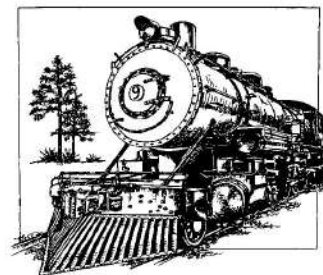


# OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER NEWSLETTER



April  
May  
June  
2021

## Waycross Entertainment History

by Marla Howell

Waycross has a wealth of history but more specifically we are addressing two areas being those who performed live at our City Auditorium and the magnificent theaters of our town, one that hosted three world motion picture premiers.

Our City Auditorium was built in 1937 by the people for the people. The Waycross Chapter of the Lion's Club was the driving force of funding from the Work Progress Administration (WPA).

It was built with its current stage but had a full balcony around the perimeter of the interior. After many years of events and activity it fell into a state of needed repair. We are blessed to have seen a fantastic renovation in 2008. Since that renovation it has been used and enjoyed by all as an event center operated by the City of Waycross.

The auditorium has been used for basketball, opera, dances, wrestling, proms, graduations and concerts with well over 300 plus musical performers.



For those coming for many events, removable chairs would be set up on the lower level to be entertained by: Mother Maybelle, Carter Sisters, Johnny Cash, James Brown, Buck Owens, Guy Lombardo, Tommy Dorsey & Orchestra, Hank Williams, Sr., Jerry Lee Lewis, Jackie Gleason, Carl Perkins, Perry Como, Otis Redding, Minnie Pearl, Little Jimmy Dickens, Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Ella Fitzgerald and Elvis Presley (Billed as the Memphis Fireball).

Now bear in mind, Elvis had two concerts in February 1956 which was prior to going on TV and the Ed Sullivan Show. It has been noted by the daughter of the Plant Cafe owners of that time that Elvis performed in a lime green satin shirt with rhinestone cuff links. (continued on page 2)

## OHC Calendar

### April

Art Gallery: Steve Bean Art Show

- 3 - Color Run 7am-11 am
- 4 - Easter
- 7 - Trustee Meeting 12 pm
- 9 - Photo. Guild Field Trip ~ Jekyll
- 20 - Photography Guild 6:30 pm
- 22 - Tourism 6:30 pm
- 23 - History Guild 12 pm
- 27 - Art Guild 3 pm
- 28 - Executive Board 12 pm

### May

Art Gallery: Sienna Fox Studio

Rotating Exhibit Rm: Memorial Day

- 1 - Local Fare Market 10 am - 1 pm
- 5 - Cinco de Mayo
- Trustee Meeting 12 pm
- 6 - Writer's Guild 6 pm
- 8 - OHC Work Day 8 am - 11 am
- 9 - Mother's Day
- 15 - Armed Forces Day
- 18 - Photography Guild 6:30 pm
- 25 - Art Guild 3 pm
- 26 - Executive Board 12 pm
- 27 - Tourism 10 am
- 28 - History Guild 12 pm
- 31 - Memorial Day

### June

Art Gallery ~ Sienna Fox Studio

- 2 - Trustee 12 pm
- 5 - Local Fare Market 10 am - 1 pm
- 14 - Flag Day
- 15 - Photography Guild 6:30 pm
- 20 - Father's Day
- 22 - Art Guild 3 pm
- 23 - Executive Board 12 pm
- 24 - Tourism 10 am
- 25 - History Guild 12 pm

**For more info: 912-285-4260**

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

OHC has really been busy these past few months! The Black Heritage Art exhibit was a great way to honor Black History Month. We were also blessed to hear from Chris “Turtleman” Adams, who offered an amazing presentation on “Turpentine in Wiregrass Georgia”. And if you did not get the chance to see the “Entertainment of the Okefenokee” exhibit in the Rotating Exhibit room, you missed a treat. But good news!! We are planning an additional exhibit on the OHC campus. We have been working on changing the old “Studio” into “The Venue”, which will house the Entertainment History as a permanent exhibit. We hope to have it up and running by the end of May. Stay tuned!! The 80th Anniversary of Swamp Water was well attended and the movie showing was a ton of fun! Spring has sprung at OHC! The azaleas are in full bloom and the weather has been wonderful! Come on out and enjoy a picnic with the family on one of our many picnic tables available around the grounds at OHC. The Okefenokee Heritage Center is still “On the Right Track”!! ~ Y’all Come!!

