

Vol. 3 No. 4

Newsletter of the Montevallo Historical Society

Committee Leaders Explain Purposes and Goals

At the third general meeting of the Montevallo Historical Society on July 21, 2019, president Susan Godwin invited leaders of six committees that have been established by the society to come forward and offer brief descriptions of the purpose and objectives of each group and to encourage members in attendance to become involved with any they might find to be interesting and rewarding.

Anne Thomas, represented the Hospitality Committee explained that her group was responsible for providing refreshments that are served following the conclusion of each quarterly meeting. She said that if anyone wanted to volunteer for this committee she would welcome their help. She also spoke about the cook book fund raising project that her committee already has on their agenda. She said that they hope to have the book printed and ready to sell by the end of 2020 and that it would consist of good old, tried and true recipes from local sources. She said that no good recipes will be turned away, so she encouraged submissions from anyone who thinks they have good ones to include.

The next committee topic presented was Historical Properties, which includes Places in Peril, Helping Hands, Cemeteries, and Historical Site Registration.

Susan and Sherry Vallides spoke about an actual "Helping Hands" project they recently became involved with that provided some much needed brush clearing and landscaping at the Aldrich Coal Mining Museum. They used this effort as a perfect example of the type of useful outreach project this committee can take on for community improvement.

Adelle Simpson has volunteered to lead a committee on Genealogy and she explained her personal interest in this topic and that her committee will be available to assist anyone wanting to dig into the origins of local families.

The next committee idea, Documenting Montevallo History, was presented by Debbie Pendleton. She indicated that digital technology will be a valuable tool for this committee and that since MHS at this point is not prepared to house and protect physical objects and papers, their goal will be to digitally preserve historical materials that come to their attention. She also spoke about the first effort being made by this committee which involves a digitizing project to preserve as many Montevallo High School yearbooks as can be located.

Janice Seaman then came forward to speak about the Fund Raising committee, which she will super-

vise. She said that two projects are already in the works that will hopefully enhance the bank balance we have built up so far from member dues. This committee has already scheduled a \$75 per person "Gala 2019" food event for October 5, 2019 and hopes to launch an ambitious Historic Homes Tour beginning in the near future.

Finally, Clay Nordan spoke about the Programs Committee, which he chairs and invited any member to join his committee and help develop programs for our quarterly meetings. He also invited anyone to suggest future program ideas or even present a program themselves.

MHS committees are still in their infancy, so ideas for other committees are welcome. Contact a board member today to get involved.



Susan Godwin



Anne Thomas



Sherry Vallides





Adelle Simpson



Debbie Pendleton



Janice Seaman



President's Letter

Celebrate our state!

Have you enjoyed some of the myriad events happening locally, county, and statewide during this last year of our 3-year Alabama Bicentennial celebration?

♦ Did you fill your personal Bicentennial PastPort with visits to destinations in Alabama that you always wanted to explore and finally found the time?

• Or maybe you attended the Alabama Bicentennial Com-

mission special 2-day event in August and listened to our very own Jim Day deliver an inspiring keynote address?

 Perhaps you attended Making Alabama – A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit when it came to a venue near vou?

If you haven't embarked on an Alabama adventure vet, never fear. There are still lots of things to see and do. There are over 300 historic destinations statewide with sites in each of Alabama's 67 counties. So, turn back the hands of time and learn more about Alabama's exciting possibilities. For plenty of ideas and information visit Alabama200.org online. Noon - 1:00 p.m. led by Gov. Kay

*For details and final schedule of events please see Alabama200.org



"Frontier Days" parade in late September.

December 14th, 2019*

Mark your calendars - the best is yet to come! Grab your camera, party hat, and confetti and head to Montgomery for the biggest celebration of the last 200 years – Alabama's Bicentennial birthday bash. Designated Alabama Day 200, it is the official Alabama Bicentennial Finale and a festival not to be missed!

Alabama Day 200 Parade

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. inaugural parade route on Dexter Avenue with 75 entries showcasing Alabama.

Alabama Bicentennial Park Dedication



An Alabama Bicentennial oriented float in the Eva, AL

Ivey on the Capitol steps facing Dexter Avenue.

