

The New Tatler

NEWSLETTER for alumni of Woodlawn High School, Birmingham, Alabama
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JUNE 1, 2012

The New Tatler Continues

Editor

George Nelson WHS '55 .



IN THIS ISSUE:

Blanche Evans Dean - Bio	1
A Computer's Gender	3
Alabama Red-Belly Turtle	3
Computer Gender	3
Stan Malotte	4
Smart as a 12th Grader ?	4
Two Dumb Blond Guys	4
Comer Building	4
Obituaries	5
Potpourri & Factoids	5
Reunions & Meet-ups	6-7
Roebuck Country Club	6
1st Avenue Viaduct	7
Tornadoes & Tragedies	8

NEXT ISSUE:

Not until 1 August 2012

BLANCHE EVANS DEAN

1892-1974

WHS Biology Teacher 1924-1957

A rare human being who loved nature and people and saw God in both. She lived an unselfish, productive life and left a legacy of memories of her intense appreciation of the world around her.

~ Alabama Women's Hall of Fame

Viola Blanche Evans Dean was a teacher, author, conservationist and naturalist. She was an early advocate of the value and protection of Alabama's natural resources, and she spent most of her adult life persuading other Alabamians of that need. She published widely on the flora of Alabama, and many of her field guides remain the standard today.

The youngest of 12 children, Viola Blanche Evans was born June 12, 1892, to John James and Catherine Evans. She grew up on a farm in the Brownville community of Clay County, near Goodwater, on land her mother's family had bought from the Creek Indians. Farm life and instruction from her father, whom she often accompanied, and her mother's fondness for wildflowers instilled in her a love for and interest in the plants and animals that inhabited the world around her.

Evans graduated in 1908 from Lineville High School in nearby Lineville. She took a teaching job at the two-teacher school at Hatchett Creek Presbyterian Church and soon decided that teaching would be her chosen profession. Evans studied education at both Jacksonville State Normal School (now Jacksonville State University) in Alabama and Valparaiso University in Indiana, from which she earned a teaching certificate at age 26. She then taught for three years at Shades Valley High School in Birmingham. In 1922, Evans took a break from teaching and entered the University of Alabama, earning a degree in chemistry in 1924.



Blanche Evans
1924

Woodlawn High



She then began her thirty three year teaching career at Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, where she taught biology with her hands-on, experience-based style of teaching. Evans believed that students were better able to develop understanding of birds, plants, and insects and "a sense of being" for all living things by listening and observing first-hand, even getting down on hands and knees.

In 1939, Evans married William Dean of Goodwater, but the union lasted less than a year; Evans kept Dean as her last name, however. She then returned to teaching at Woodlawn and renewed her life in Birmingham by organizing field trips for colleagues and friends to explore the di-

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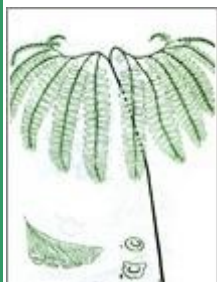
Blanche Evans Dean - continued from page 1

verse birdlife and flora of Alabama. She trained those accompanying her in the essentials of being a field naturalist: making one's own observations, using all sources of information, and creating a real sense of place for living things. This view of nature study often brought Dean into conflict with those who did not share her views.

During the 1940s, she and botanist Herbert McCullough of Howard College (now Samford University) petitioned the federal government to have Clear Creek Falls near Jasper declared a national park. The area, threatened by dam construction, was rich in mountain laurel, contained a rare species of white azalea, and even supported a stand of Canadian hemlock. Dean spent great efforts pleading her case. Business interests won out, however, and the beautiful Clear Creek Falls now lie deep under Lewis Smith Lake.



Environmental losses such as these drove Dean to begin a grass-roots organizing effort. In the 1950s, she helped establish the Alabama Ornithological Society and founded the Birmingham Audubon Society's Wildlife Film Series, which brought nature programs to communities long before they were available on television. She became active in the Alabama Academy of Science and the National Association of Biology Teachers. She also organized and chaired the Alabama Conservation Council, a group dedicated to saving critical habitats endangered by strip mining and uncontrolled construction during the postwar years. Comprising some 50 members representing industrial, civic, religious, and educational institutions, the council campaigned against pollution and urged city planners to consider surroundings when shaping new development. The group gradually disbanded after several years, discouraged by repeated failures.



Maidenhair Fern

In 1951, in a further effort to give adults and other teachers a "hands on" understanding of Alabama's rich natural heritage, Dean began her unique annual Outdoor Nature Camp. She persuaded college professors and other experts to volunteer their time as teachers and leaders. She directed these camps for 13 years at sites ranging from DeSoto State Park in Fort Payne to the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, near Gulf Shores in Baldwin County.

