

Chico Heritage Association – CHA – for over 30 years a volunteer not for profit  
Organization dedicated to the preservation of Chico's cultural heritage

FEBRUARY 2013

▪ CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION ▪

## CHA ANNUAL MEETING

**2:00PM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2013**

**At the Old Municipal Bldg. at 414 Main Street, upstairs**

**PROGRAM: PHOTOGRAPHER BYRON WOLFE**

We are very pleased to present this very interesting program in the historic building where we now also have our new office. Our office is on the first floor, but the meeting room is on the second floor, which may also be accessed by way of an elevator.

This year's guest speaker at the Chico Heritage Association annual meeting will be award-winning photographer Byron Wolfe. A professor in Chico State's Communications Design Department, Wolfe's work has been widely published and exhibited in such prestigious venues as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. One of Wolfe's specialties is the art of historical landscape "re-photography" in which the photographer goes out in the field to reshoot famous or not-so-famous photos taken years ago by earlier photographers, after first locating the exact spot on which the original artist stood when making his picture. The new image is then set side-by-side with the older one to show how the scene has changed over time. In more creative cases, the new image, or portions of it, are imbedded or spliced into the older one in order to bring out the more striking before-and-after effects. Over the years, Wolfe has traveled widely throughout California and the West reshooting well known images taken by Ansel Adams, Eadweard Muybridge, and, especially, Carleton Watkins.

Wolfe often has his Chico State students do this, and a nice selection of their work was published last year in a special issue of the *Chico News and Review*, which featured retakes of important local buildings and historic sites in Chico and Butte County.

This year, as part of the on-going "Ishi Centennial" commemorations, Wolfe is engaged in a re-photography project dealing with images of Ishi, or Ishi-related sites and landmarks in Butte and Tehama counties. He also has a similar project underway involving photographs of Chico's famous Hooker Oak.

The recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship and a winner of the prestigious Santa Fe Prize for Photography, Wolfe is the author of *Everyday: A Yearlong Photo Diary*. He is also the co-author of *Yosemite in Time; Third Views, Second Sights*; and, most recently, *Reconstructing the View: The Grand Canyon Photographs of Mark Klett and Byron Wolfe*.

## OPEN HOUSE TO FOLLOW MEETING

Since our annual meeting will be held in the same building as our new office, we are pleased to invite you to our open house to view it and enjoy refreshments.

It is at the back of the building downstairs from the meeting room, actually in the old jail—a historical spot!

## 2012 "YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM CHICO ..."

### BOOTH ATTRACTED MANY



Last October we participated in the "You Know You're From Chico When..." with a booth, and found it to be excellent venue for informing interested public of our mission. Shown above is Board member, Liz Stewart, assisting John Plain, an attendee.

### ***IN MEMORIAM***

***Ann Skinner***

***G.D. Lillibridge***

***Bob Deter***

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Getting our new office in the Old Municipal Building and getting it organized and operational has been our major task for the last many months (see Liz Stewart's article for details). Liz and others working on it have been amazing in their dedication of time and energy.

Meanwhile a few extremely dedicated people have been working very hard to put in place and prepare for the next huge job at the Wright-Patrick House – stabilization of the entire front foundation. Donated timber, donated custom milling, conversations with the County and obtaining a permit are now accomplished and we must move forward on the physical work. With recent heavy rains the need to get this done is desperate. It is the only means of saving the oldest wood frame structure in the County (and region). Not only is it the oldest house but also a building with a public profile that was significant for some years before Chico existed as a city center. The tab is steep (over \$6,000) but, like the roof five years ago, it is so urgent that we cannot let lack of funds stop us. I urge you, if you haven't already done so, please help us with this very specific need to preserve our community treasure. If you have already sent a check we thank you from our hearts for your generosity.

## THANK YOU TO OUR ANNIE B DONORS

Bernard & Mary Jane Bertagna  
Andrew & Janet Bertagna  
Wendy Brown  
W.Z.J. & Wendy Brown  
Don & Lynne Buckman  
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Delbert & Margaret Siemsen  
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Lucy Sperlin  
Suzanne Stone  
Bob & Jean Summerville  
Nancy Taylor  
Marilyn Warrens  
Milly Zappettini

# CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

February 2013

Memberships are due at the first of the calendar year, or if you wish, you may pay in any of the last three months of the preceding year for the following year. Our membership dues and donations provide our day to day expenses, which include our office rent, telephone, insurance, newsletter printing and mailing, photocopying and photography for research. We receive **NO** government funds, and have no paid staff. Please help us save Chico's heritage by your membership and/or donations. Simply fill out and mail this form to:

**Chico Heritage Association, P.O. Box 3517, Chico, CA 95927**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ new member: \_\_\_\_\_ or renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

