

The HISTORIAN

PUBLISHED BY THE
FALLBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013

Our Annual Christmas Open House to be Held on December 14th from 11-2 pm



Deck the Halls! On Saturday, December 14, the Fallbrook Historical Society will open its doors at 11:00 a.m. for a Holiday Open House. It is our way to share the Christmas spirit with our community and to invite all residents to enjoy the buildings in our complex decked out with their finest holiday décor. The Society will host tours of the Pittenger House, the Museum, the Ford Room, the Rock and Mineral Room and the Barn. A giant Christmas tree will be featured in the Barn along with a visit from Santa Claus. (Don't forget to bring your camera!) An Arts and Crafts area will also be featured in the Barn so that all children will create their own unique tree ornament to take home. Refreshments will be served, featuring Coffee, Hot Chocolate and Sugar Cookies. The event is free and open to the general public. We hope you all will bring your families and friends to join us in celebrating this wondrous holiday.



*Last year's Santa with 1-month-old baby Santa.
We will have the same Santa visiting this year.*

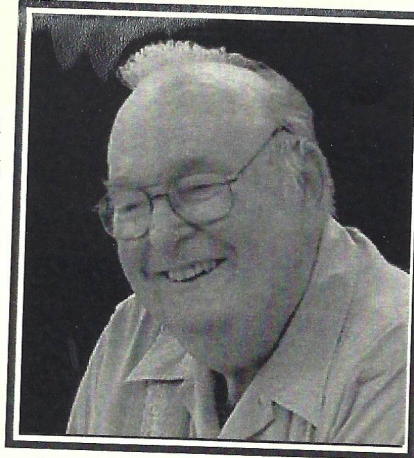


*The Board of Directors wishes you a Happy
Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas
and a Very Happy New Year*

President's Message

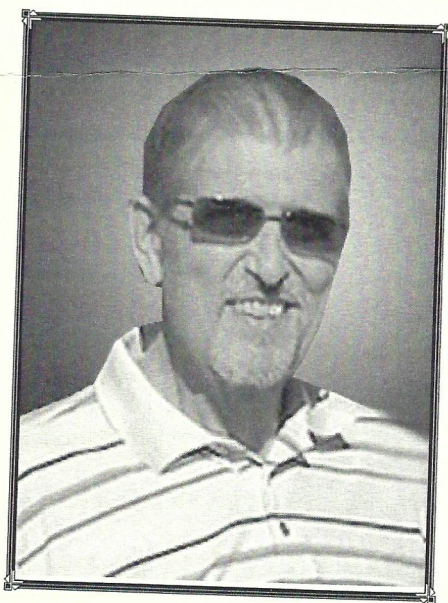
Since I have been writing this column for the HISTORIAN over the years, from time to time, I get feed back from those who read it. It can be a chance meeting on the street, an e-mail, telephone or regular mail. It's all been good and what prompts folks to get in contact with me is that something in their past is recollected by my words, and creates a warm feeling for them. This of course makes me feel good also, and I do want you to know that I appreciate it. Lately I have been asked to speak to different organizations around town. Public speaking has not been something that I have been trained for and have not done so until recently but I find I do enjoy sharing Fallbrook history verbally with Fallbrook folk. Actually I was born forty-nine years after the town was recognized and next year I will have lived here continuously for eighty years. When I was growing up I enjoyed listening to the old timers talk about things relating to events that took place here before I came along which included World War I veterans so that makes me a Fallbrook historian. Fortunately I enjoy that position. I have been attending the monthly meetings of the town Re-vitalization Committee and am glad to know that people are interested in seeing that the old town will continue to exist. Don't forget that the museum is normally open on Thursdays and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. and special tours can be arranged for other days.

hiSTORYcally yours,



Jack Story, President

Spotlight on Donald McLean, Jr. Our Newest Board Member



I was born in Fallbrook on December 9, 1950, in the little hospital in the 300 block of South Main Street, which was at one time a residential home.

My childhood consisted of the normal activities, such as making my own toys, rubber band guns for battles with my brother and friends, exploring things that a small town offers such as

the old Ellis Hotel (that we thought was haunted), the Fallbrook Creek and Railroad right-of-way.

I attended Maie Ellis Elementary School, Potter Junior High, and I am a second generation Fallbrook High School graduate. I then attended Palomar College and then when on to San Diego State University.

My interest in firefighting started at 16 years of age, when I became a Fallbrook Fire Explorer and at the age eighteen, I became a Fallbrook Volunteer firefighter. After college I started my career in the Fire Service by receiving a

a degree in Fire Science, and becoming a Firefighter with the Camp Pendelton Fire Department. I then transferred to the U.S. Forest Service for a time and later took a position as a full-time career Firefighter with Fallbrook Fire Department in 1976. I went through the ranks and retired as a Captain in 1998. Between the two of us, my wife Marcie and I have 7 children and 10 grand-children.

