# **BLAZING TRAILS**

Sponsored by the Smoke Rise Homeowner's Association Post Office Box 471 Warrior, Alabama 35180

JANUARY 2020 ISSUE fb: Smoke Rise Residents and HOA

email: smokerise@smokerisehoa.org webpage: smokerisehoa.org

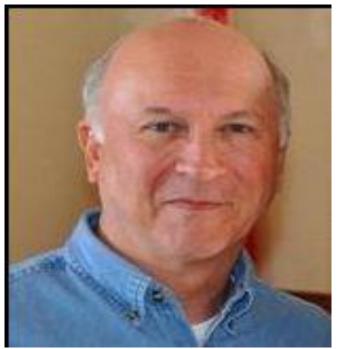
GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, January 30, 7:00 PM Smoke Rise United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall corner of Scenic Trail and Grandview Trail Everyone is welcome!

# YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND OPEN TO ALL SMOKE RISE RESIDENTS

Join us as author **Marvin Clemons** talks about one of Alabama's lost architectural gems, **Birmingham's iconic Terminal Station**. Mr. Clemons collected hundreds of photographs and documents detailing the construction, operation, and destruction of Terminal Station located downtown. Books will be available for purchase. This is a free event, but seats are limited. Refreshments will be served.



Sponsor for this program will be **Bob Hoglan**, home inspector at **Liberty Home Inspections**, President at **H&H Homebuilders**, Inc., and owner of **Billy Bob's Fireworks**.



A native of Jacksonville, Florida, **Marvin Clemons** grew up in Birmingham, and as a young rail fan he became fascinated with Birmingham's colorful railroads. Following graduation from high school, in 1964 he landed his first railroad job as tower operator, controlling passenger train movements through Birmingham Terminal Station. He later worked for Atlanta terminal Station and Missouri Pacific Railroad before being called to military duty in 1967, serving as an Army officer during the Vietnam Conflict.

Returning to Birmingham following military discharge, Marvin majored in mass communications at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, becoming the program's first graduate. He interned and then wrote for the Birmingham Post-Herald as the paper's transportation editor.

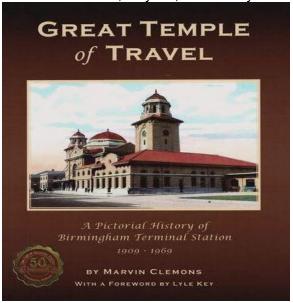
Following a brief career in journalism and public affairs, in 1980 Marvin returned to UAB to earn a master's degree in counseling. He co-founded one of Alabama's first private rehabilitation counseling firms, and was a board-certified counselor in private practice until his retirement in 2012.

While pursuing his profession, Marvin continued to explore his interest in railroads as a writer, photographer, and historian. In 2007 he coauthored and self-published *Birmingham Rails* – *The Last Golden Era* with Lyle Key, a fellow rail fan and college fraternity brother. The book received positive reviews in both the national and local press, and the limited edition of 1,850 copies sold out within ten months of publication and remains out of print. In 2009, *Birmingham Rails* was honored by the Railroad & Locomotive Historical Society with the George W. Hilton Book Award, the highest recognition given to a book on American railroad history.

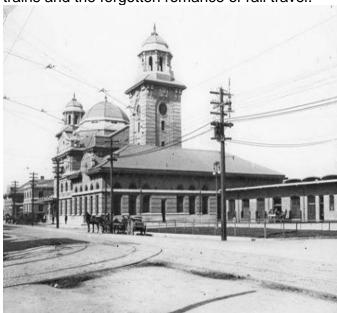
Following publication of *Birmingham Rails*, Marvin helped to found the Mid-South Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, headquartered in the historic 1884 Southern Railway depot in Leeds, Alabama. He served as

the chapter's first president and established the chapter's publication, *The Mid-South Flyer*, covering railroad history in the Mid-south region. Marvin is curator of the Frank F. Ardrey Exhibit at the Leeds depot, showcasing the work of Birmingham's most noted railroad photographer.

Marvin and his wife, Kayron, live in Hayden.



Throughout his professional life, Marvin continued to acquire historical data and photographs on Birmingham's Terminal Station, which was demolished in 1969 for a failed commercial development. To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the station's untimely removal, Marvin has authored and self-published the first book-length history of Terminal Station. *Great Temple of Travel: A History of Birmingham Terminal Station* is a tribute to one of Birmingham's most venerated lost landmarks, and a personal testament to a life-long love for trains and the forgotten romance of rail travel.



The Beginning - Picture from 1910, one year after building completion.

In 1909, at the height of passenger rail travel, a magnificent railroad station was constructed in Birmingham, Alabama, to serve the rapidly growing "Magic City." Hailed at its opening as "the Great Temple of Travel," the imposing Byzantine and Beaux Arts structure, with its magnificent tiled dome and twin towers rising above Birmingham's skyline, was considered the finest railway station in the New South. Incorporating design elements of Washington, D.C.'s Union Station and Istanbul, Turkey's Hagia Sophia basilica, Terminal Station was "built to last the ages."



The iconic "MAGIC CITY Welcome" sign

For over 60 years, the station was the main stop for out-of-town visitors. The famous "Birmingham, The Magic City" sign welcomed visitors to the city. The station connected Birmingham to cities like Chattanooga, New Orleans, and even New York.

At its peak, the station received 54 trains per day. However, rail traffic significantly declined by the 1960s.

