

Burning of brush obscures the view of the Sage home, which was located on Briarcliff near Clifton and destroyed in 1969 for the widening of Briarcliff Rd. and commercial development. The home, believed to have been the largest residence in the county, was built in the 1890's by Ira Sage of Atlanta as a summer place. Down the hill from the house at one time were a creek and Watson's mill. The site is said to have been popular for the large scale entertaining in the 27-room house, and the picnics the young people used to have at the mill.

From DeKalb
150 yr. booklet
in Subj. files



EDUCATION

First school in the county was the DeKalb County Academy, established November 19, 1823, in Decatur.

Private schools provided education for the settlers' children until after the Civil War, when public schools were established.

An early private school was the Stone Mountain Academy established in 1838. It was on the corner of the lot on which the high school gym is now located. Stone Mountain could, in the early days of its formal education, boast a granite school building, which no other southern city of the same size had.

From a modest start, DeKalb educa-



The home of John and Mary Evans, early settlers of the County, still stands on Hairston Rd., near Rockbridge Rd. in the area known as Evans Militia District. John Evans was a charter member of Pythagoras Lodge, No. 41, Free and Accepted Masons, in Decatur.

Sacred Harp singing, an old religious musical form, is kept alive, from the time when groups such as the one below used to gather, by annual singing conventions. The singing is performed without musical instruments by using a book that has shaped notes to designate the four basic sounds: Fa, sol, la and mi.



File under Sharp Hill - Henderson Place

The Atlanta Journal
THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION
THURSDAY, June 12, 1986

InTown Extra

Niece recalls Oliver Hardy in his heyday

By Actor Cordell
Staff Writer

Oliver Hardy's niece is tickled that the 10 Laurel and Hardy comedies to be shown on Wednesday nights at the Atlanta Historical Society are among the short features made early in the careers of the bumbling, fat guy from Georgia and the nervous, skinny dude from England.

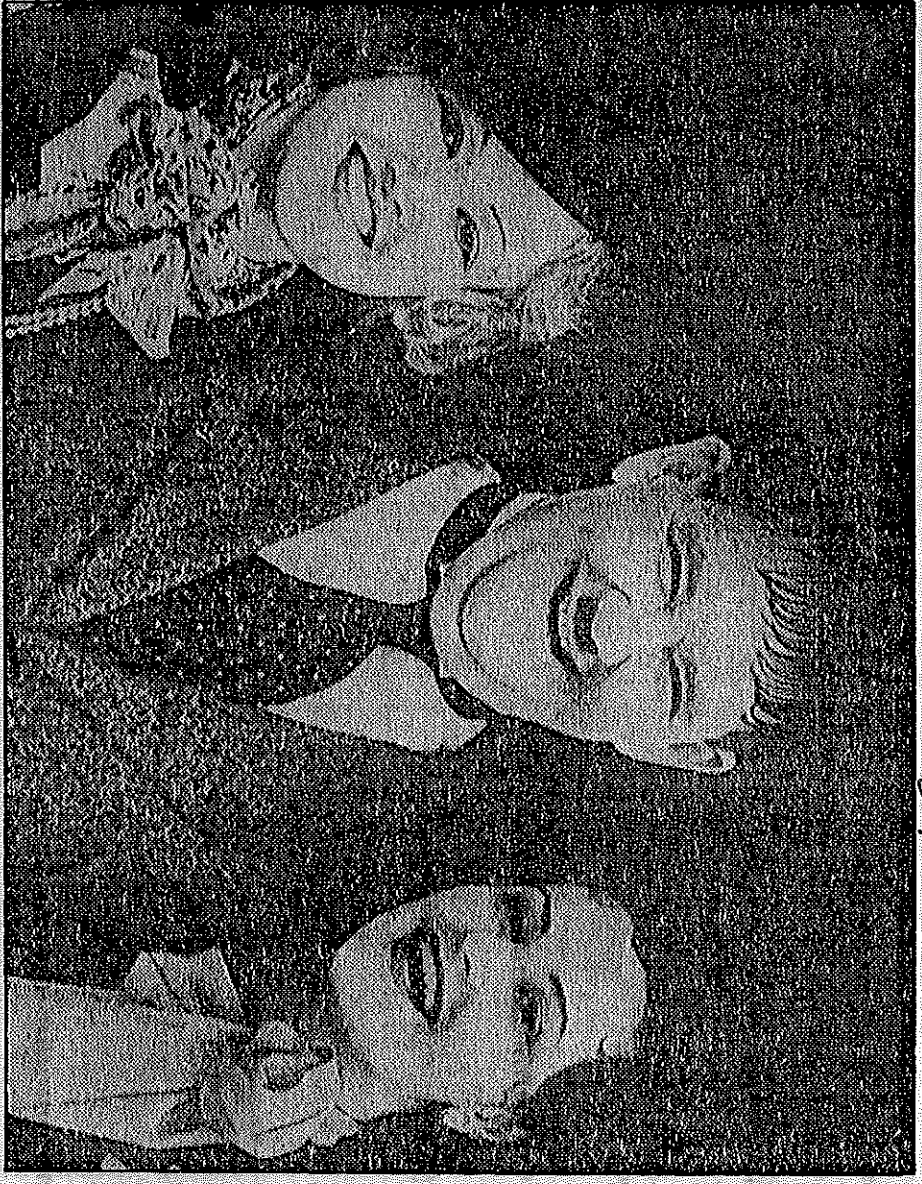
"I've always said those little shorts of the '20s and early '30s were the best things they ever did!" declared Margaret Sage of Buckhead, a willowy, blondish septuagenarian whose glamorous aura doesn't seem to justify her "no pictures, please" attitude.