Due to complications with a weight loss drug Phen-Phen, I developed heart problems resulting in a valve problem and a stroke in 2003, which I overcame with a slight speech impairment. Continued failing heart problems led me to be placed on the heart transplant list for a possible new heart. After 5 months on the list, I had to go into Sharp Hospital. After 2-1/2 months on heart sustaining drugs, I received a new heart on September 3, 2011. By taking 20+ drugs to keep from not rejecting my new heart, I'm in good health and I thank God everyday for a second chance in life. Each year I participate in the annual Heart Walk to raise funds for the American Heart Association.

I am now involved with several Civic organizations, which include the Fallbrook Cemetery Association, International Order of Rainbow for Girls and the Masonic Center.

I am privileged to have been elected as a Board member for the Fallbrook Historical Society. I am looking forward to many years of service to the Society.



We are fortunate to have Donnie on our board. He is the consummate volunteer. I will be introducing you to another Board Member in our next issue. — Ed.

What Do You Know About This Building?



This 1882 two-story brick structure is the oldest commercial building of this kind remaining in Fallbrook. When it was built the downstairs was a livery stable and the upstairs, known as Abbott's Hall was used as a meeting area for various civic groups.

In the 1920s through the early 1950s it was known as the Odd Fellows Hall and was a center for social activity. The California DMV had an office they used bi-monthly so people could get their driver's licenses or renew them. The Odd Fellows supplied the town's Santa and Christmas celebration, and they also held dances and potluck suppers. Do you have any memories, pictures or anything that you can add to the little we know. If so, please send an email or letter to Roy Moosa (current owner) at: RoyMoosa@att.net or mail him at 431 So. Main St., Fallbrook, CA 92028.

MEMBERSHIP

We have a very active Membership Committee which have made quite a few changes in recent months. One change, approved by the board, was that memberships are from 1 January through 31 December. This date is much easier for members to remember. They also help raise awareness of the Society and solicit new members. We have added quite a few members who are Docents and are now considering opening the museum on Saturdays in addition to Thursday and Sunday. We also do special tours by arrangement with the office.

We have a Docent Committee which has just completed a Docent Manual and is now offering training sessions for anyone interested in becoming a Docent.

If you are interested in volunteering, along with being a member, leave your name and telephone number with the office staff and you will be contacted.



We have three new Life members all of whom have supported the Historical Society as individual and family members in the past: Fallbrook residents Maxine Qualls, Bob, Shirley and Samantha Fender, and Donna and Kenneth Niemeier of La Mesa.

New members include: Ted Garrett, the new head of the local Chamber of Commerce, and members of our newly sponsored Venture Scouts. The leaders are Ken Kooyman, Stephanie Flood and John and Valerie Litvak. The Scouts are Alexis Anderson, Gifted Green, Wade Leehey, Makenna Lang, John Litvak, Barrett Newman, Helen Paul, Sam Riedeman and Elijah Zeped.

Pittenger House News

The Live Oak Questers held their September meeting at the museum, with their Social Hour and refreshments on the front porch of the Pittenger House. While viewing the living room, members were able to see for themselves the plans that the Restoration and Preservation Committee (P&R Committee) are continuing with.

The California Questers Fall Council meeting was held in Fallbrook and that the Pittenger House was opened for tours. We also welcomed members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for a special tour and are expecting a large group of Home Schooled Students to the House later this month.

The Restoration and Preservation Committee of the Live Oak Questers have been hard at work for the last month in the living room or the house. We will be finished in time for the Montserrat Chapter of the DAR to help us decorate the house for Christmas and look forward to welcoming our guests at the Historical Society's Christmas Open House.



Pittenger House

FALLBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1375
FALLBROOK, CA 92088-1375

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 56
FALLBROOK CA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mr. & Mrs. Earl McDougal Patron
P.O. Box 1887
Fallbrook, CA 92088-1887

92088-1887 B011



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Story, President

Dode Martin, Vice-President

Sharon Towery, Treasurer/
Corresponding Secretary

Leta Hayden, Recording Secretary

Sherri Lenfers, Historian/
Website Coordinator

Cecelia Njust, Membership

Patricia Showalter, Docent Chairperson

Annabelle Simpson, Newsletter Editor

Marion Clemmens, Emeritus

Bruce Dennett

Bob Fender

Ginny Grossman

Beverly McDougal

Don McLean, Sr.

Don McLean, Jr.

Roy Moosa

DONATIONS

We welcome Memorial Donations. The most common memorial donation is for a person who has passed. But there are many donations made in honor of a person or persons who are still living. For example, this month we received a very large donation made by one person to honor his 1958 classmates of Fallbrook High School. Because we are non-profit we really appreciate and depend on contributions and support for our operating expenses.

For this reporting period, we would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their special contributions and support:

Evelyn Fetzner Estate
Exxon Mobil Foundation
FUHS Class of 1958

Memorial Donation from Mr. & Mrs. Howell for
Susan Hayes, Alabama

**THE FALLBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
IS OPEN:**

THURSDAYS: 1-4 P.M. • SUNDAYS: 1-4 P.M.