Alabama Day 200 Festival

Fill the afternoon with exhibitions, performances and open houses in the Capitol Complex, up and down Dexter Avenue and throughout downtown Montgomery. The Alabama State Capitol and Alabama Department of Archives and History will host performances and presentations in their buildings and children's games, traditional arts/crafts demonstrations and historic re-enactors on

their grounds. Museums, galleries, restaurants and stores will host tours, exhibitions and activities. There will be exhibits and sales of works by contemporary Alabama artists and performance stages at the Capitol and Archives among the many family-friendly activities.

Alabama Day 200 Finale

4:00 p.m. through the evening will feature a concert, performance, and finale presentation sponsored by the Alabama Department of Tourism and the Poarch Band of the Creek Indians.

I'll see you there!



Officers Directors Montevallo Susan Godwin Marty Everse President **Bill Glosson** Historical Society[®] Mae Glosson **Clay Nordan** Opening the Portals of Our Heritage Vice-President John E. McCulley Melinda Nix **540 Shelby Street** Norman R. McMillan Montevallo, AL 35115 **Debbie Pendleton** Secretary www.historicmontevallo.org Anne Thomas Sherry L. Vallides Janice F. Seaman Like us on Facebook Treasurer DISTINGUISHED FOUNDING DIRECTORS © Copyright 2019, Montevallo Historical Society Dr. S.M. Mahan, Jr. (1934 - 2018) Dr. James S. Day

Historic Shelby Hotel Goes Up in Flames





Anyone interested in the history of Montevallo and Shelby County will be saddened to learn that one of the most significant historical structures remaining in central Alabama was consumed by fire on May 26, 2019. The old Shelby Hotel, located in Shelby, just a few miles south of Columbiana had stood unoccupied for a number of years but remained in relatively sound condition in spite of private owners who essentially abandoned it.

In "Good Morning Yesterday", a book of local history published by Thompson High School in 1977, Mrs. Lida Wood of Columbiana, who was 90 years old at the time, contributed this oral history: "The Hotel was built during the late 1800's and it was there when we moved to Shelby during World War I. It was considered to be one of the finest hotels











in this area, because it had electric lights and running water. No other hotel in this area had that. The reason it had water was the Shelby Iron Works next door had to have water, and so the hotel got it's water from the same place that Columbiana gets its water today. The hotel was very pretty. It was always clean on the inside and outside. A nice matron was hired to run the hotel. They had lovely meals there, and we used to eat there on Sundays. The hotel was painted a light gray and was trimmed in white. All of the traveling men that stayed in and around Shelby stayed in the hotel. It was very popular then. We used to have the best times there, for we had parties there and played bridge. They also had a tennis court there."





Snapshots From a Mahler Family Album





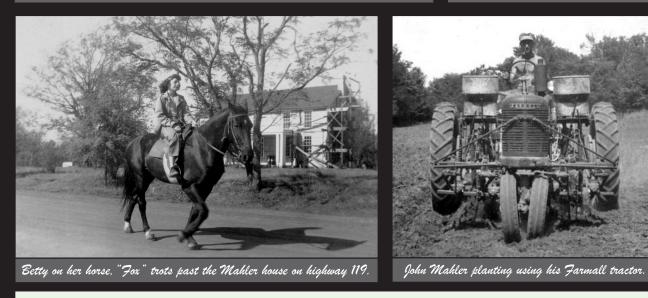
John Mahler with his daughter Betty.

Betty and her mother Elizabeth picking daffodils in the spring.

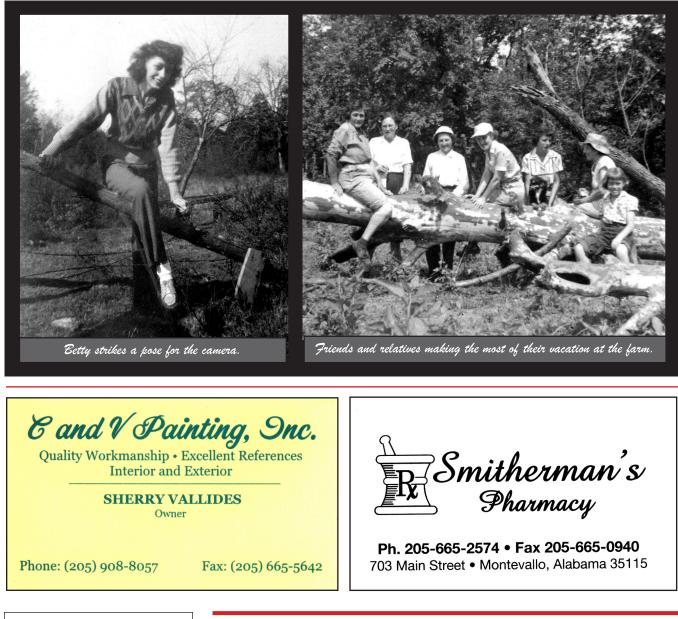


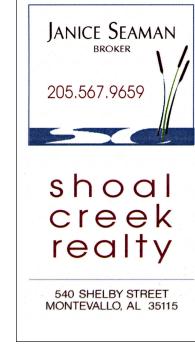
Elizabeth Mahler beats the heat tubing in her Shoal Creek swimming hole.





