

# The Dispatch

The Newsletter of the Apex Historical Society

Apex, North Carolina

September, 2011

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## **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Apex Historical Society**

March 2013 will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apex Historical Society. It all began with a notice in the Apex newspaper seeking individuals to come be a part of an organization preserving and promoting the history of Apex. In the first few months after the initial planning session, the newly created Apex Historical Society took part in the Apex Christmas Parade, the tree lighting at the old Town Hall, and the first historical Homes Tour. On March 24, 1988, the Apex Historical Society received its official charter from the North Carolina Secretary of State. Our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be in March 2013. We would like to celebrate this great occasion for a full year preceding the official anniversary date. We will be holding events each month throughout the year beginning in March 2012 culminating in March 2013 with an anniversary celebration.



Mack, Molly (charter member) Mary, Mayor Weatherly & Jan (charter member, past president)

We are currently looking for memorabilia relating to the history of Apex that you might like to temporarily share with the Society and the Town. We are hoping to display some of this memorabilia in the Maynard-Pearson House so if you have a collection that you would like to put on display please let us know.

## **Afternoon Open House at The Maynard Pearson House**

As part of the Apex Historical Society's preparation for their 25th anniversary, we are working on holding monthly open houses at the Maynard Pearson House on Olive Chapel Road. They will be held on a Sunday afternoon for about two hours. We will be putting together information about the history of the House as well as notes of some of the more interesting items inside the House. We are looking for volunteers interested in serving as docents, and hope to have at least two docents for each month. If you would like to learn more about our history and spend an afternoon in a lovely setting, please call or email Shirley Fiorentino (303-2939 or [frankfiorentino@aol.com](mailto:frankfiorentino@aol.com)). The other board members will also be happy to take your name.

## **Halle Center Speaker's Series**

Warren & Toby Holleman, authors of Pluck, Perseverance, and Paint will preside over an evening of story-telling Tuesday, September 27 at 7 p.m. This series is free and open to the public. Seating is limited though, and past appearances by the Hollemans were well attended. Warren and Toby have gathered a small group of local folks who have spent their lives here in our town, together with some photographs from the Holleman collection.

## **Annual Ice Cream Social:**

Sunday afternoon August 21st 42 society members gathered at the Maynard-Pearson House for our annual Ice Cream Social. The social was fun for all and if you missed this year try to make it next as it is a good time by all. Member and Mayor Keith Weatherly was in attendance and he presented to the Society a

Wake and Durham County Phone book from 1937. In his presentation to the Society of the phone book he pointed out that Cary had less than a 1/2 page and Apex had a full page of phone numbers. Bill Sutton also told the story of when he was Town Manager how downtown Salem St. was restored and how he then Commissioner Keith Weatherly had to sail in very interesting waters to save and restore downtown.

President Mack Thorpe held a brief meeting to update the membership on projects such as the Oral History project, MPH maintenance needs, Holiday Home Tour and capped of the afternoon by presenting the Billie Duncan Preservationist of the Year Award for 2011 to Mary Petersen. Congratulations to Mary for being this year's recipient and thank you for your leadership to the Society. Also there was a collection of old Apex newspapers and on loan from the Ruth and Carl Holleman estate were three Apex papers from the early 1900's. It was most interesting to read about life in our town so long ago.



Mayor Weatherly & Margaret look over old Apex papers

### ***Annual Fall Picnic:***

Mark your calendars for Saturday October 22nd from 1pm to 3pm for the Apex Historical Society's annual Fall Picnic. The picnic will be held at the Apex Community Park off Old Apex Rd at the small shelter. You may recall that this is the same location as last year and that the shelter is at the end of the drive way into the park. The Society will provide the BBQ, roasted chicken, drinks, ice, paper products and utensils and the membership is requested

to bring their favorite dish and a dessert. We look forward to seeing you and please bring a guest. RSVP Pam Thorpe, Society Social Director, at 290-2575 or email her at [shopkeeper@therustybucket.biz](mailto:shopkeeper@therustybucket.biz).

### ***Note Card Sale***

The Apex Historical Society continues to sell note cards. These are pen and ink drawings by Brenda Priest of Holly Springs. There are five buildings (Maynard-Pearson House, Apex Union Station, Old Town Hall, Seaboard Railroad Caboose, and Thompson-Utley-Fletcher-Tunstall House) The cards are packaged 10 to a pack, with two cards of each of the five buildings. Price is \$10 per pack. There are Christmas note cards (wreaths and red bows) and everyday note cards. This would be a good year to send Apex Christmas Cards to your friends. These cards may be purchased at **The Rusty Bucket** on Salem Street in downtown Apex. Tell your friends about them!

### ***Annual Plant Sale***

The AHS held its annual Plant Sale on a beautiful day in May. Many thanks go out to Diane Long who donated plants, organized and ran this wonderful event for us, as well as John Messler who made a wonderful plant seller and money collector! It was a huge success and brought in hundreds of dollars for the Society. We would like to thank the following individuals who donated plants and containers: Susan Seymour Mills, Jan Brooks, John Pearson, Beth Carroll, Rita Mercer, Marion Smith, and Pam Thorpe. Our thanks also go out to the Apex community for their great response. Our apologies to anyone who may have been left off this list.

The Plant Sale will continue to be held the second Saturday of May for future years, so mark your calendar! Diane encourages everyone to dig plants in the fall. In the spring, fertilize and

water the plants to make them look good before the sale. Blooming plants are usually the first to be sold!

### ***Memberships***

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who has paid their dues for 2011 and of course, to remind those that haven't. In addition to our fund-raisers like the home tour and plant sale, your dues are what keep the Society running throughout the year.

I hope no one was offended by the reminder letters we sent out this year. We will probably make this a standard procedure as they were quite effective. It seems to help many of us, like me, just don't remember unless we get some sort of a bill. If any of you have some sort of special arrangement that was set up previously regarding dues please let me know.

I hope you will join me in welcoming the new folks who have become members recently. Among them are Michael Edwards, Adrienne and Dr. Grover Proctor, Karla Sowder, Don and Jane Spanton and Keith and Melissa Weatherly. Please make an effort to get to know them at the next Society event.

We always need more members. A larger membership base would allow us to take on more projects and activities that are currently beyond our capabilities. Everyone needs to be promoting the society to your friend and neighbors. Bring someone along to a Society social event or activity. Increasing our membership is much more important to the long term health of the society than having an additional fund-raiser.