

Soup and Pie Supper

In a true celebration of winter, the soup and pie supper was a rousing success. Eight—count 'em, eight—soups crowded the kitchen and the pies overflowed the back entrance! Members and guests crowded around the tables to enjoy winter's bounty, and newest member **J. C. Knowles** entertained the group with jokes and stories of old-time Apex. Several home owners from the Holiday tour were special guests, and they were greeted with proper enthusiasm.

Thanks to all the soup and dessert makers and to those who furnished bread and condiments for the dinner.

Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 18, 6:30 PM

Mark your calendar now! The very important annual member's meeting is the time to elect new board members of our Society. No less important is the opportunity to enjoy a delicious covered dish meal and entertainment by a new Triangle barbershop quartet. (So new, in fact, they don't yet have a name, but they have a great sound!) Bring your favorite dish to share with like-minded friends.

The nominating committee (**Shirley Fiorentino, John Messler, Judy Miles, Molly Weston, and Betty Williams**) will have a slate of potential board members from whom to choose, and the names will be posted before the meeting. If you have a suggestion for someone to serve on the board, please contact one of the nominating committee. As always, nominations will be accepted from the floor. After the election, new officers will be elected by the board.

Membership dues should be paid by meeting time in order to vote in the election. Treasurer John Messler will be ready to take your membership, but don't wait—send in yours today. Use the handy form on page 3 of this newsletter.

New Board Members in Place

As reported in the last Dispatch, our board of directors has been operating at a minimum number. Thankfully, two members answered the call to fill in vacant positions. We are delighted to welcome Larry Matthews and Jim Shirley to the ranks.

Larry, who is almost a native—he's the husband of **Betty Tunstall Williams**, therefore the son-in-law of **Mary Lee Tunstall**, has already begun research on the cemetery at the M-P House.

Jim, a relative newcomer to Apex, volunteered to be a docent at the caboose even before joining the Society. He's also accepted the job as chair of the Telephone Committee.

All members of the Board can breathe better with these two new members. Prior to their joining, it was imperative for every member to be at every meeting in order to have a quorum.

Please consider saying "yes" if a member of the Nominating Committee contacts you.

Holiday Home Tour

As we have all discovered rewards come wrapped in a variety of packages. This was truly brought to life during this year's Annual Holiday Homes Tour. From the earliest stages of planning to the cleaning up after the tour, society members and friends were very generous with their time, labor, and talents making this yet another successful tour.

Tour goers enjoyed visiting the homes of

Chris and Lita Russell, 107 S. Ellington St.
Scott Finley and Cami Hartley, 602 E. Chatham St.
Steve and Dana Satterwhite, 604 E. Chatham St.
Chris Jensen, 1018 N. Salem
Carole and Andy Kish, 209 S. Salem St.

Also featured on the tour was the Apex Depot, 220 N. Salem St. where Beverly of "Out of the Kiln" showed her pottery and Catherine Martin of "Red Canvas" displayed art from her studio.

As in years past, the beautifully decorated Maynard-Pearson House was the gathering place for tour goers to learn more about the history of Apex and the surrounding area and enjoy hot mulled cider and popcorn while they visited with many of our knowledgeable society members.

Committee members included **Judy Miles** and **Lise Zublena**, Chairs; **Teresa Stern**, Publicity; **Helen Lawrence**, Host and Hostess Coordinator; **Crystal Ragland**, Florists; **Debbie Douglass**, Sweet Shoppe; **Shirley Fiorentino**, Tickets; **Lise Zublena**, Homes Histories; **Joe Zublena**, Photos; **Mary Liegeot**, Tour Brochure; **Teresa and Beth Stern**, **Shirley Beasley** and **Buddy Holland**, MPH Decorating; **Helen Robertson** and **Judy Miles**, MPH Reception; and **Helen Robertson** and **Judy Miles**, Procurers.

We extend a thank you to the homeowners who welcomed us into their homes, to all our committee members who were so willing to help, to the host and hostesses who patiently answered questions, and to the men who helped with the parking.

We also thank **Allen** and **Helen Lawrence** for the much needed repairs done on the Maynard-Pearson House; **Buddy Holland** and **Harry Beasley** for painting; and **Harry** and **Shirley Beasley**, **Buddy Holland** and **Helen Lawrence** for all their work on the lawn.

Sweet Shoppe a Sweet Success

"I couldn't believe it!" Debbie Douglass laughed when she talked about the candy sale held in conjunction with the AHS Christmas Home Tour. "We had folks calling weeks ahead, placing orders for their favorite candies!" Getting volunteers, bagging the candy, and selling the candy herself, Douglass has spearheaded the confection sale for several years now. "Our reputation for having the old fashioned candy favorites seems to be growing."

