Within just 5-1/2 short years, the strength of the Fallbrook community has been challenged once again. In February, 2002 the Gavilan Fire burned over 5,900 acres and destroyed 56 homes and 17 outbuildings. On October 22, 2007, the Rice Fire raced through our Village, fueled by extremely strong Santa Ana winds. Fallbrook was on mandatory evacuation status for the first time in our history. 206 homes, two commercial properties and 40 outbuildings were destroyed. 9,472 acres were burned. Many avocado groves were damaged as well. We would like to thank the firefighting crews who worked so hard to contain the fires and save our homes, the law enforcement and military personnel who protected our homes in our absence, and all the agencies who provided assistance to those in need. THANK YOU ALL!

I Survived the Rice Fire of 2007

I survived the recent fire, as did my home. I am very grateful, and want to share my thoughts during the days we all waited for the news we could go home, if we had a home to go back to.

Everyone who lives in Fallbrook was affected by the Rice Fire that burned so many homes. I feel so sad thinking of the many people who have no home left, and had little or no time to gather up their treasures. I was one of the fortunate ones whose home was not destroyed. But I lived through those five days thinking about what it would be like to find my house a pile of ashes when I returned.

One of the things that went through my mind was the historical treasures that I have collected in my 80 some years, and the things my parents and grandparents had saved.

One of the conclusions I made during those days was that I would seek out the things that mean a lot to the history of this region and donate them to the Fallbrook Historical Society where they can be used for genealogical and/or historical research.

Something that comes to mind is a San Diego County Register of Voters from 1888 (I think that was the year). At the time San Diego was much larger than it is now.

Riverside County and part of San Bernardino County were later created, part of which had been San Diego County. An interesting thing is that there were no women’s names on this register. Women were not allowed to vote at that time. But my grandfathers and some of my great-grandfathers are listed along with other well known names of early Fallbrook.

Another thing I want to bring to the museum is a photograph of the north side of Fallbrook (around Santa Margarita Drive), with an orchard of very young OLIVE TREES. An interesting development in early Fallbrook.

I am so grateful that my home is sound and that I have some old treasures of Fallbrook to contribute to the museum collections. Bear with me while I locate them.

Margaret Ray, Historian

The Historical Society is collecting information about the Rice Fire and how it affected our community. We would like to include personal stories and any photos you would like to share. Stories and photos can be dropped off at the museum office on Thursday and Sunday between 1 and 4 p.m. or mailed to P.O. Box 1375, Fallbrook 92028.

Thank you for helping with this project.
President's Message
A reminder to our members that history is on the bookshelves of your Fallbrook Historical Society library. The library has lots of information about past fires and floods that have taken place over the years. Whenever I have some time as a docent, I enjoy looking up these historical events. It is interesting reading about the people involved and how the situations were handled. I certainly sympathize with those who suffered losses in the recent Rice Fire.

HISTORYcally yours, Jack

Bob Gillespie, Darwin East & friend

Old Timers Picnic
Our new barn was used for the first time on June 24th for the annual picnic and we had a wonderful turnout! Lots of great food, great company and great raffle items.

Muggins Martin

New members Louise & Chuck Sills

Margaret Ray and the new Images of Fallbrook book

Thea Moore, Marion & Don McLean

Dode Martin & Marion Clemmens having a “discussion!”

New Board Member
It is our pleasure to announce the appointment of Marion Clemmens, longtime Fallbrook resident and Society member, to our Board of Directors. Marion is replacing Darwin East who is relocating to Washington State.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Barbecue Appreciation Luncheon

Not only was the support for our barn sale overwhelming from the Fallbrook community, it was equally overwhelming from our docents and volunteers. To thank all those who worked so many long hours preparing for the sale, we hosted a Barbecue Appreciation Luncheon on August 15th in our new barn. Bob Gillespie was Chief Barbecuer. Delicious side dishes were provided by our wonderful volunteers. It was a great afternoon!
**Historic Registry of Fallbrook Properties**

Members of your Board of Directors are working with the Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce on a program to recognize East Mission, Main Avenue and South Mission as “Historic 395.” It is a segment of our state’s “Discover California” and “Why California” tourism programs. One of the requirements is to have local properties officially listed on the San Diego County Historic Registry.