*Carla Cornett King, Executive Director*



**Corporate Sponsor  
of the Month:**

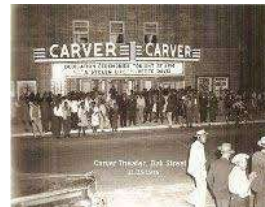


**Continue from page 1 ...**

Three theaters operated in Waycross over the years:

1. The Ritz
2. The Carver
3. The Lyric

**Special Thanks to:**



Lyric was the spotlight for the world premieres that Waycross hosted. Operated under Lucers and Jenkins in the 1940's & 1950's. All focused and filmed in the Okefenokee Swamp.

World Premieres:

- Swamp Water
- Lure of the Wilderness
- Black Fury
- Queen for a Day

Hollywood was here in Waycross with all its fanfare.



# CHECK OUT WHATS HAPPENING!

## 6th Annual Okefenokee Color Run 5K & Fun Run



OKEFENOKEE HERITAGE CENTER PRESENTS  
**OKEFENOKEE COLOR RUN**  
**Saturday, April 3, 2021**  
 5K RUN AT 8 AM • 1 MILE RUN & WALK AT 9 A.M.  
[okefenokeeheritagecenter.org](http://okefenokeeheritagecenter.org) 912-285-4260



**Okefenokee Heritage Center**  
**Waycross, GA**

*Thank you to our sponsors!*



WAYCROSS FAMILY PHARMACY KINGS WASHERETTE  
 CITY OF WAYCROSS

Spaces Available for:  
**Music Lessons with Crystal Murphy**  
 706-781-7044



## Memorial Day Remember & Honor

OHC History Guild  
 Rotating Exhibit Room

Danny Barnes, OHC History Guild Chair

For the month of May, the OHC History Guild will host a memorial in our rotating exhibit room. We invite all to come out to honor our fallen heroes.

## The OHC Art Guild

Presents:  
Sienna Fox Studios  
Art Display

Nancy King, OHC Art Guild Chair

The OHC Art Guild will host the amazing art work of Jorah Mitchell and her students in the OHC Art Gallery the entire month of June. We invite all to come out to experience their wonderful art work.



The 7th Annual Steve Bean Youth Art Show was a huge success with over 150 entries from Wareboro Elementary, Ware County Middle School, as well as home schools.

Award recipients include:

1<sup>st</sup> in Painting and 3D: Jasmine Mitchell, 7th grade Home School

2<sup>nd</sup> in Painting: Jose Enrique Gomez, 7th grade, Ware County Middle School

Honorable Mention: Katie Altman, 6th grade, Ware County Middle School.

Thank you to Selina Higgs and Jerry Murray for their help.

## Okefenokee Heritage Center

1460 N. Augusta Avenue  
Waycross, GA 31503  
912-285-4260

[www.okefenokeeheritagecenter.com](http://www.okefenokeeheritagecenter.com)

### OHC Mission Statement:

*The Okefenokee Heritage Center is a cultural art center and local history museum for all people, which seeks to promote an appreciation of the arts and an increased understanding of history and development of the Okefenokee region through its cultural and educational programs, collections, and exhibitions.*

*Proudly serving Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Pierce & Ware.*

**A special thanks to ALL of our  
OHC Members!!  
“We’re on the right track”!**

### Invite a friend to join the Okefenokee Heritage Center

Individual	\$36
Family	\$60
Heritage Club	\$100
Small Business	\$150
Business Sponsor	\$500
Corporate Sponsor	\$1,000
Corporate Partners	\$5,000

**All donations are tax deductible**



### **OHC Board of Trustees 20/21**

Clint Bowman, Board Chairman

Alan Jones, Vice Chairman

Mrs. Kristin McCarthy, Secretary

Mrs. Judy Kurrasch, Treasurer

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Mr. Roland Thurston

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Mrs. Yavonda Stephenson

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Ms.. Connie Tyre

\*Mr. Henry Clark, Jr.

\*\*Dr. S. William Clark

### **Staff:**

Carla Cornett King, Executive Director

Carla Weekley, Clerical Assistant

Glenda Dyal, Visitor Services

John Hall, Groundskeeper

## **RENT OUR SPACE**

You can rent the facilities at the Okefenokee Heritage Center for parties, reunions, etc.

Conference Room	\$150
Depot	\$250
The Venue	\$200
Warehouse/ Depot	\$350
Grounds	\$150

For more information, call:  
**912-285-4260**

**Visit us on FB**

