

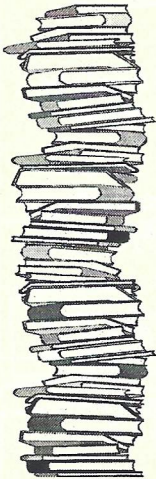
THE HISTORIAN

FALLBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ROCKY CREST & HILL AVE. - P.O. BOX 1375, FALLBROOK, CA 92088-1375
SPRING (2), 2011 (760) 723-4125

VOL. 34, ISSUE 2

ANNUAL MEETING



Our Annual Meeting will be held in the Community Meeting Room of the beautiful new Fallbrook Library. Seating is limited so reservations are necessary. We must begin promptly as the room is available to us for two hours only. Following the meeting you may stay and become acquainted with the Library and its many amenities.

When: Saturday, May 14th

Time: 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Where: Fallbrook Library - 124 S. Mission Road

A Complimentary Continental Breakfast will be served.

RSVP to Judy Gillespie - (760) 451-1572 or Bev McDougal - (760) 728-2546

We will be honoring Society members Don McLean as Pioneer of the Year and Philip G. Arnold as Vintage Awardee at our meeting.

Phil will also be our speaker about "The Civil War and Fallbrook, Connections and Effects." He is an attorney with a private practice in Fallbrook. His avocation is history, and as a member of The Medal of Honor Society he was instrumental in having a Society marker placed at the grave of local hero William Pittenger. Pittenger's country house is the restored Victorian that is one of our society's museum buildings. We are so pleased to present this sought after speaker to our members--especially at this 150th year of remembrance of the beginning of the Civil War.

Election of five Board Members who will serve for the next three years will be held.
The following members have agreed to serve, if elected:

Sandra Baxter, Marion Clemmens, Judy Gillespie, Virginia Grossman and Jack Story

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Everyone is welcome to attend our Annual Meeting. Bring a friend!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Museum Special Trees Markers

Roger Borst, owner of Borst Designs and Monuments of Fallbrook, who fabricated granite markers for the sites of our Historic Register, has supplied us with six beautiful granite markers to be placed in the ground in front of each of the six special trees on the museum property. Descriptions of these trees appeared in the Summer 2010 issue of **THE HISTORIAN**. Rain has delayed their placement but with expected good weather we hope to have them placed very soon.

Cecelia Njust, Membership

President's Message – My Early Career

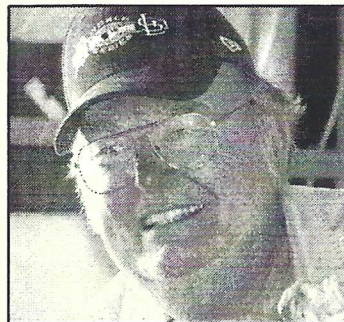
My first job after graduating from high school was working as a temporary employee at the **Fallbrook Ammunition Depot** west of town on the way to **Camp Pendleton**. That was in **1952**. I made **\$1.65 an hour** which my mom said was too much money for a kid, especially when general labor was still not much more than a dollar an hour. I also got annual leave and sick leave.

As a temporary employee I could be replaced by someone returning from military service. I did get bumped after a few months and went to work for the County Road Department. Again, I was bumped from that job and also from my next job, which was the local Soil Conservation Service.

By this time the military draft was breathing down my neck so I went to them and said that I would volunteer if I could be an army musician. I auditioned and did become an **Army Bandsman**. When I finished my military duty, instead of trying to return to one of my old jobs, I began a career involved in Fallbrook agriculture.

In the Museum there is quite a bit of memorabilia about our townspeople who have been involved with the ammunition depot and Camp Pendleton. I enjoy browsing through it. I think you would too. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our Annual Meeting on May 14th.

HiSTORYcally yours, **JACK**



Membership

A reminder to members that your **annual memberships** are due **May 1st**. Check your address label – if it shows **2011** your membership will expire on **April 30th**. A renewal form is included in this newsletter. As a non-profit, all volunteer organization, we rely on our members and sincerely appreciate your support.

Thank you!

