

Ice Cream and Preservation

Cooling off on a hot Sunday August day is easy when you're a member of the Apex Historical Society—if you take advantage of the traditional ice cream social. Adding to the enjoyment for the past several years has been the presentation of the Preservationist of the Year award.

Organized and hosted again this year by **Judy Miles, Teresa Stern, and Shirley Beasley**, members and guests enjoyed homemade cookies from **Edna Earl Friddle, Mary Sue Lane, Rebecca McKinney, Barbara Mills, Carolyn Ramsey, and Jenny Palmer**; and ice cream from **Dot Goodwin, Helen Lawrence, Teresa Stern, Shirley Beasley, Diane Long, and Judy Miles**

Tables were decorated with parfait glasses of lovely summer bouquets. Teresa and Beth Stern, Shirley Beasley, and Buddy Holland decorated all the rooms of the Maynard Pearson House. Folks with plates heaped high with ice cream and cookies filled the tables.

After nearly everyone was replete with goodies, **John Messler**, society president, took center stage. "This year's preservationist of the year is someone who is always ready to help, always willing to do anything...and the award goes to **Harry Beasley**." Nods of approval accompanied the general applause that followed.

Beth Stern



Harry Beasley receives *Preservationist of the Year* award from AHS President John Messler.

Seagroves Farm Development Approved

The voting finally took place at 11 PM following a 3-1/2 hour public meeting on May third. When it was done, the Seagroves Farm PUD had been approved by a 4 to 1 vote of the Apex Board of Commissioners with Commissioner Bill Jensen casting the lone vote against.

Residents of the neighboring Waterford Green, Surrey Meadows, and Vintage Grove subdivisions demonstrated outside town hall before the meeting. Their many concerns regarding traffic flow through their subdivisions and danger to children walking and playing on streets currently without sidewalks were not enough to persuade the commissioners to reject the proposed PUD. These traffic concerns were the primary reason the Apex Planning Board recommended against approval of this development at its April meeting. The Commissioners have committed to delay connecting the Seagroves Farm subdivision's roads to the adjacent subdivisions until at least the second phase of the PUD is completed, to ensure traffic calming measures are put in place and to look at the possibility of the Town of Apex's installing sidewalks

on those streets that will be affected by cut-through traffic from the new development.

Active discussion and meetings on this development have been going on since last year. The Apex Historical Society has been concerned primarily with the impact on the Seagroves farmhouse and out-buildings which were originally threatened with demolition. This site is noteworthy because it is an essentially intact tobacco farm from the turn of the last century. Most similar sites in the county have over the years lost their out-buildings and lands, thereby losing the essence of the farm itself and its operation. Mike Whitehead of MacGregor Development has committed to work with Capital Area Preservation (CAP) to protect the farmhouse and as many of the out-buildings that can be saved. A "historic area" consisting of .68 acres has been set aside for the house and out-buildings.

Currently, Whitehead is negotiating an agreement where CAP will be given a one-year lease on the property to begin the preservation process. This will likely consist of stabilizing the farmhouse structure and determining which outbuildings can be saved. The processes for obtaining Local Landmark status and a National Register of Historic Places listing could also be begun. Both of these would help to protect the historic property in the future. Planning for moving the farmhouse would also begin. The building must be moved from its current location as Center Street will be widened in this area. At the end of that one year lease, Whitehead proposes to gift the historic area to CAP who will seek a buyer for the property. If for some reason, CAP refuses the gift, Whitehead will gift the historic area to the Town of Apex. Should the town also refuse the gift, the historic area would revert to MacGregor; however, the property would still be protected under the existing Apex preservation ordinances.

It would appear that while the stage has been set to secure the preservation of the Seagroves farmhouse and out-buildings for the future, nothing is certain at this point and we all need to stay involved in this project to insure its ultimate success.

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Planning Board and Commission meetings and made your support of historic preservation known to these groups.

—John Messler

The Dispatch...

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Articles may be submitted to the editor via
e-mail to mysteryheel@mac.com.

Apex Historical Society Officers

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Shirley Fiorentino, Sec.
Marion Smith, Treas.

Board Members

Shirley Fiorentino
Buddy Holland
Diane Long
Brian McCullough
John Messler
John Pearson
Marion Smith
Molly Weston
Ann Yeaman

Membership News

We're always glad to extend a warm welcome to new members in our newsletter and in person. Please make an effort to meet our newest members:

- Ginger & Simon Bate
- Susan & Jeffrey Bracken
- William Creech
- Margaret Seymour Francis
- Stephen Hennessey
- Peggy Pearce
- Tate Sanders
- Bill & Pat Sutton
- Blanche & Tom Schwend

Please notice the new members elected to our board at the March membership meeting. You may want to congratulate (and thank) **John Pearson** and **Ann Yeaman** for agreeing to serve on the board.

Our faithful telephone group consists of **Jim Shirley**, leader and the following members: **Dorothy Andrews, Laraine Behnke, Margaret Ferry, Edna Earl Friddle, Rachael Lewter, Elva Maynard, Carolyn Ramsey, and Helen Robertson**. We also have an e-mail group. If you are not already on the email list and wish to be, send a note to **Shirley Fiorentino** at Frankfiorentino@aol.com.

AHS Calendar of Events

- September 15 AHS Board Meeting
- September 24 Today & Yesteryear Festival
- October 8 Picnic
- October 20 AHS Board Meeting
- November (TBA) Program to be announced
- November 17 AHS Board Meeting
- November 25 Christmas on Salem Street
- November 26 Christmas Parade
- December 4 Holiday Home Tour
- December 15 AHS Board Meeting

Yes, I want to be part of Apex's History!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Class of Membership

Senior \$10 _____ Individual \$15 _____ Family \$25 _____

Contributing \$35 _____ Sustaining \$50 and up _____

Radio Program Airs

The Shadow knows! Al Rapp of Blowing Rock had heads nodding and faces smiling as he brought his old-time radio show to the Apex Historical Society May 31. Members and guests who gathered at the C. C. Jones Community Center were treated to a history and progression of radio all the way to current day television.

