

**KEEPING THE BEST OF THE PAST  
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW**



## **VISALIA HERITAGE**

January 2007

Dear Friends and Supporters of Visalia Heritage:

The year 2006 has been good to Visalia Heritage, Inc. We, as board members, have made a concerted effort with the pledges we received from our members and supporters to let the monies work in a most productive manner. We are proud of our accomplishments made over the years in preserving Visalia's historic structures.

We are now waiting patiently for construction to begin on the Children's Library. All lead paint and asbestos has been removed and construction is to start in late spring. Chief Librarian, Brian Lewis, has asked Heritage members to design the donor's board for the Children's Library. Should you have any suggestions for design of the donor board, please contact one of our board members with your ideas. We encourage you to bring your thoughts and opinions to us as we wish to make every effort to produce an outstanding design.

We are continuing with our project of bringing the Visalia Home Builders Tract into an historic preservation district. More than one hundred home owners in the tract have been contacted and over seventy percent approve the preservation efforts. The information we have gathered from each home owner has been entered on compact discs and we are now waiting for approval from the Historic Preservation Board.

In an effort to save Mearle's College Drive In Restaurant, our group was asked to make a presentation at the Visalia City Council meeting in May. We believe we played a part in the council's unanimous vote to add Mearle's to the local Register of Historic Structures.

In December, Visalia Heritage Board of Directors presented plaques of appreciation to Tom Beene, President of Visalia Community Bank as well as Kay Connelly, chairperson for the bank's annual calendar. We appreciate their combined efforts in preserving the rich history of Visalia, notably through their photographs of early Visalia presented each year on their calendar as well as the historic photographs on the walls of the bank.

**P.O. Box 216 • Visalia, CA 93279**

Visalia Heritage continues to award our annual Annie Mitchell scholarship of \$500 to an outstanding graduating COS student seeking to become a teacher.

We have once again voted to adopt arbors 14 and 15 at Mooney Grove and will be responsible for their care, including repairs.

The Visalia Afghans and "A Pictorial History of Visalia" book continues to be available at Link's Mens Wear and through any Heritage board member.

As board members, we are looking forward in 2007 to continuing our current efforts and completing our goals. To this end we thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Visalia Heritage Board of Directors

Gladwyn Burris, President  
Ann Watson, Secretary  
Jane Nash, Treasurer

John Bianco  
Ron Burris  
JoAnne George  
Cathy Lucas Reilly  
Joseph Vicenti  
D'Anne Williamson