

VISALIA HERITAGE

Membership Newsletter

August, 1983

Visalia Heritage is pushing right along with its first newsletter to inform its members and contributors about the progress being made in historic preservation in the community. This newsletter will provide timely information about the activities planned for the year and address the issues that affect the conservation of Visalia's architectural and historical character. Heritage wishes to contribute to the betterment of Visalia and welcomes your interest and support.

MEETINGS

The Board of Visalia Heritage has an exciting year planned. Regular meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month. All members and friends of preservation are welcome. A highlight of the full program schedule will be a travelling workshop presented by John Merritt, formerly with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He will provide Visalia, Tulare and the surrounding communities with helpful information about Federal involvement in preservation, such as, tax credits for rehabilitation of historic buildings. These meetings will be held from the 14th to the 16th of November and will be open to the public. Watch for the announcement. The Board welcomes suggestions for programs or projects for the coming year.

OFFICERS

Members of Visalia Heritage wish to express their appreciation to John Combs, the outgoing president, for his dedication and leadership. In the past year Heritage obtained a tax-free status. This almost took an act of Congress to accomplish. The feat was achieved thanks to the efforts of Pat Clevenger and her son, Martin, who donated his accounting services. Chip Pashayan's office also aided with the project.

Visalia Heritage Board 1983 - 1984

President	Jane Nash
Vice President	Carl Ferguson
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Pat Clevenger	Charlotte Chrisman
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CHAPEL

Work has begun on the Chapel in Visalia Cemetery! The "Save the Chapel Drive" has been a great success thanks to the caring citizens of Visalia. To date \$75,871.92 has been collected. Of that amount \$35,871.95 came from individual contributions. The first large donor was Visalia Women's Club. The Supervisors, Lori Mangine and Clyde Gould, gave \$10,000, the Gannett Foundation gave a grant of \$5,000, and the Visalia City Council gave \$25,000 to the drive.

This project would not have been possible without Michael D. Smith, the structural engineer, who has donated his time and energy to the project. He has been the "guiding light"; he has evaluated the cost of stabilizing the structure and he has drawn all of the plans. He has prepared the documents and bids for the contractors and he is supervising the work. The community owes Mike Smith its sincere thanks for his contribution to Visalia.

Many other people have worked hard to enable this project to succeed. Kathy Smith, the Treasurer, has done a wonderful job of keeping track of all the monies contributed. (Incidentally, all of the money collected will be spent on the chapel, as the brochures and publicity were donated.) Marjorie Reinhart, the Corresponding Secretary, has donated many hours in writing thank-you notes to all major donors and for all memorials. Fern Wilson drew the lovely rendering of the chapel used on the "Save the Chapel" brochures. A special thanks to all Heritage members who have shown such dedication to this drive.

Upon completion of the chapel restoration work, Visalia Heritage plans a dedication and "open house". It will be thrilling to see the chapel restored!

SUNSET MAGAZINE

Last Fall, Pat Clevenger wrote to Sunset Magazine telling them about Visalia Heritage's walking tours of historic homes. As a result, a reporter and photographer visited Visalia to scout the tours. Be sure to see page 92 of the March, 1983 issue. This was not Sunset's first article on Visalia. In 1906 there was a lengthy article about Visalia and the surrounding area. Thanks to Pat, Visalia made Sunset!

Groups and conventions wishing to schedule walking tours of Visalia's older residential areas, please contact Visalia Heritage. Kathy Smith and Pat Clevenger are wonderful guides and will provide a world of information - architectural as well as historical. Anyone interested in a training session as a docent for walking tours, please contact Pat Clevenger. If there is significant interest, a training session will be scheduled.