

Senior News

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Coming... Children's Museum of Byron!

by CLAIRE HOUSER-DODD

Of all the calls we get, the ones that excite us the most are those from people who are saving the past for posterity. This latest one was from Margorie Liaguno of Byron.

After hearing about Fort Valley's loss of their Coca-Cola Building and lately their Federal Jailhouse building, which saddened so many, Marj knew people would be glad to hear that Byron Area Historical Society is taking the High Road and is saving their old structures. The latest to be saved is the old Byron Bank and Post Office building on Main Street at the corner of Jail House Alley. It is a lovely small red brick Federal edifice that holds many memories for the city.

The Byron Area Historical Society bought the building in September of 2014 from Woodman of the World for \$1.00. They have worked long and hard to raise \$20,000, and have restored all but the floors. They need \$2,000 more to finish the floors. The floors need a lot of cleaning, refinishing and polishing to restore them to their natural beauty. Then they'll try to match the back of the of the building plans as much as possible with a floating floor that will protect the terrazzo underneath.

The Byron Area Historical Society is also looking for a bank cage like the original, if possible; or, if nobody has one

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December 2016
Vol. 30, No. 12

Local author, Carolyn Rath, and twin sister write a uniquely designed children's book

Special to Senior News

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a twin? Would you like a book that you could fashion to make the twins in your family realize how special they truly are?

Marilyn Erbentraut and Carolyn Rath are identical twins who have written a uniquely designed children's book that answers either of those questions. *I Am A Twin! Me, Too!* is an informative, educational, and interactive book that identifies the characteristics of identical and fraternal twins. It discusses the similarities and differences between identical and fraternal twins. Vocabulary words used in the book are identified and defined in an understandable way for youngsters. The book itself has pages where pictures of the twins in the family can be added to the pages in the book to make it specific and special to the family.

The twin book is geared to

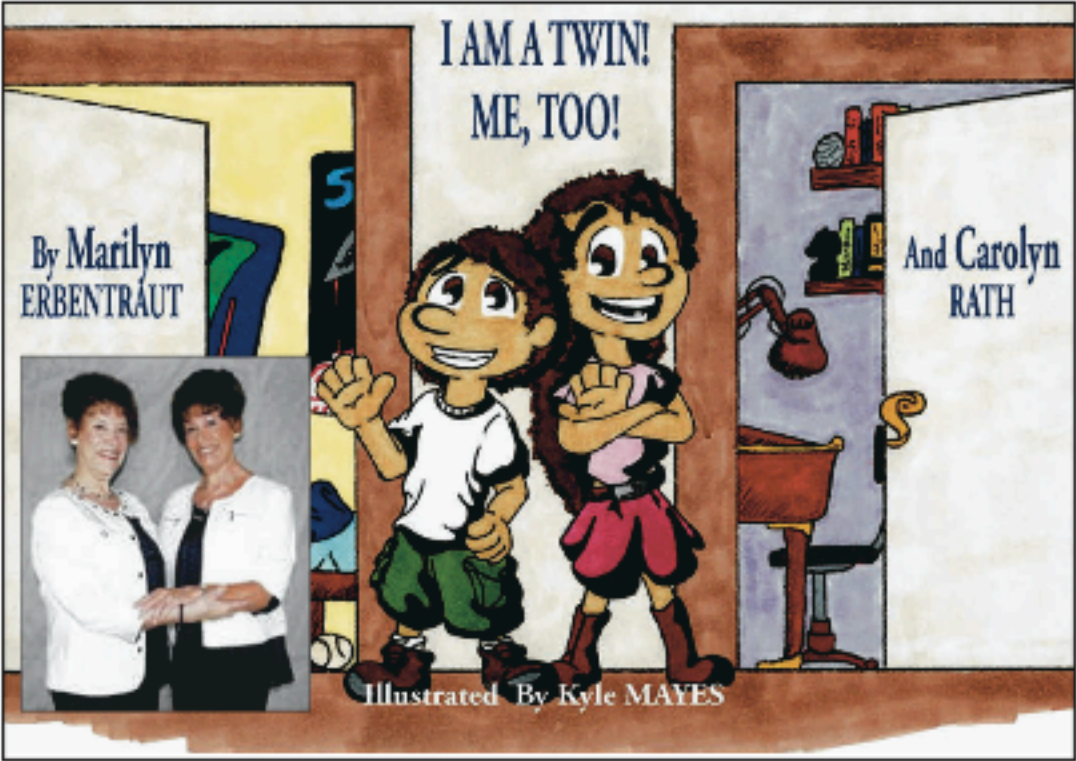
young children who are twins or who know twins. It is also appropriate for parents of twins, adults who know sets of twins, or couples who are expecting twins.