Cecelia Njust, Membership (760) 728-3271

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Betty Davidson

Frank & JoAnne Preas

DONATIONS

Evelyn Fetzner Estate Trust

MEMORIALS

Our sincere sympathy to the families and friends
of the following supporters of the
Fallbrook Historical Society

Cliff Dapper	February 8, 2011
Burt Fisch	February 13, 2011
George W. Furqueron, Jr.	February 14, 2011
Duke Snider	February 27, 2011
June Doran	March 22, 2011

ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

Sunday, June 26, 2011

at the Museum

11:00 a.m. to ?

This **Annual Picnic**, held on the **last Sunday in June** each year, is an opportunity for **old-timers** and **newer** residents to gather for an old-fashioned pot-luck at the Museum. Bring your favorite recipe to share. The Society will furnish plates, napkins, cups, eating utensils and beverages.

If you have anything you would like to donate to the raffle, please call the Museum office and leave a message – (760) 723-4125.



**Everyone is welcome to attend – invite a neighbor!
Hope to see you there!**

Before the Avocado Festival.....

Beginning in 1936, Fallbrook High School held a Farmers Day Festival revolving around the Future Farmers of America at the school. Following is a report from the school newspaper, the Messenger, detailing the preparations and outcome of the 1937 Festival.

Thanks to our Historian, Sherri Lenfers, for providing copies of the Messenger. We hope you enjoy this look back to the early days of our Village.

MESSENGER

April 7, 1937

Fallbrook's Big Day

The High School Future Farmers are making elaborate preparations for Fallbrook's Big Day, the 2nd Annual Farmers Day to be held May 1.

Festivities will start at 9 o'clock with the citrus judging contest between teams from schools in the Southern District. Each team will consist of three students who will judge four groves in the vicinity of Fallbrook. Escondido now holds the cup which was awarded them last year. One school must win this trophy three times in succession to be able to keep it permanently.

At 11:00 o'clock a parade consisting of floats from organizations, associations, and businessmen will start from Dr. Johnston's office and proceed up Main Street to the Woman's Club Park. Three prizes, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, will be awarded to the floats judged to be best. The winner of the popularity contest will ride in the parade as "Queen of Farmers Day".

Sometime between 11:00 and 11:30 members of the Woman's Club will serve barbequed lamb, beans, salad, and the rest of the trimmings. The meat will be cooked by Jack Adams of Rincon. Mr. Adams is considered the best barbecuer in this part of the country. You need not have any fears that the meat will not be cooked properly. The price for the whole dinner is placed at \$.50. The boys had originally planned to have both steak and hamburger but they discarded that in favor of lamb. If it doesn't rain anymore, tables will be erected around the Woman's Club Park.

During the afternoon a demonstration of milk testing will be given in the agriculture room. Anyone desiring to have their cow's milk tested can bring a small sample and it will be tested free of charge.

Hog weight and hog-calling contests will be held.

Hog, chicken, and rabbit exhibits will be awarded ribbons. The exhibits are not limited just to agriculture students, but the public also is invited to see Mr. Deaver about showing their poultry and animals.

During the day a pig owned by the F.F.A. will be raffled off. The tickets will be on sale in a few days and are priced at 10 cents each.

That night the Woman's Club will sponsor a cord and print dance in honor of the F.F.A. The admission will be 50 cents a couple, or 35 cents, single. The Pala six-piece orchestra will "swing it" for the dance.

Now that you know all the preliminary plans, why don't you buy barbeque, raffle, and dance tickets and make a day of it? The boys and Mr. Deaver are spending lots of time in trying to make this a successful day.

MESSENGER

May 1, 1937

Fun Frolic Amusements on Farmers Day

Preparations for Future Farmers Day are nearing completion and all indications point toward a very entertaining as well as constructive day.

Quite an interest has been created among the students and the townspeople over the possibility of winning the ham which has been offered as a prize for the hog-calling contest. It is being whispered in all social circles that Mr. Huscher is considering that after his Sunday practices in nearby hills the contest is in the bag, but your reporter notices that a goodly number of contestants are still training their vocal cords in preparation.

