

THE HISTORIAN

FALLBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ROCKY CREST & HILL ST. - P.O. BOX 1375, FALLBROOK, CA 92088
SUMMER, 2008 (760) 723-4125

VOL. 31, ISSUE 2

OLD TIMERS PICNIC



It's time again to join us for an old-fashioned get-together !

Mark your calendar for:

Sunday, June 29, 2008 11:00 a.m. to ?

Bring your favorite pot-luck dish to the museum and enjoy an afternoon of fun and visiting with old and new friends. Table service, coffee and punch will be provided. We will have our usual outstanding raffle. If you would like to donate something to the raffle, just call the museum and leave a message. The Main Museum and the Pittenger House will be open and you can check out the progress being made on our new Barn - the Donald J. Rivers Interpretive Center.

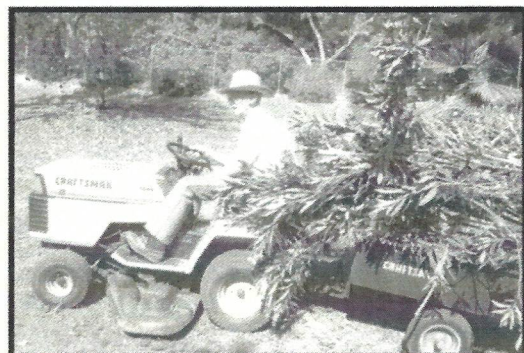
This gathering is not just for old timers - it is a community event.

Everyone is welcome!!

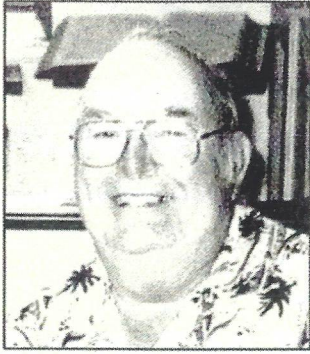
Please plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!!

Thank you Fallbrook Rotary !

On Saturday, April 26th, we were honored once again to be included in the annual Rotarians at Work day. The overgrown oleander bushes along the Rocky Crest fence were badly in need of pruning. This task was completed by Larry Rothacher's crew of volunteer Rotarians with the help of our landscape supervisor, Marion Clemmens.



Presidents Message



On April 12th a group of car enthusiasts and avid history buffs celebrated the official recognition of the **Historic Route 395** highway designation through Fallbrook. The ceremony began in River Village in

Bonsall and was presided over by **Tom Casey** of the **Fallbrook Chamber of Commerce**. Our own **Dode Martin** participated in the ribbon cutting along with **Christi Knight** of **Supervisor Bill Horn's** office and **Assemblyman Kevin Jeffries**.

Following the ceremony a vintage fire truck followed by vintage cars of all types led the way into the **Village Square** in Fallbrook to continue the celebration. As I tagged along I let my mind wander back in time and tried to remember some of the landmarks that have disappeared.

The old road pretty much followed the east side of **Ostrich Creek** to a point and then crossed over to the west side and went straight into town. From Bonsall you were soon in a stretch called **Heller's Bend** which can still be driven on. You will see it on your left as you climb the grade. In a couple of minutes you will go pass **Green Canyon Road** and **Mrs. Hughes' Silver Springs Café** on the right, and then an area known as **Skunk Hollow** on the left.

Next, as you drive across **Ostrich Creek Bridge**, will be **Story's Dairy** on the right. I played under that bridge many times with other kids, knocking down swallows nests with a slingshot, rolling cigarettes out of dried cattails, and harassing the snapping turtles in a nearby pond. Then you come to **Old Man Kilgore's Fruit Stand** on the left and **Tom and Maie Ellis' ranch** on the right. **Anthony's Avocado Grove** (and the famous **Anthony corner**) was next on the right followed by **O'Hearn Realty** and **Cooper's Cabins**. (I can remember riding home with **Esles Smith** from summer band rehearsal and he would turn his motor off and coast all the way to my house at the dairy.)

From that point the Village began to appear with auto repair shops, filling stations and other business interests. **Dode Martin** and a lot of his friends were very busy evenings and weekends experimenting with how to build a faster car for the drag races that were becoming a fad all over the country. Their shop was right next to **Jup Mahres** service station near Beach Street.

Well, my message is this: **Take time to remember the past but don't try to live in it. The best times are right now.**

HiSTORYcally yours,

JACK



Annual Meeting

A beautiful afternoon greeted members and guests attending the recent **Annual Meeting** of the **Fallbrook Historical Society** in the new **Donald J. Rivers Interpretive Center**. **President Story** called the meeting to order shortly after 11:00 a.m welcoming those in attendance. **Carroll Njust** led the Pledge of Allegiance. **President Story** introduced our **2008 Pioneer of the Year** recipient, **Ila Fern Callaway Driver**, who was joined by four

generations of her family in this special celebration.

