



*Chico Heritage Association – CHA – since 1981 a volunteer not for profit  
Organization dedicated to the preservation of Chico's cultural heritage*

**FEBRUARY 2014**

**▪ CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION ▪**

## **CHA ANNUAL MEETING**

**2:00PM SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2014**

**(Open to all)**

**At the Old Municipal Building. at 441 Main Street, Upstairs**

**Program: Collecting Chico's History**

**Presenter: Randy Taylor, CHA Board Member**

Following a very short business meeting Randy will present the program. He has been collecting Chico memorabilia for forty years, inspired by the late John Nopel. Some of his many categories include photographs, post cards, bottles and advertising.

He will have a variety of items on display.

Refreshment will be available after the program.

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### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – FEBRUARY 2014**

The architectural critic, Ada Louise Huxtable, once stated that “preservation has changed from an amenity to an environmental necessity.” For us, here in Chico, that holds true on many levels as we witness efforts in the community to preserve neighborhood character; to bring historic detail back to local residences and to ensure that our iconic buildings are respected and made useful again. Further, we react when mature trees are threatened with removal and we rally against the loss of public art. Whenever we see successes in the preservation of our heritage, we rejoice in the betterment of our community and our environment. But, unfortunately, preservation is a “fickle mistress.” In this issue of our newsletter you will read about the latest condition of the Bidwell Bowl Amphitheater and the struggle to maintain this important example of New Deal WPA architecture. There is also a summary of the now-lost Pugh mural that was on the east wall of Taylor Hall. Mitigating that loss is the anticipation of its recreation by John Pugh as part of the new Taylor Hall construction.

On the preservation side is the work that continues on the Wright-Patrick house, Butte County's oldest wood-frame building (1852). The building's foundation work is now nearing completion with only the replacement of siding left. The window restoration project is also ongoing under the competent guidance of Chris Gauer. Thanks to all of you who have helped support this work. Another move forward was the lease approval by the Butte County Board of Supervisors for adaptive re-use of the Veterans Memorial Building at 900 Esplanade by the Museum of Northern California Art (monca). Steps are now underway to transform the interior for the Museum's occupancy, while respecting its historic character. Fortunately, under an agreement with the veterans, the exterior will remain unchanged.

CHA will continue to advocate for our local heritage as we update our “watch list” of local resources. Learn more at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 2, at 2:00 pm in the upstairs room of the Old Municipal Building when CHA Board member Randy Taylor tells us about “Collecting Chico's History.”

And finally, for those seeking information on Chico history, or doing research on existing structures, we have hours each Wednesday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at our office in the Old Municipal Building on Main Street. Someone can help in your search.

## WATCH LIST ITEMS IN THE NEWS



*The mural wall just before demolition*

### **John Pugh Mural Destroyed**

On January 10, 2014, Chico lost an irreplaceable historic work of art when Chico State University completed the demolition of John Pugh's revered mural *Academe*.

Located on the east side of Taylor Hall facing Salem Street, *Academe* was downtown Chico's best-known and most popular public mural. An outstanding example of the so-called *trompe l'oeil* (fool the eye) style, *Academe*, completed in 1981, launched the spectacularly successful career of world-renowned muralist John Pugh, a 1983 graduate of Chico State's art program.

The Chico Heritage Association fought unsuccessfully to save Pugh's signature work by launching a spirited protest campaign in March 2011, when the proposed demolition was subjected to public review and comment under the California Environmental Quality Act.

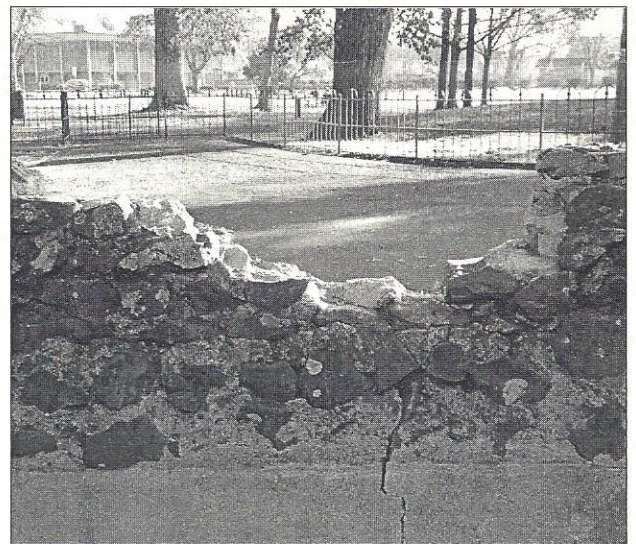
Despite drawing widespread citizen support and strong endorsements from both the Chico City Arts Commission and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Wayne Donaldson, CHA's effort failed. On December 23, 2013, the University began scrubbing Pugh's mural from the side of Taylor Hall, and, by 5:00 p.m. on January 10, nothing remained but rubble.