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Miss Sage, who says her paternal grandfather, Ira Yale Sage, "was in the railroad business — president of the Seaboard and general manager of the Southern" — consistently refers to her mother's famous brother as Norvell, never Oliver.

6-12-86

Article for InTown Extra



HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD: Legendary funny man Oliver Hardy has a laugh with his twin nieces from Atlanta, Mary Sage, left, and Margaret Sage, on the set of one of his movies in 1935.

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Her grandmother Donnie Hardy was a Norvell. Donnie's husband, Oliver Hardy, was county attorney in Columbia County, near Augusta. Oliver Norvell Hardy, one of five children, was born in 1892 in Appling, the tiny county seat.

Donnie Hardy later turned an old hotel in Milledgeville into a boarding house, where Norvell lived until his middle teens.



HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD: Legendary funny man Oliver Hardy has a laugh with his twin nieces from Atlanta, Mary Sage, left, and Margaret Sage, on the set of one of his movies in 1935.

"Donnie sent him to Georgia Military Academy when he was about 8 and he walked nine miles back to Milledgeville. She asked him why he had come home and he said he was hungry."

"He was so fat that a servant had to dress him until he was four years old. He couldn't bend to put on his socks."

"He always hated being fat. But that was what made him famous." Miss Sage's gift of recall of life in Atlanta and Hollywood has

prompted friends to suggest that she write a book, which she has no intention of doing. But life at the Georgian Terrace, where she and her mother, Elizabeth Sage, lived from 1935 until 1957, alone could fill quite a few intriguing chapters.

She wistfully remembers the 28-room Sage summer home where the Sage Hill Shopping Center now stands on Barncloft Road.