The boys are planning to give several demonstrations during the afternoon's program that will be instructive. They are particularly urging that people bring in their samples of milk to be tested if they wish to know what percent of butterfat is in their cow's milk. The samples brought in should be bottled directly after milking so as to get an accurate test. In addition to butterfat testing, demonstration of poultry culling, soil analysis and avocado seed planting will be made.

Contacts have been made with tractor and implement companies to have their products on display. The California Electric Fence Company of Fresno has very kindly consented to send some of their latest improvements in the way of electric fencing for livestock, which should prove to be a very interesting exhibit.

Farmers who have a "knack" for judging weights of livestock should find the cow weight judging contest to be profitable as well as interesting because a side of bacon is being offered as a prize. Mr. Coutts, the mathematics teacher, has been heard to say that the contest should be a cinch for him as he has pretty good luck with figures.

The Farmerettes are being given a chance to show their skill in floriculture by participating in the identification contest. A number of flowers and shrubs will be used in the contest whose identity should test the skill of all.

Some of the gentlemen around town who practice with horse shoes all day should stand a chance in the horse shoe pitching contest. Different organizations are planning to enter teams so it will probably be necessary to have preliminary games.

To climax the afternoon a greased pig will be turned loose and everyone will join in and try to take home the prize.

The F.F.A. members are going around with their fingers crossed as a precaution against rain, which marred their efforts last year.

MESSENGER

May 6, 1937

Gala Day Huge Success

A large crowd attended the long planned Future Farmers Day Saturday, May 1. The program started at nine o'clock with the Citrus Judging Contest. The boys from Julian, Grossmont, San Dieguito, Ramona and Fallbrook judged four different groves in the community: Mr. Stratton's, Mr. Gust's, Mr. Kent's and Mr. Clement's. The cup, won last year by Escondido, went to San Dieguito this time for placing the groves closest to the judges' decision.

At 11 o'clock the parade, which was five blocks long, started from Dr. Johnson's office corner and proceeded down Main Street. The float entered by the High School Craft students was rated as the prettiest, the nursery school as cutest, the grammar school as cleverest, and the efforts of the Packing House were well worthwhile. The High School Craft Department's float, which carried the popularity contestants, was awarded the sweepstakes prize, a gold cup. The other awards were Grammar School 1st, Fallbrook 2nd, and Rebecca's 3rd.

After the parade had disbanded, the women began to serve the barbecue, which was so well done that it melted in the mouth. Three hundred persons were served at noon and the meat that was left was sold for Sunday roasts. Jack Adams really lived up to his reputation Saturday by putting on such a barbecue as had never been put on before in this vicinity.

Through the courtesy of the Cooper Hardware of Escondido a loud-speaking system was used throughout the day.

Some of the men proved they could grow a beard in three weeks. There were some pretty good brushes in the crowd Saturday when the contestants were judged. Prizes went to Ray Parks, Bill Eckhardt, and Hank Cowan.

The hog raffle was called off Friday afternoon because it did not meet with the approval of some of the townspeople. The horseshoe-pitching contest was also called off because of lack of time. During the afternoon a demonstration of spraying was given by Webb Implement Co. of Escondido.

Some of the boys brought three of Donavon Martin's pigs into the hog weight-judging contest. The object was to see who could guess the closest to the combined weight of the three hogs. Mr. Tresights won the side of bacon by guessing the exact number of pounds. The boys had a merry chase after one of the hogs entered Mrs. Keller's flower garden.

The seniors erected a refreshment stand at the corner of the clubhouse where they sold ice cream, candy and drinks. They had planned to sell hamburgers and hot dogs, but part of the apparatus did not arrive.

The hog-calling contest was quite a drawing card Saturday afternoon. There were eight contestants who competed for the ham to be given as a prize. It was very close between Hassell Norman and W.A. Hughes but Norman's voice had a better carrying quality so he walked off with the ham. The afternoon was topped off by the greased pig chase but the pig wouldn't chase. It's a wonder the pig was able to breathe after so many boys fell on him at once. Robert Thurber came up from the bottom of the pile with the grease and the pig.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Tex Maze of the Fallbrook Garage, a Ford V-8 truck was put at the disposal of Mr. Deaver over the weekend.