The photos you see here give a glimpse of the life John and Elizabeth Mahler created for themselves and their children when they purchased and reinvigorated the old Jacob Perry house and farm on the northern outskirts of Montevallo. Their daughter, Betty, donated the house and 167 acre farm, all of which has become Shoal Creek Park, to the City of Montevallo in 2013 for the use and enjoyment of its citizens.





uniform.

--- Social Hour and Refreshments to Follow the Meeting --

--- Fourth General Meeting of 2019 ---Sunday, Oct. 20, 2019 • Parnell Library 2:00 pm

With Veterans Day coming up in two weeks, we'll acknowledge men and women from Montevallo who entered their country's military services and brought honor and distinction to themselves, their families, and their home town while in

Special speaker will be Becky Holcombe Bolton, who grew up near Moore's Crossroads and the Ebenezer community and is the author of "Hometown Heroes", a book about members of her family and their record of military service.

We'll also hear from Melanie Poole of the Veterans Register of Honor at the American Village. Then, Kirk Lightfoot, with the Veterans Banner program for Montevallo Main Street, will offer an update on this innovative salute to our Veterans.



Group Photos From the 1920's

The large panoramic photo you see above was brought to our attention by Karen Pendleton of Montevallo who found it in her family archives. As best we can tell, the photographer set up his camera tion for 60 years. Meroney Mercantile is next to the facing the north side of Main Street very near the intersection of Main and Shelby Streets. The collected subjects of the photo obviously make up a men's by the Montevallo Exchange Club in 1923 promoting group of some sort (if you look hard you'll see that there are two women included) and all ages are represented. We attempted to identify a few of the men in the photograph that we recognized, and they are indicated with labels, but the vast majority remain unnamed. We invite anyone who might know the identities of any of these people to contact us with the information.

We speculate that the photo was made sometime in their communities. the 1920's, primarily from the style of dress and the front wheel and fender of what is probably a Model T style automobile that enters the picture on the far right. We know the birth years for Earl McGaughy (1918) and Red Mahan (1899), and if we are correct that George Kroell is in the picture, we know that he died in 1925. Again, we invite anyone with evidence to offer an additional rationale for dating the photo.

Close inspection reveals that a drug store is behind the group at the far left (probably Hendrick Drug Co.). Alabama Power Co. occupied this store on the corner in the 1940's and 1950's. Next door is Givhan and Dr. J.I Reid.

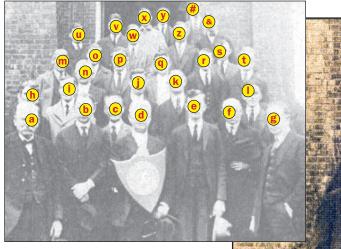
the U.S. Post Office. This space was later occupied by McCulley's grocery store. Next to the post office is Merchants and Planters Bank that was in this locabank. Klotzman's took over this space in the 1930's.

The photo at right is from a brochure published to businessmen and commercial interests the benefits of living in and locating a business in the Montevallo area.

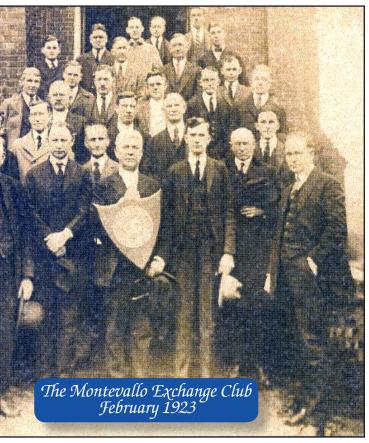
The Exchange Club was a national organization started right after the turn of the 20th century with local clubs all across the United States. It's purpose was to bring men of all faiths and occupations together to "exchange" ideas that would potentially benefit

This photo was shot on the steps of the Montevallo Methodist Church and the brochure helpfully identified everyone in the photo. We have reproduced that information here.