Frustrated during her teaching years by the lack of reference books on Alabama flora and fauna, Dean wrote and privately published *Let's Learn the Birds of Alabama* (later reprinted in a revised and expanded version as *Birds*) after retiring from Woodlawn High School in 1957. Four years later, she published *Trees and Shrubs in the Heart of*

Dixie (later revised as *Trees and Shrubs of the Southeast*). For it, she collected 500 specimens, with at least one from every county in the state. Although Dean was a self-taught botanist, her book is still considered an essential reference for field botanists in Alabama. In 1964, she published *Let's Learn the Ferns of Alabama* (later reprinted as *Ferns of Alabama*), for which she again collected from every county. Enthusiastic friends helped Dean with her publishing costs.

In 1967, Dean urged friend and fellow conservationist Mary Ivy Burks to undertake the task of forming the Alabama Conservancy (now the Alabama Environmental Council). She helped in the Conservancy's efforts to have the Sipsey area in the Bankhead National Forest declared Alabama's first statutory wilderness. The efforts were successful, and the site is now designated as the Sipsey River Wilderness Area. That same year, the National Audubon Society presented Dean with an award for distinguished service in the field of conservation education. She was the first Alabamian to be so honored.

Two years later, at age 77, Blanche moved to Goodwater, where she continued to work on what would be her last writing project, *Wildflowers of Alabama and Adjoining States*. The book was coauthored by University of Alabama biology professor Joab Thomas, and friend and photographer Amy Mason provided images. It was published by the University of Alabama Press in 1973 and was a popular success.

Early in 1974, the 81-year-old Dean suffered a debilitating stroke. She died on May 31 from related complications and was buried in the cemetery at Hatchett Creek Presbyterian Church. The following year, the Alabama Library Association made its first posthumous award, giving Blanche Dean the non-fiction prize for her books on Alabama natural history.

The legacy of Blanche Dean is evident throughout the state. The field guides she wrote are into their second and third printings, and her concept of outdoor education camps continues in the form of the Mountain Ecology Workshops at Mentone, sponsored by the Birmingham Audubon Society and dedicated to her memory. The Alabama Wildflower Society named its Birmingham chapter for her and created the Blanche E. Dean Scholarship Fund.

In 1985, Blanche Dean was inducted into the [Alabama Women's Hall of Fame](#) at Judson College. Dean's true significance, however, lies in those of us who have learned to share her love of Alabama's natural wonders and have gained the determination to protect them.

By Alice S. Christenson
EncyclopediaOfAlabama.org

.....Continued on page 3

continued from page 2

Just A Few of Blanche Dean's Many Publications

- Dean, Blanche E. (1958) *Let's Learn the Birds of Alabama*, illustrated by Mrs Forrest Watts Bonner. Self-published. Expanded and revised edition published as *Birds* in 1969 by the Southern University Press
- Dean, Blanche E. (1961) *Trees and Shrubs in the Heart of Dixie*, illustrated by Mrs Forrest Watts Bonner. Birmingham: Coxe Publishing. Revised edition published as *Trees and Shrubs of the Southeast* in 1968 by the Southern University Press
- Dean, Blanche E. (1964) *Ferns of Alabama and Fern Allies*. Northport: American Southern. Revised edition published in 1969 as *Ferns in Alabama* by the Southern University Press
- Dean, Blanche E. (1972) *Happy Trails*. Birmingham: Southern University Press
- Dean, Blanche E., Ann Mason & Joab Thomas (1973) *Wildflowers of Alabama and Adjoining States*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press. Reprinted 1983 and 1994.

OFFICIAL STATE REPTILE : THE ALABAMA RED-BELLIED TURTLE

The Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle is a large herbivorous turtle that has the smallest distribution of any North American turtle species. It only occurs in streams and backwaters in the lower part of Mobile Bay in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. This species was listed as ENDANGERED by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1987. They are one inch long at birth, but can grow to as long as one foot.

Each year, females come on shore to lay eggs along US 90. Many of these females and their hatchlings are killed on the highways. The estimated annual kill of 15-20 reproductive females (that require 12-15 years to reach maturity) in such a small population is resulting in a continuous population decline. Alabama has constructed a special fence design to keep the turtles and alligators from crossing the Mobile Causeway.



North America's
Most Endangered Turtle



COMPUTERS - MALE OR FEMALE

One day a WHS English teacher was explaining to her senior students the English language's concept of *GENDER ASSOCIATION*. She told them how hurricanes at one time were given feminine names and how ships and planes were usually referred to as "she". One of her students raised her hand and asked "What gender is a COMPUTER" ?

