

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT**

**David Zelski VO:**

Coming up on this week's Georgia Traveler. Explore the State Botanical Gardens in Athens. Find healthy soul food with Phil. Search the Historic South for Santa Claus. And discover a rather comedic museum in Harlem.

**Music**

On the road most every day, looking for a place where you can play, looking for the best place you can stay. From the mountains to the coast, looking for a trip you'll like the most, maybe even find a friendly ghost, we're Georgia Traveler. Well we're from Georgia and we travel, that's why we call it Georgia Traveler, and nothing rhymes with Georgia Traveler, but still we're called the Georgia Traveler.

**Woman:**

Georgia Traveler is made possible in part by the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

**Woman:**

We all have dreams.

**Man:**

To wear the green jacket.

**Woman:**

To see wild horses.

**Kid:**

To catch a major league ball.

**Man:**

To create memories with my family.

**Woman:**

Put your dreams in motion. Visit Georgia dot org.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

People are drawn to this state for its unbelievable beauty. We're working hard to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, proud sponsor of the programming that also enriches our lives.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT**

The Ray M. and Mary Elizabeth Lee Foundation, Inc.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

Supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting.

**Woman:**

Thank you.

**David Zelski:**

Hello and welcome to Georgia Traveler, I'm your tour guide David Zelski. We're here in Augusta, Home of the Masters, that's because this week we're looking at Historic Southeast Georgia. We have a lot of great stories for you, but first, let's take a look at some of the sights and sounds you'll experience when visiting this part of the state.

**MUSIC**

**David Zelski:**

A ways south of Augusta, near Vidalia, Georgia, there have been several sightings of Santa Claus, and not just during Christmas time, this is all year round...So I decided to put on my detective hat, head South, and find this Santa Claus. I decided to start 110 miles south of Augusta in Lyons.

**MUSIC**

So could Santa Claus really be spending his off-time in Georgia? Well, on Georgia Traveler we try to answer all of our viewer's inquiries at whatever the cost. So, I bought a hat at TJ Maxx, a coat at the thrift-store and compiled a list of places where I may find Santa Claus. All clues directed me to Toombs County, Georgia. So it was off to Toombs County seat, Lyons, Georgia where I began the investigation.

**MUSIC**

**Charles Rustin:**

Christmas Eve all the streets are lined with candles and of course everybody tries to decorate a day or two before Christmas to make Santa Claus really stand out. Santa Claus has been here a long, long time.

**David Zelski:**

Not much help, however, I knew Santa Claus loved the arts so I headed to the Blue Marquis Theatre home of the highly acclaimed play, "Tales of the Altamaha"

## GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast CAPTIONING SCRIPT

### **Rick Berry:**

Lyons especially gives us some identity throughout the state as having this play. You know there's other plays around the state but we feel like we have the best folk life play in the state of Georgia.

### **Red Castleman:**

The youngsters really got a kick out of learning how people talked back in those days. We weren't real proper but we did the best we could.

### **David Zelski:**

Some of Santa's helpers reportedly helped theatre restoration manager, Clint Williams restore this historic landmark.

### **Clint Williams:**

To have it restored and opening up with some of our own history from Colonel T. Ross Sharpe and his writings and to bring that back into our home town was just an exciting time for all of us not just for myself.

### **David Zelski:**

The show was a treat, and so was the Blue Marquis Coffee shop next door, however Santa was nowhere to be found, and I had to continue following my clues. Continuing in Lyons I found a workshop called Prince Books with several home-made glass toys and ornaments, but no elves and no Santa Claus. I treated myself to a delicious breakfast, and thanked the Mayor of Lyons for all of his help. Soon after, I received word of an elf sighting at a place called A World of Arts and Crafts, so I headed to Georgia's Onion town, known as Vidalia, or Vi-Day-yuh. Here I blended in with the local artists hoping Santa would accidentally stumble upon our session.

### **David Zelski:**

The elf helped me create a fantastic Pablo Picasso-esque Christmas card for my wife. However, still no Santa, just a couple of elves...Apparently hot on his trail, I remained in Vidalia and gathered a few more clues at the Ladson Genealogy library, one of the best places in the country to track a family tree. Claus would be found soon.