That night the Pala orchestra played for the dancing couples.

The "Day," in the eyes of the townspeople, was a huge success, and Mr. Deaver and the boys deserve a round of applause for the way they handled the events of the day.

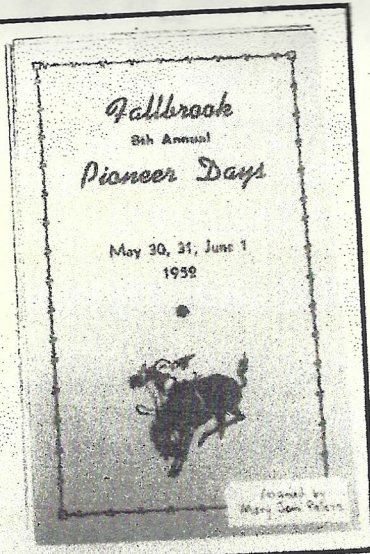
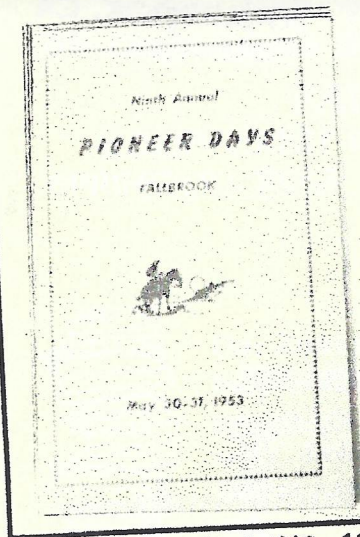
*So that was the beginning of our town's festivals. In 1943 we began a three-day event called **Pioneer Days** which is fondly remembered by long-time residents. There were parades and rodeos, square dancing, food, contests, and other events that beckoned out-of-town visitors to enjoy all that Fallbrook had to offer.*

*The **first Avocado Festival** was held **October 1-6, 1963**. There were country fair day competitions, a youngsters parade, pancake breakfasts, an art show, a walking race, fashion show luncheon, garden displays, book fair, pigeon display and competition, barbecue, street dance, Model A Day and Antique Auto Exhibition. And the **Santa Fe Avocado Festival Excursion Train** brought visitors from L.A.'s Union Station to Fallbrook Depot.*

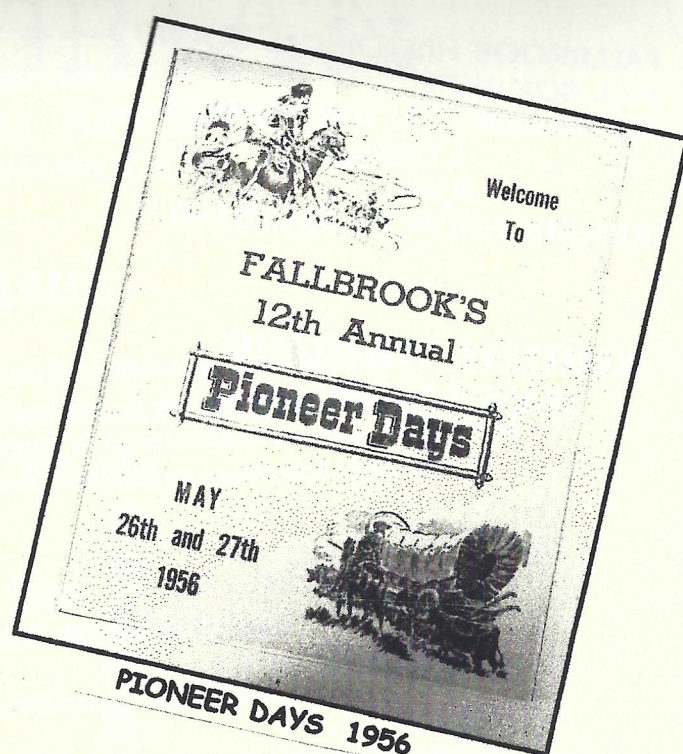
*A program for the **1966 4th Annual Avocado Festival** mentions a mile long parade with 131 entries.*

*In **1987 the Avocado Festival** as we know it today was moved to **April** because that was when the fruit was at its best.*

