

The New

SOUTHERN VIEW

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ARTICLES • INFORMATION • COMMUNITY CALENDAR

VOL 4 ♦ NO 1

A Quarterly Journal Serving the Greater Jackson Metropolitan Area

SUMMER 2004

FREE
TAKE ONE

The Church of the Holy Trinity In Vicksburg

Our Jackson Fire Department
100th Anniversary

Whatever Happened To...?
The Buena Vista Hotel

Franco's Italian Cuisine
A Taste of the Mediterranean

Talk to the Animals
Alligators in the Reservoir?



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See the Calendar of Events
for Summer Activities

Check back with us monthly for updates, articles, stories, and photographs.

I'm searching for something thoughtful to say about summer. It's not fair. My Thesaurus has loads of nice appellations for Spring: Prime of the year, primavera, "Sweet Spring, full of sweet days and roses" [George Herbert], "the boyhood of the year" [Tennyson], "the time of the singing of the birds" [Bible] and so on. But, when I refer on down to summer, what do I find? Dog days.

There must be happier names for summer. I think Peter Roget did not like hot weather. I checked his biography and found that he lived primarily in London. Part of his vast studies and distinctions had him researching "the effects of laughing gas," but you couldn't tell by his picture. Although he does have a faint Mona Lisa smile.

The Arctic peoples have their midnight sun and their lunchtime night, dividing their years in half—with hints of dark and light around the edges just to keep them off balance. Well, Mississippi is perched on a globe that sometimes feels tipped too far, as summer seems to last in these parts a full five months of the year. My deepest respects to Willis Carrier, the Father of Air-Conditioning. His contribution to those of us in the subtropics is inestimable.



Summer in Mississippi cannot be defined by heat alone. In *The Great Gatsby*, the narrator Nick notices "that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer." Nick is talking about Long Island. For Mississippians, summer is a nervous season. I don't mean this in a bad way; it's just that the air vibrates. Trilling locusts, dripping leaves, steaming asphalt in the mid-afternoon glare. Heady with the smells of cut grass and barbecues, and always aggressively hot. Summer is domineering, bristling, and conscious. The other seasons seem passive in comparison.

Summer in Mississippi needs a few more descriptive designations than those found in the Thesaurus. No other season comes on with so much looming presence, like a big and noisy person sitting crowded right next to you; he isn't to be ignored. Summer in Mississippi keeps you company.

Kathy

Editor/Publisher

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On the cover:

One of the chandeliers that illuminates the sanctuary of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Vicksburg
Photo by William Pitts

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

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Scenic & Historic Mississippi #1	
<i>Paddle Wheels and Calliopes</i>	3
Business Flash	
<i>Downtown Jackson Partners</i>	3
Cookhouse Special	
<i>Franco's Italian Cuisine</i>	4
Sound Mind & Sound Body	
<i>Focus on Healing</i>	5
To the Nines!	
<i>The Polkadot Pony</i>	5
Whatever Happened To...?	
<i>The Buena Vista Hotel — An Excerpt</i>	6
Talk to the Animals	
<i>Alligators in the Reservoir?</i>	7
Interiors & Exteriors	
<i>Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Vicksburg — A Pictorial</i>	8
Scenic & Historic Mississippi #2	
<i>The Jackson Fire Department Celebrates 100 Years</i>	10
Arts & Literature	
<i>The Majesty of Eastern Mississippi and the Coast — A Review</i>	11
A Child's World	
<i>Jackson's Fire Museum</i>	12
Outdoor Treasures	
<i>Leroy Percy State Park</i>	12
The Garden Gate	
<i>The Eudora Welty Garden</i>	13
Webventuring	14
Our Community Calendar	15

Scenic & HISTORIC Mississippi #1

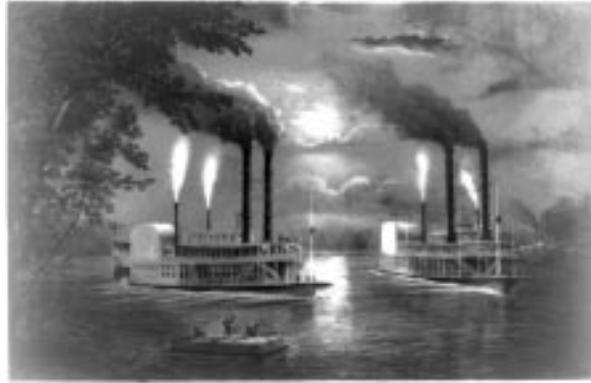
Paddle Wheels and Calliopes

a 1976 essay on the launching of the Mississippi Queen by Benjamin Root, Sr.

Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, [LC-USZ62-94754]

We are river people, even though some of us seldom go near the Mississippi River. Our entire western boundary fronts on this, one of the world's greatest rivers. And we are near it along its most characteristic stretch—wide waters which flow past cotton fields, waters which nurture the cypress in its shallow places, and waters which have delivered the nation's most colorful history to our very doorstep. It has carried upon its surface the vital substance of the world's greatest nation. The river has witnessed many changes.

There were times and places along the Mississippi when the river people needed riverboats as their one and only source of outside news. Entertainment, when it came, came only by river and was delivered for some distance along the smaller waterways which attached to the river. Inside this century some of the first motion pictures to be seen were aboard



visiting showboats. Like touring circuses, they visited the most remote bayou places. Notices were posted several days in advance of the arrival of the famous paddle-wheel showboat. And when it came, its deep-throated steam whistle and calliope would echo far up and down the river valley, telling everyone that the showboat was coming.

A great difference exists between riverboats and those large majestic ships which venture out upon the wilds of the open sea. Sea-going vessels are tuned to the sea and appear to be out of place when coming into harbor, more so when tethered to a wharf. Like fish out of water they seem uncomfortable there—almost like some captured giant. But a riverboat is different. By design it attaches open water to sheltered coves, being at home in both. Wherever it goes, it brings the river with it. In shallow places it floats as freely as it does in the deepest water.

We are seeing a nation's appreciation for all that our river and its grand boats have meant. A newly-constructed paddle-wheel steamer, larger than any other, now moves up and down the great river on our western border. Mark Twain would have stood in awe watching this one come out
continued on page 10

Business Flash

Downtown Jackson Partners: A Mission to Revitalize Downtown Jackson

by John Lawrence, President of the Downtown Jackson Partners

Today, Downtown Jackson is cleaner and safer than it has ever been. The office occupancy has risen 93%, higher than the national average. Over ten new restaurants have opened in the area in the last three years, for a total of 25, and more than \$150 million in city, county, state, and federal improvement projects are underway.

In response to a crusade to attract residential development in Downtown Jackson, a partnership led by Duckworth Realty is preparing the 125,000 square foot Electric Building as Downtown's first true mixed-use restoration project. Development of this sort has secured traditional business cores across America and in a number of Jackson's peer cities like Memphis, Shreveport, and Little Rock. The Electric Building development will consist of office, restaurant, retail, and residential components.

This increased activity is the result of numerous partnerships and initiatives that are, to some degree planned, coordinated, and promoted through the Downtown Jackson Partners, an organization dedicated to ensuring the success of the historic urban core of Jackson.

Downtown Jackson Partners (DJP) has seen employment in Downtown area grow

to 26,000 workers; this amounts to one in every nine people employed in central Mississippi. Almost 50% of the region's office space is Downtown, and this small
continued on page 10



Photo courtesy of Downtown Jackson Partners

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Cookhouse Special

Franco's Italian Cuisine

A Slice of the Mediterranean in South Jackson

by Kathy Root Pitts

Franco's Italian Cuisine, located at 2887 McDowell Road, seems secluded where it is, on the southwest corner of McDowell Square Shopping Center. Yet, entering around 7 o'clock on a summer evening, the patron cannot help but notice a strong sense of relaxed community both inside this family-owned restaurant and overlooking neighboring backyards just a few paces away.

