

the

Hoover Historical Log

The Official Newsletter of the Hoover Historical Society



A quilt is a sandwich...

When children tour The Folklore Center, they learn about quilting. Birmingham's Quilters' Guild teaches about the importance of quilting in daily pioneer life—and each child returns home with a quilt 'sandwich.' A quilt sandwich is composed of three layers—the top (bread), the filling (batting) and the back, (bread). Join us on March 21st to learn more about quilting and its history from an expert—Beth Hunter.

Beth is an Instructor of History at UAB where she has been an adjunct professor since 2012 in the undergraduate program. Her presentation will be March 21st at the Hoover Public Library downstairs meeting rooms. *Continued on Page 5*

*You're
Invited!*

*Hoover
Historical
Society
Open House at
Hare Farm
613 Sanders
Road
Bluff Park
April 30, 2-4 PM*

Ice cream in the park, art walk
by locals, HHS scholarship
recipient recognition, musical
entertainment!

Save the Date!

BOARD meets...

March 14, 2023

Meet at the
Office/Archive at
the Public Safety
Center, 10 AM

General Mtg.

March 21, 2023

Hoover Public
Library; Beth Hunter
to speak on the art
& history of quilting

May meeting

May 26, 2023

Installing our slate of officers
for 2023-24; Program: Early
Creek Life in Alabama by AL
Indian Affairs Commission,
1PM at HPL



History of the Hoover City School System updated

In 2017, Dr. Charles E. Hickman was asked by the Hoover Historical Society to write an historical account of the formation and growth of the Hoover City Schools System. Dr. Hickman was an excellent person for this work because he had served as a member of the Hoover Board of Education of the first two years of its existence and he continued to follow subsequent events as the new school district grew in both size and reputation.

Since 2017, significant events and projects have occurred which led Dr. Hickman to create a new edition. He asked Dr. Ron Dodson, a recently retired administrator from the school system, to partner with him in this updated work. The new 2022 edition includes everything in the previous edition along with new content such as the following:

- Creation of the Riverchase Career Connection Center (RC3)
- Response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Transition of leadership from Dr. Kathy Murphy to Dr. Dee Fowler
- Renovation of the old Bluff Park School
- New challenges and opportunities ahead

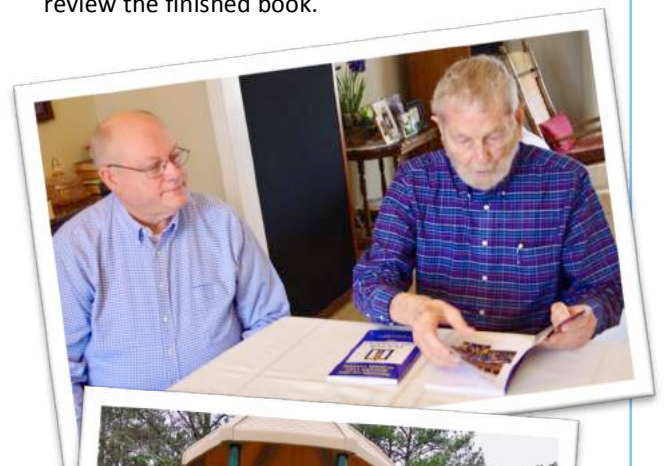
“It was an honor and a privilege to work with Dr. Hickman on this updated edition,” said Dr. Dodson. He continued, “I was a brand-new teacher in Hoover when it first began operations in 1988. Knowing that Dr. Hickman and I were working together both then and now is a special connection that I treasure.”

Hoover’s history as a city is one of success—ranked #1 Best Place to Live in Alabama by 24/7 Wall Street in 2021 and the school system named the fourth Best Place to Work in Alabama by Forbes Magazine in 2022. Such success does not just happen. Dr. Dodson wrote, “...this account of the school system’s rise from a failed community vote to a nationally recognized high-achieving school district is a story worth remembering.”