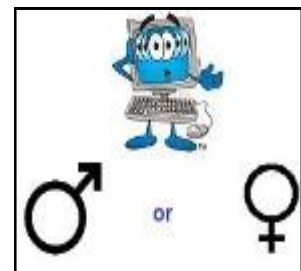
The teacher wasn't sure how to answer this, so she divided the class into two groups, males in one, females in the other, and asked them to decide if a computer should be masculine or feminine, and to give four reasons WHY.

Her young women students concluded that computers should be masculine gender, because:

1. To get their attention, you have to turn them on.
2. They handle a lot of data but usually remain clueless.
3. They're supposed to help solve problems, but most of the time they cause the problems.
4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize if you'd just waited a little longer, you could've gotten a better model.

The young men students, however, decided computers should surely have feminine names - for these reasons:

1. Nobody but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. The language they use to talk with other computers is incomprehensible to everybody else.
3. Even your smallest mistakes get stored in long-term memory for later retrieval.
4. Soon as you make a commitment to one, you have to spend lots of money on accessories for it.



CHARLES STANLEIGH "STAN" MALOTTE

Stan Malotte was born in 1901 in Philadelphia. He was best known to us as the Alabama Theatre organist from 1936 to 1955. He began violin lessons at age six and organ lessons at 12. He became a theatre organist on the west coast but later went to Miami as the Capitol Theatre organist. He came to Birmingham and first performed at the Alabama Theatre in 1937. He was a showman many of us remember well.



Malotte frequently re-wrote lyrics of popular songs with lyrics about current events, and he played music based on the movie showing. He was also known to drink a lot, although some folks maintained this actually made him a better entertainer. "Stars Fell on Alabama" was one of his most remembered pieces. He also played the organ for WAPI Radio.

In August 1947 Stan left Alabama to become a disc jockey at radio station WWSW Pittsburgh. On Sep 19, *The Birmingham News* published a long letter by Malotte that was very critical of Pittsburgh residents, calling them "dim-witted citizens - a race of robots - human refuse . . . with a complete absence of social consciousness." Fired by the Pittsburgh station that same day, Stan soon returned to the Alabama Theater for eight more years. Again leaving the Alabama in 1955, Malotte worked for Hammond Organ Company and wrote TV commercials. He returned to Philadelphia and died of a heart attack in New York City in 1973.



Stan Malotte at the Alabama's
"Mighty Wurlitzer"

~ from BhamWiki.com

TWO DUMB-BLOND WOODLAWN GUYS

Two very hunky-looking blond bimbo guys, both former Woodlawn football stars during the 1950s, drove into Fowler's lumber yard some years later in a pickup truck. One of the hunks waddled into the office and told the clerk, "We need some four-by-twos."

The clerk said, "You mean two-by-fours, don't you?"

Our hunko said, "I'll go check," and went out to the truck. He returned shortly to say, "Yeah, I meant two-by-fours."

"OK. How long do you need them?" asked the clerk.

Our bimbo pondered a moment, finger in nose, then said, "Lemme check," again heading out to the truck. He returned and told the clerk, "A long time. We're gonna build a house."



THE COMER BUILDING

Built in 1913, the tallest building in Alabama until 1969, with 27 stories, 325 feet tall, it remains the tallest neo-classical skyscraper in the South and was named for Governor Braxton B. Comer.

Re-named the City Federal Building in 1962, it was vacated as a safety hazard in 1994. A \$20+ million commercial renovation began in 2005 to create luxury residential condominiums ranging from \$250,000 to \$1.85 million. After several financial crashes and sell-outs to new investor groups, the project may be creeping toward an uncertain conclusion. If you would like to live here, especially in the 4000 sqft penthouse at the top, then just click on [City Federal Condominiums.com](http://CityFederalCondominiums.com), make an offer, move right in, and send us a house-warming party invitation.

ARE YOU SMART AS A WHS 12th GRADER ?

English was tough for lots of us, mostly because we're Southerners. But try this little quiz. **WARNING:** This is tough.