*In **1992 through at least 1999** we had a **Fallbrook Farmers Festival** in **October**. It featured a farmers market, farm business displays, quilt raffle, best decorated pumpkin contest, Little Miss and Mr. Fallbrook, farmers pageant and country artisans.*

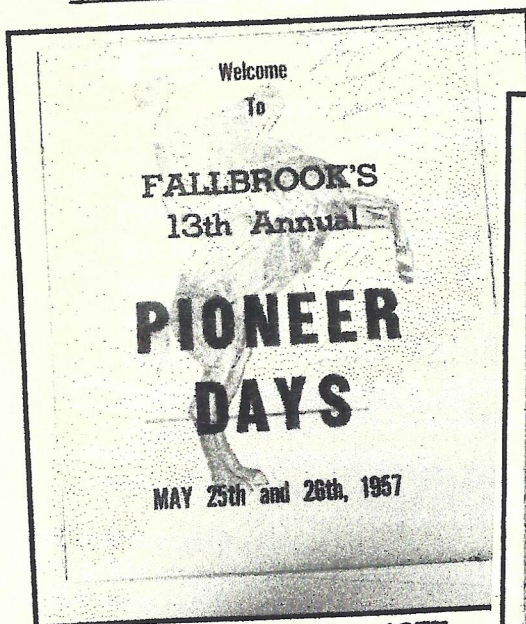


PIONEER DAYS 1953 AND 1952

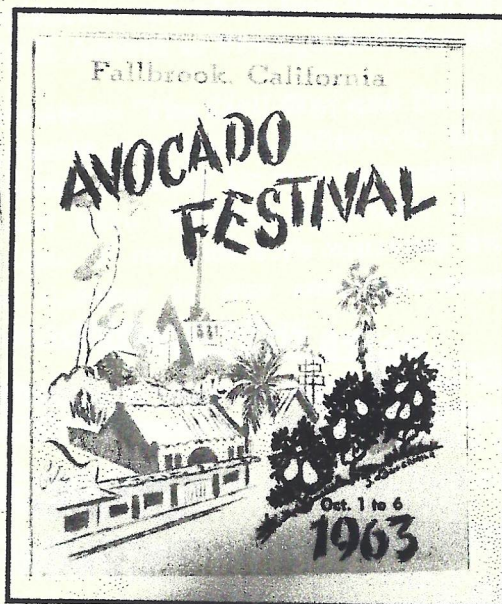


PIONEER DAYS 1956

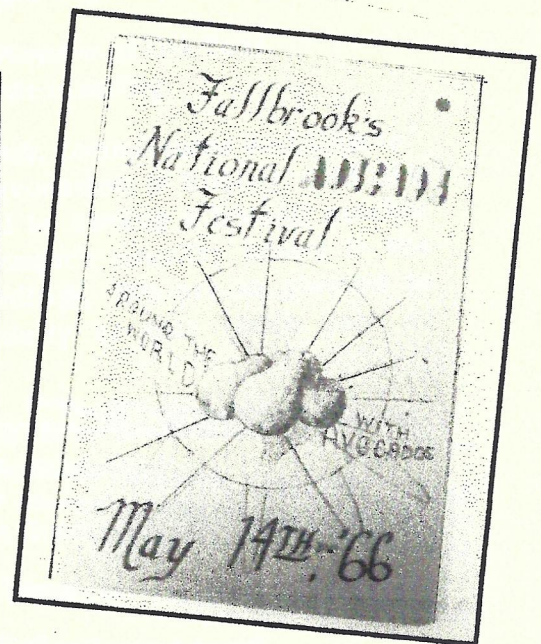
FESTIVAL PROGRAMS



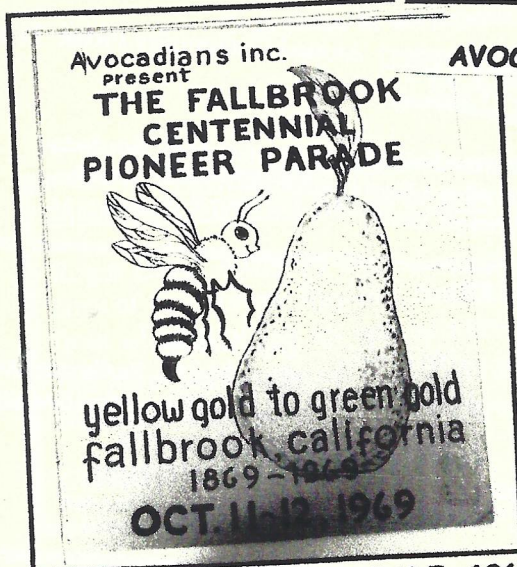
PIONEER DAYS 1957



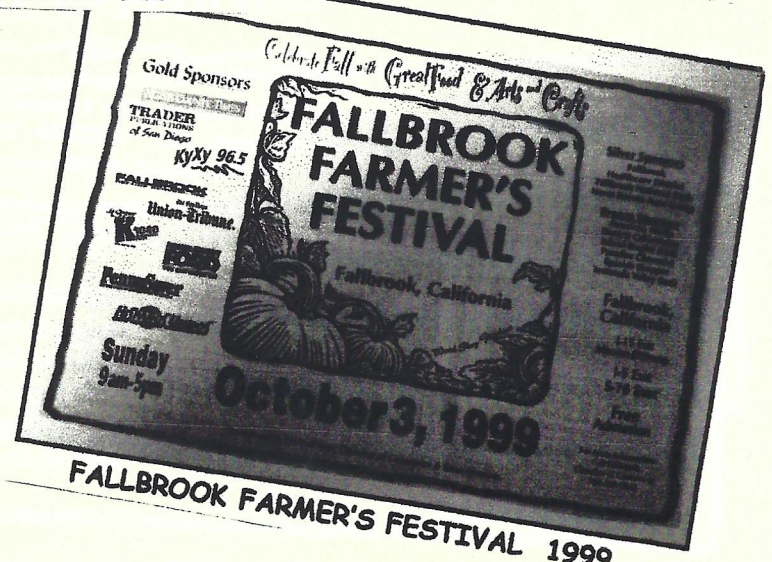
AVOCADO FESTIVAL 1963



AVOCADO FESTIVAL 1966



CENTENNIAL PIONEER PARADE 1969



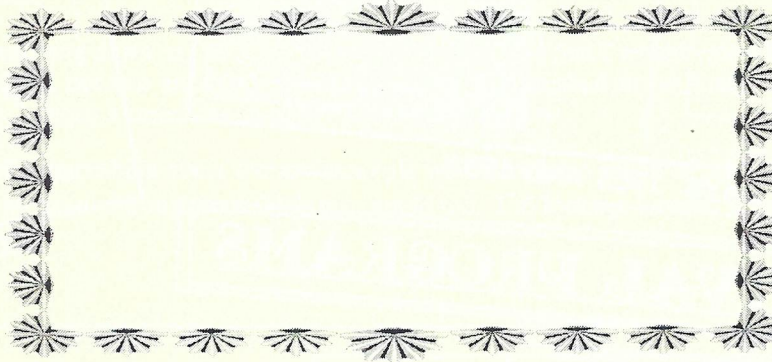
FALLBROOK FARMER'S FESTIVAL 1999

FALLBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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**ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 14, 2011**



DATES TO REMEMBER

April 17th (Sunday) Avocado Festival. Parking and shuttle will be available at the museum between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Museum will be open for visitors.

April 24th (Sunday) Easter – Museum Closed

May 1st Annual Memberships Due for May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012 membership year.

May 14th (Saturday) Annual Meeting 10 a.m.-12 noon in the new Fallbrook Library Community Meeting Room.

May 21st (Saturday) Fallbrook Garden Club Garden Tour Tickets and maps will be available from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the day of the tour. Plants and garden related items will be available for sale. The Barn and Museum will be open for visitors.

June 26th (Sunday) Annual Community Picnic 11 a.m. - ?

We welcome contributions to the newsletter. Send to Fallbrook Historical Society,
P.O. Box 1375, Fallbrook, Ca 92088-1375 or e-mail to Baxter35@sbcglobal.net.
fallbrookhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

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