The western facade of Franco's catches the sunset, while the interior is likewise brightened by the Old World



warmth of Franco Musto and his son and chef, Franco Cherubini. The Senior Franco, born in Italy, and brother to the original owner, Mario Musto, trained in European restaurants.

Franco Cherubini acquired his culinary skill from independent study, on the job training, lessons from his father, and lessons from two ladies exceptionally well-versed in traditional Italian cooking: Ida Mele and Terry Cherubini.

Franco's Italian Cuisine offers a broad and enticing range of pasta dishes with meat, fish, cheese, and vegetables masterfully created and complemented with white or red sauces. Dessert follows, if the happy diner still has room for more. All entrees are prepared fresh at the moment they are ordered.

Franco's Restaurant is a wonderful escapist adventure, made all the more pleasant when the diner realizes that his delicious dream lies in his own backyard, and not in a distant land across the sea.

Franco's is open from 5 pm until 9 pm Monday through Thursday, and 5 pm until 10 pm Friday and Saturday. Call 601/371-2437 for reservations.



Photos by William Pitts

The simple exterior of Franco's (left, below) belies what awaits the patron inside. Photos of past diners line the walls (left, above) lending a certain sense of community to this friendly establishment.

Giving the tradition an early start, Franco (top) greets a pair of hungry visitors whom he refers to as "two of my best customers." Chef Franco Cherubini (above, right) preparing a flambé.



Gail Pittman
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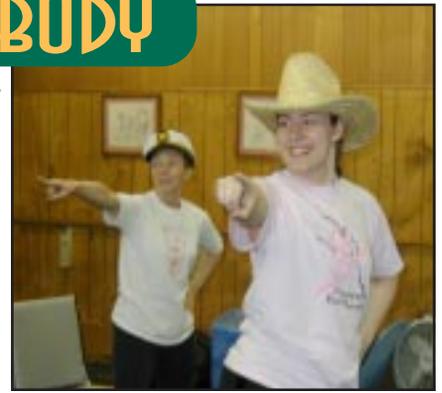
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Focus on Healing
The Lebed Method for Breast Cancer Patients

Information drawn from Focus on Healing literature



Allison Heindl (above at right) leads Susan Stowe (above), Kathy Heindl, who is Allison's mother, and Dorothy Beddington (top left photo) in a fun-filled rendition of *The Village People's* late '70s hit YMCA, dance being a part of the Lebed Method. The class begins with the simple joy of blowing bubbles (left), an exercises for the lungs.

Photos by Kathy Root Pitts
 The Lebed Method is an effective and enjoyable exercise therapy for breast cancer recovery. The technique was developed in 1979 by dance teacher Sherry Lebed Davis and her physician brothers, Drs. Marc and Joel Lebed, after their mother grew despondent following a diagnosis of breast cancer. The Lebed Method helped Rita Lebed regain her mobility and her happiness. Later, Sherry herself was diagnosed with breast cancer. She used the method that she had created with her brothers, and like her mother before her, achieved thrilling results.

The Lebed Method, *Focus on Healing*, is a therapeutic exercise program designed for women following "breast surgery, node dissection, radiation, chemotherapy, continued on page 11

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TO THE NINES!

The Polkadot Pony at Highland Village
The Brilliant Colors of Success

by Kathy Root Pitts

Photos by Kathy Root Pitts
 The Polkadot Pony, recessed into a wing on the east side of Highland Village, not far from the lions' fountain, brims with a colorful array of children's clothing—both playwear and dressy apparel.

Adrienne Brantley, the store's owner since 1997, doesn't seem to get much playtime herself, working hard as she does to maintain her well-stocked children's selection as well as that of The Polkadot Pony's adjoining companion shop, The Village Palm, which trades primarily in ladies' wear.

Adrienne Brantley takes great pride in the fact that hers is the only shop in Mississippi to offer the Lilly Pulitzer line of clothing that was popularized by Jackie Kennedy in the 1960s. Though the styles have changed—no pillbox hats—the fashion sense has remained consistently smart.

There are clothes for ladies, girls, and some also for men and boys in The Village Palm. Like the Polkadot Pony, the Village Palm offers more pastels than I knew existed, ranging from honeysuckle pales to the vivid depth of tropical flowers.

Business innovations in Mississippi are a welcome sight. I like to go out and see the various efforts that area entrepreneurs like Adrienne Brantley make to keep the economy vital and growing. Any time a local shop does well, it helps the state do well.



Adrienne Brantley (left) surrounds herself and her customers in color.



Adrienne Brantley has worked hard to make The Polkadot Pony and The Village Palm successful retail shops and colorful visual experiences. Just walking in the door is like opening a gallon of rainbow sherbet. Mississippi's hot summers can't help but feel cooler in this light and cheerful attire, and industrious shops like Adrienne Brantley's The Polkadot Pony and The Village Palm help to keep Mississippi's economy bright as well.

Whatever Happened To . . . ?

The Buena Vista Hotel on the Mississippi Gulf Coast

An excerpt from *Lost Landmarks of Mississippi* by Mary Carol Miller

Photos courtesy of James S. Love, III

On July 4, 1924, the doors to the Buena Vista Hotel were flung open and a new era of Gulf Coast hospitality was ushered into existence. The \$400,000, five-story, 200-room Mission Style stucco masterpiece was designed and built by noted architect Carl E. Matthes, who also designed the Tivoli Hotel just down the beach. The Buena Vista epitomized the wide-open lifestyle of the 1920s Coast, bursting at the seams throughout the win-

ter and summer months with sunseekers, gamblers, and high-rollers. Love pioneered the radical notion of courting convention business, giving people a reason to gather and spend money during the slow months. The first year, four groups trickled in for meet-

ings. But within fifteen years,

Love and the famously attentive Buena Vista staff had revolutionized Gulf Coast tourism, pulling in 125 conventions of at least fifty people each every year. The "Hurricane Room" was added, notable for its 1500-guest seating capacity and the huge rear doors big enough to admit tractor-trailers.

The Buena Vista was on a roll. Each summer, the Miss Hospitality Pageant took over the convention rooms, and WLOX-TV broadcast live from its studio off the lobby. Bob Hope, Tom Mix, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Erle Stanley Gardner added their names to the guest register and their fame to the cache of the hotel. In 1958, a modern hotel addition was added on

the beach side of Highway 90 to accommodate the overflowing crowds.

Times were good for all the great beach hotels of the Gulf, but change was on the horizon. Chain motels were drawing away family business and the interstate highway was nearing

completion north of Biloxi and Gulfport. The Gulf Coast Coliseum lured away more and more convention business and eventually snagged the Miss Hospitality Pageant as well. As the outlook for the Buena Vista dimmed, Nature added insult to injury. Hurricane

continued on page 11



The Buena Vista Hotel, as seen from the Mississippi Sound, before the beach side addition was added in 1958.



A view of the hotel's splendidly appointed lobby ca. 1950.

ter and summer months with sunseekers, gamblers, and high-rollers.

The Depression struck it a near-fatal blow. Mississippians had little spare money to spend on luxury during the Great Depression. Northerners who had once packed trains heading south for the winter kept their sweaters on and their wallets closed. When local attorney James S. Love, Jr. took a leap of faith and invested in the dying hotel in 1938, it was struggling for summer and winter guests and closed altogether through the spring and fall.



Aerial view of the Buena Vista Hotel and the 1958 addition.

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talk to the animals

Alligators in the Reservoir?

I didn't know that!

by William Pitts

Skull and museum alligator photos by William Pitts

The American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) is a truly remarkable animal. Belonging to the family Crocodylia, which includes crocodiles, caimans, and gharials, the alligator has been dated through its fossil remains to the Cretaceous Period, 80 million years ago. The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, according to their Curator of Paleontology George Phillips, has on display the posterior, or rear portion, of a skull of the *Deinosuchus rugosus* ("terrible crocodile with rough [teeth]") of this era. This specimen, most likely from a young adult, was found in the vicinity of Tupelo, Mississippi. Today's adult alligator can reach a length of 19 feet (take seven steps across your living room) while the *Deinosuchus* adult averaged 26 feet (now take thirteen). Another Crocodylian fossil from the



The museum's skull portion of the "terrible crocodile" gives one a rough idea of the actual size of this prehistoric reptile.

holes are used by other animals, thus enticing prey to the alligator.

