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Hoover Historical Log

The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society, Hoover, Alabama



Society displays at Moss Rock Festival for second year

The Ninth Annual Moss Rock Festival is held the first weekend in November at The Preserve in Hoover. This one-of-a-kind outdoor Fall Festival welcomed 17,000 visitors in 2013, and took place November 1st and 2nd, 2014.

The Festival features artists inspired by nature and eco-district partners featuring green living ideas, products, services and organizations, live music, engaging constructions and installations, The Sweetery, WonderKid studios, hiking, biking, geocaching, fuel-efficient car exhibitions, a café, and the great outdoors.

The Hoover Historical Society gave away free postcards, encouraged interest in the Society, and invited Festival-goers to the November meeting featuring speaker Jim Phillips' (shown right) presentation on *Antebellum Alabama*.



Antebellum Alabama

Historian and videographer Jim Phillips will present his program, *Antebellum Alabama*, to the Hoover Historical Society's General Meeting at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, November 18th at the Bluff Park United Methodist Church.

This program evolved out of Phillips's metal detecting. He has amassed a collection of old coins, tokens, buttons, utensils, and a variety of bottles that tell us about the past in Alabama. His bottle collection is perhaps the most valuable—ranging from medicinal to soft drink to ink bottles. The quality of the glass and its properties helps him date the find. Phillips encourages you to bring your valuable old bottles, coins, etc., for his evaluation.

Jim Phillips is also known for his videography—with historical films of Southern Aviation, Birmingham-Southern, Sloss Furnaces, and several counties. You might be familiar with his brother, Dr. Doug Phillips, a naturalist who hosts *Discovering Alabama* on Alabama Public Television.



Folklore Center open during art show

Stinson Ole Place hosts visitors and Scavenger Hunt

By Peggy Patton

Uncle Doug and his friends welcomed visitors to the cabin and Folklore Center during the Fall 2014 Open House in early October.

The Stinson Ole Place, restored and dedicated by the Hoover Historical Society on November 9, 1997, helps children learn about history and stands as a reminder of the lifestyle of our ancestors who lived in the mid-1840s. The cabin was open during the Bluff Park Art Show.



An estimated 100 people participated in the tour and Scavenger Hunt designed by Peggy Patton. Children from age two to our special guest--a Stinson family member, Margaret--were included in the count. Here, Lou Harkness and Peggy Patton discuss the Stinson home with Margaret Stinson.

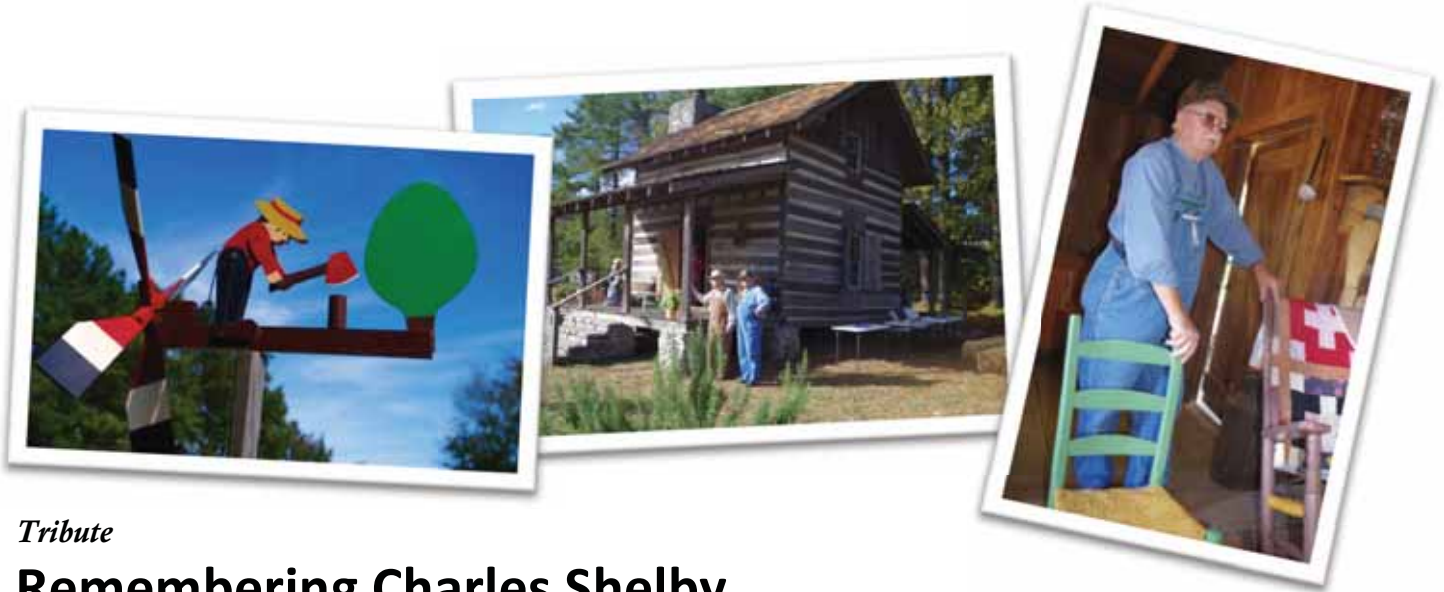
A goal of the day was to involve Bluff Park Art Show visitors with an activity that would engage even the youngest in the crowd.

