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The two families set up their pregame gala in the same patch of grass and shade every home game, secure in the civility of their native South that no interloping Philistine would have the bad manners to pitch a tent and try to host a party on this hallowed ground. The Comers and the Yawns, two families with Ole Miss roots whose love for Rebel football is a fact of history if not actual genetics, have occupied this same spot for as long as people can remember, game after game, season after season, generation after generation.

“You don’t sit in a different church pew every Sunday,” says Karen Comer Fox, an Ole Miss graduate from ’85 whose mother and father started tailgating here a half-century ago. This tiny piece of the Ole Miss campus—inside a 10-acre oasis known as the Grove, just off the sidewalk, not far from a magnolia tree—is all but deeded to them, not by law but by tradition, which down here is pretty much the same thing. ➔

IT’S A FAMILY AFFAIR

Top row, from left: Karen Comer Fox; the Ole Miss welcome sign at the edge of the Grove; guests Reagan, Brooklyn, and Farryn Davis. Bottom row, from left: young tailgaters Jack Grissom and Stephen Gregory; Steve Gregory; a sampling of the dessert offerings. To watch video of the celebration, go to parade.com/tailgating.

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