In compiling the article on Leroy Percy State Park in this issue, I was intrigued to find alligators living in the park and taking advantage of the year-round warm waters there. Being a "city boy," I admit that I really know next to nothing about these animals, but I set out to learn what I could by contacting the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. When I asked for the alligator expert, I was put in touch with Field Officer Ricky Flynt, the department's Alligator/Furbearer Program Leader.

I began by asking Flynt several very elemental questions. He filled in the rest, also suggesting that I take a look at <http://agrigator.ifas.ufl.edu/gators/>, the alligator information web site for the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science for additional information on these large reptiles.

The New Southern View: Where around the Jackson Metro area (Hinds, Madison, and Rankin Counties) might alligators be found, besides the Zoo and the Natural Science Museum?

Ricky Flynt: Alligators can be found in virtually every county of the state. While the Jackson Metro area is certainly within the



A Great Blue Heron keeps a wary eye on an adult alligator as they both go about their business of ordering up their noon lunch.

natural range of the American alligator, it would be feasible to find an alligator anywhere in central and southern Mississippi, as they are the most common in the lower two-thirds of the state.

NSV: Is there an accurate population count for alligators in our area?

RF: According to information obtained in [the year] 2000, the Ross Barnett Reservoir and associated upper Pearl River up to Ratliff Ferry is home to about 8% (2,500–3,000) of the state's population (32,000–38,000). Those estimates have continued to increase since the year 2000.

NSV: If one does come across an alligator, what is the best course of action to take?

RF: We recommend that you always avoid close contact with an alligator. They should be enjoyed and respected from a distance. Generally, alligators under 8 feet long do not pose a threat to humans, unless they have been conditioned by hand-feeding. Alligators will naturally avoid humans and human activity. In many cases, where they can be found in developed areas, they will bask in the sunlight and allow humans to approach to surprisingly close distances, waiting to enter the safety of the water at the last second. In most cases, they will never make a sound, but simply slip away.

NSV: Along these lines, is the alligator nest that easily recognizable and what is the best thing to do if you come across a nest that is being used?

RF: An alligator nest is usually an elevated mound [to protect the eggs from flooding] of moist debris, such as grass, weeds, leaves, decaying wood, and mud that is typically located surrounded by or nearby water. Nests are usually in a secluded area and generally not found in areas frequented by humans. A typical alligator nest will contain 20–40 eggs, and as many as 50. The incubation period is 65 days long [and the eggs] usually hatch from late August through October in Mississippi. The female will remain close to the hatchlings for up to one year. If a nesting female is encountered, she may make a vocalized

continued on page 14



A safe place to see a live alligator is the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.

Cretaceous, found in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, is known by the humorous name *Thoracosaurus neocariensis* or "big-chested lizard from New Jersey." This is an odd name for this creature, as Phillips states that "Thoracosaurus's body was relatively narrow, but its skull was narrower still."

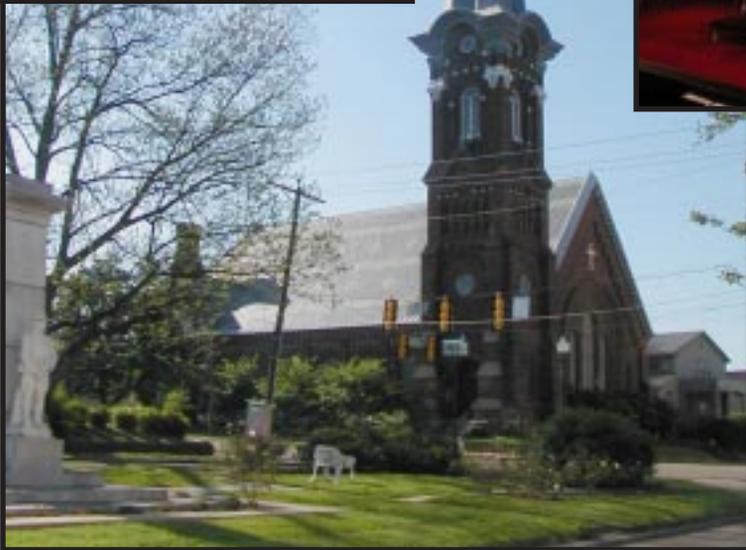
The American Alligator was first reported by Spanish explorers, hence the name alligator, as they called it *el legarto*, the lizard. Having been hunted almost to extinction in the early 20th Century because of the commercial value of its skin, the alligator has made a comeback thanks to the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, the purpose of which is "to provide a means whereby... endangered species and threatened species... may be conserved..." This is fortunate not only for the alligator, as their behavior benefits other animals in their habitat in that they dig "alligator holes," or small ponds, during times of little or no rain. These



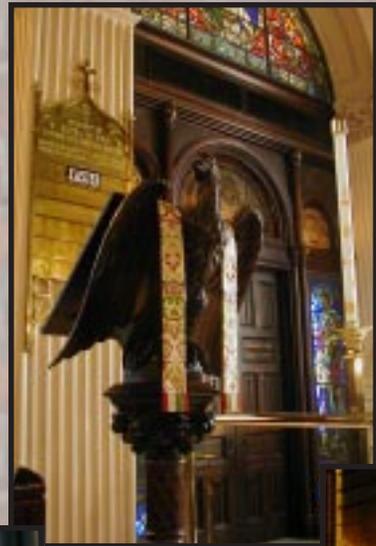
Basking in the sun, an alligator raises his body temperature.

Wild alligator photos courtesy of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Photos by Jerry Tollison and Dick Bailey

INTERIORS & EXTERIORS



Located at the corner of South and Monroe Streets (above), Holy Trinity was built during the Reconstruction Period. The mosaic (top) can be found on the floor of the sanctuary.



The original lighting fixtures (above) first held candles. Later, they were converted to burn gas, and finally wired for electricity.



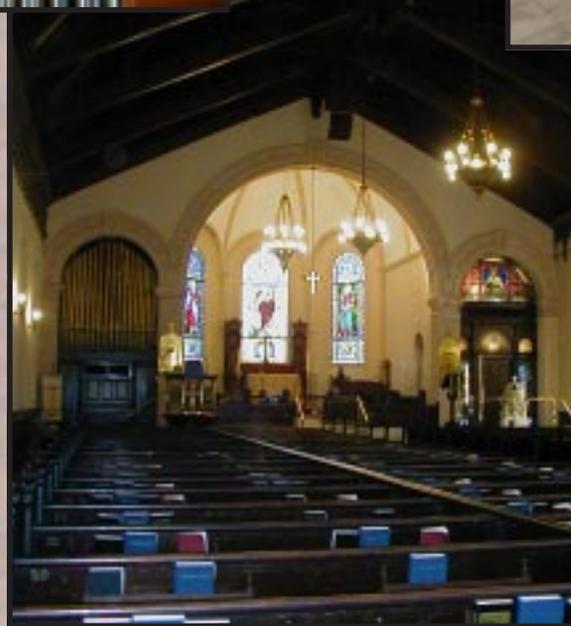
The 1,031 pipes of the 1980 Schantz organ (left) are concealed behind a screen of false pipes that are visible behind the pulpit (above left).

The baptistry (right) was carved from Italian marble.



The Chapel of Mary and Martha of Bethany (left) served the congregation during the construction of Holy Trinity. The candle station in the Chapel (above) was designed and constructed by Vicksburg artist Hobbs Freeman.

