

VISALIA HERITAGE, INC.

Preserving the Best of the Past
For a Better Tomorrow

Hyde House - 1886
National Register of Historic
Places

February 2016

Greetings to all Members and Supporters of Visalia Heritage Inc.:

With your help, we have completed another year of preservation projects. In fact, it has been our most successful year since 2008, when we helped renovate the Children's Library!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Gladwyn Burris
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Our major endeavor for 2015, and one of which we are very proud, has been the completion of the Visalia Fox Theatre marquee. If you've driven or walked down Main Street lately, you've no doubt noticed the striking white-on-black color scheme. It's identical to the original marquee as it appeared in the 1930s. We have also provided a grant for a new movie projector which the theatre uses throughout the year. The building is currently on the California State Register of Historic Places. We have underwritten the grant to enter the Fox Theatre into the registry of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Visalia Heritage is also committed to partnering with the Visalia Fox to help the theatre, the center of our vibrant downtown, with future specific needs.

In May, with donations from Visalia Heritage and the Visalia high school graduating classes of 1948-1954, the Universal Accessibility project at Mooney Grove became a reality. This includes a five-foot wide cement walkway linking five of the park's arbors (including Visalia Heritage-sponsored arbors 14 & 15), with the parking area, restrooms and food cooking area. Thus the most utilized section of the park can easily be accessed now by those with wheelchairs, walkers and scooters. The first group to use the area after the upgrades was Wounded Warriors of Tulare County.

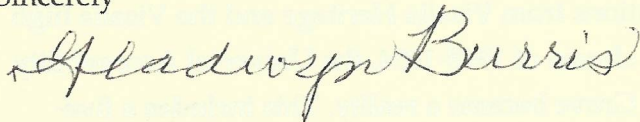
In July Visalia Heritage, Inc. co-sponsored *The Mather Mountain Party: An Evening at the Old Palace Hotel*. This event commemorated the July 14, 1915 meeting of a group of influential men at the Visalia Palace Hotel, a banquet which kicked-off a two-week trek across the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Inspired by their experience, these men were instrumental in the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. Following a program on the history of Sequoia National Park, a tour was given of the old hotel rooms on the second floor of the building located on the northeast corner of Main and Court Streets.

We continue to sponsor the \$1,000 Annie Mitchell Scholarship to a College of the Sequoias graduate majoring in education. This is our 20th year doing so. And of course, we are still selling copies of *Visalia - A Pictorial History*. It can be purchased at Valhalla Restaurant, Exeter Book Garden and By the Water Tower Antiques (in Exeter). The sale price is \$45.00 plus tax, every cent of which goes directly toward historic preservation efforts in our city.

Identifying, preserving and promoting the remaining links to our pioneer past is a constant struggle, but well worth the effort! And our greatest asset in this fight has always been our members. Your financial support is appreciated more than words can express. But, we also need your input on the direction in which we are going. ALL members of Visalia Heritage, Inc. are encouraged to attend any one of our board meetings. These meetings are very informal, held throughout the year, the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in our board members' homes. For the date and location of the next meeting, please contact any board member. You may also email us at charteroak5150@yahoo.com.

Again...Thank You in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gladwyn Burris". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely".

Gladwyn Burris, President.