

Tatler

NEWSLETTER for alumni of Woodlawn High School, Birmingham, Alabama

Download from www.WoodlawnHigh.org



1 April 2012

The New Tatler Continues

under its new Editor

George Nelson WHS '55 .



IN THIS ISSUE:

Miriam Rogers Fowler '57 Biography	1
Who Is This ?	4
WHS Concert Choir Motown Performance	4
WHS Mural Restored	4
Obituaries	5
Potpourri	5
Reunions & Happenings	6
WHS Meet-Up Groups	7
B'ham Coming Events <i>Larry & the Loafers</i>	8
East Lake Park	8
How to Contribute to Tatler Content	8

NEXT ISSUE:

David P. Donahoo '39
Biography of a Hero

Ulna Miriam Rogers Fowler

WHS '57

Educator, artist, historian,
author, preserver of our
Alabama cultural heritage

Miriam was born in Birmingham on 28 August 1939, daughter of Ulna Colvett and Aaron Brown Rogers Sr. She lived her first eight years on Southside where her father owned grocery stores. Her house was just down the hill below Vulcan, and one night she dreamed Vulcan fell over and rolled down the mountain onto her house. She could not have imagined that years later in 2002 she would play a major role in Vulcan's restoration when the old statue was truly threatening to fall apart. She published a life history of Vulcan's creator Giuseppe



Miriam Rogers Fowler

Director, Alabama State Gallery, Montgomery, 1990

Moretti and a catalog of his accomplishments. Working at the Birmingham Museum of Art, she brought Moretti sculpture from all over the USA to Birmingham for the Vulcan restoration exhibition, which also included Vulcan's restored head and arm.

In the late 1940s her family moved to East Lake where she attended Barrett School. They moved later to Georgia Road in Woodlawn just before she entered Woodlawn High School in 1953.

An exceptionally brilliant student, Miriam finished Woodlawn High School in just two years and ten months, graduating in July 1956.

Her favorite pastime was skating at the old Busby



School Days
1948-1949

continued on page 2

Miriam Rogers Fowler '57 - continued from page 1

ice rink in Irondale.

After graduation from WHS Miriam worked six years as a commercial artist with Yellow Pages, traveling extensively and living in various Alabama towns creating ads for the sales force. While working in Montgomery, she was one day invited by an elderly neighbor lady to visit in that lady's old run-down house which Miriam was surprised to learn had been the home of one of Alabama's very early governors. That ancient dilapidated home still held original furnishings, rotted curtains and personal effects, including the Governor's wedding gift to his wife. This was just the start of many future personal and professional adventures she would enjoy in a lifetime traveling all over Alabama, learning and teaching so many aspects of Alabama's rich history.

In 1960 she married Dave Fowler, a fellow Yellow Page artist, and had three beautiful children over the next six years.

In 1970 Miriam started back to school, first at Montevallo then at University of Alabama Birmingham, earning her BA degree in Art History and her Masters in Public History (archeology, Indian culture, Alabama history, writing & research, oral histories, etc.). She won the prestigious *David Hart White Award* as the Outstanding Graduate Student at UAB.

In 1979 Miriam was elected President of the *Shelby County Historical Society* and became the director and driving force in fund-raising and restoration of the beautiful old 1854 Jeffersonian-style Shelby County Courthouse which then became the new *Shelby County Museum and Archives* in Columbiana, today a show-place of history and pride for county residents.

Miriam spent a year illustrating Birmingham's old antebellum *Arlington* house and its furnishings for visitor guides and historical pamphlets.

Then in 1984 Miriam was awarded a one year internship at the *Birmingham Museum of Art* where she developed a traveling trunk for schools to teach folk art to students. She shortly became the Museum's Studio Coordinator, in which role she hired teachers,



Miriam Rogers Fowler

President, Shelby County Historical Society - 1980
by R. Monette - oil on canvas
Shelby County Museum, Columbiana, Alabama

arranged workshops and directed the *Southeastern Museum Conference* for Birmingham, where she had as keynote speaker her good friend, the late and famed Alabama ghost-story teller, Katherine Tucker Windham. Miriam visited museums and conferences around the country to learn better museum operations and management.

The nationally prestigious Reynolds Foundation Scholarship was awarded to Miriam in 1986 to study American art, history, literature and music at Wake Forest University and Winston Salem's renowned Reynolda Museum of American Art, one of her life's greatest learning experiences.

