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the

Hoover Historical Log

The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society, Hoover, Alabama 35226



The Goat Man's Story

Jerry York returns to our General Meeting on September 18 with the story of "The Goat Man," a name given to folk character Charles "Chess" McCartney. He was one of the South's most famous travelers whose reputed adventures were hard to believe!

Born in Iowa, ca. 1901, he ran away from the family's farm at age 14, settling in New York—possibly marrying a Spanish knife-thrower. During the Depression, the farm was lost due to a grocery bill he owed, so he went to work for the Works Progress Administration (WPA). While lumberjacking, a tree fell upon him, seriously injuring him. He laid there for hours, was thought dead, and awakened on a mortuary's embalming table! He decided to earn his living by using a goat cart to travel with his family and work as a preacher.

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Save the Date!

Board Meeting
September 12
10 AM at the
Valleydale
location

General Meeting
September 18
2:30 PM at the
Hoover Public
Library; all are
welcome!

Moss Rock
Nov. 3 & 4
Volunteers are
needed for our
tent!

2018-19 Program Schedule

September 18, 2018

Jerry York, *The Goat Man*
(Charles McCartney) @ 2:30

Hoover Public Library

November 13, 2018

Marvin Clemons, *Terminal Station:*
Great Temple of Travel @

Shades Crest Baptist Church

January 15, 2019

Marjorie White & Birgit Kibelka @
1:15 PM, *Ross Bridge Culvert*

March 19, 2019

Anne Gibbons, *"Anne Beddow:*
Pioneer Nurse Anesthetist"

May 21, 2019

Terri Lynne Hicks, *Grace*
O'Malley, Lady Pirate

‘Smart’ homes put Hoover on the map!

An August report on NBC stated that “In a quest to cut the cost of clean electricity, power utilities around the world are supersizing their solar farms.” Examples included China; Japan (which wants to do so in space); Coahuila, Mexico; Benben, Egypt; and the United States. All of these countries are harvesting power from solar farms, and you can add Hoover, AL, to the list!

Solar farms are large-scale projects intended to provide power for the electrical grid, which historically rely on coal, nuclear, hydro, and natural gas. The farms provide more energy than solar panels attached directly to homes. The photovoltaic panels or modules convert light directly into electricity.



The solar farm near Reynolds Landing; photos courtesy of Alabama Power.

Several years ago, Alabama Power approached Signature Homes’ CEO, Dwight Sandlin, about such a project. Along with their parent company (Southern) Building Technologies Office (BTO); the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Department of Energy’s Office of Electricity along with Vivant Rheem, Samsung, and Carrier, the result was Reynolds Landing, “the first smart neighborhood of its kind in the Southeast” with 62 high-performance, connected homes with a community micro grid. The community is designed to meet future energy codes. The homes are “smart” in that one’s cell phone operates a number of systems, and “Alexa”, a voice service is available for use on third-party devices such as door locks or televisions.

Sandlin described the micro grid system that serves Reynolds Landing and the purpose of the project. “The utility usage is measured on a macro basis long-term by creating a neighborhood to meet perceived requirements of the energy code. These homes were built to identical standards—one specification level, one builder, one energy efficiency rating—creating a true Beta site...the data lets us look into the future and create a neighborhood with a high level of energy efficiency.” The homes have exactly the same amount of insulation, caulking and roof insulation—all monitored by a third party. The homes are “sealed” to tighten up the HERS rating. Sandlin said the project was “truly scientifically done and every aspect checked by outside engineers.” As a result, the Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS), which

measures a home’s energy efficiency, scores between 40-50—meaning they are up to 60% more efficient than standard built homes.

Nearby, three acres of photovoltaic modules produce up to 600,000 KW hours annually and that electricity is stored in a lithium ion battery bank, backed up by natural gas and solar fields.



A fun feature of a “smart” home is the ability to view, via camera, what’s in your fridge from the grocery store!

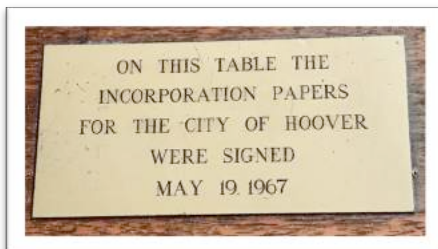
The Department of Energy stated last June, “This is the first micro grid in the Southeast to support an entire residential community while also helping to support community-scale power resilience.” And, it’s in Hoover!



A message from our president...

Sometimes history is hidden in plain sight! This was the case of a table that supported a glass display in our old Archives. On Sunday, August 19th, Carolyn Kolar and Jim Langley were at the old Archives to facilitate the removal of the glass display case by one of our corporate members.

When the display case was moved, a plaque in the center of the 8' x 4' table was revealed:



I shared photos of the plaque and table with several people after a lengthy council meeting and it was Allan Pate who enlightened me.

During Mayor Barbara McCollum's administration, there were a number of changes and upgrades at City Hall. The table was previously in the conference room behind the Council Chambers. With a new conference table arriving, the historic table was donated to the Hoover Historical Society—a fact not known by the current historical society officers.

This was not the only historic discovery that resulted from our move from the old Bluff Park Elementary School. Wrapped in a heavy cloth roll was a quilt created and presented to a newlywed couple with the date of 1805 and the couple's initials embroidered in the fabric. Debbie Burtnett and Edna McWilliams are in the process of investigating the history of the quilt. So far, they found that the woman who donated the quilt also donated a house to her church that features a stained glass window in her honor. And, a local pastor recalled stories about the lady who donated the quilt—Elizabeth Reid Lacey!

