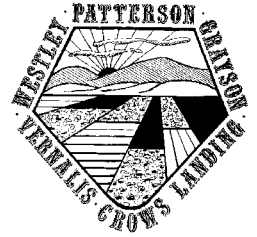




Patterson Township Historical Society

Spokes

May 2019



Museum Renovation Work to Begin Soon

The Patterson City Council has accepted a construction bid of \$231,200 for needed repairs on the 110-year-old Center Building in the heart of the city's downtown business district.

Contractor Harris Builder, Inc. was the lone bidder on the project. The total budget allocated by the council is \$327,000 with architectural design and consulting expenses expected to total \$84,060. A 10 percent contingency fee is included to cover unexpected circumstances.

The California Cultural and Historical Endowment's Museum Grant Program will provide \$114,000 toward the project's cost, leaving the net fiscal impact to the city of \$224,260.

Work on the project will not begin until after this year's Apricot Fiesta in early June. Three major areas were identified for rehabilitation or upgrading – site drainage, structural improvements and accessibility.

Under an agreement with the city, the Patterson Township Historical Society has operated a museum in the structure for 40 years – since 1978. The building is on the national register of historic buildings.

Plans call for the museum to be open during this year's Apricot Fiesta, but closed during the construction period. The city's management analyst, Xavier Gularte, is over-seeing the project for the city.

Museum Docents Ready for Fiesta

The BIG WEEKEND of the year for the Historical Society's museum is just about here.

Docents keeping the museum open over the festive weekend have volunteered for two-hour shifts beginning on Friday evening, May 31. The facility will then be open for six hours on Saturday, and four more on Sunday.

The museum has in the past attracted over 1100 visitors over the Fiesta weekend. The volunteer docents are:

FRIDAY, 5-7 P.M. Linda Briggs and friend

SATURDAY, 11-1 Irene Bettencourt and Becky Bettencourt

1-3 Carolyn English and friend

3-5 Ron and Kay Swift

SUNDAY, noon-2 Joanne and John Marci

2-4 Ron and Kay Swift

Anyone who wishes to volunteer should call President Linda Briggs.

President's Message

The city of Patterson is gearing up for this year's Apricot Fiesta. Committees are forming, organizing all the different events to be held throughout the week-end.

The Patterson Township Historical Society is getting the Museum ready for company and the Barnstormers are getting their farm equipment ready for the parade and for display.

The Museum will be open on Friday evening, several hours on Saturday and on Sunday afternoon.

Anyone interested in volunteering as a docent during the Fiesta would be greatly appreciated. We are always in need of extra help. Also, working in the Museum gives you a special place to see all the festivities.

If any of you are interested in helping out please call me at 892-7176.

Linda Briggs, President

Did you know: William "Bill" Logan served the City of Patterson as City Attorney for 53 years.

***Spokes is a quarterly newsletter of the
PATTERSON TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY***
P. O. Box 15, Patterson, CA 95363

Editor: Faye Hill

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MEMBERSHIP

Any person interested in the history of this area who applies for membership in any classification and who tenders the necessary dues may become a member.

Annual Dues:

Household. \$20.00
Business. \$100.00
Life Membership. \$150.00

Annual dues are payable as of January 1st each year and are tax deductible. Dues will include mailed copies of *The Gateway* and *Spokes* newsletters to each membership.

2014-2015 PTHS Officers & Project Leaders

Linda Briggs, President, 892-7176
Henry Bettencourt, Vice President, 894-3551
Faye Hill, Secretary, 892-6533
Chris Dennis, Treasurer, 415-850-3022
Carolyn English, Director
Kenny Herger, Director
Joanne Marci, Director
Kevin Nelson, Director
Vivian Ratliff, Director

APPOINTED

Kenny Herger, Curator of Large Equipment,
209-681-5604
Eileen Forte, Webmaster

Museum Phone: 895-8095

Barnstormers Plan Dinner, Busy Schedule

The Barnstormers, the antique farm equipment branch of the Historical Society, has planned a busy schedule for the remainder of the year.

