



West Sacramento Historical Society Newsletter

July/August, 2007 www.WestSacHistoricalSociety.org

Museum and Visitors Center is located at 324 Third Street, West Sacramento (old Broderick district), California 95605.
Open Fridays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays/Sundays 10 noon-5 p.m. Phone (916) 374-1849

NEW HOURS FOR MUSEUM -

BEGINNING JULY 6, 2007 THE MUSEUM/VISITORS CENTER WILL BE OPEN

- ◆ **FRIDAY - 10AM - 4 PM**
- ◆ **SATURDAY/SUNDAY- 10 AM - 5 PM**

DOCENTS ARE NEEDED—STOP BY THE MUSEUM AND LEAVE YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO VOLUNTEER AND BE A DOCENT!

Special points of interest:

- ⇒ **NEW BOOK "PORT OF SACRAMENTO" ON SALE AT MUSEUM**
- ⇒ **WSHS WEBSITE NOW HAS PAY PAL OPTION TO PAY MEMBERSHIP FEES, BUY BOOKS AND T-SHIRTS**
- ⇒ **VIRTUAL TOUR ON LINE—TAKE A TRIP!**

The current exhibit "Celebrating the Lives of West Sacramento Women" will close on August 3, 2007! Be sure to visit soon and bring your friends

The Return of Bryte Fire Truck #2 (Lizzie?Betsy?)

Read about her recent outings on page 2!



From Thom Lewis, WSHS President:

As some of you may be aware, Lana Paulhamus has decided to resign as the WSHS Museum Director and from the position of Vice President due to personal and health issues. Lana's duties at the museum were multiple, during the last year, she initiated the recycling program, the Nugget Market Friendship Club as well as solicited local/major businesses to secure grant money to help support the museum's programs. Lana also initiated the speakers program as part of the museum outreach, scheduled and trained museum docents, developed special museum events and secured guest speakers. With all the other work the historical society and the museum are involved with, this position was, and remains, the most demanding. Through hard work and dedication, Lana had devoted the majority of her time to the museum, she will surely be missed! In the interim, Mickey Fausett will be acting in both capacities as museum director and 1st Vice-President. With these changes and keeping within the confines of our agreement with the city, the museum hours of operations will be modified. Beginning in July the new hours will be Friday, 10 am to 4 pm and Sat/Sundays 10 am to 5 pm. The museum can be opened on other days by appointment. Docent training will be scheduled as soon as some names are compiled!

The WSHS has submitted a letter of intent to the City for the acquisition of the Lisbon Street Firehouse in Bryte. If accepted, we will be relocating our three historic fire trucks and collections to that site. This move will provide us with a better environment to work on the trucks, better storage conditions, a more appropriate place to document our collection and a home base for the historical society. We are also working with the City in locating various sites for a permanent museum. Part of our work is involvement in the initial phase of a historic survey of the Washington/Broderick area being conducted with the City planning and redevelopment agencies.

President's letter continued on page 2)

Bryte Fire Truck #2 in San Pedro Parade in 1960s & 1970s



Below—Bryte Fire Truck #2 returns to the San Pedro Park for viewing on June 24, 2007. Sitting in cab is Ryan and Madison Freitas while their Dad, San Pedro Director Larry Freitas, takes their photo. Larry had taken many rides on this same fire truck as a little boy in the 60s.

President Thom Lewis' letter continued from front page:

Several grants have been received since May, 2007. One was a city grant to help fund our oral history program. Jim Brewer and Mickey Fausett are currently working on this project. The other was a grant from Wal-Mart. On behalf of the West Sacramento Foundation, the City approached Wal-Mart for this funding. Initiated by the City Manager's office staffer Barbara Brandon Moore and Assistant City Manager, Carol B. Richardson, the WSHS will receive a grant for \$2,500.00.

If you want to express concern to the direction the WSHS is headed, or not headed, and you can't attend a board meeting, please contact your Member-At-Large Martha Mills. She is available to you as your voice of the historical society. Martha can be reached at (916) 373-1892 or email at marthamills@charter.net*

**The next WSHS Board meeting is Tuesday, July 10, 2007, 5:30 pm at the Museum at 324 Third Street, old Broderick district..*



The Pancake Breakfast held on May 19 at the VFW Hall in West Sacramento was a GREAT success. Chairperson Julia Potter stated she was "thrilled" to realize a profit of over \$700 which will help with the fire truck restoration program. A great deal of the financial success goes to Kathy Perrigo who gathered many raffle prizes from local merchants. Other committee persons included Joan Washburn, Nancy Bruce and several high school students who serve the food. All three WSHS fire trucks were parked outside for viewing thanks to Pat Stanley and his volunteers.



San Pedro Association family members visit with Fire Truck #2 (Lizzie or Betsy) after attending the GREAT Pancake Breakfast fund raising put on by Junia Potter & Kathy Perrigo at the VFW Hall in West Sacramento. This fire truck participated in many, many San Pedro Picnic parades during the 1960s and 1970s so these former Bryte residents are very pleased to see that the WSHS is restoring this truck. In the photo, left to right, are Sharon, Dorothy, Celestine and Dennis Freitas. Celestino and Dennis are sons of one of the founders of the San Pedro Assoc. - Albino Freitas, Sn. Dorothy is Celestino's wife and lived in West Sacramento for over 25 years. Sharon, Dennis' wife, was born in Bryte, and is the granddaughter of Tony Rava, Captain in Bryte Fire Dept. Her maternal

grandfather Judson B. Lee, Sn. was one of the original volunteers for the first Bryte Fire Dept. Judson Lee, Sn. also was involved in securing property for the San Pedro Association Picnic grounds in the early years.