The Scavenger Hunt is an activity any age can do! As the hunter searches for the image, s/he examines and identifies the larger object of which it is a part. Hunters work at their own pace and ask lots of questions! Questions overheard included: "Why would the family need a Smokehouse?" "What is the purpose of a pumping mill?" "What does the star stand for?" and "How could they live without electricity?"

Aunt Marie had the cabin in spic 'n span order! The youngest of the time-travelers seemed especially puzzled by the rope bed! Grandparents, parents, and children thanked the volunteers for their service. They loved Aunt Pam's stories! Cousin Brenda sang 'Oh Susannah!' accompanied by her ukulele.

It was agreed that we had a wonderful day. Our only regret was that our good friend Charles was not with us. (For more on the Folklore Center, see pages three and four.)





Tribute

Remembering Charles Shelby

“For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die.” Those reading this have lived long enough to recognize the wisdom of the words. The author of Ecclesiastes also declared that there is “A time to keep and a time to throw away.” I want to keep every one of my many days spent with Charles Shelby at the Folklore Center.

I knew Charles’ health was failing but could not accept the inevitability of not having his knowledge and wisdom around. He was the last person who actually participated in the creation of the Folklore Center and I did not fully understand all the things he did to make every [school child’s] visit a success. The first visit this school year was just completed during which Charles was not physically present. However, I knew he was watching to see if the fire ants had been treated, if I could start a fire, fill the wash pot, get the house open, set up the benches for the children, and make sure the windmill ax chopper was in place.



I thought I had pulled it off but when it was over and we started putting things away I noticed that the wood for the fire had not completely burned and I remembered that Charles always made sure the fire was stoked till all the wood was burned so we would not have to dispose of the partially burned wood. There are many words that I could use to describe Charles Shelby but the ones that come to mind are faithful, dependable, consistent and friend.

A new era has begun for the Folklore Center--one where Charles Shelby will not be physically present but with the imprint that has been left by those who had the vision and the will to bring the Folklore Center to share with new generations. Charles Shelby joins Jack Crouch and Peggy Sturdivant in a very select group who, through their efforts, have left a legacy for future generations. I can just see the reunion now, Papa Joe Hosmer is playing is broomstick in a bucket and James Schramm, the Mountain Man, is dressed in his buckskins telling stories from the past.

Charles, you are missed but you will never be forgotten! --Doug Harkness

Doug Harkness and Russell Kilgore prepared the Folklore Center for the recent visits of school children during the month of November. Russell is also working on refurbishing several historical markers placed by the Society around Hoover.

Folklore Center is the place to visit in the Fall

Staffing the Folklore Center for school children's tours is an important part of the Folklore Center's volunteer (Society) staff. Doug Harkness contacts well-known crafts people and engages them to teach our young guests about quilting, spinning, doing laundry, making pottery and sculpting, telling stories and singing songs of the mid-19th century.