From 1988 to 1993 Miriam was the State of Alabama's *Gallery Director* in Montgomery, in charge of promoting visual arts. She organized 55 special exhibitions on Alabama artists and also chose Alabama art works for the rotunda of the new Gordon Persons state office building. She drove the *ALABAMA THE BEAUTIFUL* truck around the state to promote art appreciation and acquire Alabama art. She developed the extensive exhibitions "*Outsider Artists of Alabama*" and "*New South, New Deal and Beyond*" which presented social realism art during the 1920s and 30s. These exhibitions were great state successes. Miriam

Miriam Rogers Fowler '57 continued from page 2

won the *Governor's Award* for her exhibition and cataloging of art works of Alabama artists Claire Weaver Parrish and Anne Goldthwaite.

During 1993-96 Miriam was Director of the *Madison Morgan Cultural Center*, in Madison, Georgia, where she managed the art gallery and arranged performing arts, stage plays, receptions, and museum presentations. In this role she worked closely with white and black residents and artists in development of the cultural center and art appreciation by all citizens.

All of America witnessed Miriam's distinguished international honor, the *Cultural Olympiad Award*, presented her by the 1996 Atlanta Olympics Commission for her winning exhibition "*Singing Quilts*", presenting elderly and young people working and singing together while quilting with regional music as their theme.

Returning to Birmingham in 1996 Miriam accepted the esteemed position *Curator of Education* at the Birmingham Museum of Art. She facilitated cooperation of the museum with public schools and conducted special art programs of educational worth to young Alabama students. She organized an interactive children's gallery in the Museum's Hess Gallery and a traveling version of "*Artists in the Studio*" program. She re-created a Renaissance studio, modern art studio, computer art studio, and a painting studio, along with sculpture exhibits.

Also of national acclaim was Miriam's exhibit at the Birmingham Museum of Art titled "*A Town of the Creek Nation – 1790*" displaying authentic replicas of a Creek village, lodgings, weapons, clothing, recreation, cooking, council house, singing and other depictions of Creek Indian culture in the 18th Century. This exhibit was maintained five years at the museum. She enlisted participation of many historians, Creek Indian artists and other experts in Alabama Indian history.

Yet another outstanding achievement in Birmingham was her *Memories of Survival*, a Holocaust Exhibition for which she visited Jerusalem and other cities of the Holy Land with Christian and Jewish leaders from Birmingham.

Miriam also authored numerous special articles for the online resource *Encyclopedia of Alabama*.



Miriam and her close friend of many years, the nationally distinguished Creek Indian artist, historian, singer and linguist, Jay McGirt, at Horseshoe Bend National Battlefield commemoration 2010.

For these and many other achievements Miriam Rogers Fowler was designated by BhamWiki.com, the city's cultural and historical online encyclopedia, as one of the all time *Notable Persons of Birmingham*.

Miriam retired in 2006, an accomplished scholar, distinguished professional, dedicated educator, historian, artist, loving mother and wife, and close friend of so many people of all races and walks of life.

Among her ancestors were French Huguenot refugees to America in the 1600s along with hardy Scots-Irish and English immigrants. Miriam is a great-great granddaughter of Sarah Cassandra Boone, sister of Daniel Boone.

She now devotes her time to her family, her loving Border Collie companion *Emmy Lou* and her very extensive library.



~ Prepared by her family and colleagues

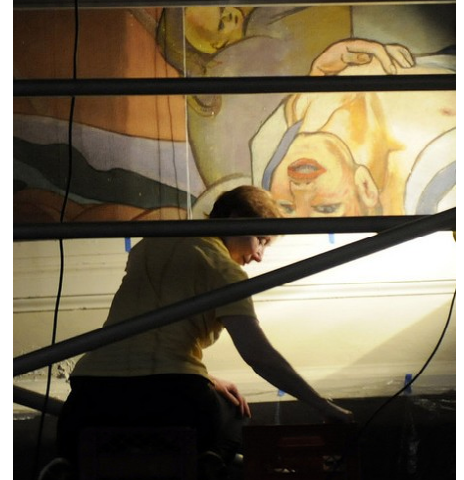
WHS Mural Restored

Over seventy years of grime, damage and deterioration have been gently erased from this 900 sq. ft mural by art conservation specialists of the John Bertalan team, hired back in 2008 through initiatives headed by Mt. Brook Mayor Terry Oden (WHS '55) and other WHS volunteer alumni.

This giant painting, largest in the South, was a New Deal WPA project executed 1935-1938 by Sydney Van Sheck, designer, and artist Richard B. Coe who painted it. Scenes are allegorical with education as the main theme. showing people breaking chains that bind them and a mechanical gear depicting liberation from servitude. A boy and a girl are shown facing the future.

Damage was so extensive that it required specialized chemicals, careful techniques, heat fusion, reconstructive artwork, protective coatings and also detailed research into photos of original art and colors when it was created.