- Which of the below is/are correct usage(s) of who/whom/whoever/whomever ?
 - You're going to a strip poker party with who ?
 - I hope whoever comes can't play poker well.
 - I'm bringing whomever buys the wine.
 - I'm going with whom I jolly well please.
- Which of these is/are correct usage(s) ?
 - They don't care much about you and I, do they ?
 - It's because you and me are kinda nutty.
 - Yep, and they owe me and you lots of money.
 - The snots think they're better than you and I.
- Which of these is/are correct usage(s) ?
 - Mama, this is Leroy; he's my fiancé.
 - OK Lulu, then are you now his fiancée ?
 - Yes Mama, a girl is a fiancée, and a boy is a fiancé
 - Pronounce both the same way, as "fee-aahn-say".
- Which one below does not have a "dangling participle"?
 - After rotting a week, George sent her a dozen roses.
 - While getting his enema, the vet sang to my dog.
 - Having "Plug and "Play" capability, the salesgirl demonstrated why her laptop is so popular.
 - When lightning hit, we ran home a-screaming.
- The word "wife" came into English from the old Saxon word "wif", which originally meant:
 - Female life partner of a man.
 - Woman not having a dowry large enough to get any marriage offers.
 - Woman with same-sex partner preference, a Lesbian.
 - Mean, ugly, hateful old woman; a hag, a shrew.

ANSWERS

1. B & D; 2. C; 3. All correct; 4. D; 5. D

OBITUARIES

LYTLE, DR. RICHARD A. (WHS '61), age 69, died May 15th, 2012. A lifelong Birminghamian, he graduated Woodlawn High School, Birmingham Southern, and Univ. of Alabama School of Medicine. He was two years in the Navy, then returned to Birmingham, where he served at East End Hospital and Medical Center East/St Vincent's East many years. He held many honorable positions and received numerous awards for his achievements, including Woodlawn High School Hall of Fame. Richard was widely known by WHS alumni as a tireless organizer of reunions. He and his wife of 44 years, Martha Crawford Lytle, had two beautiful children and four grandchildren. [His obituary.](#)



WHATLEY, ROBERT CECIL (WHS '58), age 72, died 15 May 2012. [His obituary.](#)

LANDRUM, JOHN SAMUEL (WHS '62), age 67, died 18 May 2012 in Fayetteville, TN. [His obituary.](#)

SIMPKINS, MARTINE BROOKS (WHS '55), age 75, died May 20, 2012 in Hampton VA. She attended Robinson School and was sister of the late Olin Ray Brooks Jr. (WHS '50) of Birmingham. Survived by husband W. H. Simpkins of Virginia, four children, numerous grandchildren. [Her obituary.](#)



CHANDLER, BARBARA PHILLIPS (WHS '61), died 6 May 2012 in Phoenix, AZ. She was a Woodlawn High School Cheerleader and wife of Orville Chandler (WHS '57). [Her obituary.](#)



WILLIAMS, LOWELL WAYNE (WHS '65), age 64, died May 20, 2012 in Birmingham.

POTPOURRI and FACTOIDS

- **The total number of stars in the visible universe** was recently estimated at 70 sextillion. That's the figure 7 followed by 22 zeros, or 70,000 million, million, million. Who came up with these figures? A bunch of stargazing students at Australian National University, using two of the world's most powerful telescopes. When announcing this to the International Astronomical Convention, the spokesman indicated that the universe is so large that light from other stars hasn't yet gotten here to be observed and counted—and some will never get here. So actually the real star count estimate is still Infinity. The chance of there being life on at least one of those other stars is "inevitable", the spokesman said. Convention attendees exited the auditorium blowing on paper didgeridoos that were passed out to conferees for this occasion.
- **What's a Googol?** This pure mathematical magnitude was defined in 1938 as 10^{100} (ten raised to the one hundredth power, or 10 followed by 100 zeros). To confirm this, just Google "Googol" and see.
- **Googolplex.** This is the official mathematical magnitude defined as $10^{(\text{GOOGOL})}$, or ten raised to the GOOGOL power. It is generally used in the context of a magnitude so great as to numerically approximate INFINITY. But writing a Googolplex in standard numeric notation would be impossible, since the physical space required to write out that many zeros (even using unreadable one-point font size) would be some 4.0×10^{69} times greater than the size of the universe. And even if a person could write two digits per second, it would take him about 1.1×10^{82} times longer to do so than the age of our universe since the Big Bang 4.5 billion years ago.
- **A Black Hole** is a region of space-time in the cosmos where density and gravity are so strong as to permanently capture everything entering its proximity, including light and time. This means that if you got too close to a Black Hole, you'd get sucked in and cease to exist.... and you would not have ever existed. We need to avoid these.
- **Up Your Nose!** In the course of a lifetime, the average man will grow 6 to 7 feet of nose hairs.
- **Who's Ya Doctor?** In the U.S. there are 18 doctors named Dr. Doctor, and one named Dr. Surgeon. There is a dermatologist named Dr. Rash, a psychiatrist called Dr. Couch, two anesthesiologists named Dr. Gasser and Dr. Gassem, a pain specialist named Dr. Feely, and a Dr. Dangler and Dr. Weiner who both do penal implants. Also, there are doctors, in various specialties, named: Dr. Whack, Dr. Dorkem, Dr. Snatch, Dr. Butts, Dr. Slicer, Dr. Cutter, Dr. Kickem, Dr. Odor, Dr. Crank, Dr. Stinke, Dr. Holler, Dr. Stickem, Dr. Dollar, Dr. Nasal, Dr. Sickman, Dr. Crotch (English) and Dr. Dick Chopp who performs vasectomies in Austin, TX. No Dr. Quack has been found. Is any one of these your physician?
- **Someday.....** you Tatler readers may appreciate how unimaginably valuable this info will prove to be in your lives.



