

KEEPING THE BEST OF THE PAST
FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



February 2011

Greetings to members and supporters of Visalia Heritage:

As this year's newsletter is being written, Visalia Heritage is working on two interesting long-range projects. First, the old Mearle's College Drive-In is finally on the brink of renovation. We have been working closely with the Visalia Historic Preservation Advisory Committee and with the CEO of Habit Burger Restaurants, to redo the old signs and give the building a face-lift. It will be wonderful to see this old building come to life again! We are also working with Visalia artist Colleen Mitchell-Veyna and Mearle Heitzman on producing several nostalgic murals we hope will be added to the building and property.

Another new and exciting opportunity is opening with the City of Visalia. The city has purchased the old Copeland Lumber property (the block to the northeast of the Depot Restaurant) with a plan to build a replication of Fort Visalia. Visalia Heritage and the Visalia Arts Consortium support the idea of a museum and art gallery near the Fort. This venture will take much input, work & support from the community. We believe the concept will be an opportunity for the general public to learn about our area's history, as well as a great learning experience for our children.

Speaking of children, Visalia Heritage has placed a table and benches next to the playground area at Jefferson Park, site of the old Jefferson School. We also provided a cement walkway and the cement base for a new drinking fountain.

We also continue to care for arbors 14 and 15 at Mooney Grove, and are working with Tulare County Parks & Recreation to either remodel or rebuild the aging restroom facility adjacent to the 2 arbors. And, this year, in light of the ever-rising cost of education, Visalia Heritage voted to double our COS Annie Mitchell Scholarship to \$1000.

Sales of *Visalia - A Pictorial History* as well as the Visalia afghans continue. We wish to thank Bob and Tom Link of Link's Men's & Women's Wear for selling our merchandise in their store for nearly twenty years without remuneration. The afghans have become an especially prized possession, with nearly 1800 sold over the years.

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