

**DAVIS HISTORY MATTERS:
MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE DAVIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1, December, 2002

EIGHT NEWS ITEMS FROM JOHN LOFLAND, DHS PRESIDENT

1. THE FIRST ISSUE OF DAVIS HISTORY MATTERS!

Just to get us started, I here propose an email newsletter issued about once a month on Davis history matters.

If someone will step forward and become the editor, I would be very appreciative. Short of that, you are stuck with me simply writing to you on Davis history matters that strike me.

2. GREAT ENTERPRISE COVERAGE

The Monday, November 18 issue of the Davis Enterprise carried wonderful coverage of our formation meeting. It is so great that the Board has approved using it in a membership flier. For those who missed it, it is available in pdf in the Files section of www.davishistoricalsociety.org.

3. MEMBERSHIP CARDS BY YEAR AND COLOR

The Board has also approved a scheme of promoting membership by naming membership years and encouraging people to collect their distinctive, year-to-year cards.

The first step in this has been to retire the light green Charter Member cards at the number of people who attended one or both of the first two meetings. These are now already collector items (especially numbers 8a and 8b).

The new card, that will run through October, 2003, is called the Founding Year Member Card and is pale blue.

4. MEMBERSHIP FLIER

The opportunity to become a "Founding Year Member" is the theme of our new membership flier. Physically, the flier is the standard, three panel folded letter-size sheet. When opened, one can read the November 18 Enterprise story. If we had any volunteers for our membership committee, they could work on identifying good places to put the flier and/or people to whom to send it or give it.

5. COMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND APPOINTING CHAIRS

Here is the list of the people volunteering for each of our nine standing committees. So far, chairs have not been named.

Let the first step in this be people volunteering to be chairs, with approval by the Board (as the bylaws require).

If there are no volunteers for a committee Chair, I will get on the phone and to recruit and twist arms!

1. Education

Heather Casswell
Sharla Daly
Mark DuPree

2. Preservation

Merrily DuPree
Mary Harrison
Dick Hastings

3. Research

Judy Fischette
John Lofland
Tansey Thomas

4. Publications

Dennis Dingemans
Merrily DuPree
Lyn Lofland
Tansey Thomas

5. Archives

Judy Fischette
Phyllis Haig
Mary Harrison
Audrey Hastings
Lyn Lofland
Julie Partansky

6. Email

Merrily DuPree
Daly, Sharla
Brad Powell

7. Web Site

John Chiles
Judy Fischette
Donna Lemongello
John Lofland

8. Newsletter

9. Membership

6. LISTSERVES

Il have been in touch with DCN and have started the process of establishing three email listserves for us: for the board, the members, and the general public.

The one for the members will allow all members who so desire to carry on exchanges in the standard listserve manner with which you are familiar.

7. THE SECOND ARCH MURAL PLAQUE IS RECOVERED!

Many of you will recall that the Davis Arch Mural on the north wall of the former Terminal Hotel building had two plaques identifying it. Both of them were observed missing on July 27, 2000. A police report was made and the Enterprise covered the event.

That Fall, the demolition contractor, one Stan Bowers, handed one of the plaques to me, saying he had gotten it from a scrap metal salvage company. I in turn donated it to the Hattie Weber Museum.

Now, the second plaque has been returned. Having completed a draft of a book on the Terminal Building matter, I sent a copy of it to Mr. Bowers. This prompted him to call me and say that he had also found the second plaque.

Last week, I went to his home in suburban Sacramento and he gave it to me.

So, the two of them are now back.

8. THE TERMINAL BUILDING MEMORIAL EXHIBIT

The new building to be constructed on the Terminal Building site is required (by the City) to have a permanent exhibit on the old building. The two plaques are under consideration (by the Public Arts Commission) as elements of the exhibit.

Indeed, the DHS may want to involve itself in advising on the design of how the old building will be memorialized.

If you want to be involved as an individual, contact Esther Polito and Ken Hiatt, the two City staff most involved with this.

My understanding, as noted, is that the exhibit is being conceived as a public art matter and being dealt with by that City commission.

But, there are also obviously historical accuracy aspects that go way beyond "art."

As is well known, history is complex and the story told is therefore and usually only one or a few of the stories that could be told. History as we know it is severely selective and favors some groups while disfavoring others.

That phenomenon will hold in the case of the Terminal exhibit. Which of the many stories that could be told will actually get told? Who will decide which stories make it to public expression and which are repressed in the act of being left out?

The DHS as an organization may or may not want to be involved in this matter. Let us hear what all the members have to say.

Are you going to let the Planning Department or the Public Art Commission write Davis history in this exhibit? If not those entities, then who will write the story or or stories told in the exhibit?

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