President’s Message

2008 is now history and we all look forward to 2009. We wish you all the best during the coming year. We hope it will be a happy one.

As usual, I try to give you a glimpse of our town as it appeared to me when I was growing up. This time I’ve chosen Fallbrook Hospital. Not the one on the hill on East Elder but the one on Main Street across the street from Scrappy’s Tire and a stone’s throw north. Our second child was born there in 1960 and our third was born in the present location on Elder Street in 1964 so the transition was made sometime between 1960 and 1964 according to my way of recording history.

When I was eleven years old I spent three weeks in the Main Street hospital lying on my back with my right leg in traction. A rope, pulley and weight apparatus hung over the foot of my bed to correct a hip joint problem. Not a fun thing for a young active child. I was in the room nearest the street so I could watch traffic go by and wave to people passing by on the sidewalk.

My Grandmother, Pansy Martin, ran the hospital. She was also the mother of Board member Dode Martin. I was going through some family archives recently and ran across a certificate issued to her from a school of nursing that allowed her to perform certain medical procedures that helped the doctors we had at the time (which weren’t many). Grandma Martin received that certificate through the mail in 1945.

Did you see me driving the black and yellow Model A Ford in the Christmas parade? It was donated to us by member Chuck Thomas. My passengers were our 2008 Pioneer of the Year Ilia Driver and Journalist Betty Johnston. The Historical Society hosted the Parade Hospitality Booth, too, serving hot coffee and cider, water, and lots of cookies, donuts and pastries donated by area merchants.

Don’t forget to come by and see us. Bring your friends.

HiSTORYcally yours, 

JACK

OLD HOSPITAL - Fallbrook Community Hospital, the first town-owned hospital in Fallbrook, was established in 1949 at 331 S. Main Street. When the new hospital was built on East Elder, the old facility was turned into apartments.
**Christmas Parade**

A big thank you to Charlotte Wright, Bob and Judy Gillespie, Bob and Sandra Baxter, Earl and Bev McDougal, and Greg and Marisa Dehm for sharing hosting duties with my wife Bernie and me at the Parade Hospitality Booth. We greeted scores of parade participants and visitors as they arrived for this outstanding event. Refreshments were generously provided by Albertsons, Fresh ‘N Easy, the Grand Tradition, Major Market and Northgate Market.

We’re looking forward to this year’s parade and hope to see you there!

Bruce Dennett, Board Member

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**Congratulations**

to Society members for their recognition at the recent Chamber of Commerce Annual Award Dinner:

Betty Johnston
Lifetime Achievement Award

Bruce Dennett - Volunteer Award

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At the Award Dinner, Greg Dehm presented an excerpt from his play, “We, Reches,” a story about the pioneers of the Village of Fallbrook.

Following the presentation, the Master of Ceremonies remarked that in the past 20 minutes he learned more about Fallbrook than he had in all the time he’s lived here!
Parades Aren't For Sissies.....or Whose Idea Was This, Anyhow?

By Betty Johnston

That might have been easier to do if everyone hanging around the staging area (presumably friends and relatives of parade participants) hadn't brought the family dogs (all large) out for an outing. Bogie hates big dogs. He tried to start at least three or four fights by the time we bumped into Supervisor Bill Horn, who helpfully directed us to the spot where Jack had parked. Turned out it was almost right in front of the Historical Society's hospitality booth area. There we were, surrounded by friends.

The parade hadn't started yet and there was only one more thing to do before we could relax and enjoy it. That was to get into the rumble seat and sit down. It was fairly important to do that immediately before Bogie started the biggest dog fight of all time. I am not good at controlling a determined 13-pound "attack Pekingese" while leaning on a cane and holding onto a 20-pound tote bag full of things selected to keep us warm as we sat in the open air during the parade.

Several of our friends offered to help. They included Jack, Earl McDougall, Dode Martin, Bob Gillespie, and, I am pretty sure, two or three others. When it turned out that I couldn't get either of my feet high enough to put one on the lower step leading up to rumble seat, the spectator entertainment started: My tote bag and other items I had been carrying were tossed into the compartment. Dode's wife Muggins held on to Bogie.

Then an all-male committee began to debate (and try) various means of getting me into the rumble seat. "Betty-Tossing" was suggested. The committee also speculated on how they would get me out when the parade was over. Someone suggested telling Jack to step on the gas, then hit the brake hard enough that I would be dislodged and fly out over the cab while they stood in front to catch me.
I really have no clear memory of what finally worked, but it was probably even more difficult (and funny) for them than for me. Bogie and I sat there in the rumble seat of the parked car until Jack and Ila were instructed to get in and prepare to go. Then Jack "fired her up" and in due time we moved into place in the parade.

What can I say about the parade itself? I couldn't see too much of it – but I did see what I had wanted to see – the hordes of children who lined the parade route, calling and waving and cheering us on. The sight of their rapt and eager faces alone was worth a fortune.

As we drove into the Albertsons parking lot after the parade, I noticed that one float still remained parked on Ammunition. When I mentioned this a few days later to a member of the Fallbrook Chorale, she told me that it was their float. In the scramble of presenting their big winter concert earlier that afternoon, somehow or another they had ended up with a trailer/float – but with no truck to pull it. They performed in the concert, then, even though they had made every effort to be there, missed participating in the parade. "We'll do something a little different next year," she said.

It was over all too soon. We dropped Ila at home before Jack let me off at my car where I had parked it at Albertsons. Getting out of the rumble seat was pretty simple compared to getting in - Jack helped but we didn't need anyone else.

It was a glorious experience and I thank the Historical Society for giving me the ride of a lifetime and making a dream come true.
**Grounds Beautification**

In November, 2008 we were fortunate to have a group of young people from the Methodist Church Youth Group visit our museum. Under the direction of Jean Dooley, Jackie Heyneman, and our Landscape Supervisor Marion Clemmens, this energetic group proceeded to spruce up and plant the garden bed in front of the Historic Pittenger House.

**Thank you** to everyone involved in this project!

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**Treasurer’s Report**

One of the reasons we are able to continue our services to the people of Fallbrook is the financial support we receive from community organizations.

In November, we received $700.00 from the Soroptimist International, $50.00 from the Amateur Radio Club (in memory of Barney Patten), and in January the Rotary Club Foundation funded $1,500.00 toward termite eradication in the Pittenger House.

These donations are deeply appreciated.

**Judy Gillespie, Treasurer**

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**Welcome to New Members**

Mike and Lois Lee  
Roy and Christine Moosa  
(Sun Realty Business Membership)  
Jean Dixon (returning member)

Renewing as Life Members:  
Richard and Vernie Gird  
Cal and Kerith Graeber

Thank you for your continued support!

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**Fire-Resistant Products**

Last Fall we were approached by local contractor John Fiedler, Fiedler Construction, to offer our museum building as a display site for a line of fire-resistant roof vents, gable vents, under-eave vents, and foundation vents designed by Brent Berkompas, one of the first firefighters called to combat the 2003 Old Fire in San Bernardino.

These vents, designed by using an overlapping baffle system, are flame and ember-resistant but still allow air to filter into the space. The vents were installed and may be viewed by visiting our museum.

For more information about the vents, produced by Brent and Kelly Berkompas at Brandguard Vents, contact John Fiedler at (760) 468-2789. Complete descriptions of these products may be viewed on-line at brandguardvents.com.
New sign on front of the main museum building

**Board of Directors 2008-2009**

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

- Marion Clemmens
- *Bruce Dennett
- Bob Fender
- Virginia Grossman
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- Mary Rivers
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