



THE HISTORIAN

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Don Rivers

I have been asked regularly what the status is between the Historical Society and the Gem and Mineral Society. As I am sure that most of you know by now the Gem and Mineral Society has purchased the old Telephone Company's old building at 123 West Alvarado Street in beautiful downtown Fallbrook, to establish a Gem and Mineral Museum.

It was hoped that with their purchasing a building downtown that they would establish their own museum and the Historical Society would no longer have to support them and we could go on with our historical endeavors. But they have refused to even communicate in any way to our correspondences or requests. They are still using our facilities to store their rocks and supplies with no cooperation or compensation. They did move their board of director meetings to their Alvarado Street facility along with their folding tables that were stored in the back area of the Ford Room.

There has been very little communication between the two organizations over the past year even though the Historical Society has tried numerous times to communicate, to no avail. It is my understanding that there has been what appears to be some serious disagreement among the officers and membership of the Gem and Mineral Society. We have been informed that their elected president Richard Busch and treasurer Katherine Busch have resigned their offices because of the differences.

The Gem and Mineral has refused to meet their obligations spelled out in the terms of the 1993 license agreement of which they refused to consider updating. It has been necessary to seek legal assistance on our part, which is on going as of this date. We hope for a solution soon.

It would be appreciated if a greater number of the membership would get involved in the operation of our museum. Too few members and officers of the Historical Society are being asked to accomplish the many duties of maintaining our outstanding endeavor.

There are a great many projects around the museum that would be of great benefit to the Historical Society in general and the museum in particular. There are 12 typist, inputting records in the computer. A great many photo negatives from the Fallbrook Enterprise have been donated to the museum and it would be desirable if members would help with inputting these photos in the computer so they can be utilized by the community. There is a great deal of work to be done with the society's business files in the office and in the museum's historical research area. I would like to see more of the members of the Society take part in the operation of the museum. It has become necessary to employ outside help to do the yard and grounds maintenance and the cleaning and housework inside the museum and Pittenger House.

Come join us in the task of preserving the history of Fallbrook.

From our office:

By Margaret Ray

Twelve individuals in our community are very devotedly giving two hours of their time each week. They are Sandra Baxter, Judy Gillespie, Gordon Heath, Harlean Jones, Betty King, Jane McKee, Joan Oster, Glen Patterson, Jan Perez, Marian Richardson, Alice Wheaton and C. A. Wright. These people diligently enter records into the computer. Page after page of handwritten entries are carefully typed to make a data base that will one day be a great asset to all of the society. One day we will be able to print a list of all the items donated to the society by every particular individual. Or we can pull up a list of a particular type of item that is in the museum collections. That will be most helpful for locating an item for a display that is being created.

The hundreds of photographs that have been given to the society will be cataloged. A person who may be searching for information and/or a picture of a grandparent will be delighted when we can show them a copy of a photograph, and even provide them with a copy.

We are excited about the possibilities, but all of that is in the future. Our data-input-team still has a long trail ahead. What could we have done without their help?

Dorothy Francis has accepted the duty of putting our files in order. If you would like to help her please call 723-8879 or 723-4125.

One recent donation to our collection is an early Register from the Naples or Ellis Hotel, with some interesting signatures. And an author autographed copy of Hal Marquiz's "Fallbrook", printed in 1968. There have been many other donations. We also received an early Fallbrook Directory, published by the Optimists. Our collection of the series of Directories is nearly complete. What a great asset! Many local residents who lived in Fallbrook at one time are listed in these books. This may give a researcher the clue they need to trace their roots.

Progress report:

Thanks to the work of our chairperson, Bev McDougal and the generosity of Alan Miller of Alan Miller Cabinets, we now have two beautiful new cabinets that will increase our display area tremendously. We are also planning for new doors and a window in the Ford Room downstairs with the generous help of Rocky Dixon and Tom Lowe that will give us security and protection from the dust and etc. Peggy Johnson is responsible for obtaining a generous donation from the St. John's Episcopal Church to be used for this project. When this is completed we plan to put a covering on the floor and other improvements so as to make a comfortable meeting room to be used for meetings of organizations of the community. These projects will be done as donations are received to help with the expense. If you can help we would be appreciate your donations.

