Eclectic Athens, Georgia is Southern, and more

If wasn't until the family was taking a mid-afternoon stroll around downtown Atlanta, with aeveral greetings from panhandlers, that we realized just what a Goldincks experience our trip to Georgia had been.

Atlanta was big, but not altogether comfortable. Clayton, a bedroom tourist town about 90 minutes northeast of Atlanta, was quaint, but a wee bit small.

And Athens, a college community about a hour from Atlanta, was just right.

Athens is to Georgia what Ann Arbor is to Michigan. Home to the University of Georgia, Athens offers addiverse campus community along with a thriving business and entertainment district. Having pawers alternative bands like R.E.M., the B-52's and Widesperal Traile, Athen remains a musical meeted the table next to us the Thai Cade on N. Lamplén? You bet. The Georgia Theast and it's not unusual to find an Ani DiFranco wannabee or two strumming a guitar on a street come a princip days a which here frequent here a cyen which are frequent here a cyen.

atrumming a guitar on a street corner.

On wann spring days—which are frequent here—even music instructors take to the streets, sometimes with the trombone section of the University of Georgia's marching band in tow for a spectacular aural treat.

Athens is also home to some of the most beautiful gardens in the South. If you're lucky enough to visit in early spring, you'll catch the brillant colors of the azalea trees. They make even the most vibrant azalea bush here seem serawny.

One of the smallest but historically significant gardens is on the UGA campus.

The formal Founders Memorial Garden, which features an ornate fountain, rare flora and brick pathways, is the



site of America's first garden club.
For those who prefer to see a little more red, Sanford Stadium, home to the UGA Bulldogs, is just a short walk nway.

ay. Memorials to Uga I-V, the

away.

Memorials to Uga I-V, the bulldog mascot made even more famous in Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, are located on the grounds. Don't dis the dog - he's wanay loved around here.

In addition to numerous music clubs and bars, Athens also offers numerous dining options, from outdoor coffee shops to steak and wine lunches. Retail store reflect the town's eclectic personality. Patchoull-secned clothiers and specialty shops fill the historical Victorian-era buildings downtown, and offer a charming antidate to the lidential mails and retail outlets that line the highways.

DED AND BREAKFAST

Several adorable bed & breakfasts can be found close to the UGA campus including the Magnolia Terrace, but kids will appreciate the amenities read, indoor pool - that the Holiday Inn downtown has to offer. Opt for the suite and you'll still get a bargain, free continental breakfast, and a

door between you and the little

ones.
Though less so than in some
Southern towns, the Civil War
still looms large in this city's

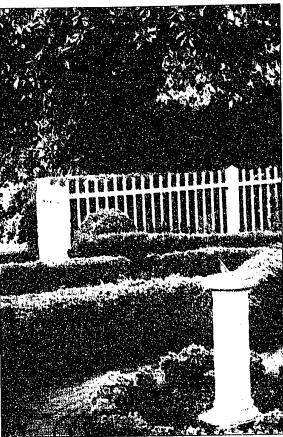
still looms large in this city's legacy.
It's not atypical to see men in Confederate garb riding hurses to who-knows-where to do who-knows-what. And an abysmal military artillery failure, the double-barreled cannon, is now a cherished landmark on the grounds of City Hall.

mark on the grounds of City Hall.

It's just another example of Southern ingenuity, and smart marketing. It may not have won the war, but the South has certainly won the hearts of history buffs and building preservationists.

Some of the finest examples of Federal and Greek Revival architecture can be found on the campus of UGA and in the city of Athens. And with several examples of architectural splendor, a thriving music scene, unique shops and tremendous gardens that highlight natural beauty, a trip to Athens means everyone wins. For more information about Athens, check out www.visita-thens.ga.com.

Alice Rhein lives in Huntington Woods and writes about a variety of topics for the Observer & Eccentric



YOU WARMED HER HOME AND HER HEART.

Warmest thanks from THAW to the following businesses and individuals. as well as to everyone who attended or contributed to our Night of Warm Hearts III event on February 6.

DTE Energy Corporation

General Motors Corporation SEMCO Energy

Bank One Comerica Inc. Detroit Newspaper Agency Michael Flora & Associates WJR AM-760 W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The Cognet Group, Inc. Deloitte & Touche Ewing Capital Management The Kroger Foundation McGraw Wentworth

ABM Janitorial Services

American Association of Blacks in Energy

BP Energy Company Franco Public Relations Group Patricia J. Heftler Henry Ford Occupational Health lerome Duncan Ford Masco Corporation
Miller Canfield Paddock and Stone, PLC September Moon Production Network, Inc. Walker-Miller Energy Services, LLC



BASF Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Cass Lock Company, Inc.
Amy S. Courter
Cummings, McClorey, Davis & Acho, PLC
The Energy Group, Inc. *
Guelph Utility Pole Co., LTD Relocation America St. John Health System Strategic Staffing Solution Toyota Motor Sales, USA Unibar Maintenance Services, Inc. Wholesale Oil and Gas Supply

THAW, The Heat And Warmth Fund, is a non-profit organization providing last-resort energy assistance to low-income families and seniors. We've been keeping people safe and warm since 1986.





Our expertise in Private Banking lets the whole family live life to the fidlest. Even Riley.

No bones about it: The easy life is easier said than done. That's why Standard Federal Wealth Management provides you a full array of private banking services. Whether you're seeking capital to take the reins of a new business or the helm of a classic boat, we create a program that delivers the funds you need while keeping a leash on expenses. Best of all, you don't have to go far to make your wealth go farther. Simply call John Irwin at 1-800-546-2788. We'll have you living, well, the life of Riley.



e Bauking Investments Trusts Financial Planning Securities