

GEORGIA TRAVELER 106- HISTORIC SOUTH, WEST
CAPTIONING SCRIPT

Gerald Bryant :

Coming up on this week's 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.

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...

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Woman:

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

Woman:

And by...

Woman:

Supporters of Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Woman:

Thank you.

Gerald Bryant:

Hello everybody, and welcome to Georgia Traveler. I'm your tour guide Gerald Bryant. We are in Macon at the Cherry Blossom Festival because this week we are visiting beautiful and historic southwest Georgia. We've got some great stories for you, but first, here are some of the sights and sounds you'll experience when you visit the area.

Music

Gerald Bryant:

Now, maybe if you go overboard at a festival you might see a pink elephant, but I bet you've never seen Lacey, the pink poodle. How you doin' Lacey? Lacey looks like she might enjoy the Georgia National Fair too. The celebration is held in October every year in Perry, almost 30 miles South of Macon.

Music

Gerald Bryant :

Whether you spend one full day... or even one week at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Georgia, you still may not have enough time to see it all.

Music

Gerald Bryant :

So who better than some veteran fair fanatics to help me explain at least a fraction of the festivities

Zeke the Hillbilly:

My name's Zeke.

Gerald Bryant:

Zeke?

Zeke the Hillbilly:

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The Hillbilly.

Gerald Bryant:

Zeke the Hillbilly. This is a very interesting conveyance behind you. Tell me about the car.

Zeke the Hillbilly:

Well that's an old 1929 model A town sedan that's been converted into a hillbilly RV.

Gerald Bryant:

Can you tell me your name?

Patches the Dog:

Well my name is Patches and I'm with the Perry Fire Department.

Gerald Bryant:

And what are you doing at the fair?

Patches the Dog:

Well I'm teaching the little ones about fire safety and having a good time, and eating a few corn dogs.

Gerald Bryant:

Now wait a minute, you're a dog right?

Patches the Dog:

That's right.

Gerald Bryant:

And your favorite food is Corn Dogs?

Patches the Dog:

CORN DAWG Baby!

Gerald Bryant:

Isn't that kind of weird?

Patches the Dog:

Well you know, It's a fireman thing. It's good.

Gerald Bryant:

What's the best thing you've had to eat all day?

Group:

Oh the pork tenderloin sandwich.

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Gerald Bryant:

So you'd recommend the Pork tenderloin...

Group:

Yes. Yes.

Gerald Bryant:

Has anybody had an elephant ear?

Group:

No. No. We'll have to go to that. What's the next best thing? The funnel cake.

Gerald Bryant:

What's the difference between an elephant ear and a funnel cake?

Elephant Ear Enthusiast:

A funnel cake is made with a pancake batter, they're smaller and about so thick...Ours is a flour based with sugar salt...about this big around and so thick...crispy.

Gerald Bryant:

Here is the final test.

Group:

We'll let you tear off a piece.

Gerald Bryant:

Okay...

Elephant Ear Enthusiast:

You should have made it bigger for TV.

Group:

Yes you should have.

Gerald Bryant:

That's big enough.

Group:

It's hot. It should be.

Gerald Bryant:

I think the one with the cinnamon...Is a really good elephant ear.

Patches the Dog:

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Can I have a hug before I go? Just a little one? Ahh man that's good.

Gerald Bryant:

Well tell me what the famous act of Ed and Geraldine does.

Ed:

Hi folks

Geraldine:

Well what it is an interactive little entertainment show for everybody especially the boys and girls who want to join us playing with an instrument.

Music

Gerald Bryant:

Look it's the elephant ear crowd.

Gerald Bryant:

Even after a full day of activities, night time offers just as much excitement...You can shoot some hoops. You can play this whiffle-ball laundry basket game, which I could never seem to figure out. Watch a world-class firework display high in the sky. Or look even higher in the sky and see a professional tight-roper whose words from above changed the way I live my life.

Tightrope Walker:

For always remember that life is not measured by the breaths that we take, but rather by the moments that leave us breathless.

Gerald Bryant:

Wow, I'm speechless at least until the next Georgia National Fair where I'm sure Patches the Fire safety dog, Zeke the Hillbilly and the crazy elephant ear gang will be there to guide me through.

Patches the Dog:

Ok, see you later...

Mother:

Ok.

Patches the Dog:

See you later, bye, bye. Alright we'll see you.

Gerald Bryant:

Almost 80 miles North of Macon, Phil finds some famous down home southern cooking in Social Circle.

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Phil Proctor:

Hey this is Phil for Phil's Fantastic Food Finds. And where are you finding me today on the streets of historic Social Circle. Now they tell me if you come to Social Circle there's one place that you got to eat. Where is it? It's the Blue Willow Inn. Come on let's go check it out.

Music

Phil Proctor:

Hello Miss Scarlet how are you?