Marilyn and Carolyn have been in the education field for over forty years. They grew up in a rural community in Central Illinois where they were the only twins in their high school. They both earned advanced degrees in education while teaching in elementary schools. Carolyn Rath has taught reading and language arts in elementary school, middle school, and college. Her most recent position was Assistant Professor of Reading and English at Middle Georgia State University in Macon, Georgia from which she retired. Marilyn Erbentraut has taught in public schools in Illinois

and Wisconsin where she taught grades 1st through 8th. She recently retired from Randall School near Burlington, Wisconsin, where she served as the Gifted and Talented Coordinator for over 15 years.

Marilyn and Carolyn decided to use their educational backgrounds and their love of being twins to write a book about twins.

The book can be purchased through <http://www.mayhavenpublishing@mchsi.com>.



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Donald Young

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Let us entertain you

by CLAIRE HOUSER DODD

Christmas had to happen – the “need and the seed demanded such!” The inner core of every man and woman screams liberty, virtue, and truth! Morality will prevail, and joy will flood the earth! All things are possible with an Angelic host in control! Go tell it on the mountain, that Christmas has arrived! Celebrate with ecstasy, the Miracle of Christ the Lord! Our prayer is that all humanity may sense and embrace the Spirit of Christmas; and that the Peace of God abounds with everyone!

Dan Gatlyn, USN Ret.

The third Tuesday in November, The Study Club met at the home of Betty Cleveland. We were in charge of the program and since we’ve been reading a lot lately on how to live a long and happy life, enjoy yourself and your friends, and even keep your friends and family up and happy and how important it is to choose your friends and acquaintances well to this end – choose a funny friend. Consequently, we chose Ann Pearson McGhee to present our program and tell us some of the hysterical happenings in her family, past and present, some wonderfully entertaining things that happened at Jamestown, that beautiful “Home Away from Home” that was so lovely and Ann ran so well for so long. She told some of the funniest things that happened when she was dating, and even shared a few good ones with husband Bill.

Whatever, everybody laughed the entire time; we laughed so long and hard tears were running down our face, and we came home with absolutely NO makeup on. It was unanimous that this was our best program to date, and everyone went home with a smile on her face. Great program, great food and great friends.

People of Fort Valley were certainly blessed with music last Sunday; the Methodist Church with Dennis Herbert, Greg Whitley and Rachel Elkins played an old hymn that has been jazzed up, “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms,” “Tis So

Sweet to Trust in Jesus.” Uplifting. The Elevation Foundation.

Later at 3 p.m., St. Andrews Episcopal Church held a Thanksgiving concert by Tony Barrett, a Marshallville native, on the Schantz Pipe organ. He played many favorites, including “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come,” “We Gather Together,” “Bless This House” and “Now Thank We All Our God.” Marian Dampier and Phil Ballard sang a duet, “Bless This House,” and Kay Meyer read the Proclamation given by George Washington on Oct. 3, 1789 before Congress in New York City. The Rev. Anne Maroney welcomed the congregation and gave the benediction. Everyone was invited to a very lovely and colorful reception in the Parish Hall just behind the Church. It was a big plus to see the Robinson girls, who grew up here in Fort Valley when their father, Charles Robinson, was Priest and his wife Betty was so active in the community.

And enjoys genealogy, concerts, and traveling on the side. Tony is also a member of the Middle Georgia Camellia Society.

On the 3rd Thursday in November, the Cane River Vineyard was all lit up with music and laughter and joie de vivre. Dennis Herbert brought his three-piece band, “Rachel and the Rudy Toots,” to play and celebrate his birthday. Dennis played bass guitar, Greg Whitley played lead guitar and Rachael Elkins sang her heart out! It was quite an evening, a night to Give Thanks, lots of fun, and good memories to cling to forever. Happy Birthday, Dennis. Thanks for the cake, Peggy.

It was Emily Griffin’s birthday the 19th and a group of the Thursday nite Venue met at Rusty’s in Perry for another Birthday celebration and another rich time. Peggy got us beat on the cake. Happy Birthday, Emily!

Don’t forget Lunch with Santa on Dec. 10 at the Byron Train Depot. The kids get lunch, a train ride in the Jail House Alley Park and best of all, they get to tell Santa exactly what they want for Christmas. For reservations call 956-2196.

