



HOOVER HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Vol. 24 No. 1

September 2012

Dates

Sept. 18 - 1st General Meeting
Sept. 21 - Fire Tower Cab ribbon cutting
Oct. 1 - newsletter deadline for history writers and board members

Executive Committee

Delores Wilkinson
Tom Laggy
Carolyn Kolar
Shirley Lewis
Faye Walker
Anita Dillon
Betty Bagby
John Williams
Virginia Cain
Jim Lyons
Charles Shelby
Doug Harkness
Peggy Patton
Katherine Staursky
Marshall Morgan
Barbara Lyons
Joy Elliott
Charlotte Patton
Joan Davis
Marie Taylor
Charlotte Williams
Inez McCollum
Charlotte Laggy
Betty Tucker

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Jack Crouch Award Goes To Delores Wilkinson

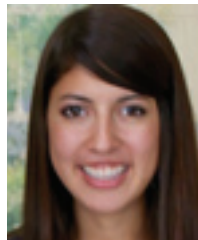
The Jack Crouch Service Award is given annually to a deserving member who has given outstanding service to our society. It honors Jack Crouch for his exceptional service and dedication to our historical society. At our May meeting we honored Delores Wilkinson with this award for her many hours of service on the society board and several committees. Delores has given so much time as chairman of the Membership Tea for several years, and she served as Vice President in charge of programs last year. She now has agreed to be our new President! Congratulations!



HHS Scholarships Are Presented



Gabrielle Agnew



Adriana Galindo

The two prestigious Hoover Historical Society scholarships were awarded this year to outstanding students at Hoover High School and Spain Park High School. Receiving the award at Hoover High School's graduation was Gabrielle Agnew. Receiving the award at Spain Park High School's graduation was Adriana Galindo. HHS members had the pleasure of meeting Adriana at our May meeting where she read her essay to us. Both young ladies will have their essays printed in our newsletter this year.

The scholarships are for \$1000 each, and winners are determined by our Scholarship Committee, composed of

Peggy Patton, Joan Davis and Charlotte Patton. The scholarships will go to the University of Alabama for Gabrielle and to Vanderbilt University for Adriana.

You Are Making History!

....so why not share your stories with the rest of us? We are anxious to receive and publish in our newsletter your report of travels, events and people who have been part of your life and have become a part of your history. Who better to write the events of our times than the ones who lived it? We have several writers in our society who would be happy to help you get started. If you are interested, contact Joan Davis, 824-3415, jmdavis06@bellsouth.net.

Meetings At a Glance

September 18, 1:30

November 20, 1:30

January 15, 1:30

March 26, 1:30

May TBA

From Our President

I feel as if I am “trying” to join the 21st century with the purchase of an iPad. Communicating this way rather than by telephone or “snail” mail is very strange to me. I have always considered myself as being so open to change, but obviously I have not been!

This summer, being the new president of Hoover Historical Society has been a busy and eye-opening experience. Planning for this upcoming year has been a challenge--but a happy one.

I am looking forward to seeing all of our Hoover Historical Society members on September 18 at 1:30 for the General Meeting. I hope that each of you will bring in one new member this year. Oh, how our organization would grow!

- Delores Wilkinson, President

Genealogy Committee Established

A genealogy committee is being established to bring the HHS files up to date. Members that already have established and documented their family genealogies can place copies in our Archives. We need summary level information, such as lineage charts and history overviews.

For members that have not established their genealogies and wish to do so, HHS will be linked to numerous genealogy websites on the internet to aid in the research. In addition, plans are to purchase and install software to produce lineage charts. Training and genealogical consulting will be provided.

As the new genealogies are established, the committee will collect them and create an index. Ultimately, it is planned that the index of Family Genealogies be listed on the HHS Website. The purpose will be for a visitor to the HHS Website to review the genealogy index and identify areas of interest and then visit the Archives to search for family members.

I am currently seeking members that are experienced in genealogy research to serve on the committee. Everyone is welcome to participate.

-Jim Lyons, Chairman



We were delighted to welcome Dewitt Vincent and Kedra Byrd to our May meeting. They are Forest Rangers with the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Crawford Fire Tower Cab Moved To Exhibit Site

On July 18, 2012, the Crawford Fire Tower Committee witnessed a major project milestone with the relocation of the renovated fire cab from the Hoover Public Safety Building to the exhibit site adjacent to Hoover Fire Station No. 2 on Chapel Road. Fire Tower Committee members on hand to witness the crane lifting and placing of the tower cab were Delores Wilkinson, Alec Jones, Jim and Barbara Lyons, Charles Shelby and City Council Liaison John Greene. It was quite an event to observe.

As of this date, nearby parking and sidewalks have been completed that provide convenient access to the exhibit. Three benches that will provide seating at the exhibit are on order. Site landscaping, signage and lighting are also being planned.