Photos by William Pitts



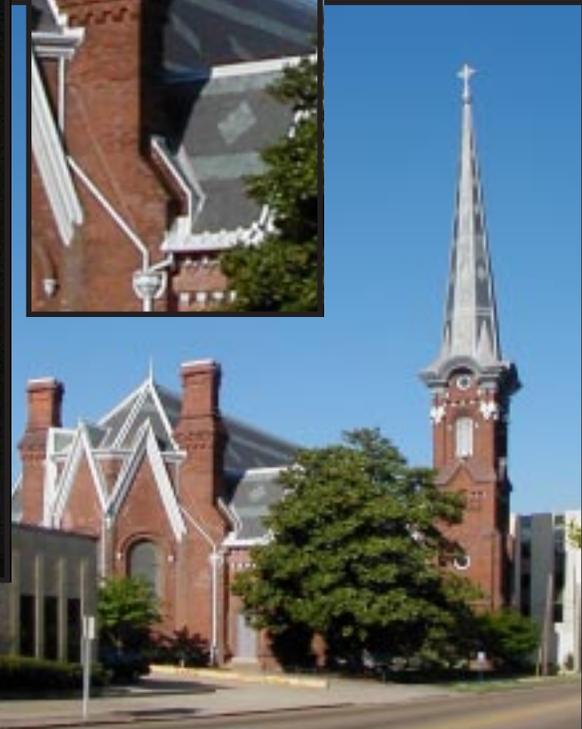
The sanctuary ceiling is yellow pine symmetrical to the Ark and God's presence.

Self guided tours of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church are available 9–11 am and 1–3 pm Monday through Friday (closed on holidays). Guided tours for groups of 10 or more may be arranged 48 hours in advance by calling 601/636-0542.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Vicksburg was founded in 1869. The church was built in the years following the Civil War with construction beginning in 1870 and ending in 1880. Considered the finest example of Romanesque Revival Style in Mississippi, the church was designed by Edward C. Jones of Charleston, South Carolina; the supervising architect was William A. Stanton of Vicksburg. Money to pay the workmen was raised on a weekly basis as the building went up, and was donated by people of all faiths. The first service was held on Easter Day, March 28, 1880. The church remains to this day an important part of Vicksburg's past and of its future.



The roof was reslated in 1997 with slate imported from Belgium, replacing the original Belgium slate that had lasted for 117 years.



Six of the church's twenty-two stained glass windows were designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany, three of which are shown above. Only five other Tiffany windows are known to be in Mississippi. The window's themes are (from left) Music, Christ's words in the Passover chamber "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," and Peace.

ceiling of select
symbolizes Noah's
promise (below).



The grave of Trinity Cat (left) can be found in the Thames Garden (below). Trinity Cat was very friendly, outgoing and made friends with anyone who entered the church.



The Rev. William Wilberforce Lord, Holy Trinity's first rector, is said to have climbed the steeple himself to place the 10-foot tall copper cross (right) in its place; he had served aboard a whaling ship earlier in his life. That cross now stands in the Thames Garden, having been replaced due to storm damage.



This marvelous structure is comprised of 1,265,870 bricks that were fired on the construction site. Holy Trinity's 170-foot tall tower (right) can be seen from many places in the town of Vicksburg.



Scenic & HISTORIC Mississippi #2

The Jackson Fire Department Celebrates 100 Years

by William Pitts

This year, the Jackson Fire Department celebrates its 100th anniversary. From a meager beginning, the JFD has grown into a tightly-knit, well-trained organization with 23 stations, 72 pieces of equipment, and close to 400 firefighters to make it all work.

But 100 years ago, during the first decade of the Twentieth Century, Jackson decided that it needed a career department, with members paid for their services as opposed to entirely volunteers. So in 1904, the City of Jackson purchased all of the equipment and buildings from the four "Bucket Brigade" companies for a sum of \$9,000. Monthly salaries were established for the men: \$100 for the fire chief, \$42.50 for the foreman, and \$40 for the firemen. On the recommendations of C.W. Joyner of the Atlanta Fire Department, a six day, 24 hour work week was set, with 24 hours of monthly leave and 14 days of annual leave. There was no sick leave.

A new Central Fire Station was built at the corner of President and Pearl Streets, next to City Hall, with three other station houses rounding out the new department. Jackson's first fire chief, J.C. Watters served until his death in 1907 from injuries suffered while fighting a fire at the Armour Packing Company building at the corner of Pearl And Gallatin Streets. It was during his time as chief that the department purchased two horse-drawn Nott Steamers.

In 1910, the department bought two gasoline-powered American LaFrance Pumps, the department's first motorized fire trucks. The horses were slowly on their way out, but other animals would soon move into the spotlight at the Central Fire Station. Firemen had rescued various animals from fires, and housed them in cages



A proud gathering of firemen with both horse-drawn and motorized equipment in front of the Central Fire Station that today houses Jackson's Chamber of Commerce.

between the fire station and City Hall. This assortment of foxes, squirrels, deer, raccoons, alligators, and other animals attracted so much attention that the idea of a municipal zoo started to form. The idea gained momentum, and in 1920, on land donated by Samuel Livingston, this idea became a reality.

Many changes have taken place since
continued on the back cover

Photo courtesy of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce

Paddlewheels and Calliopes

of an early-morning fog. Compared to all of the others, it is magnificent. But it aims at the very same kind of performance which made riverboats famous. Its paddle wheel will splash in the same waters. Its giant calliope and its steam whistle will echo along the same river banks and far

along the same great river valley. It sounds again the call to leisure travel, travel for the pleasure of travel itself. It seeks not the shortest distance between those points. It redefines the reason for going. Such is the savored life, to enjoy the moment rather than hurry the destination.

continued from page 3

The riverboat sounds again along our broad western front. Paddle wheels again splash in our historic waters. Calliopes pulsate again with the rhythm of our river. A national spectacle moves before us. A great nation can present no greater gift to its people—especially its river people.

Downtown Jackson Partners

geographic area produces the city's highest percentage of tax revenue.

However, in the mid-1990s, before the efforts of corporate leaders, elected officials and concerned citizens had banded together to create Mississippi Downtown Jackson Partners, crime and litter had started to frustrate downtown businesses in the 66-block district. The mission of DJP was to ensure that Downtown Jackson became "Clean, Safe, and Bustling."

DJP has installed over 80 planters throughout Downtown to create a pleasant environment. These, along with other streetscape projects, are maintained with seasonal flowers year round. DJP sweeps over 15 miles of curb and sidewalk each week. The group empties 108 trash receptacles and picks up 540 gallons of litter each week. The philosophy that a clean, cared for atmosphere for both the community and corporations Downtown expresses pride for the entire state, as Downtown Jackson belongs to all Mississippians.

DJP actively promotes 20 annual events, festivals, and parades, as well as creating

a number of marketing mechanisms like the *It's Downtown* weekly events calendar that is faxed directly to almost 1,000 offices for distribution among their employees. This, along with a weekly on-line publication—www.itsdowntown.com—that offers a look at light business news and the events in Downtown Jackson, informs the community as to what's happening in museums, nightclubs, and cultural destinations Downtown.

Through the efforts of a 24-hour security and ambassador force, incidents of crime in the district have dropped from 458 in 1996 to a prospect fewer than 60 today, making this one of the safest areas in the region.

Thanks to the commitment of area business and property owners, governments, and educational institutions, Downtown Jackson is becoming a priority for reinvestment. Through the leadership of Downtown Jackson Partners, Downtown Jackson is rapidly living up to the mission statement: Clean, Safe, and Bustling.

continued from page 3



City Centre: A new parking garage is being built for City Centre to accommodate new and expanding tenants.