Volunteers **Helen Robertson, Rachel Lewter, Judy Miles, Theresa Stern, Shirley Fiorentino, Diane Long, Hope Blackford**, and **Douglass** made 26 pounds of candy, which netted the Society a sweet \$208. Well done!

The Dispatch...

...is a publication of the Apex Historical Society.
Distribution is to all members of the Society.
Editor Molly Weston

Articles may be submitted to the editor via email to mysteryheel@mac.com.

Apex Historical Society Officers
Brian McCullough, Pres.
Molly Weston, V. Pres.
Diane Long, Sec.
John Messler, Treas.

Board Members
Buddy Holland
Diane Long
Brian McCullough
John Messler
Judy A. Miles
Jim Shirley
Molly Weston
Larry Williams

Glider Sale to Benefit MPH

How many tickets have you sold? Allen Lee Lawrence has donated a four-foot, pressure-treated glider as a fund-raiser for the Maynard-Pearson House fund. The glider will be raffled on the Saturday of Peak Week. Ticket prices will be quite minimal, only \$1 each. Debbie Douglass has accepted the challenge of organizing ticket sales. "I've already counted 20 tickets into packets, and we have a color photo of the glider in each packet to help boost sales. I hope every member will contact me to get packets for sale," she said. Douglass can be reached at dmdoug2000@yahoo.com.

Lawrence estimates the house will need approximately \$5000 in repairs in the immediate future. "I hope every member will take 20 tickets immediately, turn in the money, and sell 20 more! That way, if it rains during Peak Week, we'll still make money for the House!"

AHS Calendar of Events

- February 19**7:30 PM
Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH
- March 18**6:30 PM
Covered Dish Supper & General Membership Meeting, with election of board, MPH
- April 15**7:30 PM
Board of Trustee Meeting, MPH
- April 17** 10:00–4:00
AHS Plant Sale, MPH
- May 1**
Peak Week celebration (caboose open)
- May 20**7:30 PM
Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH
- May TBA**.....7:30 PM
AHS Members Meeting
- June 17**7:30 PM
Board of Trustees Meeting, MPH

The Dispatch Online

Several members of the Society have volunteered to receive our newsletter, *The Dispatch*, via email in portable document format (PDF). As you might imagine, this saves the Society money, but more importantly to some, it also saves time in folding, labeling, and mailing the newsletter. Won't you consider this state-of-the-art method? If you're willing to give it a try, contact your editor, **Molly Weston** (mysteryheel@mac.com). If you don't like this method, we'll be happy to put you back on the list for the printed version.

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 _____

Apex Historical Society • PO Box 506 • Apex NC 27502

New Legislation Affects Historic Structures

The Town of Apex recently received enabling legislation authorizing it to regulate the demolition of historic structures. Unlike legislation that delays or blocks demolition, the Apex rules will allow the demolition of a historic structure but will not accept a development proposal for that property for forty-eight months following the demolition. In this way, the town hopes to discourage the destruction of historic structures and encourage their adaptive use. The legislation would not apply to single-family residential structures that are being replaced with new single family residences.

Apex Names New Local Landmarks

The Apex Board of Commissioners unanimously named the **Sellars Building** on Salem Street and the **Thompson-Utley-Fletcher-Tunstall** House on North Elm Street to the Wake County Local Historic Landmarks list. The Wake County Historic Preservation Commission had voted to support these properties for designation at public hearings held this summer.

Charles P. Sellars, a Raleigh tobacco buyer, built the building that bears his name prior to 1908. The building was substantially larger and of higher quality than the town's other buildings at that time. Its construction helped to shape the subsequent downtown construction following the fire of 1905. The building was designed by Frank B. Simpson, a Raleigh architect. Simpson also designed the Apex Town Hall and the Apex Mule and Supply Company building. Charles Sellars was an early force in the economic development of the Town of Apex.

The Thompson-Utley-Fletcher-Tunstall House is said to have been built around 1870 for Doctor A. J. Thompson. It was acquired soon after its construction by W. F. Utley, a successful Apex merchant and Civil War veteran. Utley served as county commissioner, postmaster and justice of the peace in Apex. A. J. Fletcher, a noted Raleigh businessman and philanthropist married Utley's daughter and owned the house following W.F. Utley's death. The house was purchased by Verne Tunstall, an early Apex Town Commissioner, in the 1940's. The town of Apex obtained the property from the Tunstall family in 1997. **Mary Lee Tunstall** continues to live in the house under a life estate.