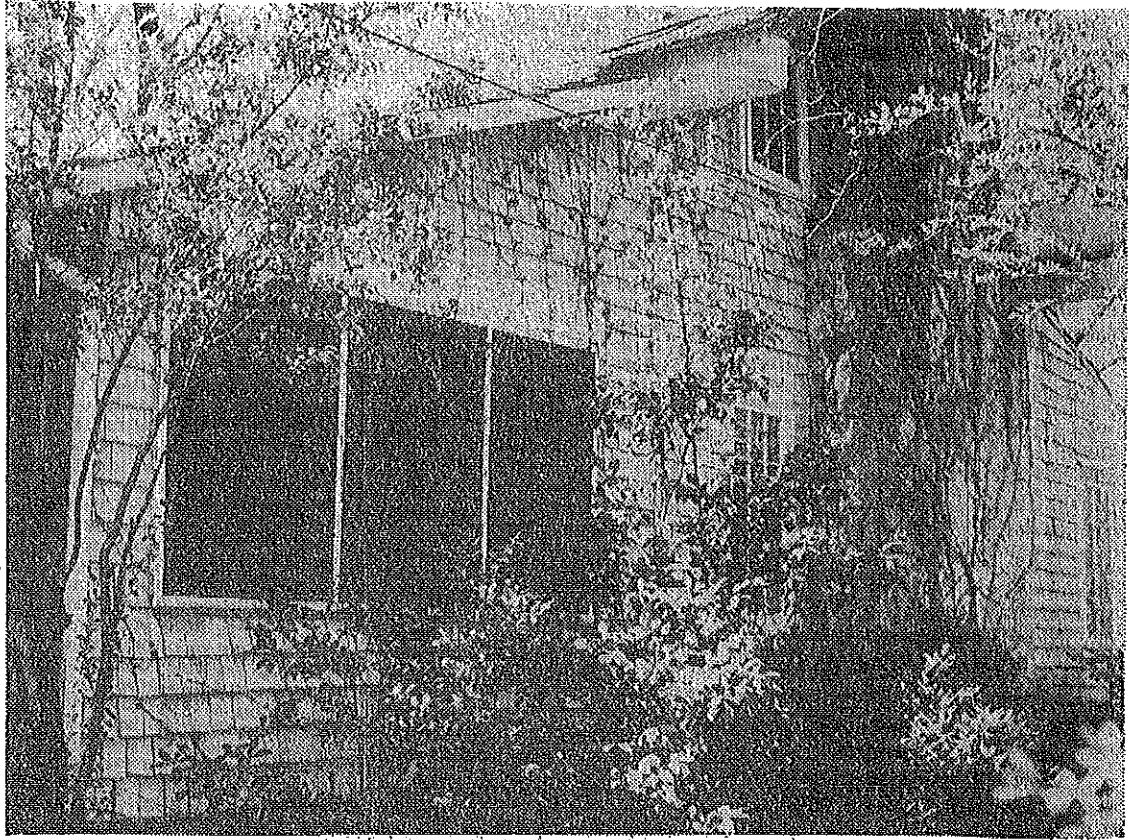
"Oh, it was lovely — peacocks on the top lawn, sheep on the lower lawn, horses, flowers, a pool..."

Their parents separated when the twins were 9 years old, and they moved with Elizabeth to a posh apartment building, which burned many years ago, at 800 Peachtree St.

Oliver Hardy, then in his late teens, took an apartment next to theirs. Tenants included Frank Freeman, who became president of

See **HARDY**

Old Sage House



THE CHARMING COTTAGE which is now the home of Mrs. J. A. Whittington, at 6074 Peachtree Road in North Atlanta, is believed to have been built for section hands working on the Southern Railroad, over 100 years ago. Originally of log construction, it is now shingled, but the original chimney still stands, and is still used, and just to the left of the chimney at the top of the house, one can see where the Confederate Spy is believed to have watched the actions of General Sherman then staying at the House Plantation, just up Peachtree Road.



MRS. J. A. WHITTINGTON, owner of the cottage seen above, poses on the stairs which lead to the second floor where the Confederate Spy once hid. The original rafters can be seen in the ceiling, and the door facing leading into the original dining room, can be seen at right. The house once was owned by Russell Sage, New York financier.

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Mr. Walter McCurdy, Jr.
250 E. Ponce de Leon,
Decatur, Georgia

Dear Mr. McCurdy:

Mr. Scott Candler, Sr. requested that I send you some copies of this article on the old Sage home, which ran in the DeKalb New Era last week. He felt that the Historical Society might be interested. I verified my facts as best I could through Mr. Shepherd and his mother. The Sage family has moved from Atlanta to north Georgia, and I was unable to reach the son of the builder to get first hand information.

I thought you might like to have a set of the pictures we made in connection with the story. Mr. Candler and the Indian relic are particularly interesting.

We appreciate what you are doing with the DeKalb Historical Society, and whenever we can be of help to you let us know. Also, when you think of something you feel would make an interesting story, we'd be glad to hear about that.

Sincerely,

Martha Frances Brown

(Mrs.) Martha Frances Brown

MFB/sf