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HHS Officers for 2018-2019

President	Arnold Singer
1st V-P Programs	Carolyn Kolar
2 nd V-P Membership	Jim Langley
Recording Secretary	Debbie Burtnett
Corresponding Secretary	Caroline H. Boone
Treasurer	Robert Kolar
Asst. Treasurer	Anita Dillon
Chaplain	Edna McWilliams



Left to right: Jim Langley, Anita Dillon, Carolyn Kolar, Arnold Singer, Bob Kolar, and Debbie Burtnett. For a complete list of officers, see your Membership Guide for 2018-19.

Check out our new secure Website at:
<https://hooverhistoricalsociety.org>

Spring Trip 2018

Our Society's Spring Trip was in early May, and our director, Jim Langley, organized a tour of historic homes in the West Jefferson area of pioneer homes sponsored by the West Jefferson County Historical Society.

The first stop was the Sadler House, a 19th century Plantation home located near Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park. It was first constructed by John Loveless from 1817-20, and later completed by a new owner, Isaac W. Sadler, in the 1830s. Although the home was on the route of Union Army's General James H. Wilson, the home escaped any damage until the end of the war. However, one of the nine children raised here died fighting in the Civil War at the age of 17. The home is deteriorating and needs donations.

The McAdory House ca. 1840, features a gabled roof and stone chimney situated on a former cotton plantation of 2,000 acres. The West Jeff Society describes the home as a "time machine to the early pioneer days." Thomas McAdory home built this example of a middle class plantation in the early 19th century.

Made of hand-hewn logs, the house was put together using wooden pegs that can be seen on the front porch. Each junction point on this log structure was numbered with Roman numerals running clockwise around the house. Why? We aren't sure, but one possibility is that the structure was cut somewhere else, numbered, and hauled to the site. Two chimneys survive but are different—one made of sandstone and the other sandstone, limestone, and iron ore. Much of the original flooring, walls and doors can be seen and a decorative wainscoting is featured. The McAdorys raised three sons with only one surviving the Civil War, Isaac W. McAdory. He established Bucksville School and Pleasant Hill Academy and later became Jefferson County Superintendent of Education. Born in this house

David Owen built the Owen House during the 1830s. However, little is known about the house, but its name leads one to believe it belonged to the ancestors of Thomas Owen himself. All three of these cabins are on the National Register of Historic Places and are owned and maintained by West Jefferson County Historical Society.



McAdory House



Sadler House



Owen House



Scholarships awarded 2018

Vadie Honea's legacy is honored each year when the Scholarship Committee of the Hoover Historical Society awards \$1,000 to one student at each of our public high schools. The committee—Pam Thompson, Dr. Charles Hickman, and Deborah Burnett—reviewed applications from both schools.

This year, Hoover High's Grace Waters and Spain Park's Grady Freeman earned the awards. Grace researched the Alabama Theatre while Grady explored the Horseshoe Bend National Military Park.



Grace M. Waters of Hoover High School enrolled at Mississippi State while Grady Walker Freeman is attending Auburn.



A message...

Continued from page 3

On August 20th, the Hoover City Council approved the lease from the Board of Education to the City for the approximately 1/3 acre occupied by The Folklore Center.

Finally, back to table talk, the HHS has its own real conference table gained as a result of the move. When Artists on the Bluff was formed, they commissioned artist and Hoover resident David Traylor to build a conference table. When the historic building closed, AOTB gifted the table to the HHS! Now, our entire Board can be seated at one table!

I look forward to a year of great programs and continued membership growth as well as educating Hoover youngsters at The Folklore Center!

Arnold Singer

**MOSS ROCK
FESTIVAL**
NOVEMBER 3-4, 2018



Goat... . . . Continued from Page 1



Jerry York

His large, rickety cart featured a sign "God is not Dead" in the 1960s.

During his travels, it is estimated that he walked over 100,000 miles throughout 49 states and Canada. Bessemer resident Mike Boyd wrote, "The goat man stopped in Bessemer, Alabama, around 1963 (plus or minus). He made camp on Highway 150 and Morgan Road at the chert pit still visible there. My age was about 12 years and I remember he would sit and talk to visitors. My mother, grandmother and aunt visited him, and he surely did impart an aroma! My mother told me to look inside the wagon at his bed. It was something like a small cave or hole in which he simply climbed into and rested...He had a fair sized goat herd and the police had to escort him into and out of town. He had many visitors and I believe they gave him money to live on...We were easily entertained in those oh so quaint days!" The Goat Man died in 1998 in a nursing home in Georgia and is buried in Jeffersonville Cemetery in Jeffersonville, GA.



HOOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Form

Make checks payable to Hoover Historical Society

P.O. Box 360233 Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233

Archives /Office: 205-822-9392

Types of Membership

Individual	\$10
Couple	\$20
Sustaining	\$50
Patron	\$100
Corporate	\$150

NAME : _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

Interests: Publicity ___ Archives ___ Speakers' Bureau ___ Historical Research ___ Newsletter ___

Other interests/skills: _____

SPEAKER/PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS: _____

The Hoover Historical Society

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[Recipient]



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