

The Historian

Published by the Fallbrook Historical Society



A 100-year-old tree with a history going back to the beginnings of the town of Fallbrook lives on Ammunition Rd near Albertsons, next to Carl's Jr. restaurant. This tree,

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The Fallbrook
Historical Society invites you to an

“Old-Fashioned Christmas” Open House

Sunday December 3

12:00-3:00 pm 1730 South Hill (Corner of Rocky Crest & Hill)



Arts and Crafts
Tour the Museum Buildings
Carolers
Classic Cars
Free Refreshments
Vendor Booths



**Meet Santa Claus at
2 pm !**



 **FALLBROOK** 

Railroad Heritage Park

Another rich segment of Fallbrook history will be brought to life with the development of our newest pocket park, Railroad Heritage Park. This park will honor the past and educate a new generation about our rich agrarian past, present and future and the rail industry that made it possible.

Located at the intersection of Main Ave. and Elder St. in downtown Fallbrook, the purpose of this historical project is to bring awareness to residents and visitors of Fallbrook's important

railroad history. It will be an area where visitors can learn, rest, and watch performances on the waiting station platform.

The Fallbrook Village Association, in collaboration with the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce, Fallbrook Arts Inc.'s Art in Public Places Committee, the Fallbrook Historical Society, Fallbrook Beautification Alliance, Charles E. Swisher Post 1924 VFW, and local residents, looks forward to bringing this Railroad Heritage Part to Fallbrook.

a *Ficus macrophylla*, commonly known as a Moreton Bay fig, is native to the east *Cont. from P. 1 Tree*

coast of Australia and must have come to California by ship as a seedling. Other notable Moreton Bay figs of approximately the same age are found in Balboa Park, Oceanside, and Santa Barbara. Some of these trees may have been imported as an experiment to test their usefulness for timber, but became more popular for landscaping because of their majestic canopies.

Records are still being researched, but the Fallbrook tree was planted on the original homestead of James Henry Bush. In the 1880s, James Bush's farm stretched approx. from today's Fallbrook St. to Clemmens Lane between Main Ave and Alturas St. The land was later subdivided. A century ago, the tree was protected as a condition of any sale.

The Mahr family then

purchased the parcel of land the tree lives on. In 1925, Albert Clemmens purchased the parcel neighboring of 13 acres bounded by Alturas Lane, Clemmens Lane and Ammunition Road for \$5 acre adjoining the Mahr's property. The tree was at the boundary of the Mahr and Clemmens properties. Albert's son, 99-year-old Marion Clemmens tells about playing marbles in the shade of this large tree with his brothers and the Mahr boys in the mid 1920s.

In the 1950s the parking lot of Albertson's was a residential area with a trailer park and small homes. The tree was a familiar part of their neighborhood. In the 1970s the tree canopy was much larger than it is today. A very large section of the tree broke off over 10 years ago.

Look around; you may be surprised to see an icon of this tree is on several community signs around Fallbrook.

The Fallbrook Historical

Society is working to document the story of this amazing tree in our community. We ask anyone with stories or early photos of this tree to please share them with us.

Fallbrook Historical Society Membership

Current annual memberships expire December 31st.

We hope that you will continue to support the Fallbrook Historical Society by renewing your 2018 membership (unless, of course, you are already a lifetime member).

We hope you will continue to support our efforts to help bring Fallbrook's past to life.

Dues are only \$30.00 per year for a family. We are a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization and welcome your participation as well as your financial support. Send your email address with your dues to save us postage!

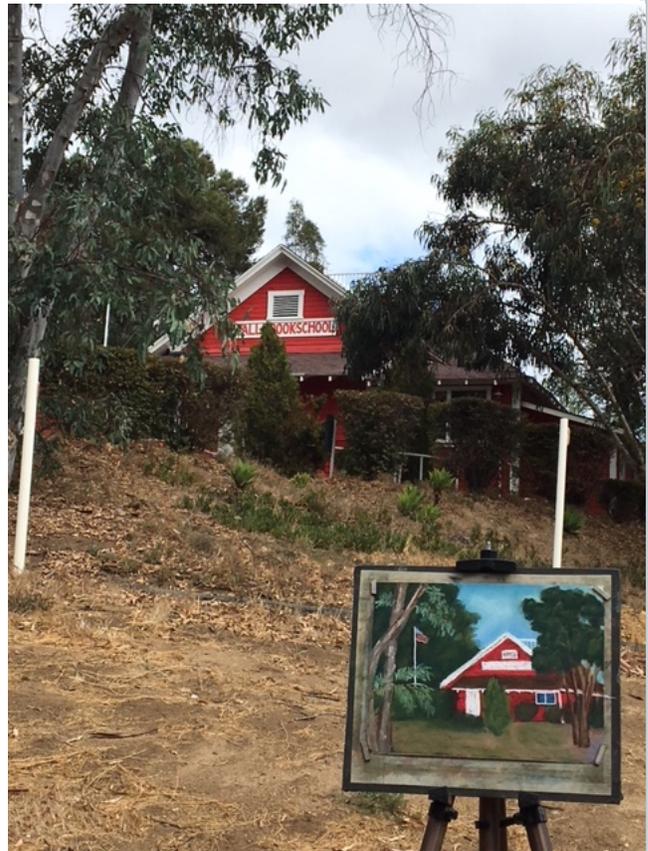
P.O. Box 1375, Fallbrook, CA 92088-1375

760-723-4125

*Plein Air Painters
inspired at Fall Brook
Reche Schoolhouse*

On Nov. 1st, Fallbrookian Julie Compton and her friends took their paints and easels to the Fall Brook Reche Schoolhouse for a morning of painting in the beautiful setting of the schoolhouse. The group, the Wednesday Plein Air Painters, paint in different mediums, oil, watercolor, acrylic and soft pastels. Each Wednesday they select a different location in the county and are often challenged with weather conditions as they try to capture the big outdoors and the unique beauty each location offers.