Time Capsule

Please watch for news about our society's plan for preparing a time capsule to celebrate the close of our 25th year. If you are a part of a business or non-profit or other activity in Fallbrook you are invited to participate by sending reports of your activities, rosters of current members, brief histories, etc. and small, timely souvenir items to place in the capsule to be "planted" in March or early April. Our 25th year ends on April 30, 2003. This project will be a community service to record our present-day activities. Watch our next newsletter for details.

North County Committee of History

Our society is part of the consortium of historical societies for all areas north of San Diego City. This month, our committee chair Cecelia and Carroll Njust will meet at the newest of museums, the San Diego Archaeological Center in San Pasqual. The facility will be open to the public in early December and is most interesting. Among the many displays already prepared are items for Fallbrook and Camp Pendleton. It is in the old San Pasqual Academy near the Wild Animal Park.

Christmas Parade at 5 p.m. Dec. 5

We have met with the Chamber of Commerce's parade committee and again are the triumvirate of couples will greet the honored guests of the parade. The Masonic Lodge will erect the canopy, the

Chamber will place the tables and some chairs and Bev and Earl McDougal, Peggy and Ken Johnson and Cecelia and Carroll Njust will supply drinks and goodies and a warm welcome to those waiting for the parade to form near the giant fig tree, next to Carl's Jr.

The Historical Society will be represented by our "Pioneer of the Year" honorees Margaret Ray, Laura Hindorff and Velma Sierras who represent the Pioneer Hindorff Family.

2002-2003 Board of Directors - with duties

Don Rivers,

president - member of all committees,
research and fund raising

Lee Shaeffer

vice-president, remodeling downstairs
area, farm machinery, nominating and
fund raising

Mary Rivers

recording secretary, newsletter, general
publicity and fund raising

Peggy Johnson,

corresponding secretary/publicity, house
museum and fund raising

Lois Cunningham

treasurer and office and fund raising

Thea Moore

parliamentarian, awards-co-chair and
fund raising

Dorothy Francis

Office-filing and fund raising

Cecelia Njust,

membership and fund raising

Jack Story,

old timers picnic, grounds and
maintenance, and fund raising

Margaret Ray,

office and acquisitions and fund raising

Bev McDougal,

museum, docents, tours-programs, and
annual meeting and fund raising

Therese McDonnell

awards-co-chair and fund raising

Dick Griset,

museum lower floor and fund raising

Tom Keehan

yard maintenance and fund raising

We all send our best wishes and hope Tom Keehan is on the mend. He has been through more than his share of bad luck lately. See you soon, Tom.

It is with deep regrets that we have to announce that Jack Tanner has submitted his resignation from the board. We wish him and Dorothy well and thank him for his time and effort.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors is held the first Tuesday of each month at the museum at 9 a.m. All members of the Fallbrook Historical Society are cordially invited to attend.

Membership

By Ceceilia Njust

Memberships are continuing to support our society. Some of the latest members since our last newsletter are: Andy and Margaret Anderson; Janet Brown; Robert and Marilyn Skare; Ted and Janet Wortman; Gail and Keith Hilton and Frances Fredy of Murrieta; Nicolas and Ellen Hinchliff of Redlands; George and Donna Yackey of La Mesa; and Donna Regan of Bonsall. A special thank you goes to Russ and Brenda Vatnsdal and Dr. Rodger Engel who have become Life Members. With these very welcome members our numbers now stand at 389.

Please check your expiration date on the mailing label (following your name) of this newsletter. If you have any questions please call our membership chairperson at 728-3271 or 723-4125. We really do appreciate your participation.