

# VISALIA HERITAGE, INC.

Preserving the Best of the Past  
For a Better Tomorrow

## Annual Newsletter to the Membership

**Hyde House - 1886**  
**National Register of Historic**  
**Places**

February 2015

To all Members & Supporters of Visalia Heritage, Inc.:

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Gladwyn Burris**  
**President**

**John Bianco**  
**Vice President**

**Joseph Vicenti**  
**Sec/Treasurer**

**Ron Burris**

**Michael Kreps**

**Susan Kreps**

**D'Anne Williamson**

As some of you may already know, **Visalia's Fox Theatre** has been of particular interest to Visalia Heritage, Inc. in recent years. We were among the first to help with the Theatre's restoration. Later, we gladly stepped forward when the theatre's movie projector needed to be replaced. We have also underwritten the cost to have the theatre put under National Historic Register status. We were very excited to learn in early 2014 the Fox Theatre was to restore it's marquee to its original 1929 design.

Unfortunately, when a major sponsor unexpectedly pulled out of the project, the theatre was left with a half-completed marquee. Visalia Heritage was contacted by the Fox Theatre board president, Sue Tharpe, to see if we could help. Our board considers the theatre to be a real treasure to the City of Visalia, and it's marquee a very important part of the theatre itself. We unanimously voted to fund the entire cost of \$15,000 to complete the marquee!

We were so pleased and surprised with front-page publicity from the *Visalia Times-Delta* with our name up in the lights on the completed marquee! This project was completed only with the support and generosity of you, our members.

**The two arbors we sponsor at Mooney Grove Park** will soon have a much needed upgrade. Members of the Visalia Senior High School classes of 1948-1954, along with Visalia Heritage, have generously contributed funds to construct a five-foot wide walkway linking five arbors to the food center, restrooms, concrete stage and adjoining parking area. This will give handicapped individuals **universal access** to these arbors (which are already the most used in all of Mooney Grove.)

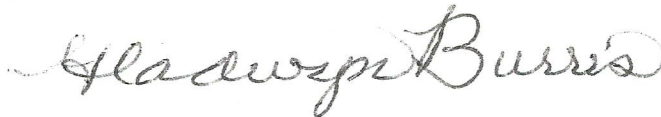
We also continue to give our \$1,000 **Annie Mitchell Scholarship** to a deserving COS student to help their continued education at the University level. Our 2014 recipient is Ms. Lauren Church of Hanford, CA. Lauren recently started attending Fresno Pacific University. She plans on graduating in July of this year with a degree in Early Childhood Development. She hopes to complete her Bachelor's Degree and to become a fourth-grade teacher. Congratulations Lauren!

**Visalia – a Pictorial History** continues to sell at a steady pace. The books may be purchased at Valhalla Restaurant & Gift Shop, Exeter Book Garden, By the Water Tower Antiques in Exeter, or from any board member. 100% of the proceeds from the book are used to fund our preservation projects.

**Identifying, preserving and promoting the few remaining tangible links to our pioneer past is a constant struggle, but well worth it!** Our greatest asset in this fight has always been our members. Your financial support is appreciated more than words can express, but we also need your input on the direction in which we are going. ALL members and friends of Visalia Heritage, Inc. are encouraged to attend any one of our board meetings. These meetings are very informal, held throughout the year the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in our board-members homes. For the date and location of the next meeting, please contact any board member. You may also email us at [charteroak5150@yahoo.com](mailto:charteroak5150@yahoo.com).

Again....Thank You in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gladwyn Burris". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely".

Gladwyn Burris ... President