An Evening Before The Rivers' Home Owners Association

By Jim Brewer

On June 20th, four members from the WS historical society gave a presentation before the annual meeting of the Rivers Home Owners Association in the Broderick district of West Sacramento. Jim Brewer, 2nd VP of the WSHS arranged for the presentation at the meeting. The program began with Louisa R. Vessell giving a brief history of the WSHS with an emphasis on why the society is important to the community; Mickey Fausett spoke about growing up in Broderick and where the Rivers is located. Thom Lewis talked about the publication of the Society's book on the Port of Sacramento, which included a brief history on the port. Jeri Hughes Wingfield assisted him by holding large mounted historic photographs. This was the first of several presentations being planned for the different neighborhoods and communities of West Sacramento. The next day, Jim Brewer sent this email to the historical society members who want to be kept informed of current events by email:

While standing in the back of the room after introducing our program to the assembled home owners last evening, I was reminded once again how fortunate we are as a historical society to have among us such dedicated and knowledgeable associates. Even as I write this summary, I'm reminded of all the others that I see from time to time equally engaged in their dedication and contributions.

As many of you know, this was a step in achieving the goal we have set for ourselves in reaching out to our community by making them aware of the history which surrounds them everyday. You also might have expected, as I did, that this was going to be a baby step. Well, gauging from the reactions not only during the presentations but also the comments I received after the others had left, we made a big step indeed. The Home Owners Association board was pleased with our presentation and the relevancy it had to their home owners because it helps build a sense of community, which is a direct benefit to everyone.

Individuals were similarly impressed with the richness of the West Sacramento's history and how important it is to preserve it, as they heard Louisa talk about our colorful past and Mickey describe how their neighborhood has changed over the years. They were again reminded of the importance historical preservation plays in our community as Thom and Jeri presented the book "Port of Sacramento" and saw the pictures of "Jefferson Blvd", the canal and the port that we all know today, but from the vantage point of yesterday.

This meeting has already produced positive opportunities that our board will need to explore as we move forward in reaching our goals. Thank you all very much, it makes being a member just that much better. Jim

Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendar:

- ◆ July 10, 2007 (Tuesday) 5:30 pm Board of Directors Business meeting at the WSHS Museum & Visitors Center - Open to all Interested members!
- ◆ August 3, 2007 (Friday) —Celebrating West Sacramento Women exhibit closes!
- ◆ August 4, 2007 (Saturday) 8 am to 2 pm WSHS is planning to participate in the San Pedro Yard Sale at 708 North Hobson Avenue in the Bryte district of WS —call Junia Potter at 372-7636 if you can help or have items to donate!
- ◆ September 11, 2007 (Tuesday) 5:30 pm Board of Directors Business meeting at the WSHS Museum & Visitors Center—Open to all Interested members.
- ◆ **CHECK OUT 'SNAPSHOTS' ON PAGE 85 OF THE JULY SACRAMENTO MAGAZINE—JOHN OHLSON, 92 YEARS YOUNG IS SHOWN CELEBRATING AT THE SACRAMENTO CITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY**

REPORT FROM THE CONSORTIUM MEETING

By Louisa R. Vessell

On Thursday, June 28, 2007, Mickey Fausett and Louisa R. Vessell attended the Consortium meeting hosted by the Sacramento River Delta Historical Society in Walnut Grove. Thirty-one individuals representing twenty-five organizations participated. Each representative gave an update about what their group was doing. One upcoming event is the Sacramento County History Day on March 8, 2008. Mr. Myron Piper is encouraging more interest in this program, he can be contacted at (916) 868-1049 or mmpipper2443@sbcglobal.net. Ken Scheidegger spoke about the Discover the Delta information center being planned. West Sacramento Historical Society was asked to assist with these upcoming projects. The next meeting is September 27, 2007 with the Galt Area Historical Society.

**WEST SACRAMENTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM AND VISITORS CENTER**

WWW.WESTSACHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

Located at 324 Third Street (old Broderick district)
West Sacramento, California 95605 Open Fridays 10 a.m. to
4 p.m. Saturdays/Sundays 10 am to 5 pm Phone 916 374 1849

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1202
West Sacramento, California 95691

*We are on the Web!
All WSHS newsletters are posted
in color on the website—see
“What’s New” at
www.westsachhistoricalsociety.org*

If there is a STAR near your mailing label, that indicates that the fee for a membership in the West Sacramento Historical Society is due. Individual dues are \$17.50 or \$22.50 for a couple; with a senior and/or student discount, the cost is \$11.50 for an individual and \$16.50 for a couple. Mail in your check and renew today!

**Take a Virtual Tour of the
WSHS Museum & Visitors
Center on the website!**

**2007 WSHS Board/Officers &
Committee Chairs:**

President - Thom Lewis
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Interim - Mickey Fausett, phone 372-5036
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Get a copy of the latest publication by the West Sacramento Historical Society—only \$22.00 either at the WSHS Museum & Visitors’ Center or by ordering from the WSHS website.