### **Dusty Gres:**

We're looking at the Christmas family, the Claus family and the Nicholas family. We found several Saint Nicholas' all over the United States in the census. Genealogy is not an easy thing to do. We say it's research because you search and then you re-search.

### **David Zelski:**

After a heavy dose of research, I was back on the beat and found a coffee and candy shop called a Shop of My Own.

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT**

**Jackie Collins:**

Yes Santa comes here every morning. He usually gets a cappuccino with an extra shot of espresso, hot chocolate for Mrs. Claus and if he can't come he sends an elf.

**David Zelski:**

With fresh clues I went to a store called Mary's Interior where I caught a fleeting glimpse.

**Store Clerk:**

Yea, I think he just went out the front door.

**David Zelski:**

Santa wait...After combing the entire county of Toombs I have finally found Santa Claus. So Santa Claus what do you have to say? No words, imposter. I discussed Santa Claus with the Mayor of Vidalia who directed me to another suspicious Santa Claus, however, this one was under some heavy security. After my intense confrontation with Yumion the Onion, I needed a little detective fuel, so it was off to Natzu's where Oscar, the greatest steak chef this side of the Altamaha quenched my appetite. Not only could Oscar cook, but helped me again providing my biggest clue yet. Can you help me out?

**Oscar:**

Yes sir, I think that Santa Claus is five miles from Natzu and he enjoys the food.

**David Zelski:**

He was telling me that Santa Claus was less than five miles away. It was night-time but I had my Sherlock Holmes intuition back in full force. I'd heard about a family known as the Wolfe's whose 10<sup>th</sup> annual "Lights of Hilldale" display is one of the South's largest and most impressive. Over 6,000 families come here every year to check out the over 750 thousand lights. Santa Claus evaded me for one day, but day two would prove to be a different story...Behold December Drive. Santa Claus was close. This must be it. I think I found the place where Santa Claus lives. The only question, which door?

**MUSIC**

**David Zelski:**

I'll be darned turns out Santa Claus is not only a person, it's a city. So it turns out Santa Claus is not only a person it's a city in Georgia.

**Mayor:**

It's a city and you're in the right place.

**David Zelski:**

## GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast CAPTIONING SCRIPT

All right well no better place then Santa Claus, Georgia to get my Christmas card stamped. Would you mind doing that for me?

**Woman:**

No sir I should like to very much.

**David Zelski:**

Well I felt pretty silly after finding out that Santa Claus was actually a city in Georgia but the Post mark on my Christmas card was pretty cool, and all in all I think the hunt was well worth my time. Surely the real Santa Claus has witnessed the awesome holiday spirit in Toombs County and if not he should...Heck, they named a town after him

Next it's off to Harlem, about 23 miles southwest of Augusta, where we can find some real comic genius.

### MUSIC

**Gerald Bryant VO:**

Since 1999 Harlem's 2,000 residents have welcomed up to 30 thousand fans for the annual Oliver Hardy Festival.

**Fan:**

Hello there, how are you? Welcome to Harlem.

**Kathy Ham:**

In about 1988 the mayor at that time, James Lewis got a group of us together that worked for the city, some volunteers and wanted to come up with something you know that Harlem could be known for. And that's when it was brought up that Oliver Hardy was born here. And with him being so famous that's when we decided that we would start a festival.

**Gerald Bryant VO:**

Oliver Norvell Hardy was born in the little railroad town of Harlem, Georgia on January 18, 1892.

**Kathy Ham:**

He was born here and lived here for only a short time. His father passed away when he was 10 months old and the mother packed up their family and moved to Milledgeville.

**Gerald Bryant VO:**

In 1910 a movie theater open in Milledgeville and Hardy found a new obsession. Three years later he moved to Jacksonville where movies were being made and soon appeared in his first film. In 1917 with more than 150 movie credits to his

## GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast CAPTIONING SCRIPT

name Hardy moved to Los Angeles where he would meet Stan Laurel and become a movie legend.

**Oliver Hardy:**

Well how about a nice cool drink?

