



HOOVER HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Vol. 24 No. 3

January 2013

Dates

Jan. 8 Board Meeting
10:00 am
Jan. 15 General Meeting
1:30 pm

Executive Committee

Delores Wilkerson
Tom Laggy
Carolyn Kolar
Shirley Lewis
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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Joan Davis and Marie Taylor,
Editors

Folklore Center Hosts First Graders

***Isn't Bessie the Cow
a little thin?***

***-In just two days she was
milked by 169 children
and Aunt Joan Davis. I
bet you would be a little
thin, too, if you had
endured all that!***



It was a cold day in November when the Prince of Peace first graders and the Bluff Park first graders came to visit the Folklore Center. We don't often have a cold spell that early, but as the children found out, the weather does not change the routine at the Ole Stinson Place. Clothes still have to get washed, cows milked and quilts completed just to survive. It is difficult, if not impossible, for today's children and even their teachers to imagine just how much patience and effort it took just to clothe and feed a family. School time for children in the 1840's was squeezed in between chores. In fact, class time would have been considered a vacation.

The first grade students braved chilly weather to learn how our early

Alabama settlers lived. The Folklore Center was alive with craft artisans, storytellers, guided tours in the cabin, washpots and cow milking. Children watched as cotton was spun, quilts made, games played and clothes were washed in boiling water over a fire in the yard. Students rotated in groups from area to area. At the end of the day the children were held spellbound while a story was told about "Little Orphan Annie." The morning passed quickly, and we said goodbye to students who had enjoyed a very interesting and educational morning!

-Doug Harkness, Joan Davis

Whatever Happened To.....?

By

Inez McCollum



HAPPY NEW YEAR! My family has ended the year 2012 with some enjoyable fellowship and delicious holiday meals. The first was Thanksgiving, and we were truly thankful as we sat round the table, chomping and reminiscing. As usual, my sons had memories of growing up in this Camelot Woods neighborhood. Camelot Woods houses were built in 1965-1966. We moved into our home in August 1966, one month before our youngest son John was born. It is a cul-de-sac subdivision of 50 houses and was the perfect place for those boys to grow up. On any given day there could be a dozen or more children playing games in one of the circles or back yards.

My birthday comes during this very magical season. So, again we did a lot of chomping and reminiscing round the table. This family get-together was at the home of my oldest son, Jay and his wife, Marnie. This time, we got on the discussion of times spent at TG&Y and other places of business in that shopping strip. We would describe to the daughters-in-law and grandchildren where the businesses had been and what is in those locations now. Joe laughingly told the story of going to TG&Y to purchase a birthday gift for John. He chose a toy for himself and bought a few Tootsie Roll Pops with the change. He wrapped the sweets for John. Of course that brought the usual shouting matches as John unwrapped the package. Those sweets definitely did not sweeten the atmosphere!

After several TG&Y stories, Marnie asked what those initials were for. I have wondered about this, but finally checked it out. The TG&Y five and dime or variety stores were begun in 1935 in Oklahoma. The initials were for their names in age order, oldest to youngest: Tomlinson, Gosselin, and Young. After those enjoyable stories, John realized that he still has joy (?) there. It is the location of the gym where he works out several times a week.

In pinpointing the location of the gym, it is next

to Ellis Piano which replaced Golbro. Winn Dixie had at one time been in this cornerstone location. Another store in the strip was Hancock Fabric. I purchased most of the fabric for draperies in our home at Hancock. As the sons grew, there were needs for various costumes as well as an occasional new dress for myself. Hancock moved farther south on Highway 31. At about that time my sewing machine was relegated to the task of being a mending machine.

Christmas Eve is another time of family togetherness. We get together for another meal and gift sharing. More family stories are shared. We break bread together again on New Years morning at breakfast in a restaurant. It is surprising to see the large number of families and friends who share this early morning time together.

Then, it's back to the routine. We will be a few pounds heavier but much blessed.

Noteworthy News

Next Program

January's meeting will feature "The History of Coal in Jefferson County." Our speaker will be Professor Staci Glover of the UAB Department of History and Anthropology.

-Tom Laggy

Spring Trip News

The location for the Spring Trip will be announced at the January General Meeting. The tentative date for the trip is Tuesday, April 16, 2013. -Charlotte Laggy

Membership Report

Carolyn Kolar reports that we currently have 154 paid members in Hoover Historical Society. Membership Guides may be picked up at the January meeting.

COAL FLOWERS

2 T. table salt
2 T. water
2 T. wash bluing
few drops of mercurochrome and food coloring

Pour over a chunk of coal in the order given and watch it "grow." (You will be a first class historian if you can find all these ingredients.)

Crawford Fire Cab Dedicated

On October 31, 2012, the Crawford Fire Cab Exhibit was dedicated by Hoover City officials and Hoover Historical Society at the site adjacent to Fire Station Number 2 on Patton Chapel Road. The event was attended by city leadership, the HHS Fire Cab Committee, individuals from the Hoover Public Works Department who participated in the project, a number of HHS members and others.

Participating in the ceremony were HHS President Delores Wilkerson and Hoover Mayor Gary Ivey who performed the ribbon cutting. Project Chairman Jim Lyons gave a presentation on the project timeline. Following the dedication, a reception was held at the nearby fire station.

With the completion of the dedication, the exhibit is now open for viewing by the public. The historical marker and the educational sign at the site assist individuals in self guided tours.

-Jim Lyons, Chairman



HHS Archives Hold Research Treasures

For those working on a family genealogy or perhaps papers for a legacy organization, the following books in the Hoover Historical Society Library/Archives may be of interest.

- *The DAR Patriot Index Centennial Edition*, three volumes
- *The Index To Revolutionary War Service Records*, four volumes
- *The Heritage of Jefferson County* (now out of print)
- *The Heritage of Shelby County*

For your Christmas giving we have *The History of Hoover and Its People* for \$20 and *Essays On the Bluff Park Community* for \$12.50, as well as notecards for \$5 that depict the historic areas of Hoover.

- Charlotte Patton



*Plan to join us at the next meeting of
Hoover Historical Society
January 15, 1:30 pm
at
Artists On the Bluff Auditorium
569 Park Avenue*

*Our program will be
The History of Coal in Jefferson County*

Hoover Historical Society
P.O. Box 360233
Hoover, AL 35236-0233



First Graders Enjoy Folklore Center



*It was just like
camping out!*

- Bluff Park student