We’re still giving thanks for

making it through Thanksgiving. It befell us to entertain our little family. Thank goodness it has stayed rather small. Never-the-less, the items desired for the day are numerous and complicated. The good news is, “We made it in Spades.” The dressing seems to be the central concern, and ours passed. We had chicken rather than turkey because son, Mike, has discovered an allergy to the big bird. It seems to cause gout and some other undesirable things. We had chicken, fried, baked and roasted, and turned up a good gravy, too! Daughter Emily brought Ham and peas and butterbeans and Grand, Denver, and Blake brought sweet potato casserole and a huge pan of fresh beans. All was covered,

so Eli brought their special iced tea.

Brownies with candied cherries and the pumpkin pie with chocolate pastry! All were offered with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. Guess who is the Sugar-holic? Grand Matthew was a huge help. He set the table, placed the chairs around, sat in the big chair at the head of the table and said the blessing. What more can you ask of a 7-year old trying his best to be 10?

Fort Valley is already all prettied up and bringing on the Christmas Spirit in beautiful lights and lots of color. So let us get with it, get the Spirit of Giving, go shopping, get decorated, start cooking and be ready for our most glorious holiday of the year... CHRISTMAS!

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Senior News & Views of Georgia

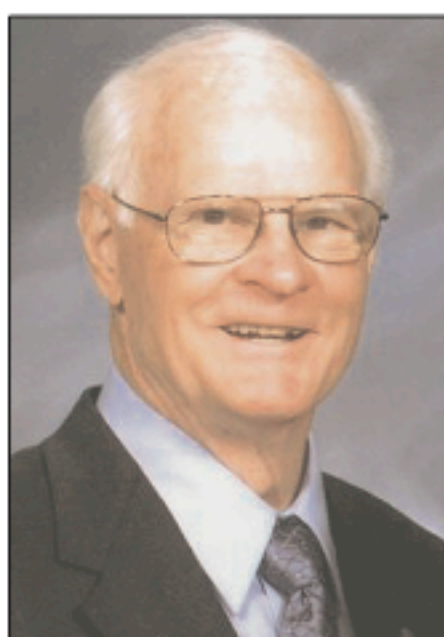
Remembering Senior News Founder and Publisher, Doyle Mendheim

by BILLY R. TUCKER
Publisher

Senior News founder and original publisher, Doyle Edison Mendheim, Sr., died Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at the age of 85. Services were held at First Baptist Church of Christ in Macon on Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. with the Reverend Scott Dickison officiating and family members and a large gathering of friends in attendance.

Doyle grew up in the rural area near Dothan, Alabama but lived most of his adult life with his wife, Merle, and children in Macon. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Christ, Macon, where he served as a deacon, chairman of ushers and director of several Sunday School departments. He was a veteran of the United States Navy and a member of the Gideons. Doyle worked with National Cash Register and Down River Forest Products. He founded and began publishing *Senior News* in 1987.

In 1989 this publisher co-founded and began publishing the weekly newspaper, *The Byron Gazette*, in Byron, Georgia. In the early 1990s the two publishers met



Doyle Edison Mendheim, Sr.

at a "common" printing location. Immediately the two of us became great friends and enjoyed the "get togethers" at the "printers." As years moved along and Doyle began to think about retirement, he would talk with this publisher about purchasing *Senior News*.

In 1997 *The Byron Gazette* was sold and in 1998 this publisher, along with his sister Ann Tunali, purchased *Senior News* from Doyle. With this, a long and very

enjoyable relationship with Doyle and Merle Mendheim began. It has been my great pleasure to have visited with them in their home on many, many occasions over these past years. They have always treated me as "family."

I shall cherish the memories shared with Doyle. Having grown up in rural south Georgia, this publisher identified with Doyle... so we on many occasions "swapped" farm stories. In time, Doyle would always get around to "milking the cows!" Even at the end of life he continued to pursue the idea of "buying some acres for a few dairy cows." He planned to meet the family's milk, butter, etc., needs and then market the excess!

Both publishers having served in the military, Doyle in the Navy and I in the Army in Vietnam, we often shared "old soldiers'" stories... not the bad ones... only the unusual and funny occurrences!

It's a great blessing to have been Doyle Mendheim's friend over these many years. I've always experienced Doyle to be a man of honor who was honest and just... a man who exemplified kindness, goodness and love toward others without regard for personal cost.

The Bible says that "whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap." I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the love, devotion and care that Merle (and other family members) have given to Doyle, especially during his time of sickness. Having sown in goodness and love, he was also extremely blessed with goodness and love!

I'm going to miss my friend! It is my prayer that God will richly bless, comfort, and uplift Merle and Doyle's entire family as they move forward.