**Stan Laurel:**

That's great, it'll just put me in the mood. Yes sir.

**Gerald Bryant VO:**

Despite Ollie's short time in Harlem, the town has claimed the comedian as its own.

**Kathy Ham:**

The festival is always the first Saturday in October. We'll have over 350 crafter vendors set up. We'll do local entertainment throughout the day on two different stages. We have a big barbeque dinner that the fire department does. We have look-alike contests. We have Stamrole and all the Hardy skits that are performed throughout the day. We have a big parade that comes through. It's a great day because so many people come out and it's such a community spirit. When the festival was started in 1989, I do not believe the city had the vision of what the festival is now. I don't think they had the vision of how well loved Oliver Hardy and Stan Laurel are all throughout the United States and abroad.

**Gino Dercola:**

What made them so great? I think it's the genius of their comedy, the timing of the scenes that they did and the comedy that they had and the relationship that they showed on screen has been unmatched as far as I'm concerned by any comedy. And it's like the Mona Lisa. It'll always be appreciated a thousand years from now, because beauty never dies. Their films are like that. They're made by geniuses.

**Gerald Bryant VO:**

For diehard fans and casual tourists, the Laurel and Hardy Museum in the old post office, opens a window on Stan and Ollie's lasting appeal.

**Kathy Ham:**

The museum is a product of the festival. When we started the festival people started bringing things and donating them to us at City Hall for the festival. And these would be memorabilia items from all over the world. And then it just came about that you know we were getting a lot of items and we needed somewhere that we could actually put them on display. So we are very proud of the museum. This is the only one in the United States. We have visitors from all over the world that come, people that are just very excited that we're here. They're very excited to find us when they get off on the back roads and their driving around they had no idea that we're here.

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT**

**Fan:**

Well this is the eleventh festival that I've come to. It's a great community. They love Oliver Hardy. They love his memory. I have a lot of respect for the people in Harlem. And that's why I feel I want to keep coming back each year.

**Hardy Look-alike:**

Well goodbye.

**Laurel Look-alike:**

Goodbye.

**Hardy Look-alike:**

Goodbye.

**Laurel Look-alike:**

Goodbye.

**Hardy Look-alike:**

Goodbye.

**Laurel Look-alike:**

We're going now.

**Hardy Look-alike:**

Hello ladies. Goodbye we're leaving.

**Laurel Look-alike:**

Goodbye.

**Hardy Look-alike:**

Goodbye.

**Laurel Look-alike:**

Where are we going?

**Hardy Look-alike:**

I have no idea.

**David Zelski:**

Next, our own Phil Proctor makes a Fabulous Food Find.

**Phil Proctor:**

Here I am in downtown beautiful Augusta, just off of I-20, home of the Masters and the godfather of soul James Brown. But today I want to introduce you to the godfather of collard greens, Calvin Green and his restaurant, Hot Food by Calvin.

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT**

**MUSIC**

**Phil Proctor:**

From what I'm seeing here, when you come to Hot Food by Calvin you're going to get a lot of food especially a lot of meat. And you all know how I feel about meat. All right Calvin don't hurt that, don't hurt it. Calvin what you got going on over here?

**Calvin Green:**

We got some blackened fish and shrimp going on a Cajun dish. Our famous home made hamburger and my ground sirloin marinade in an olive oil base here, sautéed grilled squash. My famous collard greens, that's the one with the no fat back.

**Phil Proctor:**

Ok that was it, that was it, we've got to stop right here Calvin. I've got to talk now. When I was coming up everybody had fat back in the collard greens. You know how many women just did a back flip with no fat back in the collard greens. What's your secret?

**Calvin Green:**

My secret, taking caramelizing onions, caramelize some onions and Calvin's special blend of seasoning of black pepper, cayenne pepper, basil, oregano and thyme.

**Phil Proctor:**

Ok and that's Calvin's secret?

**Calvin Green:**

Well yea, it's under lock and keys in the back.

**MUSIC**

**Phil Proctor:**

All right so now we had a chance to watch all this wonderful food being prepared and I'm thinking the best way for me to really get close to it was for me to serve a couple of our patrons here. So my buddy John and I, hey John you ready to go do this?

