains in a file at the store. Then, like a bridal registry, gift-givers can go to Bearly Made, check the child's list, and know that the presents they purchase are exactly what the child wants. Bearly Made's file of Wish Lists is very thick. It's as heavy as the "S" volume of the *Britannica*. Bearly Made's

Wish List helps to take the guess work and emotional tug-of-war out of gift-giving.

The building that houses Bearly Made is an old one, over one hundred years old, just like the Teddy Bear itself. Before Bearly Made, this shop had been a grocery, an antique store, and a florist shop. Madison preserves its bygone charm in shops such as this one at 2086 Main Street.

A child might reach out and choose the fabric casing of a stuffed bear, then fashion it into something lifelike and having a personality of its own. Just so, the owners of Bearly Made have taken a simple, old shop and transformed it into a place where love, creativity, and childlike happiness are alive and very easily shared.

For more info about Bearly Made, call them at 1-866/885-2327 or 601/898-2327; their web site is [www.bearlymade.com](http://www.bearlymade.com).