Miss Scarlet:

I'm good how are you doing?

Phil Proctor:

Oh wonderful, wonderful. You look good. Look I came here to eat. I understand this is the place to go.

Miss Scarlet:

It's absolutely excellent. Have you ever eaten with us before?

Phil Proctor:

No I haven't.

Miss Scarlet:

Well you are in for a treat, we're all southern buffet...fried chicken...

Phil Proctor:

Fried...

Miss Scarlet:

Macaroni and cheese.

Phil Proctor:

Mac and cheese.

Miss Scarlet:

Candy yams.

Phil Proctor:

I have died and gone to food heaven.

Miss Scarlet:

Oh honey you are there.

Phil Proctor:

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Oh is that the door?

Miss Scarlet:

That's the door.

Phil Proctor:

I'm gone bye. You know what I found my way to the kitchen, you knew I would. I'm here with the food diva herself. This is Ann Lowe. She's the head cook here at the Blue Willow Inn Restaurant. Ann I understand we're making one of the specialties of the Restaurant, what is it?

Ann Lowe:

Chicken and dumplings.

Phil Proctor:

So Ann how do we actually make, what are you doing right now, what's in the pot?

Ann Lowe:

In the pan I have flour, water and butter.

Phil Proctor:

Ok.

Ann Lowe:

And I'm going to pinch it, drop it in the pot.

Phil Proctor:

What's in the pot? What are we cooking it in?

Ann Lowe:

Chicken broth and butter.

Phil Proctor:

Chicken broth and butter. Mumm, don't tell Ann but I'm fast becoming a fan of chicken and dumplings. Man these dumplings look good. I think I'll just...

Ann Lowe:

Stop that wait till it's done.

Phil Proctor:

So we drop our chicken in and oh doesn't that look good? I mean you almost not even want to let it finish cooking. So we just kind of stir it up a little bit. You're saying that I should probably taste this. Oh, that's delicious. Ann I think I might have to have some more so we probably need to go find me a bowl. You just never know where I'm going to pop up. Oh my goodness look at this, beans, oh

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veggies, string beans, oh that looks like cheese casserole some type mashed potatoes, oh this could probably get dangerous after a while. Look at the fried okra, fried green tomatoes, my favorite collard greens, turnips, and there's that Salisbury steak that I was going to be dipping my biscuits into, fried chicken, ham. Oh this is going to be such a wonderful treat. And oh look, shush. So now since I helped prepare the chicken and dumplings I will get a little sample. And it looks good. I actually have my stamp of approval on it. And I'll get my spoon here and join me at the table. Now having been in the kitchen preparing this I now have an opportunity to sample it. And my good friend and buddy Gerald Bryant is here. Gerald how are you doing today?

Gerald Bryant:

Did they really call you dumpling when you were a kid?

Phil Proctor:

They did man. And I think it was good because of my lack of height. But I had a chance to do a little preparation in the kitchen, the chicken and dumpling. I don't know if you had a chance to sample it, but here it goes. It's good, it's good.

Gerald Bryant:

You know when they said it was an all you can eat buffet it didn't mean you had to eat it all.

Phil Proctor:

I thought that's what all you can eat is.

Gerald Bryant:

You've got to leave something for somebody else now.

Phil Proctor:

Why?

Gerald Bryant:

Good question.

Phil Proctor:

Anyway. Humph, Scarlet, Scarlet, whew, oh. You know when you told me to go in there and eat.

Miss Scarlet:

Yes.

Phil Proctor:

I did. What is that line you have from that movie?

Miss Scarlet:

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You mean when I said I'll never go hungry again?

Phil Proctor:

You ain't lying.

Gerald Bryant:

Next it's off to Fitzgerald, just over 105 miles Southeast of Macon. We'll find more chicken- but they're not on a plate with dumplings.

David Zelski:

Fitzgerald Georgia is a town with a rich and amicable history, but this place is also known for Chickens?

Music

David Zelski:

These aren't your average hen house chickens...These fast, lean and colorful birds hail from the jungles of Burma in Southeast Asia.

David Malcom:

My first experience with these birds was probably over forty years ago. Department of Natural Resources had imported them from Burma and brought them over to South Georgia for the purpose of releasing them so as to hopefully introduce a new game bird. One way or another they eventually found their way into town. Now the experiment of introducing as a wild game bird did not work out but apparently in town they have enough protection that they have thrived and survived very well for many years now.

David Zelski:

Fitzgerald, Georgia is located right in the heart of Dixie and no doubt when you're here you will run into some wild Burmese chickens and they've been around here for about 40 years. So I guess that makes Fitzgerald, Georgia the original home of the Dixie Chicks.

David Malcom:

I don't know what it is about Fitzgerald that they particularly like but the environment here has been very conducive for them. And they have multiplied and thrived through the years.