He then said the **Board of Directors** had been working on revisions to the **By-Laws**, copies of which were sent to each member in the last newsletter, and asked if there were



CHARTER MEMBERS

Cecelia Njust, Membership

While preparing for the recent **Annual Meeting** I was reviewing membership information and thought the following would be of interest to you all. **Charter members** are those who joined our society prior to the end of **April, 1977**. We had met in late summer at the high school to discuss plans to establish our society and began accepting memberships in **September, 1976**. **George Kelsey**, our first **president**, was assisted by **Don** and **Pat Dussault**. **Don** became our **second president**. Also joining then and helping were **Bob** and **Rosemary Pankey**. Rosemary served as a director for several years. Thank you for such loyal support!

Active Charter Members - 1976 to Present

Jane Baldwin
Donna Boren
Garth & Jan Bricker
Marion & Shirley Calvert
Ila Driver

Edna Hanson
Hilda Hroch
Fallbrook Vintage Car Club
Shirley Lenfers
Stuart & Nance Marshall

Maxine Moudry
Carroll & Cecelia Njust
Paul & Kathleen Stiles
Imogene Towne
Marjorie Yackey (past president)

Membership News: Edwin Greenman, a volunteer docent, recently joined as a **Life Member**. Additionally, **Don** and **Marion McLean** have renewed as **Life Members**.

Welcome to New Members

Roy and Linda Costello
Thomas and Sandra Evans
Fallbrook Garden Club
Leigh Ann Howard

Ron Kelly
Marilyn Shader
Marianne Stewart
A. K. Vinyard

Travel Editor Joe Hilbers recently visited Fallbrook as part of a tour led by **Linda Kissam**, **Fallbrook Area Visitors Bureau**, and stopped at the Historical Museum. The following is an excerpt from his article **"Fallbrook--Here Art replaces big city hustle and bustle"**, reprinted with Mr. Hilbers permission

*"On this quest we started with a visit to the **Fallbrook Historical Society Museum**. And once there were fortunate enough to meet with **Bruce Dennett**, who is one of the dedicated group of volunteers that have made it all a reality. Starting just a decade*

*ago, the Museum now includes a main building recording Fallbrook's early beginnings. Adjacent is the 1900 farmhouse owned by **Rev. William Pittenger**, a Methodist Minister and one of the first Civil War soldiers to receive the **Medal of Honor**. And the newest addition, called the **Barn**, which when completed will house a collection of early farm machines as well as beautifully restored cars like the Ford Model T and Model A Coupe we admired at some length.*

*The **Main Museum** offers exhibits like a working miniature model railroad since*

as an early ranching and farming community Fallbrook did have the California Railroad to service the community and provide transportation for its agriculture products. Some 300 Museum members, all volunteers, have made all of this possible. Located at 260 Rocky Crest in Fallbrook, the Fallbrook Historical Society Museum is open Sunday and Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. with free admission."

We thank Mr. Hilbers for visiting the museum and for his very complimentary article.

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FALLBROOK, CA 92088

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OLD TIMERS PICNIC

JUNE 29, 2008

HISTORIC ROUTE 395 CEREMONY – APRIL 12, 2008



Dode Martin and Tom Casey



Historic Society booth at Village Square

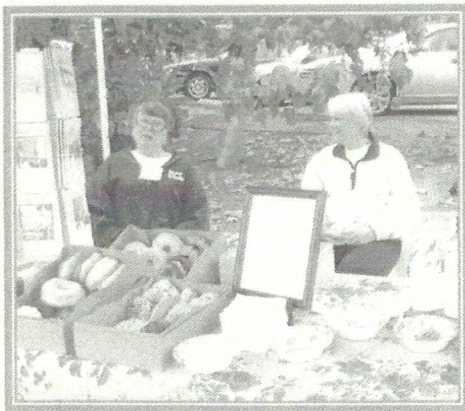
Jack Story, President
* Dode Martin, Vice President/
Barn Const.Chairman
Judy Gillespie, Treasurer/
Corresponding Secretary/
Docent Chairperson
Sandra Baxter, Recording
Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Board of Directors 2007-2008

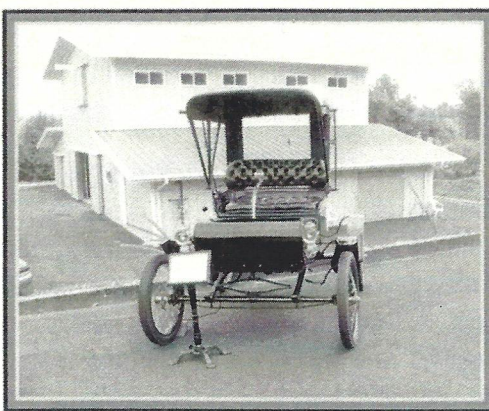
Marion Clemmens
* Bruce Dennett
Bob Fender
Virginia Grossman
* Bev McDougal
Don McLean
* Thea Moore, Parliamentarian