Just 60 years after its construction, the magnificent structure fell to the wrecking ball, the victim of years of neglect and steady decline in rail passenger service.

The station's destruction in 1969 was a devastating blow to Birmingham's architectural heritage, but the loss produced a heightened awareness of the importance of preserving the city's surviving historical structures.

A \$10 million multi-story building for Social Security personnel was supposed to be erected at the Terminal Station site.

In January 1960, The Birmingham News ran an article describing a local businessman's dream to convert Terminal Station into a "Birmingham Travel and Convention Center." Architectural plans were drawn, but never acted upon. What was left was a vacant field over-grown with weeds.



The Sad End — a pile of rubble from the once magnificent Great Temple of Travel.

Although Terminal Station can never be replaced, its colorful history has been preserved in this first book-length account by railroad historian Marvin Clemons through scores of rare photographs, art work, and detailed text.

Railroad Park and its amenities now occupy where Terminal Station once stood.

#### **SRHOA BOARD**

**Sec. 1** – Sylvia Brown, Treasurer Dolores Fort, Secretary

**Sec. 2** – Anita Harper, President Robert Stump, Vice President

Sec. 3 – Joseph Rooker & Roy Adams

Sec. 4 – Tera Lee

**Sec. 5** – Denise Johnston & Robert Rice

**Sec. 6** – Edna Caudle, Historian Elizabeth Jawahreh

Is your Sector represented on the Board? Do you have representation in making decisions that affect not just your Sector, but all of Smoke Rise? If your answer to these questions was "NO," maybe you know someone who would be able to represent you fairly, or maybe you are that one.

#### **SRHOA COMMITTEES**

ACC – David Hunter, Chair, Sec. 2 Alan Grostick, Sec. 2 Jimmy Works, Sec. 5

Cty. Comm. Liaison – Dolores Fort, Sec. 1 Neighborhood Watch – Christy Harris, Chair Community Events–Christy Harris, Chair, S.4

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Be sure to put Saturday, May 2, on your calendars for the Smoke Rise Community Yard Sale. The plan is to advertise to make this sale good for everyone participating. The HOA will have signs at the entrances of Smoke Rise but if you are participating you may want to plan on having signs from the entrances. We will also put out flyers at local businesses to help promote the sale. It will be posted on area yard sale pages (starting about 2 weeks before the sale), listed in The Blount Countian and on Craigslist, as well as continued posts on Facebook.

A listing of participating addresses will be posted on a community map on the HOA Facebook page. Look for the event notice on the page with instructions of how and when to put your address on the map.

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ADEM has finally issued the construction permits for the Tyson plant to proceed with installation of the new scrubbers. The anticipated completion date is expected in May or June, 2020.

### **DECORATIONS FOR SMOKE RISE**

The HOA has purchased new Christmas decorations for the three entrance signs and all 63 street signs throughout the community. Preparations are being made to ready the entrance signs to accommodate the garland and bows.

Patriotic bows and bunting have been ordered to provide decorations for each of the entrance signs for Memorial Day in May, Flag Day on June 14, Independence Day July 4, Labor Day 1st Monday in September, Patriots' Day September 11, and Veteran's Day November 11.

We look forward to showing our Community's pride in our country.

#### **2020 ELECTION**

The Primary election where each of the parties chooses who will be the nominee for the General Election in November will be held on Tuesday, March 3. The following races affect our area: Revenue Commissioner Republican — Gregg Armstrong (I) and Bob Hoglan; U S Senator Republican — Stanley Adair, Bradley Byrne, Arnold Mooney, Roy Moore, Ruth Page Nelson, Jeff Sessions, Tommy Tuberville.

There is also an amendment to the Alabama Constitution to change the name of the State Board of Education to the Alabama Commission on Elementary and Secondary Education and to change these positions from elected by the people to appointed by the Governor subject to the confirmation of the State Senate.

The last day to hand-deliver registration to vote in the Primary is February 14, if mailed it must be postmarked no later than February 15.

Absentee voting for the Primary Election began January 8<sup>th</sup>. To apply for an absentee ballot contact EMA Director, Don Roybal, or his staff in the basement of the Courthouse, 220 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East, Oneonta, or call 205-625-4121. When submitting the application a copy of ID must be attached. The last day to apply is February 27. Last day to submit the completed absentee ballot is March 2, if mailed it much be postmarked no later than March 2, or hand delivered to the EMA office by close of business on March 2.

The Primary Run-off Election is March 31. The General Election is November 3.

## **APRIL 30 ANNUAL MEETING**

Fire Chief JJ Ivey will present a program on home fire safety and proper use and installation of smoke alarms. Free smoke alarms will be available for attendees who do not have one or access to one. Chief Ivey has delivered this program to other organizations and made a difference in the lives of many. Proper use of smoke alarms and knowledge of fire safety can save a life and cut down on the over 1000 calls made by West Blount Fire District.

This will also be the Annual Meeting where each Sector elects their Directors for the next year beginning July 1.

### **OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS**

The sixth **Community Dinner** was held January 25, at Top Hat. A fun evening of good food and getting to know your neighbor was enjoyed by all in attendance. The next gathering will be on a Saturday evening in March. The date and place will be determined closer to the event. Watch for events on Facebook.

**Senior Days** are continuing every Tuesday and Friday from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Hayden Community Center on County Road 7. All age 55 and older are invited to participate in great food, fun games, bingo, prizes and activities. A great reason to open that door and get out of the house and meet new, fun people.