Mayor Terry Oden worked wonders in raising the required \$ 281,000 for the project, contributed by neighborhood associations, businesses, civic groups, foundations, alumni and private individuals. The roof leaked onto part of the re-



Dolores Bertalan, one of the skilled artists cleaning the mural.

stored mural, but Birmingham Board of Education has contributed \$97,000 to repair that, after which the mural restoration will soon be completed.

WHS Principal Shirley Graham recently said that WHS students are very proud the alumni have restored this great art work.

~ from Birmingham News articles by Anne Ruisi and interviews with Mayor Terry Oden '55

Woodlawn Concert Choir Presents Motown Sounds

On Friday night, March 9th, 2012, the WHS Concert Choir presented a free performance featuring songs made famous by Motown artists such as the Supremes, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Tammy Terrell and others.

It was hailed a fabulous success. The Choir is an extraordinarily talented and versatile ensemble of young men and women upholding the finest traditions of Woodlawn High School music excellence.



We applaud their achievements.

Who is this WHS Teacher ?

Photo 1939



Answer on last page

Potpourri

- The University of Alabama's first football game was played in Birmingham on Friday afternoon, November 11, 1892, at the old Lakeview Park, at intersection of Highland and Clairmont Avenues. Bama defeated 56-0 a thrown-together team of scrub players from various high schools in Birmingham. But next day, Bama lost its first real game to the Birmingham Athletic Club, when the club's J. P. Ross kicked (drop-kicked) an extraordinary 65 yard field goal, a record still standing for Alabama high school, collegiate and professional football today, 120 years later. Note: The longest field goal ever kicked (not from a tee) was by Ching Do Kim, Univ. of Hawaii, 1944, 78 yards, bare-footed.
- WHS had a total of 41 female teachers in the 1939 faculty. Not one of them was married.
- Lots of WHS alumni have birthdays this month. Happy Birthday ! (This is admittedly a desperation potpourri tidbit needed to finish out this exciting column.)

Obituaries

- DICKSON, JAMES HOWARD '40.** Born August 4, 1923 to James Howard Dickson, Sr. and Kathryn Dickson. Died February 28, 2012. Raised in Avondale near the park. Married Marilyn Nabors 62 years ago and had four children. He owned and operated Cascade Plunge and the Cloud Room dance hall for nearly 50 years. James Dickson was a fine member of the "greatest generation," serving in the Army during World War II. He was a Woodlawn Lion for 25 years and a member of The Birmingham Council of Clubs.
- GALLOWAY, VIRGINIA '42** died Jan 2012, age 88. WHS Science teacher and mother of alumna Virginia Galloway Branson '64.
- MULLINS, NATHAN GLEN '68,** died 4 Mar 2012, cancer
- HOOD MASHBURN, MERRY CHARLES '45** died Jan 2012
- BURNETTE, GENE '46** died 21 March 2012

If your husband ever finds out

you're not "store-testing" for fresher coffee ...

**WOULD THIS AD
BE ALLOWED
TODAY ?**



*... if he discovers you're
still taking chances
on getting flat, stale coffee
... wee be unto you!
For today
there's a sure
and certain way
to test for freshness
before you buy*



boredpanda.com



REUNIONS and Other Happenings in 2012

Also see information on these and other
events at

www.WoodlawnHigh.org

What	When	Where
<p>▶ CLASS OF '72 - 40th REUNION Email WHS72Reunion@yahoo.com to get a registration form, or call Lynn Stalnaker Cleveland at 201-910-3044</p> <p>Check www.WoodlawnHigh.org for updated details.</p>	Saturday, 21 July 2012	MARRIOTT on Grandview Parkway on US 280
<p>▶ CLASS OF '62 - 50th REUNION Planning underway, For more info or if you wish to help, Contact Harold Morgan at HMorgan5225@gmail.com Or Butch Fadely at Butch@MailAtlanta.net</p> <p>Check www.WoodlawnHigh.org for updated details.</p>	Summer 2012	TBD
<p>▶ GRAND REUNION 2012 Details will be published very soon in next Tatler issue and on website www.WoodlawnHigh.org . Stay tuned, and please come join us. Everyone welcomed.</p>	Thursday, 30 Aug 2012 to Sunday, 2 Sep 2012	Boardwalk Beach Re- sort Hotel Panama City Beach, Florida
<p>▶ CLASS OF '57 - 55th REUNION PICNIC Maybe pot luck. Dunno nothing right now except lots of folks want to get together . Stay tuned to next Tatler edition and check website www.WoodlawnHigh.org for more info when we get organized. For now, send queries or comments to Webmaster@WoodlawnHigh.org (Roland)</p> <p>Check www.WoodlawnHigh.org for updated details.</p>	Saturday, sometime Summer or Fall 2012	maybe at Oak Mountain State Park, maybe not

