Historic Memorabilia Rescued from Fallbrook High

The Fallbrook High School display at the Fallbrook Historical Society’s main museum has grown a lot in the past few weeks, thanks to the efforts of Lorena Harris, founding member and second-generation Fallbrook native.

“October is Homecoming Month and although it is not celebrated with the same vigor as it was in my day, it’s still very important to our town and to our identity,” she said. “This year I remembered donating banners and other memorabilia to the historical society when I retired as school librarian in 2014. I found them and put them in and around a display case at the entrance to the museum.”

The banners hung in the high school gymnasium in the 1990s but, when renovations were made, the banners were taken down and put into storage.

“One summer – before I retired – I was on my way to my car when I saw them in the school dumpster,” she said. “I took them home, cleaned them up and gave them to the historical society.”

This year’s Homecoming season prompted Lorena to find the banners and create the new display.

“Fallbrook is such a big part of me,” she explained. Both my parents graduated from Fallbrook High School as did my husband Tom and myself. Even our two daughters, Christina and Angelic, are Fallbrook High School alumnae. It’s important to share its great history.”
Nineteen members of the Fallbrook Newcomers Club, including Vice President Keith Johnson, front row, center, pose outside the Pittenger House.

“This was a first-time visit for many of our members, and we look forward to visiting again.”
- Keith Johnson

FALLBROOK NEWCOMERS CLUB VISITS HERITAGE CENTER ON SEPT. 17

Kathy Roberts and Doug Troxler admire the Civil War uniform reproduction, similar to the one worn by Sgt. William Pittenger, in the living room of the Pittenger House. The uniform was donated on Feb. 25, 2018 by the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Christy Gordon, Modeste Williams and Linda Rosensteel pose by the 1930 Ford Model A in the Ford Room. The car was donated by Chuck Thomas, Fallbrook High School Class of 1940.

Waleen Radisay examines the antique sewing machine in the Pittenger House, which is filled with similar period pieces including a pump organ, a phonograph, an original rope bed, a child’s trundle bed and cradle, a wood burning stove and an authentic Hoosier cabinet. Not to be missed is a Victorian work of art - a framed human hair picture - often created as a memorial or an unorthodox family tree.

Alice Johnson and Les Luczyk take a look at the pump organ in the Pittenger House, made by the George P. Bent company in Chicago, Illinois.

Mike Williams stands by the agricultural display in The Barn.
Fallbrook Reche Schoolhouse “Discovered” by Local Residents Sept. 18

“This is such a treasure,” said Fallbrook resident Lynn Pressey, who recently relocated from Carlsbad. “I was excited to visit and plan to return again soon.”

Mike Lister, his wife Juanita and their son Michael, Jr. browse through books in the old school library. They live on Gird Road and just recently learned about the schoolhouse.

Ann Simper, another resident of Fallbrook, examines an old “Flag of All Nations” game among the many pieces of schoolhouse memorabilia.

Docents Jeff Duhacek and Tom Sullivan, center, show visitors, from left, the Lister family, Dave Kay, Pam Cook and Ann Simper, the large Metates (grinding stones) located on the schoolhouse property.

Calendar of Events

October

- Oct. 1-31 - Fallbrook Scarecrow Days*
- Oct. 17 - Fallbrook Harvest Faire on Main Street from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Historical Society booth to be staffed by Mary Bolton*
- Oct. 30 - Fallbrook Vintage Car Club barbecue for car club and historical society members at the Heritage Center. Please RSVP to Roy Moosa (roymoosacalifornia@gmail.com) by Oct. 27
- Mondays - Toastmasters Meeting at 7 p.m. in Ford Room*
- Tuesdays and Thursdays - Hope Lutheran Church from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in Ford Room*
- Thursdays - Administrative Meeting at 3 p.m. (Zoom)
- Saturdays and Sundays - Heritage Center open for tours from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Third Saturday of the month (Oct. 16) - Fallbrook Reche Schoolhouse, 1319 S. Live Oak Park Road, open for tours from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Saturdays and Sundays - Hope Lutheran Church from 4:30 to 8 p.m.*

* Events not sponsored by the Fallbrook Historical Society
A Whistle Stop Christmas Open House Taking Place Dec. 5

The weather says it’s summer, the calendar says it’s fall, but the Fallbrook Historical Society is preparing for its annual Christmas Open House – the biggest event of the year – scheduled to take place Sunday, Dec. 5. Festivities will take place from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Heritage Center located at the corner of Rocky Crest and Hill Avenue. This year’s theme is “A Whistle Stop Christmas.”

The open house will include activities in every building, including a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Donald J. Rivers Interpretive Center, also known as “The Barn.” Guests will be welcome to pose with and take “selfies” with the famous pair, and hot cocoa and cookies will be served by Fallbrook’s Rainbow Girls. The Fallbrook High School Madrigals also will be performing throughout the event.

The open house also will feature docent-guided tours of the Main Museum, the popular Pittenger House, the Ford Room and the Gem and Mineral Museum.

“We are working to secure the services of a local restaurant to provide no-host meals in our parking lot,” adds Committee Member Pat Saunders. “And we will be having a silent auction as well. There will be something for everyone at this very special celebration.”

Admission is free, however donations are more than welcome. Donations also are needed for the silent auction. Questions? Please contact Pat Saunders at 442-226-6294.