

# the Hoover Historical Log

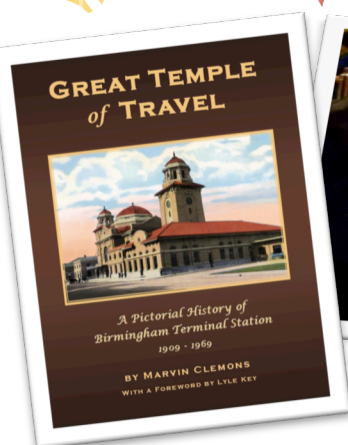
*The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society, Hoover, Alabama*

## Hoover Arts Council formed in 2017

The Hoover Arts Council was established by the Hoover City Council in 2017 to advance, promote, advocate and foster the arts and arts culture. The mission of the Arts Council is to ensure that the goals and needs of the city leadership and citizens they serve are being met as they relate to the arts.

The Mayor and Council select the six members of the council who serve in staggering terms of 2, 4, and 6 years. Councilman Curt Posey is the Council representative to the council. Matina Johnson, Fine Arts Director of the library, is consultant to the Arts Council. The current members represent the visual arts, the performing, the education community, and organizations that promote arts events in the city of Hoover. The goal of the Hoover Arts Council is to provide art experiences to our citizens at all levels and establish a center where these various disciplines can be displayed and enjoyed by the people of Hoover.

"We are so pleased that this Mayor and Council have chosen to make the arts a part of their plan for the future of Hoover," said member Linda Chastain.



## Railroad historian presents at November meeting

A lifelong love of trains inspired Marvin Clemons' book, *Great Temple of Travel: A Pictorial History of Birmingham Terminal Station, 1909-1969*. It's the former *Birmingham Post-Herald* reporter's second book about train history; Clemons co-wrote his first, *Birmingham Rails: The Last Golden Era*, (2007) with Lyle Key. Marvin is our speaker for the November 13<sup>th</sup> General Meeting at Shades Crest Baptist Church (a change of venue for this meeting only.)

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## Save the Date!

### General Meeting

**November 13th**

Shades Crest Baptist Church; 1 PM for refreshments; speaker at 1:30 PM

### Tree Lighting

**November 29th**

City of Hoover lights its Christmas Tree at City Hall at 5 PM

### Board and General Meetings

For the HHS on Jan. 8 at 10 AM and Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 PM, respectively



## Thank a Veteran on Veterans Day!

By Inez McCollum

*Ed. NOTE: President Reagan honored Raymond Weeks of Birmingham as the driving force for the national holiday with the Presidential Citizenship Medal in 1982 at the White House. Weeks led the first National Veterans Day Parade in 1947 in Birmingham, Alabama, and he continued the tradition until his passing in 1985.*

A few months ago, I stopped at the Veterans Memorial at the Liberty Park Exit of Interstate 459 to look again for names of relatives who lost their lives during wars. I am a member of a family that had many males; therefore, my family supplied a lot of manpower for World War II and the Korean Conflict (I prefer to use the word “war” for that one!) After his death a few years ago, I learned that one uncle, Silas Hamrick, had served in General Patton’s Army. Uncle Silas’ death was not during his years in the military. I have heard many people comment about their loved ones not discussing their years in war. Uncle Silas was one of those.

Even though I had visited the Veterans Memorial previously, I wanted to observe again the names of an uncle and three cousins who gave their lives for my freedom during World War II. In her dementia years, my Mother was still asking about her brother. A. V. Perry, whose plane was shot down in Germany. Uncle A. V. was first reported as Missing in Action. Another uncle, Hoyt Hamrick was the last of our family to see Uncle A. V. They saw each other at an airport as each was being deployed to a different war zone.

Uncle A. V.’s status as Missing in Action was a very traumatic experience for Mother, her parents and siblings. I was very young at the time, but remember all of us gathering at my Grandparents’ home to mourn together. For several years, the uncertainty of Uncle A. V.’s status hung like a cloud over the family. Later Uncle A. V.’s remains were found and returned home for burial. A member of the Armed Forces accompanied his casket. The family went through another period of mourning. This was almost like losing the same person twice.

The names of twin cousins of my Dad, Charles Hamrick, Jr. and James Hamrick from East Lake are at the Memorial. The name of another cousin of my Father, Doyce Hamrick, from Calhoun County is also there. Even though I don’t remember those cousins, I do remember Uncle A. V. I was able to show those names to Mother when we were aboard the Battleship USS Alabama in Mobile and again at our Veteran’s Memorial.

Be sure to thank a Veteran for his/her sacrifice for you! The day set aside for that is November 11<sup>th</sup>. Birmingham has the nation’s oldest and largest Veterans Day Parade!



### From the History Channel Website: *The History Behind the Date*

Veterans Day originated as “Armistice Day” on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. Unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime.



The Archive is now located at 2020 Valleydale Road, Suite 108. Please contact us via e-mail to schedule an appointment.

*"I believe that we can have one of the most beautiful and desirable cities in Alabama by combining in one municipality the areas of Bluff Park, Regent Forest, Gentilly, Hoover, Patton Chapel, Rocky Ridge and some of the surrounding territory. This city could be large enough to have the very finest fire department, police department and other services needed. Its city hall and central quarters could also be located at the junction of a north-south superhighway and east-west superhighway and east-west superhighway, which is something that all towns and cities do not have."*

#### Friends:

The above Vision or Master Plan was contained in a letter from William H. Hoover, founder of Hoover and President of Employers Insurance, to Jack W. Parker, President of the Shades Cliff Civic Club (SCCC), on July 2, 1965; almost two years before the City of Hoover was incorporated.