WHS Meet-up Groups and Dance Clubs

Meet-up Group	Meet when ?	Meet where ?	Comment
▶ Moody Lunch Group	Weekly, every Wednesday, 11:00 am	Bobbie's Lounge in Moody, AL	Everyone welcome. Lots of attendees from classes '50 to '80. Just show up.
▶ Pell City Monthly Lunch Group	Second Thursday of every month plus holiday parties and other gatherings.	Different locations each month. Please get on email list for monthly notifications.	Contact Mary Sue Stevens Landman '58 at MLandman0703@charter.net or Jackie Vandergrift at Jackie200@aol.com . Everyone welcome.
▶ Brookwood Mall Monthly Luncheon Group	First Tuesday of every month at 12:00 noon	Brookwood Mall, Food Court	Been meeting 8 years. Also have annual Christmas parties, special outings, and short trips. Everyone welcome.
▶ W.O.W. !! Women of Woodlawn Lunch Group	Third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am	Different surprise places. You will be contacted by phone.	Been meeting 11 years. We are adventurous and go to the latest and most interesting places for lunch. To get on call list contact Ernestine Shannon at 205-936-6909 or EShannon@yahoo.com . Everyone welcome.
▶ Village Tavern Group	Third Thursday of every month, 6:00pm until about 9 pm-ish	The Village Tavern - on lower level of the Summit Mall (next to Flemmings Steakhouse)	Everyone welcome. Lots of '50s, '60s, '70s folks always there. Contact Pattie Neil at PattieNeil@hotmail.com for more info.
▶ Trussville Cracker Barrel Breakfast Group	First Monday of every month at 8:30 am	Cracker Barrel, Trussville. At Trussville Exit off I-59	Everyone welcome.
▶ BEACH SHAGGERS OF BIRMINGHAM Dance Club	Every Tuesday night at 7:00 pm	VFW Club, 18th St. and 11th Ave North, Birmingham	Everyone welcome. Free dance lessons at 6:30 pm. Come learn how to SHAG. Contact Jackie Vandegrift at 205-884-7581
▶ MAGIC CITY BOPPERS Dance Club	1st, 2d, 4th & 5th Wednesdays and 3rd Friday of every month at 7:00 PM	VFW Club, 18th St. and 11th Ave North, Birmingham	Everyone welcome. Free dance lessons at 6:30 pm. Contact Larry Vance 205-969-0732

Content Contributions to the TATLER

should be emailed to **George Nelson** at
LonEagle@knology.net

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to very poor reliability of email delivery (from wrong addresses and spam filters), we will likely hereafter only post future Tatler issues for downloading from the below website - and possibly on a new Tatler Facebook page to be created. Kindly do not ask us to add or maintain your email addresses, as we have no resources to do so .

Download all TATLER issues from www.WoodlawnHigh.org

East Lake Amusement Park

East Lake was planned in 1886 by the East Lake Land Company to help sell home sites to people who came in the 1870s to work in Birmingham's steel industry.

First named Lake Como, after the lake in the Italian Alps, it soon came to be called East Lake. Using water from Roebuck Springs and Village Creek, this 45 acre lake, within a 100 acre park, enhanced the area by providing a year-round pleasure resort.

In a short time East Lake Park became a major recreational center of the Birmingham area, and in 1887 a street car line, the *East Lake Dummy Line*, was run out to the park. Among the amusements offered at the park through the years were a ferris wheel, a shooting gallery, boating, fishing, swimming, water skiing, golf, baseball, a steamboat, a zoo, and band concerts in the pavilion.

Birmingham purchased the park in 1917. It is one of the largest municipal recreational facilities in Alabama.



Birmingham Coming Events. Each *Tatler* issue will endeavor to tell readers about significant cultural events coming in the near time frame.

► LARRY and the LOAFERS ROCK 'N ROLL SHOW BAND

Friday, April 13th, 2012, at 7:00 pm, at THE CEDARS CLUB, 301 Green Springs Ave S. Birmingham, AL.

A monthly event: 2nd Friday of every month at 7:00 pm, starting April 13th.

Larry Parker (WHS '58) first performed at Talent Night on the stage in 1956 at WHS then went on to form *Larry and the Loafers* which toured the rock & roll circuit 1960-1984. Larry will be debuting his newly re-formed group *Larry and the Loafers*, playing music from the 60s and 70s for your dancing and listening pleasure.

Please check out www.LarryAndTheLoafers.com

301 Greensprings Ave S. • Birmingham, AL • 35205
205-322-6182 • Doors at 6:00 • Music at 7:00
Tickets \$10 at larryandtheloafers.eventbrite.com
also available at the door For info: 205-261-8397
larryandtheloafers@gmail.com larryandtheloafers.com

ANSWER to "Who is this Teacher ?" on page 4:
Mr. Harley Graston (b. 1900, d. 1984)