David Zelski:

So instead of dangerously hunting the Dixie Chicks in their neighbors' back yards, many Fitzgeridians have embraced them and made them an honorary member of the town. Track down Jan Gelders and you may have the opportunity to visit the original Chicken House.

Jan Gelders:

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I have rescued a lot of them that have been hit by cars or different things or raised the chicks or whatever. And the fact that these chickens fly, they stay in flight like birds for a long distance. So they're really interesting to watch.

David Zelski:

While you are chasing chickens around the streets of Fitzgerald, you may notice the streets are named after both Confederate and Union Generals, Longstreet ironically being one of the shorter roads in town. This was done by Philander Fitzgerald in the original city planners, who created a town unlike any other in the late 1800's.

Beth Davis:

Mr. Fitzgerald thought that someone should establish a colony somewhere in the southland and bring all of those Union Veterans down here. We would get them away from the bitter winters and away from the drought stricken area.

David Zelski:

At this time, the Wild Burmese Chickens weren't around yet to attract tourist to Fitzgerald, but they had something more unique for Southern visitors to observe.

Beth Davis:

They scheduled excursions trains in here and advertised it widely for people to come and get a look at the Yankees.

David Zelski:

At the Blue/Gray museum you can learn all about why Fitzgerald was created, the challenges its founders encountered and hear the stories that have been passed down through generations.

Patricia Walker:

As a result of them coming here and settling and the Confederates coming over and joining them, they were always amiable, never really any severe need for law enforcement.

Beth Davis:

Those that had worn the blue and those that had worn the gray marching as one behind the Stars and Stripes, they were saying to Georgia, the nation and the world as far as they were concerned that old war was over and done with forever. And this was again the United States of America. Here it was old wounds were healed, old barriers broken as men that had met on the field of battle met again on the field of everyday living and taught this nation and the world an unforgettable lesson in forgiving and forgetting.

David Zelski:

There was a major event in US history that took place in South Georgia before Yanks and Rebs were living together in Harmony.

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David Zelski:

About ten miles north of Fitzgerald, Confederate president Jefferson Davis was captured in the town of Irwinville on May 10th 1865.

John Hughes:

Our research shows anywhere between 3 AM in the morning to 6 AM. Now where the monument stands that's the actual spot where he was captured at. Now we assume that his camp was somewhere probably anywhere between ten to twenty yards to the west of the monument itself.

David Zelski:

There are rumors that when captured Davis was disguised as a woman and wearing a dress.

John Hughes:

The rumors about him being in a dress are what they are, they're rumors. Yellow journalism of the day played a big part of it. They wanted to actually make Davis to be I reckon a bad guy because well he was the president of the other side. So it turned out that he was not in a dress. Even in official records, the War of the Rebellion came out in 1890 I do believe. And it actually states in there from a union officer that he was not in a dress that his wife actually put a black shawl around his shoulders when he was exiting his tent. The first thing you get to see is where the Civil War actually over 600,000 men died, and women, children, died in that war. So by the capture of Jeff Davis right here you actually stopped all that because Davis was heading west to hook up with another detachment that was out in Texas. If he would have hooked up with another detachment he could have looked at the war for anywhere between another year to two years and possibly 2 to 3 hundred thousand more dead but he was captured here, one mile north of Irwinville, Georgia.

David Zelski:

So when you travel from Fitzgerald to Irwinville, watch out for the chickens who may be crossing the road, and more importantly sit down and take the time to learn about some important stories in Georgia and American history.

Music

Gerald Bryant:

And we'll visit the exact, well the probable, or at least the possible geographic center of Georgia. There are some very interesting things to see in Twiggs County, including some beautiful historic old buildings, even a site where revolutionary war hero, the Marquis de Lafayette once visited, but do you know what else is here, right behind me? The geographical center of Georgia... Trust me, it's back there.

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Ray Bennett:

This sign denotes this particular site the geographic center of the state of Georgia. And we're proud of it because we know that we are the center of the whole entire state.

Gerald Bryant:

My lovely assistant David Zelski will assist me in explaining how the geological experts approached this study. Now, the center is defined as the balance point of a plane in the shape of an area. So the geologists took a plaque of metal cut out to the exact size of Georgia in scale, then balanced it then upon an apex of a point, in our precise, scientific re-enactment, the apex will be the cap of a honey bear. Once it balanced perfectly, the study was finished, and they concluded that Marion, Georgia was indeed the exact center of the state of Georgia. The central point is one mile Southeast of the junction of Turvin and Savage Creeks in Twiggs County, here in this general area, either over here or somewhere around here, maybe up under here, I believe this stump has some significance. So anyway when venturing to Twiggs County in search of Georgia's center, take some time to visit a few historic sites, and don't worry, they'll be no unexpected traffic jams.

Glenn Barton:

We don't have the first red light here in Twiggs County, we've got a four-way stop. And with that, that denotes the rural atmosphere, as well as the people that live here. We're one of the last bastions of the "country folk".