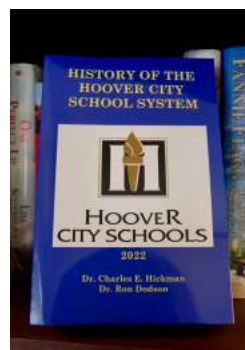
Copies of the 2022 edition can be purchased from Dr. Hickman for \$20 (or the editor of this newsletter.) For every book sold, Dr. Hickman will donate \$5 to the Hoover City Schools System. The book will be presented at the March 14th meeting of the Board of Education.



Above: Dr. Charles Hickman with Green Valley students; below, Dr. Ron Dodson and Dr. Hickman review the finished book.



Above: Green Valley Elementary students exemplify the diversity of Hoover City Schools. L to R: Jayden Jack, Clara Freeman, Daniel Hurt, Wyatt Carter, Senia Robayna, and Karley Long.





Right: The Saturn V rocket, located at the Huntsville Welcome Station, will be removed, as announced in January 2023. Photo: March 6, 2017 by DB.

Far left: This Crazy Quilt created by Elizabeth Lacey to the HHS reads "Forget Me Not." It's probable that the quilt was for an anniversary of an 1805 wedding. Join us at this month's General Meeting to view it and learn about quilts!

Here's to History—from our president...

Lovers of history should be amazed at the number of historical sites of significance in Alabama. I attended a Colonial Dames XVII Century conference recently, and as I drove toward Huntsville, I mulled over the history of the space program. The removal of our Saturn rocket from the I-65 northernmost welcome station will bring a close to that remarkable landmark, although it can never erase the achievements of the Space Program.

One of our 'Dames XVII Century speakers was a German descendant of one of those remarkable families brought here after WWII during the great race to space. (There's another whole story behind "brought here," but that's not for today.) He reminded us of the many rockets that were associated with the NASA Marshall Flight Center in Huntsville. He noted that the scientists preferred training in Alabama with the actual engineers who developed the programs and materials over the facility in Texas. He pointed out a few of the vast number of remarkable inventions from the NASA Space and Rocket Center and Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville. The anti-gravity tanks for weightlessness? Ours. The precision-mirrors continually used in space? Ours. The towers used in Florida to launch rockets? Ours. The battery designed on the lunar Rover? Ours—actually a brother-in-law. While the original building known as the 4200 Complex was recently demolished, even they knew to save thousands of photographs, documents, and videos as archives for future generations.

The future is ours, too, as these men and women are currently working on big plans for the future. Reminding us of our Colonial days and how long it took to create a new nation, our speaker said that we are on the fast track as far as colonizing other planets. What's present and future now will one day be part of Alabama history.

Also while at the conference, I met two delightful ladies who lived in Aliceville, Alabama. They, too, remarked about the Germans--prisoners in fact, who returned after the war, and settled in Alabama. If you haven't yet read *Guests Behind the Barbed Wire, German POWs in America: A True Story of Hope and Friendship* by Ruth Beaumont Cook, please do so. I can't wait to visit Aliceville.

To help us to archive memories of our area, please send a memory you have of the 60s, 70s, or 80s to our Website or e-mail. It doesn't have to be more than a couple of paragraphs, but simply a "I remember when..." and tell a short story. We want it for our future generations!
Here's to History!

Linda Joseph

About our crazy quilt...



Donated by Mrs. Melanie Lacey Bonds, the quilt was dated by Ryan Blocker, Museum Collections Collector, as late



The **World's Largest Office Chair** stands 33' 1" tall and 19' 7" wide and weighs 2000 lbs. Located in Anniston, AL, the chair also boasts the largest wad of gum underneath! Built it 1981 for "Miller's Office Furniture," the chair's title was taken by the "Broken Chair" at 39" in 1997. Several other chairs around the world vie for the title, too! You can climb the chair via a spiral staircase—just one of the sites you'll see on our annual Spring Trip!

Another Spring Trip is scheduled!