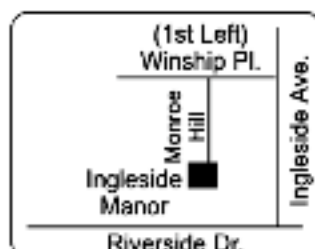
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MUSEUM from cover

of these, they will try to get some historical restoration person to duplicate it.

At this point, society members are looking for the \$2,000 for the floating floor to cover the back so they can open it and have it safe for the children to walk on.

This edifice will be set up to serve as a children's museum.

The old Bank Building will let them see how it used to be back in

the 1900's with the terrazzo floors and bank cages. It will also host a small city of Byron all set up with store fronts and a train traveling through. Mr. Tom Hisel, owner of 15 such trains, has offered one to the museum.

Bonnie and Clyde and Al Capone Most Wanted Post Office posters have been donated to set the time; and, Tommy Alden just gave Confederate dollars, 1860-1865 all framed, and American dollar bills from 1908-1926. Everything commemorating the time to be honored.



Dave and Marj Liaguno. Marj is the restoration project manager for the Byron Area Historical Society's Children's Museum.

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Our monthly meetings are a big hit with the H2U members. Each month, you enjoy a free breakfast

and listen to a guest speaker. Sometimes, you'll hear from Coliseum physicians, nurses, therapists or other health professionals about a current health topic. Often, we'll bring in an outside speaker, comedian, or entertainer. H2U offers free Bingo games once a month where you can win fun prizes and bragging rights! We also have a group that meets for bridge twice a week. Once a year, we also have special hamburger and hotdog picnic, complete with entertainment. We also have an annual Thanksgiving dinner, where members bring a Christmas gift to give to the Kids Yule Love charity.

Another popular offering of H2U is the opportunity to go on our day trips! Each month, we load up a bus and go to exciting places like Braves games, the North Georgia Mountains, the Fox Theater, Savannah, and so much more! This is a great chance for some of members to go places they wouldn't normally go alone. Many of members don't feel comfortable driving themselves to places like Atlanta and so our day trips are so appreciated.

As a member of H2U you will receive local and national discounts. Locally, you'll receive a discount in the cafeteria of Coliseum Medical Centers and Coliseum Northside Hospital. In the unfortunate event that you find yourself as a patient, we will provide a hospital cafeteria meal ticket for one caregiver per day. You also can get a fantastic deal on a Mathews Wellness Center membership at Wesleyan College. Here, you'll have access to their gym as well as water aerobics, yoga, and other classes. Nationally, you'll receive discounts on prescriptions, car rentals, hotel reservations, ADT services, and more!

Most importantly, the best thing that H2U has to offer is friendship and comradery. At our age, it's so important to stay connected to one another. We need to laugh together. We need to go on trips together. We need to keep learning new things to keep our minds sharp. H2U is a great way to stay young at heart!

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For additional information call
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continued on page 7

Poets' Corner

THANKSGIVING by Gale Wilkins

*I give thanks to the women who
have gone before me,
Who planted flowers by log cabin
doors,
Who gave birth alone far from
ancestral homes,
Those who served meals from the
wilderness's bounty, or turnips
in harder times.
I wish an extra heavenly blessing
on the women who carded, spun
and wove, cut and stitched covers
for beds and backs, and that by
candle/lamplight.*

*Those who never had a vote or so
much as saw a novel; were never
free from restrictive clothing;
vacation was a foreign word,
For the women who held steadfast
through sickness without curative
means,
To those who endured through the
wee morning hours.
To those who lifted up and to those
who above all loved and passed it
on to me.*

MID LIFE CRISIS... ...A THREAT TO MANY by Cynthia W. Underwood

*Remember when you were young
and feisty;
Care free with little or no concerns
of tomorrow?
Now you find yourself torn between
young and old;
At a stage of pity and confusion.*

*Remember, time means change
for us all.
Mid-life crisis is a threat to many;
A time when some people choose
to inflict harm, pain and
punishment upon themselves.
Not thinking that life when lived
long enough;
Brings change to mind and body.*

*Keep this in mind when thoughts
of sin try to take control.
Shake it off with logical reasoning
and righteous thoughts and
actions.
Take life as it comes; both with age
and maturity.
Accept things that we cannot
change and*

Cope with things in reality. *****

WHERE I'M FROM by Kelly Baldwin

*I'm from granite hills
and whippoorwills.*

*I'm from black-eyed peas
and grits and sardines.*

*I'm from the swinging door
on the front porch.*

*I'm from rocking chairs
and "I do declares!"*

*I'm from railroad tracks
and "That sure takes me backs!"*

*I'm from cheddar cheese
and Russian iced tea.*

*I'm from a red brick house
on Green Street.*

*I came from all of these
and all of these
are what makes me me!*

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EVENTS

from page 6

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Heart of Georgia Chapter 2 Blue Star Mothers of America

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Heart of Georgia Chapter 2, meets the first Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m. at Coldwell Banker's SSK Realtors located at 470 S. Houston Lake Road, Warner Robins. For additional information contact PJ Johnson at 478-284-6905 or email: chiefstrib@cox.net.