Rapp began his program by giving the audience a quiz by playing air snippets featuring familiar voices. From the creaking door of *The Shadow* to the well-loved “Hi yo, Silver” through the clatter of Fibber McGee’s closet, the audience relived the days of their youth. Memories weren’t shut when Rapp was finished—folks were still talking about their favorite radio shows during the delicious refreshments brought by Society members.



Al Rapp began his fascination with radio in the '50's.

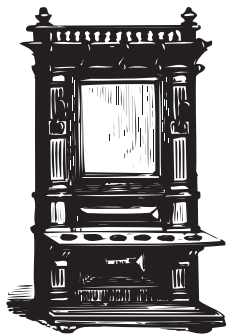
Society Presence at Town Events

Our Society has a history of being part of town events—from Christmas on Salem Street to the Fourth of July Celebration to Peak Week. This spring and summer have been no different.

Volunteers manned our booth and kept a watchful eye on the caboose during Peak Week and the Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebrations this year. **John Messler, Buddy Holland, John Pearson, and Bryan McCullough**, and **Harry and Shirley Beasley** have been the mainstays of these events dealing faithfully with setting up and striking the tent and hauling merchandise. Other members have contributed countless hours at the booth.

Some of the popular item we have for sale include wooden train whistles (\$3 & \$5), pocket knives (\$5), and sweat shirts (\$25). Kids always beg for the whistles, the pocket knives will make great stocking stuffers, and everybody needs a warm sweat shirt!

Our next event will be the Today and Yesterday Festival on September 24. Please consider adding your name to the list of volunteers for booth work. You might even find out how much fun it is to talk with folks about our Society!



Acquisitions Committee

We know that we’re being found on the web! For some time now, board members have been fielding questions via the internet. Among the things that have come up have been offers of historical artifacts. Similar offers have come from Apex residents who are slimming down their own inventories. While we are always grateful for donations, we are reaching a point where we have to make decisions—where to put everything.

For some time now, the Board has been considering reactivating an acquisitions committee to deal with these offers. **Judy Miles, Shirley Beasley and Marion Smith** have agreed to serve on this committee.

Garden Tour a Success

The Apex Historical Society's first annual Garden Tour held April 16, 2005, yielded \$570.00. Sincere thank you letters have been sent to all the homeowners who made this first annual Garden Tour a success. Those who opened their gardens were Bobby and Roslyn Cox, **Allen and Diane Long**, Lawrence and Helen Long, Denny and Rita Mercer, Deb and John Simmons, **George and Marion Smith**, and **Joe and Lisa Zublena**.

The variety of gardens was an outstanding feature of the tour. A project of this magnitude takes many dedicated people. A special thank you to **Allen Lawrence** who prepared signs for the owners yards. **Buddy Holland, Harry Beasley**, and **Allen Lawrence** placed the signs. **Molly Weston** helped paint the signs, took photos and developed the Garden Tour Handbook, prepared advertising flyers and contacted various media for publicity. **The Apex Herald** did an excellent job by publishing details about the Garden Tour on the front page. **Shirley Fiorentino** managed ticket sales. **Buddy Holland** marketed information to local garden centers. **Marion Smith** arranged for the many volunteers needed to man the various gardens. **John Messler** made stencils for the signs, made a directional map to guide visitors, and was at the Maynard Pearson House to receive funds from the sale of tickets.

The Board decided to have the plant sale later. **Judy Miles** and **Shirley Beasley** conducted this special event. **Judy Miles** contacted the local garden clubs and let them know of the tour. **Brian McCullough** helped sign up volunteers. This event for the AHS has been a fabulous experience with a great deal of teamwork. We've learned a lot and the second annual Garden Tour will be held May 20, 2006. If anyone who knows a gardener interested in sharing his or her garden please contact **Diane Long**.

—Diane Long



The water garden at George and Marion Smith's.

Wake County Society Visits MPH

On Sunday, March 13, more than 40 members of the Wake County Historical Society met at the Maynard-Pearson House for a tour and refreshments. The visit was hosted by **John Messler, Judy Miles, Buddy Holland, Allen and Helen Lawrence** of the Apex Historical Society.

John Messler welcomed the guests and provided an overview of the history of the Maynard-Pearson House and the town of Apex. Wake County Historical Society President Terri Jones spoke briefly thanking the Apex group for their hospitality in arranging the visit. A question and answer period followed with the discussion covering a broad range of topics including the history of the Apex area, acquisition and restoration of the Maynard-Pearson House by the Apex Historical Society, and potential areas for cooperation among all of the county's historical societies. Casual tours of the Maynard-Pearson House took place throughout the afternoon.

Members of the Wake County Historical Society travel regularly and meet at various historical sites. One purpose of this visit, organized by Diana Mauny of the WCHS, was to introduce many of their members to a Wake County historical resource that many of them had never seen.

—John Messler

Plant Sales Net Profits

Generous donors, faithful volunteers, and eager buyers combined to make the AHS Plant Sale a rousing success! “We had so many plants contributed that we decided to have a second sale,” reported **Judy Miles**, who co-chaired the event with **Shirley Beasley**. The sales were held on Saturdays April 30 and May 14. Proceeds from the two sales netted nearly \$700.

Judy and Shirley extend their thanks to all the folks (some of whom weren't even members of AHS!) who brought plants for the sale. The Society extends thanks to all the folks who bought plants, those of you who worked so hard on the sale, and to Judy and Shirley for coordinating the event.



Apex Historical Society
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