

# Enjoy the best of what Vicksburg has to offer

Throw some peanuts this weekend. Bring the entire family, and make it a night of fun for everyone.

Then you and your family can claim a piece of history. For the only place in the world where you can throw peanuts during a play — and at a villain, to boot — is during the annual performances of “Gold in The Hills,” the world’s longest-running melodrama as determined by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Call 636-0471 for showtimes.

“Gold in the Hills” is one of the events that many people just take for granted each year. Folks can tell you about attending the play back in their younger years, but they haven’t taken the time lately to enjoy the show. We hope that changes this year.

The show itself is a hilarious play made even more so because it is played by people we know. We have a virtual wellspring of great actors in this town and some of the best take to the stage each year during the melodrama. It’s something the whole family will enjoy.

And for you folks who are new to Vicksburg or have never taken the time to attend, what are you waiting for? Why, “Gold in the Hills” is as much a part of Vicksburg as the military park and the Miss Mississippi pageant. Attend one night and grasp a little bit of what makes Vicksburg such a special town.

But “Gold in the Hills” is not the only event occurring in town.

Starting Friday night is the Vicksburg International Chamber Music Festival. The annual event is being produced in cooperation with the University of Southern Mississippi and will continue through April 6.

This event is an eclectic mix of musical styles. It brings to Vicksburg an array of musical talent

that would be the envy of any major city. The playing of world-class chamber music in the historic venues throughout the city, such as Church of the Holy Trinity, Episcopal, and Duff Green Mansion, also adds to the experience.

The opening gala will include a dinner featuring French cuisine and a one-hour version of the opera “Carmen.” The weeklong festival will end with a jazz brunch and concert by the Vicksburg Children’s Choir. In between are performances by renowned musicians, including harpist Rachel Van Voorhees and piano duo Richard Steinbach and Howard Helvey.

Tickets can be purchased at the Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1221 Washington St. For more information about the festival, call Toni Lanford at 638-5015.

And there’s more. Just as “Gold in the Hills” is part of the very fabric of Vicksburg, so is the annual Spring Pilgrimage.

With trees and flowers blooming all around, it is a special treat to walk through the gardens of the beautiful homes on display throughout the city. A new tour has been added to the pilgrimage this year, featuring three historic homes on Chambers Street.

The pilgrimage runs through April 5. Five tours are offered. For more information, call the Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau at 636-9421.

And we would be remiss if we did not urge everyone to take a drive through the Vicksburg National Military Park. The Visitors Center is a hidden jewel in the city, with many interesting displays throughout. And a drive through the meandering valleys and hills is always an awe-inspiring experience.

**Enjoy the best of Vicksburg**