Photo provided by Parkway Properties

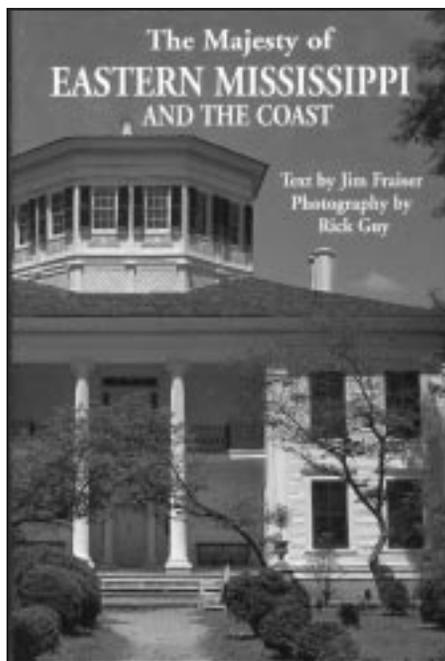
The Majesty of Eastern Mississippi and the Coast

Text by Jim Fraiser and photos by Rick Guy

review by Kathy R. Pitts

Jim Fraiser's *The Majesty of Eastern Mississippi and the Coast* takes the Southern enthusiast on a colorful photographic tour of old and affluent historic buildings in Mississippi—mostly houses—from the hills in the Northeast, through the Heartland, and then South along the Coast.

In this pictorial history of Mississippi, Fraiser informs the reader with a brief story and architectural description of each building, giving his reader an education in varying styles of architecture as well as a chronicle of historic Mississippi. Jim Fraiser supplements his text with a helpful "Layperson's Guide to Mississippi Architectural Styles and Terms," for those of us who need guidance in studying building genres. Some of these structures were grand homes, some were utilitarian—like light-houses and forts—and some played a role in the Civil War. Fraiser dedicates a page to the Eudora Welty house in Jackson, where the author did most of her writing.



Though many of the structures reflect a preservation of past modes, like the revival styles, others speak boldly and artistically to immediate needs—like the Castle and the Spanish Customs House on the Coast—where damage and repairs following hurricanes inspired a sort of unique survival architecture along the beachfront.

The Majesty of Eastern Mississippi and the Coast puts a face on our historic Mississippi by appealing to the dreams, personalities, and adversities of those Mississippians who built and occupied these stately structures. Wood-and-stone still-lives come forward as compelling portraits of a people and a place. Like Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* where the poet shows the soul of a Mid-Western community through the epitaphs of its individual citizens, Jim Fraiser's *The Majesty of Eastern Mississippi and the Coast* reveals the lives and character of Mississippians through their architecture.

Focus on Healing

Lymphedema, or [those] who suffer from chronic fatigue." This dance-based exercise enhances physical flexibility and range of motion while promoting a general sense of emotional well-being. The Lebed Method is relaxing and fun. Classes seem more like a pleasant social occasion, a grown-ups "play day" rather than a grim therapy session.

Cancer survivors reclaim their vitality in this class through "increased range of motion, reduction or deterrence of lymphedema, increased energy, released frozen shoulder, reduced depression, assistance in structural rebalancing, promotion of positive self-image, and re-

continued from page 5

establishment of a sense of beauty and sexuality." Participants in *Focus on Healing* know that they are actively assisting their recoveries. It's hard to believe you're a patient when you're dancing!

Allison Heindl, a registered nurse and dance instructor, is trained and certified in the Lebed Method and instructs *Focus on Healing* classes at Mississippi Ballet Theatre in Clinton, Mississippi. Allison Heindl can be contacted at ahendl@aol.com or 601/842-2035.

The Lebed Method is not a substitute for medical care. Seek the advice of your physician before embarking on any treatment program.

The Buena Vista Hotel

Camille blasted through the windows of the grand old hotel, where WLOX broadcasters valiantly stayed on the air until water rose above their equipment. The aftermath of the storm revealed a ruined lobby and grounds littered with snapped trees and debris from all along the beach.

James Love sold the property in 1971. Through a series of owners, it gradually sagged and deteriorated. Within ten years, the lack of business was evident in the peeling plaster, stained carpets, and littered hallways. The beach motel unit became the primary wing, and only when it was full were guests routed across to the main

continued from page 6

building. The doors were locked altogether during fall and early winter as an energy-saving measure. Plans to route a loop of I-110 right past the hotel kept developers away, despite suggestions of use as a senior citizens' center, children's hospital, or condominiums.

An arsonist destroyed any hope of reviving the shell of the Buena Vista in 1991. Most of the west and central wings were consumed, and the empty hulk was vandalized and stripped of all salvageable materials. In 1993, what remained of the Buena Vista was demolished for a parking lot.

The advertisement is for the Mississippi Petrified Forest. It features a background image of a petrified tree trunk. The text is arranged in a list format with star symbols. At the bottom, there is a cartoon illustration of a person riding a horse. The text includes:

MISSISSIPPI
PETRIFIED FOREST

- ★ Natural Trail
- ★ Earth Science Museum
- ★ Black Light Fantasy
- ★ Picnic Areas
- ★ Rock Patio
- ★ Gift Shop
- ★ Full hook-up Campgrounds

OPEN EVERYDAY

JUST MINUTES FROM JACKSON
ON US HIGHWAY 49 AT HIGHWAY 22,
FLORA, MS (601) 879-8189
A REGISTERED NATURAL NATIONAL LANDMARK

A Child's World

Jackson's Fire Museum

Preserving Lives and History

information provided by the Jackson Fire Department

Jackson's Public Fire Safety Education Center and Fire Museum, at 355 Woodrow Wilson, became a reality in 1993 when citizens passed a \$468,000 bond issue to renovate the Goodyear Building. As a result, Station 10 was housed, a Fire Museum established, and the Public Fire Safety Education Division relocated to form a complex addressing all aspects of the past and present of the Jackson Fire Department.

The City of Jackson Fire Museum and Public Fire Safety Education Center consists of artifacts including historic records, a 1870 parade uniform, communication equipment, pictures, helmets, fire apparatus such as a 1904 horse-drawn steamer, a 1917 chain-driven American LaFrance, a 1936 Seagrave, and much more.

To complement these significant historical properties will be a Public Fire Safety Education Center which will give the public—from preschool to

adults—valuable training and information on fire prevention. The Fire Museum Complex offers educational displays and materials that are full of valuable information on how to prevent and protect lives and property from fire loss and damage.

The Fire Museum Complex is tailored for children as well as adults. Sherry Gibson explains, "Different age groups get different presentations; the older they are, the more graphics. The younger ones get puppets." An average of 8,000 children come through the museum in a year, including classes from area schools.

Sherry Gibson, the curator, teaches groups who visit the Fire Museum basic fire safety advice before taking them on a guided tour.

continued on page 14



Curator Sherry Gibson keeps the children's attention with puppets, magic, and jokes while teaching them valuable fire safety rules.



Lt. Leonard Ellis tells the children about life at the station (right) as Fireman Kevin Reed shows them the gear used in fighting fires.

Sherry (below) talks to the children in the museum about the horse-drawn steamer.



Photos by William Pitts

OUTDOOR TREASURES

Leroy Percy State Park

Mixing the Wild with the Wilder

compiled from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks' web site

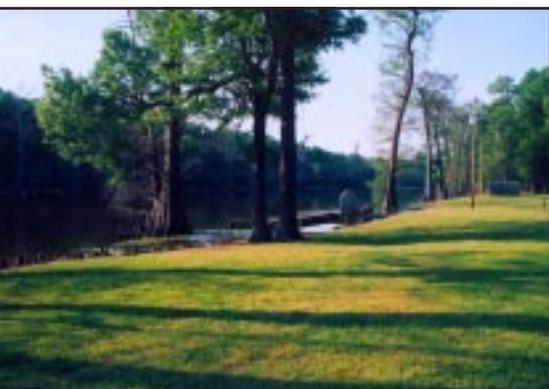
The oldest of Mississippi's state parks, Leroy Percy, is characterized by artesian springs, cypress trees, and ancient oaks dripping with Spanish moss. Leroy Percy State Park, named after Senator LeRoy Percy (1860–1929), is the only state park featuring a wildlife preserve. Leroy Percy is also known for its alligator population—visitors can safely observe the scaly reptiles from two observation towers over their hot artesian water home. This 88° water is fed from a depth of 1,696 feet by a well drilled in 1954.

