

Richest City Per Capita. Before the specific article in 1913, Valdosta's increasing per capita prosperity is written of in special issues of the *Valdosta Times*: the 1895 Harvest Edition, the 1899 Valdosta Exposition Edition, and the 1900 Georgia State Fair Edition. During the time of these publications the *Times* was only biweekly, the 1875 courthouse still stood brick-plain in the square, and Valdosta had no modern hotel (Valdes 1902). Thomas and Brooks Counties had their current stately courthouses, Thomasville had fine hotels for the northern industrialist and winter tourists, and its newspaper had been daily for a decade. The commentary below is chosen from among several. Of note, it, as do others, make notice that Valdosta is growing using her own money.

Commentary on the 1899 Valdosta Exposition

by Captain John Triplett of the *Thomasville Times Enterprise* November 7, 1899

Valdosta should be an inspiration and example to every town in Georgia. By unity of action, push, perseverance and pluck, she has forced her way to the very front among the most prosperous and progressive towns in Georgia.

Great steel railways radiating from that place make her the center of a large and prosperous area. The town fairly pulsates and throbs with vitality.

There is nothing dead about Valdosta. Everything and everybody is alive and pushing with all their might and main.

They are in for expansion. And it is expansion with a big E; Expansion with the throttle wide open and not a brake on.

And better, the track is well ballasted with capital, and it is clear of any obstructions. And it is up-grade all the way. Here is a town built up and made prosperous without foreign capital. These people have gone into their pockets and established many manufacturing establishments with their own means. And the result is that the place is a veritable bee hive of industry. There are no drones there.

"We rejoice, most heartily, in the prosperity of our ambitious and growing neighboring town. May the present be but the fore-runner of a greater and lasting prosperity which shall permanently crown the city and its public spirited citizens."

Some Ramblings at 50 Years:
**Valdosta Tech,
Wiregrass Georgia
Technical College**

The community celebrates with Wiregrass Georgia Technical College the occasion of their 50th Year and the service they have been to education in our area.

At the museum we have a few hundred clippings and photographs that archive their history. There is also a framing from a 1951 issue of the Valdosta Times concerning the opening of the early Valdosta Vocational School and the area leader in this field Shell Hartley. An emphasis in the need for vocational education grew with the return of WWII soldiers.

I serve on the board of directors of a south Georgia entity that includes an attorney from Waycross. Discussing other items during lunch he mentioned how certain changes were not serving Waycross and Ware County in the best manner. The name Waycross College is gone in the merger with the Douglas campus, the new name South Georgia State College. When he mentioned "Wiregrass/ Wiregrass Georgia" as a potential name for the upcoming merger of Altamaha Tech and Okefenokee Tech, a lady on this board, who is also on the Blackshear city council, said that it was too late, Valdosta already has the name.

VALDOSTA, Queen of the Wiregrass,
Holds Aloft the Light of Progress.
Within the pages of this issue of THE TIMES is a story of the development of the fairest region of the Sunny South. Valdosta is the undisputed Queen of that section and THE TIMES aspires to be nothing more than the light which blazes the way and points out the path toward its perfect development and the happiness and prosperity of all of its people.
Here is a wish for the health, wealth and happiness of all of our readers.

SOUTH GEORGIA,
The Wiregrass Section of The Empire State.
Its Wonderful Resources Exhibited at The Coming State Fair.
The City of Valdosta, representing the Wiregrass Section of Georgia, will draw back the curtain at the State Fair next week and exhibit the wonderful development that has been accomplished by the plucky citizens of this section of the state.

Promoting Valdosta & Wiregrass Georgia

Right: from the 1895 Harvest Edition, a 24 page promotional paper that was the first of its kind publication for the town.

Above: from the 1899 Valdosta Exposition Edition. A feature of the exposition was the completion of the Atlantic, Valdosta & Western Railroad from Jacksonville, FL to Valdosta.

Left: from the 1900 Georgia State Fair Edition. Valdosta hosted the first state fair ever below Macon.

LOWNDES COUNTY

The Bright Particular Star

In the Wiregrass Firmament