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 . Check www.WoodlawnHigh.org for updates.</p>	Saturday, 21 July 2012	MARRIOTT on Grandview Parkway on US 280
<p>▶ CLASS OF '62 - 50th REUNION For more info or if you wish to help, Contact Harold Morgan at HMorgan5225@gmail.com or Check www.WoodlawnHigh.org for updated details.</p>	Fri & Sat 24-25 Aug 2012	Hilton Birmingham Perimeter Park (off US 280)
<p>▶ GRAND REUNION 2012 Details are published on website www.WoodlawnHigh.org . Come join us. Everyone welcomed.</p>	Thur, 30 Aug 2012 to Sun, 2 Sep 2012	Boardwalk Beach Resort Hotel Panama City FL
<p>▶ CLASS OF '57 - 55th REUNION PICNIC Maybe pot luck. Dunno nothing right now except lots of folks want to get together . Check website www.WoodlawnHigh.org for more info when organized. For now, send queries to Webmaster@WoodlawnHigh.org (Roland) Check www.WoodlawnHigh.org for updated details.</p>	Saturday, some- time Summer or Fall 2012	maybe at Oak Mountain State Park, maybe not



**Can you believe what that
dumb cat just did ??**

ROEBUCK COUNTRY CLUB

George and Ann Roebuck settled in 1850 at this ancient Indian town site at the mouth of the heavy flowing spring



that feeds East Lake and Village Creek. The Roebuck Golf Course and Country Club were created here in 1910. This water was very icy cold to swim in.

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 Lunch 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 adventuresome 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 .
▶ 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	Everyone welcome. Lots of '50s, '60s, '70s folks always there. Contact Pattie Neil at Pattie-Neil@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	Every Tuesday night at 7:00 pm	VFW Club, 18th St. and 11th Ave North, Birmingham	Dance Club Everyone welcome. Free dance lessons at 6:30 pm. Come learn how to SHAG. Contact Jackie Vandegrift at 205-884-7581
▶ MAGIC CITY BOPPERS	1st, 2d, 4th & 5th Wednesdays and 3rd Friday of every month at 7:00 PM	VFW Club, 18th St. and 11th Ave North, Birmingham	Dance Club Everyone welcome. Free dance lessons at 6:30 pm. Contact Larry Vance 205-969-0732

FIRST AVENUE VIADUCT- BIRMINGHAM

Originally 2,600 feet long, it was built at a cost of \$200,000 in 1915 with two streetcar tracts, 40 foot roadway and two



sidewalks, bridging 11 railroad tracts handling over 100 train passages per day. When rebuilt in 1950 it serviced over 25,000 bus and trolley passengers crossing it daily. It also provided a fast way to get past the stink of Sloss Sheffield.



TATLER CONTENT CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SOLICITED FROM EVERYONE

Send us proposed articles, images, songs, videos, poems, jokes, quizzes, obituaries, factoids, whatever.

Email to: **George Nelson** at LonEagle@knology.net and

Roland Monette at Webmaster@WoodlawnHigh.org

IMPORTANT: All TATLER issues are posted to and downloadable from www.WoodlawnHigh.org.

NOTICE

The TATLER will not be published next month (July 2012).

Look for the next issue on August 1, 2012

TORNADOES AND TRAGEDIES - APRIL 25 to 28, 2011

**Remembering.....
just over a year ago.**

The largest, costliest and deadliest single-system tornado outbreak ever recorded in meteorological history.

- 358 individual tornadoes confirmed.
- 348 people killed (238 in Alabama)
- \$ 11 billion dollars in damages

Did You Know ?

- 95 percent of the world's tornadoes occur in the USA's "Tornado Alley".
- Tornadoes only occur in agricultural areas because agriculture and the onset of tornadoes both need the same moisture, temperature and seasonal change variations.



Tornado through University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa ~ April 27, 2011