**John:**

Yes sir.

**Phil Proctor:**

All right we're going to go serve a couple of folks. Chicken over here for you ma'am.

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT**

**Woman:**

All right.

**Phil Proctor:**

All right I hope it all taste real well. Because if not I can come back and finish that off for you. You don't need my help.

**Man:**

No, I don't need no help.

**Phil Proctor:**

Oh ok. I want to know how hungry you really are. Because I mean that looks delicious, you know what, can I get that one right there because that just seems like it would be the right one. You know if you all come and eat at a place like this you got to be able to sample the food and these steak fries are just fantastic. Now what did you get?

**Man:**

I got sirloin.

**Phil Proctor:**

You realize that's going to hurt you later? That's a big old piece of meat for a little man like you. You might want to let me help you with that too. Calvin Green chef extraordinaire, owner, I appreciate it so much, thank you.

**Calvin Green:**

But Phil I've got a location to show you downtown Augusta, let's go.

**Phil Proctor:**

All right then.

**MUSIC**

**Phil Proctor:**

So Calvin now you've got a location where uptown, now you've got one downtown.

**Calvin Green:**

Yes. I got one uptown and downtown. Hot Foods by Calvin.

**Phil Proctor:**

Hot Foods by Calvin. Now look, I see some best of 2000, '99, 2001, 2002, tell me about these best of awards.

**Calvin Green:**

## GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast CAPTIONING SCRIPT

Well best of Augusta. We were voted best down home country cooking 8 years in a row. We also got it for 2006, best of Augusta. Phil let me put some of this country fried steak on your plate.

**Phil Proctor:**

Ok if you insist.

**Calvin Green:**

Country fried steak. There you go.

**Phil Proctor:**

Better give me another one just to make sure. Ok that's good.

**Calvin Green:**

Ok. Try this fried chicken Phil.

**Phil Proctor:**

Ok, now you know when all this food on my plate the only thing I'm missing is a diet coke.

### MUSIC

**David Zelski:**

A young Woodrow Wilson spent ten years, From 1860 to 1870 in this Augusta home. It was on these stairs where he first heard two men talking about the election of President Abraham Lincoln. 5 years later he witnessed confederate president Jefferson Davis being lead through these streets, on his way to prison and then in 1912, Wilson was elected President of the United States.

**David Zelski VO:**

Young Woodrow was only three years old when his family moved into this house on Seventh Street in Augusta. His father, the Reverend Doctor Joseph Ruggles Wilson had been called to be the minister at First Presbyterian Church.

**Katherine Vincent:**

The story that I heard about him from my mother was that her grandfather would shorten his sermons on Sunday and then dismiss the congregation to go work in the ammunition, or armaments factory here and that's significant for two reasons. The first was that he was so firm and stern in his opinion of observing the Sabbath to keep it holy, but then he sent them to work. The second was that he was a Yankee, he was born in Ohio but he obviously was a great southern sympathizer because not only did he send his congregation to work on a Sunday, but during the war he would take maybe two months each summer and do missionary work with the troops on the line and he paid particular attention to the Georgia soldiers.

## GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast CAPTIONING SCRIPT

### **David Zelski VO:**

The Wilson's lived in this home throughout the Civil War, but during that time in the future President's life, he wasn't called Woodrow.

### **Katherine Vincent:**

No, he was called Tommy. He was very young when the war started, when they moved here. Then he heard the rumors of war and that scared him and, his father, I don't know what his father would have said. What would you say to a four year old? That war is coming? But, he did see Augusta prepare maybe for Sherman's march through, and it didn't happen, but they were all prepared for it and scared to death of it

### **David Zelski VO:**

Some suggest that it was young Tommy's experience living through the Civil War and all of it's difficulties that made him hesitant to commit US troops in World War One. His desire to maintain peace would make him a leader in the creation of the League of Nations in 1919. Tommy Wilson and his family lived here from 1860 to 1870. Although other families lived in the pastorate after the Wilson's, the house has been restored and decorated with furniture from this period. The Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson is one of several house museums in the area and is definitely worth a visit.