### **CHA CALLS ON CITY TO PROTECT BIDWELL BOWL AMPHITHEATRE**

In response to recent vandalism that severely damaged portions of the historic Bidwell Bowl Amphitheatre, the CHA has called upon city officials to take prompt action by implementing the following three recommendations first suggested by CHA in discussions with city representatives back in March and April 2013:

1. The city needs to hire a qualified professional historian to research the Bidwell Bowl and to prepare a Historic Structures Report (HSR).
2. Based on the findings and recommendations in the HSR, the city needs to develop a restoration and preservation plan for the Bidwell Bowl that will provide for its repair and ongoing maintenance in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic properties.
3. The city needs to begin providing adequate protection for Bidwell Bowl in the form of regular police patrolling.

Built in 1938, the Bidwell Bowl Amphitheatre is Chico's most unique and outstanding example of Great Depression-era federal New Deal WPA architecture. The CHA board of directors will continue to monitor the alarming situation at Bidwell Bowl and urge the city to take appropriate action. Meanwhile, CHA members are urged to contact city council members and voice their support for protecting and preserving Bidwell Bowl.



*Part of the destruction of the Bidwell Bowl amphitheatre*

### **OTHERS ON WATCH LIST**

618 W. 5<sup>TH</sup> Street (1883)  
Faculty Row Houses  
Humboldt Wagon Ruts  
Lost Park  
Historic Bridges  
Anna Barney House (430 W. 3<sup>RD</sup> Street)  
Downtown Post Office

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Philip Nordhus**

### **SOURCES OF USEFUL INFORMATION**

Our Facebook page, Chico Heritage Association, can be a wonderful way to keep up on what's going on in our organization. Find us and "like" us for the latest information. While you are online go to the other Facebook pages that have wonderful postings on local history and events. Do a search for Chico Museum, Butte County Historical Society, You Know You're From Chico When..., You Know You're From Butte county When..., John Bidwell's page, Meriam Library Special Collections, and many others. There is so much new information out there and when more people participate everyone benefits. Our webpage has been spruced up as well, lots of great stuff. Check it out at [www.chicoheritage.org](http://www.chicoheritage.org).

# CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

February 2014

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 AREA, THE WRIGHT-PATRICK PRESERVATION FUND \_\_\_\_\_,

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

## THANK YOU LIST TO OUR 2013 DONORS

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### CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Richard Macias, President  
Paul Lieberum, Vice President  
Shelley Compton Hutchens, Secretary  
Margaret Siemsen, Treasurer

Jon Couch  
Nancy Deter  
John Gallardo  
Mike Magliari

Adrienne Pustejovsky  
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Liz Stewart  
Randy Taylor



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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

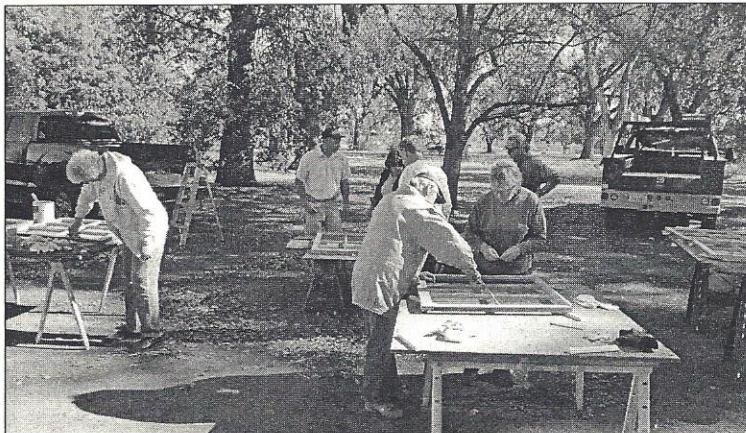
OFFICE HOURS AT:  
441 MAIN STREET  
WEDNESDAYS, 1 TO 3PM

### WRIGHT-PATRICK HOUSE UPDATE

Work continues to move forward on the Wright-Patrick House. Your responses to our efforts to raise funds for the project have been heartwarming, and it is only the limited availability of our professional help that keeps us from advancing at a faster pace. The new foundation was successfully installed this summer, providing a priceless learning experience for all involved. While most will never see the finished product once the porch is put back on, be assured it was masterfully executed and made to last. Now our attention has returned to the upstairs windows which we have repaired, reglazed, repainted, and are ready to be installed. Only



*Master Craftsman Chris Gauer at the end of a long workday*



*The work crew preparing windows*

exceptions are three which will have to be rebuilt from scratch. This action should be completed in the next couple of months.

We will continue to need funding as we work to further secure the house, so your partnership in our efforts will be vital going forward. If you would like to be a hands-on partner in this time-capsule rescue, contact Adrienne Pustejovsky at 342-4751, and you will be notified of upcoming workdays. No experience is necessary, just a love of our local history and a willingness to take direction.