They currently have paintings in the Brooktown Kitchen and Coffee Shop on Main St. as well as the Bob Burton Performance Center at Fallbrook High School. Several members show in the Carlsbad Oceanside Art League Gallery in Carlsbad, as well as local shows in Fallbrook.



Plein Air Painters can be seen painting at Wine and a Bite, Home & Garden Tours, Harvest Faire. With the Fallbrook Art Association, they are sponsoring a Plein Air Competition and Show at Grand Tradition on April 25, 2018

New members are welcome!

Follow them on Facebook!





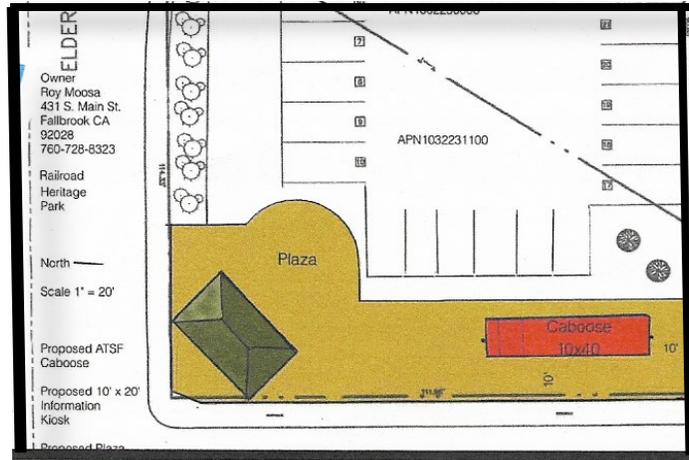
Don McLean, Sr.,
Long-serving Director of
Fallbrook Historical Society
1930-2017

Donald Parke McLean, Sr., or "Duck" as many affectionately called him, was born in San Bernardino in 1930 and his family moved to their family ranch in Fallbrook, CA when he was only a few months old.

When Don received the Pioneer of the Year award from the Fallbrook Historical Society in 2011, the Fallbrook Village News wrote, "Don, a native Californian was helping irrigate the trees his family had on their farm in Fallbrook by age six. As he grew, so did his interest in fire science. As a boy, he would go to help at every fire he could, with gunnysack, canteen and shovel. Later, his 10 years with the Fallbrook Volunteer Fire Department would lead to a successful career with the fire department at Camp Pendleton and retirement as Deputy Fire Chief. He joined the U.S. Navy after high school and in 1948, while on leave, married Fallbrook resident Marion Pearson, whose parents owned The Hitching Post malt shop on Main Street. He also has been an avid gem and mineral collector, his interest starting when he would go fishing with his father at Lake Hodges and on family trips to the desert." He learned jewelry making, worked with silver, and loved making jewelry for Marion and his granddaughters and great granddaughters. He was very involved with coaching Little League and has devoted many hours to the Fallbrook Masonic Lodge, Rainbow Girls, and Fallbrook Historical Society. He and Marion donated their family collection of gems for all to enjoy viewing at the historical society's museum. After his retirement from Camp Pendleton Fire in 1980, he and Marion traveled and visited many gem and mineral shows, and from 1984 to 2004 they managed Crestview Estates in Fallbrook, and continued ongoing active involvement in the Fallbrook community. Don was recently honored for his 50th year as a member of the Fallbrook Masonic Lodge. Last year he received the Grand Cross of Color, an award for outstanding service to the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, a Masonic youth service organization. We are so grateful for Don's whole-hearted commitment and dedication the Fallbrook Community.

Cont. from P. 3 Railroad

The park will be open to the public with a replica of a waiting station filled with Fallbrook's train history, benches for resting, a loading platform that will serve as a performing area and an authentic caboose. Across Main Avenue, a train mural on the "Merlot Building" exterior continues the theme where the train crossed Main.



YES, I want to contribute to Fallbrook's Railroad Heritage Park!
Donors giving over \$500.00 will be recognized at the Park.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
EMAIL: _____
PHONE: _____ DONATION AMOUNT: _____

Make checks payable to Fallbrook Village Assn., a 501(c)(3) non-profit
Mail to: FVA, P.O. Box 2438, Fallbrook, CA 92028

*Fallbrook Historical Society
Buildings Available for meetings
and events*

The Fallbrook Historical Society Heritage Center is located at 1730 S. Hill (at Rocky Crest Drive) and houses the Museum, the Pittenger House, the Ford Room, the Gem & Mineral Room, and the Barn. The Ford Room and the Barn are available for rental for meetings or other occasions. Call 760-723-4125 for further information.

The Fall Brook Reche Schoolhouse is located at 1319 S. Live Oak Park and is available for rental for weddings, reunions, and other events. Call 760-723-4125 for further information.

*Fallbrook Historical Society
Webpage Re-design in
Progress Pardon our dust!*



Check back often to see our progress as we upgrade to bring you more tools to discover history.

“The Fallbrook Historical Society, a membership-based, non-profit organization, is dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and display of materials, objects, and artifacts, which depict the rich heritage of the greater Fallbrook area. As an educational and cultural institution, we enthusiastically share our growing collections and archives with members, visitors, and the entire community. Our goal is to bring people together to share the richness of our past and enable them to experience first-hand the process of history and its connection to the present.”

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Contact Us

Have a question about Fallbrook History?

Need help with a research project?

Visit us at the Museum on Thursdays and Sundays 1pm-4pm

Follow us on Facebook

Call 760-723-4125

Fallbrook Historical Society

P.O. Box 1375

Fallbrook, CA 92088-1375

[Recipient]

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