

Conservator

• restoring the vision • preserving the legacy •



• the friends of delano park newsletter • volume 13 •

Restoring the Vision - Preserving the Legacy

“I would like to tell visitors to the park how fortunate we are to have a place like this to come to and how much somebody who was here before enjoyed it. It seems so simple to try to say, ‘A man rode a bicycle with his dog here.’ It fails to encompass: how they always found friends to visit with; there was often more socializing than exercising; this dog shared her joy with her companion; the same old ride through the park was always different. Home was always more welcoming after a ride through the park.”
-Bentley Vaughan remembering his grandfather, Clifford Vaughan



Clifford Vaughan and Pecos

On May 12, 2007 Friends of Delano Park and honored guests gathered to mark the official dedication of the Rose Garden. After seven years of dreaming, planning, fundraising, and plain old hard work, the dream had become a reality! Standing on the terrace amid the roses and hydrangeas, our hearts were filled with pride and appreciation for those people whose gifts and support helped bring the Rose Garden back to its former glory.

Newly installed bronze plaques bore the names of those honored and gave a special meaning to the garden. It was appropriate that the plaque in memory of John Caddell stood tall at the east entrance. As honorary chairman of Friends of Delano Park, Mr. Caddell's support and inspiration led the way from the very beginning. He gave us courage to follow the vision. It was equally meaningful that the plaque in memory of Lawson "Sophie" Davidson was placed at the west entrance across from his childhood home on Gordon Drive. Mr. Davidson served as an example to us of someone who was dedicated to protecting and beautifying public greenspaces that were so dear to his heart. Another plaque read simply "In memory of Clifford R. Vaughan and Pecos the good dog". When describing his grand-

father's love for the park, grandson Bentley wrote, "I would like to tell visitors to the park how fortunate we are to have a place like this and how much somebody who was here before enjoyed it. It seems so simple to try to say, 'A man rode a bicycle with his dog here.' It fails to encompass: how they always found friends to visit with; there was often more socializing than exercising; this dog shared her joy with her companion; the same old ride through the park was always different. Home was always more welcoming after a ride through the park." For many of us, this quote reveals the inability of words to express the simple joys our community receives daily from our beloved parks and greenspaces.

As violin music filled the air that day, the Rose Garden with all its beauty and perfection was really about so much more. It was about the people who care about Delano Park, who remember a special place and want others to share that experience. It was about Connie Rix, the young woman in crisp Navy whites saluting a plaque in memory of her grandmother, Louise Griswold Vaughan who loved the park throughout her life. It was about a place where special memories are shared. It was about honoring our past, creating new memories, and building a better future for our community.



Louise Griswold Vaughan enjoying the garden (1936)

A Vision For All Children

*"I seldom think about my limitations,
and they never make me sad.
Perhaps there is just a touch of yearning at times;
but it is vague, like a breeze among flowers."*

-Helen Keller

In telling the story of special education in Alabama, the vision and leadership of one woman cannot be underestimated. Margaret Palmer Vann led Huntsville City Schools and all of Morgan County, including Decatur and Hartselle, in providing services to children with disabilities. She pioneered this effort in these school systems from 1968 until her retirement in 1982. Because of her leadership throughout the state during that time of change in the field of special education, the Alabama Federation Council for Exceptional Children established the Margaret Vann Award for Outstanding Special Education Coordinator in Alabama. She became Alabama's standard of excellence for teachers in the profession.



Margaret Palmer Vann

For Margaret Palmer Vann, My Mentor and Friend

by Marthelle Stover, November 2007

She lies not moving easily now, but defying
pain, she moves none-the-less.
She has always been a mover and
as I recall, it was never easy.
But ignoring obstacles, she moved still.

After awhile people moved with her and
communities began to grow...
schools changed, children benefited.
You see, she was and is a teacher--
a believer in children.

Her eyes always focused on children,
she fought for them and spoke when they
could not. She wanted them to know what some
have always known, and to feel
what some have always felt.

...to know inside that they can grow
and learn, to know they are valued,
to feel loved, and to experience fun,
so they can laugh however
their souls can laugh.

Her followers changed in ways
they did not expect. Her patient
pioneering made ripples as if in a stream.
Now we honor her well. Children will
swing and play in a park for all children.

She can hear their laughter and I
can hear her moving.

Because of Margaret Vann's lifelong dedication to all children and most especially to children with special needs, fundraising plans are underway that will provide the means to donate the stone and timber entry gateway to the Playground and Garden for All Children in her honor. We hope you will want to be a part of the tribute to this visionary whose life was committed to the service of all children.

-Marthelle Stover, Nell Clem, Bettye Dennis, Carol Ozier, Tom Maynor, Betty Parker, Carol Taylor & Corky Vann

HONORARIUMS, GIFTS, & MEMORIALS

Friends of Delano Park appreciates the many thoughtful gifts from its patrons.

The following contributions were made between April and November 2007.

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"Be an opener of doors for such as come after thee."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

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*In kind

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“Nature never did betray the heart that loved her.”

-William Wordsworth

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*In kind



*“The voyage of discovery
is not in seeking
new landscapes
but in having new eyes.”
-Marcel Proust*

Noah Bradlee Smith in the Rose Garden (November 2007)

Do you find yourself in a dilemma every year trying to buy Christmas gifts for those on your list who have everything? Friends of Delano Park is a totally volunteer operation. Every penny received goes toward a project for the park. Give the gift that keeps on giving to our community, its children and future generations. Make a donation to Friends of Delano Park in honor of family members and friends. It's a lasting gift.

How Do I Make a Contribution?

Memorial gifts and honorariums are wonderful ways to remember and honor loved ones and friends. Donations will be used toward the rehabilitation and improvement of Delano Park. Your gift is fully tax-deductible and will be listed in the next issue of *Conservator*. If you wish to send a gift in memory or honor of a special person, please fill out the form below and mail it to: The Community Foundation of Greater Decatur/Friends of Delano Park, P.O. Box 742, Decatur, AL 35602. For more information about the many ways of giving, please call Nell Standridge at 256/350-6836. Named gift opportunities are available.

Honorarium

Memorial

This gift is a tribute to: _____

The above person is: **(please circle)** mother, father, brother, sister, cousin, aunt, uncle, friend, other _____ to the following person(s) listed, who will be notified of the gift.

Please notify the following persons of my gift:

Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Donor Information:

Name: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Form of Payment:

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Check Visa MasterCard
Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Undesignated gifts will be used where the need is greatest throughout Delano Park.

___ I/We wish to designate my/our gift be applied toward the following: (circle one) Children's Play Area Rose Garden

___ I/We are interested in knowing more about named gift opportunities. Please contact me/us regarding named gift opportunities .

A fund to benefit Friends of Delano Park has been established within The Community Foundation of Greater Decatur. The Community Foundation of Greater Decatur is a community foundation qualified under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations should be made to The Community Foundation of Greater Decatur/Friends of Delano Park. Donations are deductible as charitable contributions to the extent provided by law.

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of Greater Decatur**
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rannie Augusta Stewart and Louise Griswold Vaughan in the Rose Garden (1936)



...So your children can tell their children