Located five miles west of Hollandale off Mississippi 12 in southern Washington County, the park features a visitor's center with fast-food service and a Sunday noon buffet. This Sunday buffet is served year-round and groups of 25 or more may reserve the restaurant for dinner. For specific information on facilities, seating capacity, and costs, contact the park office. The park's snack bar operates year-round, for breakfast and lunch. Other park facilities include developed camping sites, tent camping sites,

a group camp dormitory, several vacation cabins, a picnic area and pavilion, nature trails, and a wildlife interpretive area.

The 16 sites available for RV camping are equipped with water and electrical hook-ups. A central sewage dumping station and a bathhouse featuring hot showers and laundry facilities are located near the developed camping area. A limited number of developed campsites are set aside for advance reservations. The remainder are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. A wooded area near the developed campground features sites suitable for tent camping. Picnic tables and a bathhouse with showers are located near the tent camping area.

continued on page 14



The late afternoon sun casts shadows from the cypress trees along the shore of Alligator Lake.



Photos by James Westbrook

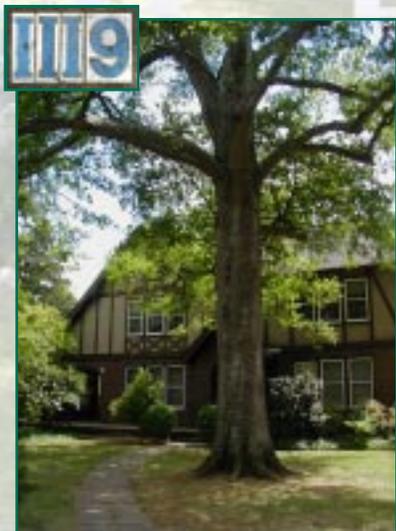
The Garden Gate

The Eudora Welty House Garden: “A Magic Tree with Golden Fruit” phrase from “June Recital”

information drawn from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History’s web site

The Eudora Welty House Garden stretches over a lot of about three-quarters of an acre in the historic Jackson neighborhood of Belhaven, where Welty and her family were early residents. Eudora’s mother, Chestina Welty, designed the garden in 1925, when the house was being constructed. Eudora Welty helped her mother lay out and plant the garden before leaving that same year for college. At the death of her father in 1931, Welty returned home, and she and her mother collaborated on the garden until her mother’s death in 1966. Although Eudora Welty herself cared for the garden well into her old age, she always referred to it as “Mother’s garden.”

The garden is being restored to the period of 1925-45, the time it best manifested the early vision of the two women shared for it. The accuracy of the restoration project has been made possible in large part by the extensive documentation of the garden by Welty and her mother. Chestina Welty kept garden diaries noting the layout of beds and bloom schedules, while



Chestina Welty believed that an oak should never be cut; the sapling that she saved during the construction of the house is this magnificent water oak.

Eudora took photographs of the garden from the roof of the family’s house.

The garden of Chestina and Eudora Welty was typical of the regional style. Southern gardens of that era differed markedly from those of today. The Welty’s created their garden almost exclusively with plants available locally. After World War II, improved transportation systems allowed for the shipping of mass-produced flowers throughout the U.S. With the de-

velopment of new chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides, along with techniques of plant hybridization, the choice of plants that could be grown in the area expanded greatly.

The garden comprises distinct smaller areas, including the front yard, the camellia garden, the upper garden, the lower garden, and the woodland garden.

The Eudora Welty House Garden contains more than forty camellia shrubs, some grafted by Eudora herself and others purchased from nurseries in Mississippi and around Mobile, Alabama. Camellia expert Bobby Green of Fairhope, Alabama, and associates of the American Camellia Society have worked closely with Susan Holtam, the garden restoration consultant overseeing the project for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, in identifying the more than thirty varieties of Camellia japonicas in the garden.

Greg Grant and Bill Welch, scholars, authors, lecturers, and garden historians, helped identify and provide appropriate perennials for the upper garden. Although the original daylilies remain, most of the perennials grown by the Weltys in the 1930s have disappeared. The Historic Iris Preservation Society contributed almost fifty varieties of tall bearded irises for the perennial border. The upper garden is also filled with bulbs—jonquils, ornithogalum, ipheion, oxalis, surprise lilies, rain lilies, milk-and-wine lilies, spider lilies, oxblood lilies, and Eudora Welty’s favorite, Hyacinthus-French Roman hyacinths. Scott Kunst, the only retail historic bulb specialist in the country, and Celia Jones, Louisiana bulb expert, provided many hard-to-find varieties for the restoration project.

A fifty-foot-wide trellis separates the upper and lower gardens. The lower garden contains the rose beds and cold frame as well



The garden as seen from the rooftop in a photograph taken by Eudora Welty. Courtesy of MDAH

as the cut-flower garden behind the garage. Stretching from the edge of the lower garden to the back of the property is the woodland garden, with mature pines and hardwoods towering over still more camellias, spider lilies, and oxblood lilies. The



The original wooden trellis and arbors were replaced with new ones made from structural steel.

back border of the Welty garden is a thick canebrake planted by Chestina Welty.

The Eudora Welty House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The two-story Tudor Revival-style residence was built in 1924-25. In 1986, Welty made the decision that the state should have her house at her death, and the Department of Archives and History is presently working, with the financial support of the Eudora Welty Foundation, to establish the property as a literary house museum to interpret Welty’s life and work to visitors.

The Eudora Welty House Garden is now open for tours every Wednesday from 10 am to 2 pm. The tours are free of charge, and scheduled by reservation only.



Color awaits the visitor at every turn in “Mother’s Garden.”

Photos by William Pitts

Alligators in the Reservoir?

"hiss" to alert approaching predators or people of her presence. If anyone encounters this type of behavior, it is certainly recommended to avoid that area, as nesting females will defend their nest site.

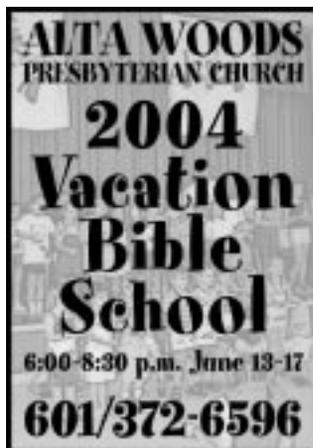
NSV: Is it true that alligators dig burrows in which to hibernate?

RF: Alligators never truly hibernate in Mississippi. However, they do go into a deep "dormancy" during the winter. Alligators will rarely eat during this time, but will come out of their dens to bask in the sunlight during periods of warmer winter days. The den of a wintering alligator is usually a submerged hole in the bank of a creek or slough. Alligators may dig out a hole in the overhanging bank of a creek or river as far as 20 feet, and then hollow out a chamber in the end with a ceiling high enough above the water level to permit breathing.

NSV: Do alligators vocalize?

RF: Alligators do become vocal during the breeding season (mid-spring to mid-summer). Males will "bellow," a low, guttural sound made by sucking air into the lungs and then blowing it out, in an effort to attract available females and ward off other nearby males. Again, the nesting female will hiss to warn intruders away from her nest.

The Florida Museum of Natural History's web site has a collection of QuickTime recordings of alligator vocalizations, ranging from distress calls to the mating bellow (which sounds like a very bad case of indigestion). Access this page from the



Enchanted Learning site (www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/reptiles/alligator/Alligator.shtml) by clicking on the link for **Calls and Vocalizations** under the heading **Alligator Behavior**.

This web site also offers the following interesting information about alligators:

- Alligators don't feed during the cooler months. Studies in captivity have shown that alligators generally begin to lose their appetite below 80°F (27°C), and stop feeding altogether below 73°F (23°C). They can easily last the winter on their energy reserves.