*Cecelia Njust, Membership
Margaret Ray, Historian
Mary Rivers
Charlotte Wright,
Office Manager

*Barn Committee Member



**Judy Gillespie & Ginny Grossman at
Garden Tour Hospitality Booth**

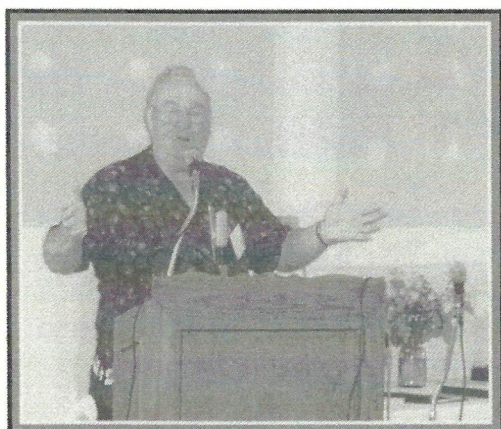


Vintage Car on Display-Garden Tour



**Darwin East and Jack Story with
Rice Fire Display Angel**

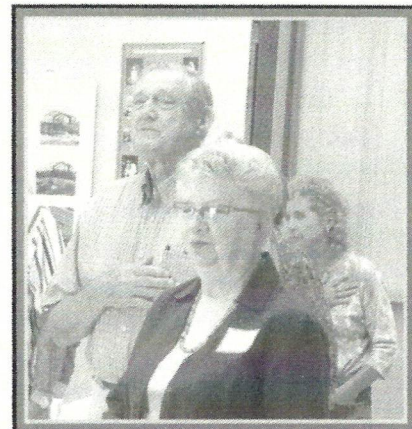
ANNUAL MEETING – MAY 10, 2008



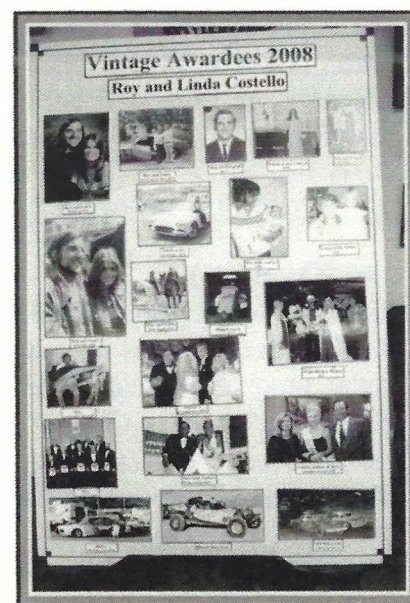
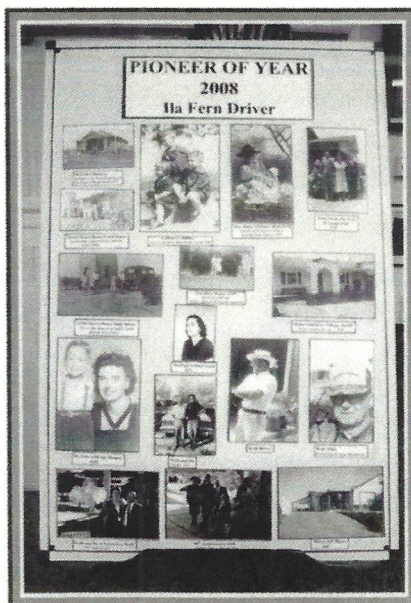
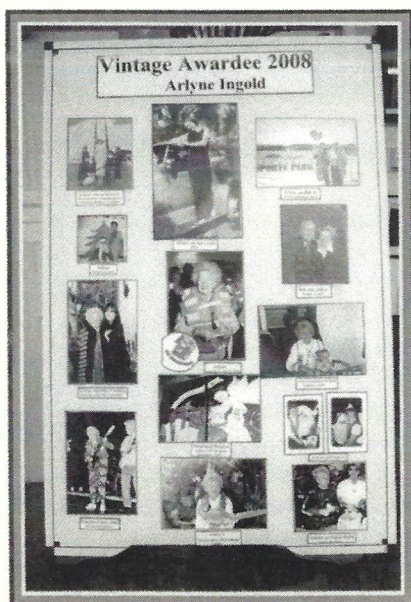
President Jack Story



Vice President Dode Martin



Charter Members Garth & Jan Bricker



any questions or comments before a vote was taken. As there were none, a voice vote was taken and the revisions were approved as presented.

