

The Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Apex Historical Society Apex, North Carolina

August, 2009

The President's Notebook:

First let me thank each and everyone of you for the trust and confidence you have in me by asking me to serve as your President of the Apex Historical Society. I am excited about the possibilities and I believe you have selected me to lead the Society into the future. While there are many unknowns and challenges ahead we share the common goal of Preserving Heritage and Protecting History. If we do not preserve and protect, who then will? And what will those that come after think of us if we don't?

At the May Board meeting I presented to the leadership the following as our VISION, Challenge and plan necessary to:

Lead the Society in their outreach to the community, discovering new prospects for preservation, strengthen & formalize being Apex Community Historians

Organize Society Committee structure to better fit a growing organization

Implement as a standard an annual budget to better manage operations

Establish a STANDARD Society Logo that reflects who we are

Standardize operations with 12 month objectives, 3 year plan & 5 year goals

Create a "Community Affairs" Committee to report to the media & others

Complete "Oral History" project documenting our past through the present and provide consultation, resources, standards & competent information on matters protecting and preserving our history.

We have a lot to do and even more to accomplish. As the Board moves forward I will keep you informed as it cannot be done alone but together. I believe we will see more members engaged in our activities and events while we will see new members joining to be a part of our commitment to "Preserve Heritage" and "Protect History".

Mack Thorpe
President

Apex Historical Society Website and Oral History Project

For those of you who haven't recently visited the AHS website, take a look at www.apexhistoricalsociety.com. The website has become a resource about the Society and its activities, offers information about the local community and a provides a glimpse into our historic past. New sections provide insight about the downtown historic district, glimpses at the past, ties to the local area and offer a list of similar historical organizations around the state. Information is also available about annual home tours from past years and other activities involving Society members.

An exciting website addition "in progress" describes the new Oral History project and what has been going on behind the scenes to plan a multi-year activity to capture memories of the area as told by long time residents, and record their views of how the community evolved. The project began with an extensive look at similar projects conducted by other organizations and continued throughout the last year with development of a plan to capture local oral history and memories, record and document the information and make it available to the community. Current work includes training AHS members to serve as interviewers, researchers and transcribers and to help the team begin the process of capturing local oral history.

Please check the website for additional information on the Oral History project or contact Mack Thorpe (email therustybucket@mindspring.com) Molly Weston (email mysteryheel@mac.com), Mary Petersen (email mpete427@yahoo.com) or John Pearson (email jwpearson@gmail.com).

AHS Members that have "graduated" from the two February training sessions include: Hope Blackford, Henry Brown, Debbie Douglass, Margot Knepp, John Pearson, Mary Petersen, Mack Thorpe, LaVerne Seagroves, Jim Bennett, Eleanor Hennessey, Stephen Hennessey, Hamilton Martin, Shawn Fuller, Tracey Hanburger, Margaret Moore and Karen Reed. Molly Weston is conducting the training sessions. The interviewers are beginning the process of selecting interview candidates and scheduling initial interview sessions.

We are grateful also to Peter and Sharon Galluzzo for providing video recording/editing services for the Oral History project. Please check out their local Home Video Studio services at <http://www.homevideostudio.com/video-services/169/>.

REMINDER!

Membership dues are now due! Please send them to:

Apex Historical Society
P.O. Box 506
Apex, NC 27502

Plant Sale Success

The best kind of event or activity is one in which everybody wins.

The Apex Historical Society's spring plant sale and open day at the Maynard-Pearson House clearly fits into this category.

On a beautiful late spring day, namely, Saturday, April 25, the Maynard Pearson House was abuzz with activity. We arrived shortly after 9:00 AM, thinking we were early.

We were relatively early by our standards, but there were many shoppers who had preceded us to the annual plant sale.

The plants had all been donated by members of the Society, plants that had been nurtured in their own gardens.....and they were going fast. We were fortunate to find one forsythia bush and a number of smaller plants before they were all snatched up by eager buyers.

The Maynard Pearson House was beautifully decorated and displays of place settings using dishes and linens from the past added to the beauty and interest for all visitors.

Our volunteers included those who had helped make the Maynard Pearson House look so beautiful, those who conducted tours of the house, those who had donated the beautiful plants and worked at assorted jobs from helping with traffic flow to identifying, selling and carrying plants to buyers' cars.

By the end of the day, the Society had made a profit to help pay for our various activities, provided a beautiful view of Apex's past at the Maynard Pearson House, and spread the beautiful bounty of members' gardens throughout the entire area.

A win-win situation for all.

Where is This Old House?



Can any one of our readers identify this abandoned old home? Hint: it is not in the Apex town limits, but is nearby.

AHS Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held in March of this year, and was a wonderful gathering of old and new members. The food was delicious, as always, and time was spent catching up with friends and enjoying the evening. The new board members were voted in unanimously, and the new positions were decided upon.

Our current Board:

President: Mack Thorpe

Vice President: John Pearson

Secretary: Mary Petersen

Treasurer: LaVerne Seagroves

The remaining board members are Mary Sue Lane, John Messler, Judy Miles, Gwen Nyce, and Bill Sutton. We send a warm welcome to John Messler and Gwen Nyce for joining the Board this year! Mack has laid out a great plan for the year ahead, and we should all look forward to many fun and informative events. Our next activity to attend will be the **Ice Cream Social on August 23rd**. The Social will be from 3-5 p.m. at the MPH.

Maynard Pearson House Trust Update

The Maynard Pearson House Trust Board (see below) has been busy this past year maintaining and preserving the Maynard Pearson House. Harry, Allen and Ron have faithfully maintained the yard over the past year and will continue through 2009. A tree was removed from the front yard with the assistance of the town, the stump ground, porches scraped and repainted as well as other miscellaneous repairs.

Concerns of termites led us to have three termite inspections of the house. Due to active termites and termite damage, we had the house

treated with Termidor by Orkin on February 27. The AHS has agreed to pay for this treatment.

Due to water and termite damage, the house is in need of some repairs. These repairs have been tentatively approved by Capital Area Preservation (CAP). We are in the process of writing up a Certificate of Appropriateness needed for the work. Due to the MPH's status as a Wake County Landmark and an Apex Historic Landmark, all work on the MPH has to be first approved by CAP and the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission. Lee Williams, President of Leland Builders, has agreed to donate his labor to repairing the sunroom floorboards, floor framing, door frame and changing the steps outside the sunroom door. Thanks to generous donations of AHS members, MPH Trust funds will cover the cost of materials while volunteers will provide the extra labor to complete the work.

Further work needed on the MPH includes replacing rotted exterior trim and siding, fixing existing French Drains and possible addition of gutters in some areas.

We welcome new Board members David Nyce and Shirley Fiorentino.

MPH Board of Trustees are:

President: Ron Ragland

Vice President: Harry Beasley

Treasurer: Debbie Douglass

Secretary: Lise Zublena

Allen Lawrence, John Pearson, John Messler, David Nyce, Shirley Fiorentino