



Chico Heritage Association – CHA – for 28 years a volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Chico's cultural heritage.

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

## CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

### CHA WORKING WITH CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

CHA Board Members and supporters have taken an active role as City and County governments continue to work on their Planning documents and other initiatives that affect our historic preservation effort.

Our public comments before the County Planning Commission helped alter the proposal going forward to the County Supervisors to broaden nominations to the proposed Butte County Inventory of Historic Properties, which will allow tax breaks and other benefits for private owners who wish to preserve their historic holdings. Owner's signature is required for "Designated Historical Property" status, but there can be a list of properties considered "Eligible" so those can be flagged for protection in case of proposed demolition.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> the Board of Supervisor's heard our call for moving the County Clerk-Recorder's proposed new "Hall of Records" up on the list of construction projects that the County is planning over the next ten years. A committee has been appointed to find a site and move that important project forward.

Meanwhile, the outcome of the City of Chico Planning Department's proposed Historic Preservation Ordinance remains uncertain. At the Planning Commissions Meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> various changes were suggested and the Ordinance was sent back to staff for further development. The Ordinance will be presented to the Planning Commission once again at its Thursday, July 1 meeting. All CHA members are encouraged to attend and voice their support of the badly-needed and long overdue preservation ordinance.

CHA members are also urged to attend the meeting of the City Council when the Ordinance finally comes up for enactment into city code. That will probably take place at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, so please stay tuned for upcoming announcements, and please **send your e-mail address to CHA Treasurer Margaret Siemsen at [msiemsen@mac.com](mailto:msiemsen@mac.com) if you'd like to be included in our new "CHA Emergency Action Notification List".**

[msiemsen@mac.com](mailto:msiemsen@mac.com)



Our "Got History" booth at the Butte College Roadrunner Outdoor Market

Photo Thanks to Liz Stewart

### PRESERVATION MONTH OF MAY

Preservation Month activities made May a busy month for CHA. Two walking tours, Sundays spent at Farmers Market "Got History" Booth, a display in the Chase Bank window, and culminating in awards to several presentation projects at the Awards Presentation event on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The most important event was our Awards Presentation held on May 25<sup>th</sup>. It has been several years since we have given awards and there were many nominations, but five were outstanding. We are hopeful that this will be an annual event (so be thinking, and letting us know of others you feel are also worthy). Pictured on the following page are the winners, and the categories for which they won. They have all helped make Chico the place we love.

Long time member Giovanna Jackson spoke of CHA's achievements through the hard work of the members since its inception in the late 1970's—an impressive list, and the recipients shared additional history of their buildings.

Following the program we enjoyed socializing and substantial refreshments.

Congratulations to all the winners—well deserved.

## NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE NEWS

Did you catch the interesting articles on Chico's several neighborhoods recently in the Chico Enterprise-Record? Was your neighborhood listed? The ones listed gave some interesting history that you may not have known. The students who did an admirable job are to be commended, as is the E-R for publishing them.

If you have some further information on any of these neighborhoods or can correct any of the information you may call our telephone answering machine at 345-7522 and leave your telephone number. We would like to expand our files on all Chico neighborhoods.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Les Gerton

Kenneth & Nancy Jensen

Nancy Leverette

Carol Burr & Roger Lederer

Grant Johnston & Darla Novak

Carol & William Riddell

Robert Ryan DDS

Dr. Glen & Mary Shols

Also we give a big thank you to Carl & Mary Peterson, Lou & Sue Nevins, Giovanna Jackson, and Grant Johnston for their extra generous donations.



*Pictured with their certificates, and behind the pictures of their winning projects are, left to right, Andy Patel; David Meraz, Ann Schwab, Chico Mayor; & Mendel Tochterman*

Photo thanks to Shelley Compton Hutchens

The awards and their categories are as follows:

RETENTION OF A CITY SCAPE ICON: The Thunderbird Lodge Sign to Andy Pantel of the Chico Hospitality Group.

BEST ADAPTIVE REUSE AND USE OF THE MILLS ACT: The RLDS Church at 12<sup>th</sup> & Locust into a residence to the David Meraz Family.

BEST RESTORATION OF A PUBLIC BUILDING: The Chico Municipal Building to Mayor Ann Schwab.

BEST FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT: The Waterland-Breslaur Building to Mendel Tochterman Family.

OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION: To Wayne Cook for his many projects.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A glance at other articles in this newsletter will tell you why I'm so proud of the Chico Heritage Board and supporters. We are doing so much!

I would especially like to recognize some real heroes among us: Adrienne Pustejovsky, Liz Stewart and Randy Taylor for the absolutely fabulous job they did getting speakers and finding and preparing photos for the railroad theme at the Annual Meeting; Liz Stewart for taking the lead in Preservation Month Activities including a "Got History?" booth at Sunday Markets and a window display downtown; John Gallardo's walking tours; Jon Couch for the superb photography and sophisticated design of the Preservation Awards with Adrienne's help with framing; Mike Magliari for keeping us on track with City and County affairs that concern us; and the support system for all of these, the booth sitters, equipment haulers, food makers, picture takers, etc.: Darrell and Nancy Deter, Randy Taylor, Shelley Hutchens and Paul Lieberum.