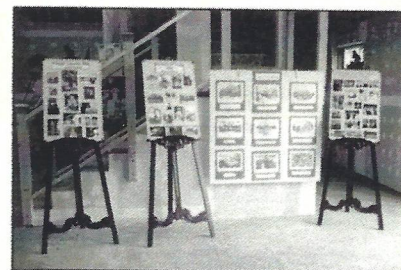
The five **Board of Director** members up for re-election were introduced and asked to stand. As there were no additional nominees from the floor, **Sandra Baxter, Marion Clemmens, Judy Gillespie, Virginia Grossman and Jack Story** were elected to serve for the next three year period.

Dode Martin, Barn Construction Chairman, was introduced and reviewed progress on the Barn. He related the amount of time it took to get bids, permits and approval on various stages in the barn construction. He said there were many people to thank for the progress being made, among them **Tim O'Brien** who did the grading for the slab, **Dan Camilli** and son **Josh** for digging and preparing the footings for the slab, **Superior Ready Mix** for pouring the foundation, **Nick Grossi**, Building Contractor, for doing the exterior construction, **Ron Kelly** for backhoe work, **Mike Lattimer**, his friend **Tony**, and Mike's nephew **Billy** for erecting the overhead steel supports, **Steve Layton** for electrical work and donation of all of the ceiling lights, **Robin Evert** for electrical work, **Gerald Doehring** for plumbing work, **John Russell** and his sons for spray painting the ceiling, **Jeff Wright** for volunteering to finish the inside walls and **Peters Bros.** for the asphalt parking area. Also, **Barn Committee Chairman Darwin East** and volunteers **Bruce Dennett, Bob Fender, Bob Gillespie, Earl McDougal**, and museum neighbor **Henry Babbich**, for all the hours they have worked on completing the barn. The newest addition to our museum complex, he said, will be a wonderful asset to the **Village of Fallbrook** and again thanked all those who have donated to the **Barn Fund** and who have had a part in its completion.

Lee Shaeffer gave the invocation and a pot-luck luncheon was enjoyed by all. Following lunch, **Cecelia Njust** introduced **Ila** and related **Ila's** long involvement with the Fallbrook Historical Society and the Village of Fallbrook. **Ila** introduced her family and said how proud she was to be chosen as **Pioneer of the Year** and recognized the Society for the wonderful

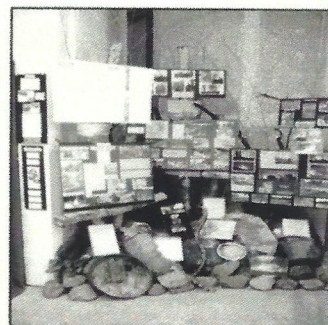
work they do and the progress that has been made in creating a museum since she became a **Charter** member in 1977.

Vintage Awardee Arlyne Ingold was unable to attend for health reasons and **Roy and Linda Costello**, also **Vintage Awardees**, were away on a trip that had been planned before the awardee's names were announced. Poster boards celebrating the lives of this year's awardees were displayed inside the barn entrance. The walls surrounding the luncheon area displayed poster boards of past **Pioneer of the Year** and **Vintage Awardees**.



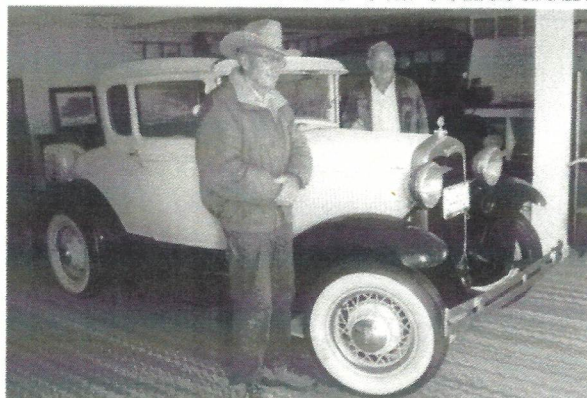
Society Member **Greg Dehm** performed the first scene from **We, Reches**, a play he has written about Fallbrook's early history which he hopes to present in full at the Bob Burton Auditorium sometime in the near future.

Attention was called to the **Rice Fire** display donated to the **Historical Society** by **Roger Boddaert**. This display was created for the **Fallbrook Garden Club's** recent **Garden Show** and will be a significant addition to our museum's displays.



Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

The latest addition to our collection!



1930 Model A Ford, 2 door coupe, donated by Society member Chuck Thomas from Big Bear Lake. Thank you, Mr. Thomas !