Destination: Anniston, AL

Hoover Historical Society 2023 Spring Trip - Anniston

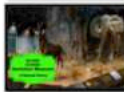
MARCH 17, 2023



Classic On Noble - Housed inside former Saloon and F. W. Woolworths, this 19th century-era building is Alabama's premiere fine dining restaurant.



Berman History (and Spy) Museum - Old West, Middle Ages, Ming Dynasty, Hitler's Silver service, a 1587 royal scimitar with 1,295 diamonds set in three pounds of gold, appraised at several million dollars.



Museum of Natural History - Explore the wilds of Africa, the wonders of the North American wilderness and the mysteries of 2,300-year-old Egyptian Mummies.



Depart Hoover Public Safety Center Parking Lot at 8:30

Cost: \$20 - Includes transportation and admission to both museums, Lunch is at own expense (\$\$)

Send check to Jim Langley at 1120 Danberry Lane, Hoover, AL 35242 OR, Venmo to @Jimmy-Langley-2 OR PayPal JL091649@yahoo.com

Reservations : email Jim Langley at JL091649@yahoo.com or text 205-999-1318 with Names of party, email, contact information. Reservation confirmed with payment.

Hoover Historical Society 2023 Open House

April 30 - 1 PM to 4 PM

Hare Farm (formally known as Smith Farms)

613 Sanders Road, Hoover, AL 35226



Drive down Sanders Road to where it intersects with Savoy Street in Bluff Park, where the Pioneer James Tyler's Dairy Farm was once located, and for a second you might think you are in Kentucky bluegrass country.

David and Teresa Hare purchased nearly 9 acres of the former Smith Farm with the hopes of preserving and growing one of the community's most iconic landscapes. David and daughter Alex opened Bluff Park Ice Cream Shoppe and heir prayer for the farm is to create another popular Bluff Park location that fosters fun for families and friends.

MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY HOOVER HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL

LOCAL ARTISTS INVITED TO DISPLAY AND SELL THEIR ART, NO FEE.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED INCLUDING:



Great opportunity to find out more about the Historical Society and join/renew your membership for only \$10 per year per individual.



The Society and other non-profit groups participated in the Kindness Summit at the library to entice volunteers!

Family donates stunning property to Friends of Shades Mountain

A Houston family has donated 2 ½ acres of prime property to Friends of Shades Mountain. Located at the intersection of Shades Crest Road and West Oxmoor at the northern edge of Hoover, the property includes cliffs and large boulders as well as old-growth trees.

One family member has fond memories of strolling along the property with her father, and “the beauty across the expansive valley view with all the very colorful sunset hues across the sky.” She and her family have given the land to Friends of Shades Mountain “in loving memory of our father and mother, Tim and Carmel Nunen, and our early lives spent in the Birmingham area.”

The property will be preserved in keeping with the mission of Friends of Shades Mountain “to preserve and protect the undeveloped sections of Shades Mountain for the mutual benefit of all who live on or near the mountain.”

For more information, contact Larry Rodick, President of Friends of Shades Mountain, at 205-823-7367 or friendsofshadesmountain@gmail.com.



A quilt is a sandwich...

Continued from Page 1

She enjoys textile arts, including quilting and sewing and is an active member of the B’ham Quilters Guild. Her quilts have been shown locally and in Hitachi, Japan. She also owns a research and writing company. Her current project is a book featuring Alabama quilts. Beth states, “I am an historian and quilter who has lived all over Alabama. Quilting was something I really got into later in life and I find so much joy in creating a long-lasting memory for others. Currently, I am documenting quilts from all over Alabama for an upcoming book. If you know of a great story to go along with a quilt, contact me!”



Beth made this quilt for her son. “This is my favorite quilt,” she says. The quilting mirrors the numbers theme.



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 Log

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[Recipient]

The Hoover Historical Log is published by the Hoover Historical Society, a
 501 C (3) organization. Editor: Debbie.burnett@gmail.com

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