### **David Zelski:**

Just over 96 miles northwest of Augusta, we find Georgia's State Botanical Gardens in Athens.

## **MUSIC**

### **Ashlie Wilson VO:**

Just about everyone knows that the first state-chartered university in the United States is located in Athens, but did you know that the University of Georgia's campus is also home to The State Botanical Gardens of Georgia? A 313 acre preserve, the gardens have been cultivated to foster appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of plants and nature.

### **Tour Guide:**

Just because the apples are not edible...

### **Dr. Jeff Lewis:**

We are certainly one of the premier botanical gardens in the southeast. And there's much to see and appreciate on different levels. Some people come simply to smell the roses, other to enjoy the natural world, but we hope that through the process of engaged learning that people leave the garden with a better understanding of plants and the importance of plants in their everyday lives. Many people don't realize the extent of the garden we have four major

## **GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast CAPTIONING SCRIPT**

facilities that support quite a variety of educational programs and special events. I think probably it's the sheer size and complexity of the garden that perhaps impresses people first. We have actually a variety of gardens. If you look at our theme gardens for example that focus on a particular topic, you would find a shade garden, an international garden, a heritage garden, but in the final analyses it kind of boils down to native versus exotic plants and we have a good product mix of both I think. Our heritage garden features plants that are historically or socio-economically important to the history of this state. A whole diverse cross-section of plants really that have been interval to the history of Georgia. So many of the things that one hears about, and encounters in everyday life, at least the products from those plants, such as tea and coffee, and chocolate, and tropical food and beverage plants are certainly the interest of the general public and children and so we have those kinds of things in our conservatory collections as well. Certainly one garden that gets a lot of attention from the general public is our Bog garden. Bogs are particularly interesting because they support a wide range of species that aren't typically seen in other habitats. And a good example of that would be the Pitcher Plants that we feature in our bog garden, which are one of several types of carnivorous plants that grow in Georgia. Here you have a plant that is actually capable of catching insects, and ultimately digesting them. Being a university related, affiliated botanical garden we also support many of the teaching and research efforts we try to offer programs designed for children from pre-k through twelve and focus really quite a bit of our environmental education curricula on that age group, but we do a lot for adults as well.

### **Teacher:**

They are that's tough to remember. Does anybody know what this little thing is?

### **Dr. Jeff Lewis:**

We sometimes refer to ourselves as an outdoor classroom.

## **MUSIC**

We've always said that people come to the garden for many different reasons. And I suspect that there are people that come just simply enjoy the recreational aspect of being out in nature and you know that's important too, we just hope that when they leave they are better educated than when they came.

### **David Zelski:**

And that concludes our visit to Historic Southeast Georgia, I'm David Zelski, wishing you pleasant journeys, now lets take a sneak peak at what's coming up on the next Georgia Traveler. We'll visit Macon during the Cherry Blossom Festival. Explore the delights of the Georgia National Fair in Perry. Sample southern cooking at the Blue Willow Inn. And discover the interesting history and inhabitants of Fitzgerald. Be sure and join us for the next Georgia Traveler.

**GEORGIA TRAVELER 105- Southeast  
CAPTIONING SCRIPT**

**Woman:**

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**Man:**

Located 16 miles east of downtown Atlanta on 3200 acres of natural beauty, Stone Mountain Park features a wide variety of entertainment and recreation for every member of the family. The sky ride offers up close views of the memorial carving. Guests can take a five mile train ride or a paddle wheel river boat cruise. And the crossroads area offers the chance to interact with demonstration crafters. The park also features ride the duck tours and the laser show spectacular. More information is available at stonemountainpark dot com.

**Woman:**

And by...

**Woman:**

People are drawn to this state for its unbelievable beauty. We're working hard to keep it that way. We're Georgia Power, proud sponsor of the programming that also enriches our lives.

**Woman:**

And by the Ray M. and Mary Elizabeth Lee Foundation. And by supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting. Thank you.

**Music**

Credits

**Man:**

This has been a production of Georgia Public Broadcasting.