The following letter was received by the Society after Ms. Merriman read about the planned Railroad Heritage Park in the Winter 2017 edition of The Historian:

I was reading about the train station, and how it's just a memory now. I remember when I was small, it was still being used. And I remember it, a little. I remember waiting for the train to go by on the north end of town. Counting cars, as kids do. I'm sorry to hear the station was torn down; it was a classic station. I spent part of every summer at grammas for many years. And I remember how safe the town was and how honestly friendly everyone was. It was like a second home to me. I think the last time I was there was maybe 1967-68? And I'm sure I wouldn't recognize it now.

Sincerely

Alma Merriman

Granddaughter of Maie and Tom Ellis.

RAILROAD HERITAGE PARK PROJECT

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 Park to Fallbrook. 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 wall continues the theme where the train crossed Main. See photos above of the park site.

Donations can be made to the Fallbrook Village Association. More information is available at Fallbrookvillage.org
**The Avocado Belles Chapter of the Red Hat Ladies Society** celebrated their annual Christmas Luncheon at the Historic Reche Schoolhouse. A delicious Italian lunch was catered by Trupiano’s, tours of the schoolhouse, and a fun gift exchange game were highlights of a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

**Digitization Project Has Begun Historic Significance to Community**

The Fallbrook Historical Society owns the entire production of the Fallbrook Enterprise plus microfilm of Fallbrook newspapers dating back to 1882. This is one of the most significant treasures of our village. The newspapers themselves are deteriorating from age and the microfilm is cumbersome to read. Jim Foster, member of the FHS Board has found a vendor to digitize all of these newspapers so that we can put them on the Society webpage where everyone can search them for key dates, names, events and other items and then read the articles that pertain exactly as they were written years ago.

This is a monumental task but is so very important to all of Fallbrook and surrounding communities. We will keep you posted as progress is made.

**The Fallbrook Historical Society Heritage Center** is open Thursdays and Sundays from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., and by appointment.

The Heritage Center includes the Museum, the Pittenger House, the Gem & Mineral Room, the Ford Room, the Barn, and the outside displays. 1730 S. Hill (at Rocky Crest Dr.)

The Fall Brook Reche Schoolhouse is located at 1319 S. Live Oak Park Rd.

The Ford Room, the Barn and the Reche Schoolhouse are available for rental for meetings and other events.

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