The man in the center holding the shield shaped emblem of the Exchange Club is Dr. T.W. Palmer, president of Alabama College. Others in the group are future AC president, O.C. Carmichael and AC Treasurer E.H Wills; entrepreneur, J.A. Brown, Sr.; local merchants George and Pat Kroell, C.L. Meroney, F.W. Rogan, and M.P Jeter; and physicians Dr. E.G



(a) George Kroell (b) C.H. Mahaffey (c) F.W. Rogan (d) T.W. Palmer (e) H.M. Treadiway (f) Dr. E.G. Givhan (g) P.H. Carmichael (h) C.L. Meroney (i) J.R. Johnson (j) G.T. Elliot (k) I.A. May (I) W.J. Kennerly (m) Burr Nabors (n) Pat Kroell (o) J.L. Appleton (p) O.C. Carmichael (q) M.P. Jeter (r) M.L. Orr (s) Mac Kauter (t) H.M. Woodruff (u) Dr. W.S. Wilson (v) J.A. Brown, Sr. (w) Dr. J.I. Reid (x) E.H. Wills (y) Dr. Calvin Wilson (z) Robert Reid (#) John Holmes (&) Robert Hendricks







iecislaw Ziolkowski was a native of Poland who immigrated to the United States in 1926 to teach at the Columbia School of Music in Chicago. After three years in Chicago, he came to Montevallo as Professor of Music at Alabama College.

He was educated in Germany, receiving his undergraduate degree from the Classic Gymnasium and his graduate degree of Master Pianist from the Stern Conservatory in Berlin.

Prior to coming to America, Ziolkowski also taught at the Stern Conservatory as well as the Warsaw Conservatory in Poland. While in Poland, he met the internationally acclaimed piano virtuoso, Ignacy Paderewski, and had the good fortune to be invited to spend the summer of 1924 with him as his guest and student at his estate in Morges, Switzerland.

During his time in Chicago before coming to Montevallo, Miecislaw met Cecilia Jankowski, the American-born daughter of Polish and Bohemian immigrants. She had been a student of music and literature while in college, and after graduation, taught school and became involved in the arts, associating with a group of musicians, painters, and dancers. Through this connection, she met Miecislaw, and taught him English after becoming his bride.

Miecislaw and Cecilia were married in Chicago in 1930 and she soon joined him to build a new life together in a small Southern college town.

Miecislaw Ziolkowski had been denied U.S. citizenship papers every step of the way, from Poland, to Germany, to Chicago – until he arrived in Montevallo. Even so, he had to leave the country briefly, to Cuba, and then re-enter as a formal applicant before his citizenship could be granted, which it was in 1933.

The family business for the Ziolkowskis was music. Miecislaw taught music and piano at Alabama College and became a student favorite among the school's music faculty. Cecilia, in her own right, also became a much loved and admired piano instructor for wave after wave of Montevallo's school children.

"Ziolkowski" was not a name with which most people in Montevallo and students at the college were familiar. For some it was a mouthful and not all that natural to pronounce. Consequently, students soon created their own affectionate monikers for the couple: "Mr. Z" and "Mrs. Z". This sobriquet eventually took the place of Ziolkowski in the minds of just about everyone in Montevallo who knew or knew of them.

When Mr. and Mrs. Z were soon blessed with the births of two sons, it didn't take long for Teddy and Johnny to be informally christened by friends and classmates alike as "Teddy Z" and "Johnny Z".

In an inteview with the Montevallo Times in 1942, Mr. Z was emphatic that he was not a concert artist but that he was a "playing teacher". In spite of downplaying his talent in the article, soon after arriving on the Montevallo campus he began an annual January concert series that continued for more than 20 years. The first concert would be given in Palmer Hall and then he would often travel to Tuscaloosa and other cities to perform the same program.

His goal each year was to play a major work by composers of his own choosing such as Bach, Bartok, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, and Schubert. It was not unusual for the program to include his own compositions.

Among these were: "Witches' Dance", "Mountain Fantasy", "Polish Peasant Dance", and "Fire Flies", all of which he succeeded in having published.

Mr. Z felt Montevallo was a comfortable place for him and his family and found in it the warm atmosphere and friendliness that he had known in his home village in Poland. He was most appreciative that here, "people were people and not numbers".