An original of this letter is stored at the Archives of the Hoover Historical Society together with thousands of other documents that reflect the History of Hoover. The HHS serves as the official archivist for the City.

As archivist, recently the HHS responded to a request for information on the Community Park in Bluff Park from Allan Rice. The City leases the park for \$10 per year from the SCCC. The building on the property will be demolished and a pavilion erected in its place. The information we provide will be used for a plaque that will be placed on the pavilion.

***Continued below...***

The first Parade of Homes in Hoover was held in 1959 and featured a \$1 raffle ticket for a house on Valgreen Lane (p. 105, *A History of Hoover and Its People*.) On Sunday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>, we were visited during the Moss Rock Festival by a resident currently living in the house who is not the original owner. We also chatted with several teachers about booking tours of The Folklore Center, signed up more persons for Hoover tours with Jim Langley, sold our history book and packages of note cards ribboned in red for the holidays, and distributed a flyer on our speaker, Marvin Clemons, scheduled for Nov. 13h at Shades Crest Baptist Church. Our education programs for the public are always open to all without charge. We hope you'll attend to learn more about Birmingham's railroad history.

Also, be sure to check out our new Website (shown above) **hooverhistoricalsociety.org**. We have two videos (under Historical Sites) on The Folklore Center and the renovation of the Crawford Fire Cab, as well as important links to access historical information in Alabama as we prepare to celebrate Alabama's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of statehood in 2019.

Sincerely, *Arnold Singer*, President



# BPES and HHS celebrate Fall together as Folklore Center welcomes community

By Peggy Patton

The HHS hosted an Open House at the Folklore Center during the Outdoor Classroom Social at Bluff Park Elementary School on Thursday, October 11th.

This is the sixth year that BPES has held an outdoor party to celebrate their Outdoor Classroom. This year's celebration was blessed with beautiful weather!



Members of the community were invited to wander through the garden beds—donated by Ann Jones and Hoover Foundation grants. The original grant for the Outdoor Classroom was from the Hoover Beautification Board.

Visitors were able to see the cooking cart that can be rolled into classrooms. Geri Evans, Jenafer Collins, and Georgia Pearson directed many parent and teacher volunteers who supported activities for around 700 visitors.



Another area to visit during the Social was the “Songbird Habitat.” The Alabama Wildlife Federation gave a grant to help with this project. Vulcan Materials donated gravel for the path. This bird sanctuary is complete with benches.

HHS's own Jim Langley, Membership Chair and Arnold Singer, President, manned a table at the social and directed visitors to the Folklore Center. Doug Harkness, Pam Thompson, and Peggy Patton offered tour tips in the cabin and to the outbuildings. We hosted 170+ visitors! And, many children visited and then brought relatives over for a second visit! We heard, “I have only seen the cabin but have never been inside,” voiced many times!

It was a joy to welcome the community into our Folklore Center, where Doug always says, “Every day is a great day at the HHS Folklore Center!”



Left and right: Prince of Peace School was the first tour of the school year in October; Pam Kennebrew sings ‘Oh Susannah’ with Dancin’ Dan and students.





## Railroad history shaped the nation

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Even Marvin's favorite children's books featured trains. "It would be a tie between *The Little Engine That Could* and *The Little Red Caboose*. Today, it would have to be *Thomas the Tank Engine*, which has won a whole generation of kids over to trains. I was also fascinated by the stories and artwork in the *Collier's Junior Classics*, which really opened up my childhood imagination. Even today, I can't imagine a finer introduction to literature for young people."



Terminal Station was such an iconic Birmingham building that it is an oft-mourned loss, even 49 years after its demolition. A replica of the station's "Welcome to the Magic City" sign now marks the entrance at the new Rotary Trail in downtown Birmingham—an ode to train station's history. The *Great Temple of Travel* pays homage to the building itself. The book covers 109 years of history, including Birmingham's founding and early days and contains illustrations and photos that recount the history of railroad travel in the city.

If you love trains and their history, you should attend this meeting! For more information, follow this link: [templeoftravel.net](http://templeoftravel.net).

## Moss Rock Festival 2018



The Moss Rock Festival, an annual event each first November weekend, celebrated its 13<sup>th</sup> year with wonderful Fall weather and a festive, spirited atmosphere. Approximately 10,000 people were in attendance over the two-day event. Plenty of arts, crafts, service vendors, fun



for the children, and dogs covered several blocks at the Preserve as well as food tents ranging from desserts to beer tasting to whet the appetite.

The Society logged in 31½ volunteer hours at our tent and wishes to thank volunteers: Arnold Singer, Pam Thompson, Anita Dillon, Deb Burtnett, Larry Parks, Ann & Jim Langley, Bob & Carolyn Kolar, Edna McWilliams, Caroline Boone, and James & Kathy Copeland. Mark your calendar for next year!





## HOOVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY Membership Form

**Make checks payable to Hoover Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 360233 Hoover, AL 35236-0233  
Archive/Office 205-739-7316

### Types of Memberships

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: Publicity \_\_\_\_\_ Archives \_\_\_\_\_ Speakers' Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ Research \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

Other Interests & Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

## *The Hoover Historical Society*

Archive: 2020 Valleydale Road, Suite 108  
Hoover, Alabama 35244  
PO Box 360233  
Hoover, Alabama 35236-0233  
Phone: 205-739-7316



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