-Jim Lyons, Fire Tower Committee Chairman

You Are Invited!

The Fire Tower Cab formal ribbon cutting will be September 21, 2012, at 11:00 am. Hoover Mayor Gary Ivey and other Hoover officials will be there to cut the ribbon. The Fire Tower Cab has been installed in an area across from Gwin Elementary School on Chapel Road.

***Visit Our Website
at
www.hooverhistoricalsociety.org***

Front Porch News

Well, now that summer is over and fall is in the air, it's time to get back to welcoming all the school children for a visit to the Ole Stinson Cabin. You know today the young folks and most of their mamas have no idea how it used to be before you could order supper to go and Thanksgiving Dinner for 20 from the restaurant. I can still remember my first store bought meal. I was in high school and went to visit some kinfolks that lived almost 80 miles away. We did not get to see them often. But they were rich, which I was not familiar with, but I found out really quick that I could learn to like it if I ever got the chance. Of course I never did and that was just fine with me. With times like they are now, knowing how to take care of yourself just might come in handy again real soon. I remember my mama thought eating "out" was a waste of money and could not figure why folks were too lazy to fix their own food.

Anyway, when the school children come to visit we need you to volunteer. You can dress up, you can teach a craft or demonstrate something old, you can ring the farm bell--just come and have fun.

- Cousin Doug

Contact Doug Harkness at gdhark@bellsouth.net or 988-8440.



Where Have We Been?

Hoover Historical Society has been travelling on Spring Trips! We've seen...

- 1994 - Montgomery, our State Capitol
- 1995 - Mooresville and Constitution Village, Huntsville
- 1996 - Kirkwood Home in Eutaw and Gorgas Home in Tuscaloosa
- 1997 - Historic Selma
- 1998 - Monroeville
- 1999 - Free State of Winston
- 2000 - Decatur, Tuscumbia and Florence
- 2001 - Huntsville
- 2002 - Tuscaloosa and Northport
- 2003 - Horseshoe Bend and Fort Toulouse
- 2005 - Selma and Old Cahawba
- 2006 - Montgomery
- 2008 - Trolley Tour of Birmingham
- 2009 - Shelby County
- 2010 - Pilgrimage, Columbus, Mississippi
- 2011 - Gee's Bend and Camden
- 2012 - Anniston

And where in the world will we go in 2013?

- Charlotte Laggy

Meeting To Feature Secessionists In Our History

At our first meeting on September 18, 1:30, Dr. John Killian, pastor of Maytown Baptist Church, will speak on *The Civil War and the Secessionists In Alabama*. As we begin a new year of programs, I am asking you to show courtesy to our presenters. They invest a lot of time investigating and researching their topics. Therefore, I am requesting that you turn off your cellphones or turn them on vibrate during the program out of respect for others. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

-Tom Laggy, Vice President

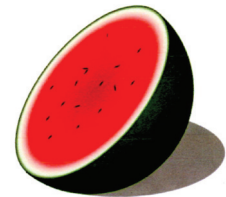
◀ *Listening and Learning! Our students are really soaking up the information from the Herb Man, Buford Sticher, on their visit to the HHS Folklore Center.*

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Good Ole Summertime Watermelons

by Jean Butterworth



My brother and I thought one summer that we really needed to make some money, and we decided to sell watermelons. Teenage thinking! Our dad had a large patch of watermelons growing on the back of twelve acres on our property in Tuscaloosa County on Bear Creek Road.

One Saturday in July we loaded up the old blue '54 Chevrolet pick up truck with watermelons, and that was a back-breaking job. With my brother driving, we headed up to the city of Tuscaloosa on one of the farm to market roads that Big Jim Folsom, Alabama's former governor, had paved for the farmers in the State of Alabama.

Now this was in the late 1950's, and the area we picked out to peddle our watermelons was 10th Street, now known as Paul W. Bryant Drive. There were lots of low-income families living at that time along this street and the University of Alabama had not begun to expand toward Druid City Hospital. Now, driving down Paul W. Bryant Drive I can

hardly believe my eyes!

While my brother drove slowly, I started my sales pitch perched on top of the watermelon load, and I would cry out, "Watermelons for sale, -come and get 'em, twenty-five cents!" After a while we would change places, and he would do the selling. What was an interesting part of the sales was that we were asked to cut a plug out of each watermelon before the person would purchase the watermelon. This was to see if the watermelon was ripe. Our customers did a lot of thumping the melons, also.

At the end of the day we had lots of quarters jingling in our pockets. That was not a lot of money even in those days. Nowadays, when I feel the craving for a good slice of mouth-watering watermelon, I go to the grocery store and purchase one. I've even forgotten how to "thump" a melon to see if it is ripe!

Still, this was in the good ole summertime, down South!