Apex Theater

Recently, Bob Maynard donated a movie poster from the Apex Theater to the Apex Historical Society. Many of you may have seen it displayed in the memorabilia room at the Maynard-Pearson House during the Home Tour. We would like to create a display with additional information about the theater, including copies of any pictures we can find. If you have some old photographs we could borrow and information about the theater please contact **Shirley Beasley**. Again, we thank Bob for his donation.

Maynard-Pearson House Doings

Work has started on roof repairs for the house. A local contractor has completed scraping the roof. Re-painting will likely be postponed until spring when the weather improves. A large leak where the sun porch joins the main house is the biggest problem under investigation at this time.

Please Support Our Benefactors

We are indebted to local individuals and businesses for their support of the Holiday Home Tour. In addition to the home tour, there are companies that have generously provided materials for use in the maintenance and upkeep of the Maynard-Pearson House. At the risk of leaving someone out, below is a list of local businesses that have made donations this past year.

Apex Ace Hardware (Williams Street)
Bloom'n Garden
Daniel's Florist
The Flower Basket
The Garden Supply Company
Lowes Foods (1405 W. Williams Street)
Lowes Foods (5400 Apex Peakway)
Victorian Seasons

These companies are very important to enabling us to continue doing the things we do. Please patronize these businesses and when you do be sure to thank them for their support of the Apex Historical Society so they know they're appreciated.

A Word, or Two, from the President

Greetings and welcome, all, to 2004!

I hope that all of you were able, as I was, to celebrate the season with family and friends. While the time from late November through to the first of January seems to be focussed specifically on these types of gathering, we must not forget each other during the rest of the year.

I did most of my Christmas shopping at the Salem Artists Co-Op, on Salem Street, and found some wonderful, and unique, presents there. In particular were the stained glass work, the ceramics, and the photographs.

During this season I was able to visit the Madstone Theater in Cary, through an introduction from the NC Museum of Art, and enjoyed a couple of movies. One in particular, *The Station Agent*, reminded me of two of our current projects.

The Apex Historical Society Board has taken on, or been given, two long-term projects, and we welcome the support of all of the members. This support might include financial support, volunteer work, advice, or a combination.

The two projects are, first, maintenance and painting of the AHS caboose, behind the fire hall on Salem Street, and secondly, major maintenance on the Maynard-Pearson House, including roof and chimney repairs, which is properly a project of the Maynard-Pearson House Trust, but the Board of the Apex Historical Society is also doing our best to support this necessary effort.

New Members

We cordially welcome the newest members of the Apex Area Historical Society

Deborah Knotts
J.C. Knowles
Laura Morey

We look forward to seeing you at our next function.

We have had some very generous donations from various parties to support some of these expenses, but there is always more needed. We all know from our own budgets that there always seems to be more month than money, and the Apex Historical Society is no different.

As far as the caboose goes, we have had contact with CSX and a local train enthusiasts' group, and the project appears to be very expensive. Much of the cost appears to be for the paint job, including re-creation of the markings on the caboose. Some maintenance is needed, of course, but if we don't neglect it, the caboose should serve the society well for many years. Your Apex Historical Society Board is proposing that we keep the caboose the traditional red, rather than, for instance, CSX grey.

Back in June, I said in a letter to the membership that we were looking for participation from the members in two different ways. Those ways, and they are still needed, are those of Board members, and Committee members. Although we have found two new welcome additions to the Board, and the Maynard-Pearson Trust has been able to refresh their board, we always need more participation from the members as a whole. During the next couple of months, many of you will be contacted by Board members regarding the upcoming AHS election, inquiring of your interest in either joining us on the Board or by serving on one of our committees.

Once again, I would like to wish everyone all the best in 2004, and I will see you at one of our meetings.



Apex Christmas Parade

The Apex Historical Society was well represented in the town's kick-off parade for the holiday season. **Buddy Holland** contacted Brian Farrar, a member of the Model A Club, who graciously furnished and drove his completely restored 1928 Model A. **Buddy, Sara Knuepher,** and **Judy Miles** braved the cold night to ride with Brian. Although Buddy was the star of the event from his front seat spot, Sara and Judy were warmer, snuggled under a very old, authentic horsehair blanket furnished by Brian. As the old saying goes, "a good time was had by all"!



The beautifully decorated Maynard-Pearson House mantel and piano await visitors at the Holiday Home Tour

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PO Box 506
Apex NC 27502