Mrs. Z also thrived in Montevallo. The charming new home she and her husband built on Nabors Street, only a block from the college campus, became the destination for a parade of elementary, junior high, and high school piano students who came through her door each day.

During the 1950's, children as young as six years old were allowed by their teachers to walk the two blocks to Mrs. Z's, during school hours for their piano lessons. A grand piano used for the lessons dominated the living room and early arriving students could wait their turn on a cushy sofa nearby or amuse themselves until called under the old cedar trees in the front yard.

In anticipation of a formal recital to conclude the year, Mrs. Z would select a "recital piece" in the spring for each student based on her evaluation of their progress. Learning and becoming proficient with this piece of music occupied most of the remaining lessons for the year. When the day for the recital finally came, Mrs. Z welcomed the parents and family members of her students into her home for the big performance. She placed chairs in every available square inch of her living room, but part matter what happened or how the student felt he or she had done, Mrs. Z would have a supportive comment for everyone. Once the recital was over and the pressure had been relieved, students and family alike eagerly indulged in the fancy Eu-

of the audience was always left to stand. Mr. and Mrs. Z had a covered screened porch that connected the house with their garage. This is where the students, dressed in their Sunday best, congregated and waited for their turn in the spotlight. The pro-



This handsome, family-friendly looking bungalow on Nabors Street, in sight of the college campus, was built by the Ziolkowskis and is where their sons, Teddy and Johnny, grew up. Mrs. Z's students would come and go through the front door that led right into her living room that served during the day as her piano instruction studio.

gram ran from pecting the youngest student to the oldest with some offerings coming off better than others, revealing the amount of time and effort the student had put into preparation. As each presentation concluded, the audience always expressed their appreciation by applauding, and no pecting them to learn music and have their cultural horizons broadened. The salon atmosphere of Mrs. Z's spring recital was certainly a fitting coda and appropriate reinforcement of the goals that had been set beginning with each student's first piano lesson of the year.



the fancy European desserts, cookies, and cakes that Mrs. Z had prepared with her own hands for her guests.

It was no secret that the Montevallo school children who were enrolled with Mrs. Z were sent to her by their parents expecting them

A Montevallo Legend CONFIRMED!

By Clay Nordan



The idea for this story had an odd beginning, but after a little leg work, research, and direct communication, I am happy to report that the LEGEND of an admirable show of personal sacrifice and school spirit by a Montevallo

High School student in the late 1940's, passed down from generation to generation, has been confirmed as TRUĔ.

Theodore Ziolkowski, better known as Teddy "Z". the oldest son of Miecislaw and Cecilia Ziolkowski of Montevallo did, in fact, march and play his trumpet in football game half-time shows with the Montevallo High School band, WEARING HIS FOOTBALL UNIFORM, in the fall of his junior year.

The odd beginning for this quest started with one of my closest friends from childhood, Jonne Crow Thornton, youngest son of another Montevallo legend, Melton "Moon" Thornton.

Starting around 1948 and into the 1960's, the Montevallo High School band developed an impressive roster of trumpet players thanks to the encouragement and direction provided by long-serving band director, Victor T. Young. Teddy and his brother, Johnny, were among the first of these outstanding musicians. Mike Mahan was also a good trumpet man who played in the same ensemble with the Ziolkowskis.

A few years later, such standouts as Guy Milford, Bill Bob Garrett, and Tim Fancher inspired Jonne and me to follow in their bugling footsteps. Along with us, Barbara Reid, Grace McEntee, Jerry McGaughy, and Thomas Cannon were among the leaders in our section.

So we had heard the legend, passed down from class to class, about one of the "Z" boys (we weren't sure which one) being a star athlete on the gridiron who marched with the band at half-time in cleats and shoulder pads. We found this very hard to believe but it was a story that would not die.

Strangely enough, Jonne contacted me soon after the passing of Aretha Franklin, of all people, in August of 2018 and told me that her death had provoked in him flashbacks of memories he called "early Montevallo music, and hopes".

Although I had never heard this from him, he said that he had always "wanted to do what Johnny "Z" had done", not being certain about which brother was the hero.

His point was that he remembered the days of our youth as a time when people pushed themselves to excell and that he had also aspired to play football in high school as well as play in the band. If circumstances had been different for him, he would have been eager to compete in football games and then march and play in the band at half-time. Various afflictions, among them a broken neck, unfortunately prevented Jonne from even attempting to fulfill his ambition of following the "Z" example. In the email he sent to me revealing his secret, he concluded by saying, "I am just real curious to know whether Johnny Z really did the thing", and he asked for my help in uncovering the truth. I took this as a challenge to settle, once and for all, whether the story was myth or fact, and I threw myself into the search.