Open Sketching Portraits

Presented by the Fine Art Society of Middle Georgia. Every Tuesday that is not a holiday, 6-7 p.m., Nola Brantley Library, Watson Blvd., Warner Robins. For details contact Leslie Hoops-Wallace at 478-396-9198 or email: unicorquest@hotmail.com.

Fine Art Society of Middle

Georgia

Meets 4th Mondays at the Flint Electric Building, Hwy. 96 & Sutherland Dr., Warner Robins. For details call 478-396-9198, email: fasmidga@gmail.com, or visit www.fasmidga.org. FAS Gallery of Art is located at 2507 Moody Rd., Warner Robins.

Houston County Council on Aging/Meals on Wheels

Houston County Council on Aging/ Meals on Wheels is a non-profit that delivers meals to home bound seniors. We have openings for seniors in need of meals and for volunteers able to distribute meals. Please call Alesha Mathis, Meals on Wheels Coordinator, at 478-328-6070 for more information, to sign up for meals, or to volunteer.

United Methodist Women of Centerville UMC Purse Ministry

The United Methodist Women of Centerville United Methodist Church will start a "purse ministry." All friends are asked to "clear out their closets" and donate used purses in good condition. The purses will then be filled with toiletries, feminine products and beauty items... "anything a woman can keep in her purse." Persons donating purses may also filled with useful items if they so desire. Please leave purses at the door of the church by placing them in boxes located there for collection purposes. Purses may also be left at the door to the mission closet. Purses will be donated to "ladies in need." For complete details, contact Carrie at 478-396-2201.

Ocmulgee Audubon Society
Meets 2nd Monday monthly (except July), 7:30 p.m., Museum of Arts and Sciences, 4182 Forsyth Rd., Macon. Birders and visitors welcome. Additional information, call 478-477-7016; http://ocmulgeaudubonsociety.blogspot.com.

Free Car Seat Checkup

2nd Wed. of the month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Bibb County Health Dept., 171 Emory Hwy., Macon. SAFEKIDS Central Georgia. For details call 478-749-0144.

Holiday Food Drive At The Macon Centreplex Coliseum

Mon., Dec. 5, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. To benefit the Middle Georgia Community

Food Bank. The Holiday Food Drive will be accepting non-perishable food donations as well as monetary donations.

Wreaths Across America at Andersonville National Cemetery Sat., Dec. 17, 12 p.m. For details call 229-924-0343 or visit www.nps.gov/ande/.

~ Now Accepting Applications ~

HUNT SCHOOL VILLAGE IS NOW LEASING. This is to notify the public that Hunt School Village, located at 990 Shurling Drive, Macon, GA., will begin accepting applications beginning on Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Those interested may call the application line at 478-752-3781 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and request that an application be mailed. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may call the Georgia Relay Service at 7-1-1, or go to their website at <http://georgiarelay.org>. Hunt School Village is a HOME/LIHTC funded senior property with Section 8 Project Based Voucher rental assistance. The property contains 36 1-BR, and 24 2-BR units. All units are accessible and adaptable as defined by the Fair Housing Amendments Act. In addition, units are available that are designed specifically for persons with mobility, hearing, or visual impairments. Persons with disabilities or those with limited English proficiency needing assistance filling out the application may call the above application line or Georgia Relay Service for assistance. In order to qualify for residency, all family members must be at least 62 years of age with a total family income that does not exceed the HUD published 50% AMI income limits for Macon-Bibb County, have a good rental history and acceptable background screening. Hunt School Village is an Equal Housing Opportunity property and provides housing to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.



General Business Directory For Seniors

Goodwill NEEDS YOU!



YOUR DONATIONS

When you donate your clothing and household items to Goodwill Industries, the merchandise will be processed by trainees and resold at Goodwill stores to fund job training and placement services for people with barriers to employment

YOUR TIME

Spend an afternoon, or a few hours each week giving back to the community. Make volunteering a part of your family activities.



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To find a location near you, visit
www.goodwillworks.org

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