- Adult alligators can survive freezing conditions if they are in water. They submerge their body but keep their nostrils projecting above the water surface, so that when the surface freezes they can still

breathe (called the "icing response"). Their upper bodies becomes trapped in the ice. However, occasionally alligators may be trapped completely below ice, and have been known to survive for over eight hours without taking a breath, because the freezing water slows their metabolic rates down to very low levels. Yet another example of their amazing ability to survive.

One final note: Alligators can be encouraged to remain in areas close to human activity if they discover a ready source of food. When fishing, or camping near water, please dispose of your fish scraps and other refuse in the garbage cans found at most boat ramps and camping areas. If cans aren't available, take the garbage with you when you leave.

Jackson's Fire Museum

After receiving a fire safety presentation consisting of Stop, Drop, and Roll, crawling under real smoke, and the 911 simulator, the participants tour the museum to view artifacts and hear the story of the department from 1839 to the

present. The final venture is to proceed to the active fire station to visit and experience firefighters at work.

Birthday parties are scheduled for every weekend. Gibson recommends that you reserve your time as early as possible,

Leroy Percy State Park

Group camping for up to 50 is available in an air-conditioned dormitory with meals served cafeteria-style in the park lodge. Campers must furnish their own linens and reservations are required. Five secluded cabins near Alligator Lake provide a comfortable retreat for vacationers. Each cabin is air-conditioned and heated, equipped with bed and bath linens, basic kitchen equipment, and features a stone fireplace. Again, reservations are strongly recommended.

The park's 30 picnic sites offer tables, grills, and views of Alligator Lake. One

large picnic pavilion can be rented (reservations are required), providing the ideal spot for family reunions, company picnics, or church or school outings. Electricity is provided for a small fee. A well-appointed playground, a volleyball area, and a disc golf course round out the family-oriented facilities. There is no fee to use the disc golf course, and discs can be rented or purchased at the park office.

Leroy Percy features three diverse nature trails, each winding through a different area of the park. The Black Bayou Trail goes through the bayou area of the park

Webventuring[@]

by William Pitts

Hey, Summer's here! Let's go cyber-travelin'. We'll start off close to home and then range further afield. Explore these sites fully as there's a lot to see on each one. And don't forget, send us a postcard!

All addresses current as of press time.

www.deltaqueen.com/

I enjoy looking through travel magazines and cruise catalogs. This site will introduce you to Mississippi River cruising steamboat-style with information about the Delta Queen, the Mississippi Queen, and the American Queen, plus some beautiful travel photography.

www.metmuseum.org/explore/Tiffany/index.html

As we touch on the stained glass talents of Louis Comfort Tiffany in our Interiors & Exteriors section this issue, I wish to direct you to the web site of the Metropolitan Museum of Art where you can learn more about this multi-disciplined artist and see examples of his work.

www.membres.lycos.fr/greenexplorers/photoalbum4.html

At this site, three explorers in Belgium will take you fascinating tour of the last working underground slate mine in their country (remember the slate roof on Holy Trinity?). Afterwards, check out the rest of their explorations. These are the sort of treks I'd like to go on!

contact us:

info@newsouthernview.com

What is YOUR favorite Web site?

continued from page 12

"The first weekend of 2005 has already been taken."

To schedule tours, contact Sherry Gibson, Museum Curator at 601/960-2433 or Fax 601/960-2432.

continued from page 12

and offers views of moss-laden oaks and the oxbow bends of the bayou. The Alligator Lake Trail winds around the lake and passes through the natural habitat of wildlife of a delta hardwood forest. The Boardwalk Trail, a shorter self-guided trail, winds through shaded avenues of elm and oak, affording excellent bird watching opportunities.

The Park office (662/827-5436) is open from 8:00 am-5:00 pm daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. A day use entry fee is charged on a per vehicle basis.

our community calendar

All information current as of press time.

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

EXHIBITS

Paris Moderne

through Sunday, July 11

Jackson will serve as the only venue in the United States for a spectacular exhibit, "Paris Moderne: Art Deco Works from the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris," showcasing art deco works from the 1920s and 1930s celebrating the rich, decorative style of Parisian home and office interiors. Admission. MS Museum of Art. 601/960-1515 or www.msmuseumart.org

To Be An Astronaut

through Sunday, August 1

Follow the exciting story of astronaut training from the emotional first phone call from NASA, through the rigors of training, to the vast expanses of space, the film is shot entirely on location and stars the men and women of the astronaut corps. Join them as they share the wonder and the deep personal reflections of what it means *To Be An Astronaut*. Admission. Davis Planetarium. 601/960-1550 or www.city.jackson.ms.us/CityHall/planetarium.htm

Manships Abroad

through Saturday, August 28

This special exhibit focuses on cross-Atlantic travel of the late-nineteenth century. The house will appear as if the Manships have just returned from their trip to Europe in 1874. Free. Reservations for groups of ten or more. Manship House Museum. 601/961-4724

The Glory of Baroque Dresden

through Monday, September 6

Consisting of more than 300 major artworks from eight collections of the State Art Collections Dresden, focusing on Baroque art in Europe from 1697 to 1763, this exhibit will showcase a unique variety of German objects not seen in the U.S. since the reunification of Germany. Admission. Mississippi Arts Pavilion. 601/960-9900 or www.gloryofdresden.com

The Robot Zoo

through Sunday, September 12

Come see Mother Nature at work—as robots. These larger-than-life robots will show you how real animals work. Get the insight on how a chameleon changes colors and many others. Admission. Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. 601/354-7303 or <http://www.mdwfp.com/museum>

Summer Dress

through Saturday, September 18

The Manship House Museum exhibits the Victorian practice of preparing the home for the heat, insects, and dirt of the summer months. Free. Reservations for groups of ten or more. Manship House Museum. 601/961-4724

Great Flood of 1927, Jackson Flood of 1979

through Sunday, October 31

Two Rivers Unleashed will tell the stories of the 1927 Mississippi River flood and the 1979 Jackson flood, two of the most devastating floods to hit Mississippi. There will be photographs, maps, and video footage to show the 1979 Jackson flood's toll on the capital city. Free. Old Capitol Museum. 601/576-6920 or www.mdah.state.ms.us/museum/new.html

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

JUNE • JUNE • JUNE • JUNE • JUNE

Jackson/Hinds Library System's

Summer Reading Program

Tuesday, June 1–Friday, July 9

The 2004 Summer Reading Program theme is *Step to the Beat...Read!* Registration begins June 1 and the program will run through July 9th. We hope to promote reading while

exposing children to music, dance, storytelling, and other art forms. Friends of the Library and local businesses support the program to encourage the best in our kids. Parents may contact their neighborhood branch for program dates.