Gerald Bryant:

Back in Macon, it's time to check out the some Georgia Halls of Fame. What do Rock Stars and Sports Stars have in common? Well, if you're from Georgia then one day your underwear will be on display in Macon. Well okay, maybe not your underwear but perhaps a jacket, a jersey or your favorite guitar. There are a lot of guitars, and I mean A LOT of guitars, on display at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame.

Joseph Johnson:

We now have over 30,000 objects in the collection. I don't want them to sit back there and never be seen by anybody again, I don't want the music not to be heard, I want people to enjoy this, that's why I've collected it.

Gerald Bryant:

The heart of the museum is "Tune Town", a magical mystery tour through Georgia's Music history. But does Georgia really have enough music history to fill a whole town? You bet!

Joseph Johnson:

We have an unfair number of people that come from Georgia that have greatly influenced culture. The South in general, if it ever were to rise again, has risen in

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its music, because the music from the South has influenced American popular culture.

Gerald Bryant:

That influence is on display at the rollicking Rhythm and Blues Revue featuring the music of Ray Charles, Otis Redding and James Brown. Just across the street is a chapel which explores the origins of gospel music and inside the Gretsch Theater music videos play to capacity crowds. And like the great rock n' roll musicians featured here the exhibits of the Georgia Music Hall of fame are best seen and experienced live and in person.

Music

Gerald Bryant:

I've got another theory if you get into heaven and you don't know how to play a harp they get you one of these. But for some music fans, they've already found heaven, right here at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame

Music

Gerald Bryant:

But for others heaven would be the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame located just down the street, the largest museum of its kind in the nation. The Georgia Sports Hall of Fame is chock full of exhibits and interactive displays featuring a NASCAR simulation, an indoor basket ball court and football field.

Robbie Burns:

The entire down floor is focused on the Hall of Famers who have been inducted. We've got high school, collegiate, Olympic, Paralympics, and professional sports, so we have all those areas.

Gerald Bryant:

So rather than compete, these two Halls of Fame compliment, making Macon a clear destination for Jocks and Rockers alike.

Gerald Bryant:

About 30 miles northeast of Macon, we find Milledgeville, Georgia's 4th Capitol City.

Music

Keely Walker:

Known as the Antebellum Capitol of Georgia, Milledgeville is a wonderful example of Southern charm and beauty. Founded in 1803 and named for then Georgia Governor John Milledge, Milledgeville is a great destination for causal

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tourists and history buffs alike. And there is no better way to experience all that Milledgeville has to offer than by taking a trolley tour.

Music

Keely Walker:

Milledgeville served as the Capitol of Georgia from 1804-1869, and this part of its history is beautifully represented by the Old Capitol Building. Construction began in 1805 and would take 30 years to complete. Designed in the Gothic Revival style, the Old Capitol building played host to some of the most important events in Georgia's history; including a debate in 1861 on whether or not Georgia should secede from the Union.

All along the streets of Milledgeville you'll find Antebellum homes. Antebellum is not a particular house style but refers to a period in which the home was built in this case before the Civil War. Most Antebellum homes are in the Greek Revival, Classical Revival, or Federal style: grand, symmetrical, and with center entrances, large balconies, and columns or pillars.

A fine example of the Antebellum period is Lockerley Hall, built in 1839. Unlike many other antebellum homes in the area, Lockerley has not been significantly altered or expanded, and thus the observer does not lose the original vision of its designer. The grounds around the plantation are now home to Lockerley Arboretum showcasing plants native to the Georgia Piedmont.

Another estate of note is Andalusia, the picturesque farm of American author Flannery O'Connor. At Andalusia, O'Connor found the farm as the source for settings, situations, and fictional characters that are the signature of her stories.

Craig Amason:

Quite often Flannery would use a farm setting. And of course she drew straight from the source here, not only with the settings and equipment and structures but even some of her fictional characters reflect real life people that were here.

After your trolley tour make your way to downtown Milledgeville, spend some time browsing through the many antique shops or dine in a quaint restaurant.

When visiting downtown, don't miss Memory Hill Cemetery. It was originally one of the 4 public squares in the 1803 town plan. Memory Hill holds the resting places for renowned Georgia Congressman Carl Vinson and American author Flannery O'Connor.

So come and explore historic Milledgeville, and soak up the history, nature and classic southern charm.

Gerald Bryant:

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That concludes our visit to historic southwest Georgia. From Macon, I'm Gerald Bryant wishing you pleasant journeys. Now, here's a sneak peak at what's on the next Georgia Traveler. Ride the Rails through southwest Georgia. Explore the Springer Opera House and the National Civil War Naval Museum. Enjoy a scrambled dog. And discover Georgia's Official Barbeque contest in Vienna.

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:

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