Barnstormers President Ken Herger points to his organization's annual barbecue fundraiser on Saturday, June 29, as being the highlighted activity in the months ahead. The popular event, to again be held at the Bettencourt Farm Equipment museum at Highway 132 and River Road, will have tickets go on sale soon.

But the dinner is far from the extent of the group's activities in the months ahead.

The Barnstormers will have a sizable entry in this year's Apricot Fiesta parade, then will have a display set up on Las Palmas Avenue from the fire station to the circle. It's amazing display of tractors, including many old John Deeres, have been repaired to operating condition.

Then on Sunday, June 16 (Fathers' Day), tractor rides will be offered, starting at the Rising Sun School in the Vernalis area. Watch for additional publicity on this event.

The Barnstormers will have a small engine display at the County Fair in Turlock in July and will participate in Patterson's downtown Farm to Fork event in the fall. A Plow Day will be scheduled in October, and another entry will be placed in the Christmas Parade in early December.

Just recently the Barnstormers gave a \$400 scholarship at PRIDE's awards night. Also, early this month some 30 students from Central Catholic spent several hours touring the John Deere Museum. In addition some dozen members of the Vernalis 4-H Club visited and operated small engines.



Historical Society Turns 50!

With the Historical Society this year observing the 50th anniversary of its founding in 1969, it may be interesting to review a few tidbits of our history. Here are our lists of past presidents and the years they served.

1969-71.	Claude Delphia	1989.	Dr. Thomas Klein, Barbara Torrison
1972-73.	Virginia Williams	1990-92.	Barbara Torrison
1974-76.	Laura Kimball	1993-94.	Bob Kimball
1977-79.	Dorothy Harrison	1995-98.	Mike Wright
1980.	Vera Bettencourt	1999-2003.	John Bristow
1981-82.	Barbara Torrison, Joyce Barfuss	2004-09.	Mary Pat Thompson
1983-84.	Barbara Torrison	2010-11.	Joland Schut
1985.	Vera Bettencourt, Joyce Barfuss	2012-15.	Carol Scoles
1986-87.	Claude Delphia	2016-19.	Linda Briggs
1988.	Dr. Thomas Klein		

The Historical Society incorporated in 1972 and elected Virginia Williams its president at the first corporate meeting on Oct. 22 of that year. It was held in the Center Building, which was little used at that time.

Dorothy Harrison became the vice president, and Betsy Campbell became the secretary-treasurer. Other elected board members of the new corporation were Claude Delphia, LaVerne Bowman, Walter Filippini and Frank Soares.

Membership over the organization's first four years had grown to 125 by April of 1973. Charter members on that 1973 list numbered 39. They were Mr-Mrs Arthur Almquist, John V. Azevedo, MM Lloyd Bowman, Claude Delphia, MM Rodney Edwards, MM Domingos Farinha Jr., MM Walter Filippini, Josephine Fink, Vada Fink, Maybelle Gill, MM Glenn Hamilton, Dorothy Harrison, Randy Harrison.

Also MM Mario Ielmini, MM Paul Johnson, Georgia Kaas, Helen Kilcher, Roy Needham, Edith Olson, Hildur Peterson, MM Richard Phillips, MM Daniel Rezendes, Myron Riddle, MM George Robison, MM Arthur Stangeland and MM Ron Swift.

PTHS Names Annual Officers

Historical Society members have elected Joanne Marci and Carolyn English to its nine-member Board of Directors. Linda Briggs will continue as president and Henry Bettencourt assumes the position of vice president.

Two directors whose terms have expired have retired from the board. They are Carol Scoles and Carole Dompe.

Kenny Herger continues as president of The Barnstormers and is curator of the society's large ag equipment display. The downtown museum currently has no curator.



On June 6 of this year, Americans will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of D-Day, the invasion of Normandy and the drive to defeat Nazi Germany. General Dwight D. Eisenhower, supreme commander of the invasion forces, is pictured addressing his troops the previous day. Included in the famous photo is the late Warren Hicks (second face from left) of Patterson, who participated in the Normandy fighting. This picture is considered to be D-Day's Most Famous Photograph.

**Patterson Township
Historical Society
P. O. Box 15
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