Utilizing a publication titled “Fallbrook Historic Registry Inventory,” a 1991 County project that the Fallbrook Historic Society helped develop listing 111 properties thought suitable for registry, fifteen sites were selected. Property owners of those sites have been contacted to obtain their support and this has been achieved in seven cases. Additional property owners are being contacted with a concentration of effort in the historic district of North Main Avenue.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call Committee Chairman Bruce Dennett at 723-8519.

**Dedication of Pittenger House Door**

On September 27th, the Live Oak Chapter of Questers made a formal presentation of the new front door on the Historic Pittenger House. The door was dedicated in memory of Mildred Parmley.

Our appreciation and a special thank you to the Live Oak Questers.

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**December Festivities**

During the month of December, wassail and cookies will be served at the Museum while it is open from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. every Sunday and Thursday.

Please stop by, bring your family and friends for hospitality and enjoy our Christmas decorations. The Somacal Village Train exhibit will be decked out in the holiday spirit as will the Historic Pittenger House.

Mark your calendars for the annual FALLBROOK CHRISTMAS PARADE on DECEMBER 1st at 5:00 p.m.

Our Vice President, Dode Martin, will be honored as Grand Marshal of the 2007 Parade!

Stop by the Historical Society’s Hospitality Booth and say hello and welcome to all our visitors.

**Our Warmest Wishes to All for a Happy Holiday Season**

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**Welcome to New Members**

Donald Anthony  
Sally Cruver  
John and Rita Donohue  
Ellen Francisco  
Robert and Janis Perdew  
William and Marilyn Qualis  
Richard and Susan Stokes  
Thomas and Margaret Curtis  
and Thea Moore are now Life Members

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**Pledge Drive** donations have been received from Jacqueline Jackson, Norma Kruse and James and Susan Roe. Thank you for your support of our barn project!

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**Yearbooks**

In response to our call for help in the last newsletter, most of the Fallbrook High School yearbooks missing in our collection were donated to the museum. And we also received a 1925 yearbook that the donor, Leah Gerten, purchased for $10 through an ad in the Penny Saver! **Thank you, Leah!!**
BIG BARN SALE

The Fallbrook Historical Society wishes to thank all the people of Fallbrook for their generous support of our first barn sale held July 28, 2007. The event was very successful in raising money to help finish the inside of our new barn.

Getting the sale off to a good start was the pancake, sausage, juice and coffee breakfast served to approximately 300 early shoppers by North County Fire Fighters Explorer Post 2740. We thank them for their hard work and welcoming smiles.

The barn was bulging with donations, the quality of the donations was excellent, and the docents did an outstanding job of assisting our buyers. Our gratitude goes out to all the docents and friends who gave of their time and worked long hours cleaning, preparing, selling and assisting where needed.

Winners of the drawing for a shopping spree next year were Judith Baker - $100.00, Tim Clark - $50.00 and Merri Lausen - $25.00. Six sets of our 8-volume Fallbrook in Review books were won by K. Berksstresser, Toddie Borges, Joni Branske, Harry Carpenter, Linda Nickerson and Jan Quigley. If any of the winners have not picked up their books at the Historical Society, they are still waiting for you.

A big THANK YOU to all who donated items, came to the sale and supported the Fallbrook Historical Society. Support from the community was overwhelming. We hope to make this an annual event so save your sale items for next July.

FALLBROOK IS THE GREATEST PLACE TO LIVE!!

By Bev McDougall

This letter was received following the Big Barn Sale: “After moving from Colorado Springs to Fallbrook because of my wife’s health, we settled on a mobilehome at Crestview Estates. We did not bring anything besides a few items in our van and here we were with no household items or furniture. What to do?

Fortunately we saw an ad in Thursdays Fallbrook paper advertising a “Barn Sale” by the Fallbrook Historical Society. We thought we would try to find the “Barn,” and see what was for sale. We were greeted by so many members and volunteers. We started picking out tables, chairs, a kitchen corner unit, a Lazy Boy, lamps, dishes, books and bookends, and beautiful pictures. We had enough items to completely furnish our home.

If that wasn’t enough, the kind folks of the Historical Society loaded it all in their trailer and delivered it to our home. TALK ABOUT A GREAT WELCOME! Bob and Judy Gillespie even stopped by later with an Allen wrench to put a bed together. Bob, Marcy, Mac and so many others whose names escape us were so kind. We are so grateful God led us to Fallbrook. He even had a job waiting for us as managers at Crestview Estates which we knew nothing about until we moved in. We love it.”

Sincerely, Bob and Marcia Kinner