Elvis Presley Festival

Friday, June 4–Sunday, June 6

A hometown tribute to the King of Rock 'n' Roll featuring live music to suit a wide range of tastes, regional food, plus an Elvis Look Alike Pet Parade, and the World Famous Recliner Race. Admission. Tupelo. 888/273-7798 or www.tupeloelvisfestival.com

Heatwave Classic Triathlon

Saturday, June 5

The 19th Heatwave Classic Triathlon: a 1/2 mile swim in the Ross Barnett Reservoir, a 24–1/2 mile bike ride along the scenic and historic Natchez Trace Parkway, and a 10K run along Ridgeland's heavily shaded Multi-Use Trail. Free. 601/853-2011 or neal.mccoy@ridgelandms.org

New Stage Theatre—*Ain't Misbehavin'*

Tuesday, June 8–Sunday, June 20

This popular, well-crafted revue evokes the delightful humor and infectious energy of the inimitable Thomas "Fats" Waller, a true American original, who rose to international fame during the Golden Age of the Cotton Club, honky tonk dives along Lenox Avenue, rent parties, stride piano players, and that jumpin' new beat, Swing. Admission. New Stage Theatre. 601/948-3531 or www.newstagetheatre.com

Summer Workshops for Children

Saturday, June 12

Learn about life in the nineteenth century through crafts and hands-on activities. Ages five through twelve. Reservations required. Free. Manship House Museum. 601/961-4724

Jubilee! JAM—Downtown Jackson

Friday, June 18 & Saturday, June 19

Large downtown music festival encompassing many styles on multiple stages. Food, crafts and children's activities. Admission. 601/960-2008 or www.jubileejam.com

Tomato Festival in Crystal Springs

Friday, June 25 & Saturday, June 26

Enjoy a full day of flea market, farmers' market, kiddie parade, and all day entertainment. Great family fun. Free. Downtown Crystal Springs. 601/892-2711

Reptile Rendezvous at the Zoo

Saturday, June 26 & Sunday, June 27

Visitors get an up close and personal look at snakes, lizards, and other interesting reptiles. Saturday 11am–5pm & Sunday 1pm–5pm. Admission. Jackson Zoological Park. 601/352-2581 or www.jacksonzoo.com

JULY • JULY • JULY • JULY • JULY • JULY

Madison County Championship Hot Air Balloon Race

Thursday, July 1–Sunday, July 4

Four-day event featuring balloon glows, competition races, food, craft, vendors, music, and spectacular fireworks display. Free. Canton Multi-Purpose Complex. 601/859-4358 or info@cantonmcmc.com

15th Annual 4th of July Fireworks Extravaganza

Saturday, July 3

Balloons, games, space walk, and an assortment of food plus live entertainment with a special guest band. The evening will end with a brilliant display of fireworks. Free. Traceway Park. 601/924-5912 or www.clintonchamber.org

Old-Fashioned 4th of July Celebration

Sunday, July 4

This family event includes pony rides, train rides, carousel

rides, lots of games and prizes, free watermelon, musical entertainment, and other fun activities for children. Admission. Mississippi Ag Museum. 601/713-3365 or www.mdac.state.ms.us

Ridgeland's Celebrate America Balloon Glow

Sunday, July 4

Up...up...and away! Great fun and excitement surround this amazing display of hot air balloons. Celebrate the birth of the world's greatest nation...with us. Free. Northpark Mall. 601/853-2011 or www.ridgelandms.org

Garfield & the Big Cats

Saturday, July 10 & Sunday, July 11

Come learn all about our big cats! Garfield will join the Zoo festivities for a meet and greet. This educational and entertaining weekend will provide numerous cat facts and photo opportunities for the entire family. Saturday 11am–5pm & Sunday 1pm–5pm. Admission. Jackson Zoological Park. 601/352-2581 or www.jacksonzoo.com

Mississippi 4-H Horse Championship

Tuesday, July 13–Saturday, July 17

State 4-H Horse Show and Contests. Expo Center at the State Fairgrounds. 662/325-3515

Choctaw Indian Fair

Wednesday, July 14–Saturday, July 17

This one-of-a-kind fair comes complete with celebrity entertainers, traditional Indian dancing, World Series Stickball, blowgun, bow and arrow, and drum-beating contests. Admission. Pearl River Community, Choctaw Reservation, Hwy. 16 West. 601/650-1537 or www.choctawindianfair.com

Summer Workshops for Children

Monday, July 19

Learn about life in the nineteenth century through crafts and hands-on activities. Ages five through twelve. Reservations required. Free. Manship House Museum. 601/961-4724

Neshoba County Fair/Philadelphia

Friday, July 23–Friday, July 30

"Mississippi's Giant House Party" offers political speeches, livestock exhibits, flea market/crafts show, rides, live entertainment, food, and harness racing. Admission. Philadelphia. 601/656-8480 or www.neshobacountyfair.org/

The Tougaloo Art Colony

Friday, July 23–Friday, July 30

Retreat for nationally acclaimed artists, emerging artists, art educators, art students, and interested adult learners to engage in dialog and to create works that help extend the multicultural dimensions of America's visual culture. A week of intensive study with daily studio workshops and shared evening sessions. Admission. Tougaloo College. 601/977-7839 or www.tougaloo.edu/artcolony

Ice Cream Safari at the Zoo

Saturday, July 24

Enjoy some great ice cream and vote on your local media celebrity scoopers while you visit the animals from 11 am until 2 pm. Admission. Jackson Zoological Park. 601/352-2581 or www.jacksonzoo.com

AUGUST • AUGUST • AUGUST • AUGUST

Back-to-School Celebration at the Zoo

Saturday, August 28 & Sunday, August 29

SpongeBob returns with his sidekick, Patrick (their last visit brought in over 8,000 visitors). Guests will have the opportunity to join in a meet-and-greet while having their pictures taken. Admission. Jackson Zoological Park. 601/352-2581 or www.jacksonzoo.com

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



The Robot Zoo

Taking over the museum
May 22 to September 12, 2004.

MISSISSIPPI
Museum of
Natural
Science

Located within
LeFleur's Bluff
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ad•tracks on-line

The New
SOUTHERN VIEW

MISSISSIPPI RIVER 1927 FLOOD

PEARL RIVER 1979 FLOOD

TWO RIVERS UNLEASHED

April 12–October 31, 2004

OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM OF MISSISSIPPI HISTORY

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Jackson, Mississippi

JFD turns 100

the department's inception, both within and without. The remaining horse-drawn equipment was retired in favor of motorized fire engines around 1918. The practice of numbering new fire stations to the west of the Illinois Central railroad tracks with even numbers and those to the east with odd was started in the 1920s. During this decade, the Mississippi Firemen's Association and the Mississippi State Firemen's Relief and Benefit Fund were both begun. Firefighters' work period changed to 24-hour-on and 24-hour-off shifts in the '30s. As the city's population and size grew during this time, so did the ranks of the department. Monthly fire inspections were begun to ensure the safety of buildings.



Technology improves, form follows function—fire engines over the years.

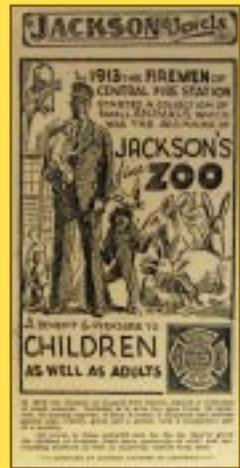
In 1946, a state fire college was proposed and today, the Mississippi Fire Academy is nationally recognized as among the best. Nine fire stations were serving the city in 1955, and five years later in 1960, a new Training Center, a Fire Prevention Bureau, a Rescue Unit, and a full time fire alarm maintenance program were all started. The department had 158 men in 1960; this number would grow to over 300 during

joined in 1977. In 1978, the JFD took over the emergency ambulance service when private firms were unable to satisfy the requirements of the city government.

Adjusting to meet the changing times, the department developed a Hazardous Waste Division in 1980. The dispersal of 1500 free smoke detectors to low income, single-residence dwellers occurred in 1986 as well as the raising of funds to benefit Zoo improvements. As the end of the 20th Century approached, the department continued to change and im-

continued from page 10

prove to face the new century. The 1970s saw momentous changes for the JFD. The first black fireman, Joseph Graham, joined the department in 1972; he would eventually work his way up through the ranks to become Assistant Fire Chief in 1991. The "dream station," the new Central Fire Station, opened in 1974 at the corner of South and West Streets. Lue Katherine Mallett, the first female firefighter



Over its first 100 years, the Jackson Fire Department has been guided by twelve fire chiefs and seen eleven firefighters lose their lives while on duty. Please join the JFD on Saturday, July 17 at Jamie Fowler Boyll Park (next to the Smith Wills Stadium) on Lakeland Drive in recognition of the past century of service and the beginning of the next 100 years. This will truly be an occasion for all the citizens of Jackson to join in and pay honor to the city's heroes called firefighters.

Photos by William Pitts