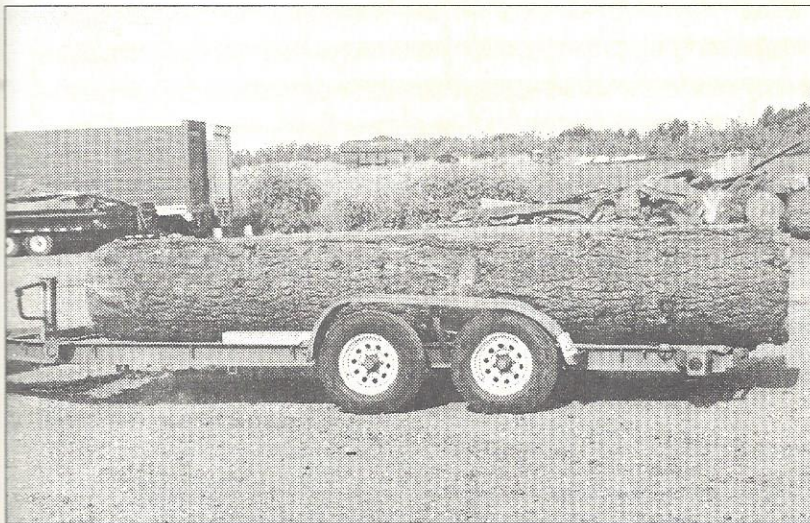
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 Individual    \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Family    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Supporting    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 or more-Patron

Please note if any **ADDITIONAL** donation is TO SAVE THE OLDEST HOME IN CHICO, THE WRIGHT-PATRICK PRESERVATION FUND \_\_\_\_\_,

The General Fund \_\_\_\_\_ or Other \_\_\_\_\_



*The donated log ready to go to the mill*

## WRIGHT-PATRICK HOUSE UPDATE

Early this fall we removed the porch decking to try and determine why the front wall of the house appeared to be

pushing out, and discovered that the log beam holding up the front wall had twisted and started to slide off its log and stone supports. Our local restoration man Chris Gauer came to the rescue with a replacement timber which he had milled to the proper size. We have the county permit to go forward with the project, which will require hand-fitting of the floor joists into the new timber, replicating the original mortise-and-tenon construction.

Once that is completed and the building is stabilized, we will be able to begin reinserting the restored second-floor windows. Cost of the foundation repair is estimated at about \$6000. When one considers that the first foundation held up for over 150 years, the expense would seem to be a prudent investment! Once again our thanks to Chris for his countless donations of time and materials to this project, as well as to the anonymous donor who did the milling for us.

### CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting is the first Wednesday of month, 7:00pm, 441 Main Street, at top of stairs

Lucy Sperlin, President  
Paul Lieberum, Vice President  
Shelley Compton Hutchens, Secretary  
Margaret Siemsen, Treasurer

Jon Couch  
Nancy Deter  
John Gallardo  
Richard Macias

Mike Magliari  
Adrienne Pustejovsky  
Liz Stewart  
Randy Taylor



**CHICO HERITAGE  
ASSOCIATION**

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## **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### **CHA HAS MOVED TO A NEW OFFICE!**

Submitted by Liz Stewart

Since 1981 CHA has rented or occupied a number of spaces in town: one near the corner of Main St. and Humboldt Rd, two different places on Broadway, two on Flume St. and one on W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. In mid-September last year we were packed up and ready to move. Now we are on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Old Municipal Building at 441 Main St. In spite of the fact- or, maybe because we are in a former jail cell, we feel fortunate to be in this beautifully restored 1911 government building.

Our previous locations included a used-car dealers' office in the Junction, above a stationery shop with a view of La Salle's, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Odd Fellows Building, tucked in what was the University Phoenix, and, lately, with the League of Women Voters, Snow Goose Festival organizers and other nonprofits. They were all wonderful, decidedly hometown, and we learned a lot from each experience.

In the OMB we share space occupied by the Chico City Police, Chamber of Commerce and Visitors' Bureau and the Brain Injury Coalition.

There are many to thank: 1) the City Council for authorizing the rental of space; 2) the City government, naturally, for initiating the process and particularly Shawn Tillman for his steady role in representing the city and answering our questions; 3) to Lucy Sperlin, our president, for putting her considerable energy into the negotiations, networking with other historical societies and for number crunching; 4) to Katie Simmons and her staff at the

Chico Chamber of Commerce and Visitors' Bureau, for allowing us to choose file cabinets, desks and a bookcase from their surplus furniture. We are pleased they allow us to be caretakers of several large newspaper clippings albums which record history of business in Chico; 5) to Adrienne & Myles Pustejovsky for bringing their truck and trailer to move the furniture to our new space; 6) to the League and other tenants at 635 Flume for tolerating our prolonged move ( who knew we had so much and stacked up would practically block the sun?; 7) to Susan Mason, volunteer extraordinaire, who almost singlehandedly packed our papers, books and files- bringing needed order to a messy process- and not laughing too hard; 8) to Paul Lieberum for helping move said furniture after patiently measuring the space and with a hammer knocked those bookcases in with only 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch to spare, then restored them to their previous smoothness; 9) to Randy Taylor, Margaret Siemsen and Adrienne & Myles Pustejovsky and nephew for loading and unloading; 10) to John Gallardo for his watchful/ gimlet eye- the one that foresees trouble ahead-; again to Randy for donating a practically new computer monitor; 11) to Margaret Siemsen, our treasurer, for her vision in getting the whole process going; 12) to Griffith Associates for donating a tower/computer with nifty programs and to Jon Couch for maintaining our website! I hope I didn't leave anyone out...

Lastly, to the entire board for their can-do attitude! Now some of us can clear out the things we've stored in our basements, offices and under the bed!