This is quite a team who get things done with an amazing amount of personal initiative. (Read "not one speck of nagging or reminding from the pres. necessary.") I can only say how lucky I am to have folks like these pulling the oars!!!

# CHICO HERITAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Please note if any additional donation is for the Wright-Patrick Preservation Fund \_\_\_\_\_, The General Fund, \_\_\_\_\_ or Other \_\_\_\_\_

Spring/Summer 2010 Issue

## **CHA OFFICERS FOR 2010**

Following the highly successful and interesting Annual Meeting, held at the old Chico Depot (thanks to the Chico art Center for sharing the space), the CHA Board was pleased when the membership voted to elect new Board Members Paul Lieberum and Richard Macias by acclamation. We welcome them and their expertise in their field (architecture), and their interest in saving Chico's history.

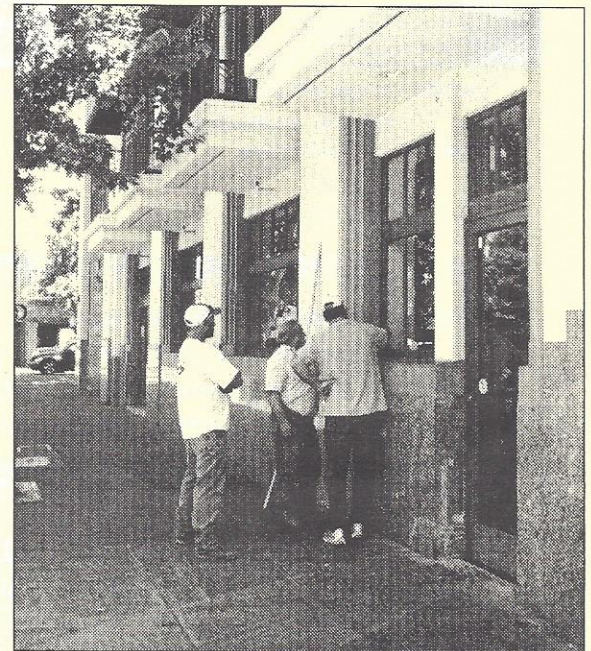
Officers were elected at the April Board meeting . All current officers were willing to continue in office.

Margaret Siemsen took over the Treasurer's position to fill a mid-year vacancy in 2009, while Shelley Hutchens stepped into her shoes as Secretary.

## **PROACTIVE WORK PAYS OFF**

The new owner of the old Bank of America Building at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Broadway was requesting permits from the city to make some alterations to the façade of the building, which is notable now for the bright decorative color scheme from during its time as Chevy's.

On behalf of CHA, Board Member and retired professional Architectural Historian, Richard Macias, worked with the owner in developing a proposal which both meets the need of new tenants and will return the facade of the building back to



*The old Bank of America Building  
Photo thanks to Richard Macias*

suit the original architecture. This was really a win-win situation for all parties and for Chico's historic downtown .

## **CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Meeting is the first Wednesday of month, 7:00pm, 635 Fume Street**

Lucy Sperlin, President  
Adrienne Pustejovsky, Vice President  
Shelley Compton Hutchens, Secretary  
Margaret Siemsen, Treasurer

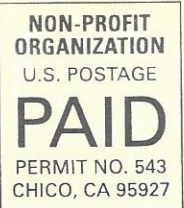
Darrell Deter  
Nancy Deter  
John Gallardo

Kathleen Hillman  
Paul Lieberum  
Richard Macias  
Mike Magliari

Ann Sands  
Liz Stewart  
Randy Taylor



P.O. Box 3517  
Chico, CA 95927  
Phone 530-345-7522



## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### UPDATE ON "MYSTERY SOLVED"

Since our last newsletter we have learned of the fate of the Chico Normal School post inquired about by the owner, and are happy to report that it is a wonderful one. The post's owner, Grant Johnston and Ray Murdoch, local historic contractor-restorer, have struck a deal that turns out to be a "win-win-win" situation.

Murdock, assisted by Bob Bowen, removed the post (a jackhammer job, as it was embedded in concrete) and will place it on the grounds of Murdock's latest construction project - the Earll House at the corner of W.3<sup>rd</sup> and Normal - with an accompanying plaque. This is especially appropriate as Mr. Earll was one of the chief instigators of bringing the Normal School to Chico. The Normal School became State Teacher's College, Chico State College, and finally CSUC.

As an added bonus, C HA received a very nice donation for helping to research the item. So we all win, as will you when it is in place (date yet to be determined) and you are able to view it.



*The homeowner, Grant Johnston, Bob Bowen, a pool contractor who helped to remove the post, and Ray Murdoch, the new owner of the historic Chico Normal School post pose before the removal began.*