The Birmingham Quilters Guild provides staffers to teach kids about quilting. Vasha Rosenblum (right), assisted by Regina Meyer, talk to the students about staying warm with quilts and how they are made. Children learn about patterns such as the one shown—fire in the center of the home, with light squares symbolizing good times and darker squares the bad times in life. The children leave with their own quilt square, having learned how to stitch from the demonstration.



Spinner Mary Smith has been with the Society for a long time—her mother was Peggy Sturdivant. Her skill in spinning wool and cotton is shared with our guests. Cheryl Patton teaches children about doing laundry by hand on Mondays (wash day) and ironing on Tuesday. Some of the kids try using the washboard for scrubbing the clothes as it comes out of the pot of water.



Jayne Harrison is a potter and sculptor who introduces the school kids to natural fibers and life in the 1840s. The students learn that there were “no plastics” and explore textures with natural objects. They are fascinated by the “Udu Drum, a coil pot you can play,” she added. Russell Kilgore, a Society member, joined the staff of the Center recently and helped Doug Harkness with setup and served as bell-ringer. Inez McCollum teaches about growing, cooking, and preserving food in the mid-1800s

Storytellers Pam Kinnebrew and Brenda Pritchett play instruments and sing as well as entertain students with stories and musical renditions of Old Susannah! Brenda plays a ukulele and Pam demonstrates homemade toys from the era. Thanks to all of you for what you do for our children!

Letter from our president

The leaves are changing and that is not all! We are changing our meeting location! It will be a change for the better as we will have better sound, better parking and we will be able to have refreshments again! We will have time to visit after the meeting. In November, we will meet at the Fellowship Hall at Bluff Park United Methodist Church. In January, we will meet at the Hoover Library downstairs meeting rooms. We plan to continue to meet there in the future. As you may know, the Park Avenue Café opened October 1. Their customers will take up what little parking remains at Artists on the Bluff!

The folks at Bluff Park Art Show ordered up another glorious day for the first Saturday in October. The air was crystal clear for the 51st annual show. Thanks to our volunteers who opened the Stinson cabin for visitors. They will tell you about it in this issue.

We were present at the Moss Rock Festival on Nov. 1 and 2 to share information about the Society with the visitors to our community. Thanks to the volunteers who manned or 'womaned' the tent.

Looking forward to our next meeting, we will enjoy hearing Jim Phillips talk about Antebellum Alabama. You probably know his brother, Doug, from his Emmy-winning documentary television show, *Discovering Alabama*.

There are a few positions open on the Board if you are interested in getting involved: Parliamentarian, Publicity Chair and Scholarship Chair. Just let me know what you would like to do! Have a great Fall and hope to see you at our November meeting!

--Pam Thompson, President



Meet you under the clock at Loveman's

By Jean Butterworth

Every mid-November I start thinking, "I can't believe it's almost time to get ready for Christmas. Where has the time gone?" Time has gone the past year with the celebration of our favorite holidays, birthdays, vacations or attending work and school. But of course, I love Christmas and the time of year with cold crisp air and sometimes a little snow.

In years past, Christmas shopping meant going to downtown Birmingham, Alabama to Pizitz or Loveman's Department stores. The huge clock on the corner of Loveman's was our starting point to begin shopping. In those days, you dressed up in your Sunday best to shop downtown.

First, you had to stop and window shop at these huge department store windows with displays of Christmas fairlands. Children pushed their little noses to the cold window glass to gaze at the moving toy trains or tiny elves swinging through the Christmas trees lights. Children tugged on mom and dad's hands as they rushed through the doors to find Santa and sit on his lap and whisper their wishes for him to bring them on Christmas Eve.

In the middle of shopping at Loveman's you always had to stop for a break and eat lunch in the tearoom on the balcony of Loveman's. After eating you continued your shopping over at Pizitz and wandered through the "Enchanted Forest." - - continued p. 6

Continued from page 5 Shopping was a pleasure in downtown Birmingham and at the end of the day you had arms full of Christmas presents wrapped in brightly colored paper with huge bows.

So, when you were through shopping you remembered you had told your friends to, “Meet me under the clock at Loveman’s” – the designated place to meet after a Christmas shopping day.

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SAVE the DATES
Board Meeting November 11,
10:30 AM at the Archive;
General Meeting at BPUMC
Nov. 18 at 1:30 PM.

Happy
 Holidays!



The Hoover Historical Society

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