Given that I knew from multiple sources that the half-time feat in question had taken place in the final years of the 1940's, it was easy to do a little arithmetic and determine that Teddy "Z" was the most likely brother to be at the correct age to play varsity football at that time.

Then, I came across a passage in the book "Time Has Made a Change in Me" (a collection of memories about growing up in Montevallo) that described Ted this way:

"Ted did many things well: he was a star on the football team, first trumpet in the band and an excellent student who had skipped several grades".

This was enough for me to think Ted was the most likely brother to consider and so I began to find out if he could be contacted. Luckily, Mike Mahan, as part of the material he produced with his memoir, "No Hill Too High for a Stepper", included a pamphlet containing short biographies of people he had written about called "The Cast of Characters". Ted's bio was in this compilation and, to my surprise, Mike had also listed Ted's email address.

I figured, "What do I have to lose", so I put together an email to Ted describing that I was trying to prove or disprove the legend surrounding either him or his brother. I sent my message blindly to the email address in the pamphlet and crossed my fingers that it would reach its intended recipient.

To my great surprise and delight, it did. And a reply from Ted Ziolkowski came back very soon with the answer I was looking for:

"Yes, the 'legend' is true. During my junior year in high school, when the marching band was first formed, Mr. Young insisted on my cooperation since I was his first trumpet. But I was also playing right end on the football team; and so I marched with the band in my football outfit and earned myself the taunting nickname 'Music Man' from opposing teams. During my senior year, when I had moved to running back and captain of the team, I no longer played at half-time!"

Ted Ziolkowski

Ted left Montevallo to attend Duke University where he received a bachelors degree. He met his future wife, Yetta Goldstein, while she was a student at Montevallo. They were reunited when she came to Chapel Hill, NC for graduate studies in comparative literature. They were married just before Ted graduated from Duke. The following year he taught German at Duke while earning a Masters degree. He then studied at the University of Innsbruck in Austria. Upon returning to the United States, he went to New Haven, CT where he earned a Ph.D.



in German at Yale. He then taught at Yale as an instructor and assistant professor. By then, Ted and Yetta had started a family and they spent some time in Cologne, Germany, where Ted was researching his first book. For two years Ted was an associate professor at Columbia University in New York. The family then moved to Princeton, NJ where Ted was first a professor of German and comparative literature and then Dean of the Graduate School. Ted returned to Montevallo in 1973 and delivered three original lectures comparing the use of imagery in 19th and 20th century American and European fiction as that year's principal lecturer in the University of Montevallo's Dancy Lecture series. Since retirement Ted and Yetta have spent every fall in Berlin where they have many friends and where Ted carries out his research, which over the years has produced some thirty-five books, written in German as well as English. In addition, he has translated or edited at least a dozen more. Ted says that Yetta, who speaks fluent German, has been a collaborator and integral part of his life and work for

decades. He played trumpet all the way through college and graduate school and continued until he was 30 years old. He said that "it was a relaxing way to supplement my income as a graduate student and junior faculty member by playing for weddings, in jazz clubs near New Haven, and with a big band. Although he no longer plays the trumpet, he still plays Bach on the piano for an hour every day. Ted and Yetta have three children, all of whom have their Ph.D.s. and are professors at various institutions. They have produced seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. "We remain happily at home in Princeton," Ted says.

Iohn Ziolkowski

John went to Duke University, graduating with a degree in Greek. From there he went on to study classics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received a Ph.D. John taught at Randolph-Macon Women's College and then went to George Washington University



in Washington, D.C where he stayed for forty years. Since then he and his wife Alexandra have been trying to decide where to settle down. They have lived in Albuquergue and Tucson. While teaching, they enjoyed going to Europe in the summers especially Greece, Italy, and Geneva. Son Thad, grandson Teo and grand-daughter Gemma are in Brooklyn so that is an incentive to stay on the east coast. John writes; "Every couple of years I drag out my trumpet, practice for a couple of months and enjoy playing with various ensembles. I still keep up the piano for my own entertainment"

(Left) John Ziolkowski (at right in photo) with his friends from Montevallo, Dudley Pendleton and Emily Vest (who were later married) during a trip to Chicago in the early 1950's and a visit to the Museum of Natural History.







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